

Order Paper Questions

2. As of March 31, 1980

Institution	Number of inmates on register
(a) B.C. Penitentiary	The last inmates were transferred out on February 15, 1980.
(b) Matsqui Institution	333
(c) Mission Institution	191
(d) Kent Institution	140
(e) Correctional Staff College	Nil
(f) Elbow Lake	48
(g) Ferndale Forestry Camp	60
(h) Mountain Institution	201
(i) Regional Consultation Centre	Nil
(j) Regional Psychiatric Centre	103
(k) William Head Institution	146
	1,222

3. Fiscal year 1979-80

Institution	Payroll and Operating Cost \$
(a) B.C. Penitentiary	6,260,714.37
(b) Matsqui Institution	7,041,984.83
(c) Mission Institution	4,593,698.41
(d) Kent Institution	4,761,344.21
(e) Correctional Staff College	412,379.70
(f) Elbow Lake	693,231.57
(g) Ferndale Forestry Camp	622,887.85
(h) Mountain Institution	2,955,460.63
(i) Regional Consultation Centre	78,688.00
(j) Regional Psychiatric Centre	4,684,259.23
(k) William Head Institution	3,429,821.55

ANTIBIOTICS

Question No. 596—Mr. Mitges:

Has there been a reassessment of antibiotics used in disease and/or growth promotants in animals and, if so, which of the antibiotics cleared will remain on the market?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): There is at present a program for reassessment of antibiotics used for growth promotion in animals. Manufacturers of the 10 antibiotics involved in this program have been requested to submit supportive data from well controlled recent trials under field conditions in Canada to show that these drugs are effective for this purpose. The sale of only those antibiotics which are proven to be effective will be permitted. Present indications are that only three antibiotics are being retested as requested. The three antibiotics involved are therefore the only candidates for retention as growth promotants in this country. Submissions of this type from a manufacturer to a regulatory agency are normally considered confidential until such time as the regulatory decision is taken in response to the submission. The department cannot anticipate the results of these studies and the commitment to the company to pursue this work to completion. This might, as well, provide information to other drug manufacturers about the probable status of drugs, when in fact this type of information of possible economic significance is not usually supplied until submission evaluation is completed. Following assessment of all pertinent data, a final decision on which antibiotics may be sold as growth promotants is expected early in 1981. A similar program for retesting specific disease preventive antibiotics also is under way and will be completed in 1982.

STATISTICS CANADA—SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBERS

Question No. 936—Mr. MacKay:

Does Statistics Canada, as empowered by the Statistics Act (a) require individuals to provide their social insurance number (SIN) as part of any questionnaire or survey (b) use SIN numbers to file, collate or otherwise as a link to records from a previous reporting cycle of Statistics Canada or some other department (c) use SIN numbers to facilitate the linking of information from surveys and questionnaires with data accessed from income tax records?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Statistics Canada reports:

- Statistics Canada does request that individuals operating unincorporated businesses provide their SI number on a few survey questionnaires with the specific objective of reducing reporting burden on small businesses.
- In the production of certain social statistics, Statistics Canada uses the SI number as a means of linking taxation data year over year in order to generate certain longitudinal characteristics, principally geographical mobility. Also in the social statistics area, Statistics Canada uses the SI number as an initial to certain records from a previous reporting cycle or as a link to other administrative records, through co-operative arrangements with provincial agencies.
- Statistics Canada uses the SI number to facilitate the location of relevant tax returns for a small number of individuals operating unincorporated businesses, to eliminate the need for duplicate requests for the same data on a Statistics Canada form. In some cases this involves bringing together data derived from surveys and questionnaires with those from tax records.

SUPPLY AND SERVICES—INFORMATION TASK FORCE

Question No. 1,229—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Was an information task force planned in the services branch of the Department of Supply and Services, under the former government, for the purpose of studying how the public could be served in a manner which would give better access to information on government programs, joint federal and provincial ventures, etc. and, if so, did this proceed to a point where an additional amount of funds for expansion was either set aside or about to be set aside to provide for same?

2. Has the government proceeded in this regard and (a) if so, what are all the details (b) if not, for what reason?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): 1. Yes.

2. There is a task force on service to the public actively working under the deputy minister—services. Its mandate is to improve access to government for Canadians and to stimulate changes in the actual delivery of service and information. The government has both endorsed the goals of the task force and its work program. The work program includes new measures to make access to government by telephone easier, to improve department client practices and to examine ways and means of better providing over-the-counter service. The task force was responsible for the improved listings and blue pages in public telephone directories for example, and in September I signed an agreement with Manitoba marking the first link in a national federal-provincial telephone inquiry service.