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Coal workers unions declare three-day strike

BY DEBJOY SENGUPTA, ET BUREAU | UPDATED: MAY 09, 2017, 10.35 PM IST

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KOLKATA: Five central trade unions of [Coal India](#) representing almost 90% of the workmen has declared a three-day [strike](#) from June 19 to protest against the merger of the [Coal Miners Provident Fund](#) with the [Employees Provident Fund](#) and for expediting [salary](#) negotiations.

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The five unions are CITU, INTUC, BMS, HMS and AITUC and the ongoing salary negotiations have been on for several months now although, revised salaries for workmen were to be implemented during June last year.

According to rules, salaries of workmen at Coal India is to be negotiated with the management every five years. Each time the unions demand a certain hike and the management negotiates to settle on a mutually accepted salary hike.

This is done through the formation of a committee which is represented by all major unions and the management. The validity of the last hike, which was negotiated five years ago, expired on June 30 this year. From July 1 a new set of agreement for hiked salaries was to be in place where in the unions asked for a 50% hike.

They have also demanded implementation of all clauses that were agreed upon at the previous last salary negotiations some five years ago.



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The unions have also asked for equal wages for equal work for workmen under contract from different contractors working at Coal India mines. They have also demanded the management to make sure contract [workers](#) are not utilised for permanent jobs.

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