

As for the unseasonal rains, the Government are aware of the need for improving the post-harvest handling and storage at producer's level and have been considering steps that are to be taken in this regard. So far as damage to the wheat by recent rains is concerned, it is reported that the damage is more in terms of quality than quantity. In order to give relief to the producers, the Government have relaxed the specifications for procurement of wheat in order to facilitate purchase of the rain-damaged wheat.

**Closure of Kalipahari Colliery
West Bengal**

1235. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK** : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kalipahari Colliery, West Bengal, has been closed down by its management;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the number of workers affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to re-open the mine.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

National Institute of Labour

1236. **SHRI S.M. KRISHNA :**
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission has agreed to the proposal of his Mantralaya to convert Indian Labour Institute into National Institute of Labour;

(b) if so, how far the change will benefit the labour class; and

(c) when it is likely to be done ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) The Planning Commission has approved the Fourth Plan project for the establishment of an autonomous National Labour Institute in which the existing Indian Institute of Labour Studies will stand merged.

(b) The National Labour Institute will undertake broad-based training and orientation programmes for personnel concerned with labour matters, alike in managements, trade unions and Government administrations. It will also undertake research and consultancy functions, and bring out publications, of common interest to all, including labour.

(c) Necessary steps to establish the National Labour Institute are in hand.

Reported Statement of Chief Minister Punjab for a price freeze of Agriculture Inputs

1237. **SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chief Minister of Punjab pleading for a price freeze of agricultural inputs at the 1968 price level in view of the fact that the Government of India had retained the last year's procurement price for wheat ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir, However, it is a fact that the procurement price of wheat for 1971-72 has been retaj-