

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/1358

B/1358 The Honourable Third Member for Curepipe and

(11.12.07) Midlands (Mr Dowarkasing)

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

Whether, in regard to the Mon Bois Fodder Station at 16ème Mille, he will state if Government is proposing to have it closed down and transformed into a prison or any other reform institution?

REPLY

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

The Mon Bois Fodder Production Centre of an extent of 34 hectares was until recently mainly used for the production of fodder for supply to Palmar Livestock Production Unit.

2. Following the closure of Palmar Livestock Production Unit in September 2007, 16 hectares of land at Mon Bois have been allocated, upon the request of the Prisons Commissioner, to the Prisons Department for agricultural and breeding activities. The Commissioner of Prisons has now made a request to my Ministry to take over the whole of Mon Bois to develop it as a fodder farm. The request is still under consideration given that space has been earmarked for a sheep breeding project by my Ministry.

3. My Ministry has also received a number of requests for land for agricultural and livestock projects. One request for 2 Arpents of land has been recently approved. 10 Arpents have also been earmarked for pig breeders (affected by African Swine Fever) willing to diversify/shift to other livestock activities. They will be assisted through the Empowerment Programme. The other applications are being considered.

4. There is no project as such for transforming Mon Bois into a prison or reform institution.