HEALTH

Polychlorinated-biphenyl Compounds

Mr. A.R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Health:

(1) What restrictions are placed upon the sale of polychlorinated-biphenyl compounds in Western Australia?

(2) How much is sold in Western Australia annually?

(3) What are the uses of these substances?

(4) What is the half-life of the compounds?

(5) What effect does the ingestion of polychlorinated-biphenyl compounds have upon the human body?

Mr. DAVIES replied:

(1) None.

(2) This information is not obtainable at present, but it is understood that the quantities sold are very small.

(3) These substances are used in the manufacture of transformers, condensers, certain paints and office copying equipment.

(4) P.C.B. is virtually indestructible except at very high temperatures.

(5) Little is known about its effect on humans but liver damage has been suggested from toxic doses.

The above is an extract from Western Australia : No. 6 VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS of the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY : Second Session of the twenty-seventh Parliament : Wednesday, 24th November, 1971.

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