

Title: Reported move by Bank and General Insurance Employees to go on a nationwide strike from 22 to 24 March, 2005.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Thank you for giving me the opportunity at the fag end of 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to be as brief as possible.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Thank you for giving me the privilege to speak though at the fag end. The problem I am raising merits more attention. The question is that the country is facing a series of strike.

13.00 hrs.

I would appeal to the House to listen to me. The whole country is facing a series of strikes within a week. On 22nd of March, there is going to be a strike by seven lakh bank employees of the country. On 23rd and 24th March, there is going to be a strike in the General Insurance. The coal workers are agitated because their over due wage settlement has not been sorted out by the Government. They are also planning to go on strike. The power workers are protesting against the Power Act which was passed earlier. This is a serious situation. This is a Government which is committed to the people to look into the problems of the workers and peasants. In a situation like this, the Government cannot remain completely indifferent. I am constrained to say that despite the strike notice being given, the hon. Ministers do not have time to talk to the workers and unions. Is it the alternative economic policy which has brought you to the power defeating BJP? Is it the same? We shall discuss rest of the things in the Budget. But this is surely not in consonance with the mandate that you have received in the elections.

I call upon the Government to have talks with the unions and create a situation where the legitimate demands of the workers can be normally and fruitfully settled. Please do not create a situation of confrontation with the trade unions and workers of the country. It will neither be beneficial for the workers nor for the Government.
