

• (1430)

Ms. Black: Mr. Speaker, when you contrast this to the commitment to 50 sub-hunting helicopters, it is incredible. A strong economy cannot be built—

Some hon. members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member may have a question but I have not yet heard it.

Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with a very serious issue which should be dealt with on the basis of facts and reality.

If we look at the situation of Canadian women today, we should give them credit for the work they have done and for the advancement they have made. The wage gap is closing. More and more women are going into science and technology. The situation of women in Canada is almost without comparison around the world.

This has been as a result of the work of governments and women on the front line so that we can achieve real equality. Let us work together. Let us not be shouting at each other over these issues. This requires the concerted efforts of all of us to achieve the common goals of equality for men and women.

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, specifically, women's groups have documented 14 cases of women in Canada facing deportation. Some are facing domestic violence in Canada and some state and domestic violence from abroad.

I want to ask the minister responsible for immigration this. When fully 80 per cent of the world's refugees are women and children and two-thirds of the refugees accepted in Canada are men, will the minister take this opportunity on International Women's Day to announce a moratorium on the deportation of women who are battered? Will he take the opportunity today to announce a Canadian policy to provide safe haven for women and children in Canada?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raises an important issue. It is one that a great many Canadians are concerned with.

Oral Questions

As the hon. member knows, in January of this year I instructed my officials in the department to conduct discussions with interested individuals and groups across Canada with the objective of developing a consensus on how we as a country could deal with women who claim to be victims of persecution or violence.

We are the first government ever to introduce into the Immigration Act, which that party opposed by the way, a protection and authority to require for every refugee claimant who faces harsh or unusual circumstances in her country of origin that the decision of the IRB be reviewed.

I think this is a positive step in addressing the concerns of the hon. member.

* * *

HELICOPTERS

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

On February 25 in response to a question I had asked the minister about the EH-101 cold war helicopters, the minister stated that a cancellation of the project would mean "a loss to Canada's search and rescue capability".

Is it not true that the EH-101's tremendous down draft can literally blow away any person the crew is intending to rescue? Will the minister not admit it is true what a defence analyst by the name of Dale Grant wrote last week, that the EH-101 will "blow away anything floating in the water below it"?

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that is not true.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the minister should be aware that in her own dossier she will find reports indicating clearly and unequivocally that there is not a country in the world that uses this type of helicopter for search and rescue purposes. The minister should know that.

My supplementary question is for the same minister. On February 3 in this House the minister was not able to inform the House what the extent of the penalty clause