

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### NEW COURT HOUSE – PRESS MEMBERS – ASSAULT

(No. B/363) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third 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 incident that occurred at the New Court House, on 30 June 2015, whereby members of the press were assaulted, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, indicate the –

- (a) number of arrest effected in connection therewith as at to date, if any, and
- (b) actions taken by the Police to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in courts of law.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 30 June 2015, one Mrs M.P., Press Photographer, reported to Pope Hennessy Police Station that earlier on that day, whilst she was on duty at the New Court House, she had allegedly been assaulted by an unknown person whom she could identify. She was thereafter conveyed to Dr. Jeetoo Hospital by her colleagues and was admitted after examination. She was discharged after four days. Police have initiated an enquiry into the matter.

In regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the enquiry is ongoing. A suspect has been identified. No arrest has been made by the Police.

As for part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that there already exists standing operating procedures insofar as maintenance of law and order at all Courts is concerned. An adequate number of officers from different Units are posted in all Court buildings. Additionally, whenever the need arises, the services of the Police Dog Unit are resorted to and metal barriers are put in place for crowd control purposes. According to the Commissioner of Police, so far no major incident has occurred in any of these places.

### HOLD-UP CASES – JANUARY 2015-AUGUST 2015

(No. B/364) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third 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 he will, for the benefit of the House,

obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases of hold-up, since January 2015 to date, indicating the actions taken or that will be taken to reinforce security in relation to the conveyance by vehicles of cash and/or other valuables.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the term 'hold up' is not defined in our laws. However, I assume that the hon. Member is in fact referring to serious offences of larceny, for example, cases of robberies committed using threat or violence or robberies committed by armed and/or masked offenders in financial institutions or on vehicles conveying large sum of money.

From January 2015 to date, five cases of larceny committed with violence have been reported to the Police. In one of the cases, five suspects have been arrested and thereafter released on bail after enquiry.

With a view to reinforcing security for conveyance of cash and/or other valuables by vehicles, a series of measures have already been taken by the Police Department, including, *inter alia*, the following:-

- (i) free escorting services by the Emergency Response Service for cash in transit (e.g conveyance of cash to banks) to business operators;
- (ii) provision of Police escort to financial institutions against payment;
- (iii) visible policing at/or in the vicinity of financial institutions, pump stations and other places of business, particularly during peak hours;
- (iv) targeted patrols by regular Police and CID, in high risk zones/areas, and
- (v) intelligence gathering and monitoring of the movements of persistent offenders.

#### **HORSE RACING – COMMISSION OF INQUIRY – RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(No. B/365) Mr S. Rughoobur (Second Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Commission of Inquiry on Horse Racing in Mauritius which was set up on 24 September 2014, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) quantum of the –
  - (i) fees paid to the Commissioners thereof, and

- (ii) related expenses incurred in relation thereto, until the submission of the final report thereof in March 2015, and
- (b) measures taken or that will be taken to ensure the implementation of the recommendations thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **AIR MAURITIUS LIMITED – AIRBUSES A350-900 – PROCUREMENT**

**(No. B/366) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Rt. hon Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the procurement of six airbuses A350-900 by Air Mauritius Limited, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the company, information as to where matters stand.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **H.E. THE VICE-PRESIDENT – OFFICIAL RESIDENCE – RENT**

**(No. B/367) Mr M. S. Hurreeram (First 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 premises rented to serve as official residence for H.E. the Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to if tender procedures have been followed for the renting thereof and, if so, indicate the –

- (a) date the bid therefor was launched;
- (b) name of the bidders therefor, indicating the name of the successful bidder;
- (c) extent thereof, and
- (d) monthly rental thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **ALLEGED ARM TRAFFICKING – INQUIRY**

**(No. B/368) Mr M. S. Hurreeram (First 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 recent request made to the Government of Mauritius by Mrs K. L. A., Director of the Conflict Awareness Project,

to re-open the inquiry concerning the alleged arm trafficking network in Mauritius, he will state if he will consider acceding thereto.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO – MAURITIUS SOVEREIGNTY**

**(No. B/369) Mrs D. Selvon (Second Member for GRNW and 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 Chagos Archipelago, he will state if the Committee set up to look thereinto proposes to meet the leaders of the groups of Chagossians based in Mauritius or in the United Kingdom to discuss the issues recently attributed to the British Government, particularly in *The Guardian* of 05 August 2015, referring to ongoing consultations by London with the Chagossians and in a statement given by Mr Olivier Bancoult of the Chagos Refugees Group, in *Le Defi Quotidien* of 14 August 2015, to the effect that the Chagossians may be allowed back to their islands, the Mauritian Chagos Archipelago, as recommended by an official report ordered in 2014 by the United Kingdom authorities.

**Reply:** The Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms and has always formed an integral part of the territory of Mauritius. Mauritius does not recognise the so-called “British Indian Ocean Territory”. Nor does Mauritius recognise the legality under international law of any acts that the United Kingdom has purported, or is purporting, to take in respect of the Chagos Archipelago. This includes, but is not limited to, the purported feasibility study on resettlement in the Chagos Archipelago commissioned by the UK Government, as well as any action taken on the basis of that purported study, including the so-called consultation exercise which the UK Government launched on 04 August 2015.

Government has, on numerous occasions, conveyed to the United Kingdom that Mauritius is the only State which has the lawful authority to determine issues relating to the Chagos Archipelago, including resettlement.

I wish to reiterate that the Government of Mauritius rejects the purported consultation exercise currently being run by the UK Government.

In this respect, I had a meeting yesterday with representatives of the Chagos Refugees Group, led by its Chairman and Leader, Mr Olivier BANCOULT. Mr BANCOULT informed me that members of the Chagos Refugees Group have expressed their strong opposition to

resettlement, as proposed in the purported FCO consultation document and have strongly reaffirmed their support for the sovereignty of Mauritius over the Chagos Archipelago.

The conditions of living of Mauritian citizens of Chagossian origin, if resettled in the Chagos Archipelago as proposed in the purported consultation document, will be in flagrant violation of their most basic human rights.

As far as Government is concerned, we shall relentlessly pursue our struggle to ensure the effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. Once we are able to effectively exercise our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, our citizens of Chagossian origin who resettle in the Chagos Archipelago can rest assured that they will be able to live in dignity and enjoy their basic human rights as they currently do in Mauritius.

Government will maintain close contact and collaboration with the Chagossian community to ensure that we continue to be on the same wavelength as regards the plight of our Mauritian citizens of Chagossian origin and the effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

The House will recall that in reply to PQ B/257 on 07 April 2015, I had said that I would welcome any views or proposals which our fellow countrymen of Chagossian origin might have on the way forward with regard to the Chagos Archipelago issue. I had also indicated that such views or proposals could be submitted in writing to my office and would be brought to the attention of the Committee on the Chagos Archipelago issue which has been set up under my chairmanship. I reiterate that such views and proposals are still welcome.

I propose to convene shortly another meeting of the Committee which comprises the hon. Leader of the Opposition as well as a representative of each political party represented in this House.

#### **POLITICAL PARTIES – FINANCING – LEGISLATION**

**(No. B/370) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the financing of political parties, he will state if Government is considering introducing legislation in relation thereto and, if so, indicate the expected date of introduction thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION – REPORT – IMPLEMENTATION**

**(No. B/371) Mr K. Ramano (Third Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the last report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, he will state if Government is considering recommending the implementation thereof.

**Reply:** As the House is aware, section 39 of the Constitution provides that the Electoral Boundaries Commission shall review the boundaries of the constituencies at such time as will enable them to present a report to the Assembly 10 years after presentation of their last report.

The last Report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission on a Review of the Boundaries of the Republic of Mauritius was tabled in the National Assembly on 10 November 2009.

However, the National Assembly was dissolved on 31 March 2010 and there was no resolution brought in the Assembly before its dissolution to approve or reject the recommendations of the 2009 Report.

I am informed that the Electoral Boundaries Commission proposes to embark on a fresh exercise for a review of the boundaries of the constituencies and present a new report, in view of the fact that a new Housing and Population Census has been carried out in 2011 and there have been many housing developments in some constituencies and the constituency boundaries run across such developments in some instances, with the result that some electors of a particular housing development may find themselves in two different constituencies.

In the circumstances, Government does not propose to recommend the implementation of the 2009 report of the Electoral Boundaries Commission.

## **DRUGS (SYNTHETIC) – VICTIMS**

**(No. B/372) Ms M. Sewocksingh (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to synthetic drugs, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the –

- (a) types thereof identified by the relevant authorities as being presently in circulation in the country;

- (b) number of arrest effected in connection therewith as at to date, if any;
- (c) number of reported victims thereof, indicating the age thereof, and
- (d) measures that are being taken to prevent the proliferation thereof countrywide.

*(Vide PQ No. B/359)*

### **INDIAN OCEAN ISLAND GAMES - TEAM SPORTS - PERFORMANCE**

**(No. B/394) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, following the last Indian Ocean Island Games held in Réunion Island, he will state the immediate measures his Ministry proposes to take in the light of the bad performances of all the teams' sports which participated therein.

**Reply:** It is true that Mauritius has not performed to expectation in team sports during the Indian Ocean Islands Games (IOIG) 2015. However, it is to be reckoned with the fact that preparation in team sports started quite late. In volleyball, handball and basketball the national teams did not participate in any regional and international competitions. It is only when I assumed office as Minister that they were given the possibility to play friendly matches with teams from abroad. Besides, in volleyball and basketball I had to intervene personally to have the services of a National Technical Director and this also was some three months before the Games. As regards football, the 12 matches played by Club M before my nomination as Minister resulted in 12 defeats. After December 2014, Club M played 11 matches out of which the very young team having an average of 22 years recorded two wins and two draws with no other teams like Burundi and Togo.

I have to inform the House that after the IOIG 2015, I have started meeting the President of all National Sports Federations of team sports along with their respective National Technical Directors (NTD) to -

- (i) express my dissatisfaction in respect of the performance of their teams at the Games;
- (ii) urge upon them to come up with a plan of action to address the weaknesses in their respective sports, and
- (iii) ensure that they fulfill their obligation for the development and promotion of their sport at grass root level in accordance with section 4(a) of the Sports Act.

Further, my Ministry is presently working on a recruitment plan for NTDs and is also reviewing the responsibilities of coaches.

The only way to ensure a brighter future and improve performance in any sport including team sports is through training as from the grass roots level. I am therefore coming forward with a programme of talent identification and training of youngsters as from the basic level who would eventually be diverted to *écoles de sport* and the National Training Centre.

It is worth pointing out that since I assumed office as Minister, I am working in close collaboration with my colleague, the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research for the promotion of sports at primary level and also for the revamping of inter-college games.

### **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - CLUBS & FEDERATIONS**

**(No. B/395) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the funds obtained from the Corporate Social Responsibility, he will state if sports clubs and federations are eligible thereto and, if so, indicate the eligibility criteria applicable therefor.

**Reply:** As announced in the Budget Speech 2015-2016, the structure of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) system has been revised to make it more effective. In fact, following concerns raised by several organizations on the constraints being encountered to access support under the CSR system as was the case previously, Government decided to review the CSR system in depth.

Under the new system, there are no eligibility criteria whatsoever. Companies are free to decide on how to allocate the 2% of CSR according to their own set of priorities.

It will be incumbent on any organization looking for support to convince the companies that its action and programmes deserve support.

### **FOOTBALL - ECOLES DE FOOT**

**(No. B/396) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** to asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to football, he will give a list of the existing *Ecoles de Foot*, indicating in each case, the -

- (a) names of the coaches thereof;
- (b) training schedules and pitches used;
- (c) budget allocated thereto for financial year 2015-2016, and
- (d) responsibility of the Mauritius Football Association in the functioning thereof, if any.

**Reply:** As the hon. Member may be aware, all *Ecoles de Foot* were dormant at the time I assumed office as Minister. The Mauritius Football Association (MFA) has, on several occasions, only expressed the wish to take over these *Ecoles de Foot*. However, this has never materialized. I could not leave the situation as such and I have initiated appropriate action.

As from the beginning of August 2015, the 24 *Ecoles de Foot*, 12 *Centres Techniques Régionaux* and the *Centre Technique National François Blaquart* are operational. A communiqué was published to that effect in the local press. I am tabling a list of the *Ecoles de Foot* with the names of the responsible coaches, the training schedules as well as the pitches used. An amount of Rs752, 000 has been allocated for this project up to December 2015.

In a meeting I had with the President of MFA, he has agreed to collaborate in the project by appointing representatives who will follow up with responsible officers of my Ministry for the smooth running of the *Ecoles de Foot*, *Centres Techniques Régionaux* as well as the *Centre National de Formation*.

#### **YOUTH CENTRES - OPENING HOURS**

**(No. B/397) Mr F. Quirin (Fourth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the youth centres, he will, in each case, state the -

- (a) opening hours thereof;
- (b) number of officers attached thereto, and
- (c) budget allocated thereto for the organization of activities for financial year 2015-2016, indicating the activities organized thereat, since January 2015 to date.

**Reply:** I am tabling the information regarding the operation of Youth Centres.

With regard to part (c) of the question, an amount of Rs10m. has been earmarked for organisation of youth activities for financial year 2015-2016.

### **D' EPINAY & MARE D'ALBERT - HOUSING UNITS**

**(No. B/399) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the social housing units recently delivered at d' Epinay and at Mare d' Albert, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company Ltd., information as to –

- (a) the starting dates of the construction thereof;
- (b) the type, size and number of rooms thereof, and
- (c) a list of the sites where similar social housing units -
  - (i) were delivered in 2014, and
  - (ii) have been constructed, indicating the dates of award of contract for the construction thereof and the expected delivery dates thereof.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the NHDC Ltd. that the start date of construction at D'Epinaay site is March 2014 and at Mare D'Albert site it is June 2014. Each of these two housing estates consists of 21 and 55 housing units, respectively.

As for part (b) of the question, the houses at D'Epinaay and Mare D'Albert are single units, ground floor only, each of 39m<sup>2</sup> and comprising two bedrooms, kitchen, living/dining and a toilet block.

I welcome this Parliamentary Question as it allows me to inform the House about how this Government is doing things differently. Unlike the previous Government, we are not dumping people in cubicles deprived of basic amenities. We are providing them a decent house and more importantly with necessary amenities and facilities. As a matter of fact, the scope of the works was reviewed such that on-site leisure and recreational facilities have been included, namely a well-equipped children playground, *pétanque* court, greenspace and landscaping works. Additionally, a solar water heater, a roof water tank and a compost bin are being made available to each of the families.

In our endeavour to enhance the dignity and self-esteem of the beneficiaries of social housing units, we are actively discussing with private sector agencies for the latter's involvement in providing other facilities like a polyvalent hall for holding of numeracy and

literacy sessions and other such accompaniment to promote educational activities for the benefit of the resident children and development of backyard gardens and so on.

After allocation of the housing units to beneficiaries, workshops were organized by the NHDC Ltd in collaboration with my Ministry and various stakeholders including the Police, Local Authorities, various Ministries and representatives of the Legal Profession, to sensitise the beneficiaries on their rights and responsibilities.

Regarding part (c) of the question, the information is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly at the earliest possible.

### **PINEAPPLES – EXPORT – ETHEPHON**

**(No. B/400) Mr O. Mahomed (Third Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the recent refusal of entry by the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed of the European Union of two consignments of Mauritian pineapples for an excessive use of Ethephon in the production thereof, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) excess level thereof;
- (b) fate of these rejected pineapples;
- (c) impact thereof on the exportation of Mauritian pineapples into the European market, if any;
- (d) level of Ethephon in pineapples available for consumption locally, and
- (e) progress achieved in the implementation of the Green Agriculture Certification Scheme initiated by the Maurice Ile Durable Commission, his Ministry and the Mauritius Standard Bureau as part of the MID Policy, Strategy and Action Plan.

**Reply:** I am informed that the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed of the European Union issued two notifications in June 2015 regarding excessive presence of Ethephon in two consignments of pineapples exported from Mauritius. The level of Ethephon was 3.0 mg/kg-ppm in one consignment and 2.9 mg/kg-ppm in the second consignment compared to the permissible level of 2.0 mg/kg-ppm.

As regards part (b), I am advised that the pineapples from these two consignments were destroyed in the Netherlands by the importer, namely Roveg Fruit B.V.

Regarding part (c) in case of repeated alert notifications from the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed, the European Authorities may take action against Mauritius under the European Commission Regulation 669/2009. The European Commission can accordingly

increase the level of controls at the point of entry of consignments of pineapples from Mauritius into the European Union or impose a temporary ban on imports from Mauritius.

In regard to part (d) of the question, I am advised that the Food Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) which operates under the aegis of my Ministry generally collect samples of food products from farm gate for analysis of pesticide residues by the Food Technology Laboratory. However, no analysis could be undertaken regarding the level of Ethephon specifically because of the unavailability of the appropriate equipment and consumables at the Food Technology Laboratory. This situation is now being addressed and the required equipment to upgrade the Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectro Meter (LCMSMS) and consumables to perform the analysis of Ethephon have been purchased. The procedures and protocol for the detection of Ethephon is being worked out in collaboration with two experts from the Food and Environmental Research Agency (FERA) Science Limited, U.K. under the EDES/EU programme. As soon as the method is validated, analytical works will start for the detection of Ethephon for local producers and exporters to the European Union, by October 2015. A modus operandi is being identified for the monitoring of the level of Ethephon with producers and exporters regarding all consignment destined for export as well as for local consumption.

As regards part (e), I am informed that the Mauritius Standards Bureau has already finalized the Standard on MauriGap which has been published as MS 184-1 “ Specifications for Good Agriculture Practices for Crop Production” MauriGap Part 1-Basic Requirements. The MauriGap Standard will be used as a basis for Green Agriculture Certification. Currently, the Mauritius Standards Bureau is working on the Level 2 Standard.

It is relevant to point out that this is not the first time that the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed has issued notifications in regard to the excessive presence of Ethephon in pineapples from Mauritius. In fact, such notifications were received in the past in March 2010 and January 2012.

I would like to reassure the House that my Ministry is deeply concerned with the usage of chemical inputs in our agricultural products meant for local consumption and export. Following the notification of the report on the excessive use of ethephon, my Ministry has engaged in discussions with all stakeholders including producers and exporters of pineapples to take stock of the situation and to establish a collaborative approach to ensure that such

problems do not recur in future. In that context two meetings were held on 08 July and 11 August 2015 respectively. My Ministry will follow the situation closely.

### **ROADS – SPEED CAMERAS - CONTRATOR**

**(No. B/401) Mr A. Aliphon (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the fixed speed cameras, he will state the number thereof presently installed on the road network, indicating the –

- (a) locations thereof;
- (b) name of the contractor therefor, indicating if the same contractor is also responsible for the maintenance and servicing thereof, and
- (c) cost thereof.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House as follows –

With regard to part (a) of the question, 52 Automatic Speed Enforcement Cameras have been installed at 20 identified black spots and at 32 speed related/accident prone areas around the island. I am tabling information relating to the location thereof.

Out of the 52 Speed Cameras, three previously located at Medpoint, Terre Rouge and Paillote have been removed and re-located at Nalletamby (near Jumbo), Melle Laure and Bonne Terre respectively.

Additionally, two Speed Cameras, one located at Midlands and the other one at Flic en Flac near Morcellement Anna are being re-located at Mare D'Albert and D'Epinay respectively. The total number of Fixed Speed Camera would then be 54.

The relocation of these Speed Cameras are being carried out in the light of new infrastructural development and new road accidents trends.

Concerning part (b) of the question, the contract awarded to Messrs Proguard Ltd on 25 September 2012 includes maintenance during the warranty period of three years from July 2013 to July 2016.

With regard to part (c), the total initial contract value was Rs149,795,314.00 excluding VAT and provided for the supply, installation and operation of 50 fixed Speed Enforcement Cameras and six mobile speed cameras.

In November 2014, 11 additional fixed speed cameras were ordered and the increase in cost amounted to Rs20,547,608.00. The revised contract value was thus increased to Rs167,998,032.80 excluding VAT.

In April 2015, a decision was taken to cancel the order of six out of the 11 fixed speed cameras ordered in November 2014, as consideration would be given later to the introduction of sophisticated Speed Enforcement Cameras of latest technology capable of measuring average speed and also speed violations by motor vehicle categories. The revised contract value to date is Rs159,205,314.00.

The contract includes maintenance services to cover for attending to faults detected, replacement of spare parts, routine checks, testing software licence fee and also for associated costs related to the processing of speed violations for an annual payment of Rs 4,000,000 during the three year warranty period.

It was subsequently decided to entrust responsibilities relating to the processing of speed violations to the Police Force. Consequently, in November 2013 with the reduction in scope of work, the cost was adjusted as follows -

Year One	-	Rs3,546,829.00
Year Two	-	Rs3,099,140.80
Year Three	-	Rs 3,099,140.80

### **METHADONE SUBSTITUTION THERAPY - DISTRIBUTION**

**(No. B/402) Mr A. Aliphon (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme, he will state when the distribution of methadone started, indicating the –

- (a) cost incurred by Government in relation thereto as at to date;
- (b) number of distribution centres therefor, indicating if complaints have been received from the public in the regions where the centres are located and, if so, give details thereof;
- (c) actual number of beneficiaries thereof, and
- (d) percentage of success in terms of drug addicts who have been weaned.

**Reply:** I am informed that the Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme was introduced in November 2006 to curb the trend of the HIV epidemic among the injecting drug use population.

Since that date till end 2014, the programme has cost Government almost Rs250 m.

With regard to part (b), I presume that the question relates to the number of dispensing centres at the inception of the project. The House may wish to note that at that time, dispensing was done at only one centre, namely the Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre. This figure gradually increased over the years to reach 18 by 2014. It is to be noted that the dispensing centres were found essentially in our health services.

In December 2014, when I took office as Minister of Health and Quality of Life, I was informed that the dispensing of methadone was quite problematic and repeated complaints were received from all over the country.

I personally conducted visits at some of the dispensing points and took note that besides the complaints received there was also -

- overcrowding at methadone dispensing sites;
- loitering in the vicinity of the dispensing sites, and
- anti-social behaviour and even thefts on passers-by.

I was also informed that methadone dispensing has been a constant social problem due to the concentration of high number of methadone beneficiaries attending the different

dispensing points. Some beneficiaries were involved in trafficking and others were not swallowing their doses properly by keeping cotton swabs in their mouths. Some would even take their doses and walk away without ingesting their methadone on the spot, which is contrary to the protocol of Direct Observed Therapy (DOT).

In view of the numerous problems, Government decided to decentralise methadone dispensing as from January 2015. Since that date, 42 methadone dispensing points are operational daily between 6.00 to 8.00 a.m. including three within the prison services. The House may also wish to note that most of the dispensing points are within the compound of Police Stations thereby reinforcing security measures and strict control at dispensing sites.

It is to be noted that following the decentralisation, just a few minor complaints have been received regarding methadone dispensing. Appropriate and timely actions have been taken to address them.

With regard to part (c) of the question, the House may wish to note that presently there are 4,715 beneficiaries receiving their daily doses of methadone at the 42 dispensing points. At the end of 2014, over 6,000 beneficiaries were on the programme. With the decentralisation, additional control measures were introduced thus eliminating many malpractices in the programme which were on-going for some time. This led to a decrease in the number of beneficiaries from over 6,000 to 4,715.

With regard to part (d) of the question, I regret to have to inform the House that so far, less than 1 % of those who have been induced on methadone have managed to be weaned off successfully, despite the involvement of 5 NGOs in the programme. The role of the NGOs in the programme was essentially to give psycho-social support services to the beneficiaries and to provide counselling and assistance so that they were not dependent on methadone for life. In fact, the initial aim of the programme was to put injecting drug users on methadone treatment for a period not exceeding two years after which detoxification would be resorted to.

### **FISHERMEN INVESTMENT TRUST - SHAREHOLDING**

(No. B/403) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Fishermen Investment Trust, he will for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to where matters stand in respect of –

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

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the authorised share capital of the Fishermen Investment Trust (FIT) is Rupees 65 Million, made up of 6.5 million shares of 10 rupees each as follows -

- 1.5 million shares fully subscribed by Government, and
- 5 million shares to be subscribed at such time, in such manner and by such persons as the Board may determine.

The Government had subscribed 1,500,000 shares in the Fishermen Investment Trust (FIT) on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at a par value of Rs10.00 per share for an amount of Rupees Fifteen Million. In line with Government's decision, the Board of the FIT at a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007 decided to allocate 300 shares freely to each registered fisherman of Mauritius and Rodrigues. The effective date of the allocation was 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. As at date, a total of 4,461 fishermen from Mauritius and Rodrigues have been allocated their shares, for a total value of Rs13,383,000.

With regard to part (b) of the question, an amount of Rs15 m. was allocated to FIT in 2007. An additional amount of Rs2 m. was injected in 2011.

With regard to part (c) of the question, owing to losses incurred by FIT, no interest and/or dividend has been distributed to its shareholders.

With regard to part (d) of the question, Section 11(3)(b) of the Fishermen Investment Trust Act 2006 provides for the transfer of shares by way of succession on the death of a shareholder.

### **MAURITIAN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE - FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS**

**(No. B/404) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone, he will state the number and types of foreign fishing vessels which have been exploiting same over the past five years, indicating in each case, the –

- (a) size of the vessel, and
- (b) fees paid to the Mauritian Government in respect thereof.

**Reply:** I am tabling the information on the number, types, and size of foreign fishing vessels that have been fishing in the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone for the past five years as well as the fees that have been paid to the Mauritian Government in respect thereof.

### **MAHEBOURG - AQUACULTURE PROJECT**

**(No. B/405) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Aquaculture Project of Pointe aux Feuilles, in Mahebourg, he will state the quantity of fish produced over the past five years, indicating the -

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

**Reply:** I am tabling the information in respect of the Aquaculture Project of Pointe aux Feuilles in Mahebourg.

### **SEA CUCUMBER - EXPLOITATION**

**(No. B/406) Mr J. C. Barbier (Fifth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the sea cucumber, he will state where matters stand as to the exploitation thereof respectively in –

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

**Reply:** The exploitation of sea cucumber in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega has been banned since 01 October 2009 up to 29 February 2016 in order to allow for the replenishment of the stock.

An assessment of the stock of sea cucumber will be carried out in October 2015 with a view to enabling my Ministry to take a decision as to whether to maintain or lift the ban.

In parallel, my Ministry in its strategy to develop aquaculture, is encouraging promoters to engage in farming or the culture of sea cucumbers.

### **PORT AREA - LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS – STORAGE FACILITIES**

**(No. B/407) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications whether, in regard to the Port area, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Port Authority, information as to if new storage facilities for Liquefied Petroleum Gas have been constructed and commissioned thereat, since 2011 and, if so, indicate –

- (a) the name/s of the promoter/s thereof, and
- (b) if same have been constructed on freehold land or on land belonging to the Authority and, if in the latter case, further indicate the -
  - (i) extent and location thereof;
  - (ii) procedures followed and terms and conditions thereof, and
  - (iii) shareholding of the company/ies at the time of application therefor and subsequent thereto.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **METHADONE SUBSTITUTION THERAPY PROGRAMME –REVIEW**

**(No. B/408) Dr. Z. Joomaye (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme, he will state if the discontinuation thereof is being envisaged and, if so, indicate where matters stand and further indicate if other substitution therapies are being identified for implementation in the near future.

**Reply:** As explained in my reply to PQ B/402, the Methadone Substitution Therapy Programme was introduced in a specific context relating to the alarming situation of the increase in the number of HIV detected cases. The Programme was based on the recommendations of WHO Consultant Dr. Martha Torrens, Associate Professor in Psychiatry and Head of Drug Abuse Unit in Barcelona, Spain.

According to her recommendations, the aim of the programme was to allow injecting drug users to remain on methadone for an initial period of two years, after which detoxification had to be resorted to.

However, since its introduction, the programme has been implemented as a maintenance therapy only. The House may wish to note that this Government firmly believes that injecting drug users should be given the opportunity to come out of their life long addiction to drugs, be it hard drugs or any other substitutes with an ultimate goal to become drug free.

In this respect, the methadone programme is being reviewed and a new plan is being worked out with a view to giving an opportunity to those injecting drug users to work towards detoxification, rehabilitation and ultimately to reintegrate the mainstream society.

The House may wish to note that the new programme is as follows -

- (i) all methadone beneficiaries already on the programme will continue to receive their daily doses. Other components like psychological support including detoxification will be introduced to facilitate their integration in the mainstream, and
- (ii) injecting drug users who wish to be enrolled on a treatment and rehabilitation programme will be screened and offered a new therapy based on international standards. This treatment will be a combination of suboxone, a highly recommended detoxifying agent followed by naltrexone as a relapse prevention medication.

I am advised by my medical staff that after six months, a person will be given the chance to achieve a drug free status with good social and family support.

It is noted that according to the press, there are around 200 drug addicts on the waiting list for a drug treatment programme. However, I would like to point out that after a screening carried out by officers of the Harm Reduction Unit of my Ministry, only 53 persons have, so far, been found eligible for the treatment. My Ministry is liaising with all relevant referral NGOs, for a list of persons on their waiting lists.

Pending the introduction of the new programme, which is expected shortly, the potential beneficiaries are being offered continuous counselling. Those who are unable to cope are being referred to psychiatrists for appropriate treatment.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE - MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS  
- RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/409) Dr. Z. Joomaye (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the proposed

recruitment of one hundred medical practitioners on the permanent establishment of his Ministry, as announced in the last Budget Speech, he will state the number of medical practitioners recruited as at to date.

**Reply:** I am informed that the Public Service Commission has already started the recruitment and selection exercise for the post of Medical and Health Officer/Senior Medical and Health Officer.

The post was advertised by the Commission on 07 April 2015. The closing date for the submission of applications was 27 April 2015.

It is expected that all the vacancies will be filled once the recruitment and selection exercise is completed by the Public Service Commission.

### **FOOD - PESTICIDE - CONTROL**

**(No. B/413) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the locally produced food and imported food respectively, he will state the measures taken at the level of his Ministry to control the quality thereof in terms of pesticide contents or otherwise before allowing same to be available for consumption on the local market to ensure the safety and security of the consumers thereof.

**Reply:** The Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) which operates under the aegis of my Ministry regularly collects samples of fruits and vegetables at farm gate level which are then analysed by the Agricultural Chemistry Division of the Food Technology Laboratory to detect the presence and level of pesticides residues.

Whenever pesticide residues in samples collected are found to be above the maximum residue level allowable by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the planters concerned are sensitized on Good Agricultural Practices and on the quantity of pesticides to be used in their fields. To ensure that such malpractices do not recur, the fields of these planters are regularly monitored. Moreover, Officers of my Ministry and FAREI regularly sensitise the farming community on the importance of adopting Good Agricultural Practices and on minimizing the use of agro-chemicals and pesticides in their fields.

I am informed that only potatoes, onions and garlic are imported in bulk for local consumption. Vegetables which are imported in small quantities are mainly meant for hotel

use. However, the importation of all agricultural products is strictly monitored for compliance with phytosanitary regulations both from country of origin and locally.

Moreover, I am also informed by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life that all imported foodstuffs are accompanied by appropriate health certificates from the health authorities of the exporting country. Random samplings are taken from these foodstuffs and sent for analysis to the Government Analyst Division to ensure compliance with permissible level of pesticide/fitness for human consumption and compliance with the relevant parts of the Food Act 1998 and Food Regulations 173/1999. As for locally produced pre-packed foodstuffs which are listed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Schedule of the Food Regulations 1999, these require a pre-market approval permit and have to comply with the provisions of the legislation before being offered for sale to consumers.

#### **BUSINESS PARK OF MAURITIUS LTD - LEGAL ADVISERS - APPOINTMENT**

(No. A/2) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms, Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation whether, in regard to legal adviser/s presently attached at the Business Park of Mauritius Ltd, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the name/s thereof, indicating the date and terms and conditions of appointment thereof, in each case.

**Reply:** I am informed that the names and terms and conditions of appointment of the Legal Advisers retained by the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd are as follows -

<b>Name of Legal Adviser</b>	<b>Date of Appointment</b>	<b>Terms and Conditions of Appointment</b>
Me D. Dabee	June 2007	A retainer fee of Rs15,000 per month.
Me G. Ramdewar	July 2007	Services retained for debt recovery purposes. Paid on a case to case basis. No monthly

		retainer fee.
Me R. Unuth	21 January 2010	Appearing for the BPML on the Case OSHI v/s Solpro Suppliers Ltd & Anor. Rs90,000 have been paid so far.
Me M. Gobin Me S. S. Murday Me. N. Appa Jala Ghose Chambers	May 2015	Services retained on an <i>Ad Hoc</i> basis. There is no payment of a monthly retainer fee. Will be paid on a case to case basis. No payment has been effected so far.

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY - LEGAL ADVISER

(No. A/3) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether, in regard to the National Transport Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the name/s of the legal advisor attached thereto, indicating the date and terms and conditions of appointment thereof, in each case.

**Reply:** The National Transport Authority has no legal adviser attached to it. Legal advice and assistance, if required, is sought from the State Law Office.

#### CWA, CEB & WMA - LEGAL ADVISERS - APPOINTMENT

(No. A/4) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the

Central Water Authority, the Central Electricity Board and the Waste Water Management Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom in each case, information as to the name/s of the legal advisor attached thereto, indicating the date and terms and conditions of appointment thereof, in each case.

**Reply:** The legal advisers attached to the Central Water Authority, the Central Electricity Board and the Waste Water Management Authority are as follows -

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Legal adviser/s</b>	<b>Date of appointment</b>	<b>Terms and conditions</b>
<b>Central Water Authority</b>	Mr André Robert	01 May 2015	Retainer fee of Rs40,000 + VAT monthly
<b>Wastewater Management Authority</b>	Mr Rashid Daureeawoo	May 2015	Retainer fee of Rs18,000 + VAT monthly
	Mr Yash Bhadain	May 2015	No retainer fee Legal adviser for restructuring of WMA
<b>Central Electricity Board</b>	Mr Sheffick Sookia	April 2015	Retainer fee of Rs40,000 + VAT monthly
	Mr Ravin Chetty	June 2015	Retainer fee of Rs34,783 + VAT monthly