PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/1363

The Honourable Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (Mr Soodhun)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries:-

Whether, in regard to the seasonal and permanent workers employed by the sugar estates, he will state if (a) his Ministry has carried out a survey to assess the number thereof and (b) for the seasonal workers, if their conditions of work are being safeguarded, in each case?

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REPLY (on 11.12.07)

Mr Speaker, Sir,

The Labour Act provides under Section 28(2) that every employer who has recourse to job contractors should on or before 31 January of every year submit to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment separate returns in respect of agricultural workers and non-agricultural workers, showing in respect of the preceding year:

a. the number of workers employed by him as at 31 May 2001;
b. the number of seasonal workers employed by him;
c. the number of man-days performed by the workers referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c).

Furthermore, the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment ensures that the employers of the sugar industry submit the returns required under the law, including information on seasonal workers employed during the year.

As regard part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment that its inspectorate ensures that the employers of the sugar industry are being paid wages and enjoy benefits according to the relevant remuneration order. I am also informed by the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association that its members respect the provisions of the Remuneration Order for Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Workers of the sugar industry.