



HON. TOMASI N. TUNABUNA
Minister for Agriculture and Waterways

Written Response

Monday – 1st December, 2025

Written Question - 333/2025

Can the Minister inform Parliament how much has been allocated to fight the termite infestation and how many households have received the funds in each of the past 3 years?

a. Background

The presence of the **Asian Subterranean Termite (AST)** has become an increasingly serious concern in recent years, especially in the Western Division, including areas around Lautoka.

These destructive pests are known for their aggressive feeding habits and ability to rapidly infest wooden structures, trees, and crops, causing extensive economic and environmental damage.

The Coalition Government has acknowledged the noticeable rise in AST activity and its spread into new communities, prompting increased attention and coordinated efforts to manage and contain the infestation.

This growing challenge highlights the need for stronger public awareness, improved monitoring, and sustained mitigation strategies to protect homes, infrastructure, and livelihoods from the escalating threat posed by AST.

b. Termite Taskforce

On 24th of November 2023, the Coalition Government announced a termite initiative, including the creation of a **“special taskforce”** to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the **“Termite Control Assistance Program (TCAP)”**.

The taskforce consists of a *“multi-stakeholder committee”*, chaired by the Minister for the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection – Hon. Sashi Kiran and the Assistant Minister for the Office of the Prime Minister – Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, the Lautoka City Council, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), and the Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics.

The BAF plays a central and ongoing role in the taskforce, providing technical expertise, data sharing, inspection and verification functions.

c. Termite Control Assistance Programme (TCAP)

The TCAP offers relief through the **Termite Subsidy Programme**, the **Termite Baiting Programme**, and public outreach on AST, helping the public stay informed and vigilant while supporting efforts to control the spread of AST infestations.

Over the past two years, the Government has allocated a total of **\$5 million** under “**Head 50: Miscellaneous Services**”:

- 2023-2024 FY: - \$3 million; and
- 2024-2025 FY: - \$2 million (*Source: - Strategic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance*).

The Government has also allocated a sum of **\$2.9 million** in the current **2025-2026 FY** for the TCAP.

The TCAP, through the Taskforce, has **four main activities** which include: -

i. **Termite Subsidy Programme:** the programme intends to provide relief packages to homeowners for repair and reconstruction works due to damage caused by AST infestation in the Western Division.

- A subsidy of **\$5,000** is provided for households with a combined household income of less than **\$30,000**; and
- A subsidy of **\$2,000** is provided for households with a combined household income between **\$30,000** and **\$50,000**.
- A total of **807 households** have been assisted under the programme with a total monetary value of **\$3,990,000** in the last **two years**.

- The detailed breakdown is tabulated below:

Particulars	No. of Household	Amount (\$)
2023-2024		
Household Income: Below \$30,000	439	2,195,000
Household Income: Between \$30,000 - \$50,000	9	18,000
Total – 2024-2025 FY	448	\$ 2,213,000

2024-2025		
Household Income: Below \$30,000	353	1,765,000
Household Income: Between \$30,000 - \$50,000	6	12,000
Total – 2025-2026 FY	357	\$ 1,777,000
Total TCAP Subsidy Assistance over the Past 2 Years	807	3,990,000

Source: - Strategic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance

- ii. **Termite Baiting Programme:** under this programme, ***Flick Hygiene Pte. Limited*** has been contracted to deliver baiting services to **1,000 affected households** in the Western Division at a total cost of **\$290,000**.

To date, a total of **766 homes** (*Source: Strategic Planning Office, Ministry of Finance*) have received above-ground baiting services, which have been verified and paid. The contractor is currently working on the remaining 234 homes, with completion expected in December 2025.

- iii. **Media Awareness and Education Programme:** several media awareness sessions have been conducted through the local radio stations and social

media in the last two (2) years. The media awareness sessions prompted an influx of requests for baiting services from individuals, indicating the effectiveness of the outreach.

Three media companies were engaged for the termite awareness and education programme, which incurred a total cost of **\$48,942.50**. The three media companies are: -

- **Fiji Broadcasting Corporation (FBC)** to create awareness on AST and termite baiting through its radio stations and talkback show - **\$21,792.50**;
- **Fiji Village**, with a broad audience, was engaged to ensure the information reached the wider population through all its sister radio stations and media platforms - **\$24,150.00**;
- **Street Smart Media** was engaged to create awareness through the different social media platforms with content sharing on different platforms - **\$3,000.00**.

iv. **Establishment of three additional Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) offices in Nadi, Ba, and Nakasi:** - to address the issues of inadequately staffing, reduced response time, and improved

efficiency a sum of **\$343,714.50** had been provided to BAF to assist in the containment of AST in other populated places like Nadi, Suva, and Ba; and to provide better service deliveries while developing the best strategy to help control the spread of termites.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, through the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the fight against AST. We remain steadfast in safeguarding our communities, protecting our agricultural sector, and preserving the livelihoods that depend on it.

Through strengthened surveillance, coordinated action, public awareness, and partnership with stakeholders, we will continue to work diligently to contain, manage, and eliminate this destructive pest. Together, we can ensure a resilient and secure future for Fiji's agriculture and its people.

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