

## Questions

## ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

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

## ROADS TO RESOURCES AGREEMENTS

**Question No. 109—Mr. Benidickson:**

1. On what dates and with which provinces have agreements been signed under the roads to resources program and what is the description and estimated cost of each project approved in these provinces?

2. On which projects is work actually in progress and on what date approximately did work on each project get under way?

3. In the case of each province which has not signed an agreement, what is the reason for the failure to conclude an agreement?

4. Have any projects been undertaken in these provinces in advance of agreement, and if so, what are the projects, when was the work begun and what is the estimated cost?

**Answer by: Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources):**

1. To date, the only agreement which has been executed between the federal government and a provincial government to cover the roads to resources program within a province is the agreement between Canada and British Columbia which was signed on November 4, 1958. A copy of this agreement has been tabled in the house. It covers the construction of a road between Stewart and Cassiar at an estimated cost of something over \$15,000,000.

2. Work is under way on the Stewart-Cassiar road. This work was started during the 1957 construction season.

3. Agreement in principle has been reached with all provinces except Quebec, which has not yet indicated an interest in taking part in this program, and negotiations leading to the signing of formal agreements are well in hand. However, at a fairly late stage in these negotiations, one of the provinces asked for an amendment in the terms of the proposed agreement which was, in effect, a change in the conception of the whole policy. Since it has been the government's aim from the very outset of these negotiations to maintain uniformity in the agreements with the various provinces, it has been necessary to consult again with other provinces on the desirability of incorporating in the agreements the new feature proposed by this one province. These consultations are now going on and it is hoped that the formal agreements will be concluded in the not too distant future.

4. Yes. In the eight provinces with which negotiations are nearing conclusion, the provincial governments have been authorized to commence work on roads already agreed to on the understanding that the federal government will share the costs when the formal agreement has been signed and subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement. It is not possible to provide details at this time as an undertaking has been given to the various provinces that information on individual roads making up the provincial programs will not be made public until the formal agreement has been signed by both governments.