

02.07.2019

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/503

The Honourable Third Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien (**Mr Ramful**)

To ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development –

Whether, in regard to the Speed to Market Scheme, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Economic Development Board, information as to the amount of funds disbursed thereunder, indicating the number of beneficiaries thereof and the name of the beneficiary having obtained the largest amount, indicating same?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

The House will recall that during the budget speech of 2016/2017, I announced the introduction of the Speed to Market Scheme in order to give a new impetus to the textile and apparel sector with respect to its exports to the European market especially in the wake of challenges of Brexit. This Scheme entails a 40% rebate on basic air freight costs to Europe with Government underwriting it over a period of two years. The Scheme became effective as from April 2017.

Subsequently, as from July/August 2017, Madam Speaker, the Speed to Market Scheme was extended to a series of other products manufactured in Mauritius such as jewellery, medical devices, fruits, flowers, vegetables, chilled fish, articles of leather, footwear, watches and fabric plush toys. For agricultural produce, the 40% rebate is shared equally between the planter and the exporter.

The Economic Development Board, which manages the Scheme, upon presentation of all the necessary documents as evidence of exports, refunds to eligible parties concerned the quantum of the applicable rebate.

Madam Speaker,

I am informed that, since its introduction to 20 June 2019, the Economic Development Board has disbursed a total amount of MUR 189.6 M under the Speed to Market Scheme to 69 companies and 172 planters.

Madam Speaker,

I am further informed that the Compagnie Mauricienne de Textile Limitée (CMT), one of the leading apparel manufacturers in Mauritius, has exported by air to Europe goods for an export value of around MUR 2.7 B and has been refunded the largest amount under the Scheme, to the tune of MUR 52,095,239.

I wish to inform the House that these beneficiaries have acknowledged that the Speed to Market Scheme has contributed to maintain the competitiveness of their exports to Europe.

That is why, Madam Speaker, in the 2019/2020 budget, I have provided a sum of MUR 120M under the Scheme which shall now be known as Support for Trade Promotion and Marketing Scheme and the Scheme will also consider the possibility of covering the US market.

