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**5.4 Connétable A.S. Crowcroft of St. Helier of the Minister for Treasury and Resources regarding progress in arranging for the payment of rates by the States for the rate year 2017:**

Would the Minister advise what progress, if any, has been made in arranging for the payment of rates by the States for the rate year 2017?

**Senator A.J.H. Maclean (The Minister for Treasury and Resources):**

Work has already been undertaken by the rates assessors in conjunction with Jersey Property Holdings to assess the rateable quarters of all properties in the States property portfolio. This work has determined that the potential cost to the States of paying Parish rates would be approximately £900,000 a year. Members will remember in the Medium Term Financial Plan that £1 million was set aside for the purpose. In the Medium Term Financial Plan debate this Assembly agreed that the States should start paying Parish rates from 2017, provided that a mechanism can be found to fund the resulting costs. As such, an officer work group is charged with reviewing the potential options for raising the additional revenue and is scheduled to brief relevant Ministers in March so that the required decisions can be made alongside the lodging of the Medium Term Financial Plan addition in June.

**5.4.1 The Connétable of St. Helier:**

Could I thank the Minister for his answer and ask that the Committee of Constables will be kept fully briefed about the progress towards finding this source of extra income, so that they can make the necessary plans with their rates assessment committees?

**Senator A.J.H. Maclean:**

Yes, of course. I would take this opportunity to also thank the rates assessors for all the work that they do, not just in connection with this but for the Island as a whole. They do a considerable amount of work and I think that should be marked. Thank you.