

Need to grant Organised Group 'A' status to Railway Protection Force (RPF) officers.-laid

SHRI RAJEEV RAI (GHOSI): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the matter regarding need to grant Organised Group 'A' status to Railway Protection Force (RPF) by DoPT. I would like to highlight the sad plight of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Officers holding Group "A" posts, recruited through the Civil Services Examination conducted by the UPSC. The Ministry of Railways has consistently taken the stand that they should be constituted as Organized Service. The High Court of Delhi in its order [W.P. (C) No. 6314 of 2012] dated 04.12.2012 directed that within six months the necessary cadre structure of RPF as also the Service Rules be finalized with reference to the RPF being an Organized Group "A" Central Service; and Cabinet Secretary to nominate a Nodal Officer to coordinate within the three bodies, namely, UPSC, DoPT and Ministry of Railways. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its Order dated 5th February, 2019 had upheld the said judgment of the Hon'ble High Court. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 10 July, 2019 approved to grant Organized Group 'A' status to RPF. Consequently, Railway Board vide its OM dated 11.07.2019 granted OGAS status to RPF. However, more than five years have lapsed since the said decision of the Union Cabinet, yet no forward step in the matter is visible and the RPF officers are yet to be conferred with Organized Group 'A' Central Service status. I accordingly request the Government to look into the matter and direct Cadre Review Division of the Department of Personnel and Training to follow the Union Cabinet decision and issue an order granting Organized Group "A" Central Service status to RPF Officers at the earliest.