

(b) to (e) The category-wise share of newspapers in DAVP advertisement during the last year (1981-82) was as under:—

Category	Space in Col. CM	%age of total space	Cost (in Rs.)	%age of total cost
(1) Small & Medium . . . . .	37,95,880	77.85	1,96,02,996	49.96
(2) Big . . . . .	10,79,796	22.15	1,96,36,913	50.04

It has now been decided that the Government advertisements should be released to big and medium/small newspapers in the ratio of 40:60.

During 1981-82, the Hindustan times, New Delhi got the highest number of Government advertisements.

(f) and (g) The advertisement rates of various newspapers are determined annually on the basis of their circulation figures as per the Rate Structure in force. There is at present no proposal to increase the DAVP rates.

#### Acquisition of ship by ONGC from Shipping Corporation

4890. SHRI B. V. DESAI:  
SHRI R. P. DAS:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil and Natural Gas Commission proposes to acquire a large ship from the Shipping Corporation and convert a jack-up rig into a floating platform or for storing crude oil;

(b) whether the ONGC also plans to convert a jack-up rig into a floating platform;

(c) what are other measures Government are proposing to take in respect of oil exploration during the current year; and

(d) whether the drilling of the fourth well in Palk Strait and offshore Godavari has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) During the current year the oil exploration programme is being further intensified by the deployment of additional rigs as well as seismic parties including foreign survey parties on contract basis. A much larger financial outlay has been provided in the Annual Plan for 1982-83.

(d) So far 5 wells have been completed by the ONGC in the Palk Strait. Whereas in the Krishna-Godavari offshore area six wells have been drilled.

#### Drilling in Palk Strait

4891. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) details of drilling and exploration work done in the Palk Strait and the number of wells dug;

(b) the results of the above work;

(c) whether it is a fact that even though the wells dug so far have been declared dry, drilling work for another well has been started in the area involving a huge expenditure;

(d) who is responsible for such wasteful activities; and

(e) whether any technical advice has been obtained from a competent authority abroad before undertaking further drilling work in Palk Strait?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) About 1500 kms. of seismic profile have been