

*Oral Questions*

advance of our intention to deal with legislation arising from the Speech from the Throne. In so far as the tabling of any Bill is concerned, the usual practice is to wait until the Minister is ready to table his Bill. I suggest that my hon. colleague be patient. He heard good news in the Speech from the Throne yesterday. If he is a bit more patient, he will hear even more during the coming days.

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**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF HON. ARMOOGUM PARSURAMAN,  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE, OF MAURITIUS

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I call to the attention of the House the presence in the gallery of a distinguished visitor, the Hon. Mr. Parsuraman of Mauritius. He is the Minister of Education, Arts and Culture of that country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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[*Translation*]**DISASTERS**

STORM DAMAGE ON GASPÉ COAST—NEED FOR FINANCIAL AID

**Mr. Alexandre Cyr (Gaspé):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. This morning, a number of Ministers, including the Right Hon. Prime Minister, were informed of the fact that the storm in Eastern Canada had caused serious damage along the Gaspé coast. Properties along the shore line have suffered major damage. Hundreds of families were forced to leave their homes and even a fish processing plant was damaged.

Considering that in the Throne Speech, additional funding was announced for job creation, could the Minister allocate a special budgetary envelope so that through Canada Works or LEAP, the people of the Gaspé will be able to benefit from federal financial assistance, either in order to repair retaining walls on their property or to carry out improvements to damaged buildings, without the owners being required to pay for such assistance?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I am grateful and I wish to thank the Hon. Member for drawing my attention to this very serious problem in his riding, namely, the damage caused by waves and flooding. I am basically sympathetic to the idea of trying to do something, but I can give no specific guarantee at the present time. However, I shall look into this matter which certainly deserves our attention, and try to meet the needs of the Hon. Member's constituents.

[*English*]**ESTABLISHED PROGRAMS FINANCING**

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THRONE SPEECH—AMOUNT OF FEDERAL FUNDING

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It has to do with the \$500 million indicated in the Speech from the Throne with respect to medicare and post-secondary education. I am glad to see that today the Progressive Conservatives understand the issue. You could not tell from the garbled analysis yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition whether he knew anything about Established Programs Financing.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member ask his question, please?

**Mr. Blaikie:** I have touched a nerve, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister indicate, yes or no, whether the \$500 million referred to in the Speech from the Throne is or is not money that the federal Government would have to transfer to the Provinces in any case in 1983-84 as a result of the existing formula and whether or not, therefore, this money does not represent any new, discretionary money for medicare and post-secondary education, and whether this is in fact a deception deliberately plotted by the Government to impress Canadians?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I have never heard of that \$500 million being a deception. If the Provinces do not know what to do with it, we will tell them. One use would be to ban user fees. They have been hiding behind an alleged lack of funds to impose user fees. There is no way they can continue to use such an excuse. I repeat to the Hon. Member what I said previously. The federal Minister of Finance is now meeting with his counterparts. Later this afternoon he will give the specifics of the additional \$500 million.

**GOVERNMENT POLICY ON FUNDING MEDICAL CARE**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of National Health and Welfare tell us whether she is sincere with regard to doing anything about medicare? If so, when is she going to abandon this policy of deceit when it comes to federal funding of medicare and the need to restore the federal-provincial partnership that medicare represents, and which members on the other side are not doing anything to help by maintaining that they are doing something which they are in fact not doing?

**Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat to the Hon. Member that it says very clearly in the Speech from the Throne that more than \$500 million above and beyond the \$13 billion