

*Order Paper Questions*

providing that the ordinary time of adjournment shall remain suspended until all such questions have been decided; and

That, for the year 1980, Standing Order 58 shall be amended as follows:

- (i) by replacing in section (5) thereof the word "five" with the word "eighteen" and by deleting the words "Thirteen additional days shall be allotted to the business of supply in the period ending not later than June 30.";
- (ii) by replacing in section (9) thereof the word "two" with the word "four";
- (iii) by replacing in section (14) thereof the words "March 1 of the then expiring fiscal year" with the words "April 30"; and
- (iv) by replacing in section (14) thereof the words "May 31 in the then current fiscal year" with the words "November 10".

**Madam Speaker:** Pursuant to Standing Order 21(2), this notice of motion is transferred to and ordered for consideration under government orders later this day or at the next sitting of the House.

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[English]

**QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 41, 266 and 343.

[Text]

**DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES—METHODS USED FOR PURCHASING****Question No. 41—Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Between April 20, 1968 and May 22, 1979, what methods were used for purchasing furniture, equipment and appurtenances or other articles for government offices?

2. Where purchases were made in bulk, were tenders called and (a) if not, in what cases were they not called (b) if so, were they by public advertisement or by invitation and if by invitation, how were the names supplied?

**Hon. Jean-Jacques Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** 1. In so far as DSS is concerned, from the establishment of the department on April 1, 1969, to 22 May, 1979, all purchases of furniture, equipment and appurtenances or other articles for government offices were made in accordance with the government contract regulations and the subsidiary departmental supply policy manual. Purchases covered both bulk and unit requirements appropriate to customer needs.

2. Tenders are always called to cover bulk purchases. These tenders can be either competitive or non-competitive.

(a) Although, as stated above, tenders are always called, they may be non-competitive if: items to be purchased must match or interchange with items already in use; items to be purchased are available from only one supplier; items to be purchased are available from only one supplier who is able to meet required delivery conditions.

(b) By invitation to suppliers who have identified their willingness to supply the federal government and who

have been qualified in accordance with departmental policies.

**INDUSTRY—CAPACITY UTILIZATION****Question No. 266—Mr. Herbert:**

1. Did the Governor of the Bank of Canada in his remarks to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs on October 25, 1979, state "that many of our industries are operating uncomfortably close to capacity"?

2. Is the government aware of any industrial sectors that are in such an uncomfortable position?

3. What is the present estimated percentage capacity utilization of industry in Canada?

4. What is considered a desirable percentage, and does the government intend to introduce incentives to encourage industry to increase its capacity?

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance):** 1. Yes.

2. The following manufacturing industries were operating at a rate of capacity utilization in the second quarter of 1979 which was greater than their average rate for 1974 as a whole: tobacco, rubber, leather, textiles, knitting, clothing, printing and wood. (1974 was the year of the previous peak for the manufacturing sector).

3. As of the fourth quarter of 1979, the latest period for which data are now available, capacity utilization in manufacturing was 86.9 per cent compared with the average rate of capacity utilization in 1974 of 90.4 per cent.

4. A decision on the need for further incentives will be made prior to the budget.

**VETERANS AFFAIRS—PENSION APPLICATIONS****Question No. 343—Mr. Herbert:**

1. How many pension applications, in the Canadian Pension Commission of the Department of Veterans Affairs, were received but did not receive first level decision as at (a) December 31, 1978 (b) October 31, 1979?

2. How many (a) permanent (b) temporary employees were responsible for the processing of the applications in all their stages as at (i) December 31, 1978 (ii) October 31, 1979?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):**

1. (a) 2709;

(b) 3570.

2. (a) (i) 94;

(ii) 81.

(b) (i) 4;

(ii) 4.

These figures include commissioners, medical advisers and medical support staff, but do not include any staff involved in the processing of ancillary benefits, entitlement board or assessment board support, or other administration.