

DAIRY INDUSTRY, DEREGULATION

**125. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Fair Trading:**

- (1) Does the Ministry for Fair Trading have the power to monitor the effects of the deregulation of the dairy industry on dairy farmers, dairy manufacturers, retailers and consumers?
- (2) Is the minister aware of the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition on Tuesday, 27 June 2000 that the Minister for Primary Industry had agreed that the State Government would approach and work with the other States and the Commonwealth to ensure that there is no misuse of market power at the expense of producers and consumers?
- (3) Is the minister aware that major supermarkets have entered into agreements with dairy manufacturers to supply milk at prices that cannot be obtained by small retailers?
- (4) Is the Ministry for Fair Trading inquiring into these arrangements?

**Hon N.F. MOORE replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2) That is a matter for the Minister for Primary Industry and the Leader of the Opposition.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Minister for Primary Industry has advised the Minister for Fair Trading that mechanisms are being established to monitor the industry and that he has written to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission requesting it to monitor dairy prices and profits.