



CONFEDERATION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GAZETTED OFFICERS' ORGANISATIONS

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To

**The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.**

Respected Sir,

Sub: Freezing of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government Employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to central Government Pensioners at current rate till July,2021- Request for Reconsideration and Revocation of the order: regarding.

Kind reference is invited to the decision of the Central Government, communicated vide the O.M. of the Department of Expenditure dated 23.04.2020, denying the payment of additional installment of DA and DR due from 01.01.2020 and also the subsequent additional installments due from 01.07.2020 and 01.01.2021 till 30.06.2021, in view of the ongoing crisis out of Corona virus pandemic.

2. The decision has come as a rude shock to the Central Government employees and pensioners, who are presently coping with the ongoing pandemic crisis along with the fellow citizens and staring at grave financial uncertainties looming large. Whether the right of the employees and pensioners safeguarded by the Constitution of India, different Pay Rules and other Rules along with the inherent mechanism set by the Government itself for determination of DA/DR can be overridden by an Executive Order is definitely a debatable issue. But the larger issue deserves immediate attention, as the decision of freezing DA/DR appears to be taken as a knee-jerk reaction without thoughtfully considering all factors connected to the matter. Your kind attention is drawn to those factors narrated as under:

- i) Central Government employees have already contributed one day's salary to PM CARES Fund. Moreover, an appeal has already been made in some Departments for contribution of one day's salary from each month's pay till March, 2021. Apart from such contributions made in response to the institutional appeals, Central Government employees and pensioners are contributing or committing to contribute generously in PM CARES Fund and such other Funds in personal capacity and financially participating in the country wide relief actions going on during the lockdown period. At this juncture, sudden holding back of a significant part of salary will definitely jeopardize their household expenses and other financial commitments. It is pertinent to mention here that every policy decision related to Covid-19 pandemic is getting reviewed on weekly or fortnightly basis, in such a scenario a blanket ban for 18 long months sans due deliberation shows

arbitrariness of the decision and it deserves immediate review on this ground only.

- ii) Though the aforesaid order stipulates that ***“DA/DR as effective from 01-01-2020, 01-07-2020 & 01-01-2021 will be restored prospectively and will be subsumed in the cumulative revised rate effective from 01-07-2021 without arrear”***, but this decision will hit those employees/families of deceased employees very hard, who retired on superannuation/VRS/demise during the intervening period from 01-01-2020 to 30-06-2021 due to specific provisions in CCS pension Rules. Rule 33 of CCS [Pension] Rules, 1972 stipulates that emolument means Basic Pay & DA as defined in FR which a government servant was receiving before his retirement or on the date of his death. Aforesaid Rules have further been clarified under GOI orders (6) below Rule 33 and GOI orders (5-A) below Rule 34 of CCS [Pension] Rules, 1972 wherein it is clarified that pay & allowance fixed on notional basis on account of revision of pay & allowances from retrospective date are not a criteria for revision/ calculation of pension. Also, in view of this peculiar provision, freezing of DA will cause significant permanent financial loss to their retirement Gratuity and leave encashment amounts and they have to bear the brunt for rest of their life.
- iii) Undoubtedly, Senior Citizens are the most vulnerable section to Covid-19 pandemic. The decision of DR freeze order will serve a fatal blow to the finances of the pensioners during this difficult time, when return on interest from investments are alarmingly decreasing in almost every month, if not every fortnight.
- iv) This decision will emerge as highest level of de-motivation towards the frontier warriors, millions of Central Government employees including doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitation workers, Defense personnel, Central Police Forces personnel, Employees of Customs & CGST, Railways employees, Postal/Telecom Departments' employees, employees of other essential Departments and other Departments, who are working day in and day out, putting their life at greatest risk. If we consider the State Governments' employees, the number of victims will be many times higher, as the State Governments are expected to follow suit in such financial matter.
- v) Most importantly, the decision is clearly defying all economic and policy making logics. All experts and think tanks in India and abroad are unanimous on one count that more spending by putting more disposable income in the hand of the people is the key to revive the economy. The same had been well tested in several previous occasions after release of higher pay and arrears after settlement of pay of Central Government employees. So holding back of several thousand crores of disposable income by freezing DA/DR will ultimately harm the economy, which desperately needs spending stimulus now, as Central Government employees cocoon themselves into limited essential buying only, apprehending more such harsh decisions in the offing.

3. In view of the facts stated above, it is humbly prayed before your good-self to kindly re-consider & review the matter of freezing of DA/DR and **the decision may kindly be revoked in view of the factors explained above.**

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



(BHASKAR BHATTACHARYA)
Secretary General

Copy for information to:

- 1) The Cabinet Secretary,
Govt. of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.**
- 2) The Secretary, Department of Expenditure,
Govt. of India, North Block, New Delhi.**
- 3) The Secretary (Personnel), Department of Personnel & Training,
Govt. of India, North Block, New Delhi.**