

◊ Corporate Social Responsibility

Review of Activities

Our main social role remains our contribution to the well-being of the 5,000 employees of the Group, being thus directly involved in the lives of over 20,000 Mauritians.

Through our employees and their involvement in many social activities, we attend to the various needs of those in the immediate surroundings in which our companies evolve.

In 2007, we spent more than Rs 8m (at corporate level) in sponsoring projects and organisations of national importance, leaving our industry sectors to look after local community needs and issues, details of which can be found in the ensuing sectors' reviews.

Our corporate involvement was more or less equally spread across four main avenues, as shown below.

Sports

Football is the most popular sport in Mauritius and one in which most young people are involved. Through the sponsoring of ASPL 2000, we showed our interest in contributing towards the well-being of football players in the capital and the promotion of football in general.

We believe in helping the young to express themselves through sports and sponsored Jennifer Henrisson, the young triathlete champion, during 2007.

Various other deserving national events and causes were also sponsored to a total amount of Rs 1.5m.

Education

Education being the key to success, we give our employees' children the chance of doing tertiary education by sponsoring their studies. In 2007, we initiated a major change in the scholarship in order to give a chance to a greater number of children. Therefore,

instead of one scholarship a year for university studies abroad, we now offer up to ten scholarships a year for university studies at local institutions.

The total amount spent on this item in 2007 was in the region of Rs 1.5m.

Culture

In addition to the sponsorship of some national cultural events, like the «Festival Créole», inter alia, we staged the third edition of the popular «Rêve de Star» contest. Participation in this event was again satisfactory – more than 75 entries, and the final concert at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute Auditorium received good media coverage, including transmission by MBC TV. Expenditure on these events was slightly in excess of Rs 3m.

Environment & National Heritage

We maintained our sponsorship of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation with the Echo Parakeet project, saving this bird from the most endangered species' list in the world to a population of 348 individuals in 2007.

We also maintained the upkeep of the Caudan roundabout, as well as responding favourably to the restoration of a number of historic buildings, with a total cost amounting to some Rs 2m.

Prospects

In 2008, we will fine-tune our CSR policy even further to respond more closely to community needs. Our activity sectors will, as usual, cater for local needs while the Head Office will look after national issues. However, a thorough review of targeted groups is being conducted to ensure optimum effectiveness of our CSR activities.