

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.