68.   Dr M J Figg (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

(1)   On which dates in 2014 did the National Treasury publish information on the employment tax incentive, as required by section 11 of the Employment Tax Incentive Act, Act 26 of 2013;

(2)   in respect of each specified date, (a) in what form was the information published, (b) to whom was it sent, (c) how was it distributed;

(3)   will he make the information publicly available?

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REPLY:

Questions (1) and (2)

Yes, in compliance with section 11 of the ETI Act No 26 of 2013, the Minister of Finance published information on the Employment Tax Incentive on the following two occasions during 2014:
- 2014 Budget on 26 February 2014
- 2014 Medium-Term Policy Statement on 22 October 2014.

Given that 2014 was the first year of implementation, the above information was of necessity limited. The third and latest update provided is in the 2015 Budget Review (refer to page 27 published on 25 February 2015.This update notes that in December 2014, this incentive supported the employment of over 216 000 young workers, from a peak of 268 000 in August 2014. A further update will be provided later this year, in October when the next MTBPS is tabled in Parliament.

The Budget Speech on 26 February 2014, with only one month's data, noted the following on page 12:
 "Introduction this year of the youth employment tax incentive, which in its first month has recorded 56 000 beneficiaries."

The statement in the MTBPS (page 16) on 22 October was as follows:

"Initial reports suggest that the employment tax incentive, implemented at the beginning of this year, has begun to improve job prospects for young workers. As at August 2014, about 23 500 employers had claimed the incentive for at least 209 000 employees."

This information was published in the documents mentioned, which are available on the National Treasury website (www.treasury.gov.za).

Question (3)

The information has already been made public as noted above.