

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION B/225

B/225 The Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and
24.04.07 Plaine Magnien (**Mr Varma**)

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

Whether, in regard to the phasing out of the Mon Désert/Mon Trésor and the Union Vale housing estates, he will state where matters stand?

REPLY

Mr Speaker, Sir,

I am informed by the Mauritius Sugar Authority (MSA) that Mon Trésor Sugar Estate has three sugar camps which have to be phased out. These are:

- (a) Mon Désert estate houses with 133 beneficiaries who will benefit plots of land at Desplaces.
- (b) Union Vale estate houses with 23 beneficiaries who will be relocated at Union Vale near VRS I site.
- (c) Mon Trésor estate houses with 12 beneficiaries who will be relocated at Mémoire adjacent to VRS I site at Plaine Magnien.

2. In respect of the site at Desplaces:

(i) Water works have been completed.

(ii) Infrastructure works for road and drains are still ongoing. As per contract, the works started on 23 August 2006 and are due to be terminated by end June 2007. About 70% of works have been completed. Once these works are over, the Central Electricity Board will come in for the supply of electricity. Thereafter, the sugar estate will take appropriate action for the handing over of title deeds to the beneficiaries.

3. As for the sites at Union Vale and Mémoire, I am informed by the Mauritius Sugar Authority that the Morcellement Board is currently processing the application for Morcellement Permit. Once this permit is received, infrastructure works will start.

4. I must point out that the process is a long and arduous one. I have personally chaired a number of meetings at the level of my Ministry in order to expedite things. These meetings are attended inter alia by representatives of the local authorities, the Ministry of Housing & Lands, the Central Electricity Board, the Central Water Authority, the Road Development Authority and the Waste Water Management Authority. Each time, I have made it a point to request the representatives of the different institutions to collaborate in order

to move the process so as to phase out the sugar camps rapidly in order to improve the living conditions of the workers concerned.