## इटारसी-नागपुर रेलवे लाइन का दुहरा किया जाना

*641. श्री सुभाष आहुजा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) इटारसी-नागपुर रेलवे लाइन को दुहरा बनाये जाने की क्या स्थिति है जिसका सरकार द्वारा पहले ही अनुमोदन किया जा चुका है ; और

(ख) क्या उस पर अगले तीन वर्षों में कार्य शुरु किया जायेगा ?

रेल मंत्री (प्रो० मधु दंडवते) : (क) और (ख) इटारसी-नागपुर खण्ड की 298 कि० मी० की कुल लम्बाई में से 55 कि० मी० को पहले ही दोहरा कर दिया गया है । शेष भाग में, यातायात की तात्कालिक मांग को पूरा करने के लिए वैकल्पिक सुविधाओं का अनुमोदन कर दिया गया है ।

## Utilisation of gas for manufacture of fertilizers

*642. SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of finding of large gas reserves particularly in Bassein structure near Bombay and also because of the availability of gas from Bombay High, Government have formulated its strategy to use this gas for manufacture of fertilizers and save substantial outflow of foreign exchange for their import;

(b) whether Government have appointed a Committee to examine the various alternative and economics of the use of this gas; and

(c) if so, what are the findings of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

(a) to (c). The quantity of the associated gas expected to be available from the Bombay High and North bassein off-shore fields is likely to be of the order of 3·8 to 4·0 million cubic metres per day. In February 1975, the Government had set up a Working Group to recommend measures for the optimal utilisation of the Bombay High oil and associated gas. The Working Group suggested the fractionation of the associated gas and putting the different gas fractions to appropriate uses such as using the methane fraction for manufacturing fertilizers, the ethane/propane fractions for manufacturing petro-chemicals,the propane/butane fractions for supply to domestic consumers as LPG etc. Consultants have been appointed to study the feasibility and desirability of setting up new petro-chemical units based on the appropriate fractions as also the possibility of these gas fractions being utilised by the existing petro-chemical units. A decision would be taken after the Consultant's final recommendations are received and studied. However, considering the fact that the most profitable utilisation of gas is in the manufacture of nitrogenous fertilizers, certain decisions have been taken to convert the existing Trombay I and Trombay II units of the F.C.I. which are presently based on naphtha, to use gas. Similarly, Trombay V unit of the F.C.I. which is under implementation would also use gas.

Calculations have shown that after meeting the requirements of the Trombay I, II and V units, some more gas may be available which can be used for setting up new fertilizer units. Further, ONGC has discovered free or non-associated gas in the South Bassein structure. Although the discovery is yet to be fully appraised by drilling some more assessment wells the preliminary indications are that substantial quantities of free gas may be available from this structure.

In the revised V Plan, provision has been made for four new fertilizer projects, two in 1977-78 and two in 1978-79. It is proposed to locate one of these four projects in the North Eastern Region where, associated gas would be available in requisite quantities when ONGC's fields attain their optimum levels of production. Two of the remaining three projects may be established at a place south of Uran and the other one in Gujarat.

Since the setting up and the commissioning of new fertilizer and petro-chemical units would involve some time, the