QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY 2004 BY DEPUTY G.C.L. BAUDAINS OF ST. CLEMENT

Question

In his statement on 20th January 2004 the President indicated that the proposed new low income support system would be implemented in 2006 "as agreed by the States".

Would the President inform members why the Committee considers –

(a) that this matter has been agreed by the States, in view of the decision of 2nd May 2000 (P.44/2000) that the Committee should "identify the likely effects of a new low income support system" and report to the States with recommendations?

(b) that the States have agreed to implement the new system in 2006?

Answer

(a) When I said 'implemented in 2006 as agreed by the States', I was referring to a report and proposition put to the States by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier entitled 'Social Rented Housing: Policy on Setting Rents' (P. 29/2003).

Just to remind members, part (b) of the Proposition, which the States adopted on 9th September 2003, states –

'to request the Committee to co-operate with the Employment and Social Security Committee to ensure that a comprehensive Low Income Support Scheme is established by 2006 to create a viable replacement for rent subsidy'.

As I said in the States at the time, this was broadly in line with the Committee's timescale for developing the new Income Support system.

I also made it clear in my recent statement that –

'our aim is to complete all the necessary fact finding, research, policy reviews and modelling work by the end of this year to present to the States for approval' as was the intent behind the original report and proposition (P.44/2000) to which the Deputy refers.

(b) As I said in answer to the previous question, the States has set a target of 2006 for 'a comprehensive Low Income Support scheme' which the Committee is attempting to meet. Indeed, I have been under pressure from many quarters to deliver the system before that date. The purpose of my Statement on 20th January 2004, was, therefore, to convey to members the complexity of the work and to advise that the concepts for a new scheme could now be properly developed, and, the likely effects identified, including cost, in the light of the important information made available through the Income Distribution Survey.