

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION NUMBER: 2328 [NW2782E]
DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 SEPTEMBER 2013**

2328. Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether any plans are in place to ensure that small businesses are not adversely affected by the carbon tax to be implemented in 2015; if not, why not; if so, what plans?

NW2782E

REPLY:

Small businesses are not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed carbon tax as they are generally not big emitters of pollution.

The primary objective of the proposed carbon tax is to help reduce our green-house-gas emissions in line with our commitments made at Copenhagen in 2009 and as contained in the National Climate Change Response White Paper approved by Cabinet in 2011. The carbon tax is but one of a range of regulatory measures, taxes and tax incentives to help nudge our future growth path towards a low carbon trajectory (a greener and more sustainable economy), taking into account the carbon constrained environment in which all countries will have to operate. The proposed tax will be accompanied, and in some cases preceded, by measures (including tax incentives) to minimize the cost of the transition to a low carbon economy. One of the key measures to assist businesses in general (also small businesses) is the proposed energy efficiency savings tax incentive.