

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Advisory Committee for Space Sciences (ADCOS) of Indian Space Research Organisation, based on the interest shown by the scientific community, is studying and coordinating the evolution of a programme for distributing at nominal cost 1000 three inch telescopes in schools, colleges and amateur astronomy clubs. ADCOS is closely working with Department of Science and Technology, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, etc. Some prototypes are being evaluated from the view point of optimum telescope design, ease of production, etc.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Vessels chartered for Ocean Development

285, SHRI M. BASAVARAJU:
SHRI M. MADDANNA;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for chartering ships from abroad to continue with programmes relating to ocean development;

(b) the number of ships chartered from abroad during the last three years along with the names of the countries and foreign exchange involved; and

(c) by when Government is likely to become self-reliant in manufacturing such vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENTS, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Because of limited availability of ships and urgency in carrying out work on deep sea nodules within a time bound programme ships have been chartered from abroad for survey and exploration work in the Indian Ocean area;

(b)i During the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, three ships were chartered, the details of which are given below;

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of ship	Name of the country	Foreign Exchange involved
1. M.V. Skandi Surveyor charter ended in Jan. 84	Norway	215
2. M.V. Farnella charter ended in Jan. 84	U.K.	169
3. M.V. GA REAY charter from May October, 1985.	U.K.	100

(c) Manufacture of specialised oceanographic ships will involve a huge capital outlay and efforts are being made by some of our existing shipyards to enlarge their ship-building capabilities to build sophisticated oceanographic vessels within the country in the near future.

Census of Wild Lions

286. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: SHRI M. MADDANNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wild lions in India, particularly in Gir Forests, according to the census as conducted in March, 1985; and