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14/7/09

#### MAURITIUS SOCIETY OF AUTHORS - ROYALTIES

(No. B/864) Mr J. C Barbier (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the royalties obtained by the Mauritius Society of Authors from international sister societies, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Society, information as to the amount thereof received over the past five years, indicating -

- (a) the names of the persons who have benefitted therefrom and the respective amount received, in each case and
- (b) how the outstanding amount has been used.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Mauritius Society of Authors (MASA) that royalties collected from international sister societies over the past five years amount to Rs 5,446,754.99. An amount of Rs 4,175,725.84 has already been paid to the rights owners over the last five years. I am tabling the yearly breakdown.

MASA has confirmed that there is a remaining balance of Rs 1,271,029.15 which shall be distributed as per normal practice to the rights owners members of MASA in the next distribution exercise of this financial year, i.e before end of December.

As regards part (a) of the question concerning the names of right owners and the amount received, I am advised by MASA that it is not in the interest of the right owners for the names and amounts to be made public. When sister societies submit their list, the local beneficiaries are already mentioned therein and disbursement is made accordingly.