

GURKHA PENSION SCHEME  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 7<sup>th</sup> INDIAN CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION  
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why am I not now getting a pension at double the Indian rate?

A. The doubling policy was to cater for benefits in kind, principally medical, that the Indian Army provided for its pensioners which UK could not provide in Nepal. The UK has now been able to provide enhanced medical support through the Gurkha Welfare Trust and this has resulted in a reduction in the additional percentage paid on top of the standard Indian Army pension rate but all Gurkhas will get an increase in pensions.

Q. What are the additional medical benefits I can have?

A. The Gurkha Welfare Trust (GWT) is being given £25m over 10 years to provide enhanced medical support. The MOD is in discussion with the GWT about how best to use this money to support improved access to healthcare for veterans and their families.

Q. Will I still have to pay a contribution?

A. That is a matter for the Gurkha Welfare Trust but we are in discussion with them about how best to use this money to support improved access to healthcare for our veterans and their families.

Q. How much more than the Indian pension rate will I get?

A. From 1 January 2016 the baseline for the GPS has been set at 140% of the Indian rate.

Q. Why do some get more of an increase from 7CPC?

A. Current Gurkha pension rates were compared to the new Indian rates of 1 January 2016. Where rates were below 140% they were increased. Those rates that were above the Indian rates did not qualify for an increase from 7CPC but have been given a 10% increase. The accompanying report on 7CPC implementation gives the increase that each rank and increment receive.

Q. Has One Rank One Pension (OROP) been implemented for the GPS?

A. Yes, the Indian Army pension rates including OROP on 1 January 2016 are the basis for GPS rates in 7CPC.

Q. If OROP has been implemented why are the rates not the same for all increments within each rank?

A. Where GPS rates were higher than the Indian Army equivalent then OROP has no effect as Gurkhas are already getting more. Also, in the Indian rate tables there are still some differences in rates, especially for the higher ranks.

Q. I receive a Disability Pension. How does 7CPC affect me?

A. The disability element of Disability pensions has changed in three ways:

- There are now different rates for each rank.

- It is now included in the additional quantum of pension for those aged 80 and above.
- The percentage disability awarded has been consolidated into three broad bands for payment, as can be seen below.

| Accepted Percentage of Disability | Percentage of the 100% Rate to be Reckoned for Calculation of the Disability Element |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20% or more but less than 50%     | 50%                                                                                  |
| Between 50% to 75%                | 75%                                                                                  |
| Between 76% to 100%               | 100%                                                                                 |

Q. I am still making repayments for my commutation. How does 7CPC affect me?

A. There is no effect on your commutation repayments from 7CPC. Your repayments will continue as before and will just be indexed by inflation each year. This means you will receive all of the 7CPC increase due to you.

Q. When will rate tables be produced for family pensions?

A. Family pensions are calculated from the service pension rates by the pension computer. To avoid paisa differences in calculating the new rates this will be done by the computer and published in due course.

Q. When will rate tables be produced for disability elements?

A. Disability elements are calculated from the 100% disability rates by the pension computer. To avoid paisa differences in calculating the new rates this will be done by the computer and published in due course.

Q. When will I receive my new rate of pension?

A. The pension computer will need to be programmed with the new rates and this will take time. It is important that such calculations are done accurately to ensure that you receive the money that you are due. A further announcement will be made when the changes are complete, and we hope this will be by June.

Q. Will arrears be paid?

A. Yes, arrears will be calculated back to 1 January 2016 and be paid as soon as possible in the new financial year.

Q. I transferred to the AFPS and receive a pension from that scheme. Do I get anything from 7CPC?

A. No. You are a member of the AFPS and the changes from 7CPC will have no effect on you.

Q. I transferred to the AFPS and was given a preserved pension but am still on the GPS as I am below the age of 60. Do I benefit from 7CPC?

A. Yes. You will receive the new GPS pension rates until you reach the age of 60 when you will be moved over to the AFPS.