

Questions

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following answers, deposited with the Clerk of the house, are printed in the official report of debates pursuant to standing order 39:

FLOODS, B.C.—ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS

Question No. 74—Mr. Regier:

1. Have any requests been received for assistance to Indians of British Columbia as a result of flooding in 1955?
2. If so, what has been the reply of the government to such requests?
3. Have any Indian agents reported on the extent of damages suffered by Indians?

Answer by: Mr. Pickersgill:

1. Yes.
2. There has been only one application for assistance and the applicant has been provided with clothing, furniture and other essential requirements and it is intended to assist him with minor house repairs.
3. Yes.

INDIANS, ALBERTA—POPULATION AND MEDICAL STATISTICS

Question No. 86—Mr. Smith (Battle River-Camrose):

1. What is the number of Indians in the province of Alberta?
2. What was the cost of (a) hospitalization; (b) medical services; (c) dental services, for these Indians in each of the years 1954 and 1955?

Answer by: Mr. Martin:

Because the Indians of the Yukon and Fort St. John agency are cared for by the Indian health services organization in Alberta it is difficult to segregate expenditure figures for the care of Indians in Alberta alone. Therefore the figures quoted below include these two areas, the Indian population of which represents about 11 per cent of the total Indian population involved.

1. Indians in province of Alberta, 16,327; Indians in Fort St. John agency, N. E. sector of British Columbia, 488; Indians in Yukon Territory, 1,608.

2. (a) 1953-54, \$1,823,754; 1954-55, \$1,973,900; (b) 1953-54, \$65,423; 1954-55, \$71,358.

Note: This item includes amounts paid to non-departmental doctors, dentists, opticians, and radiologists.

(c) Dental services are provided by dental clinics in hospitals and by non-departmental dentists. The amount paid for the latter is included in the amounts shown in answer 2(b). In addition two travelling dental surgeons were employed by the Indian health services in Alberta in 1955 and one in 1954.

In addition to the above expenditures there were those made in moving patients to and from hospital, which amounted to: 1953-54, \$30,396; 1954-55, \$34,178.

STAPHYLOCOCCAL EPIDEMIC, B.C. HOSPITAL PERSONNEL

Question No. 92—Mr. Goode:

1. Is there an epidemic of staphylococcal infections among the personnel of the hospitals in British Columbia?
2. If so, what discussions, if any, have taken place between federal and provincial government research staffs to eliminate the serious spread of such infection?

Answer by: Mr. Martin:

1. No.
2. The possibility of staphylococcal infections occurring in hospital personnel has always been a potential hazard. With the introduction of penicillin the solution seemed to be at hand. However particular strains of staphylococci, resistant to the effects of penicillin and other antibiotics, have developed. While the occurrence of these resistant strains of staphylococci has not assumed epidemic proportions, their presence has been reported from various areas in Canada and throughout the world.

A full discussion of this matter of staphylococci resistant to antibiotics took place at a conference of federal and provincial laboratory directors held in Ottawa in December, 1955.

Considerable research has been undertaken with the objectives of studying the characteristics of these penicillin resistant organisms, of developing improved methods for reducing the possibility of their transference from one person to another, and of discovering new antibiotics which will be effective against these resistant strains.

Typical of these research projects which have been supported under the national health program are: (a) the epidemiological study of penicillin resistant staphylococcal infections in the province of Quebec which has been underway since 1951; (b) investigation at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto of the sensitivity of bacteria to antibiotics; and (c) a study of the control of skin infections in the newborn and a proposed companion study now under consideration of the epidemiology and control of infections caused by staphylococci in the pediatrics department of a general hospital, both in Vancouver.

In addition to this financial support to independent investigators, both the Department of Veterans Affairs and the laboratory of hygiene of the Department of National Health and Welfare have been actively engaged in comprehensive studies of this problem.

BLIND PERSONS—FEDERAL MEDICAL AID

Question No. 103—Mr. Proudfoot:

1. Can recipients of blind persons allowances receive medical or surgical attention in cases where it is likely to improve their sight?