

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/1155

**B/1155 The Honourable First Member for Vacoas and Floreal
(Mr Bodha)**

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

Whether, in regard to the project for the construction of the vegetable auction market in Port Louis, he will state if he has had meetings with the stakeholders thereof and, if so, where matters stand?

REPLY

Mr Speaker Sir,

As the Hon Member is aware, a study was commissioned by the Agricultural Marketing Board in year 2004-2005 to review the Auction Market System given that marketing of vegetables and fruits was being effected in very poor conditions. A site of 5 acres of land at Riche Terre was identified for the setting up of the Auction Market because of lack of appropriate space in Port Louis. The project was not implemented in 2005 as no provisions were made in the 2005-2006 budget. Moreover, the land identified is no longer available as it forms part of the larger plot of land allocated to the Tianli Group of Industries at Riche Terre.

2. Recognizing the various shortcomings in the vegetables and fruits auction marketing and the urgent need for a well structured marketing system, Government has provided funds in the current budget for the setting up of a National Auction Market under the Food Security Fund. A technical

Committee has already started working on the modalities for the new system.

The Committee comprises the following stakeholders:

- (i) Small Planters Welfare Fund
- (ii) Agricultural Marketing Board
- (iii) Agricultural Research & Extension Unit
- (iv) Ministry of Health & Quality of Life
- (v) Ministry of Local Government
- (vi) Small Planters Association
- (vii) Mauritius Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Federation
- (viii) Market Traders Association
- (ix) Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture

3. The Committee has met on three occasions and is expected to finalise the strategic document by the first week of October 2008.