

Order Paper Questions

2. Is the policy the same for employees of CN Rail and CP Rail and, if not, what is the policy for CN and CP employees?
3. Is there any limit on the use of the passes?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. Via provides a pass good for free transportation system-wide to employees with one year's service, and to their spouses and dependants.

2. The policy is different for employees of CN and CP. By agreement with CN and CP managements and unions, such privileges apply only to CN and CP employees who had service prior to March 14, 1979.

3. The passes for Via employees with less than five years' service permit reservations on the day of travel only. The passes for CN and CP employees permit reservations only one week in advance of the travel date, and then only for an upper berth, or lower berth if accompanied by spouse or child.

VIA RAIL CANADA INC.—PROFIT MAKING ROUTES

Question No. 144—**Mr. Turner:**

1. Does Via Rail Canada have any trains which either break even or make a profit and, if so, what are the route numbers of the trains and their point of origin and final destination?
2. Could Via Rail Canada increase the number of profit-making routes if it had up-to-date equipment?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. Fully allocated costs exceed the revenues received from customers on all passenger train services operated by Via Rail Canada Inc.

2. The revenue/cost rates could be improved on most passenger train services if up-to-date equipment was available but it is unlikely that any service could reach a break even or profit position in the foreseeable future on the basis of fully allocated costs and revenue from customers.

VIA RAIL—TICKET AGENTS—BAGGAGE HANDLERS

Question No. 145—**Mr. Turner:**

Are in-station ticket agents and baggage handlers employed by Via Rail Canada or by CN Rail and CP Rail?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): At larger stations where there is sufficient volume of work to justify a position devoted entirely to passenger service, the ticket agent or baggage handler is employed by Via Rail Canada Inc. At smaller stations these services are performed by CN Rail and CP Rail telegraph operators and the charges for this work are paid to the railways under the terms of the operating agreement between Via and CN and CP Rails.

VIA RAIL—BOMBARDIER INC.—TRAINSETS ON ORDER

Question No. 146—**Mr. Turner:**

1. How many Light-Rapid-Comfortable (LRC) trainsets are on order from Bombardier-MLW Limited to be delivered to Via Rail Canada?

2. What does each trainset consist of in terms of engines, steam units, coaches, club cars, snack cars, bar cars, etc?

3. Can the trainset be increased in size to allow for additional passenger-carrying capacity?

4. (a) On what routes will the trainsets be used (b) will they reduce the travelling time of these runs?

5. On what date does Via Rail Canada expect to put the trainsets into service?

Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): 1. Twenty-one locomotives and 50 coaches are on order from Bombardier Inc. (formerly Bombardier-MLW Limited) for delivery to Via Rail Canada Inc.

2 and 3. These trainsets can consist of one locomotive and up to five coaches or two locomotives (one at each end in a push pull configuration) and ten cars. As the trains have all electric heating with power supplied to the locomotive there is no need for steam units. Each car has provision for food and beverage service and adjustable seating to permit various interior configurations.

4. Detailed implementation plans are currently being formulated to ensure that the maximum benefit of this new equipment can be obtained within present operating constraints.

5. Bombardier Inc. have advised us that train delivery will occur in 1981 and revenue service can be expected to occur in either late 1981 or early 1982.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT—INCREASE IN LEVEL OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Question No. 240—**Mr. Herbert:**

Did the Minister of State for Economic Development in a speech on September 23, 1979, state that the government is committed to increasing the level of research and development and, if so, in each of the next five years, by what annual percentage is it hoped that the level of research and development can be increased?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (for Minister of State for Economic Development): Yes, the former minister of state for economic development, the Hon. Robert René de Cotret, stated in a speech on September 23, 1979, that the government of the day was committed to increasing the level of research and development in Canada.

In the Speech from the Throne opening the first session of the Thirty-second Parliament on April 14, 1980, the government reaffirmed its commitment to increase Canada's over-all expenditures on research and development to 1.5 per cent of the value of the gross national product.

The government has under review its policies and plans for responding to this commitment which will be undertaken within the context of its broad policies for economic development. The government is not yet in a position to indicate the time frame for achievement. The federal government recognizes that it must consider increasing its own effort but also recognizes that, by international standards, the private sector must increase its commitment to research and development at an even greater rate.