Question 68

Mr L B Labuschagne (DA) to ask the Minister of Trade and Industry:

What is the impact of the current energy crisis on (a) investments, (b) his department's investment policy, (c) exports and (d) export promotion?

Response:

(a) The ESKOM programme to conserve energy by existing industries is intended to expand the prevailing narrow reserve capacity margin. These savings may enable potential and existing investors to continue with their investment and growth projects.

(b) Given the current energy situation, the dti will not promote energy intensive projects. This policy will be administered in co-operation with ESKOM and the Department of Public Enterprises.

(c) In the short term, exports will be affected, however, it is expected that exporters will adapt to the change in the business environment in the medium term. ESKOM’s co-generation programme of up to 3000 MW is expected to moderate the impact on potential power interruptions and will benefit exporters in the medium term.

(d) The dti will continue to market South Africa’s products and services as per the mandate of the Department.