

## Parliamentary Question No B/90

**B/90      The Honourable Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (Mr Soodhun)**

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

**Whether, in regard to the proposed allocation of 300 arpents of land, located in the south of the island, on lease to planters and prospective planters, he will give a list of the prospective beneficiaries thereof.**

### REPLY

**Mr Speaker Sir,**

In July 2006 Government announced that 300A of land from Rose Belle S.E. (for crops and livestock) would be made available in addition to the 100A from Sugar Estates and 100A from Sugar Investment Trust (SIT).

2. The procedure for allocation has been a very transparent one. Interested applicants were invited to submit their projects in writing which were examined by a multi disciplinary technical committee chaired by representative of Rose Belle S.E Board and followed by an individual interview exercise. The prospective beneficiaries (96 for SIT, 241 for RBSE and 190 for MSPA i.e 427 in all) have been selected on the basis of the feasibility of their project. They are all being granted a lease of 8 years with a rental of Rs 6000 per year per arpent.

3. The objective of the 300 Arpent Scheme in the South is to provide an opportunity to potential agro-entrepreneurs/farmers to undertake agricultural diversification namely vegetables, ornamentals, fruits and livestock production.

4. I am informed by the RBSE Board that out of the 241 beneficiaries (294.05 Arpents):

- (i) 141 have signed Lease Agreements i.e 110 for crops at Bananes/Teeluck/Le val and 31 for livestock at Bergicourt;
  - (ii) 100 (69 for crops and 31 for livestock) have not yet signed their lease agreement which is under process.
5. I am tabling the list of selected beneficiaries.

**Supplementary Information – 300A Scheme –**  
**Rose Belle Sugar Estate Board**

1. The outgoing Government in its budget address for 2004/2005 had announced that 200 Arpents would be allocated on Lease to Small Planters willing to cultivate different crops on land put at the disposal by SIT and MSPA.

2. **Regions Identified**

<b>SN</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Acreage (Arpents)</b>
1.0	Bananes/Teeluck/Leval	Crop	212.83
2.0	Bergicourt	Livestock	81.22
TOTAL			294.05

3. Selection Exercise carried out by a Technical Committee comprising of representatives of Ministry/RBSEB/FARC/AREU/Agricultural Services.

All procedures at the level of Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries have been completed and approvals communicated to SIT, MSPA and RBSE Board.

4. Criteria for selection:
  - (i) acreage allocated depending on project proposal (ranging from 1A to 5A);
  - (ii) employment status;
  - (iii) sense of entrepreneurial;
  - (iv) interested in rent of Rs. 6,000/Arpent/Year;
  - (v) Region where residence of applicant is situated.

5. 1<sup>st</sup> Interview exercise was held from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

- No. of applicants 1400 (updated list since year 2000);
- Selected beneficiaries in March 2006

	Beneficiaries	Arpents after survey
Crop	190	217
Livestock	51	82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>299</b>

- Lease Agreement signed in December 2006.

	Beneficiaries	Arpents after survey
Crop	110	132.69
Livestock	31	47.64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>180.33</b>

- Drop outs 100 beneficiaries

6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Interview exercise was held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2007 for remaining 113.72A after drop outs.

- No. of applicant – 600;
- Selected beneficiaries

	Beneficiaries	Arpents after survey
Crop	69	80.14
Livestock	21	33.58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>113.72</b>

- Lease Agreements not yet signed.

7. Waiting list 81 applicants.

8. **Crop Farmers** are already occupying their lands

**Livestock** Farmers have to submit a PER (preliminary Environment Report) before embarking on their activities. They are also awaiting infrastructural facilities water, electricity, improved road access. In the meantime, these beneficiaries have been authorized to undertake other agricultural activities (cropping) pending the infrastructural development.

**AREU** is currently undertaking a need assessment exercise of the beneficiaries in order to provide the necessary technical support and advisory services.

**AREU** is also envisaging to promote clustering of agricultural to enable producers to take advantage of economic scale in the production and marketing of their product.

9. **A Committee** has been set up under the chair of **FARC** to monitor closely the activities of the beneficiaries of the 500A scheme.