

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 train 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 BHOJPUR 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-