

## **Pensioners await arrears despite SC orders**

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Tribune News Service**

Chandigarh, November 16

Even as the Seventh Pay Commission constituted by the government is deeply engrossed in working out new pay scales for government employees, anomalies arising from the Sixth Pay Commission continue to dodge pensioners despite court rulings in their favour.

Over a year after the Supreme Court ruled that government servants, including defence pensioners, were entitled to arrears of pension arising out of the rectification of anomalies of pre-2006 pensioners from January 2006 instead of September 2012, they continue to await their benefits. Retired officers said they had not received any intimation from the government regarding implementation of the SC orders.

Consequent to removal of anomalies, the government ordered that the pensioners would get arrears with effect from September 2012. This was contested by the pensioners who claimed that they were entitled to arrears from January 2006, the date of implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission, and any other date was arbitrary.

The controversy had been simmering for defence as well as civilian pensioners since January 2006. The issue involved the interpretation whether pension would be based on the minimum pay within the pay band (PB 1,2,3 or 4) or the minimum of pay of the pay scale applicable to various grades and ranks. Each pay band consists of several pay scales. The Central Administrative Tribunal had, however, ruled in favour of pensioners and had directed re-fixation of pension from January 2006.

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