

***Demand to upgrade status of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)
at par with Defence forces**

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA (Karnataka): Our Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are often our first line of defence at our borders, through BSF, SSB, ITBP and Assam Rifles. The CAPF are also on the front line against Left-Wing Extremism. They fight insurgents and militants, co-ordinate large scale security arrangements (especially during elections), and conduct relief operations when natural calamities strike. Yet, our CAPF personnel are covered under the same rules applicable to civilian bureaucrats and staff. In contrast, our Defence personnel are covered by special Defence Rules. Our CAPF personnel have still not been given 'battle casualty status' accorded to the armed forces, nearly three years after the Government promised to do so on September 27th, 2016. The families of slain paramilitary soldiers are issued only on an operational casualty certificate, preventing them from availing special benefits to those who die in action. These crucial benefits enable families to work toward normalcy and pertain to education, jobs, licenses to run fuel pumps or gas agencies, etc. It is imperative that there be no discrimination or discrepancy against those who protect the sovereignty and integrity of the nation, and who are willing to make the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives for our nation. Sir, I urge the Home Minister to fulfil this Government's promise by enhancing the status of paramilitary personnel, set up a Committee to draft new service rules and enhance the facilities of health, education and housing, etc., to bring them on par with the facilities provided to the Armed Forces.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth is not present. Shri S. Muthukaruppan.

Demand to sanction the revised cost of Chennai Metro Rail Project

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): The Phase-I of Chennai Metro Rail Project has been successfully completed and the passenger services inaugurated in stages since 2015. The entire Phase-I is operational from February, 2019 onwards. The estimated cost of completion of Phase-I project of ₹ 14,600 crore has been revised to ₹19,058 crore due to increase in cost of land, construction and foreign exchange rates. It is requested that the sanction of Government of India is accorded at the earliest.

*Laid on the Table.