



**Office of the Prime Minister**

**ANSWER TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION 71 OF 2016**  
**FOR ANSWER ON FRIDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2016**

**Question 71 of 2016**

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry - Would the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry inform the House of the following:

- (i) Were two special cane payments of \$2 and \$2.80 given to cane growers in November 2015 and January 2016, deducted by the Fiji Sugar Corporation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cane payment being from proceeds for the 2015 harvesting and crushing season;
- (ii) Without the deductions of \$3.40 being balance of the special cane payment, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> cane payment in March 2016, would the total payment per tonne of cane be \$13.28 instead of \$9.88 per tonne?

**Answer**

Madame Speaker, the correct order in which the special cane payments were made were that the first special cane payment of \$2.80 per tonne was made on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2015; and the second special cane payment of \$2.0 per tonne was made on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

Madame Speaker, the FSC made these two special cane payments from its own resources and not from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cane proceeds of the 2015 harvest season. So the answer to part (i) of the question is no.

FSC, however, did recover 50% (\$1.40 per tonne) of the first special cane payment from the second cane payment for 2015 harvest season.

As for the second part (ii) of the question, the 3<sup>rd</sup> payment of \$9.88 in March was on the basis of sugar sale proceeds received and payable to cane growers. A deduction of \$2.40 per tonne for special cane payments was made from the 4<sup>th</sup> cane payment in May and the balance of \$1 per tonne would be deducted from the 2017 season.

Thank you Madam Speaker.



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