

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The following answers, deposited with the Clerk of the house, are printed in the official report of debates pursuant to standing order 39:

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT ADMINISTRATION

*Question No. 465—Mr. Houck:*

What progress has been made in implementing the clauses of the Food and Drugs Act (as revised in 1954) which require sanitary inspection and inspection of records of food manufacturing and drug manufacturing establishments?

*Answer by: Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of National Health and Welfare):*

Re drug manufacturers: Following proclamation of the Food and Drugs Act on July 1, 1954, a complete survey of the drug manufacturing industry was undertaken by the food and drug directorate of the Department of National Health and Welfare. This survey was completed in 1954-55, more than 350 preliminary inspections having been made. The pharmaceutical industry in Canada is relatively small, but there is great variety in the products, the size of the companies and their production and distribution facilities. Of principal importance in drug firms is the existence of a record control system which enables the manufacturer to trace his products in the course of manufacture and to check on the raw material used in his products.

As a result of the preliminary survey and because of the limitation in number of staff available for the work, priorities were established. Particular attention was given in 1955-56 to private formula manufacturers, manufacturers of injectable drugs and drug manufacturers in general, as distinguished from distributors and wholesalers. Fewer inspections—253—were carried out in 1955-56 but on each inspection more time was spent making recommendations, and repeat visits were made to a number of establishments.

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Progress has been noted in many cases, particularly among some of the smaller manufacturers who were not aware that their manufacturing procedures and record systems did not constitute good commercial practice. With particular reference to injectable drugs, a number of manufacturers agreed voluntarily to discontinue manufacture of these products when it was pointed out that their facilities were inadequate to ensure complete safety of the products.

Re food inspection: Inspection of food factories under the provision of the sanitary clauses of the act has been accelerated during the past months. The factories visited were chosen from those industries which previous surveys had shown demanded immediate attention.

The nature and scope of the work to be done in this field is indicated by the fact that the inspectors of the food and drug directorate made over 2,300 visits to food factories during the past year. A continuation of this heavy program is planned for this year.

This work has been carried out in close co-operation with other interested federal, provincial and municipal agencies. In the case of provincial agencies who are particularly interested in local problems, an effort was made to keep them fully informed of the department's findings and actions.

Evidence of substantial improvement has been noted as a result of this program.

## INCOME TAX—CHARITABLE AND MEDICAL DEDUCTIONS

*Question No. 469—Mr. Nicholson:*

What is the estimated additional revenue which would accrue to the treasury if no income tax deductions were allowed for (a) charitable contributions; (b) medical expenses?

*Answer by: Hon. J. J. McCann (Minister of National Revenue):*

No information available.