

Order Paper Questions

SECURITY CLEARANCE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Question No. 4,213—**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):**

1. How many public service positions require security clearance and what percentage of the total positions does this represent?
2. What are the criteria currently used to determine which positions in the public service require security clearance?
3. Since 1977, by year, how many security screening requests went from departments and agencies to the security service?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): 1. Personnel security clearance programs are prepared by departments and agencies to meet their own security requirements. As these requirements vary in intensity from one department/agency to another, so will the number of positions affected.

2. A security clearance is mandatory in positions where an employee requires access to classified material in the discharge of his/her duties.

3. 1977—71,689
1978—67,261
1979—60,965
1980—56,199
1981—59,514

A large proportion of these figures represents rechecks or updating of an earlier screening process; departments/agencies generally review security clearances at five-year intervals. The Security Service is not required to make a statistical distinction between a first screening and an updating process.

CRITERIA USED TO CLASSIFY GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Question No. 4,214—**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):**

What are the criteria currently used to determine which government documents should be classified?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Top secret: Documents, information and material of paramount security importance, the unauthorized disclosure of which would cause exceptionally grave damage to the nation.

Secret: Documents, information and material, the unauthorized disclosure of which would endanger national security, cause serious injury to the interest or prestige of the nation, or would be of substantial advantage to a foreign power.

Confidential: Documents, information and material, the unauthorized disclosure of which would be prejudicial to the interests or prestige of the nation; would cause damage to an individual; and would be of advantage to a foreign power.

Restricted: Documents, information and material are to be classified restricted when they should not be published or communicated to anyone except for official purposes, and when they are not classified in any of the three previous categories.

DIEMACO INC.

Question No. 4,296—**Mr. McKinnon:**

Did the Department of National Defence place a \$753,100 contract with Diemaco Inc. for in-service small arms publications under contract number MC50.2550409 (2MC81-02092) and, if so, what types of small arms will be covered in the publications?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Yes. The Department of Supply and Services awarded a contract on behalf of the Department of National Defence, to Diemaco Inc. in the amount of \$753,100. The type of small arms covered in the publications is: pistols and revolvers, rifles, submachine guns, machine guns, small arms weapons turrets and mounts, small arms accessories.

[English]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered.

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STARRED QUESTION

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, would you be so kind as to call starred question No. 4,298?

[Text]

*SINKING OF "ARCTIC EXPLORER"

Question No. 4,298—**Mr. McGrath:**

1. On what date was the enquiry ordered into the circumstances surrounding the sinking of the Arctic Explorer?
2. Did the Arctic Explorer sink some time during the morning of July 3, 1981 and, if so, for what reason did the enquiry into the incident not begin until April 27, 1982?
3. Were SOS distress signals received by the Canadian Coast Guard between 0000 hours and 2400 hours on July 3, 1981 and, if so, what action was taken in response to the signals?

[English]

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the reply to question No. 4,298 of the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) is as follows:

1. July 9, 1981.
2. The vessel sank on July 3, 1981. The Coast Guard required the normal 2 to 3 months to prepare technical evidence to be presented at the formal investigation. The usual practice, which was followed in this case, is for the Chief Justice of the province concerned to then nominate a judge to be commissioner. Because of the heavy court calendars of the Newfoundland judges at the time, there was difficulty in providing the nomination.

3. The answers to this question and all others related to the sinking will be examined in public by the Court of Formal Investigation currently sitting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Therefore, it would not be advisable for me or anyone else to make further comment while the investigation is proceeding.