

DRUGS - SEIZURE

(No. B/303) **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 drugs, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases of offences in relation thereto over the past five years, on a yearly basis, indicating the -

(a) value thereof seized, and

(b) number of alleged illegal traffickers thereof arrested in connection therewith.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am tabling the information requested by the hon. Member.

Mr Rughoobur: Madam Speaker, on strategy relating to prevention and rehabilitation, not much has been done during the last decade. My question is: will the Rt. hon. Prime Minister confirm this information?

Secondly, is the Rt. hon. Prime Minister in favour of setting up a national agency to look into specifically this issue of prevention of drug trafficking and rehabilitation of the consumers of drugs? Is the Rt. hon. Prime Minister ready to set up a national agency at the Prime Minister's Office to look into this whole issue of prevention and rehabilitation?

Madam Speaker: You have made your point, hon. Rughoobur. Allow the Rt. hon. Prime Minister to reply!

The Prime Minister: Well, insofar as all these matters are concerned, as I have said before, there will be a commission, there will be recommendations and we will take all these matters together after that.

DRUGS - COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

(No. B/304) **Mr F. Quirin (Fourth 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 proposed setting up of a Commission of Inquiry on drugs, he will state where matters stand.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, action has already been initiated at the level of my Office for the setting up of the Commission of Inquiry on Drug Trafficking as announced in the Government Programme 2015-2019. In fact, a draft of the terms of reference of the Commission is in the process of being finalised.

The proposed terms of reference have been prepared after consultations with the different stakeholders so as to take on board all important aspects of drug trafficking and its ramifications in the country.

The President of the Republic will be advised to appoint the Commission of Inquiry as soon as the Terms of Reference have been finalised.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Bérenger: Can I know from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, because I heard him refer repeatedly to drug trafficking, whether the terms of reference include only the combating drug trafficking or will it be larger, that is, a review of penalties for consumption also and we know what issue there has been around the Subutex problem and so on. So, my point is: will the term of reference be only on trafficking, repression of trafficking or will it be larger and will it include a review of penalties for drug consumption?

The Prime Minister: Well, insofar as the penalties are concerned, we will have to consider as a Government and we will do the needful to amend the legislation as we think fit.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: May I ask the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether the Commission of Inquiry will look into that issue of synthetic drugs, because there is an increase in the market of these types of drugs which is not in the Schedule of the Dangerous Drugs Act?

The Prime Minister: Well, they will be looking into all aspects of all types of drugs.

Mr Bérenger: The Rt. hon. Prime Minister said that the Commission will be appointed by the President of the Republic as soon as the terms of reference are finalised, which seems to indicate that the Commission thereof has already been decided upon. Is that the case? Has the person who will chair especially, been identified and will it include foreigners?

The Prime Minister: We are looking into that.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: Can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether, in the terms of reference with regard to the setting up of the Commission of Inquiry, he will consider the possibility of specifying a time frame for the Commission of Inquiry to complete its task?

The Prime Minister: Well, I am sure that the person who will be chairing the Commission will be somebody very responsible. I don't think we should put a time frame. We must give them all the latitude so that they come with a very serious report and recommendations.

Madam Speaker: Last question!

Mr Ganoo: Madam Speaker, with regard to the penalties inflicted today by our Courts of law, especially concerning consumers - I am sure the Rt. hon. Prime Minister knows that the Criminal Procedure Act specifies that the delay to pay a fine is 12 months only - many consumers are sometimes inflicted a high penalty in terms of fine, but they cannot pay the fine within the delay of 12 months so that, therefore, they are sent to jail. Can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister consider the possibility of advising that these specific sections of the Criminal Procedure Act be amended to extend the delay to allow consumers to have a longer period of time to pay the fine imposed upon them to avoid them being sent to prison?

The Prime Minister: Personally, I don't think it is necessary to do that. If they can't pay the fine in one year, they will have to undergo imprisonment.

GAMBLING REGULATORY AUTHORITY BETTING CONTROL SYSTEM - OPERATIONAL

(No. B/305) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Central Monitoring System, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Gambling Regulatory Authority, information as to -

- (a) if it is fully operational;

- (b) the number of equipment connected thereto, indicating the -
 - (i) number of interventions carried out, and
 - (ii) actions taken, if any, in relation thereto, and
- (c) between 2010 to 2014, the number of -
 - (i) faults, and
 - (ii) reported cases of tampering with gaming machines.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, as I informed the House on 07 April 2015, while replying to PQ B/255, set by the hon. First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière, the Gambling Regulatory Authority Betting Control System which was transferred to the Mauritius Revenue Authority, in March 2013, is still being used to monitor horse racing betting and football betting.

Following the transfer, the Mauritius Revenue Authority has effected several improvements on the server hosting the Gambling Regulatory Authority Betting Control System namely, with respect to -

- (i) recording horse racing betting transactions on the central server, on a continuous on-line basis, by all on-course and off-course bookmakers;
- (ii) resolving the frequent electrical outage, abrupt shutdown of GRA server, data corruption of horse racing transactions and guarantee continuous online recording of betting transactions, and
- (iii) improving compliance of bookmakers with regard to taxes through the use of Business Analytics Tools.

As regards the Central Electronic Monitoring System, the Mauritius Revenue Authority has informed that a Request for Information is under preparation with a view to seeking consultancy services to conduct a study on “monitoring system for gaming activities” and for preparing the Request for Proposal document for this purpose. The decision to purchase and install a new central server will be taken on the basis of the results of this exercise.

213 equipments are connected to the Gambling Regulatory Authority Betting Control System, that is, 206 in respect of horse racing betting and 7 for football betting. On average 5 interventions are carried out per week.

In respect of (b) (ii), I am informed that the following actions have been taken, to improve the equipment -

- (a) wireless network infrastructure has been replaced by wired landline connectivity which is more reliable to guarantee transmission of betting transactions to the central server;
- (b) a team of IT staff, from both the Gambling Regulatory Authority and the Mauritius Revenue Authority, monitors the continuous online recording of betting transactions on the central server;
- (c) *ad-hoc* interventions are carried out on the machines of bookmakers which have problems to transmit betting transactions to the Mauritius Revenue Authority, due to hardware and networking connectivity issues;
- (d) the server infrastructure has been completely revamped to resolve the frequent electrical outage, abrupt shutdown of the Gambling Regulatory Authority server, data corruption of horse racing transactions and to guarantee continuous online recording of betting transactions;
- (e) two bookmakers operating through remote communication have been shifted from batch mode to continuous online recording, and
- (f) the Gambling Regulatory Authority Betting Control System has been extended to accommodate the multiple bet type (*Levé Pilé*).

With regard to part (c), the Mauritius Revenue has informed that gaming operators are not connected to the Gambling Regulatory Authority Betting Control System. Control is maintained through tax audits on returns submitted by gaming operators. To date, 90 cases have been audited and Rs558 m. have been claimed on assessments.

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, since the Rt. hon. Prime Minister stated that due to electrical outages very often the system does not work correctly, can we know what is the frequency of those outages and is it very often that those systems are not connected to the Central Monitoring System?

The Prime Minister: I can't say. I can't give figures about how many times and how frequent, but remedial action is being taken.

Mr Lesjongard: With regard to football betting, I understand from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister that only seven such equipment are connected to the Central Monitoring System. Can we know what percentage this represents?

The Prime Minister: I can't say, unfortunately.

Mr Bhagwan: Madam Speaker, will the Rt. hon. Prime Minister ask his office to enquire whether in the recent past nearly Rs100 m. has been spent for the consultancy and commissioning of a server and which has been *jeter dans l'eau*? It has always been a mafia operating within the MTC, with the GRA to prevent that server from being operational, but there should never be a server. Will the Rt. hon. Prime Minister enquire how this Rs100 m. has been spent and make sure that this server be operational in the public interest?

The Prime Minister: We will look into it.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Lesjongard!

GAMBLING REGULATORY AUTHORITY – CHAIRPERSON & EMPLOYEES

(No. B/306) **Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Gambling Regulatory Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the –

- (a) names and qualifications of the persons who have held office as
 - (i) Chairperson;
 - (ii) Vice-Chairperson, and
 - (iii) Chief Executive thereof, since 2010 to 2014, indicating in each case, the salaries and allowances paid thereto, and
- (b) number of employees attached thereto, indicating in each case, the respective
 - (i) salaries
 - (ii) allowances, and
 - (iii) age thereof.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am tabling the information requested as regards part (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) of the question.

As regards part (b), I am informed that there are four officers on permanent and pensionable establishment, five officers employed on a month to month contract basis and three officers are seconded from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, including the Acting Chief Executive. I am tabling the detailed information as requested.

A complete overhaul of the Gambling Regulatory Authority is being worked out in line with the findings/ recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on horse racing in Mauritius.

Mr Lesjongard: May I ask the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether he finds it normal for such an important regulator to have only four permanent officers on a staff with an establishment of 24 which has been operational for the past four years?

The Prime Minister: Well, I suppose the hon. Member was in the House at that time. He should have queried why this has been going on. It is like this.

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Jhugroo!

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION – FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL – SALARIES & ALLOWANCES

(No. B/308) 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 former Director-General of the Independent Commission against Corruption, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commission, information as to –

- (a) the amount of money paid thereto in terms of salaries and allowances;
- (b) the make and model of car put at the disposal thereof, and
- (c) the number of overseas trips he has undertaken during his tenure of office, indicating in each case, the
 - (i) countries visited;

- (ii) amount of *per diem* paid thereto, and
- (iii) cost of air tickets.

(Withdrawn)

MAURITIAN CITIZENSHIP - MR R. S. & MR P. A. C.

(No. B/309) 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 Mr R. S. and Mr P. A. C., he will state the grounds on which the Mauritian citizenship was granted thereto, respectively, indicating, in each case, with regard to the application for citizenship, the –

- (a) date of submission and of approval thereof, and
- (b) if the granting of the citizenship was made in compliance with the legislation and the procedures laid down therefor.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am informed that Mr R. S., a Canadian national, born in Uganda, on 20 August 1964 submitted an application for Mauritian citizenship on 19 July 2012 under section 5 of the Mauritius Citizenship Act pertaining to the Registration of Commonwealth citizens.

Mr R. S. was granted Mauritian citizenship on 25 September 2012 under section 5 (3) of the Mauritius Citizenship Act which stipulates that –

“the Minister may cause any Commonwealth citizen to be registered as a citizen of Mauritius if he is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so”.

He accordingly paid the registration fees of Rs15,000.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed that on 12 February 2008, Mr P. A. C., an Italian national, applied for Mauritian citizenship under section 7 of the Mauritius Citizenship Act. He is the spouse of a Mauritian citizen whom he married on 03 July 1988, in Rome.

Though Mr P. A.C. was married to a Mauritian citizen for more than 19 years at the time of his application, he did not meet the residence criteria required by the law, as he had not stayed in Mauritius for the period of four years immediately preceding his application for registration. Despite this fact, he was granted Mauritian citizenship on the same day. He also paid the registration fees of Rs5,000 applicable at that time.

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Speaker, can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister - I know if he has not got the CVs of both applicants - table a copy of the CVs of these two applicants later on?

The Prime Minister: Well, we will try to get the information.

Mr Jhugroo: Can we know from the Rt. Prime Minister who, in the Home Affairs Division of the PMO, processed the application of each applicant before submitting them to the former Prime Minister?

The Prime Minister: Well, I don't know who was there, I will have to get the information. But from what I see it is evident that the Prime Minister wanted to give the citizenship and he did it. It doesn't matter who was there as officer.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Dr. Joomaye!

RIVIÈRE DES ANGUILLES & SOUILLAC - PROJECTS EARMARKED

(No. B/310) Dr. Z. Joomaye (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to Constituency No. 13, Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Development Unit, information as to the projects –

- (a) being implemented thereat and
- (b) earmarked for implementation thereat in the near future.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the NDU that Works Orders to the tune of Rs54,976,590.46 are in progress for Constituency No. 13. I am tabling the list of the projects presently being implemented.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed by the NDU that the Parliamentary Private Secretary responsible for the Constituency No. 13 has submitted a proposed list of projects pertaining to roads, amenities and drains. Same is presently being examined by the NDU. The list of projects identified for implementation on the basis of availability of funds will be tabled in due course.

Dr. Joomaye: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister whether in the amount stated, is there any fund to start the construction of the Rivière des Anguilles Dam?

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: It can't be!

POLICE OFFICERS – OFFICIAL CAR - ELIGIBILITY

(No. B/312) 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 Police Officers, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the eligibility criteria for the entitlement thereof for the use of an official car, indicating the Police Officers posted at the National Security Services over the period 2006 to 10 December 2014 who have benefitted therefrom, and, in each case, if the Police Officer concerned –

- (a) satisfied the eligibility criteria, and
- (b) was also in receipt of travelling allowances/travel grant over the same period of time and, if so, indicate if inquiries will be carried thereinto.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the eligibility criterion for the entitlement for the use of official car by Police Officers is the salary scale as provided for in the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) Reports.

As from 2003, there have been three PRB Reports. According to PRB report covering period 01 July 2003 to 30 June 2008, public officers drawing a monthly basic salary of Rs47,500 and above were entitled to an official car.

In the report covering period 01 July 2008 to 31 December 2012 public officers drawing a monthly basic salary of Rs80,000 and above were entitled to an official car.

In the last PRB report 2013, this eligibility criterion was further increased for public officers drawing a basic salary of Rs102,000 and above.

I am further informed by the Commissioner of Police that during the period 2006 to December 2014, the former Director General, National Security Services, was the only officer of the unit who was entitled to and benefitted from this privilege.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that no travel grant or travelling allowance had been paid to the former Director General of the National Security Services.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Jhugroo!

PMO - MAURITIAN & FOREIGN LEGAL ADVISERS –

2005 - 2014

(No. B/313) 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 Mauritian and foreign legal advisers whose services were retained in his Ministry and in the statutory bodies, state owned companies and parastatal bodies which fell under the aegis of his Ministry, over the period July 2005 to 10 December 2014, he will indicate and obtain information therefrom, in each case, as to the –

- (a) period thereof, and
- (b) amount of retainer and/or any other fee paid thereto.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, the information sought by the hon. Member is being gathered from the various parastatal bodies and state-owned companies, most of which no longer fall under the aegis of my Office. The information will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly as soon as the exercise is completed.

However, the information sought in respect of public companies listed on the Stock Exchange cannot be disclosed.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: Is the Rt. hon. Prime Minister aware whether a new car was put at the disposal of Mr Geoffrey Cox and, if so, can we know the model, the cost and in which capacity he was entitled?

Madam Speaker: Hon. Jhugroo, I do not think this question should be asked.

The Prime Minister: I am not aware, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Yes. Hon. Rutnah, next question!

P.Q. No. B/314 – See after P.Q. No. B/356

MAURITIUS TURF CLUB – MR B. G - ALLEGED ASSAULT

(No. B/315) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for

Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to Mr B. G., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if a case had been reported against him for an alleged assault which purportedly took place within the premises of the Mauritius Turf Club in 2013 and, if so, indicate the outcome of the –

- (a) inquiry carried out thereinto, and
- (b) court case, if any.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that no case of alleged assault purportedly having taken place within the premises of the Mauritius Turf Club in 2013 has been reported against Mr B. G.

However, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 01 May 2011, one Mr A. G. made a declaration at Pope Hennessy Police Station to the effect that on 30 April 2011 around 17.15 hrs, whilst he was in the Grand Stand at Champ de Mars, the said Mr B. G. slapped him on his face.

Madam Speaker, as regards part (a) of the question, I am further informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 24 June 2011, Mr A. G. gave a statement to the Police stating that he was withdrawing the case against Mr B. G. as the latter had tendered his apologies.

The case was set aside on 18 May 2012 by the then Superintendent of Police of Pope Hennessy Police Station.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister confirm whether it is not correct that it is the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions which should decide, even if there is a withdrawal statement, whether a case to be proceeded for prosecution or not, by virtue of section 72 of our Constitution?

The Prime Minister: Normally, it should be so and I hope this can be done even now.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Bhagwan!

MEDIA TRUST – BOARD COMPOSITION

(No. B/316) **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 Media Trust, he will, for

the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if the Board thereof has been constituted and, if so, indicate –

- (a) when;
- (b) the composition thereof, and
- (c) the name of the Chairperson thereof.

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, at the very outset, let me inform the House that the Board of the Media Trust was last constituted in February 2004 for a period of two years.

The Media Trust has remained inactive for the last nine years although millions of rupees have been spent on rent, utilities and salary.

Madam Speaker, my Government is fully committed to give a new impetus to the functioning of the Media Trust.

As a matter of fact, as soon as my Government assumed office, we initiated action for the reconstitution of the Board of the Media Trust.

The elections of the four representatives of the Press who will sit on the Board of the Media Trust for the years 2015-2016 have already been carried out by the Electoral Commissioner's Office on 17 March 2015.

The Chairperson and the other Members of the Board of the Media Trust will be appointed soon.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to inform the House that, in the 2015-2016 Budget, the amount of funds allocated to the Media Trust has been increased by 33% to Rs2.7 m.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: It is a fact that this institution has not been working for many years as rightly pointed out by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister. Now that the whole *corps de journalistes* is involved, they have done the election, can we have the assurance from the Rt. hon. Prime Minister that the right person will be chosen because I think it is the Rt. hon. Prime Minister who will appoint. There are names which are being circulated and which are *très controversés!* Can we rely on the Rt. hon. Prime Minister to make sure that the names which are controversial within the *secteur du journalisme* will not be appointed and that this Media Trust be given life again as soon as possible?

The Prime Minister: Well, I hope it will be so.

Madam Speaker: Time is over! Hon. Members, the Table has been advised that Parliamentary Questions Nos. B/341, B/344, B/346, B/347, B/348, B/349 and B/354 have been withdrawn. Parliamentary Question No. B/336 addressed to the hon. Minister of Arts and Culture will be replied by the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands, Parliamentary Question No. B/357 addressed to the hon. Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions will be replied by the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development. Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

P.Q. No. B/317 – See after P.Q. No. B/314

RAPID LIGHT RAIL PROJECT – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

(No. B/319) Dr R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the lands compulsorily acquired in connection with the Rapid Light Rail Project, he will state the names of the owners thereof, indicating, in each case, the –

- (a) extent of the land so acquired, and
- (b) amount of money proposed to the owners thereof.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun): Madam Speaker, for the purposes of the Mauritius Light Rapid Transit and based on the preferred alignment option, 88 plots of private land have been compulsorily acquired.

Admittedly, the compilation of the detailed information in a structured manner requires some time. I am arranging for the relevant information to be placed in the Library of the National Assembly in two weeks' time.

Dr. Sorefan: The hon. Vice-Minister has mentioned 88 plots. May we know the exact amount that has been earmarked for these plots?

Mr Soodhun: With pleasure, I am going to place the information in the Library.

Mr Bhagwan: Can I just ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether he has inquired into a case of encroachment by an individual - a former politician - who has constructed a chalet on the *trajet* of *métro léger* along the ex-railway track from Cité Barkly downwards? I raised that issue with him personally some time back.

Mr Soodhun: I am going to look into it, Madam Speaker.

Dr. Sorefan: The largest plot of all these 88 goes to a multichannel retail company, which is next to Iframac Ltd. at Phoenix. I know the *superficie* is around 13,000 square metres. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister give us an idea of the amount that is going to be paid to this company?

Mr Soodhun: As I mentioned, Madam Speaker, I will be very glad to share the information with my good friend, but I don't have it right now.

Madam Speaker: Alright. Next question hon. Dr. Sorefan!

RAPID LIGHT RAIL PROJECT – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION - ROAD DECONGESTION PROGRAMME

(No. B/320) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the lands compulsorily acquired in connection with the Rapid Light Rail Project, he will state if Government is proposing to use the said lands in connection with the proposed new Road Decongestion Programme, and if so, give details thereof.

Mr Bodha: Madam Speaker, my Ministry will address the problem of road congestion on two fronts. In this respect, we are working on a new Road Decongestion Programme as well as on the modernisation of the Land Transport System.

The Road Decongestion Programme will be implemented in phases over a number of years, and the road alignments will consequently be finalised depending on new developments which will take place with the implementation of smart cities and the techno parks, as announced in the Budget Speech 2015/2016.

Madam Speaker, I am advised that since the plots which have been acquired for the Mauritius Light Rapid Transport project will be needed by some components of both projects, that is, the Road Decongestion Programme and the Transport Modernisation System, it has been decided to retain these plots, as my colleague, in fact, already indicated in reply to Parliamentary Question No. B/191.

Dr. Sorefan: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has talked about certain plots that will be retained. There are many small plots coming from Phoenix M1 going to St Jean

Roundabout, and we have the M1 3 lanes already. Some plots are of 38 m², from what I see on the plan that I have. Can I know whether the hon. Minister is going to retain these? Because they belong to certain persons who could develop them. I don't see those small plots forming part in the enlargement of roads.

Mr Bodha: Well, we will have a collaborative approach with the Ministry of Housing and Lands. As regards to the plot mentioned by the hon. Member, Madam Speaker, we are working on a flyover, which will include the three roundabouts of Phoenix and Jumbo. Once we have made the final design, we have to see whether all the plots which have been acquired will be finally needed or not. It will take some time because we are finalising the design together with the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Mr Bhagwan: Madam Speaker, since the Minister has mentioned that he is finalising the Road Decongestion Programme, can I know whether, with regard to the issue of road decongestion at the entrance of Rose Hill, from Ebène and Vandermeersch Street, in that programme, this very acute problem is being addressed?

Mr Bodha: This problem is being addressed, not specifically; but the problem is being addressed as regards to traffic from the west, taking into account Beau Bassin which will be linking the centre of the island.

Dr. Sorefan: The track goes to Richelieu and Plaine Lauzun also. There are about 15 plots of land that have been acquired, especially in Richelieu, which go in the middle of a *morcellement*. May we know from the hon. Minister where do they fit in in the decongestion programme?

Mr Bodha: Well, that is a very specific question, Madam Speaker. But what I am saying is that, together with the Ministry of Housing and Lands, we will work out on the land which has been acquired and the final designs, and if we see that the land acquired will not be used, I think the best thing will be to see to it whether the plots can be given back to the former owners. But I am of the opinion, Madam Speaker, that we should have a land bank for infrastructure projects and that we should be able then to use them as and when required in the decongestion programme.

Madam Speaker: Yes, next question, hon. Dr. Sorefan!

SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – PARKING SPACE

(No. B/321) **Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to if consideration will be given for the –

- (a) construction of a multi-storey parking building thereat, and
- (b) existing parking facilities to be redesigned and to make provision for the installation of pavements thereat.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I shall reply to the parliamentary question.

With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Chief Executive Officer of *Airport Terminal Operations Limited (ATOL)* that there is already enough parking space at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport and it is not proposed to construct a multi-storey car park.

The car park at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport has the capacity to accommodate 1,457 vehicles, and only 1,200 vehicles are using the available parking space daily.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that ATOL is working on the improvement of on-road circulation and parking facilities which will involve demarcation of zoning, enhancing a more prominent way-finding and providing more convivial pedestrian facility.

Dr. Sorefan: May we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister if he is aware that to get a parking in the new parking you have to do three or four rounds? But I see that the answer given states that only some parking are being used. Moreso, when you do get a parking space...

Madam Speaker: Ask your question, hon. Dr. Sorefan!

Dr. Sorefan: You have to walk on the road...

Madam Speaker: Ask your question!

Dr. Sorefan: Is the Vice-Prime Minister aware that when you park your car, you do not have a pavement? All people walk on the road to get access to the airport.

Mr Soodhun: I totally agree with the hon. Member, and the fact that this is the case, the new management is looking into that issue. I am sure that my colleague will come with a solution.

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Speaker, being given that the Government is planning to attain two million tourists per year and, at the same time, increase the number of flights every day, will the parking be enough for so many landings every day?

Mr Soodhun: According to the information that I have, there is enough. They are not utilising the existing parking. But there is a problem that we all know. From the parking to the terminal, there is a long distance and there is some problem. The issue is being looked into by the new management.

Madam Speaker: Next question hon. Rughoobur!

MAURITIUS TOURISM AUTHORITY – RESTRUCTURATION

(No. B/322) Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand' Baie & Poudre d'Or) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the Mauritius Tourism Authority, he will –

- (a) state if consideration will be given for –
 - (i) a restructuration and review of the functioning thereof, and
 - (ii) an audit of the existing resources thereof, following the two recent accidents at sea, and
- (b) for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom –
 - (i) information as to if it has an enforcement arm and, if so, indicate the number of staff thereof and the number of contraventions booked over the past six months in respect of sea activities and, if not, why not, and
 - (ii) table the names and addresses of the different types of licensed pleasure crafts operators of the past six months.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun): It is a very lengthy question, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, with your permission, I shall reply to the question.

With regard to part (a), I wish to inform the House that in the Government Programme 2015-2019 it has been announced that ‘the Tourism Authority will be transformed into a business facilitator leveraging on new technologies to provide a more efficient service to the stakeholders’.

In line with this policy, the Tourism Authority has already started an exercise for its reorganisation with a view to providing the Authority with the appropriate structures. The restructuring exercise is in progress and a new organigramme is being worked out, whereas new units will be created and existing sections will be reinforced. The exercise will also include a comprehensive human resource audit.

As regards parts (b) (i) and (ii) of the question, I am informed that the Tourism Authority has set up a Monitoring and Compliance Unit since 2007 to ensure, *inter alia*, that the operators comply with the relevant legislations, regulations, standard, guidelines and code of conduct.

The unit is currently manned by one Acting Manager and four Tourism Enforcement Officers. However, provision has been made in the budget for the recruitment of additional Tourism Enforcement Officers to reinforce the monitoring capacity of the unit.

For the past six months, the Monitoring and the Compliance Unit has established 19 contraventions in respect of the sea activities.

Madam Speaker, I am tabling the names and addresses of the operators to whom pleasure craft licences have been issued from October 2014 to 24 April 2015.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We know that we have got licence canvassers in hotels. There is a proliferation these days, in the north, especially in the hotels, of illegal canvassers. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister look into this issue and kindly inform the Tourism Authority to ensure that there is more enforcement in those hotels and that the licensed taxi drivers or any other operators in the tourism sector are not unjustly penalised?

Mr Soodhun: Madam Speaker, I will convey this information.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Rughoobur!

WETLANDS - SURVEY

(No. B/323) Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand' Baie & Poudre d'Or) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the flood prone areas, he will state if his Ministry will consider –

- (a) carrying out a survey of all the wetlands and introducing legislation for the protection against the illegal exploitation thereof;
- (b) urgently appointing a team of experts to evaluate the extent of the wetlands which have been developed for residential or industrial purposes over the past ten years and to -
 - (i) assess the immediate and future repercussions thereof, and
 - (ii) propose remedial measures therefor, and
- (c) appointing a full inquiry on the award of development permits on wetlands by the local authorities, over the past ten years.

Mr Seeruttun: Madam Speaker, Mauritius is a Contracting Party to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance also known as the Ramsar Convention, the objective of which is the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation. Hence, we have an international obligation to protect all our wetlands.

As regards part (a) of the question, my Ministry does not propose to carry out a survey of all the wetlands as such an exercise was already carried out by the Ministry of Environment in 2008. That study included a demarcation and inventory of all wetlands in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The report is available at the Ministry of Environment for consultation.

Regarding the legislation on the protection of wetlands, a Wetlands Bill is being prepared and will be introduced into the House in due course.

As regards part (b) of the question, the National Ramsar Committee which operates under the aegis of my Ministry examines applications and makes recommendations for all development near or within wetlands. This Committee comprises representatives of relevant Ministries and Departments as well as non-governmental organisations. It normally assesses all implications before granting a Ramsar clearance for any project together with

conditions. I shall request the National Ramsar Committee to compile a list of all projects for which Ramsar clearance has been granted and the extent of wetlands developed for residential and industrial purposes during the last 10 years. I shall, thereafter, table the information. As the National Ramsar Committee comprises of experts in the field of wetlands conservation and management, the question of appointing another team of experts does not arise.

With regard to part (c) of the question, the number of development permits issued by local authorities over the past 10 years in respect of projects on wetlands is also being compiled with a view to determining whether the recommendations of the National Ramsar Committee have been complied with. In the light of this exercise, a decision will be taken as to whether any inquiry needs to be carried out or not.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Will the hon. Minister confirm that almost every three years there are conferences on this whole issue of the Ramsar Convention on wetlands? Will he as well confirm that in November 2008 one such report was prepared by Government? I am going to table this report, Madam Speaker. Will the hon. Minister confirm that almost all the recommendations in this report which I would like to list very quickly, that is –

- (i) establishment of a Wetland Bill;
- (ii) comprehensive survey of all wetlands;
- (iii) nomination of more Ramsar sites of international importance, and
- (iv) conservation and management of wetlands and awareness for the public in general.

all these four recommendations, I see that nothing has been implemented since 2008 which is in this report, and I'm going to table a copy of this report. So, I urge the hon. Minister to please ensure that these recommendations are put in place and that the Bill comes before the House as early as possible.

Mr Seeruttun: Madam Speaker, like I have said in my reply, a Bill is being prepared at the moment and will be soon in this House. As regards the new site, I would like to inform the House that there are two sites that have been identified, namely –

- the Midlands Dam, and
- the Caverne Patate of Rodrigues

that would soon be recommended for recognition within the Ramsar Convention.

RODRIGUES WINDFARM & BAMBOUS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC FARM

(No. B/324) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Rodrigues Windfarm and the Bambous Solar Photovoltaic Farm which are in operation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, information as to the experience these renewable energy farms have provided thereto in respect of the further deployment of similar projects in Mauritius.

Mr Collendavelloo: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Central Electricity Board as follows -

- (i) Rodrigues has a total installed wind generation capacity of 1280 kW;
- (ii) the first 3x60 kW wind farm was commissioned at Trefles in December 2003 and the second one at Grenade in 2010 - a project which had been initiated before 2005 - with the installation of 4 units of 275 kW each, and
- (iii) the share of wind energy generation represents 10% of the overall energy mix in the island.

With regard to the Bambous solar PV project, I am informed by the Central Electricity Board that it was commissioned in February 2014 and has generated some 20.2 GWh by December 2014.

As I have stated in my previous replies in this House, Government is encouraging the development of wind and solar energy projects. Several other projects are in the pipeline and my Ministry will shortly issue a public invitation for communication of Expressions of Interest so as to receive proposals for renewable energy generation systems.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Mahomed: I thank the hon. Vice-Prime Minister for his reply. In regard to the Rodrigues windfarm, is the hon. Vice-Prime Minister aware that at night when the power consumption goes down, the percentage of renewable energy entering the grid sometimes goes as high as 30% and this causes instability of the grid? I would like to know whether this issue is being resolved because it is important going forward even for the Republic of Mauritius?

Mr Collendavelloo: I take note and I will see whether that is correct.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Bérenger: Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister - being given that he has confirmed that we intend to move forward in the use of renewable energy - whether there is

any report or communication from the Central Electricity Board stating from their point of view what changes they feel should be brought to the grid to sustain those developments to come?

Mr Collendavello: I have raised this matter on several occasions with the new General Manager of the CEB, who, as everybody knows, has a vast experience of more than 30 years in the CEB. He has told me that he is now studying, since he has taken office, all measures that are to be taken in order to render the grid adaptable to new generation systems from renewable energy. I have recruited an Adviser to the Minister, to me, who used to work at the CEB and who is working now on what steps should be taken to improve the grid of the CEB. She is going to work in conjunction with the new General Manager. I hope to be in a position to inform the House in a few weeks as to what is the situation.

Mr Bérenger: Can the hon. Minister tell us whether she is a local or overseas expert?

Mr Collendavello: Local expert Mrs Boolaky.

Mr Ganoo: Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether he has the information with regard to the comparative price of the kilowatt hour of the two sources of energy, that is, between renewable energy, wind energy and fossil energy? What price do we pay per kilowatt hour with regard to these two sources?

Mr Collendavello: Well, as the hon. Member knows very well, the past experience is that energy from Saraco is Rs6 compared to Rs3 approximately for fossil energy. I don't have the exact figures in mind but we have to think forward. Today fossil prices, fuel oil is very cheap. The price of sun is not going to fluctuate but the machines...

(Interruptions)

I don't believe that we can look only at the immediate price that it costs us. For wind, it is about Rs4, I think. It is less than Saraco, Saraco is the highest price and then we have the Roche Noire Aerowatt which is going to be commissioned, they already agreed to a price which is about Rs3. Probably I've wrong but I need to have notice in order to be able to give the exact price.

MAURICE ILE DURABLE - RENEWABLE ENERGY

(No. B/325) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, since Cabinet took note, on 02 August 2013 that, under the Maurice Ile Durable Policy, Strategy and Action Plan, the contribution of renewable energy, that is, Hydro, Bagasse, Wind, Photovoltaic, Landfill Gas-to-Energy and Small Scale Distributed Generation, is

estimated at 23.4% of total energy generation in 2014 and to reach 35% in 2025, he will state the projects which have been undertaken, indicating -

- (a) in each case, the projected capacity thereof, and
- (b) the estimated net increase in total renewable energy production in Mauritius, in terms of percentage, following the implementation thereof.

Mr Collendavelloo: I am informed that the CEB, Madam, that the following renewable energy projects have been undertaken some of them since well before 2013 -

- (a) a 3 MW Landfill Gas to Energy Facility at Mare Chicose;
- (b) a 15 MW_p PV Farm at Bambous;
- (c) 3 MW Small Scale Distributed Generations, and
- (d) two mini hydro power plants at Midlands dam and Nicoliere feeder canal.

These projects together with the existing bagasse and hydro power plants contribute to 18% of the total energy generation mix. No new project has been implemented since I took office as I am insisting on a transparent and fair process prior to being considered.

Other Renewable Energy Projects being implemented are two wind farms which will generate 40 MW, 5 PV farms of 2 MW each and a bagasse plant at Medine to generate 11 MW.

As regards part (b) of the question, some 44 GWh of clean energy have been produced by the already commissioned renewable energy projects in 2014. This will increase to some 106 GWh when the projects in the pipeline are fully commissioned, representing 23% of total energy generation by 2016.

To reach the target of 35% of renewable energy in 2025, new projects will have to be commissioned. As mentioned in the Government programme, we are formulating a Renewable Energy road map and setting up a Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency, the Marina.

I have to conclude that as everybody knows the impetus to renewable energy projects was initiated as a result of the 1982 Government Programme as implemented in the late 1980's and early 1990's. These projects gained new impetus under the Government of 2000 to 2005. After 10 years of status quo save for Saraco, we are now initiating a new avant-garde project which will lead us to a quantum leap into the 21st century.

Mr Mahomed: Madam Speaker, that Cabinet decision caters for projects amounting to 70 Mega Watts. The list is here. My specific question was: how much was it before, the percentage of renewable energy before these projects meaning from bagasse and hydro and how much will it be? According to the Cabinet decision, it is 22.4 % so what is the difference in percentage that MID has brought onto the grade?

Mr Collendavelloo: I am sorry this is not how I read the question but if you wish I will go and do the calculation and come back to you.

Mr Bérenger: The hon. Minister, I think, mentioned a new bagasse plan at Medine. Will it be a new plan and will it be produced in electricity the year through or only during the sugar crop season?

Mr Collendavelloo: Let me come back with a fresh statement on that matter.

Mr Ganoo: I would like to ask the hon. Minister a question with regard to small scale distributed generation, that is, SSDG which is, in fact, the democratisation of renewable energy. These are the projects where families should be encouraged to set up on their roof top solar panel as a source of supply of energy. Can the hon. Minister tells us what is his road map for this particular source of energy?

Mr Collendavelloo: The first step will be in the hon. Member's Constituency. When we look at the relocation of the La Ferme squatters where we intend - I've already had a meeting - to try and see whether we can do a smart village in the area of Beaux Songes for these persons. I think the hon. Member is aware of this project where we will use these small scale generating units for these houses and we will have to encourage this sort of production. On the 01 of December 2014, CEB introduced a sort of levy on these small domestic generation units. I am asking that these regulations be revoked immediately and I hope that they will be revoked very, very soon. I've just signed the papers this morning and this is unacceptable. We have to encourage roof top, small scale generation units because, first of all, they don't cost much; secondly, the house owners do their own maintenance and they look after their own systems because it is theirs, it does not cost much again. We've got to encourage people to copy what has happened to Bagatelle, the commercial centres which are a bit larger of course, which are not small scale and try and extend them to Shoprite, Jumbo ecetera and alleviate therefore the burden which is on CEB. But we will also have to go into fiscal incentives. We shall see in the Finance Bill that there will be fiscal incentive for these household owners to take some of their money to invest in renewable energy, we need to give them fiscal alleviations. That will be the incentive.

Madam Speaker: Next question hon. Mahomed! We've got to take the other questions.

Mr Mahomed: Madam Speaker, with due respect to you, can we take another question because I have just to finish off this question. One last one.

Madam Speaker: I have already said that we are passing on to the next question. You will come back some other time with another supplementary question.

Mr Mahomed: I wanted to assist the hon. Minister actually.

Madam Speaker: Just take the next question!

(Interruptions)

RING ROAD PROJECT - SURVEY

(No. B/326) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the survey recently carried out in Port Louis, he will state if same is related to the Ring Road Project and, if so, indicate if an assessment has been made of the possible impact that the road alignment in relation thereto will have on the existing dwelling units in the regions of Vallée Pitot and Tranquebar and, if so, indicate the measures, if any, that are being envisaged to compensate the households which would be affected therewith.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I shall reply to both PQ B/326 and PQ B/337 as they relate to the same subject of relocation of the inhabitants who may be affected by the Ring Road alignment.

I am informed by the Road Development Authority that in the revised Road Decongestion Programme it is proposed to construct the Ring Road Phase 3 project on an elevated viaduct structure along Boulevard Avenue up to Military Road and then to Mer Rouge region. Any revised alignment for the Ring Road Phase 2 or Ring Road Phase 3 would have a direct bearing on inhabitants living in the regions of Tranquebar and Vallée Pitot.

In the region of Tranquebar, there are, within the Phase 2 of the Ring Road alignment, some 82 squatters found over private properties. The private properties have already been acquired by Government. Arrangements have already been made for these 82 squatters to be relocated, in Pointe aux Sables over a plot of land acquired from the State Land Development Company. An integrated housing project has been implemented there for the purpose. The

housing units and the associated infrastructure have already been completed. The drawing of lot exercise would soon be effected.

Insofar as Vallée Pitot is concerned, initially there were to be 73 possible cases of relocation of squatters. However, if the new alignment option does not impact on the site where they are presently squatting, my Ministry will consider the possibility of regularising their situation *in situ*. Otherwise, depending on the actual circumstances, where relocation will be required, the families concerned will be accommodated in Pointe aux Sables.

Madam Speaker, the question of compensation does not arise as these families are not owners of the land which they are presently occupying.

Mr Mahomed: So, only squatters who are illegal and have not been regularised so far that are concerned, is that right? There are no other properties than those that have not been regularised that are concerned here, is that right?

Mr Soodhun: This is what I have mentioned. I think I was very clear in my answer concerning the 82 and 73 squatters?

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: May I know from the hon. Minister exactly how many families will be lodged at Pointe aux Sables?

Mr Soodhun: For the time being, we have to wait for the road alignment and then, I will be in a position to say exactly the number of people who are going to be relocated.

Mr Baloomoody: May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister where exactly in Pointe aux Sables these people will be relocated?

Mr Soodhun: I am told that it will be in Pointe aux Sables. Within Pointe aux Sables!

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: You have got another supplementary question! Alright! I suspend the sitting for one and a half hour for lunch.

At 1.02 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

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

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Osman Mahomed!

NATIONAL ENERGY COMMISSION REPORT - RECOMMENDATIONS

(No. B/327) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Report of the National Energy Commission, dated October 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, information as to if the recommendations contained therein on how to avoid a power deficit and how to foster a sustainable energy future will be taken on board in the planning for electricity production.

The Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities (Mr I. Collendavelloo): The House may wish to refer to my reply to the Private Notice Question of 01 April 2015 in which I referred the House to the independent evaluation by the World Bank of the electricity demand forecast and power generation plans of the CEB. This study takes into account the recommendations of the National Energy Commission report.

I also informed the House that the CEB is taking measures to ensure electricity supply in the short term as follows –

- optimisation of maintenance schedules from CEB’s plants and IPPs, with the main objective of reducing generation capacity under maintenance during off crop summer season;
- extension of the Power Purchase Agreement with Consolidated Energy Ltd for three more years up to 2018 for 22 MW, and
- addition of 60 MW at St Louis Power Station to be commissioned in mid-2017.

Most of the projects announced in the Government Programme and the budget are in line with the recommendations of the Commission.

As regards fostering sustainable energy, I refer to the answer I have just provided in reply to PQ No. B/325.

Mr Bérenger: Can we have any indication when the World Bank report will be ready?

Mr Collendavelloo: I have just received it. I have just received it, it is under study and I will communicate following a study on this.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Quirin!

9TH INDIAN ISLANDS OCEAN GAMES – ATHLETES

(No. B/328) **Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the 9th Indian Islands Ocean Games, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from Club Maurice, information as to the number of athletes that will form part of the delegation thereof, indicating the number thereof-

- (a) per discipline and
- (b) gender wise.

Mr Sawmynaden: Madam Speaker, I have been informed by Club Maurice that 314 athletes comprising 167 males and 147 females will form part of the delegation participating in the 9th Indian Ocean Island Games.

I am tabling a list giving details of the number of athletes per discipline and gender wise.

Mr Quirin: Madame la présidente, l'honorable ministre peut-il indiquer à la Chambre les différents responsables du Club Maurice, je veux dire par cela, les chefs de missions, les responsables des équipes, s'ils ont été choisis et de bien vouloir nous donner les noms?

Mr Sawmynaden: Madam Speaker, a total of 95 officials will form part of the delegation. The 95 officials are the 51 coaches, 26 referees, 14 presidents or representatives of Sports Federation, head of delegation, head of mission -1, team managers - 1 for male and 1 for female. As regards the names, the officials in quota will be circulated shortly and there are some which will be *hors* quota. But as regards sports federations, I think it is up to them to give the names of who are going to attend.

Mr Quirin: Madame la présidente, le ministre peut-il nous dire si le comité de suivi pour les jeux des îles, au sein de son ministère, fonctionne toujours. Si oui, de bien vouloir déposer une copie de son dernier rapport sur la préparation de nos sélections nationales.

Mr Sawmynaden: Yes, there is a *comité de suivi* in my Ministry. I will definitely table a copy.

Mr Bhagwan: Can I know from the hon. Minister what arrangement is being made for Mauritian supporters to participate actively in attending the activities in the different

disciplines like it was in the past? I would like to know whether the Ministry will issue a communiqué and how the Mauritians will be able to have tickets to attend.

Mr Sawmynaden: Madam Speaker, I have already given instructions to the officials of my Ministry to issue a communiqué - I think it will be done either today or tomorrow - asking any Mauritians interested to attend the games to make themselves known to my Ministry, so that we can make arrangement of tickets regarding the discipline that they want to attend.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Quirin!

MAURITIUS SPORTS COUNCIL – HANDYMEN - EMPLOYMENT

(No. B/329) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Mauritius Sports Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the number of handymen attached thereto, indicating the conditions of employment thereof.

Mr Sawmynaden: Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Mauritius Sports Council that there are presently 99 handyworkers in post at the Council. These workers are being paid salary in line with the Pay Research Bureau Report and Errors, Omissions and Anomalies Committee's Report in the monthly salary scale ranging from Rs9,450 to Rs16,175 plus compensation at approved rates.

As regards to the other conditions of employment, they are the same which prevail in the public sector for this category of workers.

Mr Quirin: Madame la présidente, l'honorable ministre peut-il nous dire si ces employés, ces *handymen*, sont toujours sous contrat, ou est-ce qu'ils ont été employés à plein temps ?

Mr Sawmynaden: Madam Speaker, all the employees have been employed since January 2014. So, now they are on full-time basis.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS – TEACHERS/SENIOR TEACHERS - APPOINTMENT

(No. B/332) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Science Research whether, in regard to the long serving Teachers/Senior Teachers for General Purpose and Oriental Languages, respectively, who are presently seconded for duty in the

Special Education Needs Schools, she will state the number thereof in each case, indicating where matters stand as to their appointment to the permanent post of Educator for Special Education Needs.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Madam Speaker, there are currently 73 teachers/senior teachers and educators (Primary) who have been seconded for duty in Specialised Education Needs Schools, and the breakdown is as follows –

- 35 General Purpose teachers/senior teachers
- 19 Oriental Languages teachers/senior teachers
- 10 General Purpose educators, and
- 9 Oriental Languages educators.

Out of these 73 teachers/senior teachers and educators, 12 reckon more than five years of experience on secondment in SEN schools.

Madam Speaker, in the context of the ongoing reforms, the Ministry made proposals for re-engineering the SEN sector to make it more responsive to the present needs of both the children and the teaching personnel. In its 2008 Report, the PRB accordingly paved the way for a new career structure for SEN sector with the creation of a new grade of Educator (SEN), and the restyling of three existing grades as follows –

- Superintendent, Specialised Schools was converted into Inspector, Specialised Schools;
- Head of Schools for Blind, for the Deaf and for Sub-normal Children were converted into Head, Specialised Schools;
- Instructor and Instructress of these schools were converted into Deputy Head, Specialised Schools.

Entry to the new grade of Educator (SEN) was to be made by selection from two streams, namely –

- (i) “(...) from among Educators reckoning at least four years’ experience in a substantive capacity and possessing the Diploma (SEN)”,

and

- (ii) “from among teachers/senior teachers, teachers/senior teachers Oriental Languages who have successfully completed their appropriate training courses and are presently seconded for duty to serve in Special Schools”.

Madam Speaker, the scheme of service for the post of Educator was worked out in consultation with the relevant unions and federations and prescribed in September 2011. A selection exercise was carried out by the Public Service Commission in March 2012 for the filling of 34 vacancies in the grade.

On 10 April 2012, representations were made by the Government Teachers Union before the Conciliation Service of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms to the effect that the scheme of service for the post of Educator (SEN) did not make provision for teachers posted to specialised schools and not possessing the Diploma (SEN).

The Ministry, therefore, requested the PSC to stay action on the selection exercise pending finalisation of the conciliation case. However, by July 2012, no consensus could be reached on the matter, and I am informed that the then president of the Conciliation Service advised the GTU to refer the matter for voluntary arbitration to the Employment Relations Tribunal.

As at 09 October 2012, no response from the GTU was obtained, and since the SEN sector was adversely suffering due to non-filling of existing vacancies in the grade of Educator, the Ministry requested the PSC, in the interest of the children with special education needs, to proceed with the selection exercise.

Consequently, following the selection exercise, eight teachers/senior teachers were found to meet the requirements for the post and were offered employment as Educator (SEN) in February 2013. As at to date, only five of them are in post.

Madam Speaker, as regards the teachers/senior teachers and educators, both General Purpose and Oriental Languages, who did not have any relevant training to work in the SEN sector, the Ministry approached the Mauritius Institute of Education in June 2012 to mount an appropriate course for them. The Educators' Licence in Special Education Needs (ELSEN) course, which is of six months duration, was eventually mounted in October 2012 and dispensed as from January to June 2013 to a batch of 24 teachers and senior teachers and primary educators as well. These teachers and educators were all sponsored by the Ministry to follow the ELSEN course given that they were already working in the SEN sector. In September 2014, all the teachers had successfully completed the ELSEN Course.

In July 2014, with a view to giving priority to consideration to these teachers, the Ministry requested the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms to amend the qualifications requirements of the post by inserting a cut-off date to enable only the cohort of

ELSEN 2013 to compete for the post of Educator (SEN) along with the Diploma (SEN) holders.

This proposal has been subject to lengthy consultations and discussions with the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms in view of entailing implications. A consensus has now been reached between my Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Service on the scheme of service...

Madam Speaker: Hon. Minister, do you have a long reply?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Non, je termine.

...to provide for appointment to the grade of Educator (SEN) to also be made from among “teachers/senior teachers and teachers/senior teachers (Oriental Languages) possessing their Educator’s Licence - Special Education Needs and reckoning at least 2 years’ teaching experience in specialised schools.”

My Ministry has consulted the relevant federations and unions and no response has been obtained as at the deadline set. On March 31st, my Ministry has referred the matter to the Civil Service and Administrative Reforms Ministry for action to be taken for the prescription of the amended scheme of service, and the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs has referred the case to the PRB on 02 April 2015. Thereafter, the 29 vacancies existing in the grade will be reported to the PSC with a view to be filled.

Mr Ramful: Do I take it, therefore, that now, following the various actions that have been taken at the level of the Ministry, those teachers and senior teachers would be eligible for the next promotional exercise?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: This is what is expected, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Lesjongard!

Madam Speaker: Hon. Lesjongard!

PAILLES TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT – CONTRACT

(No. B/334) **Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Design-Build/Turnkey and to Operate the Upgraded Pailles Treatment Plant Project, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to where matters stand, indicating -

- (a) the initial estimated cost thereof;
- (b) the cost thereof at the time of the award of the contract, and
- (c) if the contract therefor was awarded through the emergency procurement method and, if so, indicate the reasons therefor.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities (Mr I. Collendavelloo): Madam Speaker, the hon. Member may wish to refer to my reply to PQ No. B/147 on 03 March 2015 and to the reply made by my predecessor on 16 July 2013 to PQ No. B/716.

I am informed by the Central Water Authority that all major civil and electromechanical works have been completed on 22 April and commissioning tests will last for three weeks. One sedimentation tank and 2 out of 8 filters will be operational as from the end of April and the remaining by the third week of May 2015. The original completion date was end of March.

However, there has been a delay due to late delivery of mechanical and electrical equipment due to cyclone Bansi and procurement of filtration sand.

With regard to part (a), I am informed that the consultant GIBB (Mauritius) Ltd. provided the initial cost estimates under two options namely, chemical pre-treatment Rs429 m. and physical pre-treatment Rs450 m. During the bid evaluation, the Central Procurement Board revised the estimated cost to Rs670 m. based on additional items not estimated by the consultant.

With regard to part (b), I am informed by the Central Water Authority that the cost at the time of the award of the contract was Rs725,814,684.41 inclusive of 7.5 percent contingencies and 15 percent VAT.

As regards part (c), I am informed by the Central Water Authority that the Central Procurement Board decided not to approve any award of contract on the ground that the bid price did not represent value for money. One aggrieved bidder appealed to the Independent Review Panel which recommended that the decision to cancel the bid be annulled and the bids be re-evaluated.

Consequently, in June 2013, the Central Water Authority decided to award the contract as an emergency procurement on the grounds that the heavy rainfall in February 2013 had caused disruption in the supply in Port Louis and surrounding regions, representing serious health hazards to consumers and a fresh bidding exercise would have delayed the project by at least one year, resulting in increased cost.

The procurement was carried out in accordance with section 21 of the Public Procurement Act after obtaining the advice of the Attorney General's Office with regard to the situation of emergency.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Lesjongard!

Mr Lesjongard: Madam Speaker, thank you. May I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether he is satisfied with the emergency procurement of that contract?

Mr Collendavelloo: It is not a question of my being satisfied or not. This was a decision taken. I probably would not have reached the same decision or I probably would have reached the same decision, I don't know. I don't sit as a judge of my predecessor.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Mahomed!

Mr Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In his reply, the hon. Vice-Prime Minister has said that commissioning is still ongoing?

(Interruptions)

The plant is still being commissioned. But the water supply, right now, in Port Louis is the same as it used to be, I mean the water cuts. Would the hon. Vice-Prime Minister be able to say whether after commissioning has been done the water supply will be better, the water cut will be less and, why not a 24-hour supply?

Mr Collendavelloo: Well, time and time again, I have been told by the CWA that with the Pailles Water Treatment Plant all the problems of Port Louis will be solved. Let us hope that it will be the case. For the moment, the treatment plant is being commissioned and it is too early days for us to say. I hope for the General Manager of the CWA himself, to start with, that his predictions prove true.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Tarolah!

BEL AIR RIVIÈRE SÈCHE –MARKET - CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/338) Mr K. Tarolah (Third Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE) asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the project for the construction of a new market at Bel Air Rivière Sèche with enhanced capacity to accommodate the increasing number of vegetable sellers and buyers and the provision of parking facilities, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Flacq District Council, information as to where matters stand.

Dr. Husnoo: Madam Speaker, I am informed that the former Government had on 30 May 2014 agreed to the construction of a market fair at Bel Air Rivière Sèche. In this context, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development had raised no objection to the National Development Unit (NDU) undertaking the project at an estimated cost of Rs60 m. subject to all clearances being obtained. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development had also informed that an amount of Rs30 m. would be disbursed in financial year 2014 and the remaining balance of Rs30 m. in financial year 2015.

I am further informed that a plot of land of the extent of 2 *arpents* near the Bel Air State Secondary School was vested in the District Council of Flacq for the project. Unfortunately, quite a number of problems cropped up. Firstly, during a site visit held on 09 September 2014 by all the stakeholders, the representative of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life indicated that the site which adjoins the Bel Air SSS could be a source of disturbance to the good running of the school and, as such, a setback of 30 metres had to be provided along the boundary facing the school. Secondly, the Rector of Bel Air SSS informed the National Development Unit (NDU) on 17 September 2014 that the proposed market would cause an increase in the volume of traffic and would impact negatively on the road safety for the students and staff. Thirdly, on 24 September 2014, the Water Resources Unit informed that the site was located in a flood prone area and on a very permeable aquifer system which connects to the nearby river.

I am informed that as at date, no work has started in view of these diverging problems on the site and, moreover, funds earmarked for the project have lapsed. Nevertheless, I think there is merit in this project as it would improve the facilities in the area. I will discuss it with the different stakeholders and we will try to find an alternative site for the market in the future.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, hon. Minister. Since September 2014, has the Minister earmarked another site for this market?

Dr. Husnoo: No, unfortunately, we have not, but I am going to discuss with my colleague, the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands to find an alternative site for the market.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Tarolah!

BEL AIR - OPEN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

(No. B/339) Mr K. Tarolah (Third Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Science Research whether, in regard to the Open University Campus, at Bel Air, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the courses being run thereat, indicating in each case, the number of –

- (a) students enrolled therefor, and
- (b) staff members employed thereat.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Madam Speaker, I am informed that the Open University of Mauritius started courses at its Campus at Bel Air on 19 June 2013 and is currently running the following courses which started in July 2014 –

- (a) B. Ed (Hons) Primary Top Up, and
- (b) BA (Hons) French.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that at the beginning, in January 2014, there were some 15 students enrolled for each of these courses. However, in July 2014, the International Institute of Technology Research Academy (IITRA) started operating in Bel Air Campus and the students of the Open University of Mauritius were requested to move to its Campus in Curepipe. Most of them agreed except for a few remaining in Bel Air.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that one trainee staff is employed for administrative tasks and some 15 academic staff act as tutors, part-time tutors, when called upon for face-to-face sessions, as and when required.

Admittedly, my Ministry views this situation with much concern given that with this low level of enrolment, there is neither an efficient use of resources nor is it in the interest of the University and its students.

The Open University of Mauritius has been requested to look into the matter urgently and take necessary decisions in the interest of both the University and its students.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Tarolah!

BEL AIR RIVIÈRE SÈCHE – SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND REFORM INSTITUTIONS OFFICE

(No. B/340) **Mr K. Tarolah (Third Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to the Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions office in Bel Air Rivière Sèche, she will state if any expression of interest for the renting of space for the housing thereof has been received and, if so, indicate –

(a) in each case, the date of receipt thereof, and

(b) when the office space will be vested and come into operation.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the Bel Air Rivière Sèche Social Security Office is presently accommodated in a Government-owned building which was reported to be built in the early 1960's. The building is indeed in a very bad state and there are cracks on the wall and the roof.

During the rainfall period there are leakages and water seeps into the electric sockets and this situation creates an unsafe environment for both the officers and the public who attend the said Social Security Office.

Moreover, the Ministry has to disburse relatively huge sums of money on a regular basis in terms of renovation and maintenance works. In addition, the Social Security Office of Bel Air Rivière Sèche, which is a major catchment area, does not have adequate space for the provision of customer-orientated services for its clients which comprise the elderly, the vulnerable, and the disabled.

An open-advertised bidding exercise was carried out for rental of office space of approximately 1800 to 2000 square feet for the Bel Air Rivière Sèche Social Security Office.

The notice was published in two dailies on 26 and 27 February 2014 respectively. As at the closing date and time for the submission of bids fixed for 26 March 2014, three bids were received. One bid was delivered to the Ministry on 25 March 2014 whilst the two other bids were deposited in the tender box in line with the Instructions to Bidders of the bidding document.

Following an evaluation exercise, the bid from the lowest responsive bidder was approved subject to –

- (a) necessary clearance being obtained from all relevant authorities, and
- (b) completion of all partitioning and renovation works as per the Ministry's requirements among others: office space partitioning, provision of toilet and air conditioning system.

Subsequently, a conditional award was made to the selected bidder on 27 January 2015. After the bidder's acceptance, the Ministry has sought necessary clearances from all authorities concerned and concurrently, the bidder started works at the building as per the Ministry's requirements.

As regards to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the works to be carried out by the selected bidder are almost completed. However, the Ministry is presently awaiting the necessary clearances such as police, health, engineering services division, traffic management and road safety unit to proceed further.

Mr Tarolah: Thank you hon. Minister. May I know from the hon. Minister if a lease agreement will be signed between the Ministry and the person concerned, and if yes, where matters stand?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Madam Speaker, a draft lease agreement has already been submitted to the State Law Office and we are awaiting for the lease agreement to return to continue procedure.

Mr Tarolah: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the officers from the Ministry had taken into consideration that public transport access to the building mentioned is not available. There is no bus stop there. The one available is found far from the Social Security office – one kilometre...

Madam Speaker: Hon. Taraolah, I am sorry you are going out of the question. The question is not relevant, but if the hon. Minister wishes to reply she can do so.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Sure, I will answer to this. I will reply to this question by saying that all criteria of the bidding document have been observed and all procedures have been followed up to now. Unfortunately, the issue raised by my hon. colleague was not a requirement of the bidding document.

SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE - FEES

(No. B/341) Mr A. Aliphon (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the State-owned sports infrastructure and facilities, he will state if the Mauritius Sports Council had consulted his Ministry before increasing the fees payable by the general public to have access thereto and, if so, indicate the stand of his Ministry in relation thereto, especially in the light of the policy of his Ministry to encourage the practice of sports by the mass.

(Withdrawn)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Bhagwan!

POINTE AUX CAVES, ALBION - CT POWER PROJECT

(No. B/342) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the State land allocated to the promoter of the CT Power Project at Pointe aux Caves, in Albion, he will state –

- (a) the date of allocation thereof;
- (b) the extent thereof;
- (c) the terms and conditions of the lease agreement in relation thereto;
- (d) if, in view of the recent decision of Government not to approve the project, whether immediate action is being envisaged for the retrieval of the land, and
- (e) if consideration will be given for the implementation of a social, recreational and sports complex, for the inhabitants of the region on the said land.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun): Madam Speaker, since 27 October 2008, a plot of land of an extent of 92A00, earmarked for the CT Power Project at Pointe aux Caves, Albion, is leased to the Central Electricity Board for the setting up of a Coal Power Station. As per Article 20 of the Lease Agreement, the

Central Electricity Board is authorised to sub-lease the site of The (Mauritius) C.T. Power Ltd. at full market rate. The Lease Agreement was signed on 08 April 2014.

With regard to part (c) of the question, the other main terms and conditions of the lease are as follows -

- (i) the lease is valid up to 30 June 2028 but may be renewed at the lessee's option for four further periods of ten years;
- (ii) the rent is at the rate of Rs480,000 per annum with the proviso that it shall be adjusted every three years as from the effective date of the lease by reference to the cumulative inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index during the 3-year period up to 30 June 2028;
- (iii) the lessee shall complete the construction of the Coal Power Station and the installation of its plant within a period of 36 months as from the date of signature of the lease, that is, April 2014;
- (iv) the lease is cancelled *de plein droit* and without payment of any compensation if, among others, the lessee fails to start the construction of the Coal Power Station within 15 months from the date of signature of the lease, and
- (v) should the project be terminated in one way or the other before the expiry of the lease, same will be cancelled *de plein droit* - as you know it very well - and without payment of any compensation.

As for part (d) of the question, as soon as Government has decided that the C.T. Power Project is no longer on, that is, on 13 March 2015, my Ministry has initiated action immediately to retrieve the subject site from the Central Electricity Board.

With regard to part (e) of the question, my Ministry would certainly consider the possibility of allocating the site for the implementation of a social, recreational and sports complex subject to an application being duly received to that effect from the relevant authority and the project is in compliance with the existing planning guidelines.

Mr Bhagwan: These are some good news for the inhabitants of the region. Can I make a request to the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, to his Ministry or he can be the *porte-parole* of the inhabitants, at least, to see to it that an integrated project be prepared - as we did in 2005 or 2004 - including the rehabilitation of the Phare d'Albion, which is in a very bad state and falls under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister's office, and the land which is there may be used not only as a social project but which can be of interest for the tourism industry.

Mr Soodhun: Madam Speaker, I have to thank my hon. friend for the brilliant idea of calling all the stakeholders and to see to it that after the CT Power, we....

(Interruptions)

so we can have an integrated project for the benefits of the inhabitants.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The CT Power Project had necessitated that land be acquired for way leave purposes, either already acquired or to be acquired. Would the hon. Vice-Prime Minister clarify what has become of this?

Mr Soodhun: It has already been acquired. According to my information, land was acquired for the way leave. I think I have to find out more information and come forward with it.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Can I make another appeal? I heard the hon. Vice-Prime Minister the other day on the radio that he will not resist to any pressure from whoever to give the land to *petits copains* and so on. He was on radio and I congratulate him for that. So, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, at least,...

(Interruptions)

No, I am protecting him!

(Interruptions)

So can I make a request to the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, at least, to see to it that there is no squatting on that land because there is no development actually. The land is there. No squatting should be done on that land and that no application from anybody except from Ministries or authorities be considered for the project which I have just mentioned.

Mr Soodhun: This will be taken into consideration, Madam Speaker.

CHÂTEAU BENARES - REHABILITATION

(No. B/343) **Mr M. Gobin (First Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Arts and Culture whether, in regard to the historical building known as Château Benares situated in the village of Benares, he will state if his Ministry will consider -

- (a) taking immediate, medium and long terms measures for the rehabilitation and maintenance thereof, and
- (b) the inclusion thereof on the tourist route with a view to attracting tourists thereto.

Mr Baboo: Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the Chateau Benares is vested in the District Council of Savanne, since 25 February, 2014 to be converted into a residence to host its foreign delegates and for important functions after renovation.

On 08 November 2014, a joint site visit was held by the District Council and the National Heritage Fund. It was noted that the building was in a bad state and renovation and restoration works such as re-roofing, replacement of shingles and rusted corrugated iron sheets were required.

The NHF is liaising with the District Council to monitor closely the proposed renovation and rehabilitation of the building. The plans, in this respect, are awaited from the Savanne District Council. However, the responsibility for the renovation, rehabilitation and maintenance rests with the District Council. The NHF will provide technical advice and ensure that the historical cachet of the building is maintained.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, the proposal will be discussed with the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications.

Mr Bérenger: Can I know who was the former owner and whether it is now owned or vested in by the District Council and on what conditions? What has been paid?

Mr Baboo: Well, it has been vested to the District Council.

PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS - SHARES

(No. B/344) **Mr M. Gobin (First Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation whether, in regard to the private radio stations and the other licensed operators of the Information Communication Technology Authority and of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, he will state if consideration will be given for the introduction of legislation to provide for both Authorities

to be given the necessary regulatory powers to supervise and control the holding of shares and the transfer thereof in the said private radio stations and other licensed operators.

(Withdrawn)

FISHERMEN INVESTMENT TRUST - SHAREHOLDING

(No. B/346) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Fishermen Investment Trust, he will for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to where matters stand in respect of -

- (a) the shareholding thereof;
- (b) the amount invested therein;
- (c) how the interests accrued are distributed, and
- (d) the mechanism put in place in regard to the shares of the fishers who have passed away.

(Withdrawn)

MAURITIAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE – FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS

(No. B/347) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone, he will state the number and types of foreign fishing vessels which have been exploiting same, over the past five years, indicating in each case, the -

- (a) size thereof, and
- (b) fees paid to the Republic of Mauritius in respect thereof.

(Withdrawn)

MAHEBOURG - AQUACULTURE PROJECT

(No. B/348) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Aquaculture Project of Pointe aux Feuilles, in Mahebourg, he will state the quantity of fish produced, over the past five years, indicating the –

- (a) quantity thereof sold on the local and on the foreign markets, respectively, and
- (b) approximate amount of income generated in connection therewith.

(Withdrawn)

SEA CUCUMBER - EXPLOITATION

(No. B/349) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the sea cucumber, he will state where matters stand as to the exploitation thereof, respectively, in

- (a) mainland Mauritius;
- (b) Rodrigues, and
- (c) Agalega.

(Withdrawn)

BRAMER BANKING CORPORATION - BANKING LICENCE - REVOCATION

(No. B/350) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the revocation of the Banking Licence of the Bramer Banking Corporation Ltd., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank of Mauritius, information as to the -

- (a) number of significant deficiencies in terms of financial or procedural and/or monetary policy related, that were uncovered during the examination thereof, from 22 January to 20 February 2015;
- (b) number of withdrawals of large quantum of deposits effected from January 2015 to end of March 2015, and
- (c) date from which the Bramer Banking Corporation Ltd. failed to maintain the requisites cash reserve ratio.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Madam Speaker, as I mentioned in my reply to the PNQ on 7 April 2015, the Bank of Mauritius conducted on-site examination at the Bramer Banking Corporation from 22 January to 20 February 2015. During this exercise, the Bank of Mauritius had, among others, uncovered nine significant deficiencies which were, *inter-alia*, not in conformity with regulatory and prudential practices as laid down in the Bank's Guidelines and also detrimental to the interest of depositors.

The above transactions had impaired the capital and the financial soundness of the bank. The Bramer Banking Corporation Ltd was required to inject additional capital of up to Rs3.5 billion. But given the amount involved, the Bank of Mauritius allowed the Bramer Banking Corporation Ltd to bring the said capital in a phased manner up to 31 December 2015, subject to the bank injecting capital of Rs350 m. by 31 March 2015.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Bank of Mauritius that some 125 withdrawals of deposits, including transfers above Rs10 m. each were effected during the period January 2015 to March 2015 amounting to Rs4.4 billion.

With respect to part (c) of the question, the Bramer Banking Corporation failed to maintain the required minimum cash reserve ratio of 9% on its average rupee deposits as from 5 March 2015. In fact, for the two successive monitoring fortnights ending 19 March 2015 up to 02 April 2015, Bramer Banking Corporation Limited failed to meet its average cash reserve ratio with respect to its average rupee deposits.

**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS – OFFICE - FURNITURE,
FIXTURES & FITTINGS**

(No. B/351) **Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Attorney General whether, in regard to the expenses incurred by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions on furniture, fixtures and fittings for the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, for each year, information as to -

- (a) the amount of money spent thereon;
- (b) the name of the suppliers thereof;
- (c) if documentary evidence, in terms of receipts and invoices, are available in respect thereof, and
- (d) if any bidding exercise was undertaken either locally or abroad.

Mr Yerrigadoo: Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions that the amount of money spent on furniture, fixtures and fittings is as follows –

- Year 2011 a sum of Rs8, 667,176.
- Year 2012 a sum of Rs45, 448,898.

- Year 2013 a sum of Rs14, 400,721.
- Year 2014 a sum of Rs3, 401,211.

I have to add that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions moved to Garden Tower on 12 September 2012 to occupy Levels 12 to 16 for a staff of approximately 150 persons both legal and non-legal.

The approval was obtained from the Prime Minister's Office on 20 May 2010, at a time when the building was unoccupied and Government was looking for tenants to occupy the said building after it had been purchased. All floors were in an unfinished state, core and shell and refurbishment had to be made from scratch before any occupation could be contemplated. As a result, the Office of the DPP does not have to pay rent for the premises for a total area of 3289 m².

With regard to part (b) of the question, my reply will not be for each year but will cover the period requested in the question and will also include the year 2010 which was a year in which the consultant was appointed in respect of the relocation of the Office of the DPP to Garden Tower. The suppliers for the years 2011- 2014, including the year 2010 are as follows -

- (a) The contract for the consultant was awarded in 2010 to Maurice Design for the sum of Rs1,540,000 plus Rs300,000 for contingencies.
- (b) P. Mungur Ltd. was awarded the contract in 2011 for five floors (level 12 to 16 of Garden Tower) and the value of the contract sum was for the sum of Rs41,974,997.40 including contingencies sum of Rs4 m. and VAT. That covered five floors covering an area of 2175 square meters. It consisted of supply of all sorts of floorings, electrical, fire alarms, telephone and sanitary equipment.
- (c) Dan Do Pub Co. Ltd was awarded, in 2012, the contract for loose furniture for the sum of Rs10,077,927.25.
- (d) The contract for IT equipment servers and scanners was awarded, in 2012, to Connexion Solutions Informatics Ltd for the sum Rs751,873.20.
- (e) Following approval by the Financial Secretary in a letter dated 10 October 2012, contract for a sum of approximately Rs10 m. for the occupation of level 11 of Garden Tower was awarded the same contractors in respect of Design and Consultancy (Mauritius Design); fit out works to P. Mungur Ltd and supply and fixing of furniture to Dan Do Pub & Co. Ltd.

Further amount of Rs15 m. was approved on 21 June 2013 for works consisting of partitioning, flooring, electrical installation etcetera for level 10 (552 m²) to P. Mungur & Sons Ltd and the total sum was Rs8,996,568.45 inclusive of VAT at 15% and a contingency fund of a million rupees.

Now with regard to part (c) of the question, I am informed by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions that documentary information in the form of receipt and invoices are available. I am further informed by the Office of the DPP that all expenditure has been made subject to control by internal auditors of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Director of Audit.

With regard to part (d) of the question, the bidding exercise was made through open advertised bidding through local newspapers for a total of four bidding exercises as follows –

- (i) First bidding exercise to appoint a Consultant for interior design was carried out by Bid Evaluation Committee constituted by Ag. Principal Architect from MPI, Ag. Quantity Surveyor from MPI and the Office Management Executive and Law Officer.
- (ii) The Second, bidding exercise to appoint the Contractor was carried out by another Bid Evaluation Committee.
- (iii) a third bidding exercise was carried out in relation to the supply and installation of loose furniture by another Bid Evaluation Committee, and
- (iv) a fourth bidding exercise was carried out in relation to the appointment of a contractor for Level 10 and another Bid Evaluation Committee was constituted for same.

It is to be noted that the Chief Legal Secretary chaired the Departmental Bid Committee to award the contracts in respect of the above.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Grateful to the reply given by the hon. Minister, but in relation to part (c) of my question, is the hon. Minister in a position to, at some stage, table the documentary evidence in terms of receipts, invoices that the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions purportedly have in his possession for transparency?

Mr Yerrigadoo: I will request for same from the Office of the DPP.

Madam Speaker: Yes, hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Secondly, can the hon. Minister actually state if he has the information how many other companies who send their bids in relation to these works to be carried out?

Mr Yerrigadoo: Well, I have already provided all the information I have. I have no further information on this matter.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Ganoo!

DEPOSIT INSURANCE SCHEME BILL - INTRODUCTION

(No. B/352) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the bank depositors, he will state if consideration will be given for the introduction of a Deposit Insurance Scheme Bill to safeguard the interests thereof.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Madam Speaker, as highlighted in my reply to the Private Notice Question of 24 April 2015, a draft Deposit Insurance Scheme Bill will be presented to this House with a view to safeguarding the interests of depositors. In fact, consultations are being held with relevant stakeholders in order to finalise the draft Bill.

Mr Ganoo: In fact, this question was put, Madam Speaker, because this measure has been announced on several occasions in the past and, in fact, in the last budget presented by the previous Minister of Finance the Deposit Insurance Scheme Bill was announced by the former Minister of Finance and this is why I wanted to have the assurance from the present Minister that this will be done.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Yes. We have the draft Bill already. The draft Bill has been circulated. The IMF also had some views which have moved into the Bill which will come to the House after consultations are completed.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Ganoo!

FLIC-EN-FLAC, BAMBOUS & TAMARIN - WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

(No. B/353) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the West Coast Sewerage Project, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Wastewater Management Authority, information as to if consideration will be given for a review thereof to provide for wastewater infrastructure in Flic-en-Flac, Bambous and Tamarin.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities (Mr I. Collendavelloo): Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Wastewater Management Authority that the West Coast Sewerage Project covers about 20,000 households in the regions of Flic en Flac, Bambous and Tamarin, Gros Cailloux, Albion, Cascavelle and Grande Rivière Noire.

A review of the existing feasibility study financed by the French Government was initiated in 2009 and has been completed. The next step is to conduct the topographical and geo-technical studies to determine the suitability of the site proposed for the treatment plant. However these studies have not yet been carried out due to a challenge in the Supreme Court by Medine Ltd regarding the selected site. Two alternative sites have been identified by the Wastewater Management Authority, the Consultant Sogreah and Medine Ltd.

Due to the delay in the implementation of the project, the funds under the French Government's grant to complete the Consultancy exercise are no longer available. The matter is being taken up with the French authorities.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: Did I hear the hon. Minister include Flic en Flac also among the regions?

Mr Collendavelloo: Yes. This is what I have as information.

Mr Ganoo: Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that at one point in time, the fund was available for this project? The funders were willing to fund the project and is this still the case?

Mr Collendavelloo: Well, all funding has now been retrieved so that now we have to renegotiate this funding which I understand is being done at the level of my Ministry. I have no personal knowledge of this.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: May I know from the hon. Minister whether in this West Coast Sewerage Project the region of Albion is being included?

Mr Collendavelloo: Yes. Albion is included. Including Gros Cailloux, as well.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Teeluckdharry!

HOTELS - MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

(No. B/354) Mr K. Teeluckdharry (Second Member for Pamplemousses & Triolet) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the star hotels with a capacity of 200 rooms or above, he will state if consideration will be given for the introduction of legislation to make it

mandatory for a medical practitioner to be attached thereto on a permanent basis to cater for emergencies with regard to the residents/tourists thereof.

(Withdrawn)

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION - CHAIRPERSON & BOARD MEMBERS

(No. B/355) Mr K. Teeluckdharry (Second Member for Pamplemousses & Triolet) asked the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms whether, in regard to the Financial Services Commission, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the names of the persons who have held office as Chairperson and Board Members thereof, over the period 2005 to 2009, indicating in each case, the -

- (a) amount of money paid thereto in terms of -
 - (i) remuneration, and
 - (ii) fringe benefits, travel grants and other perks, and
- (b) number of overseas missions they have attended, indicating the total amount of public expenditure incurred in connection therewith.

Mr Bhadain: Madam Speaker, with your permission, I am tabling the reply.

Madam Speaker: Next question, hon. Teeluckdharry!

SUGAR CANE FIELDS – HARVESTING - BURNING PRACTICE

(No. B/356) Mr K. Teeluckdharry (Second Member for Pamplemousses & Triolet) asked the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and Disaster and Beach Management whether, in regard to the practice of burning sugar cane fields for harvesting purposes, he will state -

- (a) if, to be in consonance with the policy of Government regarding sustainable development and the protection of the environment, he will consider recommending the abolition of this practice, and
- (b) any assessment has been made of the impact thereof on the quality of the air, on the environment and on the health of the citizens.

Mr Dayal: Madam Speaker, it is known that the burning of sugarcane fields is associated with environmental nuisances. Such a practice generates air borne particles that affect neighbouring communities, especially when wind conditions are unfavourable. As far

as possible, the trend is to avoid sugarcane burning and Mauritius has adopted a similar approach.

In response to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that sugarcane burning by larger millers has significantly decreased during the past 15 years. In certain cases, however, this practice is unavoidable due to agronomic or economic reasons, especially after the increasing costs of production and reduction in the price of sugar.

To address associated nuisances, the cane industry has adopted a code of practice in consultation with stakeholders, which *inter alia* includes -

- (i) encouraging mechanical harvesting of sugarcane;
- (ii) undertaking 'cool burning' late in the evening or during early morning hours, which reduces emissions of particulate matter by more than 80%;
- (iii) seeking authorisation from the Police for controlled field burning exercises;
- (iv) prohibiting burning of fields under unfavourable climatic conditions or alongside public roads and places such as hospitals, schools and hotels.

I am also informed that since the adoption of the Multi-Annual Adaptation Strategy for the sugarcane sector in 2009, a requisite for the disbursement of EU funds to support the cane industry was to step away from sugarcane burning. This measure was principally aimed at protecting the environment. Consequently, controlled cane burning has drastically decreased, reaching less than 15% of cultivated area. Furthermore, mechanical harvesting is encouraging a shift towards 'green-cane harvesting' which promotes soil moisture conservation, prevents erosion and decreases herbicides use.

Madam Speaker, we consider that sugarcane burning will gradually become less and less significant. In cases where it is accidental or a criminal act, preventive approaches and emergency response plans are being implemented under the guidance and control of relevant authorities.

Madam Speaker, an adoption of controlled cane burning is, therefore, not the solution in the present context of economic difficulties for the cane industry. However, minimising the risks to the citizens is the solution.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the assessment of impacts associated with cane burning is very complex given that cane fibres are sporadic and harvest seasons short.

Furthermore, as an isolated island state, emissions from cane burning are dispersed by trade winds and the impacts of such emissions on the immediate environment and air quality are not long lasting. Even in countries with larger sugar belts than Mauritius, levels of

sulphur dioxide have been measured and results have shown that they were well below prescribed environmental norms. Therefore, the need for an assessment does not arise.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Speaker. PQ No. B/314 originally addressed to the hon. Prime Minister.

ST BRANDON – HELIPAD

(No. B/314) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the helipad in St Brandon, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Outer Island Development Corporation, information as to –

- (a) if a tender exercise was carried out at national or international level for the construction thereof;
- (b) the name of the contractor thereof;
- (c) the start and completion dates thereof;
- (d) the construction cost thereof, and
- (e) the date when a helicopter last landed and took off thereat.

The Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands (Mr P. Koonjoo): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I will reply to this question.

The Outer Islands Development Corporation has nothing to do with the helipad at Saint Brandon. A representative from the Outer Islands Development Corporation formed part of the committee on the helipad. The client was the Police, and the Consultant was the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport.

I have been informed by the Commissioner of Police that a helipad has been constructed at St. Brandon, so that search and rescue operation can be carried out effectively in the region.

As regards part (a) of the question, the tender exercise, through open advertised bidding, was carried out nationally and not internationally, and contractors were invited to submit their bids during period 05 July 2012 and 22 August 2012.

As regards part (b) of the question, on 24 October 2012, the Bid Evaluation Committee awarded the contract to Vasant Enterprise Ltd represented by Mr. C. Rambarran, Managing Director.

As far as part (c) is concerned, the construction of the helipad started on Monday 08 July 2013 and was completed on 16 May 2014. On the same day, it was handed over to the National Coast Guard, St. Brandon.

As regards part (d) of the question, the construction cost of the helipad amounted to Rs22,384,462.50.

As regards part (e) of the question, only one helicopter went there once. It was helicopter Chetak of Indian Naval Ship Sukanya, which landed there on 17 November 2014, and it took off on the same day.

Mr Rutnah: I am grateful to the hon. Minister for the reply, as now we know that the Ministry of Public Infrastructure was responsible. Can the hon. Minister state, with regard to Vasant Enterprise Ltd., which is owned by Mr Rambarran, whether he is from a locality called Ecroignard in the East of the country?

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Rutnah, I don't think the hon. Minister will be able to reply to this question.

Mr Koonjoo: I don't have the answer.

Mr Rutnah: Madam Speaker, in relation to...

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: No cross talking, please!

(Interruptions)

Allow the hon. Member to ask his question!

Mr Collendavello: The hon. Leader of the Opposition cannot call the hon. Member a ‘*ti l’esprit*’! And we know what he means when he says ‘*ti l’esprit*’! We know what is the meaning of this!

(Interruptions)

Madam Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Opposition, did you say that?

(Interruptions)

Hon. Leader of the Opposition, did you say that? Are you prepared...

(Interruptions)

The hon. Member does not mind!

(Interruptions)

He doesn’t mind!

Mr Rutnah: Can the hon. Minister state if the helicopter Dhruv, in a state of emergency, happens to land on that helipad, whether it will be able to come back to Mauritius with, for example, an injured soldier or an injured police officer?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Speaker, I am sorry, I can’t reply to this question. I am not a pilot. I am not an engineer. It is difficult for me to answer this question.

(Interruptions)

Mr Rutnah: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is no provision for refuelling at that helipad?

(Interruptions)

Mr Koonjoo: Yes, Madam Speaker, that’s true.

Mr Rutnah: Can the hon. Minister state whether, when the bid was allocated, was there a committee set up to ascertain the competence of that company, if they have the ability to construct helipad or tarmac, for example?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Speaker, I am sorry, I don't have the information, but I will look into it definitely.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Dr. Joomaye!

(Interruptions)

No, there was no question, hon. Koonjoo!

(Interruptions)

Please! Hon. Koonjoo, there was no question, please sit down! We have passed on to the next question.

KLAD INVESTMENT CORPORATION – SHARES - ACQUISITION

(No. B/317) Dr Z. Joomaye (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to if KLAD Investment Corporation Ltd., based in Bahamas, the holding company of the British American Investment Company (Mtius) Ltd. had been granted an authorisation under the Foreign Citizenship Property Acquisition Act to acquire shares in a company owning property in Mauritius.

The Minister Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms (Mr S. Bhadain): With your permission, Madam Speaker, I shall reply to the question. On 03 May 2011, KLAD Investment Corporation Ltd. has been authorised under the Non-Citizens (Property Restriction) Act to hold 29,073,697 no par value shares in Seaton Investment Ltd., a company incorporated in Mauritius on 12 November 2009.

Seaton Investment Ltd. holds 100% shares in British American Investment Company (Mauritius) Ltd., a holding company with investments in many companies, including the insurance company. For the benefit of the House, Madam Speaker, I shall also state that, according to the consolidated financial statements of KLAD investment Corporation Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2012, the auditors KPMG reported that the group incurred a loss of 118, 991,000 US dollars for year ended 31 December 2012 and, as of that date, the total liabilities exceeded its total assets by 302,418,000 US dollars, which is over Rs10 billion. It

goes on to say that these conditions, along with other matters, indicate the existence of a material uncertainty which may cause significant doubt on the subsidiaries' ability to continue as a going concern, and that included the insurance company BAI, Madam Speaker. That audit report is dated 17 September 2014, but relates to the accounts for year ended 31 December 2012.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Dr. Joomaye!

Dr. Joomaye: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like the hon. Minister if he finds it normal that a foreign holding company be allowed to own all the properties of one of the largest conglomerates of the country, and what steps is he taking for this not to happen again.

Mr Bhadain: Well, one of the steps, Madam Speaker, is that there is a new Insurance (Amendment) Bill which is coming later on.

