

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER: 924

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MS A M DREYER (DA) TO ASK THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the large increase in unauthorised expenditure in government departments, he has been informed that unauthorised expenditure in government departments amounted to R208 million in the 2001-02 financial year and R387 million in the 2002-03 financial year compared to R57 million in the 1998-09 financial year, if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the reasons for this large increase and (b) action has been taken as a result of this increase;
- (2) whether, in light of the fact that 67 out of 120 overspent items are related to the non-compliance with National Treasury procedures and regulations and State Tender Board directives, any steps have been taken to rectify the situation; if not, why not; if so, (a) how many officials have been investigated in this regard, (b) in how many cases have disciplinary action been taken and (c) what has been the outcome of such steps?

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REPLY:

- (1) Yes, I am aware of the increase in unauthorised expenditure in the 2001/02 and 2002/03 financial years, when compared with 1998/09.

The National Treasury has tabled a report with SCOPA on each occurrence of unauthorised expenditure for the period 1998/99 to 2003/04. Additional information, if requested, will be provided to the Committee to assist it during its deliberations.

- (2) The report tabled with SCOPA concluded that the State did not suffer a loss and that no individual had gained unduly. No accounting officer was investigated for financial misconduct and thus no disciplinary action was taken.