

(a) whether all the personnel of Railway Protection Force right from constable to Director General are the members of the Force as per RPF Act.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the RPF personnel are civil servants and Railway servants as per RPF Act;

(c) whether the Gazetted Officers of this Force are governed by the Railway servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1968 which provide for lenient procedures of inquiry and punishment and the non-Gazetted Staff of this Force are governed by RPF Rules, 1987 which provide for harsher procedure of inquiry and punishment for one and the same offence'.

(d) if so, the reasons for this discriminatory treatment; and

(e) whether in view of the above, the Government propose to provide equal treatment to all the personnel without any discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. RPF personnel are civil servants. They are Railway servant within the meaning of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Gazetted Officers of the Force are governed by the Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968 and the Non-Gazetted Staff are governed by the RPF Rules, 1987. It is incorrect to say that the former Rules provide for lenient procedures and the latter for harsher procedures.

The procedures prescribed under both sets of Rules conform to the requirements of the Constitutional provisions and the principles of Natural Justice.

(d) Provision of separate Rules for the Gazetted Officers and Non-Gazetted Staff does not amount to discrimination as the classification has been made on reasonable grounds.

(e) Does not arise.

Working of CPWD Officials in Delhi

5286. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the complaints received and action taken against CPWD officials in Delhi found guilty during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the complaints for repairs or minor defects in the Government quarters are not attended to; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Year-wise complaints received against CPWD officers and number of officers against whom action has been taken are as under:-

Year	No. of Complaints	No. of officers against whom action taken
1995	114	6
1996	90	13
1997	119	5

(b) and (c) Complaints are attended to in a reasonable time depending on the nature of complaints, convenience of the occupants and availability of funds. As such questions of taking action against any officer does not arise.

Over-bridge on river Chenab for Military Movements

5287. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Bridge on river Chenab near Akhnoor is being constructed for defence purpose and military movement for the last ten-fifteen years;

(b) if so, the quantum of funds spent thereon so far and the reason for delay in completion of the work; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take for speedy completion of work in view of security of the town of Akhnoor and uninterrupted military movement in the region?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes. The construction of this bridge was started in December, 1978 for movement of all kinds of traffic.

(b) An expenditure amounting to Rs. 193.51 lacs has been incurred so far on this bridge. The bridge could not be completed because of the washing away/tilting of the pier wells due to the high velocity of the stream.

(c) The Technical Committee, which was constituted to go into all the aspects of construction of this bridge, has recommended to avoid construction of piers inside of stream. The BRO is working on this recommendation.