

- (h) To add a new subsection in section 69 of the Employment Relations Act to limit the duration of a lawful strike to two days, after which, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations shall refer the matter to the Employment Relations Tribunal for arbitration.
- (i) To include the Sugar Industry in the list of services requiring a minimum service in case of strike in the Third Schedule to the Employment Relations Act.

## **B OTHER SUPPORTIVE MEASURES**

### **I. *Already implemented***

#### **5.0 Financial Support from SIFB for Crop 2017**

5.1 With the indication on the prevailing ex-MSS price of sugar for the Crop 2017 with the rising cost of production, the producers have made a request for support from the SIFB, which has been taken on board in the final report of Actuary on the SIF. There is need to amend the SIF Act to cater for this financial support. The Ministry of Finance has issued a letter to SIFB and amendments of SIF act would be undertaken in forthcoming Finance Bill 2018.

5.2 In the meantime and given the urgency of the matter, Cabinet took the decision at its meeting held on 09.09.2017 for SIFB to give a financial support advance payment of **Rs 1,250 / t sugar** to all producers. The payment was effected on 4th December 2017.

#### **6.0 Producers' Support Scheme for Crop 2017**

6.1 So as to ensure that producers remain in activity of a cane cultivation, the JTC has examined the proposal made by the sugarcane sector for a long term loan from SIFB of Rs300M with an interest rate of 4.5 % per annum and a moratorium period of 2 years. This will allow an upfront financial support to the producers for an amount **estimated around Rs 850 / t sugar** for crop 2017. Disbursement of fund was effected by MSS on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

### **II. *Under Consideration***

#### **7.0 Waiving of Cess Contribution**

7.1 The waiving Cess contribution to producers for Crop 2018 will contribute to an **estimated benefit of Rs 430 / t sugar** to producers. For the Crop 2017,