PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/153

B/153 The Honourable Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (Mr Soodhun) (17.04.07)

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

Whether, in regard to the projects for the construction of hotels in the regions of Palmar and Belle Mare, he will state if the planters of these regions are being relocated and, if so, whether alternative plots of land have been allocated to them to carry out their farming activities?

REPLY

Mr Speaker Sir,

I am informed that following meetings which a promoter (Vacances Plus Ltd) had with 51 planters (vegetables growers) in the region of Palmar for a hotel project, the planters have voluntarily relinquished their rights on their leases of state land which they were occupying, against payment of compensation by the promoter. Therefore, these planters do not need to be relocated. The land in question will remain the property of Government and will be leased to the promoter against payment of appropriate rentals as may be determined by the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

2. I am further informed that two other applications for hotel and entertainment projects by ICEMIST (Mauritius) Ltd and Designer Development Ltd in the region of Belle Mare and Palmar are being processed at the level of the Ministry of Housing & Lands and the Board of Investment. Seven and two planters are concerned by these projects respectively.

These planters have agreed to relinquish their leasing rights against compensation. The question of their relocation does not also arise.