

*Order Paper Questions*

[Text]

## INDUSTRIAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Question No. 16—**Mr. Scott (Victoria—Haliburton):**

Since September 1984, have any grants and loans been approved by the Department of Regional and Industrial Expansion under the IRDP program to companies within the constituency of Victoria—Haliburton and, if so (a) how many (b) by year, what was the total value?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion):** In so far as the Industrial and Regional Development Program is concerned: for the period September 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985, two grants were approved for a total of \$612,200; for the period April 1, 1985 to March 31, 1986, three grants were approved for a total of \$1,227,833; for the period April 1, 1986 to October 7, 1986, one grant was approved for a total of \$1,250.

## DIOXIN LEVELS IN FOOD

Question No. 33—**Mr. Caccia:**

1. Has the Department of National Health and Welfare been collecting data on dioxin levels in food and, if so (a) since what date (b) what levels have been measured and what is the significance of these levels?

2. Are there data on dioxin levels in the human body and, if so, what are the recorded levels and what is the significance of these levels?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):**

1. (a) The Health Protection Branch has been monitoring dioxin levels in food for more than 10 years. These studies have indicated that the foods most likely to contain dioxins are those with the higher levels of fat such as fish, meat, etc. Examination of fruits and vegetables has revealed no detectable amounts.

Two extensive studies of fish from the Great Lakes have revealed the presence of the most toxic dioxin isomer in some fish, primarily from Lake Ontario. A regulatory limit of 20 parts per trillion for this dioxin in fish was established in 1982. Compliance action is taken whenever violative levels are found. Studies of dioxin in fish are still under way.

A national survey of poultry and swine products revealed the presence of the higher (and less toxic) chlorinated dioxins in some products, probably arising from the use of pentachlorophenol in and around poultry and swine establishments. Action was taken by Agriculture Canada in 1981, following discussions with the Health Protection Branch, to limit the use of pentachlorophenol in such situations. A further national survey of poultry and swine products is under way.

The Health Protection Branch will continue its food monitoring program in these and in other areas, such as a total diet program, to provide continued reassurance of the wholesomeness of the food supply. Action will be taken to protect the consumer if any problems are detected.

2. The Health Protection Branch has conducted a survey of approximately 80 samples of human adipose tissue collected nationwide during 1972, 1976 and 1980. The data indicated a general low level contamination of adipose tissue in Canada

with several dioxin isomers at levels ranging from approximately 0.005 ppb (parts per billion) for the most toxic isomer to 0.8 ppb (parts per billion) for the least toxic isomer. There were no significant qualitative or quantitative differences in contamination across regions or over the time period investigated. The source of contamination was not apparent from the general pattern of contamination.

Although the significance of this extremely low level of contamination is not known at this time it should be noted that similar levels of contamination are apparent in adipose tissue from other industrialized countries such as Sweden and the U.S.A.

Health Protection Branch scientists are presently working with scientists from other countries through the World Health Organization to more fully assess the significance and source of this contamination.

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[Translation]

## QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

**Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Madam Speaker, if question No. 31 could be made an order for return, that return would be tabled immediately.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** The questions enumerated by the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary have been answered. Is it the pleasure of the House that question No. 31 be deemed to have been made an order for return?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

[Text]

## DOLLAR VALUE OF GRANTS

Question No. 31—**Mr. Stackhouse:**

1. For each year 1984 and 1985, did the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion make any grants and awards and, if so, by province and territory, what was the total dollar value?

2. For each year 1984 and 1985, did the Department of Supply and Services award any contracts for goods and services and, if so, by province and territory, what was the total dollar value?

Return tabled.

[Translation]

**Mr. Lewis:** Madam Speaker, I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne):** Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.