

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 ?