

of these Light Railways by not issuing permits to road vehicles for carrying either goods or passengers on these roads running parallel to them so that they do not face financial difficulties and close down on this account. I have again called attention to this letter in a subsequent communication to the Chief Minister, Bihar. Should, however, the companies owning these Railways decide to close them down, the question whether this should be averted by nationalising or taking over their management will be considered, taking all relevant factors into consideration.

Amendment of Article 31 of the Constitution

*52. SHRI P. GANGADEB : Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (VIDHI AUR NYAYA MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Mantralaya is considering a proposal to amend Article 31 of the Constitution to provide categorically that compensation at market value need not be paid, when any property right is abridged or taken away for a public purpose; and

(b) if so, when the final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (VIDHI AUR NYAYA MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : (a) and (b). The matter is under active consideration of Government.

Project Report For Calcutta Underground Railway

*53. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be please to state :

(a) whether the Project Report of Underground Railway for Calcutta is lying with Government for a long time, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware of the urgency and necessity to sanction an un-

derground Railway for Calcutta owing to the chaotic traffic problems; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMAN-THAIYA) : (a) to (c). The studies undertaken by the Metropolitan Transport Team of the Planning Commission indicated the need for a Mass Rapid Transit system in Calcutta along two 'corridors'; one North-South and the other East-West. The Mass Rapid Transit System would consist of Metropolitan Rail lines, underground or on elevated structures.

Techno-economic Feasibility Studies for the Mass Rapid Transit System are currently in progress.

No project report for an underground railway for Calcutta has so far been prepared. On the basis of the techno-economic Studies now in progress, a Project Report for an under-ground railway, extending from Dum Dum to Tollygunge, is expected to be available by October '71.

Closure of Bata Shoe Company Calcutta

*54. SHRI SAMAR GUHA:
SHRI N. K. SANGHI:
SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY:

Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bata Shoe Company, Calcutta declared lock-out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the number of workers discharged by the Company;

(d) the extent of short-fall in the production of shoes and other allied products as a result of such lock-out; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to re-open the Company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL