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HIBI EDEN

To,

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (LOK SABHA), ERNAKULAM, KERALA

09-12-2024

**Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji,
Hon'ble Finance Minister**

Respected **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji,**

Subject: Request for implementation of Joint Parliamentary Committee Recommendation (110th) and addressing the issue of excessive recovery of commuted pension.

I am writing to humbly request the implementation of the 110th Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) recommendation, which has been pending since 2023. This recommendation garnered significant national attention and was prominently highlighted by leading media outlets across the country.

The recommendation to extend an incremental pension increase of 5% at the age of 65, 10% at 70, and 15% at 75 for senior citizens among central government pensioners was widely welcomed. At present, a 20% increase is granted only at the age of 80. However, a considerable number of pensioners, unfortunately, do not reach this milestone due to the high mortality rate between the ages of 70 and 80.

The JPC undertook extensive deliberations with all stakeholders before arriving at this thoughtful and compassionate recommendation. It reflects the collective will and commitment to addressing the financial needs of senior citizens in a meaningful manner.

It is a well-recognized fact that the government has consistently sought ways to support central government pensioners and ensure their welfare. Media reports have also suggested that the government is exploring an additional provision of a 1% annual pension increment to provide relief without requiring pensioners to wait until the age of 80 for the current 20% increase. This forward-thinking initiative has received widespread appreciation.

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However, it is deeply concerning that such a senior citizen-friendly recommendation from the JPC remains pending.

Additionally, I would like to draw your kind attention to the issue of excessive recovery of commuted pension. It has been observed that while the absolute value of the commuted pension is recovered within 10 years and 10 months, recovery from pensioners is being continued for up to 15 years. Hon'ble courts, after hearing arguments from all sides, have directed the cessation of recovery after 12 years. These court decisions have brought to light an unjust situation where pensioners are financially burdened unnecessarily.

It is disheartening to note that recovery beyond 12 years has been stopped only for those pensioners who approached the Hon'ble courts. Driving individual pensioners to legal battles to seek justice is neither practical nor just. Most pensioners are elderly individuals, many of whom have already crossed the age of 70, and prolonged recovery periods impose an undue financial strain on them.

I respectfully request that this issue be examined comprehensively in light of the Hon'ble court verdicts. An immediate order to stop recovery beyond 12 years would provide significant relief to pensioners and uphold their dignity and financial security.

In conclusion, I appeal to your esteemed office to take the necessary steps to implement the JPC recommendations and address the issue of excessive pension recovery, ensuring justice and relief for central government pensioners.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind attention and action.

Yours sincerely,

Hibi Eden MP (LS), IC 194.