

*Routine Proceedings*

**Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, Question No. 415 will be answered today.

[Text]

**Question No. 415—Mr. Simmons:**

Has the government taken any concrete action on the recommendations made by the Auditor General in his 1991 annual report to review the level of spending needed in carrying out harbour repairs efficiently and appropriately, to improve the preventive maintenance aspects of the program, to safeguard these assets in the long term, and to do a comprehensive assessment on the inspection and commissioning process for major projects in Newfoundland?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** The Department of Fisheries and Oceans continuously reviews the spending level needed to carry out annual harbour repairs. This exercise is used to establish budget priorities. The department has been and remains aware of the need to carry out harbour repairs efficiently and appropriately. Every effort is made to balance requests for harbour expansions, modifications and upgrades with the need to undertake preventive maintenance and repair work. Since funding needs for preventive maintenance and repairs at DFO's 2,127 harbours across Canada have increased but harbour budgets have not, the emphasis has shifted more and more toward preventive maintenance and repair.

As for the commissioning and inspection procedures followed on major projects in Newfoundland, each project is inspected and accepted by DFO staff as the Auditor General has recommended.

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The question as enumerated by the parliamentary secretary has been answered.

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### STARRED QUESTIONS

**Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call Starred Questions Nos. 436 and 441. Due to the length of the answers I would ask that they be printed in *Hansard* as if read.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Is that agreed?  
Some hon. members: Agreed.

[Text]

**\*Question No. 436—Mrs. Gibeau:**

Regarding the issue of the construction of a viaduct to bypass the railway track that intersects Henri-Bourassa Boulevard at Langelier Boulevard, Montreal North (a) have officials studied the matter and, if so, (i) since when (ii) for which departments do they work (b) is there a project supervisor and, if so, for which department does he work (c) has CN or VIA Rail or any other organization responsible for the railway been contacted regarding this matter and if so (i) what were the nature (ii) the conclusions of the discussions (d) have studies, recommendations or other options been drafted on this matter and, if so (i) what are they (ii) is the written documentation of a public nature and if so where can copies be obtained (e) does the government intend to build this viaduct or find another method to solve the problem of the bottleneck caused by the track and if so (i) what is the completion date and (ii) what are the cost estimates?

**Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport):** Officials in Transport Canada and the Federal Office for Regional Development in Quebec have been discussing the matter since the beginning of the summer with representatives of the city of Montreal. At this time the federal government has not decided on its involvement in this project and consequently, there is no project supervisor. No studies or options have been drafted by the federal government on this matter and the recommendations on a possible federal intervention are confidential. The federal government has not contacted CN or VIA on this matter.

**\*Question No. 441—Mr. Saint-Julien:**

With regard to Canada's national debt (a) what is the percentage of short-term debt (less than six years) (b) what is the percentage of long-term debt (more than six years) (c) to which countries do foreign holders of Canadian bonds belong, are there British, German, American and Japanese holders and if so, what is their share (i) in percentages (ii) in Canadian dollars, (d) what percentage of the debt becomes due in a fiscal year (e) what is its average rate of interest (f) what is the statement of change in loans made abroad by the government for each year from 1980 to 1992 inclusively?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, in response to (a) it was 66.8 per cent as at March 31, 1992. This percentage includes all Canada Savings Bonds because their interest rates are adjusted annually, even if the term could be as long as 12 years. If we include only those Canada Savings Bonds that will come to term in less than six years, the percentage of debt coming due would be 61.8 per cent. In response to (b) it was 33.2 per cent as at March 31, 1992. This total excludes all Canada Savings Bonds because their interest rates are adjusted annually, even if the term could be as long as 12 years. If Canada Savings Bonds with a term of more than six years are included, then the percentage would be 38.2 per cent. With respect to (c)(i), it is estimated that Japanese investors held