

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/1130

B/1130 The Honourable Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (**Mr Soodhun**)

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

Whether, in regard to the derocking of the 2000 arpents of land of the small planters, he will state (a) if this exercise has been completed (b) who was awarded the contract and (c) the fees paid to the contractors?

REPLY (on 20.11.07)

Mr Speaker, Sir,

The scheme for the derocking of 2000 arpents of land of small planters was mentioned in the Road Map for the Mauritius Sugar Industry. This scheme has not been implemented because we are doing much better. Instead, we are implementing the project entitled "Field Operations and Regrouping of Planters" which also includes derocking of land. This project provides for the preparation of 20,000 ha of land belonging to planters holding up to 25 ha over a period of ten years. Out of this, 12,000 ha will be prepared for semi or full mechanization. For the remaining 8,000 ha which are difficult areas, minimum tillage practices will be undertaken.

2. I would like to remind the House that this Government has disbursed Rs 500m in order to start the implementation of this project.

3. The first phase of the project covering 1,000 arpents (340 ha) belonging to 245 planters has been completed during the period July 2006 to April 2007. The works have been undertaken by SMEs and the Sugar Planters Mechanical Pool Corporation (SPMPC). Assistance and collaboration from the millers have been free of charge. The second phase concerning some 3,100 arpents (1,300 ha) is being implemented and is expected to be completed by June 2008.

4. With regard to parts (b) and (c), I have already tabled the information in reply to PQ B/654. I am tabling the information again.