

other index, either before or after implementation of the proposed goods and services tax and, if so, in what way?

2. What number of the government's employees are presently covered by collective agreements which index wages and benefits according to (a) increases in the consumer price index (b) increases in the consumer price index less three per cent (c) no index at all (d) other indices?

Hon. Robert R. de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): 1. The government has no plans to make changes to the way in which the wages or benefits have been established.

2. There are no provisions in any collective agreement which applies to federal public servants which establish wages or benefits according to an index.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX—BUDGET

Question No. 176—Mr. Young (Gloucester):

Has the government budgeted or spent any money to advertise and explain the proposed goods and services tax to Canadians and, if so (a) for the present and each future fiscal year, what amount (b) what amount has already been spent on (i) the operation of the government's proposed goods and services tax information telephone lines (ii) proposed goods and services tax pamphlets (iii) advertisements in all forms of media (iv) the hiring of new personnel with the full or partial responsibility for the said advertising or explaining or communications work concerning the proposed tax (v) leasing any office space and equipment for these activities (vi) any other expense?

Hon. Michael Holcombe Wilson (Minister of Finance):

(a) For the fiscal years 1989-90 and 1990-91, Treasury Board has approved an operating budget of \$7.661 million for the Goods and Services Tax Working Group: \$5.138 million for 1989-90 and \$2.523 million for 1990-91. These figures include expenditures for salaries, travel, supplies, materials and so on.

In addition, a budget of \$4.5 million has been established for a public information campaign about the GST for the fiscal year 1989-90.

(b) To date:

(i) The sum of \$476,200 has been spent on the operation of a toll free information line service.

(ii) The amount spent for pamphlets explaining the proposed Goods and Services Tax is \$204,600.

(iii) Out of the 1989-90 public information budget of \$4.5 million, a total of \$2,916,600 has been spent for advertisements explaining the proposed GST to Canadians.

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(iv) The amount spent on the hiring of new personnel to be responsible for communications work concerning the proposed tax is \$479,900.

(v) The sum of \$26,400 has been spent on the leasing of office space and equipment.

(vi) Other expenses for travel, postage, freight, furniture, and other supplies total \$248,100.

ACTUARIAL PRESENT VALUE OF UNFUNDED SUPPLEMENTARY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Question No. 181—Mr. Gauthier:

Were blended interest, general wage increase and inflation rate assumptions used for 1989-90 and each of the next twenty fiscal years to produce the estimate contained in Section 7 of Volume I of the 1988-89 Public Accounts "that the actuarial present value of unfunded supplementary retirement benefits, including provision for future indexation, in respect of benefits earned or in pay as at March 31, 1989, could be between \$850 million and \$5 billion," and if so, respectively, what were they?

Hon. Robert R. de Cotret (President of the Treasury Board): Insofar as the Office of the Comptroller General is concerned:

Streamed economic assumptions were used in preparing the estimated obligations for all pensions plans as at March 31, 1989. The economic assumptions start with current salary and interest rates, and gradually blend into long term economic assumptions. In both scenarios, the assumed rate of return on the account balances reflects a 1 per cent margin over the medium term to allow for possible adverse economic situations. The specific assumptions are as follows:

| Calendar Year | \$6 billion Unrecorded Liability | | | \$850 million Unrecorded Liability | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| | Assumed Fund Yields | CPI Increase | General Salary Increase | Assumed Fund Yields | CPI Increase | General Salary Increase |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| 1989 | 10.1 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 10.1 | 4.8 | 4.4 |
| 1990 | 10.0 | 4.4 | 3.3 | 10.0 | 4.4 | 3.3 |
| 1991 | 10.0 | 5.7 | 3.2 | 10.0 | 5.7 | 3.2 |
| 1992 | 9.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 9.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| 1993 | 9.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 | 9.8 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| 1994 | 9.6 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 9.6 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| 1995 | 9.4 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 9.4 | 2.3 | 2.8 |
| 1996 | 9.1 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 9.1 | 2.1 | 2.6 |
| 1997 | 8.9 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 8.8 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| 1998 | 8.6 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 8.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| 1999 | 8.4 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 8.2 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| 2000 | 8.1 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 7.9 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| 2001 | 7.8 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 7.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| 2002 | 7.4 | 3.5 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 2.0 | 2.5 |