

financing health care programs under medicare, and one from Senator Frith regarding cross-border shopping. There is a response to a question asked by Senator Kenny on February 18 regarding the tenth anniversary of the *Ocean Ranger* disaster and, finally, a response to a question asked by Senator Olson on February 28 regarding federal support for the grains sector.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SRI LANKA—HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES—CANADIAN ROLE

(Response to question raised by the Hon. Lorna Marsden on February 13, 1992)

Consideration has been given to a role for the Commonwealth or to the United Nations in promoting a process of negotiation and dialogue to bring about an end to the fighting in the North-East.

Initial offers of assistance by Commonwealth Members have been declined by the Sri Lankan Government of President Premadasa.

Canada and like-minded countries are monitoring the situation closely and are considering a further offer of assistance in response to indications of a more favourable reception.

Canada would be prepared to play a coordinating role within the Commonwealth or among like-minded countries to provide an international intervention to promote a ceasefire and initiate negotiations between the Government and Tamil representatives.

THE ENVIRONMENT

EFFECTS AND MONITORING OF DEPLETION OF OZONE LAYER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

(Response to question raised by the Hon. Gildas L. Molgat on February 13, 1992)

Environment Canada operates monitoring stations in Toronto, Saskatoon, Goose Bay, Edmonton, Churchill, Resolute and Alert that measure the status of the ozone layer. Some stations have data going back to 1960, so the results can be compared to long-term changes.

Canadian scientists have pioneered research measurements of the arctic ozone during the last six years. This year, additional Canadian measurements, from balloons as well as ground-based equipment are being made. About thirty balloon payloads will be flown from Alert and about ten from Resolute, Eureka and Iqaluit, the latter synchronized with flights of NASA aircraft. Data are being exchanged between Environment Canada, European countries and NASA.

Through its Green Plan Initiative on Stratospheric Ozone, the government will establish a permanent high arctic ozone observatory for high-technology measurements as part of an international network to study ozone depletion. The observatory will facilitate research that will increase our understanding of arctic ozone depletion

and its effect on ozone levels in Southern Canada, and help determine the effectiveness of control measures on ozone-depleting chemicals. The facility, which will be completed later this year on Ellesmere Island near Eureka, will place Canada on the leading edge of ozone science. A special laser will be designed and made in Canada to measure Stratospheric Ozone. Other highly-sophisticated scientific equipment will be developed and operated at the observatory in partnership with Canadian universities and scientists from other countries.

Environment Canada has no plans to close the Mould Bay weather station or any of its Northern weather stations involved in ozone monitoring. The Mould Bay facility, which at this time does not carry out ozone-monitoring activities, is being modernized to make it more cost-effective in its capabilities as an upper air observatory.

THE ENVIRONMENT

POSSIBLE REACTIVATION OF DISUSED ROCKET STATION FOR MONITORING OF OZONE LAYER

(Response to question raised by the Hon. Gildas L. Molgat on February 13, 1992)

Environment Canada does not see any need to re-establish a rocket-based monitoring program. Technology allows Environment Canada scientists to monitor the ozone layer with ground-based equipment and with delicate instruments sent by balloon to the stratosphere.

MEDICARE

COST OF FINANCING HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

(Response to question raised by the Hon. Gildas L. Molgat on February 13, 1992)

With respect to funding for health care, federal transfers to the provinces which support health care services remain large and continue to grow.

Established Program Financing (EPF) expenditures for Medicare from 1987-1992 are as follows:

- 1987-88: \$12.59 billion
- 1988-89: \$13.31 billion
- 1989-90: \$14.25 billion
- 1990-91: \$14.34 billion
- 1991-92: \$14.65 billion

The following are EPF health expenditures for 1991-1992, broken down into cash and tax categories:

Cash	
Extended Health Services	\$ 1.4 billion
Insured Health Services	\$ 5.1 billion
Tax	\$ 8.1 billion
Total	\$14.6 billion

When both the EPF and equalization programs are