

(c) The total refining capacity envisaged at the end of Fourth Five Year Plan was 25.55 million tonnes. The extent of shortfall at the end of the Fourth Plan is expected to be 1.55 million tonnes. This shortfall will be made up when the modifications to the Barauni Refinery and building of the Bongaigaon refinery are completed in 1974 and 1975 respectively.

**Land Under Major and Medium Irrigation**

183. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the acreage under major and medium irrigation; and

(b) what is per acre cost of irrigation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAI GOVIND VERMA) (a) and (b). The irrigation potential from major and medium irrigation projects in the country was about 19.5 million hectares by March 1972.

The capital cost of providing irrigation from major and medium projects now a days is about Rs 1900 to 2500 per hectares.

**Demand for Lowering of Voting Age**

184. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for lowering the voting age to eighteen years has been considered by the Election Commission; and

(b) if so, what are the Commission's views thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b).

The Election Commission has left the matter to be decided by the Government.

**Representation to Government by Unrecognised Unions on Staff Grievances**

185 SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the unrecognised Unions on Railways can make representations to the authorities on the grievances of the staff, and

(b) if so, what is the policy being pursued in this matter.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Representations made by unrecognised unions are given due consideration but, according to the extant policy, are neither received by hand nor replied to.

**Strength of Staff of Personnel Branch on Southern Railway and South Central Railway**

186 SHRI B. N. REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether since the time of formation of South Central Railway Zone, the different yardsticks for staff of Personnel Branch in existence in Southern Railway and South Central Railways have been virtually frozen;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this has resulted in the strength in Personnel Branch remaining the same in spite of phenomenal increase in work-load; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and yardstick in vogue have not been revised.