

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

DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Bata Shoe Company Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta closed down their factory at Batanagar with effect from 25th April, 1971. It was not a case of lock-out.

(b) The factory was closed down on account of labour trouble.

(c) As a result of closure, the Company terminated the Services of the Workmen in the factory. The number of Permanent workmen affected was about 11500.

(d) The estimated production loss of the Company during the period the factory was closed was 7 lakhs pairs of shoes per week.

(e) Conciliation proceedings were initiated immediately after the closure by the State Labour authorities who held a series of discussions with the Management with a view to secure the re-opening of the factory. As a result of these efforts, the factory was re-opened on 17th May, 1971.

Linking of Ganges in North and Cauvery in South for effective irrigation

***55. SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :** Will the MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to investigate the feasibility of linking the Ganges in the North and the Cauvery in the South for the effective integration of the national system of irrigation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) and (b). A large volume of water after allowing for upstream development and the requirements downstream in the Ganga Basin would be available in the Ganga near about Patna during the monsoon months for diversion. On the other hand, in most of the other rivers of India, particularly in the peninsula, the flows are inadequate

and erratic. These depend largely on the south west monsoon, which is quite often delayed or withdraws early or has a long break leading to scarcity conditions in these basins.

The possibility of diverting a small portion of the surplus waters of the Ganga by connecting it with the Cauvery and further south has therefore been examined in a preliminary manner. The link canals from the Ganga from near Patna to Mettur dam will have to go along or cross the various major river basins of the country, namely Sone, Narmada, Godavary and Krishna and smaller basins like Palar, Pennar, etc. The links will require the construction of a number of hydraulic structures in the various sub-basins to store/lift up the water. About 2100 miles of canals with cross-drainage works, and necessary pumping stations would perhaps be needed.

Further office studies are being carried out on the proposal at present.

Enquiry against Birla Group of Companies

*** 56. SHRI SATPAL KAPUR :** Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry against the Birla concerns as a follow-up action of the Dutt Committee Report has been completed;

(b) if so, the result thereof ; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Conference of Chief Electoral Officers held at Delhi during March, 1971

***57. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (VIDHI AUR NYAYA MANTRI) be pleased to state :