

## TOURISTS - VICTIMS - CRIMINAL OFFENCES

(No. B/876) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to criminal offences, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof in which tourists have been victims, since January 2015 to date.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that from January to 11 November 2015, 261 cases of criminal offences in which tourists have been victims have been reported to the Police. 31 persons have so far been arrested.

Out of the 261 cases, there are -

- 244 cases of larceny which mostly are committed inside the hotels;
- 10 cases of embezzlement;
- 2 cases of indecent act, and
- 5 cases of other types of offences.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed by the Commissioner of Police that -

- 17 accused have been sentenced by Court in 13 of the cases;
- 2 cases have been dismissed;
- 3 cases are awaiting Court decision;
- 44 cases have been filed because the accused are unknown;
- In 12 cases the DPP has advised no further action, and
- 187 cases are still under enquiry by the Police.

Madam Speaker, such anti-patriotic behaviour towards our tourism industry, which is an important pillar of our economy, is unacceptable. As Prime Minister of this country, I am not going to tolerate that a few evil minds damage the reputation of Mauritius as a safe tourist destination.

The Ministry of Tourism and External Communications and the Police have already taken several measures to curb down criminal offences against tourists.

However, I am of the view that the measures should be further strengthened and I have requested the Commissioner of Police to come up, in consultation with the other

concerned authorities, with more stringent measures in order to avoid any criminal offences against tourists.

I would also urge owners of hotels, apartments or villas to strengthen security within their premises with a view to reducing the risk of larcenies and other offences committed against tourists.

Finally, I intend to bring amendments to legislation in order to set stringent standards for private security agencies.

**Mr Bérenger:** Madam Speaker, quite disturbing figures have been provided by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, hundreds of cases have occurred, aggressions, crimes against tourists since the beginning of the year and if I heard him correctly, only 17 people have been convicted in Court for all these hundreds of cases. Can I know from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether the main problem remains that we are dealing with tourists, that these people come here and then they return home, so when the case comes to Court, they do not turn up, they are not around? This has been the stumbling block for years. Can I know from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether new ideas are coming forward, how do we tackle that and whether there is need for emergency Court proceedings? But we must find a solution. This is the heart of the problem. Will the Rt. hon. Prime Minister agree with me?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, I understand that there is a fast track, but still - I said it in my answer - I am not satisfied that all steps are being taken because this should be reduced considerably. I do not say it is going to be eliminated because such larcenies, for example, do take place in many countries, but not to that extent. Therefore, I have already spoken to the Commissioner of Police. We are going to take steps. I wonder whether when people are caught they should not cut off their hands.

**Mr Mohamed:** The Rt. hon. Prime Minister has just said something which is - I won't use that word. Could the Rt. hon. Prime Minister explain to us - earlier on he said that there are 40 or so people whose cases have been filed, and I use his words: "because the accused are unknown". How could a case have been lodged against an accused and later on filed if he is not known? This is the question. I mean how could you file a case against an accused because he is not known and at the time of lodging it we know who the accused was? How come we do not know him afterwards?

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, the hon. Member has made his point!

**The Prime Minister:** The hon. Member is confused. I never said ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Mohamed, please!

**The Prime Minister:** There are two different cases. Cases where no accused parties are found and cases where accused parties are found; cases which are referred to DPP and DPP ultimately found that there should be no action taken, they are filed.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Jhugroo!

### **LOTTOTECH - PROFIT**

**(No. B/877) Mr P. Jhugroo (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Lottotech, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Gambling Regulatory Authority, information as to, since its coming into operation to date, the total amount of –

- (a) money -
  - (i) gambled;
  - (ii) paid to winners;
  - (iii) paid to Government in terms of taxes, and
  - (iv) unclaimed by winners, and
- (b) profit made.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, Lottotech became the Operator of the Mauritius National Lottery which is officially known as *Loterie Nationale*, on 16 April, 2009 and the Company started its operations at the end of October 2009.

With regard to part (a) (i) to (iv), the information is as follows -

- (i) total amount of money  
gambled : around Rs15.5 billion
- (ii) total amount of money paid  
to winners : around Rs8 billion
- (iii) total amount of money paid : around Rs3.7 billion, and

to Government in terms of  
taxes  
total amount of money  
(iv) unclaimed by winners and : Rs272,380,062  
paid to the National  
Solidarity Fund

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that the total profit after tax earned by Lottotech stands at about Rs436,947,403, as at September 2015.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Rughoobur!

### **INDIA-AFRICA SUMMIT - RECOMMENDATIONS**

(No. B/878) **Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the India-Africa Summit held in New Delhi in October 2015, he will state the –

- (a) measures taken at the level of his Office to ensure the close monitoring of the recommendations and commitments taken by Mauritius thereat and
- (b) expected impact thereof on the existing and emerging sectors of the Mauritian economy.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I shall reply to Parliamentary Question B/878 and Parliamentary Question B/883 together as they relate to the same issue.

As the House is aware, following an invitation extended to me by His Excellency Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, I attended the Third India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi on 29 October 2015.

I was accompanied by Senior Officials from my office and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. The hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade did not form part of the Mauritian delegation as he had to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association held in Padang, Indonesia.

I wish to inform the House that the hon. Minister was represented by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and another Senior Officer from his Ministry.

The Summit was *inter alia* attended by fifty-four African countries, represented by Kings of Morocco and Swaziland, thirty-five Heads of State and Government, six Vice-Presidents and some thirty-eight Ministers. Forty-one Heads of delegation including myself addressed the meeting.

My message focused on India-Africa relationship, the special relations binding Mauritius to India and the transformation of Mauritius as a regional investment and business hub, thus making Mauritius the natural investment gateway between India and Africa.

The Summit adopted two Outcome documents laying down the basis for cooperation between India and Africa for the next five years, namely the Delhi Declaration 2015 and the India-Africa Framework for Strategic Cooperation.

The core political message of the Delhi Declaration remains the need for an urgent reform of the United Nations including the Security Council to make it more regionally representative and democratic, the active participation of the Indian diaspora across the African continent, respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, the condemnation of terrorism and any direct or indirect support to terrorist groups, the fight against drugs and illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons and access to quality and affordable medicines amongst others.

In the margins of the Summit, I had a number of meetings, including bilateral meetings with His Excellency Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and His Excellency Mr John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana, the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry, the Indian Business Community of the PHD Chamber of Commerce, the Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of major Indian conglomerates namely Godrej Group, Bajaj Corporation, Hinduja Group, and Mahindra Group. I also met film producers, Events and Entertainment Management Association and All India Industry Association amongst others.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the meeting with His Excellency Mr Modi was held in a very cordial atmosphere. I had fruitful discussions on the following main issues -

- a) The India Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention;

- b) The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement;
- c) The Overseas Citizen of India Card, especially the eligibility criteria for Mauritians of Indian Origin, and
- d) Visa Reciprocity for Mauritian Nationals.

I am confident that my requests have been positively heard by the Indian Prime Minister.

During my visit, I also launched on 30 October 2015, the Board of Investment India Office, located within the premises of the Mauritius High Commission in New Delhi. This Office, which was long overdue, would be the first point of contact for the Indian business community and would showcase and promote all the economic sectors of Mauritius.

My intervention at the Summit and my bilateral meeting with His Excellency Mr Modi, Prime Minister of India and the other meetings with the business community included a number of important issues which are being followed up by the Board of investment and other relevant authorities.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, as I mentioned earlier, I also met with major conglomerates in Mumbai and Delhi, in various sectors such as ICT, manufacturing, logistics, hospitality and services. These conglomerates have shown enthusiastic interests in doing business and investing in Mauritius. As such, the expected foreign investment and skills that would flow when these firms expand their footprint in Mauritius would boost both the existing and emerging sectors of the Mauritian economy.

The Board of Investment is facilitating such investments accordingly, and is liaising with the conglomerates on a regular basis.

Additionally, the two outcomes documents collectively approved at the Summit make reference to the promotion of cooperation for the development of Ocean/Blue Economy, with special emphasis on collaboration in developing sustainable fisheries, combating illegal and unregulated fishing, management of marine resources, conducting hydrography surveys. They also focused on exploring non-marine resources, disaster risk reduction and developing renewable energy.

Such a commitment, Madam Speaker, would enable us to leverage on one of our largest asset base, which is our Exclusive Maritime Economic Zone, to develop our Ocean industry.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I wish to end by noting that my participation at the India-Africa Summit and my various meetings aimed at consolidating further, the economic links between Africa, India and Mauritius, and we have succeeded in this endeavour.

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Rt. hon. Prime Minister for the answer. The Rt. hon. Prime Minister mentioned about the series of initiatives taken to attract FDI from India, setting up of the Office of the Board of Investment. May I also request the Rt. hon. Prime Minister to please look into the Delhi declaration where there is this issue of the setting up of Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme by India? May I request the Rt. hon. Prime Minister in line with the decision of the Government to attract FDI, to also request the BOI to look into the whole possibility of studying the opportunities that this setting up of the Duty Free Tariff Preference Scheme by India would bring to the local Mauritian Economy, for the private sector and the SMEs as well.

**The Prime Minister:** We will look into that.

**Mr Bérenger:** The Rt. hon. Prime Minister made reference to his meeting with the hon. Prime Minister Modi, Prime Minister of India on the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention and then immediately after when he reached Bombay (Mumbai), he made a very categorical statement that no section of our Double Taxation Avoidance Convention would be amended and we know that this is the heart of the matter. The Minutes of Proceedings signed by the Financial Secretary of Mauritius provide that section 13 of that Convention which says that the Capital Gains Tax will be taxed in Mauritius where it is zero rated, has been changed and that amendment proposed says that the Capital Gains Tax will be taxed in India as from 2017. Now, this is the major section. Can I ask the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether he has obtained reassurance that this section, Clause 13 of our Double Taxation Avoidance Convention will not be amended as per the signed Minutes of Proceedings?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, I have never stated that this will not be amended and that the hon. Prime Minister has promised that it is not going to be amended. All that I said is that I made a plea - I put forward the reasons why it should not be amended and I said that I hope - I reminded the hon. Prime Minister of what he has stated when he was here on his visit, that he will do nothing that may harm the interest of Mauritius. So, I pray that he looks into the matter again, that two sections should not be touched at all, 13 and 11. Well, he has promised he is going to look into that and now as it is said in our jargon: "*la boule est dans son camp*". We wait.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bérenger:** I did not hear the Rt. hon. Prime Minister make reference to something which Mr Modi proposed formally, officially, at this India-Africa Summit meeting, that is,

that India will promote solar alliance, an alliance of more than 100 countries that are strong, of the South, of course, on this side of *l'Equateur* that are strong on the sun, on solar power, that he is going in Paris at the forthcoming Environment Summit, India is going to propose formally the setting up of such an alliance. Have we already said yes to India? Has this been discussed between our Prime Minister and Prime Minister Modi when they met?

**The Prime Minister:** I have not discussed about this question.

**Mr Mohamed:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is in relation to the question that I put, P.Q. No. B/883, which the Rt. hon. Prime Minister has decided to answer together since this is related to the same issue. The Rt. hon. Prime Minister has said that the reason - if I understood him correctly - that the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs could not attend the India-Africa Forum Summit of 2015 was because he was in Indonesia at the Indian Ocean Rim Conference for the Council of Ministers meeting. From my verification, the Council of Ministers meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim in Padang, Indonesia took place between the 20 to 23 of October whereas the India-Africa Summit took place between the 26 to the 29 of October.

So, at no time did those two meetings in any way criss-cross. Since the hon. Minister clearly was not and could not have been busy at the Indian Ocean Rim Conference between the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> at the time when the India-Africa Summit was being organised, he could not have been there since there was no more any IOR Summit, could he, therefore, explain why was it so difficult to get his Minister of Foreign Affairs...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Ask your question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Mohamed:** If Members listen, they will get it! Could he, therefore, explain why was it so difficult to ask his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade to attend the India-Africa Summit when he was not in Indonesia?

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Shakeel Mohamed, ask your question! You don't have to make a statement.

*(Interruptions)*

Don't make comments, please! You have asked your question, that's it! You don't make comments!



**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, since he had to go to that meeting, I took the decision that he should go there, and since I was going to India for that conference, there was no need for any Minister to accompany me.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Next question! Hon. Rughoobur!

### **CAP MALHEUREUX - POLICE STATION**

**(No. B/879) Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to Cap Malheureux, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if a survey has been carried out over the past four months, to assess the need for a Police station thereat and, if not, why not.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to Parliamentary Question No. B/153 wherein I had stated that I will ask the Commissioner of Police to have a second look at the request made by the inhabitants of Cap Malheureux for the setting up of a Police Station in the region.

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that Cap Malheureux does not meet the requirements for the setting up of a full-fledged Police Station for the following reasons -

- (i) it covers an area of nine square kms only;
- (ii) the population consists of only about 5,000 inhabitants;
- (iii) the number of cases reported to Police for the region over the period January to 11 November 2015 is 516, out of which 328 are mostly family disputes, 18 cases of criminal offences, 52 contraventions and 118 cases of misdemeanour;
- (iv) it is adequately policed by Grand'Baie, Grand Gaube and Goodlands Police Stations, supported by the Emergency Response Service, Divisional Support Unit, Criminal Investigation Department, Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit, *Police du Tourisme* and National Coast Guard, and
- (v) it is a fishing village which has recently started to develop into a touristic village without major commercial and entertainment activities.

Madam Speaker, in view thereof, the Commissioner of Police has again advised that, for the time being, there is no need for a Police Station in Cap Malheureux. The Commissioner of Police will continue to monitor the law and order situation to ensure safety and security of the population there.

### **AIR MAURITIUS LTD & SINGAPORE CHANGI AIRPORT- AGREEMENT**

**(No. B/880) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Agreement signed between Air Mauritius Ltd. and the Singapore Changi Airport to create an air corridor between Mauritius and Singapore, he will -

- (a) table copy thereof, and
- (b) state the expected impact thereof on Air Mauritius Ltd.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, the Agreement signed between Air Mauritius Ltd and the Singapore Changi Airport, on 14 October 2015, is part of the Government's plan to enhance connectivity between Africa and Asia through Mauritius, as announced in my Economic Mission Statement. Mauritius will thus become a gateway to Asia through Singapore for the islands of the Indian Ocean and countries of eastern and southern Africa.

The terms and conditions embodied in the Agreement are commercially sensitive and of a confidential nature between the two commercial bodies and as such cannot be disclosed.

This 'Air Corridor' offers an exceptional opportunity for growth for Air Mauritius as it taps into the tremendous potential of traffic between Asia/South East Asia and Africa. The increase of frequencies into Singapore will dovetail with the Regional Airline Project Air Mauritius Ltd is currently pursuing and will provide new opportunities to various sectors of the Mauritian economy.

What I can say, at this stage, is that the impact on Air Mauritius Ltd will be very positive. Given that Singapore Changi Airport is the seventh largest international airport in terms of passenger and air cargo traffic, this Agreement will allow the development of both passenger and cargo traffic between Singapore and Mauritius as well as between Africa/Indian Ocean countries and Asia/South East Asia, using Mauritius and Singapore as hubs.

In this respect, I would like to inform the House that, on the west side of the corridor, Mauritius has already signed Memoranda of Understanding/Bilateral Air Services Agreements with the following countries in Africa: Botswana, Comoros, Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. On the east side, Mauritius already has Memoranda of Understanding and Bilateral Air Services Agreements with the following countries: China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Further, Mauritius is in the process of finalising a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan with a view to allowing Air Mauritius to extend its network coverage in Asia by code sharing with its partner airlines to market points in Japan.

Madam Speaker, I need to point out, here, that it is not only Air Mauritius Ltd that stands to gain but the country as a whole. I repeat, this is a Mauritius Project and belongs to the Nation as a whole. This forceful move will, through the multiplier effect, have an enormous impact on the other sectors of the economy and will promote trade, business and economic development, thereby catapulting Mauritius to the next stage of growth. Through the promotion of international trade and business in the region, it will work towards turning Mauritius into a robust regional hub.

The Steering Committee set up to implement this Air Corridor Project is already at work to turn this project into reality.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I know from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister - I understand the Rt. hon. Prime Minister does not want to table the Agreement - whether Singapore Airlines, under this Agreement, has taken any commitment to route all its passengers through Mauritius to Africa, being given that Singapore Airlines already operate direct flights to several jurisdictions in Africa?

**The Prime Minister:** We are already having discussions with Singapore Airlines.

**Mr Uteem:** Madam Speaker, the air corridor is a very laudable initiative, but it needs to be backed by finance, and we need to have more aircrafts and leases. So, in that respect, may I know from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether the Government has taken any additional commitments towards Air Mauritius or under this Agreement to make sure that there are sufficient aircrafts that will service the leg Mauritius to Africa?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, we will have to wait whether the need will arise, and we are naturally prepared to lease more aircrafts.

#### **TROU AUX CERFS - WEATHER RADAR SYSTEM**

**(No. B/881) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the project for the purchase and installation of a new weather radar at Trou aux Cerfs, he will state where matters stand as to the implementation thereof, including the -

- (a) date of commissioning thereof;
- (b) construction of a new building for the housing thereof;
- (c) training of the personnel for the use thereof, and
- (d) final cost thereof.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, the project for the procurement and installation of a new Meteorological Radar System at Trou aux Cerfs is being partly financed through a Non-refundable Grant from the Government of Japan.

In regard to part (a) of the question, according to the preliminary programme of work established by the Japanese authorities, the project is now expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Concerning part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Director of the Mauritius Meteorological Services that the old building which housed the former Radar at Trou aux Cerfs has already been pulled down and the site is now ready for the construction of the new building for the installation of the new Radar System. The necessary clearances for the construction of new building have been obtained and the Japanese side is now finalising the tender procedures for the selection of the contractor. I am informed that works may start in the second semester of 2016.

In regard to part (c) of the question, I am further informed by the Director of the Mauritius Meteorological Services that his Department has already recruited a pool of ten additional Meteorological Telecommunications Technicians who will undergo specialised training in the operations of the new Radar System. So far, two of the Technicians have already received training in Radar Meteorology overseas.

In addition, the Telecommunications Engineer in post at the Mauritius Meteorological Services has benefitted from a two-week intensive overseas training in the practical operations of the Doppler Radar System.

Madam Speaker, in regard to the last part of the question, the Agreement signed between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on 10 June 2013 provided for a Non-refundable Grant of one billion seventy-nine million Japanese Yen to the Government of Mauritius, for the implementation of the Radar Project.

In December 2013, the Japanese authorities revised the quantum of the Grant element to one billion one hundred and fifty million Japanese Yen to take into account the exchange rate fluctuations.

In July this year, the quantum of the Grant element was further revised by the Japanese side to one billion three hundred and forty million Japanese Yen in view of the fact that the price for the acquisition of the new Radar System had increased compared to what had been initially foreseen by the Japanese experts.

The total amount of the Non-refundable Grant to be made available by the Japanese authorities to Mauritius for the implementation of the Radar Project now stands at around Rs387 m.. This amount has only been approved in the Japanese Budget in June this year.

In addition, in the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 Budget of the Mauritius Meteorological Services, provisions to the tune of Rs270 m. and Rs250 m. respectively, have been made to cater for expenses not covered under the Grant element for the procurement and installation of the new Radar System.

Madam Speaker, it is premature at this stage to provide an indication of the final cost of the Project.

**Mr Bérenger:** I heard the Rt. hon. Prime Minister - if I heard him correctly - say that this is a grant and we are grateful to Japan for giving us this grant, but it is a major development that will be with us for decades to come, not years. Now, we have ample confidence in our Japanese friends, but do we have expertise - the Director of the Meteorological Services - and, if not, are we - although grateful to Japan - asking the United

Nations and other organisations to advise us whether the choice of equipment that is being made is what is required for Mauritius?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, I can't answer this question. If a question is put, we will try to get the information.

**Madam Speaker:** The Prime Minister's Question Time is over! I suspend the sitting for one and a half hours.

*At 12.54 p.m. the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 2.36 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Members, the Table has been advised that PQ B/886 addressed to the hon. Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, will be replied by the hon. Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research. PQ B/920, in regard to lighting segments of the street lighting systems on the highways addressed to the hon. Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, will be replied by Dr. the hon. Minister of Local Government. PQ B/921, in regard to the pulling down of houses containing asbestos addressed to the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, will be replied by the hon. Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management. PQ B/927, in regard to river reserves at Rivière du Poste addressed to the hon. Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management, will be replied by the hon. Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security. PQ B/941, with regard to compensation to be paid to fishermen in the Port Area addressed to the hon. Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands, will be replied by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications. PQs B/901 and B/915 have been withdrawn.

Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

## **MINISTRIES & GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS – STATE LAND – PROJECTS EARMARKED**

**(No. B/885) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the plots of State land vested in the Ministries and Government Departments, he will state –

- (a) the number and extent thereof which have not been developed as at to date, indicating in each case, the project earmarked for implementation thereat and the project value thereof;
- (b) if the database in respect thereof is up to date, and
- (c) the mechanism put in place, if any, to ensure productive vesting of State land.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun):** Madam Speaker, the information sought for at part (a) of the question is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly as soon as the exercise is completed.

In respect of part (b), I wish to inform the House that my Ministry is presently working on the creation of a Digital State Land Register in line with the New Policy Framework on allocation of State land, which will capture all information regarding the status of the project for which land has been vested.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that my Ministry ensures that confirmation is obtained from the relevant Ministries and Departments to the effect that –

- (i) funds are available for implementation of the project, and
- (ii) the timeframe of the execution of the project is clearly specified.

The Ministry also ensures whether survey and planning views are favourable to the proposed project.

Failure to implement the project within the given timeframe will entail retrieval of the land which may be vested for other projects.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Thank you, hon. Vice-Prime Minister. For the past 10 years, Madam Speaker, the Government had disbursed about Rs2.2 billion for acquisition of land. Several plots of land acquired on or prior to year 2010 have remained undeveloped. Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister see to it that the Ministry does the needful to develop the land so vested and to ensure the follow-up by his Ministry? As the hon. Vice-Prime Minister has said this will be compiled. That gives us an idea that there is no database...

**Madam Speaker:** Okay hon. Dr. Sorefan!

**Dr. Sorefan:** ...and that the Vice-Prime Minister should look into it for when we do ask the question we get the answer very promptly.

**Mr Soodhun:** Very good suggestion from the hon. Member.

*(Interruptions)*

I will take cognizance of that.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Okay, next question hon. Dr. Sorefan!

### **GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS – INFRASTRUCTURE - MAINTENANCE**

**(No. B/886) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the maintenance of the infrastructure and of the buildings found on the premises of the Government Schools, he will state –

- (a) if his Ministry has developed a strategy therefor and, if so, give details thereof, and
- (b) how the monitoring thereof is carried out.

**The Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I will answer this question.

With regard to part (a) of the question, every year a priority list of infrastructural works to be effected in all schools is drawn up by my Ministry in consultation with the school community.

In fact, the maintenance of infrastructure and of the buildings found on the premises of Government schools is an ongoing exercise. The implementation of the project identified is normally carried out in a phase manner depending upon the urgency of the works to be undertaken and also on the availability of funds.

A first level of maintenance work is carried out at zonal level. The schools are presently clustered in four different zones and each zone possesses a maintenance unit which carries out maintenance works in all Government Primary and Secondary Schools throughout the year.



For maintenance works of higher complexity which cannot be undertaken by zones, they are undertaken either through the District Contractors appointed by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport or by contractors following a tendering exercise.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that monitoring and supervision of the projects are carried out by engineers and technical officers posted to my Ministry as well as engineers and architects of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport.

I am also informed that regular meetings are held on site and progress monitored accordingly.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister will agree with me that many of our infrastructure in the schools are in a terrible state and, as the hon. Minister is promoting Nine-Year Schooling, which will be on, I hope, very soon...

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, ask your question!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Will the hon. Minister see to it that the quality of learning environment and infrastructure be of good standard with no leakage of roof, well painted buildings and good electrical set up for the Nine-Year Schooling to have a good start?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We will certainly look into the matter and make sure that the environment in the school is conducive to learning.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Ameer Meea!

## **PLAINE VERTE – GYMNASIUM & MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX - CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/887) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the proposed construction of infrastructures in Plaine Verte, Port Louis, he will state –

- (a) where matters stand as to the proposed construction of a new Gymnasium on the premises of the Concorde Garden, Plaine Verte, and

- (b) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to where matters stand as to the proposed construction of a new Multipurpose Complex at Renaissance, Plaine Verte, indicating –
- (i) the amount of money earmarked therefor, and
  - (ii) if fresh bids have been launched therefor and, if not, why not.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Madam Speaker, first of all, let it be on record that I had wished at all costs to provide the communities living in Plaine Verte and the surrounding areas with the best social and sports infrastructure facilities. I had therefore proposed the site of Concorde Garden for this project. I was about to prepare the concept plan for the project and to mobilise the necessary funds for its execution.

Madam Speaker, let it be again on record that some community leaders have expressed objection to this project so much so that I am suspending for the time being the execution of this project. I am pursuing further consultations with all stakeholders of the region because I am fully convinced that this project will be in the interest of the inhabitants of the area and its surroundings.

With regard to the new multipurpose complex at Renaissance, the project was intended to accommodate a food court, ADSU Office and a renovated taxi stand. Public bids were invited on 09 June 2014 and the closing date was fixed for 11 August 2014. Only one offer was received - Island Civil & Mechanical Consulting Ltd. The Bid Evaluation Committee in its report of 03 September 2014 did not recommend the award as the only bid received was not responsive. On 03 September 2014, the Executive Committee recommended that new tenders be invited for the same project. On 08 October 2014, the Executive Committee further recommended the appointment of a consultant for the project. There was no development in the project until the Municipal Elections of 2015.

Madam Speaker, I am informed that, at a Council meeting held on 30 July 2015, Council has opted for alternate projects instead of a new Multipurpose Complex at Plaine Verte. The amount of Rs15 m. earmarked for the project has therefore been reallocated for new projects as follows –

- construction of a Chapel at La Tour Koenig – Rs7m.;
- minor upgrading works at Plaine Verte – Rs2 m.;

- other projects (yet to be identified by the Council) – Rs6 m.

Madam Speaker, I am still convinced that the inhabitants of Plaine Verte, Vallée Pitot and the surrounding areas are all deserving of upgraded sports facilities. I will therefore continue canvassing opinion and seek support for the project at Concorde Garden.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Madam Speaker, I am shocked to hear that the project of constructing a multipurpose complex at Renaissance has been cancelled. May I remind the hon. Minister that, in the area of La Rue Magon and Camp Yoloff, there are no sports facilities for people living in this surrounding region and the Municipality of Port Louis in December 2013 had already earmarked Rs15 m. for this project. May I know what is the exact reason why this project has been cancelled by the Municipality of Port Louis?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As I mentioned, Madam Speaker, I was told that the Municipal Council had decided to review the whole project. That is the answer that was given. As I mentioned the Rs15 m. has been earmarked in different places like La Tour Koenig and other places.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** In relation to part (a) of the question, I am glad to hear from the Minister that the project has been put on hold. May I suggest to the hon. Minister not to use the Plaine Verte public garden as this is the only green space that we have in Port Louis? This is the longest garden that we have in Mauritius starting to finish from Renaissance to Rue Magon. Can he consider an alternative site for this project and to remind the House that this project also did not get the approval of the Municipal Councillors of l'Alliance Lepep as well?

**Madam Speaker:** Okay!

**Dr. Husnoo:** Madam Speaker, I am a bit surprised to hear that. At one time the hon. Member is telling me not to use part of the garden...

*(Interruptions)*

Now listen, can I answer, please? But, at the same time, he is asking me why the initial project at Renaissance was not done. That is part of the public garden.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ameer Meea, allow the Minister to reply! You have had the leeway to ask your question!

**Dr. Husnoo:** So, I am a bit surprised on this. That is number one and, secondly, if the hon. Member has any good suggestion, a place which is centrally situated where women can go and do the exercise as well, if he has any alternative space, I am prepared to listen. I am open to any suggestion, thank you.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

**Mr Mohamed:** Madam Speaker, I am just trying to maybe clarify matters for the hon. Minister. First of all, I thank him for his answer. There are two parts to the question ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Mohamed, ask your question!

**Mr Mohamed:** Could the hon. Minister consider - since he has suggested to make suggestions to my hon. friend - land that is available in Camp Yoloff? There is land available in Camp Yoloff and the compulsory acquisition, I am sure, would meet the generous and kind-hearted man, who is the hon. Minister of Housing and Lands.

*(Interruptions)*

He could then also use the other generous and kind-hearted Minister of Finance and Economic Development for the benefit of the inhabitants. That is only a suggestion.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Madam Speaker, yes, I know there is land at Camp Yoloff. But I would like to make it clear that, firstly, the place I was trying to get that Sports Centre is between *Circonscription No. 2 et No. 3* because in Plaine Verte, we have about 500 people who are taking methadone and in Vallée Pitot, we have about 250 people who are taking methadone. So, I was trying to do it in a place where the inhabitants of both constituencies can enjoy this place. This is what I was trying to do. As the hon. Member is aware, nowadays, apart from these 750 people taking methadone, we have a lot of young people taking synthetic drugs. Recently, the hon. Member knows how many people have passed away in Plaine Verte in relation to drug addiction. So, what I am trying to do is trying to find a place which is fairly central so that people can enjoy.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** I have not finished with this one.

**Madam Speaker:** No, next question, please!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** This same question!

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** But, Madam Speaker ...

**Madam Speaker:** Your next Parliamentary Question!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** No, but I have not finished with this one.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ameer Meea, please sit down! I have said several times that

...

*(Interruptions)*

This is my ruling! I have to be fair to everybody. All those who have asked questions should have the right for the questions to come. I have said next question, hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Madam Speaker, this is totally unfair. I have been allowed to ask only one ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** No argument, I have said. This is my ruling.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** This is totally unfair.

### **DEVELOPMENT BANK OF MAURITIUS – RESTRUCTURISATION**

**(No. B/888) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to –

- (a) the number of employees thereof -
  - (i) whose employment have been terminated over the period January 2015 to date, and
  - (ii) in post as at to date, and
- (b) where matters stand in relation to the proposed restructuring thereof.

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, in my reply to PQ B/114 of 03 March 2015, I spelled out the various attempts to restructure the DBM.

In March 2012, the World Bank recommended the orderly closure of the DBM or the setting up of a MSE Bank with the good loans of DBM. In March 2013, Cabinet approved Deloitte's recommendation for the setting up of an MSME Bank with a strategic partner. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was selected as the best option. However, the Reserve Bank of India rejected the request of SIDBI to inject funds in the DBM.

In the meantime, the DBM continued to register heavy losses.

In 2013, the DBM lost Rs177 m. and last year total losses amounted to Rs477 m. In fact, total losses for the past 4 years amounted to Rs1.4 billion.

In spite of the building pressure to close down the Bank and with a view to preserving employment, I requested DBM to come forward with a new restructuring plan on a new mission and new vision basis.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (a) of the question, I am happy to inform the House that there has been no termination of employment over the period January 2015 to-date. Currently there are 206 employees on the permanent establishment of the DBM.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that the Board of DBM is expected to finalise its new restructuring plan by early January 2016. The DBM Board is also looking into the possibility of acting as a Debt Recovery Agency for our public sector institutions.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ameer Meea! No question! Yes, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises, when answering the question a few months ago, said exactly the same thing - that the new Board of DBM is going to consider the future of DBM. It has been more than nine months now since that statement is made and still we do not have any indication as to where DBM is going. So, what is the Board doing for all these months?

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** I wish not to agree with the hon. Member. In fact, the new Board of the DBM has been putting order in the house. I just said that the bank lost Rs487 m. last year and we are planning to break even in 2016 which involves a lot of work. Secondly, I was in a position where we had to decide whether we close down the institution or we keep it

going. Then, in the name of employment, keeping employment there, I said let us try to find a solution. So, I gave instructions to the DBM to work out a new vision, a new mission and to come forward with a formal proposal in January. I must say that this request was put to them some three to four months back - not nine months back - and I am satisfied that the Board is now on the right path and that in January DBM will have a restructuring plan which might allow Government to save the bank.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Jhugroo!

### **MAURITIUS PRIDE - SALE**

**(No. B/889) Mr P. Jhugroo (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Mauritius Pride, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited, information as to the -

- (a) date of purchase and purchase price thereof;
- (b) number of times it underwent repairs, indicating in each case -
  - (i) which entity/contractor carried out the repair works, and
  - (ii) the total cost of repairs, and
- (c) date of sale thereof, indicating the -
  - (i) mode of sale thereof, and
  - (ii) selling price thereof.

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, regarding part (a) of the question, I have been informed by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited that the M/V Mauritius Pride was purchased by the Government of Mauritius on 19 July 1990 at the price of Rs309 m.

Regarding part (b) of the question, the M/V Mauritius Pride underwent the dry-docking and major repairs every two years to renew its passenger certificate and other surveys to ensure its compliance with IMO, that is, International Maritime Organisation rules and regulations. Since 1990, the M/V Mauritius Pride underwent dry-docking and major repairs for 11 times and the different contractors were Taylor Smith, Elgin Brown & Hamer (Pty) Ltd, Chantier Naval de l'Océan Indien (CNOI) and Dormac (Pty) Ltd.

As per MSCL available records, the total cost of dry-docking and major repairs incurred and the awarded contractors since 2004 onwards were as follows –

<b>Year</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Total dry-docking and Major repairs (Rs)</b>
2004	Chantier Naval de l'Océan Indien (CNOI)	13.6 m.
2006	Elgin Brown & Hamer (Pty) Ltd (South Africa)	25.2 m.
2008	Elgin Brown & Hamer (Pty) Ltd	34.5 m.
2010	Dormac (Pty) Ltd (South Africa)	36.1 m.
2012	Elgin Brown & Hamer (Pty) Ltd	55.2 m. paid out of the invoice figure of 70.2 m.

Information regarding cost of repairs prior to 2004 is not available at the MSCL.

**Mr Koonjoo:** As far as part (c) of the question is concerned, a sale notice of MV Mauritius Pride was issued on 09 July 2014 and was published in four local newspapers including Consulates/Embassies through the Parent Ministry and the deadline for submission of offers was fixed on 11 August 2014.

The MSCL Board at its special meeting held on 13 August 2014 approved the sale of M/V Mauritius Pride to RJ Maritime Consultancy Limited being the highest bidder at the quoted price of USD 1,080,000. net of any brokerage commission and the transaction was effected on 01 September 2014.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether he is satisfied with the course of action taken by his Ministry regarding the sale of MV Mauritius Pride?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Not at all Madam.

**Mr Leopold:** I would like to ask the hon. Minister where matters stand with the replacement of Mauritius Pride and, as he may know, the contract for MV Anna is over now. How is he coping with that?

**Mr Koonjoo:** As far as MV Anna is concerned, Madam Speaker, the contract has been renewed for another three months and the last date was 12.

**Madam Speaker:** No cross-talking please. Address the Chair.



**Mr Koonjoo:** So, we have three months and, in the meantime, we are planning to find another vessel.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

**Dr. Sorefan:** The hon. Minister has given a list where the Mauritius Pride was dry dock. Is the hon. Minister aware that the Mauritius Pride was dry dock in Singapore? Can he look into it because there was no tender? I did ask a question two years ago and there was some wrong doing at that time. Will the hon. Minister see to it what happened when it went to dry dock in Singapore?

**Mr Koonjoo:** I will definitely look into it, Madam Speaker.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Being given that the Minister, in his reply, said that he is not satisfied with the sale of MV Mauritius Pride, will he consider sending this request to the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms to carry a Financial Audit with regard to the sales?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Yes. Madam Speaker, the request has already been made in the past and we are waiting for a reaction from the Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Jhugroo!

#### **MAURITIUS SHIPPING CORPORATION - RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/890) Mr P. Jhugroo (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, a list of the employees recruited thereat over the period July 2005 to December 2014, indicating in each case the –

- (a) post occupied;
- (b) mode of recruitment;
- (c) qualifications held and;
- (d) terms and conditions of employment, including the -

- (i) salary and other benefits drawn, and
- (ii) if the employment is on contractual or permanent basis.

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited is a State Owned Private Limited Company. It is governed by the Companies Act of 2001 and has a board of Directors comprising 10 Directors including a Chairman appointed by the shareholders. I wish to inform the House that the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited is currently undergoing a restructuring exercise and that the release of confidential and sensitive information may jeopardise the exercise. Although cautions related to internal affairs of the State owned companies should not be answered in a spirit of transparency and for the benefit of the House, I am nevertheless providing the following information submitted by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited -

- (a) Since July 2005, 31 recruitments have been carried out by the Company;
- (b) Recruitments have been as follows –
  - (i) three officers at Senior Technical Positions have been recruited through head hunting due to scarcity areas;
  - (ii) sea drivers living in the vicinity of the former Chairpersons whose contracts have not been renewed;
  - (iii) nine posts have been filled either through advertisement or list of employees provided by the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training, and
  - (iv) 16 persons have been recruited for minor grade post on a casual basis and thereafter confirm on a permanent basis.

As regards part (c) and (d) of the question, information is being compiled and will be tabled in the National Assembly as soon as practically possible.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister confirm to the House whether most of the recruits come from the Constituency of the former Minister?

**Mr Koonjoo:** This is a fact, Madam Speaker, and I have already mentioned this in Parliament some time back.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister confirm to the House whether most of the recruits have not the required qualifications and, if so, can the hon. Minister consider sending this to the Minister of Good Governance for enquiry.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Koonjoo:** This is another truth, Madam Speaker. Most of the people employed don't even have a CPE and it is shocking to know that the people without any certificate are drawing a salary of about more than Rs20,000 and some people who simply won SC Certificates are drawing a salary of about Rs75,000 to Rs100,000. So, I am looking forward when the restructuring will be done and we will definitely look into it. As I have said, we have already sent the file to my good friend the hon. Minister of Good Governance, we let him finish with the big problems first of all and we will take our turn.

**Madam Speaker:** Last question, hon. Jhugroo!

*(Interruptions)*

Order please!

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister confirm whether one Mr D. K. the Chief Manager of MSC who is the brother in law of the former Minister has got five automatic promotions since his recruitment despite his frequent absences from his office?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Yes, Madam Speaker. I think that was the trend in the last Government.

### **MAURITIUS SHIPPING CORPORATION - MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS - CONTRACT**

**(No. B/891) Mr P. Jhugroo (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, a list of the medical practitioners whose services have been retained thereat, indicating in each case the –

- (a) mode of selection thereof;
- (b) date of retention of services;
- (c) duration thereof, and

(d) total amount of money paid out thereto, giving a breakdown thereof.

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Mauritius Shipping Corporation Limited that it keeps a pool of Medical Practitioners and Sea Farers for which they are selected for short term contracts on a needs basis. Their monthly salaries range from Rs35,000 to Rs55,000 per month depending on experience and availability. Prior to the year 2014, hiring of Medical Practitioners and sea farers was outsourced to *Renaissance Maritime Ltée*.

I am making arrangement for a copy of the list of Medical Practitioners with relevant details to be tabled.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister inform the House what criterion is being used for the recruitment of these doctors?

**Mr Koonjoo:** I have just replied Madam Speaker. As such I don't see that there was any advertisement for recruitment of these medical practitioners.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Being given that we have many qualified doctors who are unemployed, can the hon. Minister give the chance to the doctors who are unemployed to be recruited by MSCL?

**Mr Koonjoo:** I will look into that matter, Madam Speaker.

#### **FLIC-EN-FLAC - NOISE POLLUTION - COMPLAINTS**

(No. B/892) **Mr E. Jhuboo (Third Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management whether, in regard to Flic-en-Flac and to the vicinity thereof, he will -

- (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the *Police de l'Environnement*, information as to the number of reported complaints of noise pollution emanating from bungalows mostly found within the residential areas thereof and from private clubs thereat, since January 2015 to date, indicating the outcome thereof, including the number of -
- (i) contraventions booked, and
  - (ii) fines issued, and

- (b) state if remedial measures will be taken in relation thereto, including considering a review of the prescribed standards for noise emission as are required to preserve and maintain public health and environment.

**Mr Dayal:** Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that 23 complaints have been received for noise pollution against bungalows and one against a private club from January 2015 to date. The number of contraventions established to date is 41. These 41 cases are still under enquiry and, as such, no one has yet been prosecuted.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, noise monitoring is regularly effected during weekends by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, which is the enforcing agency, and the *Police de l'Environnement*. Moreover, since October 2015, special operations targeting restaurants, nightclubs and bungalows in Flic-en-Flac are being organised by the Divisional Commander of Western Division, involving the *Police de l'Environnement*, the Special Support Unit, the Emergency Response Unit, the *Police du Tourisme*, the Western DSU and the local Police from 22 00 hours to 06 00 hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Madam Speaker, standards for noise level were based on the guidelines of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and promulgated in 1997.

In the context of the review of the Environment Protection Act (EPA), my Ministry has just carried out wide consultations with all relevant stakeholders, and the issue of revising the standards was not raised.

However, should there be any change in the guidelines of the WHO, amendments will be made accordingly to prevent community annoyance in order to maintain public health and the environment.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to inform the House that amendments are being made to the EPA to provide for fixed penalty of Rs5,000 for playing music above permissible limit and making or causing noise which constitute a nuisance.

**Mr Jhuboo:** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his answer. I am glad to hear that he is introducing a Rs5,000 penalty. But being given that these bungalows are registered at the Tourism Authority, so they hold a trade licence, could the hon. Minister consider more severe and drastic measures such as cancelling the trading licence in cases of repeated offences?

**Mr Dayal:** That can be considered.

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

## **BANK OF MAURITIUS - FORMER GOVERNOR – OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

(No. B/893) **Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to Mr M. B., former Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank, information as to the number of official missions he undertook during his terms of office, indicating in each case the cost thereof.

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, I am advised that, under section 3(3) of the Bank of Mauritius Act of 2004, it would not be appropriate to disclose the information requested.

## **MAURITIUS FREEPORT DEVELOPMENT - QUAY - OIL SPILL**

(No. B/894) **Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the oil spill which occurred on or about Tuesday 22 October 2015 at the Quay of the Mauritius Freeport Development, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Ports Authority, information as to -

- (a) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, indicate the outcome thereof, and
- (b) the measures that will be taken to prevent the recurrence thereof.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, in regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Director General, Mauritius Ports Authority, that on 22 October 2015, at about 06 53 hours, the Port Emergency Services Controlled Room was informed that small patches of fuel oil were observed near the Mauritius Freeport Development Quay located at Latanier River. The Assistant Port Master immediately activated the Port Louis Harbour Oil Spill Response Plan. The team of Port Emergency Services of the Mauritius Ports Authority was promptly mobilised and the fuel oil was circumscribed using barrier booms to prevent its migration. The oil spill was cleared using sorbent pads and dispersant.

I am also informed that an enquiry was carried out by a team from the Mauritius Ports Authority, led by the Assistant Port Master, to identify the cause of the spill and to situate responsibility. The enquiry revealed that the spill emanated from a pipeline in a bunker pit belonging to Messrs Indian Oil and located at the Mauritius Freeport Development Quay. The leakage came from a small hole on the vertical pipeline below the Mauritius Freeport Development Quay. Some provisional caulking had been put in place to mitigate the spilling of any residual fuel oil in the pipeline, and at the same time the pipeline was emptied ashore by using cisterns owned by Messrs Indian Oil.

I would like to inform the House, in line with the polluter pays principle, the Mauritius Ports Authority would pass on the costs for removing and eliminating the polluting substance to Messrs Indian Oil. These include cost of material, equipment and human resources mobilised.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (b) of the question, the Director General of the Mauritius Ports Authority has informed that Messrs Indian Oil has been instructed not to use this fuel oil pipeline for future bunkering activities, until further notice. Furthermore, the company has been requested to carry out a thorough examination of the entire fuel oil pipeline running from the company's depot up to the Mauritius Freeport Development quay. This examination would have to take on board the following -

- a thickness test along the entire pipeline, and
- a hydrostatic pressure test to identify any other potential leaks on the pipeline.

The Mauritius Ports Authority will authorise the use of the fuel oil pipeline after the above tests have been carried out and relevant remedial works are undertaken.

Madam Speaker, in view of preventing the recurrence of oil spill, the Mauritius Ports Authority has requested the four oil companies to carry out a survey of all pipelines running in the port area. Their reports are awaited. In addition, the Mauritius Ports Authority technicians have started a physical inspection of all the petroleum pipelines running under the quays.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Minister whether there is an emergency plan if ever there is a disaster, which I hope never happens here in Mauritius? But if ever it did happen, do we have an emergency plan to deal with such type of catastrophe?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Yes, Madam Speaker, I just mentioned that there is the Oil Spill Response Plan which was activated.

### **FINANCIAL SERVICES - OMBUDSPERSON**

**(No. B/895) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the protection of borrowers and the rationalization of charges imposed by banks and other financial institutions, he will state if an Ombudsperson for Financial Institutions has been appointed, as announced in the 2014-2015 Budget Speech, indicating the compatibility of the said Ombudsperson in relation to the responsibility of the Bank of Mauritius.

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, in order to protect consumers of financial services products, a consultative document has already been prepared for the setting up of an Office of the Ombudsperson for Financial Services. The consultative document has been submitted to the Bank of Mauritius and the Financial Services Commission for their views.

The document provides that the Ombudsperson for Financial Services shall deal with complaints made by consumers of financial services, covering both banking and non-banking sectors.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Banking Act and the Financial Services Act already provide for consumers of financial services to make their complaints against financial institutions to their respective regulators.

The proposed legislation provides that, when complainants do not obtain satisfaction from the regulatory bodies, they may file their complaints to the Ombudsperson for redress. The Ombudsperson, in such circumstances, may convene the financial institution concerned or the relevant regulatory body, before making any award. It is clear that the Ombudsperson will deal with individual grievances of the public against financial institutions rather than interfering in the regulatory functions of the Central Bank and the Financial Services Commission.

### **SMART CITIES - LAND CONVERSION**

**(No. B/896) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the Smart Cities, he will state the extent of agricultural, of forests and of reserves land that will need to be converted for the implementation thereof.

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the Board of Investment has received as at to date 17 proposals for implementation of Smart City Projects. According to records available at my Ministry, out of the 17 promoters, seven had already been granted Land Conversion Permits for large plots of agricultural lands prior to 18 June 2015, that is, well before the Smart City Scheme was introduced.

The total area of agricultural lands for which Land Conversion Permits was issued to the said seven promoters by my Ministry is estimated at 2,781 *arpents*, of which conversion permits were granted after 18 June 2015 for only 99 *arpents*. However, at this stage, there are no clear indications as to whether these promoters intend to use all lands issued with conversion permits for implementation of Smart City Projects per se or they would need to secure conversion permits on other agricultural lands for the stated purpose.



Further, I wish to inform the House that my Ministry has so far received one application for land conversion specifically in respect of the Smart City project which was filed by the Omnicane Limited for a land area of 7.36 *arpents*.

In the absence of new applications for land conversion from prospective promoters, I am, therefore, not in a position to give reliable estimates of extent of agricultural lands that will need to be converted for the implementation of Smart City projects.

Madam Speaker, I would also invite the hon. Member to refer to the reply which the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development made to PQ B/784 at the sitting of 03 November 2015 dealing with the same subject matter and where additional information has already been given.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The hon. Minister just mentioned that he is not in a position to give the amount of land that has been converted for the implementation of the Smart City projects. May I know from the hon. Minister, bearing in mind the policy of agriculture and food security, whether at his Ministry or at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development they have targeted an aggregate amount of land that would be used for Smart City and not beyond that amount? So, if already earmarked, what would be the maximum amount of agricultural land that would be allowed to be converted?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Speaker, I must say, at this stage, I am not in a position to give that information, given that we have not received, as yet, those applications for land conversion. But probably in the months or years to come, as we get the proposals at our Ministry, we will be in a better position to provide that kind of information.

**Mr Jahangeer:** Madam Speaker, can the hon. Minister confirm if geotechnical studies have been carried out for deposit of groundwater before granting these lands in view of scarcity of water?

**Mr Seeruttun:** With regard to water problem on land where there are boreholes that are exploited at the level of the Ministry of Public Utilities - they deal with that issue - and whenever there are requests made for any land conversion, the representative of that Ministry has to give the clearance whether we should go ahead or not with a particular land conversion. So, we do have members of that particular Ministry who sit on the committee to provide any clarifications or clearances once any such application is made.

## STATE LAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY – UNIVERSITIES -CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/897) Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the project for the construction of universities, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Land Development Company Ltd., information as to-

- (a) the amount of funds invested therein as at to date, indicating the -
  - (i) names of the consultants and of the selected contractors therefor, and
  - (ii) expected completion dates thereof, and
- (b) if the Company is exempted from the application of the provisions of the Public Procurement Act.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that, in 2011, Government took the decision to decentralised the Tertiary Education infrastructure with the setting up of university campuses at Pamplemousses, Montagne Blanche and Réduit.

In this context, a Special Purpose Vehicle, the Knowledge Parks Ltd (KPL) was created on 15 May 2013, to own and manage the three campuses. The State Land Development Co Ltd (SLDC) was appointed as the Project Implementing Agency.

As regards part (a) of the question, a total amount of Rs476.3 m. has been invested in the construction of the campuses which have reached near completion.

As regards part (a) (i), the Contractors working on the project are -

- (1) Hyvec Partners Co. Ltd for the construction of Montagne Blanche Campus and Pamplemousses Campus;
- (2) Ramloll Bhooshan Renovation & Building Ltd for the construction of Réduit Campus, and
- (3) Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd for Consultancy and Design Services

As regards part (a) (ii), the expected completion date of the projects at the three sites is December 2015.

As regards part (b), I am informed that SLDC does not fall under the purview of the Public Procurement Act (PPA). However, for this project, the employer is the Knowledge Parks Ltd which does fall under the PPA, and consequently, I am informed that all procurement exercises had been carried out through the Central Procurement Board (CPB).

**Mr Rughoobur:** With regard to the budgetary problem that we are having these days with the University of Mauritius, may we know from the hon. Minister, even if these projects are not her doing, whether there has been a forecast of what are the resources in terms of manpower and finances that will be required for implementing these projects in the months and years to come?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, the question relates to the Knowledge Park of Mauritius and, as far as these three campuses are concerned, the funds are available for the completion of this project.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question, hon. Rughoobur!

### **COMESA & SADC COUNTRIES - EXPORTS**

**(No. B/898) Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives whether, in regard to the small and medium enterprises, he will –

- (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority, information as to the total value of the exports thereof to the COMESA and to the SADC countries for the years ending December 2013, 2014 and as at to date respectively, and
- (b) state the initiatives taken and the support provided to promote such exports.

**Mr Bholah:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that -

- (i) the total estimated domestic exports of SMEs to the COMESA countries are 679 million rupees for the year ending 2013, 667 million rupees for the year 2014, and 270 million rupees for the period January to June, this year, and
- (ii) the total estimated domestic exports of SMEs to the SADC countries are 918 million rupees for the year ending 2013, 878 million rupees for the year 2014, and 392 million rupees for the period January to June, this year.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, with a view to promoting the exports of SMEs products to the COMESA and SADC countries, my Ministry, through the SMEDA, provides financial support to eligible enterprises to participate in international fairs, buyers/sellers meetings, contact promotion programmes, and technology fairs held in those African countries. Thus, eligible SMEs benefit from a grant to the tune of Rs200,000 per year under the Participation in International Fairs SME Refund Scheme that aims at providing support to export-oriented SMEs to expand their share of the overseas market and to diversify

into new markets. The grant covers the costs of stand, air tickets and hotel accommodation of the participants. This year, a number of 111 SMEs have benefited from financial assistance under this scheme.

I am also informed that 13 companies in the fields of textile and apparel, agro-industry sector, and other manufacturing sector have participated in Contact Promotion Programmes held in Kenya and South Africa.

Madam Speaker, my Ministry also works in close collaboration with Enterprise Mauritius with a view to promoting exports of SME's products to COMESA and SADC countries.

Thus, with the support of Enterprise Mauritius, a number of SMEs have participated this year in the Southern African International Trade Exhibition in Johannesburg, the South African International Trade Fair in Cape Town, *La Foire Internationale de Madagascar*, and the Kenya International Trade Fair.

Moreover, as part of its support to making SMEs become export-oriented, SMEDA conducts training programmes on import and export procedures. These programmes aim at increasing awareness of the SMEs on, amongst others, trade barriers, trade agreements, regional cooperation and trade, and legal aspects of importing and exporting of goods or products. For this year only, to date, a number of 76 SMEs have followed the course 'Import and Export Procedures'. Similarly, Enterprise Mauritius has, during the course of the year, organised a 'Go Export Training Programme' with the objective of familiarising SMEs with the procedures and processes involved in international trade to enable them to become successful exporters. 60 SMEs have thus benefited from such training programmes offered by Enterprise Mauritius.

Madam Speaker, in line with the coherent and concerted approach adopted at the level of my Ministry for the development of SMEs, the House may wish to know that, this week, we are organising a workshop on Building Export Capacity for SMEs in the African Markets in collaboration with all stakeholders.

This workshop aims at imparting to owners and managers of SMEs the procedures and processes for the export of their products to Africa and the region, to find solutions to the identified problems for access to especially the African markets, and to make them aware of the potentials that those markets may offer for their growth.

My Ministry is benefiting from the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, the Trade Division of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Enterprise Mauritius, Mauritius Revenue Authority and the Freight Academy in that initiative.

Last but not least, we are in the process of commissioning a study for the development of a 10-year Master Plan for the SME sector. The development process will include, amongst others, an evaluation of the current trade support institutions for SMEs and the formulation of an export strategy for the sector.

Madam Speaker, I assure the hon. Member and the House that my Ministry, in consultation with all stakeholders, as I mentioned earlier, is taking all necessary actions for furthering the growth of SMEs and for the development of export-oriented SMEs.

**Mr Rughoobur:** I have noted from the reply of the hon. Minister that exports to Africa have fallen from 878 million to almost 392 million. I have got two questions: if the hon. Minister might enlighten the House as to the reason why this drastic fall from 878 to 392, and, secondly, whether the collaboration that the SMEs had with Enterprise Mauritius is still on? Because from the website of Enterprise Mauritius, I see that they are promoting business in Turkey, Germany, Australia and Czech until June 2016, but no sign of anything in Africa with the SMEs.

**Mr Bholah:** It is a fact that compared to 2013, the figures for 2014 have decreased. I don't have the exact answer. May be, it is what has been going on on the international scene as well. With regard to SMEs export, I have enumerated a list of measures that will, I believe, be fruitful and will be targeted towards increasing our exports towards the African countries.

#### **MAUBANK - OPERATIONAL**

**(No. B/899) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the launching of the MauBank, he will state the –

- (a) amount of nontoxic assets brought in by the National Commercial Bank and the Mauritius Post Co-operative Bank Ltd. respectively, and
- (b) composition of the –
  - (i) Board, and
  - (ii) Management Committee thereof.

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, as announced earlier, the process of merging the National Commercial Bank (NCB) and the Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank Ltd (MPCB) has started and the new MauBank Ltd. will be operational in the first week of January 2016.

In the meantime, an exercise is being carried out for the transfer of the performing loans and the deposit liabilities of both banks to the new MauBank Ltd. I am informed that the final amount of assets and liabilities to be transferred would be known by the end of this year. However, I wish to inform the House that Government had to inject fresh equity capital to ensure that the banks could carry out their normal banking activities.

Madam Speaker, the merger of those two banks is the major challenge because both the MPCB and the ex-Bramer were, in the past, not managed according to good banking practices and without elements of good corporate governance and transparency. The country is now aware of the consequences of such reckless banking practices. Government has safeguarded the interest of all the depositors and secured the employment of around 700 employees and the interest of other stakeholders of the two banks.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, the composition of the Board of MauBank Ltd will be constituted in due course. In the meantime, the MPCB and the NCB will continue to operate under their existing Boards. The Management Committee of MauBank Ltd. will be set up once the Board of MauBank Ltd. is constituted.

**Mr Bérenger:** When the hon. Minister gave the figure, he made some nasty noises with his microphone. Can we have the information, how much money has been injected into or is going to be injected into the MauBank, the figure which he quoted?

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, we have already injected a total of Rs1.7 billion in both banks and we will inject Rs2 billion more bringing the total to Rs3.7 billion. That would be our participation to ensure that the MauBank starts on a fresh foot and deliver the goods that it should.

**Mr Ramano:** Gérard Lincoln, l'administrateur de l'ex-Bramer Bank a rendu public la liste des *toxic assets and toxic loans* de l'ex-Bramer Bank. Est-ce que le ministre est en mesure de nous dire, si ce même responsable de l'ex-Bramer Bank ou les responsables de la Mauritius Post and Cooperative Bank, qui sont responsables des *toxic loans and toxic assets*, seront les mêmes responsables du MauBank?

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** It is clear that in the process of setting up the new bank, we cannot dispose of all the management of both banks. The most toxic Managers have gone. So, we are left now with the Chairman of the Maubank who is Mr Said Lalloo, an outstanding gentleman and the new Board will be made up of professionals mostly. So, to the question of the hon. Member whether we are keeping a large number of those who have been responsible for those losses, I say no. Most of the top management is going or will leave.

**Mr Uteem:** Following on from the question of the hon Leader of the Opposition, can we have the breakdown, out of the amount injected, how much was injected into MPCB and how much has been injected into Bramer Bank?

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Well, I have a figure. A total of Rs700 m. has been injected in National Commercial Bank and a total of Rs1.53 billion have been injected in MPCB.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister said that 700 jobs will remain secure for MauBank. How does he reconcile that we have two banks, one Bramer, the NCB and MPCB in Quatre Bornes - I am sure, there will be only one bank in Quatre Bornes, not two – and the staff of the two banks will they be in MauBank in Quatre Bornes? I am sure there are other places also where we have two entities that will be merged. How does he reconcile that the 700 jobs will be secured?

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** The question is pertinent. In fact, out of the various branches of both banks where there are two branches in villages/cities, one will be specialised in SMEs. This is why we said that there will be 10 branches of MauBank that will allocate its resources specifically to SMEs activities.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ramano, next question!

#### **MARSHALL PLAN - POVERTY ALLEVIATION – FUNDS**

**(No. B/900) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Marshall Plan for Poverty Alleviation, he will state the –

- (a) overall costs and timeframe set for the elaboration thereof;
- (b) expected number of families who will be concerned therewith;
- (c) financing aspect thereof, taking into consideration eventual input of funds from the Corporate Social Responsibility, and
- (d) complementary aspect thereof with the Love Bridge Project.

**Mr Roopun:** Madam Speaker, the total cost for the elaboration of the Marshall Plan on poverty alleviation amounts to USD85,000. The Ministry has contributed a sum of USD30,000, while the remaining amount is being funded by UNDP. The projected duration of the assignment is six months and the plan is expected to be submitted by the end of December.

The terms of reference, *inter alia*, provide for the experts to submit costed proposals together with multi-year plans for the implementation of the proposed recommendations of the said plan. The Marshall Plan will also identify all potential sources of financing from Government, the private sector or otherwise.

Madam Speaker, it will be premature, at this stage, to give details about the expected number of families concerned, the financial aspect, as well as the involvement of Love Bridge Project therein.

**Mr Ramano:** Madame la présidente, est-ce que le ministre peut nous dire s'il y a une coordination entre son ministère et le *Board* du *Love Bridge Project* ?

**Mr Roopun :** Madam Speaker, the concept of CSR Funding is under the aegis of the Ministry of Finance. My Ministry has got a representative who sits on the CSR Committee through which all Love Bridge...

*(Interruptions)*

There is still a CSR Committee where a representative of my Ministry sits.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ramano!

**Mr Ramano:** Le *Board* du *Love Bridge Project* est constitué de M. Makoon, M. Mayer, M. Pradeep Dursun etc. mais il n'y a aucun représentant du ministère de l'Intégration Sociale.

**Mr Roopun:** There are, Madam Speaker: one representative from my Ministry and also one representative from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

**Mr Ramano:** Dans le document qui a été soumis par le ministre des Finances il n'y a aucun représentant du ministère de l'Intégration Sociale.

**Mr Roopun:** I may confirm that there is one actually.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ganoo!



**Mr Ganoo:** The hon. Minister talked about the experts who are preparing the plan. Can the hon. Minister inform the House who are these experts and how they have been enlisted to come and support the Ministry?

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, for the elaboration of the Marshall Plan, we have had the support of UNDP who appointed five experts in different sectors and the UNDP also enlisted the support of one local consultant. All the experts have been selected by UNDP.

**Mr Ramano:** Madame la présidente, avec l'existence du *NEF*, du *Love Bridge Project*, du *NGO Trust Fund* est-ce qu'il n'y a pas lieu d'avoir une seule entité pour gérer toute cette question de la pauvreté?

**Mr Roopun:** All these aspects will be taken care of and looked into within the Marshall Plan.

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND REFORM  
INSTITUTIONS - MS A. B. - TRANSPORT FACILITIES**

**(No. B/901) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to one Ms A. B., a visually impaired person and intern under the Service to Mauritius Programme posted in her Ministry since March 2013, she will state why the transport facilities which had been granted thereto since her date of appointment thereat has been discontinued with effect from February 2015.

*(Withdrawn)*

**BAI & CO. – DIRECTORS & OFFICERS INSURANCE COVER - CLAIM**

**(No. B/902) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation whether, in regard to the insurance cover for the directors and the officers of the former BAI & Co., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Financial Services Commission, information as to if any claim has been made thereunder and, if not, why not.

**Mr Bhadain:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Financial Services Commission that the Special Administrator appointed under section 110 of the Insurance Act 2005 has already entered a claim to recover Rs1.2 billion, by way of Plaintiff with Summons against

Mauritius Union Assurance Limited, in relation to the directors and officers liabilities cover taken by BAI Co. (Mtius) Ltd and its related entities.

The Complaint is returnable before the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court on November 16, which is yesterday.

Madam Speaker, as the matter is sub-judice, it will be prejudicial to the case before the Supreme Court to provide any further detail at this stage.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can I know from the hon. Minister of Good Governance whether, before lodging the claim against the insurers, any claim has been made against the directors and the officers to repay whatever amount is due to the companies?

**Mr Bhadain:** Yes, I am informed by the FSC, Madam Speaker, that there has been a *réclamation* which has been made by the Special Administrator against the directors prior to entering the Complaint with Summons.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** The Complaint with Summons, Madam Speaker, refers to the main culprit as being Mr Dawood Rawat and acting through Mr Taher. Yet, the hon. Minister of Good Governance in this House has mentioned that, as far back as 2009, there was a serious misappropriation of funds going on and he cited the report from KPMG. So, in these circumstances, may I know from the hon. Minister of Good Governance why has there not been any action taken to date against the then CEO, Mr Beebeejaun? Is it because he has *viré mam* in the meantime?

**Mr Bhadain:** Well, I am not aware whether he has *viré mam* or not but I certainly do know that Mr Saleem Beebeejaun is co-defendant number ten in the Complaint with Summons which has been issued.

*(Interruptions)*

Well, the Special Administrator has included him as a co-defendant in the case as well, *viré* or no *viré mam*!

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you. Is the hon. Minister aware and this is from the Plaintiff with Summons that there is an exclusion clause in the insurance policy excluding deliberate dishonest or deliberate fraudulent act or by abuse of powers by the directors. In these circumstances, does he consider it fit that, on the one hand, this Government, itself, has gone on and talked at length about the alleged fraudulent and dishonest act of directors and today they are going to say that there is no dishonest act in order to get the insurance cover?

**Mr Bhadain:** Madam Speaker, this is an action which has been brought by the Special Administrator of BAI Co. (Mtius) Ltd. and the role of the Special Administrator is to recover as much money as possible to be able...

*(Interruptions)*

to repay the victims of the Super Cash Back Gold Ponzi scheme. So, during that recovery process it has been identified that these directors had somehow decided to cover themselves with an insurance cover which was contracted from Mauritius Union Assurance Limited. It is only logical that the Special Administrator tries every possible avenue to recover money so that these victims can be repaid.

Now, on the other hand, the Police, the Central CID and the ICAC are doing their work on the criminal front to establish a case as to the fraudulent acts, the Ponzi scheme which has been perpetrated by these people and they will be brought to task. I have no doubt about that.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Uteem, next question!

### **PUBLIC BEACHES – TUCKSHOPS - RENT**

**(No. B/903) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management whether, in regard to the bidding exercise for the renting of the tuckshops found at Albion, Pereybere and other public beaches respectively, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Beach Authority, information as to where matters stand.

**Mr Dayal:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that a bidding exercise for the renting of vacant tuckshops at Albion and Pereybere public beaches was launched through open advertisement on 29 May 2015.

However, the said bidding exercise was cancelled following a decision taken by the Board of the Beach Authority on 17 September 2015 -

- (i) henceforth, to allocate, one tuckshop per bidder per region to be in line with the policy of democratization of the economy, and
- (ii) not to go ahead with the renting of tuckshops found on Albion public beach in view of complete upliftment works being undertaken presently in the context of the implementation of the Blue Flag Programme by the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications.

As such, fresh bidding exercise through open advertisement in the press was launched on 22 October 2015 for renting of vacant tuckshops at Pereybere public beach only with closing date fixed by 24 November 2015 with revised specifications. Thank you.

**Mr Uteem:** Madam Speaker, on the 30 October 2015, the Beach Authority wrote to bidders and stated and I quote –

“The above bidding exercise has been cancelled; the bid has been re-launched with new specifications.”

May I know from the hon. Minister what are these new specifications?

**Mr Dayal:** If I will have a substantive question on this one, I will answer. Thank you.

**Mr Uteem:** I can tell the hon. Minister because I have both tenders and they are identical! So, is it not the case that the only reason why this exercise has been cancelled is because the highest bidder was not one of their people?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Dayal:** Madam Speaker, I have already answered the question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Uteem:** Can, at least, the hon. Minister ask the Minister of Good Governance to look into the operation of Beach Authority to make sure that there was nothing improper in the cancellation of this tender?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Dayal:** I will look into it.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Leopold!

### **INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND GAMES 2019 – RODRIGUES – SPORTING EVENTS**

**(No. B/904) Mr J. Leopold (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the forthcoming Indian Ocean Island Games 2019 to be held in Mauritius, he will state the number of sporting events that will be held in Rodrigues, indicating if Judo will form part thereof.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, I have to inform the House that the list of sports to form part of the forthcoming Indian Ocean Islands Games will be determined by the International Games Council (CIJ) after proposals made by the host country.

The next meeting of the International Games Council (CIJ) is scheduled for February 2016. We shall wait for same before proceeding further.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Leopold!

**Mr Leopold:** With regard to this game, I think it is very good if we can plan ahead so that there is no hassle. As you might know, Madam Speaker, everybody is saying that Rodrigues is the breeding ground for high performance athletes. We have organized three major events in Rodrigues so we have the experience. We have a swimming pool in Rodrigues with international Olympic norms which we don't have in Mauritius. Can the Minister inform the House whether he will involve swimming games in Rodrigues?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, as I said, we need to wait for February 2016 then we will proceed further. Definitely, Rodrigues will be part of the organising team, but which event will be held in Rodrigues I cannot answer now. We will definitely have events in Rodrigues.

### **RODRIGUES - SEISMIC ACTIVITIES**

**(No. B/905) Mr J. Leopold (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management whether, in regard to the recent repeated seismic activities which occurred at sea near Rodrigues, he will state the actions taken in relation thereto, giving details thereof.

**Mr Dayal:** Madam Speaker, earthquakes occurring at the sea in the Mid- Indian Ocean ridge located at a distance greater than 300 kms to the east of Rodrigues represent a low risk to the island of Rodrigues with no threat of generating tsunami waves.

I am, however, informed that the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre together with the Mauritius Meteorological Services and other regional international agencies responsible for seismic activities have closely monitored the situation with the Authorities in Rodrigues for any eventual new seismic activity. Earthquakes in the region are monitored by the MMS which is mandated to inform all authorities concerned.

All preliminary precautions were initiated as per the Earthquake and Tsunami Schemes of the Natural Disaster Scheme (NDS) 2015 which had been released recently. Accordingly, all first response disaster management agencies were requested to be on alert for any prompt deployment. Furthermore, all authorities concerned were ready to activate their Contingency Plans and Standard Operating Procedures. Press communiqués were issued on the same day to reassure and inform the public on any development of the situation. The Disaster Risk Reduction Committee of Rodrigues which has been trained to take appropriate actions met on the same day and initiated actions as per the Earthquake Protocols.

Members of the House may also wish to note that a tide gauge has been installed at Port Mathurin to monitor changes in the sea level and in case of high waves likely to threaten the island, an early warning system to alert the population is already in place.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that once I was in possession of all the relevant information, I held a Press Conference on 22 October itself to reassure the public especially in Rodrigues.

**Mr Leopold:** I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Republic of Mauritius is fully equipped for the monitoring of earthquakes, whether he has an emergency framework for that and whether he will organise any pre-training programme in regard to earthquakes?

**Mr Dayal:** Training programmes have been organised as far as Rodrigues is concerned and as to whether we have the full potential to deal with earthquakes, I would say “no” at this stage because we are waiting for the Doppler radar to come. In the meantime, we are cooperating and collaborating with Reunion Island and also with regional and international agencies to give us the appropriate feedback for the initiation of appropriate actions in a timely manner.

**Mr Leopold:** At the level of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management, is the hon. Minister doing any research to determine why we are having frequent seismic actions in the vicinity of Rodrigues?

**Mr Dayal:** We have had a survey carried out by authorities from Reunion Island on this issue. We have a report and I have already submitted a request to seek the possibility of having research through the numerous authorities to the PMO.

#### **FOOTBALL ACADEMY – SETTING UP**

**(No. B/906) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the setting up of a Football Academy, as announced by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister in his Speech during the National Sports Award 2014, he will state where matters stand.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, I would like to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to PQ B/164 wherein I informed the House that consultations on the setting up of the football Academy in Mauritius are still ongoing with several Football Academies or well-known Soccer Clubs. Proposals are still being received from other well-known foreign academies and clubs.

Madam Speaker, all these efforts are being undertaken with a view to ensuring that the Academy that would be set up would be of the required standard and would lay the foundation for the revival of the football at all levels. However, we need to examine all proposals carefully before proceedings since we do have financial implications as well.

Besides, as I have already informed the House, that all *écoles de foot*, *Centres Techniques Régionaux* et *Centre Technique National François Blaquart* are already operational since August this year.

The House may also wish to be informed that I am also coming up with Regulations to give a legal framework to the operation of academies of team sports in Mauritius. Regulations have already been transmitted to the State Law Office for vetting.

**Mr Quirin:** En effet, Madame la présidente, j'avais adressé une question pratiquement identique à l'honorable ministre il y a huit mois de cela. Et là, je constate que dans sa réponse les choses n'ont pas beaucoup bougé et que son ministère est toujours au stade de consultation. Peut-on savoir de façon à ce que cela ne passe pas pour un bluff ? Est-ce que le ministre peut déposer copies des correspondances échangées avec les clubs, à l'époque il avait cité West Ham, Celtic et Bastia? Peut-on savoir si ces clubs sont toujours partants ou bien il y en a d'autres ou bien c'est simplement quelque chose qui a figuré dans le discours programme et repris par l'honorable Premier ministre lors du *sports awards* dernier ?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, this Government is not a bluff. This Government means business. We have got many correspondences from many teams. We

need to examine everything. We need to meet them. At the time that I am talking in this House, I have got clubs coming from France today itself to meet me tomorrow morning. So, we need to examine everything.

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, le ministre vient d'affirmer qu'il y a des correspondances qui ont été échangées et qui sont en sa possession. Peut-il, de ce faite, déposer ces copies sur la table de l'assemblée afin que les membres puissent prendre connaissance ?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, I think the hon. Member will agree with me that it is not correct to give information from other clubs, to make it public.

*(Interruptions)*

I think it is not rubbish, we are talking about football.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Order!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Jhugroo!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Jhugroo, please, you are interrupting the House!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Shakeel Mohamed, please!

*(Interruptions)*

Please proceed, hon. Minister of Youth and Sports. Order in the House, please!

***CENTRE TECHNIQUE NATIONAL DE FOOTBALL FRANÇOIS BLAQUART -  
OPERATION***

**(No. B/907) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to *Centre Technique National de Football François Blaquart*, he will state if same is fully operational and, if so, indicate the -

- (a) age group and respective coaches thereof, and
- (b) if weekly training sessions are held thereat and, if so, indicate the days and time thereof and, if not why not.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, I would like to refer the hon. Member to the reply that I made to the PQ B/396 where I informed the House, among others, that the *Centre Technique National de Football François Blaquart* is operational as from beginning of August this year.



**Madam Speaker:** Can we have some order in the House, please! The hon. Minister is replying to his parliamentary question.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** As regards parts (a) and (b) of the question, I am circulating the information requested for.

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, le ministre peut-il confirmer que le Centre Technique National de Football François Blaquart fonctionne à plein régime?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, *le Centre Technique National de Football François Blaquart* is functioning, but we should take into account that for the last six or seven years, there was no activity at all. We started from scratch.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo, please!

**Mr Quirin:** L'honorable ministre devrait aller s'enquérir pour voir à l'époque qui ceux qui avaient fermé le Centre Technique National de Football François Blaquart. Malheureusement, s'il le savait, il n'aurait pas affirmé ce qu'il vient de dire.

**Madam Speaker:** Your question, please!

**Mr Quirin:** Ma question, Madame la présidente: puisque le ministre dit que le centre fonctionne, peut-on savoir s'il y a un comité de direction et si tel est le cas, qui est la personne à la tête de ce comité et les personnes formant partie de ce comité, merci ?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madame la présidente, le centre a été rouvert au mois d'août. C'est maintenant que tout est mis en place et les élèves commencent à intégrer le centre national pour pouvoir exercer la pratique du football.

*(Interruptions)*

Il n'y a pas de comité de gestion. Pour l'instant le ministère....

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** No interruptions, please!

*(Interruptions)*

Have you finished, hon. Minister?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, it is run by officers of my Ministry.

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, peut-on savoir aussi s'il existe une commission technique qui travaille sur le projet de formation incluant les membres de la MFA et aussi les

entraîneurs du centre? Est-ce que cette commission existe et si tel est le cas de nous dire qui en est le responsable ?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** *Madam Speaker, I have just answered that at the moment there is no comité de gestion parce que ce sont les officiers de mon ministère qui s'occupent du centre pour le relancer. La MFA, avec tous les soucis qu'ils ont eus au niveau de la FIFA, ils devraient le faire depuis le mois de janvier, mais on est entré que pour le bien du foot, mais la MFA va entrer après que tous les problèmes soient réglés.*

**ENTENTE SPORTIVE DE GOODLANDS & THE GOODLANDS YOUNG STARS  
VOLLEYBALL CLUBS - RECOGNITION**

**(No. B/908) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the *Entente Sportive de Goodlands* and the Goodlands Young Stars Volleyball Clubs, he will –

- (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Association Mauricienne de Volleyball, information as to if they have participated in the National Volleyball Championship Division 1 which was held recently, and
- (b) state if they are recognized by his Ministry.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** I am informed by the *Association Mauricienne de Volleyball* that *Entente Sportive de Goodlands* has not participated in the National Volleyball Championship Division 1 in 2015 as it is not affiliated to the Federation. As for Goodlands Young Stars Volleyball Club, its men's team has participated in the National Volleyball Championship Division 2 while its women's team played in the National Volleyball Championship Division 1.

I am further informed that Goodlands Young Stars Volleyball Club is affiliated to the *Association Mauricienne de Volleyball* for many years.

As regards part (b) of the question, my Ministry does not recognise *Entente Sportive de Goodlands*, as it has already been deregistered by the Registrar of Associations.

An application for recognition from Goodlands Young Stars Volleyball Club has only been received on 03 November 2015 at the level of my Ministry. The application is still being processed.

**Mr Quirin:** Madame la présidente, selon la Section 11 du Sports Act, tout club doit avoir la reconnaissance du ministère avant d'aller vers le *Registrar* et éventuellement vers la fédération concernée. J'ai, en ma possession, une copie d'une correspondance adressée à Madame Christelle Parsooramen par le *Registrar of Association* qui avait sollicité le *Registrar* afin d'avoir certaines informations précises concernant ces deux clubs qui, comme je l'affirme dans ma question, avait participé à certains championnats et d'après la réponse du *Registrar* les deux clubs en question ne sont plus reconnus par le *Registrar*. De ce fait, le ministre peut-il nous dire - vu ce qui est stipulé dans le Sports Act de 2013 - comment se fait-il qu'un club, en particulier, le *Goodlands Youngstars* qui a participé à un championnat de Volleyball, au niveau national, qui n'est plus reconnu par le Registrar, qui je suppose n'a même pas reçu la reconnaissance de son ministère mais qui a été reconnu par la fédération? Quelle est la responsabilité de la fédération et son ministère dans toute cette affaire?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, this club has been recognised since 2008 and, as per the federation, once they have given recognition, they never received any correspondence stating that the registration of Goodlands Youngstars Volleyball Club was struck off in 2013. So, for them, there was no issue until they received a correspondence from another club stating that their affiliation was struck off. It is just now that my Ministry received that correspondence.

**Mr Quirin:** J'aimerais que le ministre nous précise si la section 11 du Sports Act qui fait référence au certificat de reconnaissance, si cette clause du *Sports Act* est toujours appliquée et si tous les clubs doivent passer par son ministère avant d'aller vers le *Registrar* et éventuellement vers leurs fédérations respectives?

**Mr Sawmynaden :** Yes, I confirm the law is still the same, but as you know there were so many anomalies in the Sports Act that the Ministry has become lenient and let the sports continue otherwise all of them should have closed down.

#### **TOURISM INDUSTRY - FOREIGNERS - EMPLOYMENT**

**(No. B/909) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether, in regard to the foreigners employed in the tourism industry, he will give an updated list thereof, indicating in each case the -

- (a) post held;

- (b) name of the employing establishment, and
- (c) duration of the contract of employment.

**The Deputy Prime Minister** Madam Speaker, the information sought has been requested from the competent Authorities, namely the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training and the Board of Investment and will, upon receipt, be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House that since July 2015, a Ministerial Committee has been set up under my Chair to look into the issue of employment of expatriates. The main task of the Ministerial Committee is to devise an appropriate policy with a view to encouraging the employment of expatriates in scarcity and priority fields whilst leaving other areas where sufficient trained labour is available to locals. As a starting point, we have caused the list of scarcity areas and parameters in the Tourism and Hospitality Industry as well as Construction sectors to be reviewed so as to unlock employment prospects for local job seekers.

As a result of representations received from some quarters, the list of scarcity areas in the Tourism and Hospitality sector is being further reviewed, in consultation with stakeholders, whereby a new set of guidelines governing the issue of work permits and occupation permits will be established to ensure a clear rule-based approach to this matter.

Madam Speaker, the employment of expatriates is being closely monitored.

**Mr Bhagwan:** May I have a supplementary from the Deputy Prime Minister. Has the Deputy Prime Minister received representations regarding discrimination, even racial discrimination against qualified Mauritians for employment in the tourism industry, not only at managerial level, but also at high management level?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I don't recall receiving any specific complaint, Madam Speaker, but I will look into it if I do. But the view of Government in the tourism sector, Madam Speaker, is that there is room for encouraging Mauritius talent to grow at all levels of the industry and that the attitude of employers varies from hotel group to hotel group, from hotel to hotel. Some are very good, some are less good and the point of the whole policy is to encourage those who are not sufficiently giving training and *formation* etcetera to Mauritians who are able to rise, encourage them to have a proper training policy so that these people can rise to their potential.

**Mr Bhagwan:** One last supplementary question. Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether he has a case where one qualified Mauritian is at the head of one of the major five star hotel or even whether there has been an increase in the number during the past years?

**The Deputy Prime Minister** Whether four stars, five stars Madam Speaker, there are some hotel groups which have very few foreign expatriates. Others have 3 or 4 or 5 %. So, we are looking at it. I don't want to take into any particular case. We are looking into that and we are genuine in that we want Mauritians to have better scope within the tourism industry because they have the potential and also, Madam Speaker, to encourage wages to rise because the whole point of Government also is to encourage prosperity within the labour force and that is also the policy of Government.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can the hon. Minister check and inform the House whether certain hotels have given permits to recruit gardeners. I want the hon. Minister to check and inform the House. This is a very specialised job, but we have many well qualified Mauritians working in the Sugar Sector where they could have obtained employment in the hotel sector. Can the hon. Minister check and see whether this is true, at least, Mauritians could be given priority?

**The Deputy Prime Minister** We have now a list of priority sectors and I can assure you there are not gardeners on there. A number of issues will be looked at including the total ratio of foreigners to Mauritians. If there have been, I am not aware, personally we would not be in favour of not just gardeners, but anything that can be done by Mauritians should be done by Mauritians in priority.

**Madam Speaker:** The Table has been advised that the following PQ's have been withdrawn. PQ No. B/913, B/933, B/934, B/935, B/936, B/937, B/938 and B/939.

#### **AIR MAURITIUS LTD - GUARANTEED LOANS**

**(No. B/910) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to Air Mauritius Ltd., he will state the number of loans guaranteed by Government thereto, indicating in each case, the –

- (a) quantum thereof

- (b) date on which the loan was guaranteed, and
- (c) terms and conditions of the guarantee.

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, in view of the fact that the hon. Member has not specified the period for which information is being sought, it will be difficult to provide an answer. However, I am informed that over the period 2001 to 2010, Government has guaranteed 17 loans of Air Mauritius Ltd amounting to some Rs12.7 billion. As at to date, all these loans have been repaid by Air Mauritius Ltd.

I am tabling the list of loans guaranteed by Government along with all the details.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can I know from the hon. Minister whether, within the past years, Government has guaranteed loans to Air Mauritius for hedging purposes, the guarantee and the amount?

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** I cannot give the information. I am only circulating the loans which have been guaranteed by Government.

#### **MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SPORTS - MR R. M - EMPLOYMENT**

**(No. B/911) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to Mr R. M., he will –

- (a) state the capacity in which he has been employed in his Ministry, indicating the;
  - (i) date of employment and;
  - (ii) terms and conditions of employment thereof and;
- (b) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Sports Council, information as to if he has been appointed member thereof and, if so, indicate;
  - (i) since when, and
  - (ii) the quantum of the fees payable thereto.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Madam Speaker, Mr R. M. has been employed as Adviser on Public Relations Matters in my Ministry with effect from 11 May 2015. He is employed on a yearly contract basis.

He is being paid a monthly basic salary of Rs19,025.

He is entitled to travelling allowance and gratuity according to regulations in force. So far, as leave entitlement is concerned, he is not eligible for the first year of contract. In the event of renewal of his contract, he will be eligible for a leave as per regulations in force.

As regards to part (b) of the question, R. M. has been appointed as Board member of the Mauritius Sports Council with effect from 20 March 2015 for a period of two years. He is being paid an allowance of Rs850 per sitting plus Rs220 as travelling, in accordance with regulations in force.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can I know from the hon. Minister whether, prior recruiting that person, he has had Police clearance through the Prime Minister's Office?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** All clearance has been obtained, and I can assure the hon. Member that he has no Police case.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can the hon. Minister then confirm whether that person was arrested on 12 December 2013 and was detained at Moka Detention Centre for assault on Police and was released on bail on 11 February?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** As far as I know, that person has not been convicted, but I think the hon. Member is well aware because he was a member of the MMM at that time.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bhagwan:** I am not asking whether he was a member of MMM. I am asking the hon. Minister whether that person, who is an adviser ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Can we have some order, please?

*(Interruptions)*

Order, please!

**Mr Bhagwan:** I am asking my question, and I don't know why the hon. Minister is so excited. I know he is a good friend of his.

*(Interruptions)*

I know he is a good friend of his! But my question is: how can the Government - I am going to ask him the question through the Prime Minister - employ somebody who is on bail, who has assaulted Police, as an adviser to the Minister?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** The information is completely wrong. That person is not on bail and there is *la présomption d'innocence*. He has not even been convicted. *Il a été acquitté en cour.*

*(Interruptions)*

#### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE - RETIRED DOCTORS - EMPLOYMENT**

**(No. B/912) Mr M. Hurreeram (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the doctors who have retired from the public service, he will state the number thereof who are presently reemployed in the public service, indicating in each case, the terms and conditions of the contract.

**Mr Gayan:** Madam Speaker, there are eight doctors and 17 specialists who have retired from the service and who have been reemployed. The information regarding the terms and conditions of their contract is being tabled.

**Mr Hurreeram:** Madam Speaker, will the hon. Minister consider eventually to replace those retired doctors, whose contract is coming to an end, by young graduates?

**Mr Gayan:** Madam Speaker, it is the policy of the Ministry to ensure that, as far as possible, new doctors are recruited. But there are some areas where we still need specialists, and this is why these people have been reemployed.

#### **FLIC EN FLAC - PRIVATE CLINIC - OPERATION**

**(No. B/913) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management whether, in regard to a private clinic actually operating in the region of Flic en Flac, he will state the -



- (a) date on which the application for the issue of an Environment Impact Assessment licence in relation thereto was received at his Ministry, indicating the date of issue thereof;
- (b) date of coming into operation thereof, and
- (c) distance of the -
  - (i) building housing same to the nearest residence, and
  - (ii) standby generator, indicating if it is compliant with the recommendations and regulations applicable therefor in each case.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **RING ROAD PROJECT - REPORT PROGRESS**

**(No. B/914) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the Ring Road Project, he will state if it is ongoing and, if so, give details and report progress thereof.

**Mr Bodha:** The reply to this question, Madam Speaker, is in the affirmative. With regard to the status of the project, I am informed as follows -

- The contract for Phase 1 of the project was awarded to Joint Venture Rehm-Grinaker-Colas on 03 November 2009 and was practically completed on 31 January 2013 with a further one-year defects liability period.
- During a pre-final visit effected from 20 to 24 January 2014 (within the defects liability period) the Consultant, Arab Consulting Engineers (ACE), notified the contractor, Joint Venture Rehm-Grinaker-Colas, of defects noted during the preceding one-year period, namely -
  - (a) eight cracks and settlement observed over a stretch of about 75 m of road in a high fill zone supported by a reinforced earth retaining wall, which collapsed;
  - (b) a longitudinal thin crack, about 25 m long, noted in the asphalt of the road at the end of Zone 4, and that crack was repaired by Rehm-Grinaker-Colas in November 2013 by redoing the top wearing course. However, this repair was not accepted by the RDA and the consultant, and new repair works were designed by ARQ.
- The remedial works are 38% complete till date and are expected to be fully completed by 31 March 2016. The scheduled completion date has been extended on several occasions due to delays on account of exceptionally rainy period from December 2014, breakdown of unique equipment on site and

unavailability of equipment in this region, and poor contractor's planning has also contributed to the delay to some extent.

Madam Speaker, as regards Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Ring Road Project, I am informed that the RDA is in the process of launching a request for proposals to hire the services of a Consultant to propose the concept designs for the Ring Road Phase 2, that is, the tunnel, and that of the Ring Road Phase 3 projects, and to prepare the bidding documents. The consultant will, in addition, amongst other services, assist the RDA in the procurement process and carry out project management and supervision of the works. It is expected, Madam Speaker, that the consultant will start his assignment in February 2016, and the total cost of the project is estimated at Rs5 billion for the Phase 2, that is, the tunnel, and Rs2.9 billion for Ring Road Phase 3.

**Mr Barbier:** Madam Speaker, I think now the hon. Minister has got all information to establish who are the culprits for all these wrongdoings which we have witnessed throughout the region of Pailles and even Verdun. Will the hon. Minister now see to it that these same contractors, these same consultants are not taken on board for future projects, for road works?

**Mr Bodha:** The hon. Member is right. We know what has been the cause of failures for the Ring Road and the failures at the Terre Rouge-Verdun. The most important factor, I think, has been that there has been no preliminary testing before the design. I am also convinced that the RDA did not do the supervision works that they should have done. So, we are going to take all this in perspective. I am also more and more convinced that the figures which have been presented by Maynard as regards the cost of the infrastructural works for the tunnel and the viaduct have been highly exaggerated. I am convinced that we can build the tunnel and the viaduct for less than what has been earmarked so far.

**Mr Mohamed:** Madam Speaker, since the hon. Minister has spoken about the issue of the Ring Road and Phase 3, if I am not mistaken, as well. Could he inform the House if, at any stage, there has been any consultation with the inhabitants living on the road called Boulevard Victoria in Vallée Pitot. When did those consultations take place in order to explain to them, following what was said by the hon. Minister Soodhun who was replacing him last time week, if I am not mistaken, that there would be an elevated sort of viaduct carrying this highway across Boulevard Victoria, which would clearly, therefore, pass before houses of individuals? When have these consultations...

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Mohamed, we have understood your question. Please, allow the hon. Minister to reply.

**Mr Bodha:** The social aspect as regards the squatters has been taken care of by ...

*(Interruptions)*

the Vice-Prime Minister. We have also realigned the road in such a manner that we have saved the problem of another 70 squatters because we have changed the alignment.

As regards the viaduct, one of the assignments of the consultant will be, in fact, to work out a design which will be accepted by the people along that Victoria Boulevard.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Madam Speaker, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that, with regard to Ring Road Phase 1, recently it has been reported that new cracks have appeared further down the road? We did raise the question before. We had the crack going down and that was vertical, but we never talked about the longitudinal crack underneath, going through the Ring Road. I think that studies have not been done there and that's why we see cracks appearing. Will the hon. Minister look into it?

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Dr. Sorefan, we have understood your question!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Will the hon. Minister look into it?

**Mr Bodha:** We are going to do a complete check of the reinforced up walls over the whole project. I think, I, myself, have mentioned that we have some cracks at the end of the Ring Road Phase I, that is when we reach the mountain. We have asked them to do the complete test from Soreze to the end of the mountain and the testing is still going on. Works will have to be done in such a manner that they are going to be final works before we start the tunnel.

**Mr Bérenger:** One question! There have been sanctions against some high officers at the RDA. The hon. Minister, himself, has been very critical of the RDA, and yet, it is confirmed that we are going ahead. First time, building a tunnel, estimating it at this stage at Rs5 billion. Now, is the RDA equipped? We have seen in this case that both the consultants and the contractors have failed the country. Is the RDA, now, equipped to go into this major first time tunnel job?

**Mr Bodha:** Not at all! I don't think that the RDA is equipped with the works we are going to do for the first time, that is, the viaduct, the tunnel and great separators at two levels. In fact, we are working on re-engineering totally the management of the RDA and the management of the project, and to see that we have value for money and to say that we have the best quality of works. In fact, I had the opportunity in Korea to visit a tunnel and the way it has been done. We will have to have the best expertise at the RDA and the best consultants

so that we have the best design and we can start the work. Also we will have to see to it that there is no variation in costs, which has been one of the weaknesses in the last projects.

**Madam Speaker:** Last question, hon. Jhugroo!

**Mr Jhugroo:** With regard to the several cracks found in the Ring Road Phase I, can the hon. Minister inform the House whether any enquiry had been carried out and, if so, can we know which enquiry and what is the outcome thereof?

**Mr Bodha:** The testing is still on. The enquiry will lead to what we all know about the Ring Road Phase I, that is, the proper preliminary tests; geomorphological tests were not done before the design was made.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo, no question from a sitting position, please!

*(Interruptions)*

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE – RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/915) Mr G. Oree (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms whether, in regard to recruitment in the public service, he is aware that many schemes of service as presently prescribed are not compliant with a previous Cabinet decision and subsequent Circular dated 22 November 2012 to the effect that only the highest qualification prescribed in the schemes of service be considered therefor and, if so, indicate if he will take up the matter with the Ministries, Departments, Public Service Commission, Disciplined Forces Service Commission and the Local Government Service Commission for the said schemes of service to be amended in order to be compliant with the said decision.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **CITÉ ATLEE - MULTIPURPOSE COMPLEX - CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/916) Ms M. Sewocksingh (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a Multipurpose Complex at *Cité Atlee*, he will state where matters stand.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that a works order was issued on 06 October 2014 by the National Development Unit to Super Builders Co. Ltd. for the construction of a Multipurpose Complex at *Cité Atlee* which comprises a gymnasium, computer room, badminton court, kitchen and changing room. The project did not kick start in view of the General Election held in December 2014.

I am informed that since the project had not started by April 2015, it was decided to cancel the works order, the more so as the contract was not in order. It is to be noted that the scope of works granted to Super Builders Co. Ltd. pertains to building works, whereas the contractor was for all intents and purposes the zonal contractor for roads and drains.

I am informed that the project is not on the list of projects to be implemented in the current financial year and that it will be taken on board during the next financial year depending on availability of funds.

**Mrs Sewocksingh:** I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the answer, Madam Speaker. The hon. Minister just informed the House that, unfortunately, this project will not go forward for the time being. Madam Speaker, as we all know, Residence Atlee...

**Madam Speaker:** Put your question!

**Mrs Sewocksingh:**...is a landmark. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if, by the next budget, he will kindly put this project into the priority side so that we can come forward with this?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Madam Speaker, as I mentioned, this project was going to be carried out under NDU. So, obviously we will have to send the request to NDU for the next financial year.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister inform the House for which reasons the working order had been cancelled?

**Dr. Husnoo:** The working order was cancelled, firstly, because of the election and, secondly, there was a problem about the contractor. This work pertained to building work whereas the contractor of Super Builders Co. Ltd. was for all intents and purposes a zonal contractor for drains and roads, not for building purposes.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Sewocksingh!

## CITÉ LA BRASSERIE – FOOTBALL PITCH - CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/917) Ms M. Sewocksingh (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to State land, he will state if he has received a request from the National Development Unit for the vesting of a portion thereof situated at *Cité La Brasserie* for the purpose of constructing a football pitch and, if so, indicate where matters stand.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun):** Madam Speaker, in March 2015, my Ministry received a request from the National Development Unit of the Prime Minister's Office for the vesting of a plot of State land at La Brasserie for the purpose of construction of a football ground.

The request of the National Development Unit has been examined and the Planning Division of my Ministry has proposed that an extent of *2 arpents 47 perches* of State land be vested in the National Development Unit for a football ground.

I have the honour and privilege to inform the hon. Member that immediate action has been initiated for the vesting of the land to the National Development Unit.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** I wish to thank the hon. Vice-Prime Minister for that.

## DUBREUIL PRIMARY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – PASS RATE

(No. B/918) Ms M. Sewocksingh (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the Dubreuil Primary Government School, she will state –

- (a) the percentage pass rate thereat over the past five years at the level of Standard IV, Standard V and Certificate Primary Education Examinations respectively;
- (b) the schedule and reports of inspections visits thereat, particularly, regarding the level of attendance of the teachers posted thereat, and
- (c) if any survey has recently been carried out to assess the state of the buildings and of the infrastructure found on the premises thereof and, if so, indicate –

- (i) when, and
- (ii) the outcome thereof.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question relating to pass rates at Standard IV, Standard V and Certificate of Primary Education Examinations at Dubreuil Government School, over the past 5 years, I am tabling the information that has been compiled. The CPE pass rate stood at 50% in 2010 and has reached a peak of 74.07% in 2013. Last year, it was 57.14%. However, for Std. IV, Std. V, the pass rate reached a peak level of 81.1% and 72% in 2014.

Regarding part (b) of the question, I am informed that the School Inspectors and Supervisors of the Zone Directorate of my Ministry have been effecting monthly visits at the school as from the beginning of the academic year 2015 for both pedagogical and administrative issues. The report shows that attendance rate of Teachers, for both the General Purpose and Oriental Languages, which ranges from 80 to 98% for 2015 are satisfactory.

Madam Speaker, as for part (c) of the question, surveys on the infrastructural state of schools are carried out annually and a list of infrastructural works to be undertaken subsequently identified and prioritised.

I wish to highlight that minor projects are continuously being effected by the maintenance team of the Zone Directorate at the Dubreuil Govt. School. Moreover, construction of additional classrooms and conversion of existing classrooms into a pre-primary unit were carried out and completed in 2014. I am further informed that since the physical state of building is sound, no new major infrastructural project has been identified thereat for this year. However, any request with regard to infrastructural issues which will be received at the level of my Ministry will be given due consideration.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Jahangeer!

#### **CEB – TECHNICAL STAFF - OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

**(No. B/919) Mr B. Jahangeer (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the official mission undertaken by the technical staff of the Central Electricity Board in Europe from 03 to 16 October 2015, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Board, information as to the –

- (a) composition of the delegation thereof and the qualification of each member thereof, and
- (b) purpose thereof.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities (Mr I. Collendavello):** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Central Electricity Board that a team carried out a study visit in France from 03 to 16 October 2015.

It consisted of –

- Mr Shamsheer Mukoon, Production Manager
- Mr Asil Lotun, Engineer, Nicolay Power Station
- Mr Bernard Seblin, Engineer , Fort Victoria Power Station
- Mr A. A. H. Damree, Board Member

I am tabling the information on their qualifications.

With regard to part (b) of the question, the team visited two Combined Cycle Gas Turbine plants, one Open Cycle Gas Turbine plant and a LNG Terminal under construction. The purpose of the visit was to follow developments in the design, operation and maintenance associated with such technology.

**Mr Jahangeer:** Madam Speaker, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister explain how a member of the CEB Board and a non-technical member attended a technical mission?

**Mr Collendavello:** It was decided by the Board that this member should accompany the delegation and there is absolutely nothing wrong with this.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer, next question! You have got a supplementary question?

**Mr Jahangeer:** Madam Speaker, I am tabling the result of a public bid opening concerning the Expression of Interest for combined cycle gas turbine.

**Mr Collendavello:** Well, I am very sorry, on a point of order, how can the hon. Member do that?

*(Interruptions)*



**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer, please confirm whether your question is related to part (b) of the Parliamentary Question or is it something else?

**Mr Jahangeer:** Yes, indeed, Madam. The mission was to...

*(Interruptions)*

Sorry!

**Madam Speaker:** Ask your question, please!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Part (b).

**Madam Speaker:** Ask your question!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Jahangeer:** Is the hon. Vice-Prime Minister aware that there is a serious breach of the PPA Act and the FIDIC condition and the CEB Act that a consulting firm in the name of *Électricité de France (EDF)*, organised this visit and was also a bidder in the same bid that I am tabling? This is a serious breach in international norm for tendering.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer,...

**Mr Collendavelloo:** Can I answer?

**Madam Speaker:** Do you wish to answer? Okay!

**Mr Collendavelloo:** This day is the international rubbish day because that is the greatest rubbish I have ever heard, even greater than what I heard this morning.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer, next question!

*(Interruptions)*

Well, I am sorry; you did not catch my eye. Hon. Uteem, if you have a supplementary, I will allow you.

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether the visit in Europe and the site visited by these gentlemen from the CEB related to *Électricité de France*?

**Mr Collendavelloo:** Yes, of course. The presentation was by EDF; then, there was a presentation on financial and technical aspects of supply and utilisation of LNG in Highlands, following study carried out by EDF, the presentation...

*(Interruptions)*

Please, let me carry on! Then, there was a presentation of a project 'Octopus' currently being developed in Chile and there was visit of the Dunkirk LNG terminal and several other visits.

Now, with regard to Mr Damree, he had been delegated by the Board of Directors to form part of the mission and his independent views would benefit the Board and were, indeed, of great quality.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister who paid for the visit? Was it paid by the supplier of the gas turbine or by the CEB and, if it is by the CEB, how much has been the total cost of this official mission?

**Mr Collendavelloo:** I would need notice for that. I don't know.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer, next question!

### **HIGHWAYS – STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM**

**(No. B/920) Mr B. Jahangeer (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the highways, he will state the lighting segments of the street lighting systems thereat which are presently defective.

**The Minister of Local Government (Dr. A. Husnoo):** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I shall reply to this question.

Based on the information submitted by the local authorities, the main cause for the defective segments of the street lighting network on the highway is the loss of underground street lighting cables.

I am accordingly tabling the information requested for regarding the segments of the highways where the street lighting network is defective.

With a view to ensuring a better management and maintenance of the street lighting network across the island, the Government is working on the setting up of a National Unit which would be responsible for the financing, installation, management and maintenance of the street lighting networks for the motorways across the island. In the meantime, the local authorities would explore the possibility of making use of the resources available at their end to carry out necessary repairs to restore street lighting on the segments which are affected.

**Mr Jahangeer:** Is the hon. Minister aware that for the past 7 years, the segment of Plaine Magnien has been in the dark and it is a danger to all drivers' safety?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Yes, as I mentioned, there is a problem. The local authorities are looking into it. There is some problem, as I mentioned, about the theft of underground cables and they are going to sort it out. In the long term, I think, we will need a 100 unit to take care of the whole motorway system in Mauritius.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer, next question!

### **BATIMARAIS – HOUSES – ASBESTOS**

**(No. B/921) Mr B. Jahangeer (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the proposed pulling down of houses containing asbestos, especially in Batimaraï, he will state where matters stand.

**The Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management (Mr R. Dayal):** Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Ministry of Housing and Lands had identified 64 houses containing asbestos materials which were in a depleted state during a previous survey carried out some years back. However, according to records, no action was initiated or taken.

My Ministry has now set up a High-Level Technical Committee to look into the problems and make recommendations for implementation. The Technical Committee tasked a survey team to carry out site visits at the housing units made up of asbestos materials. The team has already surveyed the 64 houses identified by the Ministry of Housing and Lands located at Triolet, Grand Gaube, Petit Raffray, Pamplemousses, Montagne Longue, Amaury, Lallmatie, Argy, Olivia, St. Julien d'Hotman, Camp Diable, Benares (Batimaraï), Surinam, Bel Ombre, l'Embrazure, La Rosa, Riche en Eau, Old Grand Port, La Chaux, Verdun, l'Agrément, Telfair and La Ferme.

The survey has already been carried out and it revealed that four units out of the 64 were untraceable; 29 units are occupied; 24 are unoccupied, and 7 have already been dismantled and the asbestos materials carted away.

It was also estimated that the 60 housing units surveyed contained about 64 m<sup>3</sup> of asbestos materials.

With regard to Batimarais, there are some 10 units that contain asbestos materials, out of which five are unoccupied.

The High-Level Technical Committee has recommended that priority of consideration for the pulling down of the houses be given to the unoccupied housing units. For occupied housing units, a Plan of Work has been drawn up enumerating the activities that need to be carried out for the removal and disposal of asbestos materials as follows –

- (i) consent forms to be signed by owners of the houses;
- (ii) medical examination to be conducted for all personnel of SMF and other relevant authorities to be involved in the operation;
- (iii) awareness and training of officers involved in the exercise by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations and the Occupational Health & Safety Unit from the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms;
- (iv) placing of enclosures around the houses prior to the dismantling exercise;
- (v) procurement of personal protective equipment, and
- (vi) SMF to dismantle the houses.

This is what is on.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Jahangeer! On this question B/921, do you have any supplementary because time is almost over?

**Mr Jahangeer:** I got the answer.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Leopold has a question, I'll allow him.

**Mr Leopold:** May I ask the hon. Minister how and where he will dispose such noxious substances?

**Mr Dayal:** We have a scheme at La Chaumière. We have identified a site. As a matter of principle, we can even dig and put it inside, there is no risk. But the problem is we have identified a site at La Chaumière where we are taking all hazardous materials. As asbestos is hazardous material, so we have a site identified where we are putting all hazardous materials, at La Chaumière.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Ganoo!

**Mr Ganoo:** Can I ask the hon. Minister, with regard to the answer that he gave, the crux of this matter of pulling down asbestos houses is a question of funding. Is the Ministry

envisaging to subsidise the occupiers of these houses because the question of demolition is one problem but then, who will be rebuilding these houses?

**Mr Dayal:** The issue of dismantling is two-fold. First, we are studying the possibility of having the SMF involved and, at the same time, we are also studying the possibility of having contractors to those jobs under the supervision of the SMF provided they have the skills and equipment. Second, we are in the process of finalising how we are going to reconstruct houses; where we are going to reconstruct and what will be the modalities. That will be taken care of by my colleague, the Vice-Prime Minister, hon. Showkutally Soodhun.

**Madam Speaker:** Time is over!