

Question

ANSWER TO QUESTION

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

OKANAGAN VALLEY FRUIT TREES—FROST DAMAGE

Question No. 258—**Mr. Christian:**

1. During each of the years 1949 to 1956, both inclusive, what information is on record as to the number and varieties of fruit trees in the Okanagan valley, British Columbia, that have suffered from frost damage or winter kill?

2. What has been done by the government to compensate fruit growers of the Okanagan valley for such damage?

**Answer by: Hon. D. S. Harkness (Minister of Agriculture):**

1. During the years 1949 to 1956, both inclusive, there were two periods of serious frost damage or winter kill in the Okanagan valley of British Columbia, one during the winter of 1949-50 and the other in November, 1955.

According to information provided by the British Columbia department of agriculture, mortality as a result of the severe winter of 1949-50 was as follows:—

	1950 tree survey trees	Mortality trees
Apples .....	1,117,215	107,028
Peaches .....	343,534	111,313
Apricots .....	186,364	37,981
Cherries .....	100,039	18,446
Pears .....	333,807	22,720
Plums .....	16,149	5,149
Prunes .....	200,200	33,973
	<u>2,297,308</u>	<u>336,610</u>

Mortality as a result of the November, 1955, freeze was as follows:—

	1955 tree survey trees	Mortality trees
Apples .....	1,067,850	126,162
Peaches .....	344,579	28,041
Apricots .....	201,190	17,759
Cherries .....	149,208	60,272
Pears .....	383,235	5,092
Plums & Prunes	177,951	34,722
	<u>2,324,013</u>	<u>272,048</u>

2. No financial assistance was provided by the government of Canada to compensate the fruit growers of the Okanagan valley for such damage.