

offices located in Delhi to attend to the following categories of jobs :

<i>Category</i>	<i>No. of workmen</i>
Sanitation of office premises	81
Office maintenance and catering	60
Other jobs, such as, Plumber, Electrician, Carpenter	10
Security	77
Total :	228

(b) and (c). Contract labourers are employed for specific work from time to time depending on the exigencies of work, whereas permanent employees are recruited following well-established policies and procedures.

Hiring of Drilling Ships for off-shore exploration in Andaman and Nicobar Island

4794. SHRIMATI KISHORI SIHNA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission are getting drilling ships for off-shore exploration on hire;

(b) whether a Belgian rig ship has been hired for use in Andamans;

(c) whether cost of hire is as high as 33,500 dollars per day;

(d) whether on-shore supply base for this is yet to be arranged; and

(e) if so, whether the drilling rig will remain unutilised for several days entailing loss to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHRA SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir. Oil India Ltd. has finalised a contract for charter hiring

a D.P. drillship from M/s Offshore Europe, Belgium, at an operating day rate of US \$ 33,500.

(d) No Sir. Supplies for the 3 well exploratory drilling programme of Oil India Ltd. in the Andaman basin would be made available from a ware ship, the contract for the charter hire of which has already been finalised. Thus Oil do not propose to have full fledged onshore supply base for these operations.

(e) No Sir.

Hiring of Oil carriage at higher rates

4795. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the report in the 'Economic Times' of February 26 wherein it has been stated that the Indian Oil Corporation can save Rs. 40 crores a year if it does not favour Shipping Corporation of India for its oil carriage;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether private Indian shippers have offered more favourable rates; and

(d) if so, the reasons for paying more to Shipping Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Tankers for crude transportation whether of SCI or other Indian Flag Vessels are paid on cost plus basis. Two Indian private shipping companies are also engaged on the same pricing basis. The employment of SCI vessels in preference to other Indian Flag Vessels is on the basis of priorities laid down by the Government. The issue of reduction in the freight rates by the SCI is constantly engaging the attention of the Government.