

pensation, government subsidy programs and the opportunity to post their job openings.

For young people, students and non-students alike, Challenge offers several different types of assistance. Under the Challenge '91 budget, \$80 million will be spent on the summer employment experience development component, or the SEED component as it is known, in the form of wage subsidies to employers who hire students. This option is made up of two elements, one aimed at high school students and the other intended for young people attending college or university. This year, as last, SEED will focus on the creation of jobs that reflect the social priorities of the federal government, namely literacy, the fight against alcoholism and drug abuse, AIDS education, environmental protection and urban crime prevention.

Again this year participating employers have been encouraged to hire members of visible minorities and aboriginal and disabled young people.

I will mention that we expect 55,000 jobs for young people will be created under the Summer Employment Experience Development option of Challenge '91.

[Translation]

Another component of the Challenge program, Mr. Speaker, namely the Work Orientation Workshops, is an undeniable success. The formula combines work orientation workshops with on-the-job experience. Young people learn how to take charge of their own lives and receive practical advice on academic options and other matters.

• (1140)

Last year, 16,000 young people took part in Work Orientation Workshops and, at the current rate, all indications are that we will reach or exceed that number during the summer.

Two months ago, part of the workshops were integrated under the START option of the Canadian Jobs Strategy, which I will describe briefly for you in a few minutes. While they play a vital role, our summer employment programs are only one aspect of what we are doing for young Canadians.

I realize, Mr. Speaker, that there is more to making the transition from school to the labour market than finding a rewarding summer job; we have to find more complete solutions designed with the future in mind. This is the specific objective of our second major youth program, the Stay-in-School Initiative.

Supply

As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, all the evidence suggests that preventing students from dropping out is one of the most effective ways of helping young people realize their full potential. We created this initiative to fight an alarming dropout rate of 30 per cent, one of the highest in industrialized countries. However, we believe we can do something to rectify the situation.

Japan, for example, although very different from Canada, experienced similar problems in the 1960s. At one time, approximately 30 per cent of Japanese students were dropping out, but the government took strong action, and now only 4 per cent of young people in Japan fail to complete their high school education.

In Canada, we believe the Stay-in-School initiative will go a long way toward stemming the loss of talent that occurs when students drop out. This project has a budget of \$296 million over five years and is made up of three main components: first, employment programs and services aimed at potential dropouts, then mobilization of the players involved in order to find lasting solutions, and finally awareness activities designed to inform Canadians about the consequences of dropping out.

[English]

One of the key phrases when we talk about the stay in school project is mobilization of the players involved because without the commitment of our partners, business people, educators, parents, unions, and young Canadians themselves, we would never attain the important goals we have set.

During the five major round tables held last year for the players involved, we encouraged all who were interested to take an active role in their communities because they, more than anyone else, know the needs of the people in those communities. Our call was certainly heeded as dozens of grassroots projects came into being. This gives us cause to hope for even greater things in the months ahead. By making a solid commitment, our partners in effect broaden the scope of our programs and take concrete actions that translate the principles we have set forward.

I would point out that one of our most outstanding achievements has been the addition of the start option as part of the stay in school initiative to our national program, the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Under the start option, eligible groups can obtain funding to carry out projects aimed at lowering the dropout rate. Ideally, start projects will enable young people to continue their education or set high career goals and at the same time