

Today I received a call from a representative of the Association of Tamils in Canada who was concerned that 42 Tamils were massacred by government troops in the North of Sri Lanka. His facts differ from the information reported in today's *Globe and Mail*. To defuse any wild rumours and accusations, could the Minister tell the Tamil Canadians and the House whether his Department was in touch with the High Commissioner, and when, and could he give a status report to the House on the conflict in that country?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, in response to the question of the Hon. Member, the Department keeps in regular contact with our ambassador in Colombo regarding the situation in that troubled land. Canada, of course, expressed its concern in relation to the events of a tragic nature that occurred there some number of months ago. Regarding the circumstances to which the Hon. Member refers today, I am not aware whether there has been a report from the High Commissioner within the past 24 hours, but I will make inquiries in that regard.

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[Translation]

EMPLOYMENT

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO CREATE JOBS FOR YOUTH

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Since in its last Budget, the Government had set aside \$1.3 billion for measures aimed at helping young people find jobs, and considering the fact that the Minister is surely aware that the funding earmarked for Summer Canada-Student Employment will cover only one project out of three that are proposed . . . In the circumstances . . . I have the impression my question should be put to the Minister of State for Youth. Therefore, as the Minister is well aware, there are indications that the funds earmarked for students this summer will cover one project out of three.

Could the Minister inform the House whether she has already made recommendations for additional funding within the \$1.3 billion envelope, to give students a better chance?

Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Hon. Member for his question. Hon. Members, both on the Government and Opposition sides, have made a number of representations for additional funding for the Summer Canada Program. Representations have been made to the Committee on Social Development, and next week I will be able to announce how much additional funding our colleagues will receive for the program in the ridings.

Oral Questions

NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Minister's answer is far more informative than the one given by the Minister of Finance yesterday, and I congratulate her.

In the circumstances, since the Minister is aware that this budget covers only one project out of three, could she perhaps inform the House what percentage of the projects that have been presented will be approved, also considering the importance of the purpose of this program, which is to provide jobs for students this summer?

Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the \$150 million will be spent in a way that is satisfactory to all young people in Canada, and that a sizeable portion of this amount will be earmarked for programs for students this summer.

[English]

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Hon. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of State who is responsible for youth programs and is supplementary to the question put by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Joliette. We are certainly encouraged by the Minister's comments. However, could we have the assurance that when additional funds are secured, those additional funds will be given out riding by riding in relation to need, separate and apart from any political affiliation which is the way a senior Minister distributed funds with respect to an earlier program?

Hon. Céline Hervieux-Payette (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the \$150 million will be spent for youth, and a good amount of that will be spent for student employment this summer. Not only will funding to this program be increased, it will never be cut by our Government.

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PETRO-CANADA

ALLEGATION OF GASOLINE PRICE FIXING

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who has been continually leaving his seat. In his absence, I would direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I see that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has returned to his chair, Mr. Speaker, and I will therefore direct my question to him.

Just a few days ago, the Minister said in the House that if some indication of price fixing by Petro-Canada which was causing consumers to pay more for gas was brought to his attention, he would investigate it. I would like to advise him that a major independent service station chain, Seabrooke