

PQ B/327 The Honourable Second Member of Quartier Militaire and Moka (Mr Dayal)

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

Whether, in regard to the quarantine for the import and/or re-export of horses, he will state (a) the locations thereof, indicating if he is aware of the health hazards these locations represent for other animals in Mauritius and the consequences thereof and (b) if he will consider the advisability of having them relocated nearer the airport and, if so, the urgent and immediate remedial measures that will be taken?

REPLY

Mr Speaker Sir,

I am informed that horses which are imported are kept under Quarantine at Avenue Gopal, Palma, Quatre Bornes since 1990 and those which are meant for re-export are kept at Merven Stables, Trou aux Biches since 1994. Both these sites have been recognized as suitable by the Veterinary Services of my Ministry and the Mauritius Turf Club. Thus there are no health hazards associated to the presence of horses at these two sites. As regards exports, the House may note that Mauritius is one of the few countries which are allowed to export horses to the European Union. The European Union is satisfied with the local Quarantine conditions and thus accepts horses from Mauritius.

Mr Speaker Sir, I must point out that the places from which the horses are imported are disease free zones approved by both Mauritius and the country from which they are exported. In fact, in order to protect Mauritius from the introduction of diseases, horses undergo a series of vaccinations and treatments and are kept under quarantine for a period of 30 days prior to export to Mauritius. In addition, once they have landed in Mauritius, they are again kept under quarantine for a further period of 15 days.

As regards part (b) of the question, the need for relocation does not arise in view of what I have just stated.