

बनारस) : (क) और (ख). केवल महा-राष्ट्र सरकार ने भारत सरकार से सिफारिश की थी कि उन सभी नागरिकों के लिए जिनके तीन या अधिक बच्चे हैं, जाति-पाति के भेद भाव के बिना, नसबन्दी को अनिवार्य बनाने के सम्बन्ध में वैधानिक और संवैधानिक कदम उठाए जाएं। राज्य सरकार ने यह सिफारिश अब वापस ले ली है और इसे आगे न चलाने का निर्णय कर लिया गया है।

STRIKE BY OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION WORKERS IN THE WESTERN REGION

- *101. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :
 SHRI M. L. SONDHI :
 SHRI K. RAMANI :
 SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
 SHRI VISWANATHA MENON :
 SHRIMATI SUSEELA
 GOPALAN :
 SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :
 SHRIMATI JYOTSNA
 CHANDA :
 SHRI N. S. SHARMA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Western Region went on strike from the 11th September, 1967;

(b) if so, their demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE : (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) The workers of Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Western Region went on strike from 12-9-1967.

(b) A statement giving the charter of 45 demands presented by the Employees Mazdoor Sabha is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1587/67].

Subsequently a fresh demand was made for an immediate rise of pay at a flat rate of 15% of the basic salary as interim

relief to be followed by a further upward revision of the wage scales.

(c) The Government of India have referred the main demands to a National Tribunal for adjudication. When the strike was called off, it was agreed that an attempt to settle the question of pay revision by negotiations between the parties concerned will be made; and if no decision is reached in two months, adjudication proceedings will continue. Accordingly, negotiations are at present taking place between the Commission and the Employees' Unions.

SIMPLIFICATION OF TAX STRUCTURE

*102. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the further progress made in the simplification of the tax structure in the country;

(b) the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(c) the time by which the scheme, if any, under consideration is proposed to be finalised in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) A statement showing the progress made towards the simplification of the tax structure up to 6-7-1967 was given in reply to Question No. 964. A statement showing the further progress made since then is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1588/67].

(b) The Report of the Tariff Revision Committee on the Central Excise Tariff as also the adoption of the revised Customs Tariff suggested by the said Committee is under consideration. The report from the One-Man Committee on Tax Laws (Bhoothalingam Committee) relating to Indirect Taxes and the further report of that Committee relating to Direct Taxes are still awaited.

(c) Necessary legislation to give effect to the revised Central Excises and the Customs Tariffs will be brought before the Parliament as soon as the scrutiny of the recommendations made by the Tariff Revi-

sion Committee is completed. As, however, the report of the One-Man Committee on Tax Laws in regard to Indirect Taxes and the final report of the Committee in regard to Direct Taxes have not yet been received, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the time that may be taken for implementing the changes considered necessary.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATIONS

*103. SHRI TULSIDAS DASAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States in which Agricultural Credit Corporations are likely to be set up;

(b) what is their *modus operandi*; and

(c) in what way these will be more efficient and beneficial in extending credit to agriculturists than the present lending institutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) It is envisaged that agricultural credit corporations will be established in the States of Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Rajasthan and in the Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura.

(b) and (c). The corporations are intended to provide short and medium-term credit for agricultural production in those areas of the above States where the existing cooperative credit structure is weak and is unable to meet such credit requirements.

PRODUCTION OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

*104. SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :
SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that only 2 per cent of the production of surgical instruments factories are being consumed in the country;

(b) if so, the total yearly production; and

(c) the steps taken to market the produce ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) to (c). It is presumed that the Question refers to the Surgical Instruments Plant, Madras of M/s. Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a public sector undertaking. This plant has been designed to produce annually 2.2 million pieces of surgical instruments, valued at about Rs. 15 million. From the beginning *i.e.*, September, 1965 till the end of July, 1967, the plant produced 315501 of instruments and sold 19,917 numbers. It is clear that the product pattern at the plant needs substantial revision and new items must be produced by way of diversification. Necessary steps in these directions are being taken. Simultaneously, the scope for the export of certain lines of production has been studied with some hopeful prospects emerging.

SECOND OIL REFINERY IN ASSAM

*105. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :
SHRI HEM BARUA :

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

(a) whether the State Industrial Conference organised recently by the Assam Government has demanded the setting up of a second oil refinery in Assam;

(b) whether Government have considered this demand; and

(c) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). This is under consideration.

FERTILIZER PLANTS IN PRIVATE SECTOR

*106. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :
SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are negotiating for the setting up of five or six fertilizer plants in the Private Sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?