

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. Zlotoper 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