

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/325**

**B/325**  
(29.04.08)

**The Honourable Second Member for Savanne and Black River (Mrs Hanoomanee)**

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

**Whether, in regard to the Food Science and Food Technology, he will state the number of officers of his Ministry who have been sent abroad for training therein since 2003 to date, indicating the number thereof who have thereafter been posted at the Food Technology Laboratory?**

**REPLY**

Sir,

Mr Speaker Sir,

In regard to the Food Technology Laboratory, 20 officers have been sent on training abroad since 2003 in Food Science and Food Safety to acquire the necessary qualifications, technical know-how and experience to carry out the analytical works. 16 of these officers are presently working at the Food Technology Laboratory. The other 4 officers are posted in the other divisions of the Agricultural Services where their knowledge in Food Science and Food Technology is being put to good and effective use. In order to be able to operate effectively and efficiently and to honour all its obligations properly, the laboratory needs to be adequately staffed.

Mr Speaker, Sir,

The Food Technology Laboratory has an important function to play with regard to food safety and it is currently carrying out tests to certify exports of tuna to the EU market. The Food Technology Laboratory has, on the basis of its modern state-of-the-art equipment and facilities and the quality of its staff, been recently selected as one of the three regional reference laboratories by the COMESA to be responsible for food safety.