

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE CHIEF MINISTER
BY DEPUTY D.W. MEZBOURIAN OF ST. LAWRENCE**

ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2006

Question

The Chief Minister stated in a written answer on 14th February 2006 that the numbers of public sector staff in some departments who had been suspended as a result of disciplinary infractions in each of the last three years gave cause for concern and, accordingly, he had asked the Chief Executive to carry out an urgent investigation into the matter and to report back with recommendations as to how the current situation could be improved.

Would the Chief Minister advise whether this investigation has been completed and, if so, advise what improvements, if any, have been recommended and what new policies and procedures, if any, have been introduced as a result of this investigation?

Answer

I can confirm that this investigation is currently in progress and departments have been asked to provide further information. The Chief Executive will be reporting back to the Chief Minister as soon as findings are available, and will be making recommendations at that time as to how the current situation can be improved. It is envisaged that this process will be completed by mid April 2006.

The States will, of course, be informed of the outcome of that review. It is my intention that the number of suspensions should be kept to a minimum, and that all cases should be dealt with as expeditiously as possible.