

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### AGALEGA – MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**The Leader of the Opposition (Mr P. Bérenger)** (*by Private Notice*) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Agreement for the development of Agalega which was recently signed between the Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of India, he will -

- (a) give details thereof, indicating if it includes -
  - (i) any form of a Lease Agreement and;
  - (ii) the setting up of a Coastal Surveillance Radar Station on Agalega and entails Mauritius joining India's Regional Radar Network or (joining) the trilateral India-Sri Lanka-Maldives Regional Security Cooperation set-up, and
- (b) lay copy thereof.

**The Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands (Mr P. Koonjoo):** Madam Speaker, with your permission I shall reply to the PNQ addressed to the hon. Prime Minister.

As the House is aware, Agalega has for too long been neglected in matter of socio-economic development, particularly regarding infrastructural development.

The existing jetty which is only 60m long was constructed in 1985. The jetty is in a very bad condition and it is most imperative that a proper quay be constructed. It is to be noted that repairs were effected to the jetty in 1992, 2003 and 2013 after the passage of cyclone Dumele.

This is the only facility available for loading and unloading of cargo and embarking and disembarking of passengers. M/V 'Mauritius Trochetia' lays in anchor at some 400m away from the jetty at the St. James anchorage, located at the reef-free area, where the depth is only 60m. However, during certain past voyages, M/V 'Mauritius Pride' and M/V 'Mauritius Trochetia' could not anchor and had to be kept on the drive for both disembarking and embarking of goods and passengers in the high seas due to bad weather conditions.

Another major shortcoming in Agalega relates to the airstrip which badly needs upgrading. Presently, only small aircrafts like the Dornier can land in Agalega.

Madam Speaker, it is comforting to note that in line with the longstanding Indo-Mauritius relations, the Republic of India has graciously signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mauritius during the recent visit of H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India. The MoU precisely addresses the infrastructural problems faced by Agaleans. The components of the MoU are -

- (a) construction of a jetty for berthing of ships;
- (b) rehabilitation and repaving of the runway over a maximum length of 4,000 feet, an apron for two aircrafts of size (ATR 42 type) and a taxiway;
- (c) installation of a power generation facility of approximately 300 KW;
- (d) setting up of a water desalination plant of capacity of approximately 60 tonnes a day;
- (e) construction of a National Coast Guard Post, including basic repair facilities, and
- (f) any other facility related to the project.

Under the MoU, the Government of India shall finance the projects to the tune of USD 18 m. in the form of financial grant and will also provide suitable personnel with necessary expertise and experience to assist in the implementation of the projects.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) (i) of the question, I would like to point out that the MoU between the Government of the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of the Republic of India does not include any Lease Agreement in whatsoever form.

With regard to part (a) (ii) of the question, the reply is in the negative.

Madam Speaker, with regard to part (b) of the question, in line with government policy of transparency and good governance, I am laying a copy of the MoU on the Table of the National Assembly.

**Mr Bérenger:** Before I put some questions, of course, my PNQ was addressed to the hon. Prime Minister, but, at least, the situation is clear as far as any lease agreement is concerned. There has been a lot of talk, at least, that is clear. But is there any reason why the Minister has avoided replying to part (a) (ii), that is, whether the agreement between India and Mauritius includes the setting up of a Coastal Surveillance Radar Station on Agalega and

entails Mauritius joining India's Regional Radar Network or the trilateral India-Sri Lanka-Maldives Regional Security Cooperation set-up?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, with regard to the separate agreement, Article 3 of the MoU provides the possibility of drawing up and entering into other supplementary arrangements as may be required for the fulfilment of the pursuance of obligations of both parties. In this respect, India did suggest a separate agreement; first, use of facilities being developed and to prevent use of facilities by party with interest initiated to the party. I must, here, point out in no uncertain terms that any agreement to be considered would have necessarily to satisfy the following conditions -

- it is of mutual benefits, and
- it will be in strict compliance with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.

**Mr Bérenger:** Well, if I heard the hon. Minister correctly, he said that the Indian side - we have very good friends - has suggested a separate agreement. Is there a separate agreement? Has there been any other agreement signed or circulated?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, as far as I know, I don't think I have seen any agreement of that sort in the MoU.

**Mr Bérenger:** I don't want to think about things like that! My question was addressed to the hon. Prime Minister. Has, at least, the hon. Minister - because he has chosen to reply; the hon. Prime Minister has asked him to reply - seen with the hon. Prime Minister whether there is this radar system dimension or even more because I'll quote from what both Prime Minister Modi and the Foreign Minister of India have stated recently which entails also suggestions that we should join this security arrangement for that tripartite Sri Lanka-Maldives-Seychelles already in existence?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, I repeat again, the answer is no.

**Mr Bérenger:** The whole point - of course, Madam Speaker, I am sure the hon. Prime Minister can understand that - is to clear the air completely. We have excellent relations with India and there has been a lot of rumours, a lot of *procès d'intention*, a lot of talk of loss of sovereignty and so on. So, the whole point was to give the opportunity to the hon. Prime

Minister to clear the air completely and say where we stand exactly. So, can I ask again the hon. Prime Minister, is there going...

**Madam Speaker:** Not the hon. Prime Minister, you should ask the Minister who replied the question.

**Mr Bérenger:** Unfortunately!

*(Interruptions)*

Or fortunately for the country!

Can I ask the hon. Minister, therefore, to be more precise? Has the Indian side suggested a separate agreement that would bear on such matters: radar systems and security matters?

**Mr Koonjoo:** There is no request for that, Madam Speaker, as far as I know.

**Mr Bérenger:** As far as he knows! Has he talked to the hon. Prime Minister before taking the responsibility of replying to a PNQ that deals also with radar installations and security issues?

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, so far as security issues are concerned, I believe the Prime Minister's Office...

**Mr Bérenger:** That's why the question was addressed to him.

**Mr Koonjoo:** They are aware about that; I am not aware about that.

**Mr Bérenger:** I find that very sad. This was an opportunity to clear the air completely and to strengthen still further our excellent relations with India and we are missing it, Madam Speaker. I put the question clearly: Is there in the agreement or in the proposed agreement, the setting-up of a radar system in Agalega?

**Madam Speaker:** You have the reply, hon. Minister?

**Mr Koonjoo:** I said, Madam Speaker, that, as far as I know, I don't know whether there is a radar system.

*(Interruptions)*

I don't know.

**Mr Bérenger:** I don't think it is worth...

*(Interruptions)*

It's an awful shame!

**Mr Koonjoo:** Madam Speaker, I said that there is no radar. I don't know. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition has got any information, would he tell the House?

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, hon. Leader of the Opposition, do you have any other questions?

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I understand that you don't have any further question.

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I am addressing you. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, I understand you don't have any other supplementary questions?

*(Interruptions)*

I am sorry, can you please stand up and tell me whether you have any other supplementary questions or you don't have?

**Mr Bérenger:** I have already said that there is no use according to me to pursue the matter further and that, therefore, I am not going to put any question, wasting the time of this House with the Minister who does not know anything about the matter raised in my question.

**Madam Speaker:** Now I understand because from a sitting position, I can't take your statement. Thank you.

So, on Prime Minister's Question Time, hon. Members, the Table has been advised that Parliamentary Questions No. B/219 addressed to the hon. Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, B/239 and B/240 addressed to the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development will now be replied by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, time permitting. Yes, hon. Rutnah!

## COIGNET, ROSE HILL - POLICE STATION

(No. B/200) 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 Police Station situated at Coignet, in Rose Hill, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if he has effected a site visit thereat and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given for an upgrading of the working conditions of the Police Officers attached thereto.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that there is no Police Station at Coignet, Rose Hill. However, an old Government-owned building made of wood and iron sheets existing thereat was used as Police Quarters. After the Quarters were vacated by the occupiers in 2013, the building was left in an abandoned state.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that during the course of last year, the Western Divisional Support Unit and Divisional Traffic Police at Rose Hill Police Station were reinforced with some 125 additional Police Officers. In this context, the building at Coignet, Rose Hill was identified to offer additional office accommodation to these Officers from where they would operate on a shift system.

The building was accordingly refurbished and the compound rehabilitated to provide a safe and healthy working environment. Consequently, the Officers of the Western Divisional Support Unit and the Divisional Traffic Police moved therein for operational convenience.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed by the Commissioner of Police that he has personally effected a site visit at the Coignet building following reports from the Divisional Commander for the western region forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Police responsible for infrastructure regarding structural defects in the building. In view of the poor state of the building, he has taken the following measures with immediate effect -

- (a) the personnel occupying the building have been shifted to Rose Hill Police Headquarters Complex, and
- (b) a technical survey will be carried out at the earliest to assess the structural state of the building and determine whether any renovation works to the building would be cost effective.

In the event the survey reveals that the building is beyond economical repairs, it will be pulled down and a new building will be constructed thereat for eventual use by the Police.

**Mr Rutnah:** I am grateful to the Rt. hon. Prime Minister for indicating the measures that have been taken, but would the Rt. hon. Prime Minister state to the House whether there are other Police Posts and Police Stations round the island which are housed in derelict buildings, which are not in conformity with health and safety issues and are not consonant with good governance and protection of the welfare of Police officers; whether in relation to all other Police Posts, the Commissioner of Police would carry out similar exercise in order to upgrade those buildings?

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Member, I have to draw your attention - I don't know whether the Rt. hon. Prime Minister will reply - to the fact that your question relates to the situation at Coignet. So, you should restrict your question to that.

**The Prime Minister:** Anyway, a survey will have to be carried out.

**Mr Bhagwan:** I heard the Rt. hon. Prime Minister stating that the Commissioner of Police has effected a site visit and that the Police officers will be redeployed to the Rose Hill Police station. Can I draw the attention of the Rt. hon. Prime Minister to the fact that the compound is in a very bad state? I would encourage hon. Minister Dayal to have a site visit and send his Environment Police there. There are wastes everywhere in the compound. It is dirty and it is causing a nuisance to the inhabitants of the region who have repeatedly sent requests to the ACP of Rose Hill Police Station to have matters redressed and at least to upgrade the yard and to prevent further nuisances.

**The Prime Minister:** The Commissioner of Police will take note of this.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question!

### **ARMS TRADE – ALLEGED CASES**

**(No. B/201) Mr M. Hurreeram (First Member for Mahebourg and 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 alleged cases of arms trade as revealed by Mrs K. A., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to whether it is proposed to call Mrs K. A. to provide further statements in support of the said allegations.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, as at 27 March 2015, no case of arms trafficking involving foreign nationals has been detected or reported to the Police for enquiry.

I am further informed that, upon the suggestion of the Director of Public Prosecutions, on 20 February 2014, Mrs K. A. wrote to the then Commissioner of Police about a possible criminal activity that she believed warranted an investigation without giving any detail on the criminal activity. She was also prepared to provide the Police with additional information required in connection therewith.

On 03 and 27 March 2014, the Police contacted Mrs K. A. through e-mail to know whether she intended to travel to Mauritius to give a detailed statement on the matter. But no reply has been received from Mrs K.A in this regard so far.

**Mr Hurreeram:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I thank the Rt. hon. Prime Minister for his reply. Will the Government consider giving a safe passage to Mrs Austin for further enquiry?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, the lady is free to come here if she has any information that can help to reopen the enquiry.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo!

**Mr Jhugroo:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether the DPP has decided for no further action and if so, can we know when?

**Madam Speaker:** I have to draw the attention of the hon. Member again. According to Section 72 of the Constitution, the DPP is not answerable to any decision taken by him. So, please refrain from asking this sort of questions.

**The Prime Minister:** I can say that the DPP has taken a decision that there should be no further investigation or action.

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

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Speaker, if Mrs A. K. was to provide fresh and new compelling evidence, would this case be reinvestigated by the new ICAC?



**The Prime Minister:** Well, she is welcomed. If there is a new element, if there is new evidence that will warrant an investigation, certainly ICAC will proceed with an enquiry.

**Mr Rutnah:** Now that the Rt. hon. Prime Minister has answered that no further action is to be taken, can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister probably tell us if he has this information as to the date on which this decision was taken?

**The Prime Minister:** Insofar I am concerned, I do not know on what basis the DPP has taken the decision, but I suppose the DPP must have found that there was no substance, there was no evidence to proceed further and he decided that the matter be not proceeded further.

**Mr Rutnah:** Madam Speaker, the question is on which date did the DPP inform that there should be no further action?

**The Prime Minister:** As far as I am aware, I know, but I don't have the exact date right now. It is on 12 December 2014.

*(Interruptions)*

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

#### **TROU FANFARON - POLICE STATION - RELOCATION**

**(No. B/202) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Trou Fanfaron Police Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if he is aware of the derelict state thereof and of unhygienic conditions prevailing thereat and, if so, indicate if urgent remedial measures will be taken in relation thereto, indicating if the relocation thereof is being contemplated and if so, where to.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that Trou Fanfaron Police Station is an old building which continuously requires proper repairs and maintenance in order to render the environment conducive for work. In this respect, necessary repairs and maintenance works have been regularly carried out by the Technical Team of the Special Support Unit since 2011.

In reply to PQ B/415 in June 2013, the House was informed about the proposal of the Police to construct a new building in the vicinity of Quay D to house the Police Station.

However, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport stated that the site was inappropriate for the project due to problems of access and potential hazards for the public. Thereafter, Police came up with the proposal to construct the new Police Station adjacent to the existing building on the plot of land which is currently used as parking space. Arrangements are being made for the vesting of the land in the Police Department in order to start the project.

The new Police Station will also cater for additional facilities such as cells for detainees and safekeeping of exhibits which are not available presently.

Madam Speaker, in the meantime, Police has initiated procedures for the relocation of the Police Station in a rented building near the Immigration Square, Port Louis with effect from 15 April 2015 once necessary infrastructural works are completed thereat.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Madam Speaker, this question has been long debated in the House. As the hon. Prime Minister is aware, the state of the building is not good so that the Police can carry on with the work there. But now that the decision has been taken to construct a new Police station, can I ask the hon. Prime Minister to state clearly where is the site that has been identified? Just behind the Police Station, there is a place which was identified for hawkers, not a Hawkers' Palace, but it was identified to place all the hawkers of *Immigration* behind the Police Station. Is this parking that is being identified for the new Police station?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, all that I can say is what I have just stated in the answer. It is the parking that is near the building that already exists right now.

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

#### **COMMISSION FOR THE DEMOCRATISATION OF THE ECONOMY – COMPOSITION**

(No. B/203) **Mr D. Sesungkur (First Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Commission for the Democratisation of the Economy set up by the previous Government, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to, since 2009 to 2014 -

- (a) the composition thereof;

- (b) the total remuneration paid to the Chairperson thereof, including fringe benefits, and
- (c) if it has submitted any report.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the composition of the Commission for the Democratisation of the Economy...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry, hon. Prime Minister, but I think hon. Ameer Meea is questioning the Chair. Is the hon. Member questioning the Chair?

**Mr Ameer Meea:** I ask for another supplementary question. I have put only one supplementary question and I ask again for another supplementary question. Where is the problem?

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Ameer Meea, you cannot question the Chair. It is to the discretion of the Chair to allow your question or not!

*(Interruptions)*

Excuse me, but I will not allow any other Member to make comments on the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Ameer Meea, are you insisting and are you making remarks on the Chair?

*(Interruptions)*

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

**Madam Speaker:** You have to sit down when I am on my feet.

*(Interruptions)*

You have to sit down when I am on my feet.

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Ameer Meea, you have to sit down! When I am on my feet you have to sit down. Do not provoke me otherwise I will have to take action!

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** The hon. Member is also making remarks on the Chair. I have told you...

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Bhagwan, you sit down when I am on my feet!

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** You know the procedure, but you cannot question the Chair. I am being fair and I do not want any comments on the Chair. I will not allow this!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Madam Speaker, on a point of order! Is this the practice now that a Member cannot put a second supplementary question?

**Madam Speaker:** It is up to the Chair to decide whether you can put a second question or not. I am being very democratic in my approach and you cannot question or make remarks on the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

Allow me to tell you this! Whether be it on a sitting position or whether you stand up! And if you continue, hon. Ameer Meea, I will have to order you out.

*(Interruptions)*

I will have to order you out!

*(Interruptions)*

Order, I said!

*(Interruptions)*

Order, I said! Order!

*(Interruptions)*

Order! I said order! Do not provoke me to take action! Yes, hon. Prime Minister!

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the composition of the Commission...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** I am sorry, hon. Prime Minister, I will have to interrupt you again. I have heard remarks from hon. Bhagwan. Does he maintain these remarks?

**Mr Bhagwan:** I am making my remarks. When you were a backbencher, you were allowed to ask hundreds of supplementary questions.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Bhagwan, since you have said that and you are not allowed to, according to the Standing Orders, I order you out!

*(Interruptions)*

*At this stage, the MMM and the Labour Party Opposition Members left the Chamber.*

*(Interruptions)*

Order!

*(Interruptions)*

Who is saying shame on me?

*(Interruptions)*

Out!

Hon. Prime Minister, please proceed!

**The Prime Minister:** I am informed that the composition of the Commission for the Democratisation of the Economy, until 05 August 2011, was as follows -

Chairperson : Mr Cader Sayed Hossen

Vice-Chairperson : Ms Nita Deerpalsing

On 19 August 2011, Ms Deerpalsing was appointed as Chairperson of the Commission in replacement of Mr Cader Sayed Hossen. The position of Vice-Chairperson was left vacant thereafter.

As regards part (b) of the question, the total remuneration paid to Mr Cader Sayed Hossen as Chairperson of the Commission for the period 01 January 2009 to 05 August 2011 was Rs1,166,967, including a sum of Rs232,129 paid to him as driver's allowances. Mr Cader Sayed Hossen was also provided with an official car from the Police car pool.

Ms Deerpalsing was paid a total sum of Rs1,733,875 as Chairperson for the period 19 August 2011 to 09 December 2014. This sum includes an amount of Rs332,973 paid to her as driver's allowance.

Ms Deerpalsing was also eligible for an official car from the pool and a cellular phone plus free calls up to a ceiling of Rs2,000.

With regard to part (c) of the question, there is no record in my office of any report submitted by the Commission. I note that in his reply to PQ B/711 on 18 December 2012, the

former Prime Minister stated that it was not the practice for the Commission to submit formal reports and that the Commissioners only used to have discussions with him.

Madam Speaker, this perfectly illustrates the culture of the previous Government to pay generous allowances and fringe benefits without any well-defined deliverables and time frames.

### **CANAL DAYOT & SABLE NOIR - WATER DRAINAGE PROJECT**

**(No. B/206) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Water Drainage Project in respect of the region of Canal Dayot and of Sable Noir, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Development Unit, information as to where matters stand as to the -

- (a) proposal for additional works to be carried out in relation thereto, and
- (b) expected start and completion dates thereof.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the NDU that the water drainage project at Canal Dayot, has been completed except for a part of the canal which could not be enlarged due to one of the owners having obtained a Court Stop Order for the enlargement of the canal over a stretch of about 75 metres.

This non-enlargement of the canal is preventing the free flow of water during heavy rainfall and causing flooding. NDU can take remedial action only when the court case is disposed of.

Another aspect of the additional work is the extension of the existing bridge along the main road, and this is under the purview of the Road Development Authority. The Authority will be called upon to take appropriate measures.

As regards Sable Noir, I am informed by the NDU that the water drainage project has been completed and, moreover, the zonal contractor (Super Builders Ltd) is presently erecting a bridge to connect the existing road to Sable Noir Beach.

The works are due to be completed by end of June 2015.

I am also informed that NDU is presently seeking the necessary clearances from the Ministry of Housing and Lands for the construction of a new road from the new bridge to Sable Noir Beach. Works would start upon all clearances being obtained.

### **NOUVELLE FRANCE - INCIDENT - INQUIRY**

**(No. B/208) 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 incident which occurred, on or about Wednesday 12 November 2014, at Nouvelle France, in which tear gas was used, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the inquiry carried out thereinto, indicating if any arrest has been effected in connection therewith.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, on 12 November 2014, one candidate of *L'Alliance Lepep* reported at the Nouvelle France Police Station that while he was presiding a private meeting on the premises of a supporter at Savanne Road, Nouvelle France, an object was flung from the roadside into the tent where the meeting was being held. The object discharged fire sparks and smoke inside the tent. The meeting was disrupted and those present were panic-stricken. Out of them, three persons complained of suffocation resulting from the smoke and they were conveyed to Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital.

Police officers of the Nouvelle France Police Station, the Emergency Response Service, the Special Mobile Force and the Divisional Supporting Unit attended to the case and identified the object as a hand grenade. Same was secured by the Police and photographs taken.

In its report dated 26 November 2014, the Forensic Science Laboratory highlighted the presence of active noxious substance and chemical agent in the grenade.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed that nine persons have been interviewed and two of them have been arrested. The enquiry is still ongoing.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister inform the House for what reason there has been a delay to carry out the arrest?

**The Prime Minister:** Well, I don't have the reason in the file. But we can draw our own conclusion that, had there been the same Government, there would have been no further inquiry, I am sure.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Is the Rt. hon. Prime Minister aware that the Police officer who was in charge of this inquiry had been transferred in the past and, if so, would he consider to ask the acting Commissioner of Police to bring back the same officer to carry on again this inquiry?

**The Prime Minister:** The Police officer who was in charge of the inquiry at a certain time was removed, and I suppose that the way he was proceeding did not please the superiors in those days. I will certainly ask the acting Commissioner of Police to see whether he can be brought back to continue the inquiry into this case.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Is the Rt. hon. Prime Minister aware that the tear gas or the hand grenade just mentioned by him, which had been used by the accused, belonged to the SMF, and, if so, will he consider to ask the acting Commissioner of Police to investigate into this matter?

**The Prime Minister:** I don't know whether it belongs to the SMF, but I know for certainty that it belongs to the Police, and I will certainly ask the Commissioner of Police to inquire into it.

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

#### **BEL AIR RIVIÈRE SÈCHE – LARCENY CASES**

(No. B/209) **Mr K. Tarolah (Third Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to larceny, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of cases thereof reported at the Bel Air Rivière Sèche Police Station, since January 2015 to date, indicating the preventive measures, if any, taken in relation thereto.

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, since January 2015 to date, 62 cases of larceny have been reported to Bel Air Rivière Sèche Police Station. The number of such cases for the corresponding period last year was 88.



I am further informed that a series of measures have been taken by the Police to tackle the problem of larceny not only in the region covered by Bel Air Rivière Sèche, but also island wide. These include -

- (i) intensification of strategic and concerted mobile patrol by different units of the Force;
- (ii) targeted stop and search operations;
- (iii) supervision of Habitual Criminals and close monitoring of prisoners released from jail;
- (iv) offenders profiling and strategies to prevent re-offending, and
- (v) use of *portrait robot* to identify offenders.

Madam Speaker, focus is also being laid on enhancing the partnership between the Police and the public in the fight against crime through Community Policing and setting up of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. For instance, in the region of Bel Air Rivière Sèche, two Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have been set up at *Morcellement VRS* and *Morcellement St Michel* with the participation of the inhabitants of the areas.

Targeted awareness campaigns and field counselling are carried out by the Crime Prevention Unit. These campaigns cover such topics as Personal and Property Protection. The objective is to avail the community at large with relevant information, especially the elimination of factors which may favour the occurrence of crime. In this regard, since the beginning of the year, seven meetings have been held with the members of the community of the Bel Air Rivière Sèche region.

**Madam Speaker:** Any supplementary?

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Rt. hon. Prime Minister. Can the Rt. hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether there will be an increase in the number of Police officers as during the night shifts there are only eight Police officers operating, whereas in the vicinity, according to my information, there are about 80 HCs found there?

**The Prime Minister:** I will ask the Commissioner of Police to look into it.

**Madam Speaker:** Time is over! Hon. Members, the Table has been advised that Parliamentary Question No. B/234 addressed to the hon. Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands will now be replied by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications. Parliamentary Question

No. B/227, addressed to the hon. Minister of Local Government, will now be replied by the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities. The Table has also been advised that Parliamentary Question No. B/218 has been withdrawn. Hon. Jhugroo!

#### **STATE LAND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED – CAR - PURCHASE**

(No. B/211) **Mr P. Jhugroo (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the purchase of cars by the State Land Development Company Limited, since 2006 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Company, the list thereof, indicating in each case, the -

- (a) make and model thereof;
- (b) date of purchase thereof;
- (c) cost thereof;
- (d) purpose therefor, and
- (e) registration number thereof, indicating if personalized numbers were purchased from the National Transport Authority and, if so, indicate in each case, the –
  - (i) reasons therefor, and
  - (ii) amount of money paid therefor.

**Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the Independent Commission against Corruption is already investigating into the alleged malpractices at the SLDC, including in relation to acquisition of motor vehicles.

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

#### **SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – NEW TERMINAL - CONTRACT**

(No. B/212) **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 new terminal of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from Airport Terminal Operations Ltd., information as to –

- (a) if it is a design and built project contract and, if so, indicate the time taken for the execution of the design thereof;
- (b) if galvanized metal frames were used;
- (c) the thickness of the metal roofing;
- (d) the type of curtain wall glass fixed;
- (e) the amount of variation costs claimed and paid, and
- (f) table copy of the contract in relation thereto and, if not, why not.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, in regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Chief Executive Officer of Airport Terminal Operations Ltd. (ATOL) that *Aéroports de Paris* Groupe was appointed as the Airport Design Consultant for the new passenger terminal. The consultant advised ATOL to have recourse to an Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract as per FIDIC rules and principles.

In such type of contract, the selected bidder carries out the Detailed Design, Procurement, Construction Activity and Testing and Commissioning.

The contract was awarded on 30 December 2009 to China State Construction Engineer Corporation Ltd. (CSCEC). The Contractor started the Detailed Design as from June 2010, and in such EPC contract the detailed design runs concurrently with the construction progress on site to meet the tight schedule.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the structure above ground of the building is made of steel.

In regard to part (c) of the question, the thickness of the metal roofing is composed of an external smooth, joint-free aluminium profiled sheets of 1.0 mm thickness finished with special coating systems.

In regard to part (d) of the question, I am informed that the curtain wall is of type Stick System. The typical thickness of the insulated glazed panel of the curtain wall is 48 mm, comprising four layers of tempered laminated glass.

In regard to part (e) of the question, I am informed that as at to date, variations to the tune of US\$ 9.9 m. have been issued to the EPC Contractor. A contingency sum of US\$ 8.9 m. was already provided in the contract. Therefore, the additional amount of US\$ 1 m. represents a net increase of 0.34% of the contract price.

I am tabling a copy of the EPC contract between ATOL and CSCEC.

Madam Speaker, at my request, Louis Berger Group, the Engineer responsible for design review and supervision of the structure and viaduct of the new terminal at the SSR International Airport, has submitted a report on 26 February 2015, certifying that the foundation, structure and viaduct installations and curtain wall are constructed as per approved design and are functioning well.

The roof of the new building was successfully tested according to British Standards and Centre for Window and Cladding Technology Standards prior to handing over.

**Dr. Sorefan:** May we know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister the contract value and, as per contract whether variation has been entertained – like he said, to the tune of US\$ 1 m. – and whether this is not contrary to Sections 4(1) and 5(a) of the contract?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, the contract value was US\$ 306 m. I am tabling a copy of the contract for the House and the hon. Member will ascertain for himself whether it is or not and come back, if necessary.

**Dr. Sorefan:** I have a copy of part of the contract which is contrary, because variation is not allowed; it is Section 5.8, the design. If you will allow me, I can read it, Madam Speaker. I quote without prejudice to the requirement of Article 5.2 –

“If errors, omissions, ambiguities, inconstancies, inadequacies or other defects are found in the contract document, they and the works shall be corrected at the contractor’s cost, notwithstanding any consent or approval under this Article 5”.

What it means is that no variation is entertained in a fully design and effectuation of the work. No variation should be allowed. Will the hon. Deputy Prime Minister look into it?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Yes, certainly. Madam Speaker, I understand that the variations are also for additional works and changes. So, I will ask ATOL and its Legal Adviser to look at it with pleasure. No problem!

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo, you have a question?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Is the hon. Deputy Prime Minister aware of whether any defects have been reported, so far, with regard to the structure?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am going to table the report of the independent engineer at the same time so that the House can have a look at it. According to them, the structures, etc. are fine. There are some defects to do with some leaking in the basement, etc. but they are not major defects.

**Dr. Sorefan:** May we know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister regarding the metal structure, since in his answer he said it is of steel, but the contract talks about galvanised steel work and, to my information, the contractor has supplied steel with painted zinc....

*(Interruptions)*

Whatever you call it, a variation just to minimise the cost. Will the hon. Deputy Prime Minister look into it, because galvanised steel give a longer lifespan to the airport structure?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, they will look into it.

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

**Mr Jhugroo:** With regard to what have been mentioned by my hon. friend, Dr. Sorefan, is the hon. Deputy Prime Minister aware that there exists much corrosion with regard to all these frames which have been used?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I am told that they are some corrosion on some of the railings over there. This will be changed before the end of the contractual liability period. This is what I have.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** I will allow the hon. Member a last question!

**Dr. Sorefan:** May we know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister regarding the wind speed - this is very important in Mauritius, because of the cyclonic issue - whether the design has been according to the wind speed that has been maximally registered in Mauritius, and whether the lifespan is 50 years or 100 years for this terminal?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I will have to take a quick crash course in engineering! Madam Speaker, I will pass on these remarks to the necessary authority and I will come back to the hon. Member concerning that. Thank you.

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

## **SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – CONSTRUCTION – AUDIT TRAIL**

**(No. B/213) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms whether, in regard to the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, he will state if his Ministry will consider probing into the ACONEX website with the permission of the Officer-in-Charge of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport for an audit trail and follow-up of the documents filed in relation to the construction thereof and table copy thereof with a view to throwing light on the opacity or transparency of the project.

**Mr Bhadain:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by ATOL that ACONEX is a web-based project management tool which has been purchased by the main contractor, China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd, and for which the cost was already included in the construction contract for the project management of the new airport terminal construction at SSR International Airport.

ACONEX was operational as from May 2010 for the whole duration of the construction at the new airport terminal. I understand from ATOL that all documentary information with respect to the construction, monitoring and evaluation of a new airport terminal has been stored on ACONEX and includes not less than some 100,000 project-related documentation, including correspondences and approvals at every stage of the project.

I also understand, Madam Speaker, that the ACONEX system provides an audit trail of all relevant construction contract-related documentation that has been uploaded.

In the event that an investigative review is warranted and my Ministry is vested with this task, all project-related information stored on ACONEX will be used amongst others to establish an audit trail and follow-ups made accordingly.

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

## **SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - RUNWAY - CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/214) 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 construction of the second runway of the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from Airport Terminal Operations Ltd., information as to the –

- (a) name of the contractor therefor;
- (b) cost of the project thereof, and
- (c) variation costs thereof, if any

- (d) if works have been executed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract, and
- (e) who certified the recommendations for payment in relation thereto.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Officer-in-Charge of Airports of Mauritius Ltd (AML) that the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport has only one runway. The Airport Master Plan 2004 makes provision for a second runway and this will be implemented whenever the need arises. AML has decided to construct a parallel taxiway which can also be used as a Runway in emergency situations and which required less land acquisition. The taxiway has also been designed to accommodate A380 types of Aircraft.

Madam Speaker, the hon. Member must be referring to this parallel taxiway.

In regard to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question, the contract for the construction of the parallel taxiway at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport was awarded to Joint Venture of Colas and Rehm Grinaker on 17 June 2011 for an amount of Rs1.943 billion inclusive of VAT. The variation costs amount to Rs105.26 m. inclusive of VAT, i.e. 5.4% of the contract value.

I am also informed that the works have been executed as per an alternative design proposed by the contractor for the base course for the airfield pavement which was endorsed by AML's Consultant, Jacobs-Gibb.

The Consultant certified all the recommendations for payment.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Madam Speaker, may we know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether there was a tender and who were those listed, who quoted for?

**Mr Duval:** I am sorry, Madam Speaker, I don't have this information. I'll check that information.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Speaker, being given that the Deputy Prime Minister and I are both not engineers, can I know what is the difference between the parallel taxiway and the runway?

**Mr Duval:** It is not for taxis at the airport. The hon. Member must not worry about this.

*(Interruptions)*

A parallel runway is an additional runway. A taxiway is used by planes to move to the airport terminal. But this taxiway can also be used as an emergency runway.

### STATE COUNSELS – APPOINTMENT

**(No. B/217) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Attorney-General whether, in regard to his Office, the Office of the Solicitor General and that of the Director of Public Prosecutions respectively, he will, for the period 2005 to date, state and obtain the list of State Counsels attached thereto and who –

- (a) sit on the Board of parastatal bodies, and
- (b) act as legal advisers of parastatal bodies, indicating in each case the -
  - (i) date of appointment, and
  - (ii) remuneration drawn.

**Mr Yerrigadoo:** Madam Speaker, in regard to paragraph (a) of the question –

- (1) Hon. Members will be aware that law officers and State Attorneys are appointed as members of statutory bodies either as ex officio members or as representatives of the Attorney-General, the Attorney-General's Office, the Solicitor-General or the Director of Public Prosecutions, as the case may be, or, in a few cases, following appointment by a Minister in the officer's personal capacity in view of his experience in a certain field.
- (2) Fees of Board members, whether the members are from my Office or other Ministries, are either determined by the respective Minister responsible for the parastatal body concerned or its Board, in line with fees paid to other senior public officers on the Board and in conformity with the recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau.

In regard to paragraph (b) of the question –

- (1) Law officers and State Attorneys may, pursuant to section 17(1) of the Law Officers Act, be authorised in writing by the President of the Republic to practise as barrister or attorney, as the case may be, on behalf of a private party, that is, a party other than the State. This provision was to be found *mutatis mutandis* in the Law Officers Ordinance when it was passed in 1957.



- (2) In 1982, the then Government decided that parastatal bodies may continue to entrust their legal drafting and advisory work to law officers provided that the fees payable shall accrue to all law officers collectively, and, on the advice of the then Attorney-General, the then Governor-General gave his authorisation in writing for the law officers and Crown Attorneys to undertake the legal drafting and advisory work of parastatal bodies generally.
- (3) In January 1995, on the advice of the then Prime Minister and Attorney-General - our current Rt. hon. Prime Minister - authorisation was granted to the Solicitor-General “and any State Law officer or Attorney to whom he may delegate the duties” to undertake legal advisory work for drafting for companies where the State has an interest and to appear in Court or before any other quasi-judicial body or Tribunal for parastatal bodies and such institutions or companies where Government has an interest. Reference is made in the request for authorisation to the agreed Government policy to ask the State Law Office to act as legal adviser to parastatal bodies in view of the confidentiality of certain matters.
- (4) I am of the view that once a law officer has been authorised to provide legal services to parastatal bodies in his capacity as lawyer and not in his official capacity, it would be against professional ethics for me to enquire from him as to the quantum of fees he receives from those bodies. I note, however, that such work is normally done at the cost of several hours daily, usually after working hours, so that it does not impede on the work load at the Office.
- (5) It is the Board and management of such parastatal bodies which determine legal advisors’ remuneration, and I am not accountable for the acts of those Boards. It is, of course, for the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) and the officers themselves to ensure that fiscal obligations are abided by.
- (6) The Office of the DPP has informed my Office that as at 30 March 2015, only one law officer advises the Board of Investment against payment for legal fees. The Director of Public Prosecutions or his representative, the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, sits as ex-officio member on the following statutory bodies –
- (i) Law Reform Commission;
  - (ii) Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies Board, and
  - (iii) Council for Vocational and Legal Education.

(7) As far as my Office is concerned, I am tabling the list of parastatal bodies and other statutory bodies, 33 in total, which law officers and State attorneys advise.

**Mr Rutnah:** I am grateful for the answer provided by my very good friend, the Attorney-General. However, I would like the hon. Attorney-General to state whether he has information as to the number of hours that law officers of the State Law Office have worked and the remuneration because there is obviously fiscal implication and ethical implication in this matter. So, perhaps if my very good friend can ascertain ...

**Madam Speaker:** Your question is clear, hon. Member!

**Mr Yerrigadoo:** I can answer as far as my Office is concerned. I have made it a point with the Solicitor General that no such work impedes on the current work of the Office during office hours. So, I can assure the hon. Member that, at least, since December last year no such work is being done to impede current Government business or advice and all such work is done on week-ends and after working hours. I will find out the details as far as remuneration is concerned and I can table this. I cannot answer as far as the Office of the DPP is concerned.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Speaker, can the hon. Attorney General inform the House who are the State Counsels who sit on the SICOM Board and what amount of money has been paid to each of them as remuneration since their appointment?

**Mr Yerrigadoo:** I would have loved to reply to the hon. Member. Unfortunately, SICOM does not fall under my aegis. I believe the question should be addressed to my friend, the hon. Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms.

**Mr Rutnah:** Am I correct to understand that the Director of Public Prosecutions has refused to answer the question in relation to or has refused to cooperate to provide information in relation to the remuneration of those officers attached to his Office?

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Member, I don't think it is in order for you to question the prerogatives of the DPP. According to the Standing Orders, it is not in order. So, please refrain from asking these questions!

**Mr Yerrigadoo:** Madam Speaker, what I can answer to the hon. Member is the information I have been provided from the Office of the DPP as what I have stated, is as at date, I do not have any further details I am afraid.

## ITALY - CONSUL OF MAURITIUS – OFFICE HOLDERS

(No. B/218) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether, in regard to the office of Consul of Mauritius in Italy, he will state the names of the office holders thereof over the period 2005 to date, indicating in each case, the -

- (a) terms and conditions of appointment thereof, and
- (b) town of residence thereof during the tenure of office.

*(Withdrawn)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Rutnah, I said at the beginning that PQ No. B/219 which was addressed to the hon. Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport was to be answered by the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, time permitting. So, this is not in order now. So, that is why I am coming to PQ No. B/220.

## PLAINES WILHEMS SEWERAGE PROJECT - CONTRACT

(No. B/220) Mr A. Jahangeer (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Project awarded to the Joint Venture C. F. Thymian Holding GbR and Sotravic, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the -

- (a) original contract price for Lot 1A;
- (b) revised contract value thereof, and
- (c) amount of money paid, if any, for the delay in the implementation thereof, indicating the amount of the penalty fee paid, if any.

**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 contract was awarded on 19 October 2009 to Joint Venture C.F. Thymian Holding, GbR/Sotravic Ltd. for the price of Rs2.8 billion more specially, Rs2,842,498,362.59 (including VAT with a completion date fixed for 31 May 2014.

I am further informed that in October 2014, the Wastewater Management Authority Board approved that the contract value be revised to Rs3.9 billion, that is, one extra billion

rupees more specially, Rs3,920,360,438.42 including VAT and to extend the project completion date...

*(Interruptions)*

to November 2017.

No penalty fee has been paid up to now. The House may be aware that the Director of Audit made adverse comments on this project in 2012.

I have to inform the House that, on Friday 27 March 2015, Government took note of this high cost overrun in this project and has decided that -

- (i) the Wastewater Management Authority should close the project in 2016 by completing works started in the northern part of the region covered by the project, and
- (ii) a full technical and management audit of all wastewater management projects be carried out with a view to improving project monitoring and supervision and most importantly, to avoid excessive cost overruns.

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

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister explain to the House why such variation has been approved being given that, according to PPA, not more than 25% of the contract value for work variation is possible? Right now, we are having Rs1.1 billion which amounts to around 38%. So, how could they bypass the Central Procurement Board at that time? Thank you.

**Mr Collendavelloo:** Of course, I cannot explain and I think it is beyond any logical explanation. So, they play with billions as if you know, you are playing with Rs1,000. That is how it was done, that is the method of Government which was adopted in those days. I am afraid I am unable to provide a satisfactory answer to the hon. Member on this. I hope that the Management Audit, which we will set up, will be able to provide the answers and satisfy the hon. Member on that score.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Lesjongard!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I believe by now the hon. Vice-Prime Minister would have been made aware that most of the contracts undertaken by the Wastewater Management Authority has exceeded the cost price by more than 35% and, as it

is under our legislation, that is the Central Procurement Act, whenever a contract value exceeds 35% of the total cost of the contract, we have to go for a fresh tender exercise. There was an enquiry ...

**Madam Speaker:** Put your question, please.

**Mr Lesjongard:** I am going to put the question. There was an enquiry and the General Manager, at that time, was transferred to the National Transport Corporation, don't you think that it is time - with all the contracts that have been allocated by the Wastewater Management Authority - that Government should set a Commission of Enquiry to enquire into all those contracts that have been awarded by that Authority?

**Mr Collendavello:** Following the Technical and Management Audit, perhaps the question of a Commission of Enquiry may become relevant, but, for the moment, I think it is premature to envisage any such Commission.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo!

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether any legal action can be taken in light of what we have heard today?

**Mr Collendavello:** All these matters obtained the clearance of the Board. This is magic.

*(Interruptions)*

There were magicians all over. So, they were able to do this. I am not a lawyer now so I would not be able to give legal advice on this. If appropriate, we shall seek legal advice.

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

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Speaker, is the hon. Vice-Prime Minister aware that several defects have been reported to the Wastewater Management Unit and, if so, can we know what action has been taken?

**Mr Collendavello:** Yes, there have been defects. There have been complaints of houses being cracked. There have been complaints with regard to seepage and all that sort of thing, but those are technical matters much more than matters regarding the Ministry. I am

sure the Authority will take steps to look into this matter. If they do not, we will direct them accordingly.

**Madam Speaker:** Yes, you have got a question, hon. Member!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Yes. We have been talking about laws, Procurement Act, but also, it is a question of who are those people responsible to look into this whole issue of management of these contracts. Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister equally ensure that, in an institution like the Wastewater Management Authority where you have got millions and billions which are being invested in projects, it is adequately staffed; that the technical people who are in charge of these types of projects do their work; that they have the capacity to do those projects whether it is at a level of design, monitoring and, of course, afterwards carrying audit trails etc.?

**Mr Collendavelloo:** I will certainly try to do this.

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

#### **PLAINE SOPHIE WIND FARM PROJECT - CONTRACT**

**(No. B/221) Mr A. B. Jahangeer (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the Plaine Sophie Wind Farm Project estimated to produce some 30 MW electricity, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, information as to -

- (a) the name of the contractor therefor;
- (b) the date of award of the contract ;
- (c) the contractual completion date thereof, indicating if there is any delay in the implementation thereof and, if so, indicate the -
  - (i) penalty fee applicable, and
  - (ii) expected completion date thereof, and
- (d) if the Independent Power producer has satisfactorily submitted proof of his financial capability.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities (Mr I. Collendavelloo):** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Central Electricity Board as follows

-

- (a) the Contractor for the Wind Farm at Plaine Sophie is Consortium Suzlon-Padgreen Co. Ltd
- (b) the contract was awarded on 03 August 2012 following an open tender exercise for 20-30 MW plant using wind energy;
- (c) the contractual completion date of the project was 03 August 2014.

According to information from the CEB, there have been delays in the implementation of the project due to -

- delay in obtaining the EIA licence and the execution of the Land Lease Agreement on account of some reservations by relevant departments;
- a Stop Order issued on 19 May 2014 by the Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix as clearance of the Forestry Department had not been obtained for felling of trees. The Stop Order was set aside on 18 November 2014, and
- delay in the obtention of the planning clearance from the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

No penalty has been applied because the delays were considered by the CEB to be beyond the control of the promoter. In accordance with the provisions of the contract, the contractor has declared “Force Majeure” regarding the planning clearance, which is still pending at the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

In case the Building and Land Use permit is issued, the project is expected to be completed in 2016.

With regard to part (d) of the question, I am informed by the CEB that the contractor has met all the financial criteria as outlined in the contract and has achieved financial closure on 02 May 2014.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House the site area that has so far undergone heavy deforestation and if geophysical studies have been carried out regarding the water reserves under this area?

**Mr Collendavelloo:** How on earth will I be able to answer that question offhand. I do not know. I have to look into it, of course.

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Members, the Table has been advised that PQ Nos. B/222, B/223 and B/224 have been withdrawn. Hon. Tarolah!

#### **MAURITIUS SPORTS COUNCIL - HANDYMEN**

**(No. B/222) 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.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS - ADVISERS/PRESS ATTACHÉS**

**(No. B/223) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Advisers/Press Attachés appointed by his Ministry, he will give a list thereof indicating, in each case, the -

- (a) qualifications held, and
- (b) terms and conditions of appointment thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **PREVOCATIONAL SECTOR - DUAL MODE SYSTEM**

**(No. B/224) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Science Research whether, in regard to the prevocational sector, she will state if the Dual Mode System is being implemented for academic year 2015 and, if so, indicate the modalities attached thereto and, if not, why not.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **NEF - CIS HOUSING UNITS**

**(No. B/225) Mr K. Tarolah (Third Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the



National Empowerment Foundation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the number of request/application received thereat, since 2010 to date for –

- (a) Corrugated Iron Sheet housing units, and
- (b) Corrugated Cum Iron Sheet housing units, indicating the
  - (i) number of request entertained, and
  - (ii) name of the supplier thereof in each case.

**Mr Roopun:** Madam Speaker, with respect to parts (a) and (b) of the question, I am informed by the National Empowerment Foundation that the information is being compiled and will be tabled. With regard to the name of the suppliers for CIS and CCIS, I am tabling the list as provided by the foundation.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of certain housing units that have been delivered to families without amenities like toilets and bathrooms?

**Mr Roopun:** Yes, in fact, Madam Speaker, I am aware that at a first stage a house is constructed without toilet and thereafter toilet is being provided once the septic pit is provided.

**Mr Lesjongard :** May I ask the hon. Minister whether consideration could be given so that when the housing unit is delivered, it is delivered with the toilets and the bathrooms because those families getting into those housing units will need toilets and bathrooms?

**Mr Roopun:** Yes. In fact, this is being looked into, Madam Speaker.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the corrugated iron sheets that have been purchased are according to the specifications because we have visited several houses where we found that the thickness is not according to the specifications and many of these iron sheets have got corrosion?

**Mr Roopun:** The manufacturing of CIS is being phased out and there are certain instances where the quality of the iron sheets is not to the standard.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, I have one last question with regard to the suppliers. Can I know from the hon. Minister whether we go through tendering procedures whenever we purchase those materials?

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, I am told that quotations are requested from five suppliers and selection from these suppliers is made region-wise. In fact, I should add that I am personally not satisfied with this procedure and this will be reviewed.

**Mr Barbier:** Concerning the criteria laid down for people who will be eligible to obtain such facilities - I think it is not clear for one and all - may I ask the hon. Minister whether he will be agreeable to the idea of tabling a list of criteria for those who are eligible for such services?

**Mr Roopun:** Certainly, Madam Speaker, this will be done. I may add that I am working in conjunction with the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands and we are coming with a new scheme, with new designs and everything will, of course, be communicated to the members of the public.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister inform the House about the method being used to verify that the building materials which are delivered on site are according to specifications?

**Mr Roopun:** This is done by the employees of the NEF.

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

#### **MBC - URDU PRODUCER – POST**

**(No. B/226) Mr K. Tarolah (Third Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Information Technology and Innovation whether, in regard to the post of Urdu Producer at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Corporation, information as to (a) if the vacancy which arose after the demise of late H. P has been filled and, if so, indicate –

- (i) when and
- (ii) if the post was advertised and, if not, why not, indicating who is presently responsible for the Urdu programmes.

**Mr P. Jugnauth:** Madam Speaker, with respect to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Mauritius broadcasting Corporation that following the demise of H. P. on 13 July 2004, responsibility for Urdu programmes on radio and TV were taken over by the other staff of the Urdu section, namely, Mr Swabir Goodur, Farooq Husnoo and late Abdool Salam Ahmadi. Subsequently, Mr Azad Hossene, Chief Technical Producer, was assigned the duties to coordinate and ensure the running of Urdu programmes on radio and TV.

Madam Speaker, as from 04 February 2013, the services of Mr Swabir Goodur, who was a freelancer, was retained on a fulltime contractual basis as coordinator of Urdu programmes. Mr Azad Hossene continued to ensure the running of Urdu programmes on radio and TV in collaboration with Mr Goodur until January 2015. Mr Goodur's contract expired the 03 January 2015 and was not renewed. Since then alternative arrangements have been made to ensure the running of the Urdu programmes by retaining the services of Mr Anwar Dismohamed and Mr Farooq Husnoo who are both freelancers and Ms Yasmin Bode who serves as producer/ programme presenter on a contractual basis.

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

**SMALL PLANTERS - 2014 CANE HARVEST SEASON - COMPENSATION**

**(No. B/228) Mr D. Sesungkur (First Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the 2014 Cane Harvest Season, he will state if –

- (a) there has been -
  - (i) a fall in sugar production, and
  - (ii) delay in the harvesting of the sugar cane fields, in particular, those of the small planters, and
- (b) some sugar cane fields have remained un-harvested and, if so, indicate the -
  - (i) extent of the sugar cane fields concerned therewith, and
  - (ii) quantum of compensation, if any, being contemplated for the small planters who have been prejudiced as a result thereof.

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Speaker, with regard to part (a) (i) of the question, I am informed that, according to provisional figures, sugar production for the 2014 crop is estimated at 403,603 tonnes and is short of around 21,000 tonnes since about 119,200 tonnes of cane were left un-harvested in the fields as at 02 February 2015.

Regarding part (a) (ii), I am advised that there were 17 cases where small planters have reported delays in harvesting.

As regards part (b), 5.7 hectares of sugar cane fields belonging to small planters and 1,424 hectares belonging to the corporate sector have remained un-harvested. I am informed that no compensation is payable for un-harvested fields as the Sugar Insurance Fund Act makes no provision for same.

**Mr Sesungkur:** Madam Speaker, can the hon. Minister consider a compensation at the level of the Ministry, is it a normal situation to have such huge area of cultivation of cane not harvested and what action the Ministry is taking to avoid this kind of situation in the future?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Speaker, you are probably aware that last year there was an industrial dispute between the JNP and the Mauritius Sugar Planters Association and that resulted in the stoppage of the milling. That lasted for about 10 days and beyond that the crop season had to be extended up to the end of February. But given the fact that we had very bad weather conditions in the first few weeks of January, we could not carry out with the harvesting and these are the two reasons that explained the fact that so much areas of cane were not harvested.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, may I ask the hon. Minister if he has information with regard to the decrease in sugar production over the past three years and what is expected as decrease over the coming years?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, it is a fact, Madam Speaker that over the last five years the surface area under cane cultivation has been going down. In 2009, the amount of surface area that was under cane cultivation was about 60,380 hectares and for the crop year 2014, it has gone down to 50,693. So, it is something that is happening and based on that, obviously, the production of sugar is going downward. But we, at the Ministry, are doing our best to curtail that downward trend to encourage people to continue with the sugar production. But as we may be aware, the price is no more attractive given that we have no more that privileged price with the European Union and with the effect of the Euro going down as well, the planters are not too keen to keep on with sugar production.

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

**Mr Sesungkur:** Madam Speaker, being given that the small planters have suffered severe prejudice with this kind of situation, is there any way for the Ministry, for Government or any other institution to compensate those small planters who are suffering a lot from bad financial situation, and what measures is the hon. Minister contemplating?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Speaker, as you may be aware, if we go through the Budget Speech, the Ministry of Finance has announced that cash compensation will be paid to all sugar producers and a special effort is being made for small planters producing up to 60

tonnes of sugar. Cash compensation of Rs3,400 is being paid to small planters per tonne of sugar produced.

**Madam Speaker:** The Table has further been advised that the following Parliamentary Questions have been withdrawn: PQ B/233, PQ B/243 and PQ B/245.

I now suspend the sitting for one and a half hour for lunch.

*At 1.03 p.m. the sitting was suspended.*

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

### **EX-PALMAR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION UNIT - LAND - LEASE**

**(No. B/229) Mr D. Sesungkur (First Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the plot of land, including the infrastructure therefor, devoted to the ex-paddock at Palmar, he will state –

- (a) if same has been leased to a private company or companies and, if so, indicate the
  - (i) extent thereof;
  - (ii) period thereof, and
  - (iii) rent payable therefor, and
- (b) how his Ministry proposes to optimize the use thereof, giving details thereof.

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that the ex-Palmar Livestock Production Unit was closed down in April 2008, and 304 out of the 310 *arpents* were vested in the Ministry of Housing and Lands for eventual allocation to promoters for implementation of tourism related projects.

The remaining six *arpents* was leased in April 2012 to Aksaye Enterprises Ltd, represented by Mr Doomeswarsing Gooljaury, for vegetables cultivation. The lease is valid for a term of 20 years, and the rental payable is Rs1,000 per *arpent* annually.

I am further informed that the lessee has not been paying the rental since 2013, and action has been initiated for the cancellation of the lease and the retrieval of the land.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question! Hon. Barbier is not there. Yes, hon. Lesjongard.

### **TRUTH AND JUSTICE COMMISSION – IMPLEMENTATION**

**(No. B/237) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the Truth and Justice Commission, he will state whether the main recommendations contained in the report thereof have been implemented and, if so, give details thereof and, if not, indicate the reasons therefor.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, the Truth and Justice Commission submitted its report on 25 November 2011. The then Government set up in December 2011 a High-Powered Committee comprising 11 Ministers to look into the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission. I was then appointed as Chairperson of the Committee.

The report contained 21 main recommendations concerning mainland Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega. The details of each action that should be implemented were also spelt out in the report. Since the implementation of the Truth and Justice Commission would require an enormous budget, the committee focused on those recommendations that could generate quick wins.

In the first instance, 19 recommendations were retained and were to be implemented by different Ministries.

As most of the recommendations cut across a number of Ministries and thus require close consultations, the previous Cabinet had, at its meeting of 22 February 2013, decided to set up a four member coordination team which was mandated to closely coordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations and report on a regular basis to the High-Powered Committee. The coordination team has met on 32 occasions and had regular meetings with officials from relevant Ministries, statutory bodies as well as persons who would contribute in the effective implementation of the project. The last meeting of the coordination team was in May 2014.

Madam Speaker, I am tabling a paper on the progress of the 19 recommendations. This Government has on 02 February appointed a new Ministerial Committee which I am again chairing and comprising four other Ministries to reconsider the recommendations contained in the report of the Truth and Justice Commission. The Ministerial Committee has already had its first meeting.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Madam Speaker, may I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to inform the House out of the 19 recommendations that were identified, how many recommendations have been fully implemented until now?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, let me submit this and the hon. Member can have a full feedback on what has been done.

**Mr Lesjongard:** One of the recommendations was the setting up of a Land Research and Mediation Commission. May we know where matters are as at today?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** This is something that the new committee will look into but, it was considered to be a priority area because of the number of disputes regarding land issues and the difficulty for individuals, especially poor individuals, to access information and to get the proper legal advice. This will be a priority of the new Committee.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Since the hon. Deputy Prime Minister himself was chairing that High-Powered Committee when it was set up at that time, can we know from him how many cases of dispossession of land have been solved until now?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I am not aware, Madam Speaker, but what I can say is that decision was taken, funds were provided for the recruitment of, I think, three persons; one surveyor, one lawyer and another person. There were some problems at the start to identify the correct candidates. The candidates were obtained and then I had already left Government. So, I am not able to tell the hon. Member.

**Mr Lesjongard:** May I, Madam Speaker? With regard to dispossession of land, one of the main problems that those concerned had to face was availability of funds for research purposes. May we know whether in the actual Budget certain amount has been earmarked for that Commission?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I am not aware, Madam Speaker. But, as I mentioned to you, the new Committee has met once and the matter has been discussed and this is an important area and we will look at it. I mentioned to you it is an expensive and time-consuming process which is probably beyond the means of most people who are poor and that was the reason why we would consider Government giving additional help.

**Madam Speaker:** I come back to the question of hon. Barbier!

**Mr Barbier:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I am sorry to be late. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to come back to my question B/234.

**BELLE MARE – FRENCH TOURISTS – DEATH**

**(No. B/233) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the recent death of two French tourists at sea in the region of Belle Mare, he will state –

- (a) the outcome of the inquiry, if any, carried out thereinto by his Ministry and the actions taken in relation thereto, if any, and
- (b) if his Ministry proposes to introduce new policies in relation to the nautical sports activities within our lagoons.

*(Withdrawn)*

**PORT LOUIS HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – FISHERS –  
ACCOMPANYING MEASURES**

**(No. B/234) 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 ongoing Port Louis Harbour Development Project, he will state the accompanying measures being taken, if any, to help the fishers of –

- (a) Bain des Dames;
- (b) Les Salines;
- (c) Grand River North West;
- (d) Sable Noir ;
- (e) Pointe aux Sables;
- (f) Roche Bois, and
- (g) Tombeau Bay.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed by the Director General of the Mauritius Ports Authority (MPA) that it is enhancing its infrastructure in line



with its objective to transform the port into a regional hub and to respond to the growing needs of the shipping lines and other stakeholders.

It is currently implementing a project for the extension of the quay by 240 metres and strengthening of the existing quay of 560 metres at the Mauritius Container Terminal at Mer Rouge to enable larger container vessels to call at Port Louis Harbour and to accommodate the increase in cargo traffic. This project which involves construction of bunds, marine and civil works and dredging works is expected to be completed by end of 2016.

In regard to parts (a) to (g) of the question, I am further informed that there are 278 registered fishers under the six landing stations within the port limits, namely –

- (i) Bain des Dames / Fort William;
- (ii) Grande Rivière Nord Ouest
- (iii) Pointe aux Sables I;
- (iv) Pointe aux Sables II;
- (v) Roche Bois, and
- (vi) Tombeau Bay.

At the start of the project, these persons have claimed compensation from the MPA. They are stating that the decrease in amount of fish catch due to affected water quality, is forcing them to move further away to obtain the same catch they were getting prior to works being carried out.

The MPA in a spirit of goodwill opened negotiations with the fishers and it was agreed to move for a mediation process, in the first instance, as a means to resolve the dispute between the two parties. A Mediator/Arbitrator was appointed with the concurrence of all the parties and a Mediation/Arbitration Agreement was signed on 07 July 2014 to examine and determine whether the works have caused or are likely to cause an impact on the fishing activities of the registered fishers, determine the compensation, if any, and the terms of relocation of the 15 fishers operating temporarily at Fort William. Several proposals have been examined and I am informed that no agreement has been reached between the two parties and the dispute will now be resolved in arbitration proceedings.

Madam Speaker, I am further informed that, following the start of the works, the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands has provided baits to the fishers in 2013. It has also extended the fishing areas for live baits beyond the district of Port Louis, namely to Black River, Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart on a thrice weekly basis and limited to 5 fishers per day. Normally, bait year license is restricted to a particular district only.

**Mr Barbier:** Madam Speaker, as the hon. Deputy Prime Minister just stated, it is now maybe for more than one year that negotiation has started on a mediation basis where the fishers today are at court level with the preceding to establish what is the impact, as the Minister of port development and the impact that it will have on the fishers' activities. There is a feeling, Madam Speaker, that they are not being considered in all this development that is going on in the Port Louis Harbour area.

**Madam Speaker:** What is the hon. Member's question?

**Mr Barbier:** May I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether he will make it a duty for him as Minister responsible for port development to see to it that all fishers from the region of Grande Rivière to Tombeau Bay, including all the other fish landing stations, be given the due consideration while we are considering developing the ports area.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I must say that the MPA has taken this quite seriously and, in fact, no less a person than the ex-Chief justice was appointed as mediator, and now, as arbitrator on this issue. So, it has been given the importance as it deserves. Nevertheless, I take the point of the hon. Member concerning current and future developments and how this will affect the livelihood of everyone, especially when we talk about the prospective substantial port development. Certainly, we will look at some sort of mechanism so that dialogue can take place. But, also, Madam Speaker, there is a need for everyone to be reasonable and for everyone to understand that things have got to happen within reasonable parameters.

**Mr Barbier:** May I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister just to insist on a time frame so that the fishers may not feel as if they have been abandoned while we are developing the port area?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I understand now that we are going to arbitration and that the ex-Chief Justice wishes for the works to stop so that he can now fully

assess what has been the loss incurred by the fishermen. I think this will be towards the end of the year that this will happen. That is for the current works being carried out. As far as the future works are, let me look into it and I will come back. Thank you.

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

### **PAILLES - FOOTBALL PITCH**

**(No. B/235) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the football pitch situated near the Pailles Police Station, he will state if he will use his good offices to facilitate the handing over thereof to the Municipal Council of Port Louis and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Madam Speaker, I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to the Parliamentary Question No. B/80 on this issue and wherein I informed that necessary arrangement was being made by my Ministry for the handing over of the playing field of the City Council of Port Louis for maintenance.

I wish to inform the House that a request has already been made by my Ministry to the Ministry of Housing and Lands for the vesting of the plot of land in question in my Ministry and as soon as the procedures will be completed, the land will be vested in the City Council of Port Louis for the maintenance of the football pitch standing thereon.

### **ROCHE BOIS - THIRD LANE**

**(No. B/236) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the opening of a third lane at Roche Bois and Abattoir Road to traffic coming from the North, he will state the additional measures that have been taken to protect the inhabitants of Roches Bois, particularly in the region of the Abattoir and St Martin Streets.

**Mr Bodha:** Madam Speaker, with your permission, I will answer this question.

Following the closure of the Terre Rouge/Verdun road as a result of the embankment failure on part of that road, there was an urgent need to alleviate the traffic congestion problem at the entrance from the North into Port Louis. Decision has thus been taken to open a third lane from Riche Terre roundabout enabling traffic to enter the city centre through Abattoir Road. This decision has been accompanied by a series of road safety measures to protect the inhabitants of that region as follows -

Apart from the setting-up of a pedestrian crossing along the Abattoir Road to enable pedestrians to have access to the bus stop along the motorway M2, the speed limit in that region has been reduced to 40 km per hour and handrails have also been fixed along Abattoir Road to channel pedestrians. A stretch of land has also been cleared just after Cocoterie roundabout to allow safe movement of the pedestrians outside the road. In addition, appropriate traffic signs have been fixed. Access from motorway M2 onto the Abattoir Road has been restricted to morning peak hours only and arrangements have been made for Police to be present all the time in that region from 07 00 hours to 10 00 hours on weekdays.

As regards the St Martin Street, it is essentially a residential road of about 700 metres and varying in width between 4.7 and 5 metres and traffic from the North using the third lane at Roche Bois and the Abattoir Road to reach the city centre does not pass through St Martin Road and as such does not have an impact on that road during the morning peak hours. However, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit will consider setting up the speed limit to only 40 km along St Martin Road as an additional safety measure.

**Mr Barbier:** Madam Speaker, I know that the traffic does not pass through St. Martin, but there are other traffic coming from St. Martin that cross the Abattoir road. This Abattoir road has not been operating for traffic for years now. This does not only concern the traffic and vehicles, but pedestrians also. May I ask the hon. Minister to see to it that adequate measures are taken concerning pedestrians of the region of St. Martin so that necessary care for the security of the pedestrians in this region is taken?

**Mr Bodha:** Madam Speaker, I will look into the matter and I believe that with the opening of the diversion at Terre Rouge/Verdun next week, we will have lesser traffic taking that lane, but I will look into the matter as regards the security of the pedestrians.

#### **FASHION STYLE - STATE LAND**

**(No. B/238) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the State land situated in the vicinity of the Belle Mare Police Station, he will state if Mr D. G. of Fashion Style is the lessee of two portions thereof and, if so, indicate –

- (a) if the lease was converted from residential to industrial land and, if so, indicate when, and
- (b) the amount of rent payable -
  - (i) now, and
  - (ii) at the end of the lease.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun):** Madam Speaker, since April 2009, Mr D. G. holds a 60-year industrial site lease over a plot of State land of an extent of nine perches (380m<sup>2</sup>) being Lots 133/1 and 133/2 of State Land Belle Mare Village for the running of a commercial/guest house. In fact, Mr D. G. acquired, through two Notarial Deeds, the buildings together with the leasehold rights of both plots of land from the Nuttoo brothers who held residential cum commercial site leases over the two sites. The approval of the Ministry of Housing and Lands was sought and obtained prior to effecting the acquisition and transfer. Thereafter, upon the request of Mr D. G., a consolidated “industrial site lease” over both plots of land was drawn in 2009. The site is presently built up with a G+4 building being used for commercial activities.

In respect of part (b) of the question, the rental payable for the lease is Rs63,391.31 for period 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. As per Article 6 of the Lease Agreement, the rental for the succeeding years shall be computed from the rental payable for the preceding year adjusted by reference to the cumulative inflation rate based on the Consumer Price Index during every 3-year period which shall not exceed 15.7 per cent in any case.

Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the House that the lessee has not settled the rent for the lease since July 2012 despite having been sent several reminders.

**Mr Lesjongard:** May I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to confirm whether those two plots, that is, 133/1 and 133/2 were lots that were regularised to those persons who at that time were squatting that plot of land upon a decision of the then Government, that is, the Government between 2000 and 2005 to regularise cases where those families have been squatting land for quite some time?

**Mr Soodhun:** Yes, Madam Speaker.

**Mr Lesjongard:** May I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether he finds it normal that in the case where Government has regularised cases of those poor families that his Ministry gives the authorisation for converting those two residential leases into industrial and commercial leases?

**Mr Soodhun:** The case was referred to Court and there has been a judgment contrary to what has been done. Mr D. G. was fined. According to my information, the case was referred to the Court and he was fined for the illegal procedure which has been taken up.

**Mr Lesjongard:** From what I understand from the hon. Minister, the rent for that lease has not been paid since 2012 and he has also mentioned that the rent is Rs60,000 per year. Does he find it normal that for an industrial lease where there is a building of about four storeys that the rent is Rs2,125 per lot, that is, for the two lots some Rs5,250?

**Mr Soodhun:** This has been the practice by the former Government as we know very well. They have already done what they used to do. But, in fact, we are going to implement the law as such.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Since the hon. Minister is putting order in the Ministry there, I want a confirmation from him as to whether those two lots were used, if I may use that word, for pledging of rights for a bank.

**Mr Soodhun:** Madam Speaker, I do not have this information.

**Mr Lesjongard:** One last question. If he is looking into that, may he also verify whether that pledging of rights was on the name of that person, that is, on the name of Mr D. G. or on the name of the company, Fashion Style?

**Mr Soodhun:** On the name of Mr D. G.

**Madam Speaker:** The Table has been advised that PQ Nos. B/241 and B/242 have been withdrawn. Next question, hon. Jhugroo!

#### **VILLE NOIRE - HEALTH CENTRE**

**(No. B/241) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the policy of his Ministry to bring health services to the doorsteps of the people, he will state if consideration will be given for the advisability of setting up a community health centre/area health centre and/or mediclinic in the village of Ville Noire, situated in Constituency No. 12, Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SCHOOLS - TEACHERS**

**(No. B/242) 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.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **MBC – TELEVISION CHANNELS - PRIVATIZATION**

**(No. B/243) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation Whether, in regard to the two television channels of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Corporation, information as to if the privatization thereof is being contemplated and, if so, indicate if –

- (a) a prior study has been carried out in relation thereto and, if so, give details thereof, and
- (b) any timeframe for the implementation thereof has been fixed.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **SSR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – AIRLINES SERVICING - CATERING SERVICES**

**(No. B/244) Mr P. Jhugroo (Second Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the catering services for the airlines servicing the Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam International Airport, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the company which has obtained the contract therefor, indicating the -

- (a) contract value thereof;
- (b) terms and conditions of the contract, and
- (c) names of the directors of the company.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I am informed that procurement allocation of contract for inflight catering services is carried out by the respective airlines under their own commercial arrangements.

I am, therefore, not in a position to respond to this particular question.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Is the Deputy Prime Minister aware that there had been several complaints with regard to the quality of food supplied by the Company and served on board of the different air flights.

**Mr Duval:** That is a very general question Madam Speaker. There have been obviously complaints in particular relating to food on Air Mauritius but I know that our national airline is taking remedial action.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister inform the House whether tender procedures have been followed before allocation of this contract for catering services to this company?

**Mr Duval:** Madam Speaker, I am not aware of this particular issue but if the hon. Member has any information that he would like to submit, with pleasure we will look at it.

**Madam Speaker:** Next question hon. Oree.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE  
– CHAIRPERSON - APPOINTMENT**

(No. B/245) **Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the appointment of Mr V. M. as Chairperson of the National Institute for the Co-operative Enterprise Committee, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Committee, information as to his -

- (a) qualifications;
- (b) address, and
- (c) terms and conditions of appointment.

*(Withdrawn)*

**CHITRAKOOT - LANDSLIDE**

(No. B/247) **Mr G. Oree (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the landslide problems at Chitrakoot, he will state the measures that are being taken by Government in relation thereto, indicating if his Ministry has considered a re-lodging plan for the aggrieved households whose houses have been severely damaged as a result thereof.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr S. Soodhun):** Madam Speaker, I am informed that, following the landslide which occurred at Chitrakoot in February 2005, the services of GIBB (Mauritius) Ltd were retained by the National Development Unit (NDU) for a structural assessment of the 60 houses affected in the landslide area. The consultant, after assessment, informed that, out of the 60 housing units,



only 14 were found to be structurally unsafe where damages were beyond repairs and recommended the relocation of the owners/occupiers.

Further, the NDU through the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport sought the technical assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to mitigate disasters in the landslide prone areas. Consequently, that Ministry requested for land to be acquired for the construction of drains, as landslide counter measures.

In 2006, a plot of State land was identified at Le Hochet for the relocation of 13 out of 14 cases and at Bois Marchand for the remaining 1. The families were consulted and they consented to their relocation to the new sites proposed to them. Building site leases were granted on 28 March 2006 to each of the 13 families who were to be relocated at Le Hochet; and on 13 November 2008 the remaining one family was allocated a plot of State land at Bois Marchand.

In January 2015, Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee under my Chairmanship to monitor and address the problem of Chitrakoot. The situation todate is as follows –

- (i) in 4 cases, the families concerned have already vacated their houses which are now unoccupied;
- (ii) in 2 cases, the families are still occupying the damaged houses whilst their new houses at Le Hochet are under construction;
- (iii) in 2 cases, they have moved out but their houses are being used as stores;
- (iv) in 1 case, the family has moved out but the house is now occupied by the victim's brother;
- (v) in 1 case, the family has moved out but the victim has rented the house;
- (vi) in 1 case where the victim was relocated at Bois Marchand, he is still occupying the house at Chitrakoot and has requested for his relocation at Terre Rouge but no State land is available to accede to his request, and
- (vii) in the last 3 remaining cases, the persons concerned are old-age pensioners who are still occupying their houses at Chitrakoot. Given that these persons do not have the financial means to construct their houses on the sites allocated to them, the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment has arranged for their registration under the Social Register to determine their

eligibility to receive housing support under the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) housing scheme.

**Mr Lesjongard:** Thank you Madam Speaker. From what I understand the hon. Vice-Prime Minister has stated that there are cases where people were relocated, they were given land, they were supposed to move there but they have built the houses, they have stayed where the landslide occurred but they are renting the house at the place where they have been relocated. Does it find it normal that people, who at that time should have moved from Chitrakoot, have stayed there and they are renting for years now those houses that they have built at Terre Rouge?

**Mr Soodhun:** I hope you are not thinking to return back to Constituency No. 4. So I agree with my good friend, but concerning the land, according to my information, it is a private land, it is not a State land. This remains a problem it is not a State land.

**Madam Speaker:** No question! Okay.