

place with the Ontario, Quebec or Manitoba governments in this regard?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, to this point the Polar Gas project is carrying out the examination. The government has asked the Polar Gas Company to make a full study of both options, both on the east and west of Hudson Bay, so that when the time comes to make a decision we may be in possession of the facts with regard to the relative merits of both. It is my understanding that the Polar Gas syndicate will have discussed this with the provincial governments, and indeed has discussed it as well with the government of Ontario.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### ALLEGED LACK OF PROPER INSPECTION OF CANDU REACTOR IN PAKISTAN—POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN INSPECTION SYSTEM

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on the general question of the sale of nuclear power plants abroad. In view of the fact that several of us in this House have had the opportunity of actually talking to officials and staff members at the CANDU reactor at Karachi, Pakistan who have indicated to us in undeniable terms that there never has been and is not now any meaningful, realistic or ongoing inspection by international, Canadian or Pakistani governments in respect of the safeguards or requirements under the NPT, I wonder whether the minister could tell us if any change is contemplated in respect of the actual inspection process of all the CANDU reactors which are overseas at the moment.

● (1450)

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member has raised a factual question about the nature of the inspection of a particular reactor. I will seek out the information and try to answer tomorrow on this subject.

#### ALLEGED SALE BY INDIA OF CANADIAN NUCLEAR MATERIAL AND TECHNOLOGY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would be good enough to advise us whether the government or his department has confirmed the reports, which obviously have already been sent to him by the High Commissioner from Sri Lanka and also Canada's ambassador to Pakistan, that the Indian government has not only sold material but also Canadian based technology in respect of nuclear explosions to an Arab state.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I will have to justify the source of that conclusion also.

### Oral Questions

#### HEALTH

#### REQUEST FOR RE-EVALUATION OF DRUG AFAGON C—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON OUTDATED AND UNNECESSARY DRUGS

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the fact that some substandard drugs issued before the government had changed its guidelines governing drug efficiency and safety are stated to be still on the market, and in light of information that Afagon C, a drug readily available in Quebec containing strychnine, would not pass today's standards, would the minister tell the House whether or not he intends to re-examine this particular drug and re-evaluate its use under today's standards, and will he state generally what the government's position is with respect to these outdated drugs?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, that drug is still being used by a certain number of Canadian physicians, but in minimal amounts. However, I am not in a position right now to give the hon. member specific details on that drug. I will be pleased to inquire and give him such information as soon as possible.

[English]

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** In view of the fact that more than half the prescription drugs sold in Canada are stated to be unnecessary, can the minister now tell us whether the department is planning to take any steps with respect to this problem in our country today?

[Translation]

**Mr. Lalonde:** I think the hon. member is referring to a press release based on the remarks of only one scientist in Canada on that matter. There again I would like to see the exact statement of that scientist before making any comments that might give the impression I support in some way the statement of the hon. member.

[English]

#### HAZARD CREATED BY ASBESTOS FIBRE CONCENTRATIONS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that recent reports concerning asbestos mines in the province of Quebec, namely, those operated by the Asbestos Corporation and Thetford Mines, indicate that asbestos fibre concentrations in the air in some cases were so high that it was not measurable by the use of existing instruments, can the minister indicate whether he plans any immediate action to correct this serious health hazard to the miners?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer this question to the Minister of the Environment, who, unfortunately, is not here today. This question falls for the most part under her responsibility.