

of the next session? So, I am saying that from our any action it should not appear that we are shielding corrupt persons. You should take a decision immediate on this matter and direct the Govt. to make a statement on Sukh Ram's statement. kindly do not take so much time ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, I have said that I will take two more days to get the comments and I will finally dispose of it within two days' time.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGODA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you, towards the problems raised by the Regional Rural Bank employees. Their strength is about 70,000. 196 banks are working in remote village areas.

[Translation]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (PALI): What communication has been received by you in regard to the place of his staying. Why is he not coming in this House and why C.B.I. is not arresting him?...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: The Regional Rural Bank employees submitted three demands. They are in agitation. Their demands are simple and legitimate. One of their demands is implementation of revised wage structure.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR): Mr Speaker, I have a question of privilege.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will go into it. I got a notice and I will go into it. Those who are taking part in Zero Hour, please get ready. Your names will be called.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN: They want implementation of the revised wage structure as per the Tribunal recommendation. They want a total restructuring of Regional Rural Banks to form National Rural Bank or Zonal Rural Bank under single Apex agency. They want no private banks to be allowed in remote village areas.

I request the Government to sympathetically consider these demands of the Regional Rural Bank employees and solve their problems immediately.

12.32 hrs

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (ALLAHABAD). Mr. Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House, Govt.

and the whole country toward a statement made by a top high official of the Indian navy.

In today's newspapers in a statement published from Mumbai, the highest official of the Indian navy, apprehension has been expressed about the security of our country, in which he has stated how reduction has been made continuously for the past few years in the defence budget relating to Indian navy, as a result of which the Indian navy is facing a crisis. The question of manufacture of new ships of any kind in the navy does not arise, and the maintenance, has also become difficult. Whatever he has stated in this regard, is very significant and what he has stated in being quoted by me from the newspaper

[English]

"Observing the efforts were being made to put breaks on the country's progress so that India did not become equal to world powers, Admiral Shekawat said colonialism was being replaced by other methods such as the World Trade Organization, Technology Denial Regimes and the Intellectual Property Rights "We have to develop our own technology".

"Asked to comment on the possibility of US warships being serviced and repaired by Indian shipbuilding dockyards as expressed by the Commander-in-Chief of the US Pacific Fleet Admiral Ronald J. Zlatoper during his visit in May, 1995, the Navy Chief said. These are his one sided views."

[Translation]

My submission as also demand in this regard from the Govt is to tell to the country as to why such an attitude is being adopted in relation to the security of the country and why such a thing is being done, particularly with regard to our navy. Our country has a very long coastal border, which has to be defended by us. The types of efforts being made presently by our neighbouring country in the Bay of Bengal are very dangerous for the security of our country. In such a situation, the issue of a statement by such a high officer of our navy and stating that such efforts are being made that India does not become a world power, is a very serious and dangerous thing to which I want to draw the attention of this House as also of the entire country. We want to know whether the Govt. has framed any defence policy or not? What action the Govt proposes to take in regard to our navy and these matters, toward which the attention of the entire country has been drawn by such a high officer of our navy that efforts are being made to stop the growth of the strength of our country by way of trips, D.T.O. and denial of technology regime. Sir, it is a very vital matter I had drawn the attention of the House toward it earlier also. The path adopted by our Govt in this regard has been creating serious danger for our country's economic progress and defence potential. I would urge upon the

Govt to take this House in confidence in regard to the safety and security of the country and tell us what steps are being taken to check the situation mentioned in the comments made in the statement of the high naval officer and to safeguard the country from the impending dangers and what efforts are being made to ensure our country become a big world power Our naval chief has made very significant comments in connection with the defence economic growth and self respect of our country I urge upon the Govt and the House to give a serious thought to this important issue (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES I have given a notice

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER On this issue there are two more names Please sit for a minute

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY) Sir it is a serious matter The statement made by Admiral Shekhawat indicates the problem of Navy As today is the guillotine day, we cannot discuss the Defence budget where we could raise all these problems We have discussed many of these things in the Standing Committee on Defence But today everything will be over So we demand that the Government should take this matter seriously and make a statement in the House (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER We will discuss it up to Zero Hour

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES Mr Deputy Speaker I have given a notice to you on this issue I have to say that in addition to what Dr Murlī Manohar Joshi has stated just now here in connection with the comments of Admiral Shekhawat, I want to say further that that statement has a great importance so far as the security and economic progress of our country is concerned from that we can have an assessment Mr Deputy Speaker he has stated

[*English*]

"The arguments by Western countries can vary from human rights to intellectual property rights But the aim is to deny state of art technology to developing countries like India Only a national effort involving the entire industry can counter this"

[*Translation*]

Mr Deputy Speaker, It is on which these people have affixed their signatures It is against which we had raised our voice continuously for five years here, and today the chief of the Indian navy Admiral Shekhawat is

also saying about what these people have done To-day the Govt is functioning in collusion with all These people are connected with it in their own way and what has been done by these people and what they are now doing to endanger the security of our country, a special debate should be held in this House over such a situation This matter is not related to Defence ministry alone Here is a matter of economic policy When we were saying that the Govt was dragging the country toward slavery, we were being told that the East India company comes in our dream at night Now this matter has gone much farther than the East India company, when the chief officer of our navy speaks that new colonialism has stepped in the country He is saying this thing to-day and we want the Govt to give its reply Whatever he has told about it in relation to the defence of the country and also about the position of our navy, he has said much about the whole affair We wish that the Govt should give its full reply in regard to the issues involved in it as also about our navy

LT GEN SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (DEORIA) Whatever I wanted to say has been very clearly said by Dr Murlī Manohar Joshi and Shri George Fernandes I want to add one thing more that this matter has not been discussed in the House, it was not discussed even during debate on the budget, and perhaps no other occasion will come for discussion on this issue The weakest string in the budget is the defence Not only this, but even in the common Minimum Programme of the United Front Govt there is no mention at all about the defence of the country When this is the position, a picture of our navy has now come before us, and we see that Hon members are sufficiently agitated over it, and it is a matter for being so agitated But, during the last two weeks, position of our army, airforce and navy is being depicted in various newspapers, from which it will be evident that during the last 9-10 years our defence requirements and defence budget have not been given due consideration and regard is deserved and should have been given, It has been neglected and ignored

Sir, it requires four years' time for making one olympic athlete Similarly, much more time is needed for making navy, air force and army If these vital services are continued to be neglected and ignored like this, we shall have no place to stand on Therefore, I am also demanding that even if the budget is passed, before the expiry of the current session, we must have a debate on defence at least for two-three hours in all circumstances and at all cost

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGHLY) Sir, we have been opposing privatisation in some strategic and important sectors like G.I.C., L.I.C and such other areas One of the major arguments had been about the

operations in the private sector that are taking place. Recent disclosures after several raids made by the Income-tax authorities on the establishment of M/s. Shaw Wallace and Company have revealed that in the last few years a large-scale siphoning of funds had taken place through the *Hawala* route. Some 20 subsidiaries of M/s. Shaw Wallace, which are all investment companies, are involved. I have written to the Finance minister, the Prime Minister and others saying that in the other company controlled by the same Dubai-based N.R.I., Shri Manu Chhabria, that is M/s. Dunlop India also large-scale siphoning of funds has taken place. Not only that, very valuable properties in Bombay, valuable properties belonging to M/s. Dunlop India have been sold off behind the scene. Eight thousand workers of M/s. Dunlop India are in great distress. We have been demanding from this Government to take appropriate steps to bring that Dubai-based N.R.I., Shri Manu Chhabria back to India and question him as to how during all this period, after the take-over that was done by him of the century-old Shaw Wallace Company and 60-year old Dunlop India, the siphoning off of funds and fleecing of these companies are taking place.

Sir, it has reached such a state that the consortium of banks, including ANZ Grindlays Bank, have decided that no one should give any loan to this Dunlop India or Shri Manu Chhabria because he has siphoned off whatever money he has taken from the Indian institution instead of implementing the plans submitted by him in respect of revamping be it Shaw Wallace or be it Dunlop India.

I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram who is sitting here, that he should immediately institute an inquiry and take all appropriate steps to stop such siphoning of large-scale funds of these companies....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (ARAMBAGH): Sir, it is a very important matter. Serious action should be taken....(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, I want clarify on this. Please allow me....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will allow all provided their names are here. Please wait.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the House and the entire country, through you, to the atrocities being committed continuously against the scheduled caste people in Uttar Pradesh. The position of the Govt. claiming to be sympathetic to and champion of the cause of scheduled castes and poor people, is that in Gorakhpur district of U.P. in Police station Gagoha in village Ujjarpur, a scheduled caste family was subjected to a shameful

incident on 3rd August, 1996. A member of the S.C. family was operating a grinding-mill. He was beaten by some persons so much that his fingers were broken. Even then his report was not registered during a period of 24 hours. Such a shameful incident occurred, but nothing was done. What to talk of writing of the report, his family members were threatened. One Hon. member of that family is governor of two States. A person of that family met with such an ignoble incident. The culprits have not yet been arrested, and no action has been taken against them. The Govt. and the police have now dragged their feet. I want to invite the attention of this House to this incident and say that when such a scheduled caste family can be subjected to such an atrocious act, what cannot happen with other scheduled caste people?

Through you I want to apprise the Govt claiming to be sympathiser of poor and scheduled castes about it, and ask that when such a scheduled caste family can be victimised, what does not happen with ordinary families? Will the Govt. look into it seriously? Mr. Deputy Speaker, please draw Govt.'s attention toward it and ask it what is all this happening.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the Govt. want to say something about it. One member belonging to the victimised family is governor of two States.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is governor of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh States.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This incident has occurred with that family.

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): We shall urge upon the Home Minister to present a report in this regard, and if necessary, he may inform this House also about it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): It should be kept in mind that U.P. is under President's rule and the Central Govt. is directly responsible for it.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There are elections also in Uttar Pradesh....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The incident is one month old.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You have directed. We shall urge upon the Home Minister to collect all the facts and apprise the House about it.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): Mention has been made of elections in U.P.