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# Central staff get festival gift

300 non-gazetted employees to benefit from Rs 3,737-cr bonus

22/10/20

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NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a Vijayadashami gift to over 30 lakh central non-gazetted employees, the government on Wednesday announced Rs 3,737 crore bonus intended to boost festive demand.

The beneficiaries include 17 lakh non-gazetted employees from state-owned establishments such as railways, postal department, EPFO and ESIC. This will be a productivity-linked bonus. Rs 2,791 crore is allocated to them. Another 13 lakh employees will get non-productivity-linked bonus, for which the government has assigned Rs 946 crore.

The bonus comes a few days after the railway workers association had warned they would block rail movement if their productivity-linked bonus was not released before Vijayadashami.

"Money in the hands of the

## 3rd stimulus in the works

As the tough phase of Covid-19 passes and the economy starts to look up, the government is preparing the third stimulus package to accelerate economic activities, a top official of the finance ministry said Wednesday.  
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middle class will push demand in the market," said Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, announcing the bonus after the Cabinet meeting.

He said the bonus will be given in a single installment through direct benefit transfer (DBT) before Vijayadashami.

Last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced two schemes -- LTC cash voucher scheme and special festival advance scheme for Central and public sector employees that intended to give a demand push of Rs 73,000 crore.

Payment of bonus to non-gazetted employees for their performance in the preceding year is usually made before Vijayadashami.