

Routine Proceedings

increases in local rates should such an application proceed.

I submit these petitions on behalf of those citizens in those communities.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk).

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, Question No. 130 will be answered today.

[Text]

Question No. 130—Mr. Young (Acadie—Bathurst):

With respect to the government's restraint measures for pay for 1991-92, has the 3 per cent salary allotment reserve account been removed from department budgets and, if so, (a) how will annual salary increments be met (b) how will increases in contracts be met (c) will departments be allowed to (i) transfer funds from other operation budgets (ii) offset salary costs from the capital vote (d) will offsets be allowed against contributions or grants and, if not, how will the salary costs be met?

Hon. Gilles Loisele (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): The February 26, 1991 budget of the Minister of Finance directed that departmental appropriations proposed in the 1991-92 Main Estimates be reduced by \$500 million and indicated no funds were available in 1991-92 to provide a salary increase for public servants. Accordingly the Treasury Board ministers directed that each department's share of the \$500 million, including the Salary Adjustment Reserve Allotment (SARA), be placed in "frozen" allotments against which no expenditures may be charged. Although these amounts have not been removed from departmental appropriations, the budget of each department has effectively been reduced by the total of any frozen allotments.

In respect of annual salary increments, all departments are provided an annual adjustment to their budgets based on an equal six tenths of one per cent of the forecast total of salaries and wages (not including allowances) to provide for these costs. This amount is a

general average for the entire Public Service and takes into account that some employees are at the maximum rates of pay for their occupational group while others are moving through the range. This amount is included in the available salaries and wages budget and has not been frozen. Salary increments are exempt from the Public Sector Compensation Act.

The wage restraint legislation recently passed by Parliament has directed that all contracts with an expiry date after February 26, 1991 be extended for one year at a rate of zero per cent; therefore cost increases related to contracts expiring during 1991-92 will be limited to a few small occupational categories with all associated costs borne by the departments involved from within existing appropriations excluding frozen allotments.

If a department requires additional salary funds, it may request the Treasury Board to approve a transfer of funds from other expenditure allotments within the same vote—including funds originally budgeted for capital expenditures and/or grants and contributions; or in the event of available funds in other departmental votes, for example, the capital or grants and contributions votes, it may request Parliament to approve through the Supplementary Estimates process the transfer of funds from either of these votes to supplement its salary allotment. The Treasury Board policy in this respect is to ensure that such transfers will result in more efficient and effective programs.

[English]

Madam Deputy Speaker: The question as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered.

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

Mr. Nunziata: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Can the member indicate whether Question No. 138 has been responded to and, if so, when it was responded to?

Mr. Cooper: Madam Speaker, I am just checking through the list. I must indicate to the member that the question has not been answered. We are still waiting for information from 13 departments at this point. We have collected from the others.