

Questions

Contributions toward urban transportation studies under the National Housing Act were approved in the amount of \$30,000 of which \$23,000 had been expended as at December 31, 1967.

Urban renewal studies and the preparation of urban renewal schemes include elements of slum clearance, urban transportation and housing. The costs of these elements are not separately identifiable.

POLYMER CORPORATION

Question No. 117—**Mr. Fortin:**

1. Has the percentage of net profits with respect to sales of the Polymer Corporation Limited been dropping and, if so, what steps does the government, the Board of Directors and the management intend to take to prevent the situation from worsening?

2. Has the Board of Directors already considered, is it considering or will it consider establishing a subsidiary or production division in Quebec?

3. Has the Corporation considered directing its production more toward the manufacture of plastic products?

[Translation]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Defence Production): Insofar as Polymer Corporation Limited is concerned: 1. Polymer Corporation's net income for 1967 as a percentage of net sales was below the level achieved in previous years and resulted from the continued rise in the cost of doing business and the decline in world prices for most of the Company's products. The management has intensified its efforts to improve productivity and reduce costs with very satisfactory results to date.

2. The capacity of the Company's existing Canadian operations is sufficient for its current needs and the Company, therefore, does not have any current plans to establish a subsidiary or production division in the province of Quebec. However, it is continually seeking attractive opportunities for further expansion and growth in Canada.

3. The Company now produces ABS resins and polystyrene, which represent only a small proportion of its total output, and is interested in strengthening its position in the plastics field.

[English]

*AMENDMENT OF FARM IMPROVEMENT LOAN LEGISLATION

Question No. 126—**Mr. Alkenbrack:**

1. When does the government intend to reconstitute and amend the legislation pertaining to the Farm Improvement Loan Act?

[**Mr. Hellyer.**]

2. Will the Act be broadened to serve a broader sector of the Agricultural Industry?

3. What will be the new rate of interest on farm improvement loans?

Mr. H. E. Gray (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): 1. Appropriate amending legislation received first reading on October 3, 1968.

2. The measure now before the house would, in addition to making the interest rate prescribable by orders in council, increase the maximum loan amount, broaden the loan purposes to include the purchase of additional land, add credit unions, caisses populaires, trust, loan and life insurance companies as eligible lenders, and make a number of other improvements to this credit facility which serves the farming sector.

3. This rate has not yet been determined. It will be established when the amending legislation has been passed.

ROAD EXPENDITURES, TACHIE INDIAN VILLAGE

Question No. 142—**Mr. Howard (Skeena):**

1. Since January 1, 1965, has any money been spent on the Tachie Indian Village for roads, or with respect to roads leading to or from the said Village?

2. If so, what amount of money was spent in each year and how much of this was used to employ native Indian workmen and how much to rent equipment owned by people who were not native Indians?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. Yes, money has been spent on a road leading to the Tachie reserve.

2.

	\$
1965-66	30,000.00
1966-67	30,000.00
1967-68	—
1968-69	12,500.00 (commitment)
Total	72,500.00

This road is being constructed under an agreement between the British Columbia provincial government and this department on a fifty-fifty cost sharing basis. As all of the work is being carried out by the province, there is no information available within the department on the details of expenditures.