

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/237

The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis North Montagne Longue (Mr Lesjongard))

To ask Dr Honourable Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries

Whether, in regard to fish farms, he will state the number thereof which are operational since July 2005 to date?

Reply

Since July 2005, one fish farming complex namely; Val Farms Ltd. situated at La Ferme started to operate. It has imported two consignments of 40,000 barramundi fingerlings (exotic species) from Singapore in November 2006. Barramundi is widely cultured in Australia, Singapore and far east. It has a high growth rate, its flesh is white and its taste is very good. The stock has now grown to about 500 to 600 gm. The giant fresh water prawn and the berri rouge are also being cultured by the company at the farm.

2. There is also one integrated fish-farming project at Palmar Livestock Production Unit which is presently undertaking experimental trial polyculture of tilapia.

3. In addition, there are thirty small fish farmers who are involved in backyard culture of berri rouge.

4. You may wish to note that a workshop was organised from 12 to 13 April 2007 on the “Potential of Aquaculture Development in Mauritius” where the findings of the study on the formulation of an Aquaculture Master Plan were presented to the stakeholders.

5. The main findings of the study are:

- (i) Identification of 20 potential sites in the lagoon, the open sea and in the coastal region around the island;
- (ii) There is a potential for an annual production of 29,000 tonnes of fish in the medium term and 39,000 tonnes of fish in the long term;
- (iii) Creation of about 5,000 jobs; and
- (iv) A turn over of 20 to 30 million Euros per annum;

6. The main recommendations of the workshop are:

- (i) The lagoon area of Mahebourg be considered for aquaculture development in the first instance;
- (ii) Cage culture projects be replicated by other promoters on the same model as is presently being carried out by “Ferme Marine de Mahebourg Ltd”;
- (iii) Entertain requests of promoters willing to embark in the aquaculture activities in other sites identified off-lagoon; and
- (iv) Drafting of an appropriate legislation for the grant of sea concessions for aquaculture.

7. I am informed that presently ten local and foreign investors have expressed their interests to the Board of Investment to start industrial fish farming in Mauritius with an estimated investment of 750 million rupees. My Ministry is also in consultations with the Attorney General's Office for the drafting of the appropriate legislation for the grant of sea concessions for aquaculture.