

[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.