

was made by World Bank Study Team on Coal Transport wherein cost of haulage of coal per ton by rail and road for different trades was compared. The Committee on Transport Policy and Coordination had also made an *ad hoc* study of the comparable costs with the available data.

(b) and (c). Freight classification of individual commodities is fixed by the Railways having regard to the transportation characteristics of the commodities, such as price, use stage of manufacture, loadability risk in transit, etc., and the cost of haulage. The rates charged by competing modes of transport are also given due consideration.

In view of the important role played by Railways in the economy of the country it is not possible to fix rates solely based on costs. In fact a sizeable number of commodities are carried at 'below cost' rates.

Loss of Water by Ganga and Brahmaputra Rivers

1130. SHRI B. V. NAIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION & POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the acre feet of water lost by the two rivers, Ganga and Brahmaputra, to Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether there is any project to utilise these waters; and

(c) if so, by what time?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) The Irrigation Commission have assessed that out of the 400 Million Acre feet of annual flow on an average in the Ganga, it should be possible to utilise about 150 m.a.ft. for irrigation development and the rest will flow down to Seal, they have assessed that 300 m. a. ft. of Brahmaputra water will also be surplus.

(b) and (c). It is proposed to investigate Schemes for a National

Water Grid to utilise a small fraction of the surplus waters of the Ganga. It is hoped that the Grid may be in operation towards the turn of the century.

* have assessed that 300 m.a.ft.

Amendment of the Representation of Peoples' Act, 1951

1131. SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA:
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH
RAO :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make some changes in the Representation of Peoples' Act;

(b) if so, the nature of changes likely to be made; and

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward a Bill relating to these changes in the coming Budget Session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b). Certain proposals for amending the Representation of the People' Act, mainly based on the report of the Joint Committee on amendments to election law, are under consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Submission of Report by Technical Experts of F.C.I.

1132. SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA:
SHRI K. MALLANNA:

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

(a) whether the Study Team of technical experts of the Fertiliser Corporation of India has since submitted its report to Government;