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The Honourable Third Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East (Mr. Guinness)

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

Whether, in regard to imported potatoes, he will state if the price thereof has been liberalized and if so, since when and will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Agricultural Marketing Board, information as to, as from that date (a) the name of the importers, indicating the quantities imported by each of them and (b) the quantities imported by the Board, indicating the price paid for the last shipment received and (c) the price at which the Board is selling potatoes to the traders?

REPLY

Mr. Speaker Sir,

I am informed by the Agricultural Marketing Board that in regard to imported potatoes, the price has been liberalised since 1st January, 1998 since Government at that time decided to stop subsidising potatoes on which huge losses were being incurred by AMB.

2 In respect of the information sought from the date of liberalisation, I have been provided with the following information: -

- (a) the quota allocation for the years 2000 – 2006 and which is being tabled.
- (b) As regards quantities imported by the Board since 1998, these are also being tabled while the price for the last shipment of potatoes received from India at AMB including all charges is Rs 15,000 / tonne.
- (c) AMB is selling potatoes to traders in the price range of Rs 16,700 to Rs 20,500 per tonne. The AMB has informed that sales of potatoes are undertaken through offers from dealers and the most competitive price is determined by the quality of the potatoes put on sale, the quantity purchased by the prospective buyers and on the arrival date of consignment.