

Parliamentary Question B/802

B/802 The Honourable First Member for Curepipe and Midlands
(08.07.08) **(Mr Guimbeau)**

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

Whether, in regard to the lumpy skin disease, he will state if any case thereof has been reported and, if so (a) the number thereof (b) the infected areas and (c) the measures taken to prevent the spread thereof?

REPLY

Mr Speaker Sir,

The Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) previously reported in Mauritius in 1994 and in 2000, has re-appeared on our shores this year. It is a highly contagious disease of viral origin that mainly affects cattle population. Healthy animals can be vaccinated against LSD to avoid further spread of the disease.

- (a) In April 2008, 14 cases were reported at Richelieu Prison Farm and 1 case at Petite Rivière. In May 2008, 1 case at Cap Malheureux and 1 case at Grand Gaube were reported.
- (b) The infected areas are Petite Rivière, Cap Malheureux and Grand Gaube.
- (c) Stamping out was carried out following clinical diagnosis in suspected areas. Skin biopsies and blood samples from suspect animals of Richelieu Prison were sent to the reference laboratory, Oenderdooste Veterinary Institute (OVI) of South Africa, for confirmation of LSD. The results were declared positive. Immediate vaccination of all cattle at Richelieu Prison Farm was carried out, followed by a country wide vaccination, which is presently ongoing. I am also advised by the Veterinary Services of my Ministry that 2,605 heads in risk areas have been vaccinated as an immediate priority. Vaccination is also currently ongoing in outskirts. Close monitoring for any new cases is being undertaken.