

(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 profit have been

shot. Five wells have been drilled and one is under drilling.

(b) One of the above wells flowed oil on testing. The others were dry.

(c) No, Sir. Oil has been found in one well. Further drilling is being carried out to find the limits of the oil pools and for further exploration in the area.

(d) It is not considered necessary to obtain any foreign consultancy in the matter.

Drilling and Exploration in Godavari basin

4892. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drilling and exploration operations in Godavari basin have not yielded any positive results and the ONGC equipment costing millions of dollars was wasted in the experiments so far conducted; and

(b) if so, what is the extent of loss?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLUUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir. Drilling and exploration operations in the Godavari Basin have given positive indications of hydrocarbons in both onshore and offshore wells. However, no commercial field has so far been established and exploration is still going on. The question of wastage does not arise as expenditure has to be incurred for discovering oil fields.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Drilling ship "Sagar Prabhat"

4893. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the drilling ship, Sagar Prabhat acquired and at what cost;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cementing unit provided for the drilling ship, Sagar Prabhat, was an obsolete one, but it was got painted by a firm to make it look brand new;

(c) whether it is a fact that the hull of the drilling ship was also old;

(d) whether it is also a fact that necessary sea trials were not made for the ship before purchasing it; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the same and for acquiring the Sagar Prabhat along with the cementing unit at a high cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The drillship 'Sagar Prabhat' was acquired by the ONGC in May, 1982 at a cost of US dollar 57.05 million including mobilisation and insurance charges.

(b) No, Sir. The cementing unit was not an obsolete one nor was it got painted by the firm to make it look brand new.

(c) No, Sir. The hull of the drillship 'Sagar Prabhat' is new.

(d) Sea trials were carried out successfully as per the schedule.

(e) Does not arise.

Upgradation of News Sections of All India Radio Stations

4894. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently upgraded the News Sections of some of the important A.I.R. Stations of India;

(b) if so, the details; and

(c) the reasons for not upgrading the News Section of All India Radio Trivandrum Station?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.