

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SALE BY LEVY – COMMISSION OF INQUIRY – REPORT

(No. B/155) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Commission of Inquiry on Sale by Levy, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to –

- (a) if it has now completed its works and submitted its report thereto, and
 - (i) if so, indicate the main recommendations thereof, and
 - (ii) if not, indicate the reasons, and
- (b) cost incurred for the inquiry.

Reply: I am informed that the Commission of Inquiry on Sale by Levy has already completed its work and submitted its report to the President of the Republic on 20 August 2014.

In regard to part (a) of the question, the Office of the President has informed that on 20 August 2014 the President of the Republic forwarded two copies of the report of the Commission to the former Prime Minister. However, the report is untraceable in my Office. I am, therefore, neither aware of the contents of the report nor about any action taken thereupon by the former Prime Minister.

Following a request made to the Office of the President, a fresh copy of the report has been made available to my Office on 07 March 2015.

The recommendations contained in the report will be examined and appropriate action taken thereafter.

In regard to part (b)(ii) of the question, I am informed that the total amount incurred so far for the Commission of Inquiry is Rs1,725,000 representing fees paid to the Commissioners and the Secretary.

POLICE DES JEUX – ILLEGAL BETTING - MONITORING

(No. B/156) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the *Police des Jeux*, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the –

- (a) number of Police Officers attached thereto, and
- (b) name of the officer at the head thereof, indicating if additional human resources will be attached thereto to monitor illegal betting, especially regarding horseracing.

Reply: The House would recall that in my reply to PQ B/59, I did mention that information in regard to posting of officers is considered to be of a sensitive nature as it relates to security in the country. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate to divulge the information requested at part (a) of the question.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the *Police des Jeux* operates under the overall command of a Deputy Commissioner of Police.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that the *Police des Jeux*, by virtue of its functions in enforcing the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act 2007 is also involved in addressing offences relating to horse racing, namely in

combating illegal bookmaking and betting at Champ de Mars and throughout the island.

At present, whenever there is the need for reinforcement of Police personnel for specific operations of the *Police des Jeux*, additional officers are deployed.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that a general survey of the authorised and actual strength of Police as well as the operational requirements of all Police Divisions and Branches, including that of the *Police des Jeux*, is being carried out with a view to the resizing and restructuring thereof.

As announced in the Government Programme, combating the growing illicit gambling activities is high on the agenda of Government. In order to achieve this, the legal and institutional framework will be strengthened for increased effectiveness so as to protect society from the ill-effects of such nefarious activities.

POLICE ACT – AMENDMENTS

(No. B/157) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Police Act, he will state if consideration will be given for the advisability of introducing amendments thereto to make provisions for Police Officers to be members of any trade union of employees.

Reply: As the hon. Member is aware, one of the measures announced in the Government Programme 2015-2019 is indeed to allow Police Officers to syndicate to safeguard their interests.

Section 17 of the Police Act stipulates that no Police Officer shall be a member of any trade union of employees, or of any association having for its objects the control or influence of the pay, pension, or conditions of service of the Police Force. Furthermore, the Employment Relations Act, which *inter-alia* sets out extensively the powers of trade unions covering the bargaining powers of member employees, the reporting of industrial dispute and the institution of industrial actions including strikes, is not applicable to a member of a Disciplined Force other than the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service and the Mauritian Prison Service.

Preliminary consultations with Ministries and Departments concerned on the unionization of Police Officers have already started with a view to formulating a proper framework within which the Police Officers will be allowed to syndicate and which will be in the interest of Police Officers as well as the public at large.

Appropriate amendments will have to be brought to the Police Act, the Employment Relations Act and any other relevant statute to enable the Police Officers to syndicate.

I wish to draw the attention of the House that Police Officers Tuyau and Boojhawon have on 21 September 2012, lodged a Complaint with Summons before the Supreme Court averring that the current prohibition under section 17 of the Police Act on their forming part of a Trade Union or Association, is unconstitutional and in breach of their Constitutional Rights under section 13 of the Constitution. The matter is still at the stage of pleadings before the Supreme Court.

**COMMISSION OF INQUIRY – IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES –
RECOMMENDATIONS**

(No. B/158) Mr D. Ramful (Third 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 Commission of Inquiry on the prescription of immovable properties, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if it has completed its works and, if so, indicate the recommendations thereof and the measures that will be taken for the implementation thereof.

Reply: I am informed that the Commission of Inquiry on the System of Acquisitive Prescription has already completed its work and the Commissioners have submitted their final report to the President of the Republic on 23 October 2013.

I am further informed that on 05 November 2013 the President forwarded two copies of the report to the former Prime Minister personally.

However, as the report is untraceable in my Office, I am neither aware of the contents of the report nor of any action taken thereupon by the former Prime Minister.

Following a request made to the Office of the President, a copy of the report has been made available to my Office on 07 March 2015. The recommendations contained in the report will be examined and appropriate action will be taken in the light thereof.

MELROSE PRISON – MOBILE PHONES, DRUGS & COMPLAINTS

(No. B/159) 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 Melrose Prison, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the –

- (a) Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases of entry of mobile phones and drugs thereat, and
- (b) Human Rights Commission, information as to if complaints of the prevalence of inhumane conditions of detention thereat have been reported thereto.

(Withdrawn)

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT - AMENDMENT

(No. B/160) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the municipal council elections, he will state when same will be held, indicating if Government is proposing to introduce amendments to the Local Government Act before same will be held and, if so, indicate the sections of the Act which will be concerned therewith.

Reply (The Minister of Local Government): The Local Government Act 2011 provides that elections shall be held in 2012 and thereafter every 6 years on such date as the President shall appoint.

As it was announced in the Government Programme 2015-2019, the Local Government Act will be amended to consolidate democracy at local level and

promote better participation of local councillors in the management of community affairs.

In this context, my Ministry has consulted the 12 local authorities and the Electoral Commissioner with a view to inviting proposals for amendments. The proposals received have been examined and the Government has set up a Ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism and External Communications to oversee amendments to be brought to the Local Government Act 2011.

The Ministerial Committee has met and made recommendations for the review of the Local Government Act 2011 with a view to consolidating democracy at local level and Government has agreed to the recommendations.

The Attorney-General's Office has already been instructed to work out the draft Local Government (Amendment) Bill for introduction in the National Assembly. At this stage, it is premature to indicate which specific sections of the Local Government Act 2011 will be amended.

NDU – CONTRACTORS – APPOINTMENT

(No. B/161) 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 registered contractors resorted to by the National Development Unit since 2006 to 2014, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the NDU, a list thereof, indicating in each case the –

- (a) procedure followed for the selection and appointment thereof, and
- (b) contracts allocated thereto indicating in each case the-
 - (i) contract value thereof;

- (ii) procedures followed for the allocation thereof, and
- (iii) payments effected thereto;
- (iv) claims made by the contractors indicating the outcome thereof in each case, and
- (v) total cumulative amounts paid to each contractor during the period 2006-2010.

Reply: I am informed that the first time that the NDU had recourse to Registered contractors was in August 2009. An invitation was made through the press calling for contractors dealing with –

- (i) Building/Civil Engineering/electrical and other related works;
- (ii) Road works;
- (iii) Drain works, and
- (iv) landscaping/embellishment works to register themselves.

A similar exercise was carried in July 2010, June 2011, January 2012 and January 2013. I am made to understand that the Registered list of contractors emanating from the 2012 exercise still prevails given that the exercise effected in 2013 has, at date, not been scrutinised and completed.

I am tabling the list of registered contractors from 2009 onwards.

As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that the criteria followed for appointment and selection were that the potential contractors should provide information pertaining to –

- (i) past experience in nature of works performed during;
 - (a) the last two years for 2009 exercise,
 - (b) the last five years for 2010 exercise;

- (c) the last two years for 2011, and
- (d) the last three years for 2012
- (ii) average annual financial amount of constructions executed over the last five years, and
- (iii) company profile including list of equipment available and technical personnel.

As regards part (b) subsection (i), I am tabling the list as requested.

NDU also resorts to Zonal contractors. In that respect, Mauritius was divided into eight zones and as from 2009 into four zones with distinct constituencies. Zonal contractors are appointed through a national bidding exercise. The duration of their Contract was originally for one year and subsequently 18 months. However, some contracts have a longer duration given that they were administratively extended on several occasions. The latest one being in December 2014 up to March 2015.

The above extension has resulted in Zonal Contractors' initial contract value being exceeded significantly. In one such case, it has even increased six times.

I am tabling a summary of the Zonal Contracts awarded during period 2006-2014 as well as the list of projects for each Zonal Contractor. The cumulative amounts paid to each Contractor during the period 2006-2014 is being compiled and will be laid in the National Assembly Library at the earliest.

STC - LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS - CONTRACT

(No. B/189) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to the contract for the supply of Liquefied Petroleum

Gas for each of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, in each case, information as to the –

- (a) name of the successful bidder thereof;
- (b) contract value thereof, and
- (c) procurement method use for the award thereof.

Reply: The House may be aware that the State Trading Corporation (STC) is exempted from the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, by virtue of the Public Procurement (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2009, in respect of goods purchased for resale, including services incidental to the purchase or the distribution of goods. However, the STC generally has recourse to international open bidding exercise for the procurement of LPG.

I am informed by the STC that for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, four offers had been received as follows -

	Bidder	Premium/MTon (USD)
	Vitol SA	298.00
	Petreddec (Bermuda) Ltd	118.50 (lowest bidder)
	Geogas Trading SA	180.00
	Tonimas Nigeria Ltd	140.00

The successful bidder was Petreddec (Bermuda) Ltd and the supply contract was awarded at the premium rate of USD 118.5 per ton. The value of the contract was USD 67,074,565 for 68,006 tons.

In March 2013, the STC proceeded with its annual tender exercise which was launched to cover supply for the period 01 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. At the closing date, four offers were received.

	Bidder	Premium/MTon (USD)
	Aqualine General Trading LLC (UAE)	98
	A-Z Petroleum Products Ltd (Nigeria)	112
	Petredec (Bermuda) Ltd	125
	Geogas Trading SA (Switzerland)	155

The successful bidder was again Petredec (Bermuda) Ltd with a premium of USD 125 per ton which represented an increase in premium compared to the previous year, that is, USD 118.50 per ton.

The STC decided not to award the supply contract for the full period, that is, 01 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, because of the increase in premium. However, in order to avoid any disruption in the supply of LPG an interim contract covering period 1 July 2013 to 30 September 2013 was awarded to Petredec (Bermuda) Ltd. The value of the contract was USD 17,750,709 for 18,676 tons.

Concurrently, the STC held discussions with Petredec Bermuda Ltd to review their premium and to come up with a guarantee to supply LPG at lower premium. Subsequently, Petredec (Bermuda) Ltd agreed to supply STC at a reduced premium of USD 112 per ton, subject to the STC entering a contract over a period

of two years. I am informed that, thereafter, the STC signed a supply contract with Petredec (Bermuda) Ltd for the period covering 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2015. Estimated value of the contract is USD 113,474,314 for estimated quantity 135,814 tons.

I am informed that the STC is presently in the process of preparing a tender document, which it will launch, through international open bidding, in due course, for the procurement of LPG after 30 September 2015.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS – RATES & CHARGES

(No. B/190) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the financial institutions, he will state if consideration will be given for –

- (a) measures to be taken for the regulation of the rates and charges imposed by these institutions, and
- (b) the establishment of an Ombudsperson for the protection of the customers thereof.

Reply: With regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that following complaints from various stakeholders against the high fees and charges imposed by the financial institutions, Section 6(1)(w) of the Bank of Mauritius Act was amended in 2012 so that the Bank of Mauritius could impose limitation on the quantum of those fees and charges as it would consider appropriate.

I am also informed that the Bank of Mauritius commissioned a Task Force in 2012 to look, inter alia, into the fees and commissions imposed by commercial banks. One of the objectives of the Task Force was to assess the reasonableness of

the fees, charges and commissions of banks with respect to banking services that are frequently used by their customers. The Report of the Task Force was released in June 2014. Subsequently, the Bank of Mauritius invited comments on the Report from the public at large to enable it take informed decisions on the recommendations made in the Report.

Regarding Part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that my Ministry is working on an Ombudsperson (Financial Services) Bill for the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Financial Services to better protect consumers of financial services and provide them with a free and independent service to help settle disputes with the Banks and other financial institutions.

DREAM BRIDGE – COMPULSORY ACQUISITION

(No. B/191) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the new defunct project known as Dream Bridge, he will state when the plots of land compulsorily acquired in relation to the implementation thereof will be reverted back to the owners thereof.

Reply: The Project being referred to by the hon. Member is, in fact, the Harbour Bridge Project, which was put on hold by the then Government sometime last year. I am informed that the project involved the compulsory acquisition of 64 plots of private land.

With the shelving of the project, the sale back of these plots ought to be made. However, as the Harbour Bridge Project forms part of the whole Road Decongestion Programme and the Light Rapid Transit System, all the plots of land which have been acquired will be considered in the light of different options and projects to be elaborated by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land

Transport. Therefore, at this stage, the plots of land acquired will not be reverted to the owners.

MBC – TELEVISION CHANNELS -PRIVATISATION

(No. B/192) 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 time frame for the implementation thereof has been fixed.

(Withdrawn)

REGATTA COMPETITIONS - NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATION

(No. B/193) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Sports Act, he will state if he will consider the advisability of introducing amendments to the schedule thereof to make provisions for the recognition and registration of Regatta Competitions, commonly known as Regatte, as a National Sports Federation.

Reply: I have to inform the House that there is already a National Sports Federation namely, the Mauritius Yachting Association which caters for the promotion and development of sailing in Mauritius. The need, therefore, to

register and recognise another federation for the promotion of Regatta does not arise.

The organisers of Regatta competition have to enlist the support of the Mauritius Yachting Association for their activities.

CITES PAUL LANGLOIS, BURRENCHOBBEY & BALANCE - SALE

(No. B/194) Mr D. Ramful (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the ex-CHA and Cité EDC houses located in Cité Paul Langlois, Cité Burrenchobbey and Cité Balance, located in the region of Plaine Magnien, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the number –

- (a) thereof sold to the occupiers thereof, as at to date, and
- (b) of owners thereof who have not received their respective title deed as at to date, indicating in each case the reasons therefor.

Reply: In the region of Plaine Magnien, there are 3 ex-CHA housing estates consisting of 287 housing units, as follows:

(a) Cité Balance	138
(b) Cité Langlois	50
(c) Cité Burrenchobay	99

With regard to part (a) of the question, I have to inform that all these housing units have by now been sold to their owners. However, out of these 287 cases, only 282 owners have already finalised their deed of sale.

Regarding part (b) of the question, 5 owners, that is 2 from Cité Burrenchobay and 3 from Cité Balance, have not received their title deeds because

they have not yet submitted the relevant documents to enable the drawing up of the deeds.

CASTING OF SLABS SCHEME - GRANT

(No. B/195) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Casting of Slabs Scheme, he will state if Government proposes to increase the threshold of Rs 8,500 as monthly earnings in order to allow more beneficiaries to benefit from the grant of the allowances provided thereunder.

Reply (The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Housing and Lands): I wish to inform the House that, currently, under the Roof Slab Grant Scheme, families with a household income of less than Rs8,500 monthly are granted financial assistance to enable them to arrange for the casting of a slab to a house which they construct at their own cost on land owned either privately or through leasehold rights. The quantum of such a grant is up to Rs65,000 for a slab of 100m², with a proportionate reduction according to area below 100m².

In consultation with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the threshold of monthly household income of Rs8,500 is being examined for review, as appropriate, to make it more responsive to emerging needs.

PORT LOUIS - WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/196) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the construction of a new rapid gravity plant of 800,000 m³ capacity per day to provide uninterrupted water supply to the

Port Louis region, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to where matters stand, indicating -

- (a) the expected completion date thereof, and
- (b) if consumers from the Priest Peak Service Reservoir will benefit from water on a 24-hour basis after the completion thereof and, if not, why not.

Reply: The works at Pailles Water Treatment Plant consist of the upgrading of the existing 30,000m³/day slow sand filters and the construction of a new Rapid Gravity Filter of capacity 80,000 m³/day. Works started in July 2013 and the contractual completion date is 14 March 2015.

I am, however, informed by the Central Water Authority that the plant will now be commissioned by end April 2015.

I am further informed that according to the contractor, the delay is due to -

- (i) the late delivery of the Mechanical and Electrical equipment as a result of cyclone Bansi, and
- (ii) the procurement of the filtration sand, following a ban on the export of sand by the Saudi Authorities. The sand is now being procured from India and will be delivered by end March 2015.

With regard to the second part of the question, I am informed by the Central Water Authority that after the works, the new plant, which will treat water at a higher turbidity condition of 400 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units) as compared to 15 NTU presently, will ensure an uninterrupted water supply in the region of Port Louis, including Priest Peak Reservoir.

However, as mentioned in my reply to PQ B/178, a 24-hour supply in Port Louis can only be achieved after the completion of the Bagatelle dam scheduled for end 2016 and the renewal of the old pipelines in Port Louis.

PORT AREA - PETROLEUM PRODUCTS - LAND LEASE

(No. B/197) 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 state -

- (a) the allocation of prime land thereat reserved for the storage of petroleum products as per the approved master plans prior to 2005, and
- (b) the beneficiaries of land thereat allocated for the storage of petroleum products since 2006 indicating -
 - (i) if the leases were granted to established players and were in line with established policies;
 - (ii) the procedures followed in each case;
 - (iii) extent of land allocated to each beneficiary;
 - (iv) the respective purpose and other terms and conditions thereof, and
 - (v) rental charged in each case, and whether they were in line with the commercial valuation of the respective plots of land allocated.

Reply: The information requested is being compiled and will be tabled in the National Assembly.

SUGAR INDUSTRY – VRS – LAND ALLOCATION

(No. B/198) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in

regard to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme pursuant to the provisions of the Sugar Industry Efficiency Act 2001, he will state the number of former employees of the sugar estates who agreed therewith but who are still awaiting the allocation thereto of their respective plot of land, indicating the -

- (a) number of sugar estates not complying with the agreement in relation thereto, and
- (b) measures his Ministry is proposing to take against the said non-complying sugar estates to enforce compliance with the agreement.

Reply (Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Mr M. Seeruttun): As the House is aware, the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) was introduced in 2001 under the prime-ministership of Sir Anerood Jugnauth to initiate the much needed reforms in the sugar industry. 15,550 employees have retired under the VRS and of these 11,958 have obtained their title deeds for a plot of land of 7 perches. There are, therefore, 3,592 employees who are still awaiting for the allocation of their respective plot of land.

With regard to part (a) of the question, there are a number of procedures that need to be followed for the allocation of land to the beneficiaries.

These include -

- (i) the selection of a suitable site which should be acceptable to the employees and approved by the authorities;
- (ii) application for a development permit and the issue of a letter of Intent by the Morcellement Board to be able to start the development of the site;

- (iii) seeking all clearances as specified in the Letter of Intent, namely clearances, among others, from the Central Electricity Board, the Central Water Authority, the Road Development Authority, the Waste Water Management Authority , the Traffic Management Road Safety Unit the Municipal or District Council;
- (iv) implementation of all infrastructural works for the Morcellement;
- (v) drawing of lots for the plots to be allocated;
- (vi) application to the Morcellement Board for the Morcellement Permit;
- (vii) preparation of title deeds by notaries appointed by the sugar estate, and
- (viii) handing over of title deeds to the beneficiaries.

The sugar estates, once in possession of the Letter of Intent from the Morcellement Board, have to complete all infrastructural works within a period of 15 months in accordance with the provisions of the Morcellement Act.

I am informed that the situation with regard to land allocation to 2,566 out of the 3,592 beneficiaries is as follows -

- (i) 467 are awaiting the title deeds to be transcribed;
- (ii) 530 are expected to sign the title deeds shortly;
- (iii) 130 title deeds will be prepared once the Morcellement Permit is issued, and
- (iv) A number of sites involving 1,439 beneficiaries are awaiting different clearances before applying for the Morcellement Permit and same be issued.

The above processes are expected to be completed within the next three months.

As regards the remaining 1,026 beneficiaries, the sites are either under different stages of development or awaiting letter of intent to proceed with development of the sites.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I have set up a Monitoring Committee under my own Chairmanship to follow closely on the implementation of the remaining projects so that all obstacles are removed and bottlenecks are urgently addressed for the timely completion of these projects to ensure that the beneficiaries obtain their title deeds within the shortest delay.

**D. Y. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE - FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE
- REPORT**

(No. B/199) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Science Research whether, in regard to the D. Y. Patil Medical College, he will state if Former Chief Justice Arringa Pillay presided over a fact-finding committee in relation thereto during the tenure of office of the last Government, indicating if it has submitted its report and, if so, indicate the remarks, if any, made by the said committee on the International Monitoring Report on Accreditation.

Reply: Following numerous allegations made by two former students of D. Y. Patil Medical College that were widely echoed in the press, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) Board decided on 25 February 2014 to set up a Fact Finding Committee (FFC) with regard to the D.Y. Patil Medical College.

The composition of the FFC was as follows -

Hon. Ariranga G Pillay, G.O.S.K, former Chief Justice
(Chairperson);

M. Vasdev Hassamal, former Chairperson of the Mauritius
Revenue Authority, Member, and

Dr Bhaye Dawood Jaufeerally, MBChB, FRCS, Specialist in
General Surgery, Member.

The report of the FFC was submitted to the Chairperson of the TEC Board on 18 April 2014.

I am informed that, according to the provisions of the Clinical Training Framework for Medical Education, TEC is called upon to set up an International Monitoring Committee to recommend accreditation of programmes and ensure quality of same. The Committee has to monitor the Medical College on a yearly basis for the duration of 2 cohorts of students.

According to the FFC Report, four International Monitoring Committee meetings had been held between 2009 and 2013, each lasting for 2 days. In each meeting which included a visit to the premises of D.Y. Patil Medical College, a set of recommendations was made. A total of 62 recommendations had, thus, been made during that period.

The FFC had noted that many recommendations emanating right from the first IMC had not been implemented by D.Y. Patil Medical College at the time the Committee was carrying out its work. These related to provision of a hostel, mess facilities, lecture halls, a museum and an anatomy laboratory. Equally, short comings were noted concerning, *inter alia*, examination process, student attendance and the profile of lecturers. Despite these serious short comings, some

of which still prevail as at now, the IMC in 2013 recommended full accreditation of programmes of the College for a period of 3 years.

The FFC also mentioned that the IMC in 2011 noted that there was no evidence of inspection or visit of the UTM to the College. The IMC equally noted that UTM should conduct regular inspections, document the findings and send reports to TEC.

I wish to further inform the House that the FFC had stated that the IMC in November 2013 did not mention in its report the amendment to the Medical Council Act passed in December 2012 which came into force on 01 August 2013 whereby students would be required to undergo and pass the Medical Council Qualifying examination prior to seeking admission to post graduate programmes. However, it is evident that it is the responsibility of the Medical College to keep the students abreast of any changes in the Medical Council Act prior to their admission.

The FFC also noted that the D.Y. Patil Medical College prospectus had not been updated on time to ensure that students of the batch of August 2013 would be aware of the changes prior to enrolment and prior to effecting any payment of fees for admission to the College. This resulted in students of that batch being recruited and made to pay the fees.

