

three years, a grace period of seven years and an interest rate of 3 per cent.

[English]

FUTURE OF CANADIAN EXCHANGE RATE

Question No. 410—**Mr. Saltsman:**

Will the Government of Canada give assurance to Parliament that the Canadian exchange rate will be allowed to remain on a floating basis for the next twelve months?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): No. It remains the intention of the Canadian Government to resume the fulfilment of its obligations under the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund as soon as circumstances permit.

CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE—RESEARCH MADE
ON SHOT SHELLS

Question No. 442—**Mr. Anderson:**

1. Has the Canadian Wildlife Service made any report on the use of iron shot or teflon coated lead shot in shot shells to replace the untreated lead shot now in use?

2. Has the Canadian Wildlife Service set a date after which the sale and manufacture of untreated lead shot shells is prohibited and, if so, what is that date?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. No. Research in materials to replace lead in shot shells was conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The Canadian Wildlife Service, in co-operation with the National Research Council, is conducting tests on the effect of hard shot materials on gun barrels. The preliminary results of those studies are contained in a National Research Council report DME MP-53.

2. No. A date has not been set because at the present time there is no known method of treating lead shot to eliminate or reduce its toxicity.

SALE OF LICENCES FOR HUNTING OF POLAR BEARS

Question No. 467—**Mr. Coates:**

1. Have complaints been received by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with regard to the sale of licences for the hunting of polar bears?

2. What are the regulations for the hunting of polar bears and what is the licence fee?

3. How many polar bears have been killed through the issuing of hunting licences by the Department in the past five years?

4. Is there any danger that the polar bear will become extinct and, if so, what action is being taken to protect the species?

Mr. Judd Buchanan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): 1. Yes, for the sports hunting of polar bears.

2. An amendment to the NWT Game Ordinance allowing the sports hunting of polar bear was passed by the Council of the Northwest Territories in January 1970. The amendment permits the sale of a polar bear sports hunting licence to three classes of subject, namely: (a) Territorial residents charged a fee of \$50; (b) Canadian citizens charged a fee of \$150; and (c) non-resident aliens

Questions

charged a fee of \$250. A licence holder must be accompanied by a licensed guide who is in possession of a polar bear seal. This is to ensure that the number of animals to be taken by sport hunters will be deducted from the present quota allowed to holders of general hunting licences. Therefore, under the legislation a sport hunter must buy his licence from the Territorial Government hire an Eskimo guide and outfitter who is in possession of a polar bear seal indicating that one animal from the settlement quota has been assigned to him by the settlement council, and also pay the settlement council a fee of \$1,000 for releasing that part of their quota to him as the quota is granted to the settlement, not to individuals.

3. Licences for the sport hunting of polar bear are issued under the Northwest Territories Game Ordinance and as the legislation was only passed in January 1970, it is impossible to give a total over the past five years. Since January 1970, four (4) polar bears have been killed through the issuing of sports hunting licences.

4. No, at a recent international meeting of polar bear scientists it was determined that under the quota system Eskimo hunting does not now threaten the survival of the polar bear population. However, concern was expressed about specific subpopulations and as a result the Canadian Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the Northwest Territories Government, is continuing studies of the polar bear population and distribution and a complete review of the kill limit and the quota allotment to various settlements is to be carried out in 1971.

INCOME TAX AMENDMENT TO ALLOW REPRESENTATION
ALLOWANCES FOR SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Question No. 507—**Mr. Rodrigue:**

Has the Minister of Finance considered the possibility of amending the Income Tax Act so that part of the amount received by school commissioners be considered as a representation allowance?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): Deductions from income for tax purposes are a matter of Government policy. If the Government should decide to propose an amendment to the Income Tax Act to make the suggested change, it will be announced at the appropriate time.

LABELLING OF "VAPONA"

Question No. 508—**Mrs. MacInnis:**

Does the Department of Agriculture intend to take action similar to that in the United States by requesting that the manufacture of "VAPONA", Shell Oil Company, include warnings on labels that the strips should not be used in kitchens, dining rooms or food preparation areas and, if not, what are the reasons?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): No, since conclusions drawn from collaborative evaluation of toxicological and residue data by the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Directorate, Department of National Health and Welfare, have reconfirmed that the use of these strips, in accordance with label directions, does not represent a hazard to human health.