

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/96

B/96 The Honourable Second Member for Savanne and Black River (**Mrs Hanoomanjee**)

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

Whether, in regard to the sugar industry, he will state the amount of money the European Union (a) has disbursed for the financial year 2007-2008 as (i) grants and (ii) accompanying measures and (b) is expected to disburse for the financial years 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 as (i) grants and (ii) accompanying measures respectively?

REPLY (on 01.04.08)

Mr Speaker, Sir,

For Financial Year 2007/2008, Mauritius is expected to receive a grant of €4.5 million as sugar sector budget support upon successful compliance to a number of key performance indicators pertaining to the sugar industry. This money represents unspent balance from previous European Development Funds (EDF).

Under the Accompanying Measures for Sugar Protocol Countries, Mauritius received a first amount of €6.5 million in July last year as sugar sector budget support.

Mauritius is also expected to receive an amount of €36 million under Sugar Accompanying Measures as General Budget Support for the implementation of the overall economic reform programme during 2007/2008. Under this envelope, €18 million will be disbursed as fixed tranche and the remaining €18 million as variable tranche subject to fulfillment to a number of key performance indicators.

Mauritius will benefit from additional grant resources following adverse fluctuation in export earnings (FLEX 2007 and FLEX 2008) to the tune of €30.8 million and also from 9th End of Term Review Bonus in an amount of €8.7 million. These resources will be disbursed as general budget support for implementation of our overall reform programme.

Similarly, resources under the 10th EDF (€43.5 million) will be used as General Budget Support for the overall reform programme.

Under the Sugar Accompanying Measures for the period 2008/2009 and 2010/2011, Mauritius is expected to benefit from the following financial envelopes as General Budget Support for implementation of the overall reform programme:

◆	2008/2009	:	€31m
◆	2009/2010	:	€30
◆	2010/2011	:	€30.541m

The Financing Proposal for the amount of €31 million is currently being worked out together with the European Commission to be submitted to their Headquarters. The Financial Proposals for the other two envelopes will be worked out later.