

Order Paper Questions

2. The Flight Information and Display System consists of a central processing complex (computer), television type displays, electro-mechanical displays, operator controls, interactive terminals and various input devices, located throughout the passenger terminal. Cost: \$1,416,316. The Operational Information Display System will be a computer based system, capable of automatic retrieval of data from meteorological and miscellaneous status sensors providing information such as wind direction and speed, runway visual range, altimeter settings and weather sequences. Keyboard input stations will be available for entering information such as gate assignments, runway and field conditions, etc. The computer processing sub-system will supply suitably arranged display data to a number of television type screens. Cost: \$1,873,830. These contracts were awarded on behalf of the Ministry of Transport.

CONTRACT AWARDED TO MALLORY BATTERY CO.,
MISSISSAUGA, FOR BATTERIES

Question No. 1,984—Mr. Reynolds:

1. Was a contract awarded to the Mallory Battery Co., Mississauga, Ontario for 29,000 BA 3386 batteries at a cost of \$24.59 per battery?
2. Did the battery replace the BA 386 battery which cost between \$2.80-\$3.30 per unit?
3. Are there any other countries using the same type of battery for their walkie-talkie units?
4. To the knowledge of the government, did the US forces refuse to use this battery?
5. What is to be done with the large inventory of BA 386 batteries and accessory equipment?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Departments of Supply and Services and National Defence as follows: 1. Yes.

2. Yes, the BA3386 replaced the BA386 battery. However, prices tendered for the BA386 in mid-1974 ranged from \$4.29 and \$7.26. The BA3386 battery is an alkaline type battery which is impervious to changes in temperatures and has a shelf life of three years. The BA386 battery is made of zinc carbon and has a shelf life of one year. This battery can only be used in summer and requires temperature controlled warehousing. In winter, the BA398 battery is used. This battery is carried in a vest which is worn by the operator to keep the battery as warm as possible. Thus, the BA3386 battery replaces both the BA386 and BA398. In addition to being more reliable and outperforming the BA386 an estimated 7 to 1, the BA3386 offers a decided logistic advantage. Because of its greater shelf life and all-climate capability, only one battery is needed and less warehousing is required because the requirement is less. Warehousing may be general in nature instead of one requiring temperature control. The BA386 requires protection from heat during transportation to the theatre of operations.

3. Yes, two countries currently have the BA3386 undergoing field trials and at least three other countries have expressed interest.

4. No.

5. As of April 1, 1975 a total inventory of 4,019 BA386 batteries was held by Bases, Stations and Units to support

[Mr. Goyer.]

daily requirements. This quantity represents approximately a six week supply based on last years consumption.

SUPPLY AND SERVICES—CONTRACTING OUT

Question No. 2,024—Mr. Reynolds:

1. With respect to the Minister of Supply and Services' stated intentions as outlined November 15, 1974 through a departmental press release, will the Minister further describe the new dimensions of the proposed purchasing effort by the government to shift work out of government into the private sector?
2. How is the mobility between private and public sector employees to be encouraged?
3. What are the established guidelines proposed to disabilitate central purchasing authorities in favour of building purchasing wings at the local and regional levels?
4. What is to be the effort to help small businessmen through increased information and most of all through an equal opportunity to do business with the government?
5. What is the amount of money regional offices are allowed to allocate on contracts placed under the title of "single competitive purchases"?
6. What is the amount of entitlement on contracts described as "non-competitive purchases"?
7. Are there plans indicating the respective dollar amounts will be increased to enhance the independence of the regional office?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): 1. In FY 1973-74 the Department of Supply and Services purchased, on behalf of the federal government, goods and services from the private sector totalling \$1.6 billion. In the November 15, 1974, press release it was stated that the application of the make or buy policy in government would result in increased contractual activity with industry. In support of this statement several impressive DSS examples were cited. They were: the close-out of the departmental computer services bureau effecting \$9 million (100 per cent) increase in awards to the private sector since 1970; an increase to 63 per cent in government printing requirements let to private concerns and the implementation of R&D buys from industry. The latter has resulted in awards of \$33 million since January 1973. Though these examples tend to be the most impressive, the Department has sought to identify all areas where the application of the buy decision would be advantageous to government and industry. Hence, in such output services as Maintenance and Repair of federally-owned assets; security services especially guard contracting and the procurement of design and artwork, the level of awards to commercial organizations has been visibly increased and this trend is expected to be maintained into the future.

2. The Department of Supply and Services has sought to increase the mobility of private and public sector employees in several ways: (a) The Department supports the Public Service Commission program which provides for an executive interchange between industry, universities, and other governments, and the Federal Public Service. (b) An applicant inventory of qualified purchasing officers from industry is updated on a regular basis to enable DSS to recruit high-calibre employees at an officer level. (c) The Department conducts industry briefings thereby establishing a greater visibility to non-government employees of activities and programs sponsored by DSS.