

Order Paper Questions

Control Board reports as follows: No. Tap water is the solvent normally used in hospitals to dilute radioactive wastes.

DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Question No. 1,720—**Mr. Francis:**

Are the radio-active wastes poured down the sinks of some hospitals (a) accumulating in the local water supply and getting into the life cycle (b) cancer producing and, if so, will the Atomic Energy Control Board consider re-institution of the pick-up of such wastes for a safer method of disposal?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Atomic Energy Control Board reports as follows: (a) As radioactive wastes which are permitted to be poured down the sinks of hospitals generally have short radioactive half-lives, they rapidly decay before they can accumulate to detectable levels in the water supply and the life cycle of humans. (b) While most radioactive materials have the potential of producing cancer if ingested at a high enough concentration for a long enough period, disposal in the sewer and at the required high dilution make the possibility of significant intake very remote. The Atomic Energy Control Board has never had a system of pick-up of such wastes. A commercial service is provided by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited for radioactive wastes which require special waste management.

DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

Question No. 1,722—**Mr. Francis:**

1. What procedures are used by hospitals and other licencees of the Atomic Energy Control Board to dispose of their radio-active waste?
2. Is waste on occasion put into public sewers?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Atomic Energy Control Board reports as follows: 1. The procedures to be used for the disposal of radio-active materials are specified in the Radioisotope Licence and are generally one or more of the Following: (a) return to supplier; (b) dilution with water at the point of disposal to the sewer to a level not greater than the maximum permissible concentration of drinking water; (c) storage of short-lived radioisotopes until radioactive decay has occurred; (d) disposal in approved waste management sites after prior arrangements.

2. Aqueous radioactive wastes are put into the sewer after sufficient dilution to meet requirement (b) in the reply to part 1 of this question.

LICENCES TO USERS OF RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIALS

Question No. 1,727—**Mr. Francis:**

How many licences have been issued by the Atomic Energy Control Board to users of radio-active materials?

Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Atomic Energy Control Board reports as follows: The Atomic Energy Control Board has approximately 3,000 licensees.

[Mr. Foster.]

CANDU REACTORS

Question No. 1,730—**Mr. Francis:**

What is the life expectancy of a CANDU reactor?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Atomic Energy of Canada Limited reports as follows: For amortization purposes the practice of electric power utilities, such as Ontario Hydro, is to assign a 30-year "lifetime", or write-off period, to thermal power stations, both fossil and nuclear (CANDU). The actual lifetime of a CANDU unit is expected to be much longer than 30 years. For so long as it meets the criteria of reliability, safety and economic viability, a nuclear power unit will be kept in operation. If components wear out or become defective, they will be replaced. The technology to do so exists.

NUMBER OF PUBLIC SERVANTS WORKING IN THE CONTINENTAL REGIONS

Question No. 1,760—**Mr. Herbert:**

In the Department of Manpower and Immigration for the month of April 1975, what is the budgeted number of public servants to work in the continental regions of (a) North America excluding Canada (b) South America (c) Europe (d) Asia (e) Australasia?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): (a) 30; (b) 4; (c) 90; (d) 37; (e) 3.

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QUESTIONS PASSED OR ORDERS FOR RETURNS

EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENTS FOR ADVANCED EDUCATION

Question No. 547—**Mr. Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):**

1. Since 1968, what was the amount spent by all departments and agencies to allow public servants to improve (a) their proficiency in (i) language (ii) administration (b) post secondary and university education?
2. By department and agency, what was the number, name and position of public servants who benefitted from sabbatical leave to attend improvement courses since 1968?

Return tabled.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS—TRAVEL EXPENSES

Question No. 703—**Mr. Stevens:**

1. In each fiscal year ending March 31, 1972, 1973 and 1974, and for the six month period ending September 30, 1974, what was the aggregate expenditure by the Department of Public Works for travel abroad by (a) the Minister of Public Works and his immediate staff (b) departmental staff (c) the staff of boards, commissions, tribunals, Crown corporations or other similar agencies reporting to the Minister (d) others whose expenses were paid in part or in whole directly or indirectly by the government?

2. In the case of an expenditure in excess of \$200 (a) what was the purpose of the foreign trip (b) what was the furthest destination (c) what is the name of the person(s) who took the trip (d) how long was the person(s) outside the country (e) what was the nature of the expenditure (f) how many others were in the party making the trip?