

IMPORTED SEEDS — INSPECTION FEE

349. Hon DARREN WEST to the Minister for Agriculture and Food:

I refer to the announcement that, as at 1 July, the Department of Agriculture and Food will impose a charge of \$56 per 15 minutes for the inspection of imported seeds into WA.

- (1) How was the charge rate of \$224 an hour calculated?
- (2) What is the projected revenue to the state government from this charge?
- (3) Given that this charge will be paid by home gardeners, schools, community groups and other small-volume seed importers, does the minister support this excessive fee?

Hon KEN BASTON replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The Department of Agriculture and Food has advised that, of the department's 379 fees and charges, 270 fees were increased. Fourteen new fees were introduced: 133 fees increased by greater than zero but less than 3.1 per cent, equal to the consumer price index; 56 fees increased by greater than 3.1 per cent but less than 10 per cent; and, 81 fees increased by greater than 10 per cent.

Point of Order

Hon SUE ELLERY: That was not the question that was asked. Perhaps if Hon Darren West can give us the C number at the top of the question, we can make sure that the minister checks that he is answering the right question.

The PRESIDENT: I note a couple of things. It would help if members asking the question provided the C number, but it would also help if ministers listened carefully to the questions being asked and found the answer to those questions, not answers to other questions. If the minister has answered the wrong question, perhaps he can correct that at the end of question time.