

(1295)

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 622.

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH MARCH 1968.

INDIA'S NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAMME

* 622. I SHRI M.R. MASANI:
I SHRI N. DANDEKAR:
I SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
I SHRI R.S. VIDYARTHI:
I SHRI RANJIT SINGH:
I SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
I SHRI S.K. TAPURIAH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, as reported by Time magazine of the 23rd February, 1968 and the Sunday Telegraph of the 25th February, 1968, Soviet Admiral Gorshkov during his recent visit to India offered to help in our naval expansion programme in the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether in return he sought to secure from the Government of India, facilities for Soviet men-of-war to use our ports as bases for refuelling and repairs; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) and (b) : No, Sir. The recent visit of

Admiral Gorshkov to India was a goodwill visit to reciprocate the visit paid by our Chief of the Naval Staff to the U.S.S.R. in 1967.

(c) Does not arise.
