

[Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao]

one or two figures, 80,000 Indian citizens under the agreement are still to be repatriated and there would be another group of possibly 40,000 to 50,000 citizens who have residences outside the agreement. They are there outside the agreement. They would become Stateless whose cases will have to be decided. But, as I said, these are only two figures at random which I have given. I will have to go into the whole history if any right conclusions are to be drawn. I am prepared to do that.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): There are 25 lakh Stateless people there. I can challenge the Minister.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is what I am saying. This is the risk in giving figures at random. I am prepared to take the House into confidence and give all the figures. We need not challenge each other here. I have said that these figures are tentative. These figures are still being gone into. The cases are still going on and the figures will become final only when we go into all the details.

In regard to the citizens of Sri Lanka and citizens of India there and the Stateless—it is the same thing—these three categories, I will have to go into the whole history. As I said before, I am prepared to give it, but not in connection with his Calling Attention.

Now, about the policemen themselves in Jaffna taking part in some of these atrocities, it has been brought to our notice that the Government of Sri Lanka has taken action against a fairly large number of such policemen who were known to have participated in such activities and, I understand that action has been taken or at least initiated.

I have said that I would like to confine my attention to the subject

matter of the Calling Attention. I would not start drawing a parallel between one visit and a other visit. In any case, to what extent the visits of the President of India, can be brought into question here in Parliament is a matter which needs to be considered.

13.00 hrs.

So, I would appeal to the Members not to ask for any further details in regard to any of the visits of the President of India. So far as Sri Lanka is concerned, I have already said that his visit is on. It is going to take place and the postponement will have no effect on our friendly relations. So there is no difficulty on that score.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajit Kumar Sabha.

- (i) **NEED TO ALLOT MORE WAGONS ON FAST RUNNING GOODS TRAIN FOR ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR PAPER INDUSTRY.**

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Sir, certain items were classified as essential under the Essential Commodities Act but they receive a lower priority in the matter of wagon allotment. As a result, the movement of essential commodities which are raw materials for certain industries, is severely affected. One such affected industry is the paper industry. Although an essential commodity for paper industry, the move-

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-