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Odisha Mining Workers Federation seeks wage hike

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SNS Jajpur, | 18 December, 2015

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Former Finance minister and president of the Odisha Mining Workers Federation Prafulla Chandra Ghadei (Facebook)

Former Finance minister and president of the Odisha Mining Workers Federation, Prafulla Chandra Ghadei has sought higher wages for the mining workers engaged in central government sector. In a letter to the Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Ghadei, the veteran trade unionist, has demanded immediate revision of minimum rate of wages for the mining workers engaged in scheduled employment.

"The minimum rate of wages for the workers employed in Iron ore, Buxaite, Chromites and Gypsum mines have not been revised since 2009. The market price has been increased exorbitantly on the essential commodities as well as the field of health, education and transportation in the last six years. Hence, the present rate of wages is not commensurate to afford the day to day ailments of the workers," said Ghadei.

As a result, the mining workers fraternity has been suffering a lot due to the price rise, he said. He referred to pay recommended by the seventh Pay Commission report for the upper class ministerial staff and said implementation of the pay commission recommendation will soon result in rise in price of essential commodities. Salaries will increase and so will the price of essential commodities.

Apart from the above, the state government is implementing revised wages for the workers of the state sector at an interval of every five years regularly. Hence, revision of the minimum rate of wages for all mining workers in central sector is a genuine demand. Present market price of vegetables and essential commodities have gone beyond the reach of the workers in the mines. Ghadei has sought intervention of the Union Minister of Labour and Employment to revise the minimum rate of the wages of mining workers at the

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