

A TOTAL of 15 sugarcane farms in restricted areas outside Lautoka are infested with termites.

Sugar Research Institute of Fiji (SRIF) acting chief executive officer Prem Nandan Naidu said this was a major decrease compared with the 45 farms detected in 2014.

"Basically in 2014, there was a joint research between SRIF, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) and the Ministry of Sugar where it was brought to our atten-

farms," Mr Naidu said.

"A committee was set up to look into that and a survey was done in the cane belt areas.

"Control measures were adopted from 2014 and it's still ongoing so we have managed to reduce the infested farms from 45 to 15 and control measures are still ongoing in that remaining 15."

Mr Naidu said they were also working with BAF to do another survey which had already been initiated and they were just waiting for the consultant to conduct the survey.

Singh responds to comments

BY ANISH CHAND

THE Fiji Teachers Union (FTU) has revealed it last had a face-to-face meeting with the Education Minister in March this year.

FTU general secretary Agni Deo Singh said this after minister Rosy Akbar told a regional meeting in Nadi last week that if governments and unions don't work together "we won't be able to achieve



Singh.

Picture: FILE

anything".

"We will have to meet to find a common way. Unions and governments in most cases don't see eye to eye.

"Just because I am now sitting on this side of the house, I am not your enemy," she

had said.

Mr Singh said the minister was not practising what she was preaching.

"The last time we met was in March and after

that I have written so many letters to her permanent secretary and herself, but none have been answered," he said.

"The FTU said the minister had undertaken to act on a number of issues they had brought to her attention in March.

"Unfortunately, minister Akbar has not been able to deliver the commitments she made to the union.

"I will be the happiest person if she replies to the latest correspondence I have sent to her."

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