

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 274 [NO4051E]

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Mr V G Smith (ANC) to ask the Minister of Finance:

- (1) What is the cost to the taxpayer to have officials of his department commute on a weekly basis for government business between Pretoria and Parliament in Cape Town during the parliamentary session;
- (2) whether he has commissioned a study on whether it will be more economically beneficial to locate the national Parliament and the Executive arms of government in the same province; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NO4051E

REPLY:

- (1) The cost of all National Treasury officials commuting for government business between Pretoria and Parliament in Cape Town is R5,223,732.30 for the period 1 April to 31 October 2011 (at an average cost of R32,648.35 per week).
- (2)
 - (i) I have not commissioned a study. However, this matter has been explored on two different occasions by government over the past 15 years.
 - (ii) It has, in fact, been a subject of debate and consideration on many occasions since the Union of South Africa was formed in 1910.