

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/189

B/189 The Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine
(08.04.08) Magnien (**Mr Varma**)

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

Whether, in regard to the phasing out of the sugar camps of Mon Trésor Mon Désert and Union Vale in Constituency No. 12, he will state where matters stand?

REPLY

Mr Speaker, Sir,

I am informed by the Mauritius Sugar Authority that the phasing out of sugar camps of Mon Trésor Mon Désert and Union Vale concerns three sites as follows:

- (i) Mon Désert housing estate
- (ii) Union Vale housing estate
- (iii) Mon Trésor housing estate

Regarding Mon Désert housing estate, 133 occupants will be relocated at Desplaces where infrastructure works in respect of roads and drainage network are in the final stage. However, I am informed that during the cut and fill operation on the site, the presence of a cavity was noted by the National Housing Development Company Ltd., the Project Manager for Road and Drainage Network and also by the beneficiaries of the site. Subsequently, a site visit was organized by the Mauritius Sugar Authority on 26 March 2008 in the

presence of beneficiaries, the representatives of the contractor, Super Builders Ltd. and the Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien. During the site visit, all parties raised concern and expressed the need to seek advice from the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping and any other institutions on the suitability of the site.

I have been informed by the Mauritius Sugar Authority that it has written a letter dated 2 April 2008 to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping to seek advice as to the suitability of the site for residential purposes.

The occupants of Union Vale housing estate will be relocated at Union Vale near the VRS 1 site whereas those of Mon Trésor housing estate will move to Mémoire. In respect of these two sites, the Mon Trésor Mon Désert had applied for the Morcellement Permits on the 30 August 2006 and 12 October 2006 respectively and these were issued on 5 June 2007.

Request for funds for water supply to the two sites has already been made by the Mauritius Sugar Authority to the Ministry of Housing & Lands on the 11 March 2008. Upon the release of these funds by the Ministry of Housing & Lands, the Central Water Authority will proceed with the installation of the water network and complete same within a period of some three months. Simultaneously, the Mauritius Sugar Authority has also requested the National Housing Development Corporation to prepare the design for the road and

drainage network and the tender specifications for these works to be undertaken.

Furthermore, for the site of Union Vale funds have also been released for the supply of electricity to the tune of 70% of the contract value to the Central Electricity Board.