

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/292

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08.05.07

The Honourable First Member for Curepipe and Midlands
(Mr Guimbeau)

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

Whether he will state if cane planters are categorized according to the extent of land they cultivate and, if so, will he state the different categories thereof, indicating the acreage of land in each case?

DRAFT REPLY

Mr Speaker, Sir,

In the **Sugar Industry Efficiency Act 2001, the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board Act, the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Act, and the Sugar Insurance Fund Act**, "Planter" means any person, or group of persons, growing sugar cane in one or more factory areas and includes any person, acting as manager for that person or group of persons.

As per **Mauritius Sugar Syndicate Act**, planter means the owner of a sugar cane plantation and includes the owner of a sugar factory.

The **Mauritius Sugar Authority** defines a planter as a planter cultivating over 100 arpents in sugar cane.

I am informed by the Sugar Insurance Fund Board (SIFB) that under section 2 of the Small Planters Welfare Fund Act, "small planter" is defined as:

"a planter who is registered with the Fund as a planter growing sugarcane, tea, tobacco or food-crops, including fruit and ornamentals, on his land or on leased land, on an extent not exceeding 10 hectares".

Based on the above definition, SIFB categorizes sugar cane planters may be categorized as small or large. The data provided in respect of crop 2006 is as follows:-

Category	Number of Planters	Acreage
Small	26,214	21,329
Large	179	48.771
Total	26,393	70,100

Since the SIFB has the most reliable data in respect of sugar cane planters, most of the measures designed for planters are based on the data provided by the SIFB.

For the Regrouping project, the MSA has adopted the following definition:-

"Small planter": up to 10 hectares and
"Medium planter": from 10 up to 25 hectares"

On the other hand, FSC which has a mandate to devise and implement schemes and programmes with a view to enhancing the productivity and efficiency of planters adopts the following definitions:-

	Ownership Total area under cane (ha)	Schemes
1	Up to 4.22 ha	Fertilizer subsidy at planting 50% of cost of fertilizers or Rs 3,519/ha which ever is lower, applicable to first 2.11 ha replanted
2 (i)	Up to 10 ha	Subsidy on purchase of cane setts by planters : 60%
(ii)	> 10 – 40 ha	Subsidy on purchase of cane setts by planters : 50%
3	Up to 25 ha	Fields Operations and Regrouping project : Derocking, land preparation and replanting of cane fields
4 (i)	Up to 42 ha	Subsidized – Tractor rate e.g. D6 tractor type @ Rs 450/hr
(ii)	Sugar Estates & large planters	Subsidized – Tractor rate e.g. D6 tractor type @ Rs 700/hr

The FSC uses the SIFB data to countercheck the claims of planters in this respect.