

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/990

**B/990 The Honourable Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal
(Mrs Labelle)**

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

Whether, in regard to the special loan scheme that has been set up for the small planters, following the floods of March 2008, he will state (a) the number of applications received, indicating the number thereof which have not been approved and (b) if the successful applicants have received their money?

REPLY

Mr Speaker Sir,

In the aftermath of tropical depression 'Lola' which occurred on 26 March 2008, Government, through the Development Bank of Mauritius, has urgently launched a special concessionary Rehabilitation Loan Scheme to provide immediate support to affected planters and farmers. The maximum amount of loan is Rs 75,000 with an interest rate of 3 per cent repayable over four years.

2. The beneficiaries of the scheme are individual planters and co-operative Societies. A special desk was opened to operate the scheme on a fast tract basis at the Head Office of DBM and in all its seven branches viz, Curepipe, Mahebourg, Flacq, Goodlands, Montagne Blanche, Triolet and Rose Hill.

3. The Development Bank of Mauritius has informed that 2346 applications were received. It has processed 2197 cases for an amount of Rs 96M and an amount of Rs 65M has already been disbursed to planters and farmers. For all loans sanctioned, the full amount of the loans was disbursed at one go upon signature of the deeds of the loan. The DBM is monitoring the remaining disbursements.

4. Some 149 cases have not been approved because of either incomplete information or documents and in some cases the applicants did not meet the criteria for the special loan under the Scheme.

