

# Cabinet okays central pay to Gujarat staff

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**G**ANDHINAGAR: Chief minister Vijay Rupani-led government has announced 7th Pay Commission benefits to state employees with retrospective effect from January 2016. Around 8.75 lakh state government, panchayat, public sector units (PSU) employees and pensioners will benefit.

The decision was approved by the state cabinet on Tuesday. Nitin Patel, deputy chief minister and finance minister, said arrears would be paid in a phased manner based on the recommendations of the secretaries' committee formed for the purpose.

Also, the seven allowances on which the central government has also not taken any decision so far, would be studied by the committee panel led by the chief secretary once the Centre takes a call.

Patel said the decision will cost the exchequer Rs8,513 crore per annum. One day prior to announcing her retirement, former CM Anandiben Patel had on July 31 announced the wage revision for state employees. The Centre had on July 25 notified the implementation of 7th Pay Commission for central government employees from January 1.

The revision would benefit over 4.65 lakh employees and more than 4.12 lakh pensioners. Employees of Class I to Class IV will get a hike of 14.60 % to 25 %.

