

Order Paper Questions

power and Immigration as follows: 1. Applications for loans under guaranteed loans plans are made directly to chartered banks and other designated lenders. Records are maintained centrally by the government only in respect of loans granted under the guarantee and no data is available on the number of applications submitted to lenders.

2. As a general rule, persons engaged in the growing of agricultural products or livestock are considered to be farmers for the purpose of the applicable unemployment insurance legislation. Some examples are: (a) the growing of grain, fruit or vegetables, (b) livestock farming or dairying, (c) operation of a chicken farm, (d) the raising of pigs. Self-employment as a farmer is not insurable employment under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Consequently, in order for a farmer to qualify for unemployment insurance benefit he must have been employed in insurable employment for a minimum of 8 weeks in the qualifying period, generally in the 52 weeks prior to filing his claim. If a farmer files a claim and fulfils this qualifying condition, his entitlement to benefit is then dependent on the extent of his farming activities. If a person is engaged in farming to a major extent, that is, where it is shown to be his principal means of livelihood, he generally fails to prove that he is unemployed under the Unemployment Insurance Act and Regulations, and therefore is not entitled to benefit. However, even if a person is engaged in farming as his principal means of livelihood, such a person may be entitled to benefit during the off-season (October 1 to March 31) if he proves that he does not work on his farm during the off-season or that the work he performs is so minor in extent that it would not prevent him from accepting full-time employment. Concerning a person employed in agriculture in a capacity other than self-employment as a farmer, such a person, on becoming unemployed, is entitled to unemployment insurance benefits under the same conditions as claimants generally. However, he is regarded as having worked a full working week and consequently is not entitled to any benefit during any week in which he works at least five days, and an aggregate of forty hours.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN OF
NEW IMMIGRANTS

Question No. 1,776—**Mr. Reynolds:**

1. With growing immigration affecting learning processes in the schools, particularly in British Columbia, is the government contemplating any financial assistance to those immigrants so that they may keep abreast of children already using the language of instruction?

2. Will the government consider increasing the assistance in those areas receiving large numbers of new immigrants into the school system who do not speak the English language?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): In so far as the Department of Manpower and Immigration is concerned, the following is the reply: 1 and 2. The Department of Manpower and Immigration is aware that the number of children in primary and secondary schools whose first language is not English or French has increased. The Department of Manpower and Immigration funds various voluntary agencies who are involved in direct settlement assistance to newly arrived immigrants. Funding of these agencies is based on the known community needs and as such, where greater needs are identified

[Mr. Sharp.]

by a voluntary agency, the department is prepared to consider additional support. However, it must be remembered that, since education is a matter of provincial jurisdiction, the provinces have the main responsibility for assisting school boards and students in this regard.

In so far as the Department of the Secretary of State is concerned: 1 and 2. The federal government has for many years had agreements with all provincial governments covering assistance for language instruction for adult immigrants, and agreements with all the provinces except British Columbia covering the costs of textbooks for such instruction. Informal enquiries have been received from some provinces as to whether these agreements could be reviewed and possibly extended. This matter is under study.

COST OF PREPARING REPLIES TO QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER
PAPER

Question No. 1,837—**Mr. Herbert:**

What is the approximate average cost to prepare replies to questions on the *Order Paper* in each grouping (a) policy (b) statistical (c) concerning public service employees (d) requesting information about contracts (e) requesting information concerning ministerial staffs?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Information not available. We have undertaken an experiment on the cost of answering questions placed on the order paper (from questions No. 1,857 to 2,395 inclusive). The cost of answering these questions will be available at a later date.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS
OFFICE

Question No. 2,042—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of Agriculture?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): There is no Parliamentary Returns Office as such in the department.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE—PARLIAMENTARY
RETURNS OFFICE

Question No. 2,055—**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):**

In the last fiscal year, what was the cost of operation of the Parliamentary Returns Office of the Department of National Revenue?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of National Revenue): There is no Parliamentary Returns Office, as such, in this department. Parliamentary returns are handled as a part of the regular duties of the staff in the office of the deputy minister in each of the two components of the department. Therefore, it is not possible to isolate the cost of this activity from the others which comprise the total program of these offices.