

age of voting for elections to panchayats, from 21 years to 18 years. According to the newspaper reports, the Governments of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal have also decided to reduce the voting age for panchayat elections, from 21 years to 18 years.

(c) Elections to panchayats and municipalities are the concern of the State Governments and not the Central Government. The Central Government is concerned with elections to Parliament and the State Legislatures. A proposal for reducing the minimum age of voting for elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies from 21 years to 18 years is under consideration of the Government. The proposal requires careful consideration. It will, therefore, take some time for a final decision to be taken in the matter.

Observance of "Tool down" by A.I.R.F.

*131. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR
SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a report in the press that the All India Railwaymen's Federation recognised by Government has decided to observe "tool down" on 22nd August, 1978;

(b) if so, what are the demands; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to meet the demands and avoid the agitation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The All India Railwaymen's Federation has called upon the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled Artisans staff in the Workshops and open line establishments of Railways to go on one day's industrial action on 22-8-1978, if the interim award of the Railway Workers' Classification Tribunal is not implemented by Government by that

time. The interim award is under active consideration of the Government and steps have been taken to expedite the decision.

Second Undersea Pipeline for Transportation of Gas

*132. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to lay a second undersea pipeline for transportation of natural and associated gas from Bassein to the Gujarat coast;

(b) if so, whether the economics of the transportation of gas and its utilisation has been worked out;

(c) if so, exact location and cost of laying the pipeline from Bassein structure to a specified location on the West Coast of Gujarat;

(d) when is the proposed second undersea pipeline expected to be completed; and

(e) names of projects earmarked for utilisation of gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (e). A feasibility study for a gas pipeline to Gujarat from Bassein has just been completed and is being examined by ONGC. The report with ONGC's views is expected to be submitted to Government shortly. Thereafter, a view on the economics, location, time-schedule of completion, etc. of the pipeline can be taken by Government.

In order to study the utilisation of offshore gas from Bombay High, Bassein North and Bassein South, two Working Groups—one for Gujarat and another for Maharashtra were set up. Their recommendations have been broadly accepted by Government which *inter-alia* include setting up