

रसायन और उर्वरक तथा पेट्रोलियम मंत्री  
(श्री हंसवती नन्दन बहुगुणा) :

(क) जी, नहीं, आयातित कच्चे तेल के मूल्य में हुई लगभग 10 गुना वृद्धि की अपेक्षा पेट्रोल के मूल्य में 1970-71 से अब तक लगभग साढ़े तीन गुना वृद्धि हुई है।

(ख) इस प्रकार का कोई प्रस्ताव इस समय सरकार के विचारधीन नहीं है।

(ग) इसका पूर्वानुमान लगाना कठिन है।

†THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND PETROLEUM (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) No, Sir. The price of petrol has increased by about three and a half times since 1970-71 as against an increase of about ten times in the price of imported crude oil.

(b) No such proposal is, at present, under consideration of Government.

(c) It is difficult to predict this.]

**Conversion of Bangalore-Mysore Metre-gauge railway line into broad gauge line**

24. SHRI H. S. NARASIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 343 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 1976 and state the progress so far made in the conversion of the Bangalore-Mysore metre-gauge railway line into broad-gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): The State Government of Karnataka were approached to convey the extent of their participation in the cost of construction of the project with a view to reduce the cost to be borne by Railways and to improve the financial viability of the project. Their reply has been received and the matter is under examination. A final

decision regarding the construction of the project will be taken in consultation with the Planning Commission.

**Oil Exploration by ONGC**

25. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has recently taken any steps to start drilling operations in the Cachar district of Assam; and

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made on this project?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND PETROLEUM (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) A location for drilling a well at Chargola in Cachar District of Assam has been released. Major part of the civil works has been completed and the bulk of the rig and equipments has been transported to the drill-site.

**Import of Crude Oil from U.S.S.R.**

26. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed an agreement with the Soviet Union for the import of crude oil; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND PETROLEUM (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) A Contract has recently been signed between Indian Oil Corporation and 'SOJUZNEFTEEXPORT' of Soviet Union for the supply of 1 million tonnes of crude oil during 1977. There is an accepted convention not to disclose the commercial terms on which Indian Oil Corporation makes its purchases from foreign countries.