

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

PQ B/465 The Honourable Third Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien Central (Mr Ramful)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection -

Whether, in regard to the import substitution industry, he will give a list of sectors where such policy will be developed, as announced in the Budget Speech 2018-2019, in order to address the trade and account deficits?

REPLY

(sitting of 18 June 2019)

Madam Speaker,

In the Budget Speech 2018-2019, it was announced that we would be ushering a new era of import substitution and at paragraph 61 mention was made that our focus will be on food crop production. It was also mentioned that the potential is there since we import 77 percent of our foodstuffs, annually. Further, to put this import –substitution endeavour on a strong footing, Government will give the necessary support to set up 100 farms over the next two years under a Sheltered Farming Scheme. .

Madam Speaker,

I am informed by the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security that in the first instance, 50 farms comprising 20 net houses of 4000 m2 each

and 30 hydroponic greenhouses of 500 m² each will be made available on a Ready –To-Operate basis on 5 sites. The farms will be leased to new entrepreneurs. Following press communique, 288 applications have been received and are currently being evaluated.

I am also informed that the Ministry of Agro industry and Food Security has introduced and is implementing the new scheme of Mini Sheltered Farming 151 requests have been approved and so far, 34 mini sheltered farms have already been constructed.

Moreover, as the House is aware, it has also been announced in the Budget Speech 2019-2020 that, to give a further spur to that new sector, 100 more sheltered farm will be constructed across the island over the next two years, starting at Melrose, Plaine Magnien, Solitude, Beau Climat and Caroline.

These measures will certainly contribute in addressing the trade and account deficits.

