

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/1052

B/1052 The Honourable First Member for Curepipe and Midlands
(**Mr Guimbeau**)

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

Whether, in regard to the lease of L'Ilot Gabriel and L'Ile Plate, he will state if the islands were subject to an assessment by the Government Valuer's Office before the signing of the lease and, if so, will he state the assessed value in each case?

REPLY

Mr Speaker, Sir,

Ilot Gabriel, which is a Nature Reserve under the Forests and Reserves Act, is of an extent of **42.2 Ha**. The lease agreement for the islet was duly signed by the Director of Ocean Blue Island Co. Ltd and the Acting Conservator of Forests on the 30 March 2007 and was transcribed by the Registrar General Office on 4 April 2007.

2. As per conditions of the lease agreement, Ocean Blue Island Co. Ltd is allowed to use only an area of **10 000 m²** on Ilot Gabriel for eco-touristic and recreational purposes, whereas the remaining of the Islet should be under conservation.

3. Based on the fact that only **10 000 m²** of the islet would be used for eco-touristic and recreational purposes and Ocean Blue Island Co. Ltd would re-instate its environment, the Chief Government Valuer has on 31 January 2007 assessed the annual rental payable by Ocean Blue Island Co. Ltd to be Rs 60,000.

4. As regards Flat Island, which is also a Nature Reserve under the Forests and Reserves Act and is of an extent of **253.25 Ha (2 532 500 m²)**, it has been leased to Discover Mauritius Ltd, a Government owned private company, for the purpose of developing an ecotouristic project on the islet while reinstating and preserving its natural environment.

5. As per the lease agreement, Discover Mauritius Ltd shall be allowed to use only **135,000 m²** on Flat Island for eco-touristic and recreational purposes, whereas the remaining of the islet would be under conservation.

6. On 9 February 2007, Government took note that Flat Island would be leased to Discover Mauritius Ltd at the rate of Rs. 60 000 per annum with effect from 1 July 2007.