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Physios approach VIIth pay panel for pay hike and status

DTMT NETWORK

A three-member panel of Indian Association of Physiotherapy visited the VIIth Pay Commission of India and submitted a memorandum seeking higher pay scale and status for physiotherapists commensurate to their educational qualification, job profile, clinical expertise, skill and arduous nature of their work.

The panel members were Dr Uma Shankar Mohanti, president, Dr Ketan Bhatikar, general secretary and Dr Prabhat Ranjan, CEC member.

In the memorandum, they said there is a rationale behind their de-

mand for better pay structure and status for them in clinical as well as the academic sectors in the present scenario. However, they saw little scope for these professionals entering government services given the requirement for extremely small cadre of physiotherapists there.

They prayed the commission to direct the concerned authorities to change the recruitment qualification for physiotherapists. The amendment of rules seems to have been deliberately kept in abeyance to deny physiotherapists their due status within government services, the memorandum alleged.

Pointing out that recently Bihar Government has taken some

initiatives to provide more jobs for the graduates and post graduates in physiotherapy, CEC member Dr Prabhat Ranjan told *DTMT* on the other hand, the Union Health Ministry failed to respond to their several representations leave alone making an effort to redress their grievances.

In the absence of a regulatory body and a framework for curriculum, the number of institutes teaching physiotherapy is fast declining. The physiotherapists are kept in the pay band II meant for diploma holders.

Dr Umasankar Mohanty, president, IAP said, "Even after getting a PhD or Masters in physiotherapy, you are underpaid. While every professional course has a regulatory body, there is no quality check for physiotherapists. There is nothing to guide the 67,000 physiotherapists in the country."