

per litre on gasoline containing a minimum of 3 per cent ethanol and 5 per cent methanol, would use up large surpluses of wheat and corn and would provide benefits for all of Canada, will the Hon. Minister provide the leadership and action required so all of these good things can happen in a free enterprise way?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to my colleague. Indeed truth sounds better from that side than it does from the other side. I can assure my colleague that the Government is aware of the great interest in the use of ethanol and all mixtures like methanol as fuel. This is what my department had in mind recently when it carried out a study on oxygenated fuel in Canada. Being a Government which likes to consult with all interested groups we have sent this analysis to all interested parties to find out exactly what they think of this Government approach. Hopefully their comments will reach me by May 31, and department officials will prepare a summary of their views before making recommendations to the Minister this summer.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NIAGARA RIVER POLLUTION—REDUCTION IN STAFF OF DEPARTMENT

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Last week we learned from two University of Toronto researchers that as much as 175 tonnes per year of toxic chemicals are released into the air from the mist at Niagara Falls. How can the Minister's Department be of assistance to Canadians who live in the Niagara Peninsula, particularly in relation to their health and to the tourist industry, considering that this year the Department of the Environment has cut its strength by 106 employees, from scientists to technicians and from field workers to administrators? In what way can the Department be of assistance?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of question the Hon. Member has raised with me in committee and it is no more valid merely by being repeated in the House of Commons. The fact is that the budget of Environment Canada is now higher than it has ever been in the history of this country except for one fiscal year.

Mr. Caccia: That does not negate the fact that Environment Canada has lost 106 valuable people.

Tabling of Documents

PROPOSED TOXICOLOGY CENTRE

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, in light of this rather disturbing development which threatens the health of Canadians who live in a peninsula that is international in scope, will the Government now reconsider its decision to cancel the Toronto-Guelph toxicology centre which was cancelled in November, 1984, and go ahead with the construction of that very necessary establishment?

Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the premise of the question is that the Government of Canada is neglecting toxicology. The facts are contrary to that premise.

At present 368 person-years are being devoted by the Government of Canada to this important field. We spend \$20.4 million every year on toxicology in-house. To boot, we contract out an additional \$5.6 million, not to mention the \$15 million we cost-share with the provinces. This is one area in which I would have thought the Hon. Member for Davenport would avoid asking questions because the record is good.

Mr. Speaker: I must advise Hon. Members that the time for Question Period has ended. I regret that there are some Hon. Members to whom we could not get today and I hope we will be able to get to them tomorrow.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

CANADA DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT CORPORATION

TABLING OF 1986 ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Privatization)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 67, I have the honour to table in both official languages the 1986 annual report of the Canada Development Investment Corporation.

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TARIFF BOARD

TABLING OF REPORT ON CANADIAN NATURAL SWEETENER INDUSTRY

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour to lay upon the table copies in both official languages of a report to the Tariff Board on the Canadian natural sweetener industry.