

T-72 Tanks made a departure from the established practice of the last few years and turned the guns towards the VVIP dias to salute the President during the Republic Day Parade this year instead of dipping the guns in their original position as per practice;

(b) whether turning the guns towards the VVIPs before dipping the barrels to salute is considered a security risk; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this departure from practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c). As per practice, during ceremonial parades, armoured fighting vehicles turn their turrets to the right and dip their guns in a salute to the VIP. This was the practice in all Republic Day Parades till 1985. After a lapse of five years, the traditional practice of salute was restored in the Republic Day Parade 1990. There was no security risk in this as the firing mechanism of these armoured fighting vehicles had been neutralised prior to the Parade and all other normal security precautions taken.

Nuclear Power Plant in Kerala

1018. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI T. BASHEER:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Nuclear Power Plant in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been received on the possible health hazards in setting up a Nuclear Power Plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). At present there is no plan to set up a nuclear power plant in Kerala. However, the Kerala Government have proposed certain sites in Kerala for location of nuclear power plant, which are being examined as part of ongoing site investigations consistent with the long term nuclear power programme.

(c) and (d). No separate report on the possible health hazards for setting up of the nuclear power plant in Kerala has been received. A number of studies of epidemiological nature have been carried out in countries like USA, UK, France and Germany to find out if there are any effects on the health of radiation workers of nuclear power plants or in the population living in the vicinity of it. The major conclusions from review of these reports can be summarised as follows:—

- (1) Mortality rates and cancer deaths among workers in the nuclear power plants are no different than for general population in that area.
- (2) There is no evidence of increase in cancer deaths among the population living in the proximity of nuclear power plant.
- (3) Only in case of two sites, a slight increase in childhood leukaemia is reported. These are Sellafeld and Dounrey in UK where Re-processing Plants are also in operation for long time. These studies are still in progress. It seems that the observed excess could be explained by:

- (a) Clustering of leukaemia cases; and
- (b) The incidence of such clusters due to influx of population from other areas to study area. Except these two sites, at no other sites of operating nuclear power plants any statistical health effects (cancer, leukaemia or genetic) have been reported.

Gymnastic Schools

1019. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Gymnastic Schools that exist in the country;
- (b) whether Government have any proposal to set up more such schools;
- (c) when was work on the Gymnastic School at Tellichery, Kerala commenced and when was it completed; and
- (d) what was the total cost of setting up the Gymnastic School at Tellichery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). Government have not set up any Gymnastic Schools nor is there any proposal to this effect. However, under the Special Area Games Scheme of the Sports Authority of India, work on the setting up of a Gymnastics Training Centre (which is not the same as gymnastic school) at Tellicherry was started in July 1988 and the training activities are expected to commence in April/May 1990.

(d) The total estimated cost of setting up the Gymnastic Training Centre is Rs. 30.60 lakhs.

Private Agencies for Naval Base and Naval Academy Works

1020. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether major Defence Projects like Naval base at Karwar and Naval Academy at Ezhimala have been entrusted to private agencies/consultants;
- (b) whether any objections to private involvement in Defence projects have been received;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons as to why these two projects were not entrusted to the Military Engineering Service; and
- (e) the estimated cost of these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) A Public Sector Undertaking, M/s. Engineers India Ltd., have been appointed as the Prime Minister Consultant for preparation of the Master Plan and Detailed Project Report for the proposed Naval Base at Karwar in Karnataka. An Australian-Dutch Consortium, viz. M/s. REDECON-NEDECO have been retained as the Foreign Consultant. M/s. Satnam Namita and Associates of Chandigarh have been selected as the Architect for the proposed Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Kerala, through an all-India competition. No consultant has yet been appointed for this Project.

(b) and (c) The All India MES Civilian Engineers Association, Cochin Area and the