

**B/580** The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (**Mr. Lauthan**)

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

**Whether, in regard to the grant of scholarships to veterinary officers employed by his Ministry, he will state Government policy since July 2005?**

**B/581** The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (**Mr. Lauthan**)

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

**Whether, in regard to foreign veterinary officers employed by his Ministry, he will state the number thereof (a) employed on a contractual basis together with the terms and conditions of their employment and (b) who are working in slaughter houses, indicating their hours of work?**

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**REPLY**

Mr. Speaker Sir,

With your permission I will reply to **PQ's 580** and **B/581** together.

**B/580**

Since July 2005, Veterinary Officers (either Mauritian nationals or foreigners) have **not** benefited from any scholarship. They have however been called upon to attend workshops, training courses and meetings

overseas. Such participation was designed to enhance their performance and keep them abreast of developments and new emerging issues in their sector of responsibility. I am circulating a return on these participations.

In selecting the officer to attend workshop or training, the area of responsibility is an important criteria.

## **B/581**

- (a) At present **seven (7) foreign** veterinary officers of Indian nationality are employed on a contract basis in my Ministry.

All foreign Veterinary Officers are employed on the same terms and conditions of contract employment. I am circulating the terms and conditions of foreign Veterinary Officers for the information of members.

- (b) No foreign Veterinary Officer has been assigned duties at the Slaughter House of the Mauritius Meat Authority (MMA). Two **(2)** Mauritian Veterinary Officers namely Dr. H. Dooky and Dr. A. Jahangeer are working at the MMA.

The time of attendance at the MMA ranges from 3.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. to in the three slaughter halls – (namely cattle, pig, and goat/sheep/deer). Each of them works for an average of twenty **(20)** hours per week at the abattoir. The working hours are fixed depending on the number of animals to be slaughtered and vary during festive seasons when there are more animals to be slaughtered. Veterinary Officers are required to serve the MMA to ensure that meat produced is safe for consumption. They attend the ante-mortem and post-mortem exercises of slaughter animals.