

plied the same to the Government.

12.30 hrs.

[English]

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

**(x) Demand for stopping the involvement of private parties in designing and execution of defence projects**

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Military Engineering Services under Ministry of Defence was conceived for carrying out all the construction and maintenance and estate management of all Defence Ministry structures like airfields, administrative/technical/storage buildings, laboratories, ordinance factories, academics, water supply, roads, residential accommodation etc.

The MES employees and workers have hitherto proved that they are second to none in professional competence.

Unfortunately this department seems to be getting ignored by the Naval authorities in matter of Naval Constitution project management. I understand that a large chunk of project 'Sky lark' at Tirunelveli has been given to private authorities keeping a couple of Army Engineers to liaise between the Navy and the construction firms. Thus the secrets of Defence projects are passing into the hands of private bodies. I also understand that the Naval authorities have given the proposed Naval Academy Project at Ezhimalai, Kerala entirely to private firms to design and supervise.

Thus the trend to privatise the vital defence works in matters of design, construction and management of top defence priority projects involving strategic features and secrets of defence preparedness has been set in motion. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Minister of Defence to reverse this dangerous trend of involving private parties in Defence projects in the larger interest of national defence preparedness.

**(xi) Need to take remedial measures to stop the spread of cholera in Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli**

SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI (Dadra & Nagar Haveli): For the first time in the last several years, the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli is facing almost drought like situation this year. Drinking water sources like wells, bore wells, tanks have gone dry. This has further worsened due to absence of drinking water supply system.

Cholera has already spread in several villages with a death toll of seven persons so far in this Territory and there is every possibility of fast spreading of this killer disease, if immediate remedial measures for supply of pure drinking water are not taken.

I request that this Union Territory be declared as 'scarcity affected area' and all necessary scarcity relief works, particularly 'Food for work' scheme be started and hygienic drinking water be supplied to different villages of the territory.

Besides, both remedial and precautionary measures against cholera be taken in all villages of this territory.

**(xii) Need for effective steps to be taken by NAM for ending Iran-Iraq War**

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): The country views with deep interest the special mission of External Affairs Secretary to Teheran where he lodged India's protest over the misleading anti-India propaganda by Radio Teheran on Communal incidents in our country and organised demonstrations in front of Indian

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]  
Embassy in Teheran. Indian Ambassador's credential ceremony was delayed by two months.

The discussion touched the situation in the Persian Gulf and Iran-Iraq war which will enter its 8th year in September, 1987. It is not enough for India to say this war causes pain and anguish to us. How could we expect to have Indian ocean as a free zone of peace when the vessels of different countries gather in the Gulf and Arabian sea? What is the position of our government regarding the United Nations' Security Council's Resolution No. 598 dated July 20th, 1987 regarding ending Iran-Iraq war. We feel that India should support and back strongly the U.N. Secretary General's efforts and endeavour to follow up this peace move as quickly as possible. Being one of the founder members of NAM and important country of the third world we should go for effective move in the Non-Aligned Movement and urge upon the present Chairman, Mr. Mugabe to take new steps and initiative for ending the Iran-Iraq war. India should send envoys to the other governments with messages from our leadership to urge for immediate halt of the war. India with five countries issued "Delhi Declaration" calling for nuclear disarmament. It could again take a similar initiative regarding the Iran-Iraq war. This would definitely re-establish our country as a champion of world peace, harmony and non-violence, earning a tremendous appreciation and respect in the International Community.

[*Translation*]

- (xiii) **Demand for a policy decision by the Central Government for abolition of sales tax all over the country.**

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): It has often been observed that sale tax rates are different in various States. It is directly

linked with the life of the people in the country. At present the public is distressed due to rise in prices. The Sales Tax has also contributed to rise in prices. It not only causes undue hardship to the common man but also the business community remains frightened and sceptical due the sales tax system. It causes corruption and encourages tax evasion and all sorts of irregularities. Recently the Government of Madhya Pradesh has abolished octroi. Due to this, the common man has heaved a sigh of relief and the corrupt elements got a lesson. Similarly the Government of India should take a policy decision at its own level to abolish sales tax and advise the State Governments accordingly. The sales tax should be abolished in public interest.

- (xiv) **Demand for sanctioning lift irrigation projects on rivers Ken, Midhasan, Patne etc. In Panna district of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Sir, Panna district is the most backward district of the State. Due to lack of rail-traffic there is no industry in that district. Stone and diamond mines also have been adversely affected due to Forest Act, 1980

Agriculture is the only source of income for the people but that also depends on rain. Percentage of irrigation is also minimum which is only 9 per cent according to official and non-official sources. Forest Act, 1980 is standing in the way of implementation of those irrigation schemes which are pending or already sanctioned.

The Government is, therefore, requested to prepare lift irrigation schemes in respect of rivers Ken, Madhasan, Patne etc. flowing in Panna district and irrigation schemes for Damoh district and implement them expeditiously.