

Questions

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):

1. The statistics available on subsidies paid to milk producers have been retained by fiscal years rather than by dairy years. The total amount of subsidy paid to Prince Edward Island milk producers for the past five fiscal years as follows: 1964-65, \$598,971; 1965-66, \$510,979; 1966-67, \$1,196,226; 1967-68, \$1,604,096; 1968-69, \$1,696,869.

2. The number of milk producers is not available for the fiscal years 1964-65, 1965-66 and 1966-67. The total number of milk producers for the last two fiscal years is as follows: 1967-68, 3,411; 1968-69, 2,554.

3. The only federal government data on total number of producers is the census figure. The last (1966) census figure was 4,675.

4.	Pounds of butterfat
1967-68	5,691,000
1968-69	5,511,000
1969-70	5,105,000

REDUCTION OF RESERVE DEFENCE FORCES

Question No. 1,421—**Mr. MacLean:**

With regard to the reduction of the Reserve Defence Forces announced in December, 1969 (a) what was the reason for the disproportionately large reduction in medical units which wipes out 75 per cent of such units (b) what was the reason for the large cut in (i) the Provost Corps (ii) the Intelligence Corps?

Mr. D. W. Groos (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Apart from the important considerations of economy, the main reason for the reorganization of Canada's Reserve Forces, is to complement the Regular Force. The units in the land reserve best suited to do this are the arms units—Infantry, Armour and Artillery. Consequently, the Service units suffer the greatest reductions. Apart from the RCASC which must retain a transportation capability, and Signals units which will be tasked to augment the Canadian Forces Communication System in times of emergency, the Service units are reorganized on the basis that their primary task is now that of support for other land reserve units.

The retention of small independent units is uneconomical in terms of administrative overhead. Consequently, the number of Service units has been reduced but appropriately sized detachments have been retained within Service Battalions. Six Medical units have been retained and 14 detachments included within the composition of Service Battalions. This

compares with 22 Medical companies which were in existence prior to reorganization. This applies equally to the Provost Corps and the Intelligence Corps. Small security detachments have been provided within Service Battalions.

OLD AGE SECURITY CHEQUE GARNISHEES

Question No. 1,491—**Mr. Stewart (Marquette):**

How many recipients of Old Age Security have had their cheques garnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, through the Financial Administration Act, and in how many instances was (a) the total amount of the pension recovered by the federal government (b) more than 50 per cent of the Old Age Security cheque of the recipient recovered in the present fiscal year and in fiscal years 1967-68 and 1968-69?

Hon. Jean-Eudes Dubé (Minister of Veterans Affairs): 1967-68: Number of recipients, six. (a), nil; (b), nil. 1968-69: Number of recipients, 36. (a), nil; (b), two. 1969-70 (to date): Number of recipients, 43. (a), nil; (b), two.

TREASURY BOARD GARNISHEE OF OLD AGE SECURITY CHEQUES

Question No. 1,492—**Mr. Stewart (Marquette):**

How many recipients of Old Age Security have had their cheques garnished by Treasury Board through the Financial Administration Act for the present fiscal year and the fiscal year 1968-69, and how much money did Treasury Board recover by these garnishees?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): By virtue of Section 95 of the Financial Administration Act, the Treasury Board may authorize the Receiver General to retain by way of deduction or set-off the amounts of certain indebtedness to Her Majesty. This authorization is granted on the submission of departments and the Treasury Board does not, of itself, initiate such actions. Statistics are not kept by the Treasury Board of the numbers or amounts of such deductions or set-offs involving recipients of Old Age Security. This information should be obtained from the departments concerned, predominantly the Departments of Veterans Affairs and National Health and Welfare named in questions 1,491 and 1,493.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FRASER COMPANY SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT

Question No. 1,501—**Mrs. MacInnis:**

1. Did the government assist the Fraser Company of Edmundston, New Brunswick, with funds to build a sewage treatment plant and, if so, on what date and to what financial extent?