

ment of stocks of bamboo received very low priority in the matter of wagon allotment by the Railway authority. As a result stocks of bamboos were getting accumulated at loading points of producing areas whereas the paper industry is being starved of raw materials. There is the danger of heavy losses due to pilferage and theft on the way, even if wagons are allotted ultimately, as invariably such raw materials are sent by slow-moving trainings which stop on almost all wayside stations. I, therefore, demand that such items should be upgraded to a higher category of priority and should be despatched mainly by fast express goods trains.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Son-tosh Mohan Dev. . . Shri Eduardo Faleiro.

(ii) ALLEGED DISCONTENTMENT AMONG GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF GOA IN CONNECTION WITH HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): There is a great discontent among the Government employees of the Union Territory of Goa due to failure of Government of India to sanction adequate House Rent Allowance to them. There has been a tremendous influx of people from other parts of the country into that Union Territory resulting in the highest rate of growth of population anywhere in the country over the last two decades. The overall cost of living in that Union Territory is also fast rising beyond the rest of the country. Taking 1965 as the base year with 100 points the cost of living index in Goa was 248 points in 1979 which is higher than even that of the capital cities of Delhi and Bombay. Obviously the construction of residential houses has not and could not keep pace with the unprecedented growth in population and consequently there has been a severe shortage of accommodation

and rents are sky-rocketing. Government employees in Goa are being given HRA at the rate of 7-1/2 per cent which is far below what they have to disburse towards rent in private accommodation and only a fraction of them is accommodated in Government houses. The government employees have therefore been demanding House Rent Allowance at the rate of 15 per cent as admissible to employees residing in B-II class cities. In fact the Ministry of Finance, Government of India has classified the Union Territory as a B-II city. Also the Union Territory is entitled to this treatment in view of the report of the Third Pay Commission which says that HRA is to be granted not on the basis of population but on actual assessment of the prevailing rates of rent. I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to correct the injustice done to the Government employees in Goa and that HRA at the rate of 15 per cent be granted to them without any further delay.

(iii) NEED FOR A DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE DISTRICT OF BHOJ-PUR IN BIHAR.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar): I raise the following matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377.

The Government has recently taken many steps to correct regional imbalances which had led to widespread deprivation, discontent and violence in many parts of the country. In a country of India size with its manifold problems of poverty, illiteracy and backwardness the methodology of planning should have been more responsive and meticulous in meeting the legitimate aspirations and needs of all the regions and should have scrupulously avoided the pitfalls of competing pressures and pulls of the more articulate and influential sections of public opinion and leadership from such areas which for historical reasons were better placed than their counterparts in the rest of the coun-

[Prof. K. K. Tewary.]

try. It is heartening to note that under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi a fresh look is being given to this sensitive issue and the whole planning process is being geared up to stem the perilous consequences which were threatening the integrity of the country and breeding dangerous socio-economic tensions. In this context the proverbial backwardness of Bihar despite all its infinite reservoir of possibilities, deserves immediate attention. Even in Bihar there are pockets of backwardness which remind one of the medieval times when people lived entirely on the vagaries of nature completely cut off from all the trappings of civilised life.

The District of Bhojpur in Bihar is such a hapless area where about 80 per cent of the people still live in abject poverty whose pitiable existence is a cruel stigma on our otherwise forward looking and progressive programme of socio-economic change. It is really unfortunate that scant attention has been paid to this area where the concept of poverty line should be substituted by degradation line which alone can describe the utter wretchedness and debilitating poverty of the god-forsaken people of this district. While one half of the district is the permanent abode of drought the other half is constantly ravaged by floods. Consequently, it has acquired the dubious distinction of being the most powerful and active citadel of the left extremists and adventurists who have declared many blocks of the district as liberated zones and are indulging in senseless violence and killings without any let or hindrance. Some recent books published on the Naxal movement have identified Bhojpur as the sheet-anchor of Naxalism in the country.

In order to check the growing social tension and violence in this area it is imperative to provide necessary infrastructure of development and bring it under integrated rural development programme launched Government. I make a fervent appeal to the Ministers of Home Affairs and Industry to evolve a coordinated programme of development for Bhojpur which is fast turning into an area of darkness providing a hospitable hunting ground for those who seek to subvert our political system by spreading violence and disaffection among our people.

(iv) NEED TO ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AYURVEDA AT TRIVANDRUM.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: It has been proposed to establish a national institute for Ayurveda at Trivandrum, amalgamating the following:

1. Postgraduate Training Centre in Ayurveda now attached to the Government Ayurveda College, Trivandrum, presently a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. Central Research Institute for Ayurveda of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha located at Cheruthuruthy.
3. Regional Research Institute of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha located at Poojappura, Trivandrum.
4. Pharmacognosy Unit along with Botanical Garden and Herbarium