ABERCROMBIE POLICE QUARTERS - BAD STATE

(No. B/220) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the Police Quarters at the Abercrombie Police Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if he is aware that they are in a bad state and that unhygienic conditions prevail thereat and, if so, indicate where matters stand as to the -

(a) proposed vacation of the present occupiers and pulling down thereof; and

(b) construction of a new modern District Headquarters to house the Metropolitan (North) offices, indicating if procedures have already been initiated therefor.

The Prime Minister: Mr speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that there are eight Quarters at the Abercrombie Police Station which have been converted into offices, and four are used temporarily for residential purpose.

All these Quarters are scheduled to be phased out in view of the construction of a new Divisional Headquarters. They are routinely maintained and minor repair are carried out whenever the need arises. The four Quarters which are temporarily occupied for residential purposes are not unfit for human habitation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the construction of a new and modern Metropolitan (North) Divisional Headquarters is scheduled for year 2016. The new Divisional Headquarters will comprise all the units presently operating at Abercrombie as well as a Police station to cover the region.

The project is at a preliminary stage and the Ministry of Housing and Lands has been requested to carry out a detailed survey plan of the plot of land at Abercrombie. The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, NDU, Land Transport and Shipping is working on the preliminary architectural plans for the proposed building.

In the meantime, the Police Officers and their families are allowed to occupy the Quarters and they will be asked to vacate prior to the start of work on the site.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like also to stress that occupants of the Quarters have to comply with Police Standing Order No. 131, and they have to ensure that the premises are kept clean and
tidy, hedges are trimmed, gutters and drains are clean and free of obstruction. They also have to be responsible for the maintenance of their place of residence.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister if he is aware that there are three written PQs on the same issue which were put to this House last year and no reply has been given yet? I can table a list of these PQs. Furthermore, Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, can I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is aware of a report in his reply to a PQ dated to April 2011 and I quote:

> ‘In December 2010, the Metropolitan North Divisional Commander carried out a survey and submitted a report in which he pointed out several shortcomings in regard to the Quarters which have been converted into offices. He has recommended that the Quarters be pulled down and a modern Divisional Headquarters be set up.’

Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister what has happened to this report and where matters stand?

**The Prime Minister:** I explained Mr Speaker, Sir. In fact, as the hon. Member rightly pointed out I did say that and also we have acted on the report. That is why the survey is actually taking place to pull down this building. It takes time. This is all a question of architectural survey and all these things. This is being carried out and this cannot be done overnight unfortunately.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** May I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to request the Commissioner of Police to look into the yard of the Police station. I have been there. There are much garbage left in the yard; wrecked, abandoned old vehicles and this is causing a lot of discomfort for officers working there. May I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to ask the Commissioner of Police to look into the matter?

**The Prime Minister:** As I said Mr Speaker, Sir, those who occupy the Quarters also have the responsibility. They can’t just throw the garbage there because it’s Government Police Quarters. They also have a responsibility according to the Standing Orders but I will pass this on to the Commissioner of Police.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Mr Speaker, Sir, from what we understand now is that: the occupiers will be allowed to stay there until works start. May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether it is that difficult to request a political activist to vacate one of the Quarters there because we
understand that the Commissioner of Police was supposed to obtain a Court eviction for that family to vacate the Quarters since 2011? We are in 2013 and that family is still staying there.

The Prime Minister: They went to Court actually Mr Speaker, Sir, and I understand that he is looking for a Quarter. Until he finds some other place we cannot just throw him on the street.

Mr Speaker: Next question hon. Mrs Ribot!

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS - ONE FEMALE CANDIDATE  
(No. B/221) Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the National Assembly Elections, he will state if consideration will be given for the introduction of a proposed amendment to the Constitution to provide for the mandatory presentation of a minimum of one female candidate per constituency and, if so, when.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, this Government has consistently been reaffirming its commitment to address and correct the under-representation of women in the National Assembly. The Government Programme of 2012-2015, as a matter of fact, provides that and I quote:

“Government will ensure that the country has an electoral system which is more equitable and which promotes nation building and provides for better representation of women.”

However, as I explained in my address to the nation on the occasion of the 2013 National Day Celebrations, we want to bring about constitutional changes through consultations. We want to engage the population in a national debate on these constitutional changes. Government has initiated and will take the lead in this national dialogue. As I have always been saying, Mr Speaker, Sir, changes in our constitutional regime I don’t think should reflect only the interest of leaders of parties concerned here. I think the whole approach should be to engage in this dialogue and see what other opinions we have and then the whole approach, in fact, is to strengthen democracy, not to weaken it.
Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have already announced, the Government will present a White Paper on electoral reform in the light of the various proposals made by constitutional experts, including proposals on gender fairness. This Paper will form the basis of the proposed national debate here in this House. Thereafter, the Government will come forward with a Bill, and we hope that we will get broad support from across the political spectrum.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must point out that, in the year 2000, women representation in our National Assembly was a mere 5.6%, much lower than the agreed SADC target which is 30% and amongst the lowest, in fact, if not the lowest, in the SADC region.

Mr Speaker Sir, constitutional and electoral experts agree that the major responsibility for correcting gender imbalance rests with the political parties. As a matter of fact, following the 2005 General Elections, in which the major political Parties fielded a higher number of female candidates, women representation in Parliament rose from the 5.6% to 17.14%. This figure rose further to nearly 19% after the 2010 elections.

Government has demonstrated, Mr Speaker, Sir, its commitment and willingness to encourage greater participation of women in the political life of this country. The enactment of the new Local Government Act in December 2011 was indeed a historic one to increase women participation in politics and allow them to take their rightful place in public life. Through this new law, we have made significant progress in correcting gender unfairness in local councils.

Mr Speaker, Sir, never before in the history of this country, we have had such a large number of women contesting local elections and getting elected. As a matter of fact, in the Village Council Elections held in December last, out of a total of 3867 candidates, 1174 women candidates contested the elections, representing 30.3% of women’s participation, compared to 6.9% for the 2005 Village Council Elections. Furthermore, out of the 1170 candidates elected, 297 were women, representing 25.4% as compared to 5.9% in 2005.

Similarly for the 2012 Municipal Council Elections, out of 347 candidates, there were 98 women, representing 28.2% of women’s participation, compared to 11.9% for the 2005 Municipal Council Elections. And out of 90 candidates who were elected in December last, 33 were women, representing 36%, as compared to 11.9% in 2005.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in regard to gender representation, I would also like to emphasize that some ten years back, Mauritius was ranked 14th among the 15 SADC countries. As a result of the initiatives we have undertaken for the political empowerment of women, Mauritius now ranks 6th
among the SADC countries, and I hope this will again improve with the electoral reform that we are proposing.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister whether this amendment to the Constitution cannot be proposed and brought irrespective of the long overdue electoral reform before the next General Elections?

The Prime Minister: I am very hopeful and I think it will be brought, I am hoping, this year itself to the House. We are finalising it. It is very complicated, but we are trying to finalise it and then bring this White Paper to the House, have a debate and then we will go through all that changes that we need to do at one go.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, given that, on the one hand, we have made a great step forward, as the hon. Prime Minister has just said, in local Government with women’s representation with unanimous support of the House and, on the other hand, that even when we talk of electoral reform, no proposal has questioned the three-member based Constituency. May I solemnly ask him, on behalf of the Opposition, to keep this issue separate, as hon. Mrs Ribot just said, and bring an urgent Constitutional amendment to ensure that we have, at least, one woman candidate in each Constituency come the next General Elections?

The Prime Minister: I am very sure, neither us, nor probably, the other side, have questioned this, but I want to see what the report actually says. There might be some changes that they are saying. I am not sure what they are going to say. I want to see what the report says and then bring the constitutional changes that have to be brought altogether. I do not want to do it piecemeal, one by one. In any case, we are not having an election tomorrow, as you know.

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister spoke about a White Paper to be prepared. May we know when the discussions on the White Paper will start and whether there is a time frame within which the preparation of the White Paper will be completed?

The Prime Minister: I always said, Mr Speaker, Sir, and I think, the former hon. Leader of the Opposition also said the same thing, that we should not bring electoral reform on the eve of an election. I don’t think that it is right. We are against it, you are against it and I am hoping the MSM also is against it. So, what we want to do is to bring it as soon as possible. People are
working on it. I am hoping to be able to have it - I am told - by July, but I am trying to push it earlier, if possible. We want to have it debated, here, in this House, this very year.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, a mandatory electoral gender quotas constitute the most appropriate and legitimate way of enhancing women’s representation and this has been the option of several countries. Over and above delinking the issue that we are discussing today with the Electoral Reform Project, is the hon. Prime Minister, therefore, saying that if we don’t reach an agreement on electoral reform which will be unfortunate, really will there be no constitutional amendment to enhance women’s representation?

The Prime Minister: That is a very good question. I thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition for it. No, I am not saying that. In fact, if you remember the Sachs Report - that is why I said it is more complicated than it appears - also talks of funding of political parties whom I know hon. Guimbeau is very keen on and we are also keen on. He says, for example, in the report that funding of political parties should be linked to the number of women nominated for candidature. I think that is a good thing. I don’t know whether this is what we are going to agree to, but I think it is a good thing, because this will encourage political parties to put up more women if they want to have more money from the State. Let me reassure the hon. Leader of the Opposition that - if suppose, and I hope not - suppose we don’t come to an agreement, I think we should be able to come to an agreement, but, let us suppose that we don’t come to an agreement, then I will bring these changes to delink it, as we have agreed.

Ms Deerpalsing: Mr Speaker, Sir, last time for the Municipal Elections, there was a confusion about the sanctions that the Electoral Commissioner could take for groups who would not field enough women candidates. Would the hon. Prime Minister agree that this should be taken care of?

The Prime Minister: This is also a good point that has been made by the hon. Member. In fact, there was this confusion about sanctions. I think some people raised it. In fact, we will have to take that on board as well when we are doing it.

Mr Speaker: Last question, hon. Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is aware that Mauritius is among the two only countries that have not signed the SADC Protocol on Gender
and Development which advocates gender parity in political decision-making and this Protocol is supposed to be signed by 2015 I would like to know what Government intends to do to address that issue.

The Prime Minister: I was at the Summit of the SADC. I refused to sign it, precisely, because our Constitution prevents discrimination. I cannot go and sign any memorandum. There was a lot of debate about it and they were asking me to sign it. I said: no, I cannot sign it, because it will go against our Constitution, here, in Mauritius. Once we have done the amendment that we need to do, then there will no problem for me to sign it, but not until.

CANAL DAYOT - FLASH FLOODS VICTIMS

(No. B/222) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the Scheme for the grant of a purchasing coupon of Rs100,000 to the families of Canal Dayot who have been victims of the flash floods of 30 March 2013, he will state if consideration will be given for an extension thereof to the other families island-wide who have suffered material losses as a result of the floods of 13 February 2013.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to inform the House that there is no established scheme as such for the grant of purchasing coupons for the victims of floods. However, following the floods of 13 February and 30 March 2013, Government decided to provide a symbolic support to those who have sustained substantial material losses. Some private Companies came forward spontaneously to assist Government in extending help to those affected by the natural calamities by agreeing to provide vouchers for the purchase of furniture and household appliances, and others contributed to the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund.

Vouchers were distributed to victims of the flash flood of 30 March 2013, on 05 April 2013. A second exercise of distribution of vouchers was effected on 30 April of this year to those who were affected by the floods of 13 February 2013 covering many regions of Mauritius. The exercise also included some households who were affected by the flash floods of 30 March 2013 but which, for practical reasons - one reason or another - could not be identified during the course of the first exercise. A total of 303 families benefitted from this symbolic support.
Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to point out that following declarations to the Police by those considering themselves adversely affected by the floods, identification of genuine cases was made by way of a thorough survey on sites by the Police whereby the following relevant information was gathered from the heads of households -

(i) the area of the survey;
(ii) the name of the family members;
(iii) the description of the house, and
(iv) the nature of the loss and damage.

Wherever it was practicable, photographs were taken of households identified. All the information collected was then subject to an on the spot validation exercise. This is why it took longer than some people expected.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I must also say that it is a matter of regret that some people encouraged by irresponsible individuals have tried to take advantage of the situation. The Police are dealing with these unscrupulous persons in the most appropriate manner.

I would like to point out, Mr Speaker, Sir, that I set up the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund in 1997 to cater for those who suffered losses due to hit and run accidents, injuries, fire and all these things. Since 2006 it was decided to broaden the scope of the Fund to provide financial support to other victims who have suffered other types of severe hardships. But I must also say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that it is administered by a Board and has a clearly defined set of criteria for allocation of the relief.

Mr Uteem: Mr Speaker, Sir, following the flash floods of 30 March, there was a lot of reports made to the Police and the Police have already carried out enquiries, as rightly pointed out by the hon. Prime Minister. However, up to now, many hundreds of families are still waiting and they have even demonstrated in front of the Prime Minister’s Office last week. May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is considering giving a second round of financing for those whose houses have been affected but who have not benefited from any help from this Relief Fund?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, when I gave the first series of vouchers on 05 April, on that very day, I made a speech and I explained that inevitably there will be some
genuine cases who are not found on the list, for many reasons. Sometimes, the Police say they have been to the house and the house is locked up. You can understand the house is locked up, these people must have moved somewhere else. So, they could not ascertain what they wanted to ascertain. So, I said inevitably, there would be such cases that would take place and we will correct it if they are genuine cases. In fact, for the region of Port Louis, there were 36 additional cases which were then given vouchers on 30 April of this year, when I was giving for the other victims of February. So, we have added on to the list. Some people have protested. I must tell the hon. Member that not all the cases are genuine. Some people have gone and they are adding their names on the list. We cannot just dish out money to people. This is meant to support for the genuine cases. People will enquire. I know hon. Mrs Perraud gave me a list two days ago about some people who might be genuine. We are going through the list. If there are genuine cases, we will certainly treat everybody equally.

Mr Jugnauth: I am happy to hear that Government will consider genuine cases. Can the hon. Prime Minister say what criterion has been used in order to allocate this grant to those people and secondly, for transparency sake if he can table, at least, the list of those who have benefitted? We are getting representations; at least, we can transmit those representations to Government so that the enquiry is being conducted?

The Prime Minister: In fact, the criteria are very strict. I did say, for example, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Police didn't work on its own. First of all, people went to the Police Station to say that they have been affected by the flash floods. But, that is not itself enough, then the Police go on the spot and try to see whether these houses and people were there. Sometimes, for example, Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two different families living in the same house, one on the first level and the other on the ground level. The first level has not been affected, they cannot expect then to get vouchers for that! But they all tend sometimes to say so - not everybody - I am not saying everybody. Then, as I explained, the way the Police work, first of all, they go to the Police Station or the Police go themselves. Then we also work with the NGOs and with the private sector as well as those who were concerned and people who were giving assistance on the spot. They also took a list. We also went through the whole list. Then, another section of the Police went to revalidate the list and who were supposed to get and who were not supposed to get. I must say, the criteria are strict. For example, there must be damage to furniture or to household appliances. Some people think, for example, that if water has come in their yard and
has gone up slightly, then they are entitled. They are not entitled according to these criteria. There must be substantial damage done.

I do not know whether it is a good point, but I would not mind, I have no objection, and I can understand the point of the hon. Member that they want the list. Maybe we could give it to the hon. Member if he is interested. But, the problem with the list is that people will start making politics out of it. They will start looking at what community has got what and all those things. That is why I am not too keen on that.

Mr Ganoo: Can the hon. Prime Minister give to the House the total amount of funds contributed by the private sector and other donor organisations in terms of funds and also, how much has the State disbursed so far in terms of financial assistance to the victims of the floods of 30 March?

The Prime Minister: I can, Mr Speaker, Sir. This year from January - from what I see with these floods - a sum of Rs29,112,656 was collected. I am talking about the Prime Minister's Relief Fund but, as I say, we cannot treat people unequally. So, some of them were asked to take it back to do it as vouchers, because we want to have the same treatment for everybody. We cannot give one part, vouchers and one part, money. So, some of it was converted.

As for the amount spent just for this - I thought I had it, but I cannot see it here – yes, for the companies, if the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants it specifically for these two flash floods, the sum of Rs30.5 m. was issued as vouchers in total. What was the other question?

Mr Ganoo: How much the State has spent?

The Prime Minister: Yes, that is it, Rs30.5 m. were spent - in fact, I am sorry to say, it is Rs29,112,000, I think.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Baloomoody, and last question!

Mr Baloomoody: The hon. Prime Minister mentioned that these people have to go to the Police and then an enquiry is being conducted. Is the hon. Prime Minister aware that there are many people who have already been to the Police and the Police confirmed to these people that they have completed the enquiry and they have submitted it to authorities. But, up to now, we do not know who is that authority. Is it the Ministry of Social Security? The hon. Prime Minister
now just mentioned that hon. Mrs Perraud has given a list. Where does she get that list? There are some political agents, I will say it, in Constituency No.1...

**The Speaker:** No, no, no, please I am sorry! Put the question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Baloomoody:** But, there are some people...

*(Interruptions)*

**The Speaker:** No, no!

*(Interruptions)*

Silence! I am speaking to the hon. Member! What is the problem? Yes, hon. Member, you put your question without making it a lengthy one!

**Mr Baloomoody:** My question is simple: who is that authority, apart from the Police, to whom we have to submit the enquiry? Is it to hon. Mrs Perraud, to a political agent or to an institution? Simple!

**The Prime Minister:** The hon. Member seems to forget, even the Members of the Opposition have submitted lists, I must tell him.

*(Interruptions)*

Any Member of Parliament, when he goes to his Constituency, people complain - any Member, be it the Opposition or the Government...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**The Prime Minister:** It is part of your job to take what people in your Constituency are telling you!

*(Interruptions)*

There is no harm in this! I cannot see why the hon. Member is finding this unusual! Whenever a constituent says he has a problem, the hon. Member of that Constituency can take it up. They submit the list – when I say to the authorities, first of all, the Police Station where they go to. But, that is not a complete enquiry by itself because anybody can go to the Police Station, as you
probably know, and they give their name even though they have not been flash flood victims. So, that list is then sent to the people who are looking after the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund and then they are given to different sections of the Police to go and validate it. That is how it is done.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question to hon. Jugnauth.

**Mr Jugnauth:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. With regard to the floods of 13 February, may I know, because there are some regions which were very severely affected like Gokoola, Amaury, Belle Vue Maurel, Cottage and Fond du Sac, from what I know, there might be others, from these regions have there been beneficiaries with regard to that grant?

**The Prime Minister:** In fact, I know that these regions have also been covered but, as I say, there might be some genuine cases, like there have been for the region of Port Louis, that were not on the list, and that we are going to look at.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question, hon. Dr. Sorefan!

**FOREIGN WORKERS – ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT**

(No. B/223) **Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if one Mr S. D., one Mr I. A. and one Mr S. T. a recruitment agent of Bangladeshi workers, were detained at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, on 08 March 2013 and, if so, indicate –

(a) the reasons therefor, and

(b) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, the outcome thereof.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that following a letter dated 05 March 2013 which was addressed to various institutions including the ADSU, but also addressed to my Office, the Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit based at the Airport plus the Customs personnel effected checks in the luggage of the three persons concerned on their arrival on 08 March 2013.

No incriminating articles were found in their luggage, they were allowed to leave.
I should also add, Mr Speaker, Sir, that one of these persons on the list that is, Mr S. T. on 14 December 2012, the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment had addressed a letter to the Commissioner of Police requesting that action be taken against Mr S.T., as he was allegedly involved in illegal recruitment activities. The Police started an inquiry into the matter.

Mr S.T. was convened at the CCID on 03 May 2013 after the enquiry. He confessed that he was involved in the recruitment of foreign workers from Bangladesh and India and that he was not a holder of a recruitment licence.

He was arrested and provisionally charged under section 3(1)(a) of the Recruitment of Workers Act 1993 for the offence of “Recruiting a worker without being a holder of a licence”. On the same day, he appeared before the District Court of Port Louis and he was bailed out after furnishing a surety of Rs7,000 and entering into a recognizance of Rs15,000.

He will reappear before Court on 18 September 2013 and Police has raised an objection to departure against him.

Dr. Sorefan: May we know from the hon. Prime Minister if he could inform us about Mr S. T. who came in 2006 as a machinist, was issued a press card as journalist, and his qualifications as a journalist?

The Prime Minister: I am not aware. If the hon. Member asks for the qualifications of a journalist, he may ask my good friends here. Many of them do not necessarily have the qualifications, but they are journalists!

(Interruptions)

But I am not aware, in any way, that he has got a press card as a journalist. I am not aware of that.

Mr Speaker: Time is up!

(Interruptions)

Silence! The Table has been advised that Parliamentary Question B/229 has been withdrawn.
Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I will now rule on another point of order which was, in this case, raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, following a Supplementary Question raised by the hon. Third Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes, Ms Deerpalsing, with regard to Parliamentary Question B/197.

I rule that the first Supplementary Question put by the hon. Member offended against one of the rules of Questions inasmuch as it was conveying information as to where exactly was the Lord Mayor, suggesting an answer and asking the Minister to answer for the Lord Mayor.

As for the second Supplementary Question, I ruled and I maintain that it was in order, inasmuch as the hon. Member was asking the Minister whether he was aware of a matter of fact.

I think it is a proper time to break. I suspend the sitting for one and half hours.

At 12.41 p.m the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 2.17 p.m. with Mr Speaker in the Chair.

Mr Speaker: Questions addressed to hon. Ministers. Hon. Jhugroo!

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & HR- ARCHIVES OFFICER

(No. B/231) Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the post of Archives Officer in his Ministry, he will state if same has been advertised and if so, indicate –

(a) when;
(b) the procedure followed for the selection of the candidate;
(c) the qualifications requirements therefor, and
(d) the salary scale thereof.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, on the Establishment of my Ministry, the post of Archives Officer does not exist.

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House when Mrs Saroj Beeharry was recruited in the Civil Service and in which capacity?

Dr. Bunwaree: I think we have already moved to the next question, Mr Speaker, Sir.
Mr Speaker: We are still on Question B/231. Am I right hon. Member?

Dr. Bunwaree: I just said that the post of Archives Officer does not exist on the Establishment of my Ministry.

Mr Speaker: Yes, but the hon. Minister has an answer.

Dr. Bunwaree: I have already answered. The hon. Member is coming on a question which …

Mr Speaker: The hon. Member has put a question, and you give him the same answer!

Dr. Bunwaree: I keep repeating the same answer!

Mr Speaker: Next question!

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION & HR - MRS S. B. - EMPLOYMENT

(No. B/232) Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to one Mrs S. B., he will state the capacity in which she is employed in his Ministry, indicating –

(a) her qualifications;
(b) her terms and conditions of employment, and
(c) the duties assigned thereto.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, Mrs S. B. is employed in the Ministry of Education and HR as handy worker. She is presently on leave without pay.

Regarding part (a) of the question, she holds the Cambridge School Certificate, and has credits in the following subjects; seven credits - not at one sitting altogether -

(i) Grade B - English Language, Economics, Commerce, Art, and Grade C - French, Mathematics, Travel & Tourism;
(ii) she has also prepared for HSC examinations, and I am informed she has also successfully passed an examination and secured admission for BSc Library Science Course in Hyderabad, India;
(iii) she has followed the IC3 course at the E-Government Unit of the Ministry of Education and HR, and
(iv) she is presently on leave without pay, and is preparing an examination for Diploma in Library Science, which will be held, I am told, some time this month.

As regards her terms and conditions of employment, she is governed by the laws, rules and regulations prevailing in the public service, the Public Service Commission Regulations and the provision of the PRB Report 2013.

As regards part (c), in view of her relevant skills, she has been assigned to give assistance in a team of the Library Cadre and that of the documentation Unit of the Ministry in connection with the following duties -

(i) Search and collection of information.
(ii) Scrutiny of relevant materials pertaining to the Education Sector;
(iii) Selection and categorisation of information in proper sequential and chronological order.
(iv) Input of data for record purposes.
(v) Retrieval of information as and when required.

She was paid an allowance of Rs400 monthly as approved by the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms as from February 2011 up to December 2012.

As she is on leave without pay the allowance is no longer being paid.

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House when was Mrs Saroj Beeharry recruited in the Civil Service and in which capacity?

Dr. Bunwaree: I said she was recruited in …

Mr Speaker: Well, wait a minute before you answer, hon. Minister! I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member that he is not allowed to give the name of the person. I will ask him to withdraw the name.

Mr Jhugroo: I withdraw the name and said S.B.

Dr. Bunwaree: The question was when she joined the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. Now, another question is being put. From memory, I know she was in the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations before but, as to which date exactly, it is difficult to say.

Mr Seeruttun: M. le président, est-ce que le ministre peut nous dire, au moment de son recrutement, s’il y a eu un avis de presse pour faire un appel de candidature?
Dr. Bunwaree: Pour quelle affaire?

Mr Seeruttun: Pour le poste dont on parle, l’honorable ministre!

Dr. Bunwaree: C’est le Civil Service qui est responsable. She is a member of the Civil Service. Go and put the question to the Ministry!

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House why this handy worker, who had been working at the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, was transferred to the Ministry of Education and Human Resources soon after the Minister took office as Minister of Education and Human Resources in year 2008?

Dr. Bunwaree: Well, what’s wrong in that?

Mr Seeruttun: Est-ce que l’honorable ministre peut confirmer si une voiture de l’Etat est attachée à la dame concernée?

Dr. Bunwaree: Jamais ! Ma voiture, peut-être ! Elle est une habitante de ma circonscription tout comme l’honorable membre ; il l’a connait très bien. Cette dame appartient à une famille dont les membres ont toujours été du parti MSM, depuis …

(Interruptions)

This is the fact.

Mr Speaker: No, no! According to the Standing Orders …

Dr. Bunwaree: I am saying…

Mr Speaker: Well, I am on my feet! No comment! According to the Standing Orders any supplementary question put should be pertinent to the main question. I am clear and now any answer…

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister, are you listening to me? Any answer to the supplementary question must be also pertinent to that question.

Dr. Bunwaree: The reply is coming from far because he is putting a question on a lady whom he knows very well - he knows better than I do. That lady belongs to a family who has been in the MSM since 1983…
Mr Speaker: Hon. Minister, I am on my feet!

Dr. Bunwaree: La honte ça!

Mr Speaker: Wait a minute! Cool down!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, I heard the hon. Minister of Labour say, addressing hon. Seeruttun, that he is behaving like a ‘she’. What does that mean?

Mr Mohamed: Mr Speaker, Sir, maybe, if the hon. lady would like to meet me afterwards we will get into the debate as to what it means. I don’t find anything unparliamentarily about it.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Speaker, Sir, can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the said ...

Mr Speaker: We have a problem. I want all Members to listen to me carefully. We have a problem; I am far away from the Minister or from any Member on this side. It is very difficult for me to hear when the micro is off. Sometimes it happens also that it is not recorded. So, it will be very difficult for me to decide. I rely on Members’ sense of responsibility to behave as hon. Members. Next question!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I insist on having your ruling.

Mr Speaker: Is the hon. Member standing on a point of order?

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Yes.

Mr Speaker: Ok.

Mrs Navarre-Marie: On the same point of order.

Mr Speaker: Yes, make your point of order.

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Yes. I heard the hon. Minister of Labour say that the hon. Member is acting like a ‘she’, and I want your ruling on that.
Mr Speaker: Oh, I see! I have not heard what the hon. Minister has said, but I am going to check the record and I am going to make a ruling. The hon. Member can trust me on that. Next question!

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the said lady has been offered an overseas training course and, if so, can we know when, where, in which field and for how long?

Dr. Bunwaree: C’est du jamais vu et entendu. Mais, je comprends ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

Dr. Bunwaree: Mais le conseil que je donnerai, c’est de ne pas écouter tout ce que vous avez entendu. People are trying to put you in a trap! This is absolutely false! I am not aware of this at all. Ce que vous auriez dû apprécier, c’est l’exemple que cette dame a donné. Elle est entrée avec la Forme 4 et aujourd’hui elle est en first year BSC Library Science. This is the image that we want to give at the level of the Ministry of Education.

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House for what reasons she has always worked after office hours and can we know how much has she been paid ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence! No, I do not allow this question. Next question!

Mr Jhugroo: Can I ask the hon. Minister what is the relation between Mrs S. B. and the presumed pedophile of the MITD?

Mr Speaker: No! I said the hon. Member has to put any supplementary question with regard to the gist of his own question. Next question!

DRAINS, PAVEMENTS & CANALS – CONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION

(No. B/234) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the construction/rehabilitation of drains, pavements and canals, he will state how the old precious rocks which are being removed as a result thereof are being disposed of.
The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that during construction/rehabilitation of drains, pavements and canals undertaken by my Ministry, the old precious rocks are re-used on the same sites.

However, in cases where the old precious rocks are removed and not re-used these are handed over to the local authority concerned.

Nicolay Street and Volcy Pougnet in Port Louis are two sites where old precious rocks were removed and returned to the Municipal Council of Port Louis by the RDA.

However, old precious rocks were recovered during the reconstruction of bridge over ex-railway line, along Pailles Junction Road by the RDA and a request has been made to the Municipal Council of Port Louis for necessary handing over procedures.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Speaker, Sir, this issue of old precious rocks is of importance and one aspect of it is that it dates back from colonial times. We must do all our effort to preserve these rocks. May I ask the hon. Minister if he is aware of the way that, canals and drains are now being designed and made is one of the causes of flood and overflow? Because before there were canals and they were opened and the water used to flow to the canals and to the bridge, but now that the road is tarred with different layers, they are obliged to remove the rocks and place slabs.

Can I make an appeal to the hon. Minister to review the whole system, especially in Port Louis, in cities where all these rocks, these canals are present and to limit them to the use of slabs, instead of tarring roads we must remove the layer of tar so that we can use the canals?

Mr Speaker: Hon. Member, this is not a question; but I allow your appeal.

Mr Bachoo: Now, Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, the rocks were used in the colonial times when those drains were small, but now being given that we are enlarging the drains, it is difficult for us to make use of those types of rocks. Those rocks would be extremely costly for us if we are going to undertake such types of works because now, you don’t get people who are going to prepare such rocks. The question addressed to me was: what are we doing with those rocks? In fact, we are preserving them, handing them over to the local authorities, that is, either to the Municipality or to the District Council. So, if the hon. Member is interested, he can come forward with a substantive question. As far as the construction of canals is concerned, I am
definitely going to make a detailed statement about the systems that we are utilising for the construction of canals.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Minister if he has a stock take of the precious rocks that have been removed and if he can table those records?

**Mr Bachoo:** Well, as I have just mentioned, whenever we undertake such works, for example, I had given examples of two places which I have just mentioned, that is, Volcy Pougnet and Nicolay Street, that we have already handed over to the Municipality of Port Louis. At the same time, we have got the ex-railway line along Pailles Junction Road; that too, it is in our store. We have requested the Municipality of Port Louis to do the needful to take over those rocks. So, wherever such rocks are available and we are working, we are requesting the local authority to take over those rocks. Normally, RDA does not keep those rocks.

**Mr Uteem:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Vice-Prime Minister has just mentioned that they hand over the rocks to the local authorities. Is he aware that, in relation to the canal along Mgr Leen that was damaged following the flash floods, according to my information these rocks have disappeared and are not with the local authorities? So, I would ask the hon. Minister to look into the matter specifically with respect to the canal in Mgr Leen.

**Mr Bachoo:** I will have to check the information because I am aware that there is one contractor and we have assigned certain responsibilities to him. I will have to check whether that is in the possession of the contractor or whether they have been stolen away by robbers. If this is the case, then, we have to make a statement to the Police.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Minister if he is aware of a fraudulent business in relation to the old precious rocks whereby these rocks are being racketed and are being re-sold at higher prices, sometimes Rs500 to Rs2,000 pieces? Especially, you can find these rocks in the region of Brisée Verdière.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am aware that Brisée Verdière and Mare d’Australia are the two villages in the whole country where the business of rocks is a flourishing business. But I don’t know, if the hon. Member has any information, then you can inform the Police. But, as far as I am concerned, I am convinced that those people who are doing that business are from very humble origin and that is their profession. Normally, they go in the forest and they try to remove
roches couleurs, this is what we call them. They also buy old buildings and they remove those rocks, but that does not come from the public domain.

MTPA - MR R. D. – TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

(No. B/235) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Tourism and Leisure whether, in regard to Mr R. D., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, information as to -

(a) the reasons for the termination of his appointment as the Chairperson thereof, and
(b) during his term of office, the -
   (i) number of overseas missions he has undertaken, and
   (ii) total amount of money paid out to him, as salary, per diem and gratifications.

The Minister of Information and Communication Technology (Mr T. Pillay Chedumbrum): Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I shall reply to that question on behalf of my friend, hon. Yeung Sik Yuen, who is on mission abroad.

I wish to inform the House that in accordance with Section 5(2) of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) Act, the power to appoint the Members of the Board, including the Chairperson, rests with the Minister. Section 5(3) of the Act further stipulates that every member of the MTPA Board shall hold and vacate office as the Minister may decide.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that, during the period September 2011 to January 2013, Mr R.D. effected 16 overseas missions.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am further informed that, as Chairperson of the MTPA Board, Mr R.D. was not paid any salary. Instead, he was paid a monthly fee as per the provisions of the PRB Reports and which is currently Rs28,500.

He was also paid a total amount of Rs638,444.28 as per diem and Rs44,988.32 as entertainment allowance at the approved rates. He was not paid any gratification.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre s’il est d’accord avec la déclaration du Premier ministre à l’effet qu’il y a eu beaucoup d’abus en ce qui concerne les
campagnes de promotion de la MTPA sous Monsieur Robert Desvaux? Je cite la déclaration pour dire que tout le temps ce sont les mêmes personnes qui choisissent.

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Je ne peux pas commenter là-dessus. Si le Premier ministre a fait ces commentaires, donc, *I adhere to it.*

**Mr Ramano:** M. le président, est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre si le nombre de cas de malversations qui ont été soumis à l’ICAC concernant les cas de malversations à la MTPA, si parmi ces cas, figure un contrat alloué sans appel d’offre à un Directeur d’une revue locale spécialisée dans la gestion du facebook.

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. He is going outside the purview of the question.

**Mr Jugnauth:** The hon. Minister has said that, of course, the Minister has the power to terminate the contract, but we all know that this power must be used judiciously. So, can I know from the hon. Minister the reasons behind the termination of the contract of this gentleman?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, acting under Section 5(3) of the Act, the Minister has taken the decision. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, everyone knows that in the wake of the Euro crisis our tourist industry is facing a lot of difficulties. As a consequence, it is imperative for a Minister who wants to see to it that the Ministry moves forward and we keep that growth which is underway to take appropriate measures as he may deems fit and proper. Anyway, Mr Speaker, Sir, the law is clear about it. When we look at the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, the Interpretation and General Clauses Act speaks for itself. The one who has power to appoint has the power to revoke.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Bhagwan!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Baloomoody, you are interrupting your own friend!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether there are documents in the file or is he aware that the Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Development *a demandé la réintégration* de M. Desvaux *comme* Chairperson?
Je n'ai pas terminé, s'il vous plaît. Mo pas couma Orange moi.

Mr Speaker: No. Please, proceed with your question!

Mr Bhagwan: Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether he is aware that the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development has made a strong request to Government, a menacé même le Premier ministre pour la réintégration de Monsieur Desvaux?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: The hon. Member can put the question to the Vice-Prime Minister himself. He is going to answer him.

Mr Speaker: The hon. Minister cannot answer this question.

Mr Jugnauth: The hon. Minister is replying to my question and it seems because of the Euro crisis that there has been this termination of contract. So, may I know now, whether anybody else has been appointed or is likely to be appointed in order to face the same Euro crisis that the hon. Minister is saying?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Of course, Mr Speaker, Sir. Mrs Roy who is the Permanent Secretary has been assigned Chairperson of the MTPA Board to carry on the business of the MTPA.

Mr Speaker: Last question!

Mr Jhugroo: Can I ask the Ag. Minister of Tourism and Leisure for what reasons all the blame has been put on Mr R.D. when the Minister of Tourism and Leisure, himself, is responsible of his Ministry regarding tourism?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: I am not aware about it, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Next question!
PALMAR - AKSAY LTD - STATE LAND

(No. B/236) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether he will state if a plot of State land in Palmar has been granted to Aksay Ltd. and, if so, indicate the nature of the proposed project to be implemented thereat.

Dr. Kasenally: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am advised by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security that an agricultural lease for the purpose of cultivating vegetables and fruits has been granted by that Ministry to Aksay Enterprises Ltd. over a plot of State land of an approximate extent of 6A00 at Palmar.

Mr Jugnauth: May I know who are the shareholders of this company?

Dr. Kasenally: Aksay Ltd. being a private company, I would advise the hon. Member to enquire from the Registrar of Companies.

Mr Jugnauth: Mr Speaker, Sir, the purpose of asking questions is for us to have information. A lease is being granted!

Mr Speaker: I agree with the hon. Member, but I have no control over answers.

Mr Jugnauth: Well, in that case, may I know if there has been any change in ownership of the company, in the meantime?

Dr. Kasenally: This also will be available at the Registrar of Companies, Mr Speaker, Sir.

(Interruptions)

Mr Jugnauth: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I know whether for the purpose that the lease was given that company has, in fact, fulfilled its requirements?

Dr. Kasenally: I didn’t catch the last word.

Mr Speaker: Could you repeat your question, hon. Member!

Mr Jugnauth: The purpose for which the lease has been granted by Government, whether that company has fulfilled its requirements and can the hon. Minister say what were the conditions of the lease?
Dr. Kasenally: It was an agricultural lease. I have just repeated it. I have just said it; for cultivation of vegetables and fruits and it is under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr Speaker: Yes, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that another company has been given lease next to that one in the region of Palmar for the purpose of cattle rearing?

Mr Speaker: No, I will not allow this question. The hon. Member can come with a substantive question next time.

Mr Jugnauth: Will the hon. Minister then table the copy of the lease agreement?

Dr. Kasenally: Mr Speaker, Sir, the lease is issued by the Ministry of Agro-Industry and I think this should be addressed to my colleague with a substantive question.

Mr Speaker: Next question!

TOURISM AUTHORITY – WORKERS - RECRUITMENT

(No. B/237) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Tourism and Leisure whether, in regard to the Tourism Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the number of workers recruited thereat, since 2011 to date, indicating in each case, the –

(a) post held

(b) scheme of duties. and

(c) address thereof.

The Minister of Information & Communication Technology (Mr Pillay Chedumbrum): Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I shall reply to this question. I am informed that since January 2011 to date, 107 persons have been recruited by the Tourism Authority. I am tabling the information with regard to the post held, scheme of duties and address.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, est-ce que l’honorable ministre est au courant de la déclaration de l’ancien président de la Tourism Authority, M. Wong, a l’effet qu’il faut une
enquête sur le recrutement à la *Tourism Authority* et que les directives émanant du ministre du tourisme sont très douteuses?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum**: Non, je ne suis pas au courant.

**Mr Ramano**: M. le président, venons-en au recrutement des personnes qui ont été embauchées par le *Cleaning and Embellishment Programme* de la *Tourism Authority*. Peut-il nous dire quand l’appel de candidature a été lancé et est-ce qu’il peut nous dire si dans ces recrutements, il y a 33 personnes qui viennent de Curepipe et 21 personnes qui viennent de Quatre Bornes ?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum**: Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, I must tell the hon. Member that Board approval was sought and obtained prior to initiating action for recruitment of employees. Second, a list of potential job seekers was sought from the National Empowerment Foundation. Third, interviews were conducted by a selection panel. The recommendations of the selection panel were examined by the HR committee. The recommendations of the HR committee were approved by the Board and approval of the Minister was sought in accordance with the provisions of the Tourism Authority Act 2006 prior to the issue of letter of employment to the selected candidates. As you can see, the formalities that are required have been observed.

**Mr Speaker**: Yes, hon. Ameer Meea.

**Mr Ameer Meea**: May I know from the hon. Minister - if I have heard him well, prior to the Board’s approval and to the hon. Minister’s approval - were these posts advertised?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum**: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not in a position to answer this part of the question, but I have given the series of phases where the applications have been processed to, before appointment was granted.

**Mr Ameer Meea**: Mr Speaker, Sir, please, for the sake of transparency, I will ask the hon. Minister again: were these posts being advertised? Were they put in newspapers? Yes or no?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum**: I am not aware, Mr Speaker, Sir.

**Mr Ramano**: M. le président, je voudrais savoir de la liste qui a été soumise, est-ce que parmi ces personnes, il y a un ex-conseiller du PMSD et aussi le président du PMSD du No. 17?
Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: It is not possible for me to answer this question, Mr Speaker, Sir because it is not to my knowledge.

Mr Speaker: Next question! Since hon. Mrs Labelle is not in attendance, we move to PQ No. B/239.

WASHINGTON - MAURITIAN AMBASSADOR – COURT CASE

(No. B/239) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether he is aware that a Mauritian Ambassador in post in Washington has recently been sued before Court for having refused to pay the salaries of his maid and, if so, indicate the actions, if any, taken against him.

Dr. A. Boolell: Our Ambassador in Washington…

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

Dr. A. Boolell: I am informed as follows our Ambassador in Washington employed a maid (Miss Cecila Venzon) between 21 December 2008 - 04 August 2009 whilst he was Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

In August 2009, the maid quit her job without prior notice.

Three years later, the maid made allegations of having been underpaid during the period of service to the Ambassador’s household.

The maid lodged a charge of misdemeanour in the District Court in New Jersey in September 2012.

On 29 August 2012, the Government of Mauritius waived the immunity of the Ambassador to enable him to enter an agreement plea.

In accordance with the judgment delivered on 29 November 2012 the Ambassador paid a fine of US$5000 and US$24,153.05 as restitution fees to the maid.
In a letter from the US Chief of Protocol dated 25 August 2012, it was stated that entering into an agreement plea by the Ambassador, allows the Ambassador to remain in the US representing the Republic of Mauritius.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, can I ask the hon. Minister what action has his Ministry taken against the Ambassador for his misbehaviour?

**Dr. A. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the fact that we asked for waiver of immunity, that in itself is an action. Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ambassador was called to Mauritius for consultation.

*(Interruptions)*

However, if the hon. Member wants me to take him down memory lane and remind him of what happened in 1993 when you were a Member of the Opposition, Mr Speaker, Sir, on specific case relating to a gentleman who was allegedly involved in a rape case, who had no right to immunity, but was given immunity by the then regime under the Prime Ministership of Sir Anerood Jugnauth. Now, if you want me to walk down memory lane, I will remind you of the case of a former High Commissioner whose name I won’t mention, again no waiver of immunity was given. In fact he was recalled and given a lucrative job on terms of more favourable than he had when he was High Commissioner in a particular country. Now, if you want me to proceed further down memory lane, I will remind the House, our friends sitting on the Opposition bench, of an Ambassador, whose name again I won’t mention because he is now a Barrister.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister…

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Soodhun, I am on my feet.

*(Interruptions)*

Silence! I have understood that the question of the hon. Member is what sanction have you taken against that person.
Dr. A. Boolell: Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, I stated that we have asked that there is no immunity. We have waived the immunity. Secondly, the embarrassment and shame that he has endured in itself far outweigh the punishment that was inflicted upon him by the Judge.

Mr Uteem: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Permanent Secretary of his Ministry has referred the matter to the Public Service Commission for enquiry, to see whether there is any action to be taken at that level?

Dr. A. Boolell: No, there is no need because I have stated that the punishment inflicted upon him reflects the reason as to why he can now stay in his post.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I point out to the hon. Minister that it is not the Ambassador who is the subject of shame, but the country! The whole country has been blamed; not the Ambassador!

Dr. A. Boolell: Mr Speaker, Sir, if I have to compare like with like, they should understand that the onus of shame lies upon them.

Mr Speaker: Next question!

MAURITIUS SPORTS COUNCIL – CHAIRPERSON - OVERSEAS MISSIONS

(No. B/240) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Mauritius Sports Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the number of overseas missions undertaken by Mr K. L. A, Chairperson thereof, since his appointment to date, indicating in each case, the -

(a) duration and purpose thereof, and

(b) expenses thereof, including the quantum of per diem paid to him.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Mauritius Sports Council that Mr K. L. A. has, since his appointment as Chairman of the Council on 01 December 2010, undertaken two missions overseas.

He formed part, ‘hors quota’, of the delegation, which attended the 8th Indian Ocean Island Games in Seychelles from 03 August to 15 August 2011. Expenses amounted to
Rs179,938, including Rs157,518 *per diem*, at approved rates, for board and lodging and other local expenses.

He attended the 12th Meeting of the Asian Sports for All Associations (ASFAA) held in Delhi from 26-30 September 2012. I am informed that he travelled on 22 September and was back on 04 October 2012, as per flight and seats availability.

Expenses for this mission amounted to Rs175,407, including Rs152,707 *per diem* for board and lodging and other local expenses.

ASFAA is a branch of the Trim and Fitness International Sports for all Association (TAFISA), to which the Mauritius Sports Council is affiliated since 2003.

AFSAA has, as one of its specific missions, to lead the Global Sports for All Movement for an Active World. Participation in the Congress has been helpful to the Council in its Sports Medicine Programme, and also in its Keep Fit Programme.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, le ministre des Sports, dans sa réponse, a fait allusion au voyage du président du MSC en Inde, à Delhi, du 26 au 30 septembre. De ce fait, vu que la conférence elle-même s’est tenue du 26 au 30 septembre, et que le *Chairman* du MSC a quitté Maurice le 22 septembre et est rentré au pays le 04 octobre 2012, peut-il nous dire qui a payé les frais de séjour du président du MSC en Inde du 22 au 26 septembre et du 30 septembre au 04 octobre ?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, information furnished to me by the Mauritius Sports Council is that the travel arrangements were according to flight and seat availability. I am informed that a quotation exercise was carried out and same was sent to three travel agencies, and all of them quoted for 22 September to 04 October 2012.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, j’ai en ma possession copie d’une lettre adressée au Premier ministre par le négociateur du FTU, Monsieur Atma Shanto, où il fait état de nombreux cas d’abus par le *Chairman* du MSC lui-même, entre autres le licenciement de Madame Persand en novembre 2011. Il fait aussi référence au voyage du président du MSC en Inde en septembre, où il précise qu’il y avait un vol direct, et que le président du MSC pouvait rentrer plus tôt au pays. Il y a encore d’autre points qu’il cite, et je vais, avec votre permission, déposer copie de cette lettre, M. le président. D’ailleurs, le ministre des Sports lui-même est très au courant des
relations industrielles très tendues qui existent entre le personnel du MSC et le Chairman du MSC lui-même. Je demanderai au ministre…

Mr Speaker: I am still waiting for your question!

Mr Quirin: J’arrive à la question ! De ce fait, le ministre peut-il nous dire…

Mr Speaker: Hon. Member, I have said this morning that the purpose of a question is to seek information. According to me, you have more information than the hon. Minister, and this letter is addressed to the hon. Prime Minister. The question would be proper if you address it to the hon. Prime Minister.

Mr Quirin: Non, je ne le pense pas, M. le président. Cela concerne le MSC, et c’est au ministre des Sports de répondre à la question.

Mr Speaker: No, but I said that the letter is addressed to the hon. Prime Minister!

Mr Quirin: D’accord. Mais, je dépose quand même la lettre, M. le président. Je suppose que le ministre a dû prendre connaissance de cette lettre adressée au Premier ministre. Quelles sont les actions qu’il a prises pour assainir cette situation industrielle tendue au sein du MSC ?

Mr Speaker: No, I am sorry, I have to interrupt. There are two important questions in one. First of all, you have to ask him whether he is aware of the contents of the letter. If he is aware - the answer is positive - then you will ask your second question.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am aware of such a letter, and I have requested my Permanent Secretary to conduct an enquiry.

Mr Jhugroo: Est-ce que je peux demander au ministre s’il a fait une petite enquête au niveau du ministère pour savoir s’il y avait des vols directs sur Maurice, et si oui, pourquoi il n’a pas pris le vol direct pour rentrer au pays, et s’il est resté, pourquoi est-il resté pendant tout ce temps ?

Mr Ritoo: As per information gathered from the Mauritius Sports Council, there was no other direct flight. I presume that the Mauritius Sports Council has looked into this issue before taking this flight. I have got information that there was no direct flight from 22 September - as per dates I am informed - to 26 November and from 30 September to 04 October.
Mr Bhagwan: Can I make a request to the hon. Minister? He knows perfectly the case of Mrs Persand; Mrs Persand, who is a resident…

Mr Speaker: No, don't mention name. Put your question!

Mr Bhagwan: ...Mrs P. who is a resident of Albion and a strong supporter of the Labour Party, who has permanently been harassed by the Chairperson and has been reintegrated following representations made to us and to the Minister. Can I request the Minister to enquire why this person, Mrs Persand, is being permanently harassed?

Mr Speaker: No, I told you not to mention name. Listen to me. The question is about overseas mission. So, the question of harassment is irrelevant. You will agree with me that it is irrelevant. You may come with a substantive question. Next question hon. Quirin!

SECONDARY SCHOOLS – LA RELANCE DES JEUX INTERCOLLEGES

(No. B/241) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to La Relance des Jeux Intercollèges, as announced in the Budget Speech 2013, he will state where matters stand, indicating the actions taken in relation thereto, as at to date.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, following the announcement in November 2012 of the “Relance des Jeux Intercollèges” in the Budget Speech, an Organising Committee for these Games was set up in December 2012 under the chairmanship of the President of the Mauritius Secondary Schools Sports Association (MSSSA). The Committee comprises members of MSSSA, officials of my Ministry, officials of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, and also those of the Private and Secondary Schools Authority (PSSA).

After several meetings held by the Organising Committee with other stakeholders, including the National Sports Commission of the MSSSA, which comprises Physical Education teachers, it was decided that, as from this year, athletics, which is the main event of the Inter-College Games, would be organised with a new formula, placing more emphasis on best school teams and best individual performance. This is over and above the normal regional athletics competition, which is ongoing.

With regard to other sports, that is, Volleyball, Cross-country, Table Tennis, Badminton, Football, Swimming, Basketball and Handball, competitions have been an ongoing exercise.
This year's competitions have involved 140 schools and around 15,000 students are participating.

The finals of the National Inter-College Athletics Championship will be held from 17 to 20 June 2013 at Germain Comarmond Stadium, Bambous.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, le ministre peut-il nous dire quel est le niveau de la pratique du sport dans les collèges d'État et s'ils vont tous participer à ces jeux?

**Mr Ritoo:** M. le président, nous avons presque 180 collèges mais il y a 140 collèges, membres de la MMMSA qui ont souhaité participer à cette compétition. Donc il y aura à peu près quinze mille étudiants qui vont participer aux sports inter collèges. C’est la première fois que nous avons autant de participation. En ce qui concerne le niveau, bien sûr il y a des PE teachers qui travaillent directement avec les athlètes étudiants et c’est à partir de là que les techniciens du ministère vont être présents sur le stade pour superviser et ensuite bien sûr détecter les talents pour les diriger vers les structures du ministère.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, malheureusement le ministre n’a pas répondu à ma question. Je lui ai demandé s’il est au courant du niveau de la pratique du sport dans les collèges d’État. Je n’ai pas parlé des collèges en général et si ces mêmes collèges d’État vont tous participer à ces jeux.

**Mr Ritoo:** We have approximately forty State colleges participating in this competition.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the organising committee realises that the dates proposed for intercollege sports, that is, from 17 to 20 June may coincide with the second term examinations.

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the sports will be held from 17 to 20 June 2013, then I don’t know how it is a problem; it is, at least, one month before the second term and many months before the exams. Those are the dates available.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question!

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, le ministre peut-il nous dire quelles seront les catégories qui seront concernées par ces jeux?

**Mr Ritoo:** Catégories Benjamin, Minime, Cadet, Junior, Senior.
Mr Speaker: Next question!

CPE - FAILURES – PREVOCATIONAL STREAM

(No. B/242) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the new policy to encourage students having failed the Certificate of Primary Education examinations at their first attempt to join the pre-vocational stream at secondary level, he will state the –

(a) rationale thereof;

(b) number of students concerned therewith, indicating the number thereof which have opted for the pre-vocational stream;

(c) implications for the repeaters for the Certificate of Primary Education examinations in primary schooling, and

(d) consequences for the pre-vocational sector of secondary education.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that, in November 2012, during my intervention on the Budget Speech in relation to prevocational education, I pointed out that pupils who have failed CPE at their first attempt will be allowed to join the prevocational stream while, at the same time, be given the opportunity to sit for the CPE examinations a second time. I also explained the rationale behind this new policy especially in the context of the extension of the prevocational education (PVE) programme from 3 to 4 years bearing in mind that education is compulsory up to the age of 16 and the legal age for work is also the same.

I recall, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the hon. Members from both sides of the House welcomed this initiative.

I wish to inform the House that general consensus was also reached on this measure at the Consultative Forum on the review of the CPE held on 17 December 2012.

It is worth noting that only 39.3% of pupils repeating the CPE examinations in 2012 had passed. Thus, about 60% of those children were unsuccessful in improving their results after spending one additional year in the CPE class and finally they had to join the PVE Year I the
next year. Had they not repeated CPE in their primary school, they would have gained one year at the prevocational stream.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have to reckon with the fact that the secondary school offers a new learning environment where there is a wider range of school activities and facilities. The PVE programme provides for a different pedagogy with emphasis on activity-based teaching and scope for trade and life skills where the learner is fully involved. At the same time, it is especially designed and tailor made to cater for the needs of that category of learners. Ultimately, we really want to create new conditions that would enable the learner to regain his self-esteem and live his schooling life with a positive mindset. All these factors can contribute to trigger a new interest in the child for attending school and for learning.

On the strengths of the above rationale, it was decided, Mr Speaker, Sir, to implement this specific measure as from 2013 and to give the opportunity to CPE repeaters to join PVE Year I with the possibility of sitting again for the CPE examination at the end of the year. Thus, those who pass the CPE at their second attempt will have the option of either joining the mainstream in Form I the following year or to continue in the PVE stream if they so wish. As for the unsuccessful ones, they will move to Year II of the prevocational stream without having lost one year.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that, out of 3,932 children who failed the CPE at their first attempt in 2012, 1984 have taken this option and have been admitted in PVE Year I in either a State or a private secondary school.

This measure has required the operation of additional PVE Year I sections, namely 28 in State Secondary Schools and 62 in Private Secondary Schools.

Concerning part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the house that pupils who have failed the CPE at the first attempt and who have not opted to join the prevocational stream are following CPU repeater classes in their respective primary schools as it used to be in the past and the special programme designed for them since 2011 is being pursued.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as for part (d) of the question, the prevocational stream in secondary schools offers now a four-year programme based on the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for prevocational education. This new policy provides an opportunity for CPE repeaters to join
PVE Year I with option to sit for CPE examinations at the end of the year as I have said. In this context, Year I programme has been revisited and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for prevocational education reviewed accordingly.

This measure reinforces the very foundation of prevocational education to make it an integral part of secondary schooling. The new strategic orientation addresses the current challenges to enable us to become more responsive to the needs of an economy which is becoming more skills driven.

This specially designed programme meant for pupils who cannot follow the secondary mainstream education will have the following added benefits:

(i) They will have their self-esteem enhanced especially at an early stage of their life and this will develop confidence and render secondary schooling more meaningful.

(ii) It will provide them the opportunity to gain insightful knowledge into potential areas of future employment.

(iii) They will benefit from a new Quality Assurance System.

The extended four-year programme will lead to a National Certification pitched on the National Consultations Framework recognised by the Mauritius Qualifications Authority, thus allowing pathways for lifelong learning; the four years of prevocational education will be considered as a qualification at par with the CPE, that is, MQA-level one qualification.

The new prevoc certificate will have greater recognition and proper equivalence.

The new system will thus provide for greater internal efficiency in the education system and avoid wastage of resources while, at the same time, contributing towards future employability and entry into the labour market of our youngsters.

I wish to thank the hon. Member for this interesting question.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister has given a very long answer and I hope I will be allowed a few supplementary questions.

Mr Speaker: Of course, you will.
Mr Obeegadoo: My first question is: will the hon. Minister, to set the record straight, confirm that the Opposition agreed to the extension of prevocational from 3 to 4 years but never to any issue of redeploying, if that is the term, first-time failures as they are called to prevocational education and that, in fact, this measure had never been mentioned either in the Presidential Address or in the strategy document of the Ministry of Education or any official pronouncement of Ministers of Education up until the beginning of this year?

Dr. Bunwaree: I don’t know if this has been discussed in the party of the hon. Member, but maybe he was absent when I was talking about this. This is one thing. We will check, but there is therefore a difference in policy but this is our policy.

Dr. Bunwaree: I do not know if this has been discussed in the party of the hon. Member, but maybe he was absent when I was talking about this. This is one thing.

(Interruptions)

We will check. There is, therefore, a difference in policy, but this is our policy.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary is: does the hon. Minister realise that, whereas children repeating the CPE have, at least, a 40% chance of succeeding and over the years it is between 40% and 50% of repeaters who succeeded in obtaining the CPE, as per Government policy, if those children are sent to secondary schools where there are no CPE teachers, no library facilities or any other facilities to prepare the CPE, those children are being condemned to living the rest of their lives without a CPE, which is the very basic qualification required for employment in Mauritius?

Dr. Bunwaree: I do not agree with the hon. Member. This is his way of looking at things. I have said it is an integrated programme - which I have mentioned. Now, if you read properly what I have said, those children who, unfortunately, - and they are about 60%, I said - do not succeed the second time, those children are going to continue and now the extended four-year programme, as I said, will lead to a national certification which is going to be pitched on the NQF - recognised by the MQA - and it will be considered at par with the CPE. Therefore, these children, at the end of their four-year schooling – I hope they are all going to go through, because the continuous assessment is going to take place - they are going to have this certificate which will have the equivalence of the CPE. So, there is no problem.
Mr Obeegadoo: The hon. Minister knows full well that more than half of these children drop out in the first two years and that there is no PSC recognised equivalence with the CPE. But, is he aware that children in the poorest schools have been practically forced to move out of primary to join the secondary sector? Is he aware that it is only now, in May, that CPE teachers are being called upon to be redeployed in secondary schools to take care of these children?

Dr. Bunwaree: The hon. Member is making exception become the rule. This is the first time that we have moved on this project. Of course, there are teething problems. I, myself, chaired a meeting at the end of the first term to consider all the difficulties that could have cropped up, because it is a revolution. So, I would pray the hon. Member to let this system work and then we will have always the time to discuss and see what can be done further.

Mr Obeegadoo: Will the hon. Minister not admit that the real motive is to save some low demand primary schools from closure because, right now, many private secondary schools are becoming Prevoc schools, and also to artificially raise the CPE pass rate by eliminating those who would in their majority have failed?

Dr. Bunwaree: This is an invention of the mind. I do not know where the hon. Member is taking all that from. Mr Speaker, Sir, what I can say to this House is that we have taken this measure. If they were not probably agreeable, but, at least, at the forum that we organised on CPE review, there was consensus; there was no voice against this measure. So, I went accordingly.

Mrs Navarre-Marie: I heard the hon. Minister talking about teething problems. Do we need to understand that there has been no proper planning of the programme and that these children are being used as cobaye?

Dr. Bunwaree: C’est triste ce que j’entends. Moi, utiliser les enfants comme cobayes ? On ne me connaît pas ! M. le président, il y a beaucoup de choses qui se font au niveau du CPE. Comme je disais tout à l’heure, we had a consultative forum, we discussed all these points and this is a point that has made consensus and unanimously accepted. I am coming with another project. I can already inform the hon. Members. I say that because I want to get their views. I am coming with a new project, because about 2,000 CPE students who failed the first time, have failed in only one subject and very near the 30% mark, in only one subject. So, as from this year,
in December, immediately after the CPE examination, there will be another examination for the students to sit only in the subject where they have failed to allow them to pick up.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Speaker, Sir, according to our information, it is redundant primary teachers who are being sent to secondary schools to teach those first attempt failures. I would like to know from the hon. Minister who are those redundant primary teachers? How have primary teachers been made redundant?

Dr. Bunwaree: I will have to check in what is being said. Again, I think it is exception becoming the rule. I will have to check anyway. There are supply teachers who are taken; in the supply group, there could be redundant teachers. The question that is being asked, I’ll have to look into the reason and then come up again.

Mr Speaker: Last question to hon. Obeegadoo! It has been sufficiently aired.

Mr Obeegadoo: Will the hon. Minister not agree that this is yet again an instance of Government discriminating against the poorest sections of the population and their children? Will he take a solemn undertaking before the House so that next year, he will make public the numbers of the children who will take the CPE from amongst those who are going on to secondary now and the pass rate amongst those students?

Dr. Bunwaree: The pass rate will always be…

(Interruptions)

…well, of course, disaggregated; everything will be transparent. In fact, I am looking forward to consider the results with all attention, but I do not want to remind the hon. Member what my colleague, hon. Dr. Jeetah, said the other day giving the results of the CPE examinations when he was Minister, when it was going down year after year; it was dropping.

IRON SHEETS, WOODEN POLES/CONCRETE SLABS - NEF SCHEME

(No. B/243) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the schemes for the provision of iron sheets, wooden poles or concrete slabs for the upgrading of houses, he will state the eligibility criteria to benefit therefrom.
Mr Dayal: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the upgrading of houses is a new Scheme introduced this year for which funds to the tune of Rs12 m. have been obligated.

The main objective of the Scheme is to provide continued support to vulnerable families through the improvement of their living conditions. The Scheme will be applicable to families whose monthly household income does not exceed Rs6,200 and who are registered with the National Empowerment Foundation.

Moreover, they should either be owners of their plots of land or have obtained authorisation from a landowner.

The Scheme will also cater for fire victims.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he would be able to tell us the number of people who have benefitted from the former scheme, whereby they were provided with iron sheets or bricks to upgrade their houses, not the Dcheme which started this year, but the former Dcheme which has been prevailing for a few years back now?

Mr Dayal: Mr Speaker, Sir, the question relates to eligibility criteria. I’ll certainly circulate the information.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he has received requests from the area of La Laura, Saint Pierre, Quartier Militaire and Bonne Veine for same?

Mr Dayal: Mr Speaker, Sir, we do not consider on a constituency basis, it is on a district-wise basis. I can say that we have, so far, received some 351 representations island-wise.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister to consider that the monthly earnings of Rs6,200 exclude overtime earnings, because with overtime earnings many people who are really in socio-class 5, let us say, never qualify for your help?

Mr Dayal: OK, we will look into it.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he could inform the House of the time taken between the request made and the supply of the required materials?

Mr Dayal: Mr Speaker, Sir, once the needs assessment are done, it takes around two weeks.
Mr Barbier: May I ask the hon. Minister whether on a district-wise basis, he will circulate the list of those who have benefitted from this advantage from his Ministry?

Mr Dayal: Of course, I have no problem.

Mr Ameer Meea: Can I ask the hon. Minister if he has a waiting list for the persons who have applied to this scheme and if he can give the list as he mentioned, district wise?

Mr Dayal: Definitely, I will do so.

Mr Seeruttun: M. le président, d’après le dernier Household Survey, il est clair qu’il y a l’appauvrissement de la population et pour faire face à cette situation est-ce que son ministère allait mettre des ressources nécessaires pour pouvoir répondre à ces demandes qui ne font que s’accroître de jour en jour ?

Mr Dayal: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is good to inform the House that the Ministry of Social Integration looks after what we call absolute poverty and what the hon. Member is talking about is relative poverty. But then, let me say that we have officers on the ground on a permanent basis and we always attend to the needs and we tackle the problem promptly.

Mr Speaker: Last question, Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Can I know from the hon. Minister what is the criteria used to determine whether the beneficiary will receive iron sheets or bricks?

Mr Dayal: It depends on the needs assessment.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask for a clarification because we have seen in certain cases iron sheets are provided whereas in other cases bricks are provided. So, we need to know what is the criterion on which this decision is taken?

Mr Dayal: Mr Speaker, Sir, depending on the case. It is on a case to case basis and then the criteria for qualification is that the household income must not exceed Rs6,200, and then they have their own house.

Mr Speaker: Two last questions, one for hon. Ameer Meea.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said, the household income should not exceed Rs6,200. The household income, that is, even both persons working in the house, the
total income should not exceed Rs6,200. So, may I make an appeal to the hon. Minister if he can review this figure and increase it in view of the rising prices and in view of inflation?

**Mr Dayal:** Mr Speaker, Sir, last year it was Rs5,000 and we increased it to Rs6,200. Let me inform the House that the World Bank has established between 1.25 dollars to 2 dollars per day per head as the poverty line.

*(Interruptions)*

It is good to mention what is being done elsewhere. And, in Mauritius despite the fact that we have got an extensive welfare state…

*(Interruptions)*

We have got an extensive welfare state and, on top of that, we have a Ministry of Social Integration which caters for the poor. I do not say that we will not consider the point the hon. Member has mentioned, but it depends.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can I ask the hon. Minister whether there is a system for the verification of the materials purchased regarding the fitness of the iron sheets and the quality and the fitness of the wooden poles supply and other building materials?

**Mr Dayal:** There is a monitoring system.

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, last question!

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** M. le président, puisque le ministre a bien dit que le *threshold* est une somme de Rs6,200 par famille, est-ce que je peux lui demander quelle est la différence qu’il fait vu que tous les bénéficiaires doivent avoir un *threshold* de Rs6,200 comme salaire, sur quels critères il se base pour déterminer si la personne va bénéficier des feuilles de tôles ou des briques ou des *slabs* en béton ?

**Mr Dayal:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have just mentioned that it is on a case to case basis depending on the situation and the plight of the beneficiary. And then, Rs6,200 excluding social benefits.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question Mrs Ribot!
ABUSER REHABILITATION PROGRAMME – CONSULTANT

(No. B/244) Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare whether, in regard to the Abuser Rehabilitation Programme, she will -

(a) state the -

(i) names and qualifications of the consultant whose services have been retained therefor, indicating the amount of fees paid out thereto, as at December 2012, and

(ii) number of perpetrators of domestic violence who have benefitted therefrom, and

(b) table the details thereof.

Mrs Martin: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that my Ministry is in the process of finalising the Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy for which, the services of Mr Ibrahim Koodoruth were retained. Upon finalisation of the policy, my Ministry will develop appropriate victim empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Programmes.

As such, questions pertaining to parts (a) (i), (a) (ii) and (b) do not arise.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer the hon. Minister to the Specific Objective 8 of the National Action Plan which spelt out clearly that the time frame for the formulation of an Abuser Empowerment Policy was six months. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons for such a delay.

Mrs Martin: Indeed, Mr Speaker, Sir, actually what happened was that the agreement was signed between the Ministry and the Consultant in December 2010. But then, there has been a reorientation of the policy because initially the policy was based on domestic violence. Therefore, the emphasis was on the training of gender, focal points in the public sector and the human resource personnel in the private sector. But, with the change of appellation of the Ministry in May 2010, there has been a shift in intervention from domestic violence to gender-based violence and, therefore, the policy had to be revisited and enlarged.
Mrs Ribot: Mr Speaker, Sir, in reply to Parliamentary Question B/111 on 05 April 2011, the hon. Prime Minister said that since 2008 a National Domestic Violence Committee had been set up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the composition of that Committee, the date of its last meeting and if any recommendations have been made by that committee regarding the rehabilitation of abusers.

Mrs Martin: Mr Speaker, Sir, the question relates to the Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy. I do not have this information with me. If the hon. Member comes with a substantive question, I would gladly answer it.

Mrs Ribot: I have another question, Mr Speaker, Sir. In reply to Parliamentary Question B/111, the hon. Minister talked also of draft rules which have been submitted to the Rules Committee of the Supreme Court. He even added -

“Once the rules are finalised the Protection and Domestic Violence Amendment Act will be proclaimed.”

I would like to know from the hon. Minister where matters stand and if the rehabilitation of abusers is included in those rules.

Mrs Martin: Again, Mr Speaker, Sir, like I said in my answer, we are working with regard to processing the Victim Empowerment and Rehabilitation Policy. This would be normally finalised by June this year and once this is done, we will develop appropriate Victim Empowerment and Rehabilitation Programmes. So, both of them will be taken into account.

Mr Speaker: Last question!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been brought back to 2010, we are now in 2013 and we are still working on it! Can I ask the hon. Minister, since we are still working on it, if a study cannot be carried out on the number of perpetrators of domestic violence who will have relapsed during the past five years so that the appropriate measures can be taken for their rehabilitation?

Mrs Martin: Mr Speaker, Sir, the contract and the consultancy is very clear and has specific provisions and, therefore, we cannot in the middle include other things. But, this is a good suggestion from the hon. Member and we can consider it but we cannot put it right now in that consultancy service which has already been allocated with specific provisions.
Mr Speaker: Next question hon. Li Kwong Wing!

FOREIGN CURRENCY - PURCHASE

(No. B/245) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to foreign currency, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the total amount thereof purchased by the Accountant General or any other Government Department, in 2012, indicating in each case, the -

(a) rate of purchase thereof in respect of each trade;

(b) impact thereof on the –
   (i) rupee exchange rate, and
   (ii) inflation rate, and

(c) reaction of the Bank of Mauritius in relation thereto, as at to date.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Mr X. L. Duval): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Accountant General is the only institution responsible to undertake purchases and sales of foreign currencies on behalf of Government.

During 2012, the Accountant General purchased foreign currencies equivalent to some Rs737 m. to meet expenditures under the Consolidated Fund. Some 123 foreign currency purchase transactions were effected by the Accountant General. In addition the Accountant General made seven purchase transactions for the National Resilience Fund (NRF) as he has also the responsibility for managing the balances of all Special Funds set up under the Finance and Audit Act. The purchases made by the Accountant General included purchases of the Australian Dollar, Swiss Franc, South African Rand, Indian Rupee, Canadian Dollar, Singapore Dollar, Chinese Renminbi, Japanese Yen and US Dollar.

For the NRF, the Accountant General purchased last year Rs2.57 billion from the Consolidated Fund and around Rs265 m. from the market.

I am tabling the details of all those transactions, including the rate of purchase in respect of each trade.
Mr Speaker Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, the rates are listed in the document I am tabling. All purchases made from Commercial Banks were done at the market exchange rate of the rupee, the rate being set by the tender.

For the purchases from the Consolidated Fund, this rate is determined by the Bank of Mauritius. The impact of purchase transactions is always determined by the total supply and demand conditions in the FOREX market adapt to integrated time.

As regards part (b) of the question, a large number of factors affect the exchange rate, including the Bank of Mauritius decision to build up reserves through its Operations Reserve Reconstitution to around six months of imports. This amounts to adding to over Rs20 billion of FOREX equivalent to the official reserves.

Similarly a number of factors determine the inflation rate. It is difficult to single out the impact of the FOREX transactions of Government on the inflation rate. In fact, the inflation rate in 2012 declined to 3.9% from 6.5% in 2011.

As regards the reaction of the Bank of Mauritius, the Governor expressed the view that there was a lack of coordination between my Ministry and the Bank of Mauritius on the purchases made. However, that view was based on misinformation and misunderstandings that we have since cleared. In fact, as the House may recall in my reply to PQ B/684 on 11 December 2012, I documented that there was ample coordination with the Bank of Mauritius and the Bank was fully aware of the decision of my Ministry to purchase foreign currencies in the market.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to the purchases of the Accountant General, on behalf of the National Resilience Fund (NRF), can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the NRF is a Government fund set up under statutory provisions under his responsibility?

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned these special funds are set up under the Finance and Audit Act.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Since the NRF, therefore, is a statutory fund, is the hon. Minister aware that the Banking Act, under section 56(1), clearly states that -
“The Central Bank is the banker to Government and must be the depository of all foreign exchange reserves of Government Funds.”

and under section 1 of the Banking Act, also says that -

“The role of the Central Bank is to formulate and implement exchange rate policies”

Since by buying directly from Commercial Banks the USD100 m., and on behalf of the NRF, the Minister of Finance is deliberately trying to depreciate the Rupee. Can I ask the hon. Minister why did he, therefore, seek to circumvent the powers of the Central Bank as a Government banker and frustrate the Bank of Mauritius the sole role and prerogative to determine the Exchange Rate? Is, therefore, the Minister of Finance, not breaching the law and acting illegally?

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, I will take the last part first. We have advice from the State Law Office that what was done was totally legal. As far as being the sole banker to Government, the hon. Member is unfortunately misreading the Banking Act and the Bank of Mauritius Act. The hon. Member may be a Member of Parliament, but I do not think that he is a lawyer. He will not substitute himself for the State Law Office. The State Law Office has advised that what my Ministry did was totally legal.

As far as buying directly, Mr Speaker, Sir, again, I think that the hon. Member’s memory is failing him. In 2004, the then MMM/MSM Government changed the regulations so that the Ministry of Finance would buy foreign exchange from Commercial Banks rather than from the Bank of Mauritius.

In fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, although the Bank of Mauritius has been and is still included in our request for tenders when we purchased, the Bank of Mauritius never, never participates in the tender.

As far as the depreciation of the rupee is concerned, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition is just pure hypocrisy. Pure hypocrisy!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: No, I do not like this word. Hon. Minister, please withdraw that word.

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, I withdraw that word.
Mr Speaker: Hon. Minister, you were answering very well.

(Interjections)

Silence!

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Opposition preaches one thing when they are in the Opposition and do exactly the contrary when they are in Government. That is the whole mark of the MMM. Mr Speaker, Sir, when the MMM was in Government in 2000-2005, you will be surprised to know that on the nominal effective exchange rate, the Rupee depreciated 30% during those five years. Mr Speaker, Sir, if you were to take the Rupee exchange rate vis-à-vis the Euro, during that same period of time, that is, from 2000 to 2005, the Rupee depreciated 44%.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Speaker, Sir, can the hon. Minister confirm to the House whether he has not missed or misread the reaction of the Governor of the Central Bank, who said that –

“By doing this purchase directly in the Forex Market, the Minister is destabilising the market and has deliberately circumvented his powers.”

and he is even said that …

Mr Speaker: No, I would not allow this question. Rephrase your question.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Has not the hon. Minister by intervening directly in the Forex market, raised the price of the dollar and paid a premium to the Commercial Banks, thereby, depreciating the Rupee at the expense of tax payer’s money and, therefore, lining the pockets of the fat cats in the banks?

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member may be, himself, a fat cat as far as I know.

(Interjections)

I think, he maybe a fat cat, although he does not look it.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am surprised with the question because this was fully debated some time ago and same is coming back again with the same question. There was a tender. All the 14 banks were in the tender. We got the rate that we got.
I have mentioned, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Bank of Mauritius does not participate with the tender. We cannot force it. Mr Speaker, Sir, for us, it does not participate in the tender, but whenever the Accountant General requires it, it was all done in transparency. People tend to judge according to their own standards, as we are all aware.

**Mr Li Kwong Wing:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in the hon. Minister’s reply of last November to the House, he said that he has bought foreign currency, but actually he has not taken any decision because the money is still lying in the Central Bank’s coffers. Can the hon. Minister, therefore, inform the House what is the purpose of going to the Commercial Banks and buy foreign exchange at high rate and then leaving the money back again in the Central Bank, earning no interest rate. So, what kind of fund management is this, Mr Speaker, Sir? What kind of confidence can we give to a Minister of Finance like that, who has achieved no purpose and who is flouting the law? He is a law breaker.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Member, you have put a good question, but you have given the answer yourself!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Duval:** M. le président, il nous trompe et il se trompe.

*(Interruptions)*

There was a tender and that is probably why he is aware of it and that is why the question has come up. Let him be frank. There was a request for tender, which was issued recently, asking for placement for these funds. That is why the hon. Member knows about it and he knows full well. The tender will close on Friday. We hope to be able to find a decent rate for placing this money. I will not say now, but we may have even some more interesting news for this money, which will be a great use to the economy.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have said, we cannot leave billions of Rupees unremunerated and this is billion of tax payer’s money unremunerated and the rate at which we bought the USD dollar, if you look at the rate, it is higher today. In fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, we have not lost any money.

**Mr Uteem:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Vice-Prime Minister would have it that there is a Minister of Finance, and then there is the Central Bank. They are two separate things charging
different rates. Wouldn’t the hon. Vice-Prime Minister agree with us that when it comes to national money – public funds and all these reserve funds - we should get the best rate for our rupee and go to the Central Bank and not to the commercial banks, causing them to finance the money instead of paying huge premium to the commercial banks?

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, maybe I was not clear; I grant that. Maybe, I’ll be clearer this time. We asked since 2004, when they changed the law so that Government buys from commercial banks, including in the tender, the Bank of Mauritius. Now, this is not us! In 2004, they changed the law; same as the FIU, they changed the law. Since 2004, this has been coming up. When we issue a tender, the Bank of Mauritius never responds to the tender. So, what am I going to do? I open the vault myself and take the dollars out! They don’t respond to the tender. So, when they don’t respond to the tender, we buy from the commercial banks. I don’t know whether I need to have a little diagram to explain it. It is clear to me that they don’t respond. So, we buy from where we get, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Last question, hon. Li Kwong Wing!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that he is buying the foreign currency from the Central Bank.

(Interruptions)

He is buying from the commercial banks the foreign currency.

(Interruptions)

This is what the hon. Minister is saying! You bought from the commercial banks these foreign currencies. What are you doing with these foreign currencies? Because you promised since November last year that these monies are going to be managed somehow. But where has there been any appointment of any fund management company that is managing these foreign currencies in the best interest of the country? The money is still lying in the Central Bank …

Mr Speaker: This is the problem with the hon. Member. I allowed him a question to be fair. But he puts his question, and then makes a statement! He should not make a statement.

(Interruptions)
This is a different matter! You listen to me carefully hon. Member! I said that you have the right to put the question. But why do you have to make a statement after the question?

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, I don’t know where the hon. Member obtains information on the bank accounts. I don’t know where he gets that information. But, Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned, there is a tender out. In fact, we did try to place it with Morgan Stanley, but we were not satisfied with the rate they were offering; we wanted to get more. So, there is a tender out. We have sent it to about 20 people, and that’s why it is out. I can give a copy; that’s not a problem. It will close on Friday, and from that on we will decide where to put the money. Even better than that, Mr Speaker, Sir, there may be better uses for that, but that is something else again.

HUMAN RESOURCE, KNOWLEDGE & ARTS DEVELOPMENT FUND - SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

(No. B/246) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology whether, in regard to the Scholarship Scheme granted by the Human Resource, Knowledge and Arts Development Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Fund, information as to -

(a) the date of implementation thereof;

(b) the number of students who have benefited therefrom, as at to date, and

(c) if the scheme has been recently reviewed, and if so, give details thereof.

The Minister of Education and Human Resources (Dr. V. Bunwaree): Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I will reply to this question. I am informed that -

(a) the Scholarship Scheme under the Human Resource, Knowledge and Arts Development Fund (HRKAD Fund) was launched in August 2008;

(b) the number of students who have benefited from this Scholarship Scheme stands at 1,547 as at to date;

(c) the Scheme is being reviewed at the level of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, in line with the relevant measure announced in the Budget Speech 2013.
Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to take this opportunity to reassure the House and the public that all the present beneficiaries of the HRKAD scholarships will benefit from their scholarship till completion of their studies. I think the question was raised by one hon. Member from the Opposition recently. So, I am giving the assurance of the House that those who have already started their course will get their scholarship till the end.

Mr Seeruttun: M. le président, c’est bien d’entendre qu’ils vont recevoir leur *sponsorship*. Mais, à ce jour, ils sont toujours dans l’obscurité parce qu’ils ne sont pas au courant de la décision finale. La dernière réponse qu’ils ont eue du ministère c’est qu’il n’y a pas d’argent, que les cours ne vont pas être payés, et qu’ils ne vont pas recevoir de *stipend*. Est-ce que je peux demander au ministre d’informer ces élèves qu’ils vont recevoir leur *stipend*, comme les années précédentes, et que les *course fees* vont être payés dans les plus brefs délais ?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, no problem about that. In fact, we got a letter from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development on 29 April, where it has been clearly mentioned that they will benefit from the scholarship till the end of their studies. I think the needful has already been done recently, but I’ll look into the matter. In any case, I am mentioning it here. So, we will reassure these students.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister has quoted a figure; I heard him say 1,547. So, will he tell the House why these 1,547 - these are the poorest of the poorest; those whose families earn less than Rs7,500 per month - have had fee payment suspended since the beginning of this year? Why they have been living, going through such a trauma, and why it is that it is only last week that the Minister of Finance met with the students involved to tell them yes, their fees will be paid, and they are still waiting? Why was there not proper planning by the Government to avoid these students the trauma they have been going through for the past four months?

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, the funds were there at the end of last year. So, there could have been some administrative difficulties in the meantime. But, when the point was raised, I gave the guarantee immediately to the House because I did not agree with that, and the needful has been done.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not sure I understand correctly. We are talking of more than 1,500 students who, since 01 January, until they met the Minister last week - ten days
ago - had not been informed by anybody as to what was happening. We are talking of several universities which, until now, have not been informed of what is happening. Is the Minister saying to the nation that this whole affair, this whole trauma was due to certain administrative difficulties? Is this the argument we are to buy to hide, to conceal the incompetence and heartlessness of those that govern us today?

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, a decision was taken last year, and the decision was announced publicly. Here also, the matter was raised, and when the matter was raised I gave the guarantee. When I give the guarantee, it’s the whole country, the whole nation. If we had received the claims at the level of the Ministry, of course, we would have looked into it immediately. But then, the matter has already been solved now.

At this stage the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

FLASH FLOODS – FEBRUARY & MARCH 2013 - MEASURES

(No. B/247) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the flash floods of February and of 30 March 2013, he will state the regions which have been affected, indicating the remedial actions taken as at to date and the amount of money spent in relation thereto.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Member that in a reply to PQs No. B/140 and B/163 on 16 April of this year, I have already tabled the list of regions affected during the flash floods of 13 February and 30 March 2013.

As regards the amount of money spent on the emergency projects, a total of Rs24,906,156.77 has been paid to contractors as at date for works performed so far.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that contractors are paid in relation to actual works performed on sites upon verification by the technical staff of my Ministry as and when claims are received.

Mr Seeruttun: Justement, dans sa réponse au PQ No. B/140, l’honorable vice-Premier ministre avait fait référence à certaines régions affectées par les flash floods du 13 février et du
30 mars. Il avait dit que toutes ces régions sont en train d’être réaménagées pour prévenir ce genre d’inondation. Je dois informer que, dans ma circonscription, il y a les régions de Bambous Virieux, de Nouvelle France qui ont été affectées, mais que, jusqu’à maintenant, rien n’a été fait pour réaménager ces régions. Est-ce qu’il est au courant déjà que ce sont des régions affectées, et que rien n’a été fait à ce jour ?

Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am going to circulate a list of the amount of work which had been undertaken in Constituency No. 11. I can assure the hon. Member that, at least, 57% to 80% of the work has already been completed and that whatever is left will be done, but priority is being given to the region of Port Louis because you know the reasons.

Mr Seeruttun: M. le président, dans sa réponse, le ministre avait dit que toutes les régions affectées par les flash floods du 13 février et 30 mars sont en train d’être réaménagées. A chaque fois, il parle de la somme dépensée dans la circonscription, mais le résultat c’est quoi, M. le président? On revoit les mêmes problèmes, et je dois dire que j’ai été sur place à Bambous Virieux et à Nouvelle France, rien n’a été fait encore. Ces personnes ont été affectées, M. le président. Donc, je demande aux vice-Premier ministre de faire diligence à ce que ces régions soient réaménagés comme il faut pour que dans l’avenir ces personnes ne seront pas affectées par des flash floods encore une fois.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, the Vice-Prime Minister informed that these regions will be taken on board in his answer.

Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have mentioned, I am going to submit a list of the amount of work which has already been completed in Constituency No. 11. I will request the hon. Member to go through it, because as they have mentioned that all regions will be taken care of, depending on the urgency of the situation. As at now, Port Louis deserves all our attention because this is an emergency state; we have to do some work in Port Louis and that is the reason why I am concentrating entirely on Port Louis.

Mr Uteem: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Vice-Prime Minister has mentioned that he has already tabled the list of places where work has been done. May I make a request to the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, if he could also table a list of future works, in the immediate, for the next 12 months, and their amount which has been budgeted for the region of Port Louis and other places affected by the floodings?
Mr Bachoo: Exactly. We are working on the report because there are four consultants who have been nominated in these regions so that we can go faster and most probably, let us say, within a fortnight, the works orders will have been issued and, of course, I will be pleased to submit a copy to the House.

The Deputy Speaker: Next question! Hon. Li Kwong Wing!

BANK DEPOSIT INSURANCE SCHEME - IMPLEMENTATION

(No. B/248) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme, he will state -

(a) when was it first announced;
(b) the rationale thereof;
(c) if it has been implemented and, if not, why not, and
(d) the protection currently afforded to the clients of banking and other financial services against risk of scams.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Mr X. L. Duval): Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that section 93 of the Bank of Mauritius Act 2004, which came into force in November 2004 provides for the establishment of a Deposit Insurance Scheme against the loss of a deposit in a bank.

No regulations were however made regarding the setting up of the Deposit Insurance Scheme as it is thought most appropriate to have a separate legislation to provide for the framework and modalities for deposit insurance. In this context, in the last Budget Speech, I announced that a separate Deposit Insurance legislation will be passed to protect bank depositors and guarantee the repayment of insured deposits with a view to contributing towards the stability of the financial system.

Accordingly, a draft Bill has been prepared and circulated to stakeholders for comments. The comments received, including those from the IMF and World Bank are being examined by my Ministry before submission to the Attorney General’s Office for consideration and vetting.
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, concerning part (d) of the question, I wish to underline that the Deposit Insurance Scheme is meant to provide protection specifically to all depositors of banks and non-bank deposit taking institutions and is not meant to cover against scams.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House whether all the consultations with regard to this draft Bill has been completed and when is there a timeline for the introduction of that Bill in Parliament and then, what is the limit which will be fixed for the deposit insurance cover?

Mr Duval: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have the IMF coming as a result of our request regarding the Ponzi Schemes. The IMF is coming at the end of this month itself. So, we may wait also and present this in that conjunction to the IMF.

As far as the timeline is concerned, I hope to bring it by the end of this year and, secondly, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the limit has not yet been determined.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Given the risk that there might not only be Ponzi Schemes but even Ponzi Banks, will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House what transitory and intermediate protection will be given to small depositors in the banks so as to avoid a situation like we have in Iceland and Cyprus?

Mr Duval: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Member had taken the trouble to read the last Financial Sustainability Report he would have seen, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, that, according to the Bank of Mauritius, the financial system in Mauritius, especially the banks, are stable and there is no cause for alarm.

Therefore, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, since this has been announced since 2004 by his own party at the time, I think now we can wait a few months and get a proper legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: Next question!

FIRE SERVICES - TURNTABLE LADDER LORRY

(No. B/249) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the turntable ladder lorry, bearing registration number 9 RM 13, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Fire Services, information as to -
(a) the cost thereof;

(b) the number of interventions it has carried out by night and by day respectively as at to date, and

(c) if Fire Officers have received adequate training therefor.

Mr Aimée: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Fire Services Department that the cost of the turntable ladder lorry bearing registration number 9 RM 13 is Rs35 m.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that since its acquisition, the type of fire incidents that have occurred has not warranted the use of the turntable ladder lorry.

As far as part (c) of the question is concerned, I am informed that all the targeted 40 Fire Officers have benefitted from training as designed in the bidding document. Furthermore, this team posted at the Aerial Firefighting and Rescue Unit is continuing daily practices to remain in a state of preparedness and alertness to intervene promptly and effectively. These Officers are also following an established programme of continuous training.

Mr Nagalingum: Can the hon. Minister state the names of the Fire Officers who are being provided with training and the duration of the training course to operate the turntable ladder lorry?

Mr Aimée: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said, there are 40 Fire Officers who have taken part in the training. Only 10 of them have succeeded in the training. But, we continue to train these other fire-fighters as well. The hon. Member wanted to have the names. They are Mr Almyeeah, Mr Buldawo, Mr Chamroo...

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Minister, can you afford to table the information?

Mr Aimée: Yes, it is better to table it.

Mr Nagalingum: Is the hon. Minister aware that these Fire Officers who have been provided with training do work as from 8.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m.? What will happen if the turntable ladder has to intervene in case of major fire after 4.00 p.m.?
Mr Aimée: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fact that ten of them have succeeded, there is no need to have ten at one go on the turntable ladder. The Chief Fire Officer would have a team; they will have a shift system.

Mr Nagalingum: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, all these Fire Officers who have got training work as from 8.00 a.m. till 4.00 p.m., so if there is a major fire after 4.00 p.m., what happens?

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, I think the hon. Minister has already answered this question.

Mr Aimée: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Fire Department works 24 hours a day, that is, day and night, and you have a shift system where you have firefighters available all the time at the Fire Station.

Mr Ameer Meea: Can I ask the hon. Minister where this lorry is posted, in which region, and also - I am not finished yet...

The Deputy Speaker: Please, address the Chair!

Mr Ameer Meea: In terms of height, at what level of a storey of a building this ladder can access?

Mr Aimée: Actually, the turntable ladder lorry has a 32-metre height and it is situated at Coromandel, the main place where the continuous training is done.

The Deputy Speaker: Next question! Hon. Ms Deerpsaling!

MEDINE SUGAR ESTATE – SMALL PLANTERS - REPRESENTATIONS

(No. B/250) Ms K. R. Deerpsaling (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether he will state if he has received representations from small planters to the effect that the Medine Sugar Estate is forcing them to sign contracts which violate the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act.

Mr Faugoo: Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, I am informed that fourteen small planters have obtained land under a lease agreement with Medine Sugar Estate for the cultivation of sugar cane. The lease agreement is of seven year duration (i.e. one crop cycle) and has been renewed on four occasions for some planters over the past 30 years.
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Section 19 of the Sugar Industry Efficiency (SIE) Act makes provisions for *metayers* where in consideration for the use of the land, the Lessee shares with the owner a portion of the annual sugar yield. Hence, any other lease agreement between sugar estates or any owners of land and tenants for sugar cane cultivation does not fall under the ambit of the SIE Act. Accordingly, the issue of violating the SIE Act does not arise in this particular case.

However, I must say, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, that two meetings were held upon representations made by the Lessees and also my friend, hon. Deerpalsing, who is also the Chairperson of the Commission for the democratisation of the economy, with officers of my Ministry, the Mauritius Cane Industry Authority (MCIA), a representative of the lessees and representatives of Medine Sugar Estate. From discussions and documents submitted, it appears that two new conditions are being imposed to the lessees, to their dissatisfaction, namely-

(i) a new clause has been included whereby no new renewal will be considered at the end of the present lease by Medine S.E, and

(ii) an increase in the rental payable by the small planters to Medine S.E, more specifically from Rs1,200 per *arpent* per year to Rs2,000 per *arpent* per year.

We have impressed upon Medine Sugar Estate to reconsider the issues raised by the lessees. Medine Sugar Estate has agreed to meet the lessees soon with a view to settle the matter. My Ministry, together with the MCIA, is closely following up the matter.

**Ms Deerpalsing:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the same small planters are undergoing immense pressure from Medine Sugar Estate because Medine Sugar Estate, now, in this same line, want to close the weighbridge at Reufac. On top of putting pressure on their contract, they want to close the weighbridge at Reufac so that they will have to go to Medine and, therefore, the cost would increase. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this is not against the policy of Government to help small planters not to abandon land and to continue producing sugar cane in this country?

**Mr Faugoo:** There are two issues here, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. On the question of weighbridge, I have nothing official on record confirming that there was a move from Medine to close the weighbridge. If this is being said in this House, I take the responsibility to liaise with
the Control Board and to look into this matter. As far as the politics of Government is concerned, the hon. Member is correct in saying that we want to encourage people not to abandon their land. And also, this is a classic case where Medine is trying to put conditions in the lease agreement so that at the end of this present lease agreement these people will go out of business and stop cultivating sugar cane. Even if this is outside the ambit of the SIE Act, we are, as a responsible Government and as a responsible Ministry, impressing and we are negotiating with Medine to see to it that this is not the case.

**Ms Deerpalsing:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy about the way that the hon. Minister has answered. Can I appeal to him to use the powers he has in terms of land conversion to put pressure on Medine because as the hon. Minister has said in this answer, these planters pay the Medine Sugar Estate a rental and the only difference between metayers and them is that metayer pay in terms of the sugar and they pay in terms of cash? That is why they are not under the SIE Act. Can I ask the hon. Minister to consider these small planters in the same vein as metayers and impress upon Medine Sugar Estate not to strangle them?

**Mr Faugoo:** This is a very valid and sensible suggestion, I must say, on the part of the hon. Member because, especially, when we look at the period of time during which these people have been in occupation of the land, 30 years. So, this is a valid suggestion. We will surely canvass upon this.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Next question!

**STEVENSON AVENUE & ODETTE ERNEST AVENUE, QUATRE BORNES - ACCIDENT-PRONE INTERSECTION**

(No. B/251) Ms K. R. Deerpalsing (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware of the existence of an accident-prone intersection in the surrounding of the Stevenson Avenue and the Odette Ernest Avenue, in Quatre Bornes, and if so, indicate if consideration will be given for the installation of humps thereat.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr. A. Bachoo):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to
inform the House that the intersection in the surrounding of Stevenson Avenue and the Odette Ernest Avenue in Quatre Bornes is an accident-prone intersection. Road crashes are occurring at the cross junction Stevenson Avenue and Odette Ernest Avenue due to overshooting of vehicles despite the fact that this office has recently upgraded all STOP lines and STOP signs at this locus. The vehicles involved in the right angle crashes were travelling along Odette Ernest Avenue and did not stop at the STOP lines at the cross junction. A site visit will have to be conducted together with the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development, hon. Nita Deerpalsing and TRMSU to decide on the best options to be adopted.

Ms Deerpalsing: M. le président, est-ce que je pourrais demander au vice-Premier ministre, ministre des Infrastructures publiques s’il pourrait considérer un traffic light dans cette région parce que vraiment toutes ces régions de vieux Quatre Bornes, les intersections sont des blind spots. Il faut vraiment avoir un traffic light dans cette région.

Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is, in fact, the request that the hon. Vice-Prime Minister is also making with me. That is the reason why I have mentioned that we have to conduct a site visit to see in what we are going to proceed because there are other junctions also in that region. Probably, in the days to come we are going to take the decision.

Ms Deerpalsing: M. le président, est-ce que je pourrais demander aussi au vice-Premier ministre s’il pourrait envoyer des opérateurs pour repeindre les carrés en jaune parce que tous ont été effacés. Toute cette région de vieux Quatre Bornes, il n’y a plus de road markings. Donc, si cela peut se faire dans les meilleurs délais ?

Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will do the needful.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, je suis tout à fait d’accord de l’urgence de la situation à l’angle de l’Avenue Steevenson.

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Member should come with a question!

(Interruptions)

Mr Ramano: Je voudrais savoir du ministre s’il existe une politique établie quand à l’installation des obstacles vue que nous sommes tous submergés par les demandes pour l’installation des obstacles.
Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, this question of putting up speed humps everywhere is being discouraged these days.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mohamed, you are interrupting the hon. Vice-Prime Minister!

Mr Bachoo: Once we put humps, after sometimes we start getting all types of petitions from people requesting us to remove those humps because that create noises and problems. At night people can’t sleep. There have also been complaints that, that has been causing cracks in the walls of houses as a result of which we have decided not to go ahead with the humps. Legally speaking, we are not supposed to put humps in the main road, that is only in the lateral roads. That is the reason principally why we are not going ahead with humps.

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House…

The Deputy Speaker: The hon. Vice-Prime Minister!

Mr Jhugroo: Sorry! Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House whether there is a follow up in the reinstating of the road markings along the road after a contractor has delivered the work, what we have witnessed in Quatre Bornes?

Mr Bachoo: In fact, once the contractor has completed the work, it is their duty to see to it that the roads are painted once again. But there have been cases of negligence. It is important. I have been requesting RDA to take actions.

The Deputy Speaker: Next question, hon. Uteem!

RING ROAD PROJECT (PHASE II) – LAND COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

(No. B/252) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the Phase II of the Ring Road Project, he will state the -

(a) extent and value of land which will have to be compulsorily acquired therefor, and

(b) number of people who will have to be displaced, indicating if they will be relocated or financially compensated and, if not, why not.
Dr. Kasenally: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in regard to the Phase II of the Ring Road Project, my Ministry has initiated procedures for the acquisition of some 35 portions of privately owned land in the region of Tranquebar. The 35 portions to be acquired are of an approximate total extent of 16 Arpents 40 Perches.

The value of the land to be acquired and the compensation to be offered to the owners will be determined and assessed by the Valuation Department.

As regards part (b) of the question, I have been informed that a number of portions of the privately owned land are being occupied by families other than the owners which mean squatters.

An exercise is currently being undertaken by my Ministry with the support and collaboration of the Police and “Forces Vives” (Caritas) to determine the number of families concerned.

The preliminary results of the exercise indicate that there are some 82 families occupying private land not belonging to them plus eight families residing on their privately owned land. All the residential units stand on the alignment of the Ring Road Phase II.

An exercise has also started for the identification of land where these occupiers can be relocated. Thereafter, consideration will be given for their relocation subject to them being found eligible.

Mr Uteem: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the alignment for the Phase II Ring Road has now been finalised and whether it will go through the region of Vallée Pitot?

Dr. Kasenally: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, and it has been finalised up to Vallée Pitot.

Mr Uteem: Three years ago, answering to a PQ, the hon. Minister mentioned that certain regions had been identified namely Military Road to relocate some of the families who have to be displaced. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in addition to Military Road any site has been identified to relocate any people who will have to be displaced?
**Dr. Kasenally:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think the proposed site for relocation is still being finalised, but they will include the following areas - La Cure, Dauguet, Monseigneur Leen, Monneron and Tranquebar.

**Mr Baloomoody:** May I ask the hon. Minister what consideration is being given to those who are occupying that plot of land, not as owner, but as tenant? Because Government deals directly with the owners and most of the owners are very happy to sell the land as they are not having a big rent. What consideration are we giving to those who are occupying as tenant of these premises?

**Dr. Kasenally:** I have mentioned Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, they will be relocated based on eligibility. If they are eligible, they will be given a portion of land and they can reconstruct on it.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether -

(i) he is prepared to table the alignment in the Library of the Parliament, and

(ii) whether there are any houses that are being built to relocate these people, or it is only plot of land that will be available?

**Dr. Kasenally:** Firstly, as far as alignment is concerned. This is the purview of the Minister of Public Infrastructure. I will consult him if there are no contraindications I will most gladly lay on the Table the alignment and secondly, your question was whether houses will be built for them? Well, we will have other alternatives. They can also apply to the National Housing Development Company where they will be considered.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Barbier!

**Mr Barbier:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. The hon. Minister, in his answer said that tenants who are eligible will be considered for relocation. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the criteria to be eligible for, to be able to have this dislocation scheme or whatever the hon. Minister is trying to set?
Dr. Kasenally: These are very clear. First of all, they must not be holder of a plot of State land. If a plot of State land has been allocated to them, it is illegal to allocate them a second plot. Secondly, it depends on their income and also their eligibility of according to the criteria laid down by the National Housing Development Company and the loan they can contract. They can also be contracting loans from the Mauritius Housing Corporation, depending also on their ability to pay these loans.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie!

COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT MEETING – MAURITIUS STAND

(No. B/253) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether, in regard to the Commonwealth Summit Meeting scheduled to be held in November 2013, he will state the stand of Mauritius as to the holding thereof in Sri Lanka.

Dr. A. Boolell: Mr Deputy Speaker Sir, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009, the Commonwealth leaders unanimously accepted a request from the President of Sri Lanka to host the 2013 CHOGM.

I wish to inform the House that this decision was greatly influenced by the direct intervention of Dr. the hon. Prime Minister with other Commonwealth leaders, including the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd of Australia and President Rajapakse of Sri Lanka as there was a deadlock on the issue of the country to host the next CHOGM. Indeed, the diplomatic initiatives of the hon. Prime Minister brokered a political deal whereby Australia would host the CHOGM in 2011, followed by Sri Lanka in 2013 and by Mauritius in 2015. The premise of this decision was to give Sri Lanka additional time to implement its national reconciliation policies and to comply with its international human rights obligations, including respect for human rights of minorities.

This decision was reaffirmed collectively and by consensus by the whole membership at the Perth CHOGM in 2011 in Perth, Australia. It may be recalled that it was also agreed that Mauritius would host the CHOGM in 2015. This was clearly spelt out in the Perth Declaration.

On 05 October 2012, the Commonwealth Secretary General issued an official statement confirming Colombo, Sri Lanka, as the official venue for the next CHOGM.
I also want to inform the House that in the sideline of the funeral ceremony of the late British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the hon. Prime Minister had a fruitful exchange with his Canadian counterpart, Mr Stephen Harper, on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

Moreover the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) met on 26 April 2013. Although the issue of Sri Lanka was not on the agenda of the CMAG, it was raised under the item “matters of interests” as part of the Secretary General’s general briefing. I wish to highlight here at a press conference at the end of the meeting, Secretary General Kamlesh Sharma stated and I quote:

“Sri Lanka would be hosting the 2013 CHOGM in November 2013 as planned and that no Member Government had indicated that it wished to change the venue.”

However, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada has made public statements over the human rights situation in Sri Lanka in relation to the holding of the CHOGM and has even suggested that the venue should be changed.

Our position is one which is consistent with that of the UK, Australia and like-minded Commonwealth countries which put engagement at the forefront of our approach to Sri Lanka and it is good to read what is our approach which is keen to the one to the stand taken by UK and other like-minded countries.

We will do all we can to encourage Sri Lanka to demonstrate adherence to Commonwealth values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, particularly ahead of Sri Lanka’s hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November.

However, we will continue to monitor the evolution of the Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka and take appropriate decision at the right time. It is good also to note and I have been informed by the UK High Commissioner as of now they will be the personal participation of UK Prime Minister David Cameron in the Colombo CHOGM.

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie! If the hon. Leader of the Opposition has a question, I will give him priority.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is, therefore, the hon. Minister confirming to the House and to the nation that Mauritius will participate in this Commonwealth Summit Meeting in November in Colombo?
Dr. A. Boolell: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been very clear in my reply notwithstanding the stand that we are taking. I have also stated that we will continue to monitor the evolution of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and take appropriate decision at the appropriate time.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: If the Leader of the Opposition has another question, I am ready to give way.

Mr Obeegadoo: Has the Minister been made aware of the recent report of Geoffrey Robertson on behalf of the Human Rights Committee of the Bar of England and Wales to the effect that Sri Lanka has reached the most fundamental aspect of democracy namely the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. Has he been made aware of the call by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch International to move the locus from Sri Lanka? Has he made aware of the grave political crisis in India resulting from the stand of the Indian Government and from the core by the Australian Government, the Canadian Government and the Opposition in the UK including former Minister Rifkind for the Commonwealth to reconsider the decision to have the Summit in Sri Lanka?

Dr. Boolell: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken note of comments made by former Minister of Foreign Affairs and by the Commonwealth Judiciary. However, having said so, I think the Commonwealth is monitoring the situation and I have highlighted what was the outcome of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group which is the custodian of Commonwealth democratic values. As matters stand, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are issues that have been constantly referred to the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review Committee. Having said so, I will come back to what I have stated, we are monitoring the situation very carefully in respect of whether there is full human rights compliance or not. We know that there is a report submitted in respect of Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. I had met the High Commissioner of Sri Lanka and I have impressed upon him that the findings of the report have to be implemented otherwise the consequences could be disastrous to Sri Lanka. Even I have arranged with our friends from the Tamil community to have an interface meeting with the High Commissioner in respect of sensitive issues that are yet to be resolved in Sri Lanka.
Having said so, we have to take on board that there has been a civil war which has lasted for more than 30 years Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am not going to highlight the stand taken by Mauritius and the support of Mauritius in respect of resolution which we moved at the Human Rights Council Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

The Deputy Speaker: Time is up, but I’ll allow a final question to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Ganoo: We, on this side of the House, are very surprised by the stand of Government Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. Can I put it to the hon. Minister what this reply on his part of Government monitoring the situation before the Conference which will take place in four months time. Is the Minister aware that the Sri Lankan authorities, the Government, has systematically failed to respect their commitment by continuing to harass and to torture the Tamilians in this country so much so that Mr Robertson said recently: Governments which respect the rule of law should not attend this conference in Colombo. The hon. Minister must be aware that recently, in March of this year, there was a human resolution voted by the Indian Government which condemned Sri Lanka and Government was asked to adhere to its commitment to respect human values and stop breaching human rights in their country. So what do you we have to monitor more?

Dr. Boolell: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel sorry that the hon. Leader of the Opposition has not taken on board the position of Mauritius at the Human Rights Council since May 2009, September 2011, March 2012 and more so in respect of the resolution moved by Mauritius to condemn actions taken by the Sri Lankan Government not to fully implement the findings of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report.

The Deputy Speaker: Time is up! The Table has been advised that PQs B/254, B/255 and B/259 have been withdrawn.

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE - INVESTIGATIONS

(No. B/254) Dr. S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to medical negligence, he will state if Government proposes to set up a minimum period for the carrying out of investigations into allegations thereof and to inform the families of the victims of the findings thereof.
SPEED CAMERAS - INSTALLATION POINTS

(No. B/255) Mr J. C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the speed cameras, he will state the number thereof which has recently been acquired, indicating the –

(a) installation points, and
(b) total cost thereof.

MOTION

SUSPENSION OF S.O. 10(2)

The Deputy Prime Minister: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Mr X. L. Duval) rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BILLS

First Reading

On motion made and seconded, the following Bills were read a first time -

(a) The International Arbitration (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill (No. VI of 2013)
(b) The Professional Quantity Surveyors’ Council Bill (No. VII of 2013)

At 4.26 p.m. the sitting was suspended.