## Committee of Secretaries Report, as approved by the Cabinet, implemented. Letters issued today.

## ORDERS ISSUED

The below mentioned letters have been issued today by the Ministry of Defence to improve the pensionary benefits of defence personnel in pursuance to the report submitted by the Committee of Secretaries as approved by the Cabinet.

The financial benefit of all these letters has been provided from 24 September 2012.

1. Improvement in pension of pre-2006 released Honorary Officers, JCOs and other ranks: Pensionary weightages have been increased for Sepoy, Naik and Havildar to 12, 10 and 8 years respectively. The pensions of Honorary commissioned officers have also been increased. Fresh tables have been notified.

2. Increase in pension and family pension in case of commissioned officers: The pension and family pension of commissioned officer retirees has been enhanced based on the minimum of the fitment table (+ Grade Pay + Military Service Pay) rather than the pay band itself. Fresh tables have been notified too.

3. Increase in family pension of post-2006 and also pre-2006 JCOs and other ranks: Changes have been incorporated in the family pensionary modalities of both *pre* as well as *post* 2006 cases.

4. <u>Improvement in Casualty Pensionary Awards for pre-2006 commissioned</u> <u>officers, JCOs and other ranks:</u> Minimum guaranteed Special Family Pension, Liberalized Family Pension, Dependant Pension (Special) and Second Life Awards shall now be determined on the basis of the minimum of fitment table for each rank as per the applicable Special Army/Navy/Air Force Instructions (+ Grade Pay + Military Service Pay + X Group Pay if applicable) rather than the minimum of the pay band itself.

5. **Improvement in Casualty Pensionary Awards for post-2006 JCOs and other ranks:** Modalities of some casualty pensionary awards of post-2006 cases of JCOs and other ranks have also been changed.

6. **Improvement in pensionary benefits of post-2006 released JCOs and other ranks:** Weightages of pension for the ranks of Sepoy, Naik and Havildar increased to 12, 10 and 8 years and notionally been made applicable to post-2006 retirees also. Ordinary family pension also increased in the case of post-2006 JCOs and other ranks.

7. <u>Provisions of Dual Family Pension and Family Pension for life for handicapped</u> <u>family pensioners even in case of re-marriage:</u> Letter for eligibility of dual family pension in case of families of pensioners who were drawing two pensions or were eligible to draw two pensions, and also letter clarifying the eligibility of a handicapped family pensioner even in case of remarriage also issued. It however may be pointed out that both these benefits had already been granted by Hon'ble Courts in the past. For instance, <u>this decision</u> of the Principal Bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal, <u>and this one</u> of the Chennai Bench may be perused. While the Courts have granted these benefits from the date of eligibility, the letters issued carry financial benefits only from 24 September 2012.

Other letters, as soon as they are made available, shall be posted on the blog.

At the outset, it may be pointed out that many of the provisions incorporated are utterly confusing and chaotic, and it is duly hoped that the offices of the CGDA and PCDA(P) clarify the implementation modalities by way of detailed circulars.

Any doubts or clarifications on the above may <u>NOT</u> please be directed towards me through email or phone and should be simply posted on the comments section of this <u>blogpost</u>.

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