

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

A/175 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Mr Uteem**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade:-

Whether, in regard to request for mutual assistance from foreign States, he will state the number of requests received as at to date, indicating in each case the form of assistance sought and the outcome thereof?

REPLY

Mr Speaker, Sir,

You will appreciate that section 20 of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal and Related Matters Act puts restrictions on the amount of information that can be provided in relation to requests made under the Act to the Central Authority, both as regard the content and purport of the information transmitted to the Mauritian Authorities. These information are considered privileged.

However, the House would appreciate that from 2007 to 2011, approximately 55 requests for mutual assistance have been addressed to the Central Authority of Mauritius under the Mutual Assistance in Criminal and Related Matters Act.

Applications have been received principally in respect of the following:

- (i) Evidence-gathering
- (ii) Restraint orders; and
- (iii) Examination of witnesses (commission rogatoire).

As at to date, around 23 requests have already been processed and executed. 5 applications are presently pending before the Judge in Chambers.

The remaining requests are either under consideration or pending at the Attorney-General's Office given that additional information and/or clarifications were sought from the Requesting States and a reply is being awaited.