

one case of closure of a colliery employing about 1850 workers has come to Government's notice. The matter was taken up in conciliation and the failure of conciliation report has just reached the Government and the Government have decided to refer the issue to adjudication.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SOCIAL WELFARE AT NEW YORK**

*141. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sent any delegation to the International Conference on Social Welfare which was held at New York in September, 1968;

(b) if so, the names and designations of members of the delegations;

(c) the expenses incurred thereon;

(d) the duration of the Conference; and

(e) the period that each member of the delegation spent abroad and the countries and places visited by each of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI J. B. MUTHYAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A statement indicating the required information is laid on the Table of the house. [See Appendix LXVI, Annexure No. 20.]

STRIKE IN WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD

♦142. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the West Bengal State Electricity Board went on an indefinite strike in the month of September, 1968;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKH-LAL HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demands of the employees related to withdrawal of suspension orders and charge-sheets, withdrawal of police cases, scrapping of all penal circulars, guarantee against retrenchment of the existing muster roll employees, grant of full benefit of D.A. to muster roll staff, reinstatement of certain workmen and payment of bonus at the rate of 2 months' basic pay and Dearness Allowance: etc.

(c) A series of conciliation meetings were held by Labour Department of State Government but no settlement could be reached. The strike was, however, called off unconditionally on 12-10-68.

SHORTFALL IN RICE SUPPLY TO KERALA

*143. SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON: SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre agreed to supply enough rice to Kerala to maintain a 6 oz. ration in the State;

(b) whether the actual supply of rice fell short of commitment every month the aggregate shortfall in the supply during the last one year has come to about 3 lakh tonnes;

(c) whether the failure of the Centre to supply in full the assured quantity of rice has created a serious food situation in the State; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by the Centre to ensure adequate supply of rice to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE): (a) The Central