

MENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 663 on the 3rd May, 1972 regarding production of Torches by M/s. Union Carbide beyond licensed capacity and state :

(a) whether the conditions mentioned therein whereby manufacturing Units may be permitted to increase production beyond their licensed capacity are applicable to Indian companies only or to foreign companies also ;

(b) the quantity of Brass Sheets utilised for manufacture of Torches during the last three years by M/s. Union Carbide ;

(c) whether there is any control, statutory or otherwise, over distribution of Brass Sheets to various manufacturers ; and

(d) if so, whether Government have approved such higher distribution to Union Carbide to enable them to raise their output of torches more than 50 percent above their licensed capacity ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) The relaxation in the conditions about the increase in production beyond the licensed capacities of the units is applicable to both Indian and foreign companies,

(b) The following quantities of brass sheets were utilised by the Company for production of torches during the last three years :

	1969	1970	1971
	(In tonnes)		
Brass sheets used	426	600	677

(c) While there is no statutory control over the distribution of brass sheets, on one or two occasions when the manufacturing units approached the Government with their difficulties in securing adequate quantities of brass sheets, their difficulties have been brought to the notice of the manufacturers of brass sheets with a request to help them. Ordinarily, the industries requiring brass sheets make their own arrangements with the brass sheet manufacturers for meeting their requirements

(d) Does not arise.

Indian Delegation gone to Moscow in Connection with Space Research Programme

8180. SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian delegation has gone to Moscow to secure collaboration in our space research programme ; and

(b) if so, the main objectives and features thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Copies of the Press Release issued on the subject are available in the Parliament Library.

Administrative Set-up in Laccadive Islands

8181. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the reports appearing in the "Times Weekly" dated the 7th May, 1972 regarding the living conditions and administrative set-up of Laccadives Islands ; and

(b) if so, what additional steps are proposed to be taken to improve the administrative set-up there to bring about speedy social and economic reforms ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The existing administrative set-up in the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands is adequately geared to bring about speedy social and economic reforms. No major changes in the administrative set-up are contemplated.