

(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.

Token Strike by IA Employees

5288. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the employees of Indian Airlines observed one hour strike on 3rd July, 1998;
- (b) if so, the fact thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government on their demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Out of the Eight recognised Unions/Associations, only the Air Corporation Employees Union (ACEU) called for one hour walk out as a token protest against the policy of the Government to disinvest part of Government Shares in Indian Airlines. Government have decided to restructure capital of Indian Airlines and also to undertake a phased disinvestment in this company over three years, bringing the Government's equity holding down to 49%.

Stray Bullets Shatter Peace in Inderpuri

5289. SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Stray Bullets Shatter peace in Inderpuri appearing in "The Hindustan Times" dated 21st March, 1998;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether any compensation has been given to the residents whose properties were damaged;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor, and
- (e) the efforts being made to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A joint investigation into the reported incidents by a team of officers from army civil and police has been ordered.

(e) The additional safety measures that have been taken to preclude the possibility of a stray bullet crossing the butt inter-alia include the following-

- (i) repair of target trolleys;
- (ii) increasing the width of mantlets by 1.5 metres and marking them with Wooden planks and sand bags;

- (iii) reducing the height of firing points;
- (iv) provision of platforms for firing trenches,
- (v) strengthening of stop butts;
- (vi) firing to be conducted from a distance of only 100 yards from the target; and
- (vii) firing not to be conducted during night.

'Chhajjas' Collapsed in R.K. Puram

5290. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 'chhajjas' of the market and Government Quarters of Sector. VIII, R.K. Puram, New Delhi have collapsed and narrow escape of hurt of the people;
- (b) if so, whether the quality of concrete and steel used in the Chhajjas have got analysis;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government have inquired into the matter and to bring to book the persons held responsible;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government which are of dilapidated conditions and could collapse any time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA) : (a) Concrete lumps, and not the full Chhajjas, had fallen from one of the Chhajjas in Sector VIII Market, R.K. Puram. However, no one was hurt in the incident.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, the incidence was got examined.

(e) Concrete lump had fallen because of loosening of grip of concrete from reinforcement on account of corrosion (of reinforcement).

(f) Repairs to Chhajjas have been taken up in phases. Chhajjas affected with corrosion are identified every year and those with excessive corrosions are repaired through special repairs on availability of funds.

Report on Charkhi Dadri Accident

5291. RAO INDERJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received report on the mid-air collision between Saudi Jumbo and Kazakh Airlines plane on 12th November, 1996 near Charkhi Dadri;