

(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

(b) the details of the method of the census carried out to ascertain the number of the wild lions in India and particularly in the Gir Forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Wild lions are found only in Gir forests of Gujarat. The last census of the lions was conducted in 1979 according to which their population was 205. The next census is likely to be conducted on 5th May, 1985.

(b) Census of lions is carried out in Gir forests by counting the pug-marks of the right fore-paw of the lions on roads tracks etc. since the pug-mark of each animal differ in dimensions and other characteristics. This method of census is employed in combination with another method where live baite are tied at certain spots and the congregated lions counted.

287. [Transferred to the 10th May, 1985].

Legal protection to monkeys

288. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to continue providing legal protection to the monkeys in India; and

(b) whether Government also propose to continue the existing ban on export Rhesus monkey and other primate species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Construction of Museum at Ratnagiri near Bhubaneswar

289 SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for

construction of a museum at Ratna-giri near Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if 'so, what progress has been made for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Construction of a museum at Ratnagiri commenced in September, 1982. So far the columns upto the roof level and the roof slab have been cast. Further work is in progress.

Leasing of plot near Tarapur Atomic Power Plant

290. SHRI KISHOR MEHTA: SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that a plot within three miles of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant coming under high security land has been leased out for the manufacture of salt;

(h) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that sea water within a radius of 3 to 5 miles is affected by the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant and becomes radioactive; and

(d) whether a 'similar request for 'leasing out land near Tarapur Atomic Power Plant was rejected in 1973 ?

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) A plot of land