

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### MELROSE PRISON – MOBILE PHONES, DRUGS & COMPLAINTS

(No. B/204) 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 of drugs threat, and
- (b) Human Rights Commission, information as to if complaints of the prevalence of inhumane conditions of detention thereat have been reported thereto.

**Reply:** In regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Prisons and the Commissioner of Police that since the coming into operation of the Eastern High Security Prison at Melrose in March 2014, 20 mobile phones have been secured as at to date. During the same period, there have been 6 reported cases whereby dry leaves suspected to be Cannabis and drug powder have been secured.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed by the National Human Rights Commission that the National Preventive Mechanism Division has carried out site visits at the Eastern High Security Prison and complaints from detainees have been received on the following

–

- (a) Lack of warm or hot shower;
- (b) Presence of surveillance cameras in bathrooms of Segregation and Protection Unit;
- (c) Type of food in view of dietary problems;
- (d) The furniture is not appropriate;
- (e) No proper ventilation;
- (f) Letters sent to the Commission do not reach the intended destination, and
- (g) There is no methadone induction programme at Melrose.

To address the above problems, the National Preventive Mechanism Division has made a number of recommendations with a view to ensuring greater compliance with the United Nations guidelines governing such detention centres. I am also informed that most of the complaints made have already been attended to by the Prisons Department as at March 2015 and the National Preventive Mechanism Division will continue to monitor the situation in respect of the outstanding complaints.

### **POLICE OFFICERS – ALLEGED CRIMINAL CASES**

**(No. B/205) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third 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 Police Officers who are allegedly involved in criminal cases, either as victims or as accused parties, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if consideration will be given for the cases to be referred to the State Law Office for advice –

- (a) prior to the drafting of the provisional charge, and
- (b) as to the stand to be taken concerning applications for bail.

**Reply:** I presume that the hon. Member is making reference to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from which advice is usually sought by the Police.

In regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that for Police Officers or any other civilian who are allegedly involved in criminal cases, it is not the practice of the Police to seek advice from the Office of the DPP prior to the Police drafting the provisional charges. It is only in certain serious criminal cases that such advice is sought as it will not be practical to do so in all cases.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the Office of the DPP is not consulted if the Commissioner of Police does not object to bail. Otherwise, when the Commissioner of Police intends to resist the bail application, he will, in some serious cases, seek advice from the Office of the DPP.

If the Office of the DPP advises that bail may be objected, then it will, in some serious cases, designate an officer to represent the Police before the Bail and Remand Court. However,

in accordance with the provisions of the Bail Act, it is for the Court to decide as to whether bail should be granted or not.

I wish to inform the House that I am not at all satisfied with the present system of provisional charges. As announced in the Government Programme 2015-2019, my Government will come up with a modern legal framework modelled on the UK Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) to address the issue of abusiveness and arbitrariness of the present system of Provisional Charges.

The implementation of the PACE may involve the Police having its own in-house Legal Advisers who may advise the Police at enquiry stage. It will be for the DPP to advise whether prosecution is to be initiated for any offence.

### **SAVANNE & BLACK RIVER – PROJECTS EARMARKED**

**(No. B/207) Mr E. Jhuboo (Third 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 Constituency No. 14, Savanne and Black River, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Development Unit and table a list of the future projects earmarked for implementation thereat.

**Reply:** I am informed that a list of projects identified for future implementation by the National Development Unit for Constituency No. 14 is presently being compiled and estimates are being worked out.

The list was submitted to the NDU by the Parliamentary Private Secretary for that constituency.

Prior to the final list of proposed projects being drawn, the NDU needs to assess the outstanding balance on ongoing and completed projects. Thereafter financial commitments for any new projects can be taken.

This process will ensure that proper financial management and planning are effected and will also avoid situations which occurred in the recent past, where funds earmarked for new projects, were already committed to ongoing projects, resulting in the NDU being heavily financially drained.

The NDU will as far as possible implement, amenities, roads and drain projects in all constituencies. The final list of projects for Constituency No. 14 will be tabled once it is drawn up.

### **TERRITORIAL WATERS – ACCIDENT – REPORTED CASES**

**(No. B/210) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis)** asked the Rt. hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs, Minister for Rodrigues and National Development Unit whether, in regard to accident within our territorial waters, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof, since January 2010 to date, indicating in each case, the number of death having occurred as a result thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since January 2010 to date, three cases of accident within our territorial waters have been reported as follows –

- (i) on 31 October 2014 in the Port area, a heavy duty boat of the National Coast Guard collided with a tug of the Mauritius Port Authority resulting in the death of two Police Officers;
- (ii) on 23 February 2015 in the lagoon at Belle Mare, two French tourists who were snorkeling in the sea were hit by a speed boat, causing their death, and
- (iii) on 14 March 2015 in the vicinity of Flat Island, a trimaran was capsized. Eleven tourists who were aboard fell into the sea, and one of them, a French lady, got drowned.

The recent fatal accidents concerning tourists during recreational activities at sea are tragic occurrences which should be avoided at all costs. The concerned Government bodies, including the National Coast Guard and the Ministry of Tourism and External Communications have already taken a series of measures geared towards ensuring safe and secure nautical activities for all sea-goers, including skippers, fishermen and tourists.

### **FOOTBALL BETTING – UNCLAIMED FUNDS – NATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND**

**(No. B/239) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to football betting, he

will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Gambling Regulatory Authority, information as to the

- (a) amount of money remitted as unclaimed funds to the National Solidarity Fund during the period 2003 to 2011, indicating the names of the companies suspended during the said period for non-compliance, and
- (b) if Peerless Ltd. And Empowering People Ltd. were suspended in 2010.

**Reply (The Prime Minister):** The Gambling Regulatory Authority was set up in December 2007. I understand that prior to December 2007, football betting was unregulated.

As regards part (a) of the question, in 2008, the Gambling Regulatory Authority issued licences, for conducting fixed odds betting on football matches played outside Mauritius, to 10 bookmakers. I am informed, however, that not all the bookmakers started operation in 2008: some started in 2009 whilst others in 2010.

An amount of Rs74,356,316 was remitted as unclaimed winnings to the National Solidarity Fund for period 2008 to 2011.

The licenses of Five companies, namely, PEERLESS LTD, EMPOWERING LTD, BOOKSYSTEM LTD, BOSCO CO. LTD and VALUE PLUS LTD were suspended during the said period for non-remittance of the unclaimed prize to the National Solidarity Fund within the prescribed time.

However, the licences of BOSCO CO. LTD and VALUE PLUS LTD were subsequently reinstated in 2011.

With respect to Part (b) of the question, I am advised that the licences of PEERLESS LTD. and EMPOWERING PEOPLE LTD were suspended on 21 February 2011 for failing to remit unclaimed winnings to the National Solidarity Fund.

I am further advised that –

- (i) the licence of PEERLESS LTD was not renewed on expiry on 16 July 2011; and
- (ii) EMPOWERING PEOPLE LTD was revoked on 29 July 2011.

I am informed that both these Licensees have applied for Judicial Review before the Supreme Court against the decision to suspend their licences.

In the case of Peerless Ltd, I am further informed that the Supreme Court has refused to grant leave to apply for Judicial Review. PEERLESS LTD has appealed against the decision of the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The matter was heard on 25 March 2015 and judgment has been reserved.

### **2015 TURF SEASON – HORSERACING**

**(No. B/240) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the organization of horseracing in Mauritius for the 2015 Turf Season by the Mauritius Turf Club, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Gambling Regulatory Authority, information as to if the approval thereof was made in full compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance and of the Guidelines under the Financial Reporting Act.

**Reply (The Prime Minister):** I am informed that the organisation of horseracing in Mauritius for the 2015 Turf season by the Mauritius Turf Club was approved by the new Gambling Regulatory Board, at its meeting held on 19 March 2015. This was done in strict compliance with the Provisions of the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) Act 2007, especially as it relates to Section 7(1) (g) and the licensing conditions under Section 31 (3).

However, the Honorable Member should be aware of the catastrophic situation in the horse racing sector as a result of the *'silence coupable'* of some people at the helm of the Gambling Regulatory Authority under the previous régime. Furthermore, following widespread concerns emanating from different stakeholders on horse racing in Mauritius, a Commission of Inquiry was set up, *inter-alia*, to inquire into the matter and to come up with appropriate recommendations to address these issues.

I have the pleasure to inform the House that the Commissioners have submitted their Report and in line with the commitment undertaken by my Government to tackle the problematic issue of "*Nation Zougadère*", I shall later on, today, make a Statement thereon.

### **MEDICLINICS - OPERATION**

**(No. B/215) Dr Z. Joomaye (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the mediclinics, he will

state the number thereof in operation over the period October to December 2014, indicating in each case, on a daily basis, the –

(a) average number of patients who attended thereat and

(b) number of staff on duty, including doctors and nurses, who attended to the patients.

**Reply:** I will reply to both parliamentary questions B/215 and B/216 together as they deal with the same topic relating to mediclinics.

During the period October to December 2014, a total of five mediclinics were in operation, namely the Dr Hyderkhan Mediclinic at Plaine Verte, the Triolet Mediclinic, the Goodlands Mediclinic, the Lady Sushil Ramgoolam Mediclinic at Belvédère and the Dr H. Nkajima Mediclinic at L'escalier.

As regards part (a) an average number of 833 patients attended all the five mediclinics on a daily basis during October to December 2014. Average daily attendance at each mediclinic during this period was as follows -

• Plaine Verte(Dr. Hyderkhan)	108
• Triolet	194
• L'Escalier (Dr. H. Nkajima)	122
• Goodlands	271
• Bélvédère	138

Regarding part (b), a total of 136 staff members, including doctors and nurses, were posted at all five mediclinics from October to December 2014. Government is in the process of recruiting 100 Medical Health Officers/Senior Medical Health Officers for all hospital services including mediclinics and Area Health Centres.

In line with Government Programme to strengthen primary health care, a batch of 40 doctors will follow a 3 year training programme with the University of Bordeaux to graduate as Primary Care Physicians. They will subsequently be posted in primary health care institutions in Mauritius.

The master plan for primary health care which is being prepared will encompass an in-depth review of the organisational set-up at primary health care level.

It must be brought out that with the operation of mediclinics, it has been possible to curb the spread of infectious diseases such as conjunctivitis and gastro enteritis.

Similarly Government will recruit some 1,400 paramedical staff including nursing officers to be posted overall in the public health system, including mediclinics and Area Health Centres.

Furthermore, daily attendance at all the mediclinics is being followed closely. A total of 49,543 attendances were recorded at all the five mediclinics during the one month period starting 16 February to 15 March 2015, with a total of 15,932 attendances after normal working hours, i.e from 18.00 hours to 08.00 hours the next day. Given the high attendance up to 20.00 hours, two medical officers, two pharmacy dispensers and two health records officers have been posted up to 20.00 hours in all mediclinics. A hotline has been set up to connect mediclinics to the regional hospitals. In case of an emergency or if there is an upsurge in attendance, the regional hospitals have been given instructions to provide re-inforcement of staff at the mediclinics.

A request has been made to the Commissioner of Police to reinforce security of staff by posting additional Police Constables at the mediclinics.

#### **MEDICLINICS – DOCTORS & NURSES - RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/216) Dr Z. Joomaye (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles & Souillac)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the mediclinics, he will state if Government is proposing to recruit doctors and/or nurses to work specifically thereat and, if so, give details thereof and, if not, indicate the organizational set-up that is being contemplated in relation to the extension of the hours of service on a 24 hour basis.

*(Vide Reply PQ to No. B/215)*

#### **LIGNE BERTHAUD AVENUE – REHABILITATION**

**(No. B/219) Mr S. Rutnah (Third Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport whether he will state if he will consider the urgent rehabilitation of the Ligne Berthaud Avenue which links Trèfles to Quatre Bornes.

**Reply (The Prime Minister):** I am informed that the NDU issued two Works Orders, firstly in respect of drains and secondly, in respect of roads to the contractor Super Builders Co. Ltd on 26 May 2014 for works to be executed along Berthaud Avenue.

The contract values for the drain works and road works were respectively Rs24,237,203.93; and Rs23,959,732.50 VAT inclusive.

The drain Works Order comprised the construction of 1,400 metres of covered drain, the enlargement of bridge and the re-location of services.

The road Works Order comprised the construction of about 1,400 metres of road and the relocation or diversion of services.

I am informed by the NDU that both Works Orders have, however, not yet been executed in view of the fact that the procedures for land acquisition required for the enlargement of the road from 3.5 mts to 10.00 mts as well as the construction of foot paths on both sides, have not been finalised by the Road Development Authority.

Moreover, I am informed that the original Works Orders issued for the drain component of the project, although it makes mention, *inter-alia*, of the enlargement of bridge, did not provide the required design for same. Furthermore, it does not provide for the demolition of the existing boundary walls and reconstruction after enlargement works.

The urgent rehabilitation of Ligne Berthaud Avenue which links Trèfles to Quatre Bornes can only be effected once land acquisition is completed and the detailed design of the bridge finalised.

### **BASSIN/PALMA - SEWAGE PROJECTS – ROADS REINSTATEMENT**

**(No. B/227) Mr E. Jhuboo (Third Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the sewage projects in the Bassin/Palma regions in Constituency No. 14, Savanne and Black River, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to where matters stand as to the reinstatement of the public roads damaged as a result thereof.

**Reply (The Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities):** Part of the regions of Bassin/Palma are concerned with the implementation of wastewater project under the Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Project – Lot 1A. Once the infrastructure works are completed, the public roads are temporarily reinstated using Asphaltic concrete over the working area.

Upon completion of all house connection works, water pipe replacement, testing and commissioning, the roads are reinstated to its full width.

I am tabling a list of all the roads in the region of Palma, Bassin that are concerned under the project.

### **FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT - DIRECTOR**

**(No. B/230) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms whether, in regard to the Financial Intelligence Unit, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the -

(a) name of the director thereof, indicating his –

(i) qualifications, and

(ii) terms and conditions of employment, and

(b) reasons for the termination of the employment of the former director thereof.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, I refer the hon. Member to my reply to PQ B/113, wherein I, *inter alia*, informed the House that Mr Guillaume Nicolas Ferdinand Ollivry is the current Director of the FIU.

Mr Ollivry holds a degree in law from the University of Kent, Canterbury, UK. Section 9(2) of the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA), provides for the Director of the FIU to be “*a person of high repute with substantial experience in the financial services industry or law enforcement and experience in management and accounting.*” The House may wish to note that from February 2012 to December 2014 Mr Ollivry has worked as a Forensic Researcher in Anti- Money Laundering, Financial Services and Human Rights. The first two areas of practice during these 2 years are of particular relevance for the purposes of section 9(2) of the FIAMLA.

It is to be highlighted that Mr Ollivry’s work included working on assessment of the Prevention of Corruption Act, reviewing offences in the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act (FIAMLA), researching on the interaction between FIAMLA and the ‘FSC Code’ in the context of flaws in relation to the term ‘reasonable measures’ to combat money laundering.

Mr Ollivry has also worked on the Financial Services Act, the Mutual Assistance in Criminal and Related Matters Act, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the

Proceeds of Crime Act and the Asset Recovery Act and in the context of his work money laundering, fraud, prosecution of offences and investigation were relevant to his work.

The House may further wish to note that at the 29<sup>th</sup> ESAAMLG Task Force of Senior Officials Meeting held last week in Arusha, Tanzania, Mr Ollivry has been included in the Roaster of experts in view of his operational expertise in the AML/CFT. It is to be noted that the AML/CFT project in the Greater Horn of Africa is a European Commission funded project and is being implemented by Civipol Conseil which is an agency of the French Ministry of Interior.

Mr Ollivry has been appointed as Director of the FIU, on a contractual basis, for a period of 3 years with a monthly salary of Rs150,000 compared to Rs238,000 drawn by the previous Director. The new Director has not been granted the privilege of a chauffeur driven car, as was the case for the former Director.

The employment of the former Director of the FIU was terminated by virtue of section 113(4) (5) of the Constitution.

#### **MAURITIUS CREDIT INFORMATION BUREAU – LOANS - REPAYMENT**

**(No. B/231) 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 Mauritius Credit Information Bureau, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank of Mauritius, information as to the number of borrowers registered therewith and who have defaulted on the repayment of their loans, indicating the aggregate amount of money defaulted in respect of the -

- (a) individuals, and
- (b) corporate borrowers.

**Reply:** The Mauritius Credit Information Bureau (MCIB), set up under Section 52 of the Bank of Mauritius Act, came into operation in December 2005. In fact the MCIB has been set up to be a repository of credit information on all recipients of credit facilities. The main objective is to ensure the development of a sound credit environment and aims at directly assisting in fighting over-indebtedness, mainly that of households.

I am informed by the Bank of Mauritius that the MCIB has currently 43 participants comprising banks, non-bank financial institutions including Insurance companies, leasing companies, the DBM Ltd, MHC Ltd, NHDC Ltd and utility service providers.

The MCIB does not classify information according to borrowers who have defaulted on the repayment of their loans. The MCIB is just a repository of credit information and only the lenders have information concerning defaults by their clients.

As such, the information requested is not available.

### **DR A. G. JEETOO HOSPITAL - INCINERATOR**

**(No. B/232) Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the incinerator of the Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital, he will state where matters stand as to the remedial measures proposed to be taken by his Ministry in relation to the thick smokes emanating therefrom.

**Reply:** Presently medical waste produced at Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital is disposed of in the incinerator located within the premises of the hospital. This incinerator is in working condition and is being maintained on a regular basis.

It is necessary to point out that as per Government Notice No. 157 of 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule, Regulation 2 of the Environment Protection Act 1991 -

*“Human or animal healthcare and research related to such healthcare; waste from diagnosis, treatment or prevention of disease and natal care are categorised as Hazardous waste”.*

Incineration of medical waste generated by public health institutions is undertaken in incinerators located within hospitals' premises. Most of our hospitals, however, are situated within highly residential agglomerations.

At times, due to an excess of medical waste, there is over-accumulation of waste giving rise to inconvenience and odour nuisance. Moreover, during incineration the likelihood of the environmental nuisance exists with regard to emission of black smoke due to extensive use of the incinerator. It is worth mentioning that most incinerators have been purchased some ten (10) years ago and are nearly reaching their lifespan.

My Ministry has taken the following measures -

#### **Short Term Measures**

- (a) The height of the chimney of the incinerator at Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital has been extended by 3 metres to a maximum permissible height of 12.6 metres to provide for the dispersion and dilution of the emissions over longer distances;
- (b) Medical waste is incinerated only during weekdays from 08.00 hrs up to 14.00 hrs. No incineration is carried out during weekends and Public Holidays.
- (c) Medical waste (waste from surgeries/treatments - bandages, cotton, sharps, catheters, pharmaceutical and pathological waste) is being segregated in coloured yellow plastic bags and sent for incineration. However, medical waste generated from renal dialysis unit which is likely to contribute to black smoke emission is being segregated for disposal at J. Nehru Hospital.

Non-Medical waste (office waste, food waste packing materials) is separately collected in coloured black plastic bags on a regular basis by Municipal and District Councils and safely disposed of at the Mare Chicose Landfill.
- (d) Regular maintenance of Incinerators is undertaken by a maintenance contractor under the supervision of Energy Services Division (ESD).
- (e) Training of the operators and personnel has been provided whereby emphasis has been laid on the importance of ensuring that the incinerator reaches the required combustion temperature of 850° C as well as post combustion temperature of 1100°C for optimal destruction and avoidance of smoke emission.
- (f) In case of over accumulation of waste likely to give rise to odour nuisance the excess waste is redirected to incinerators of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital, Jawaharlall Nehru Hospital and Brown Sequard Hospital.

### **Medium Term Measures**

A technical team of the Ministry has undertaken a visit to Reunion Island to examine its method of disposal/treatment of medical waste which is a sterilization system rather than incineration. Also the sterilization system is apparently more eco-friendly with regards to emissions in the atmosphere.

Following the visit, recommendation has been made on the appropriateness of adopting such technology at the Dr A.G. Jeetoo Hospital to replace the existing incinerator on a pilot basis.

## **Long Term Measures**

My Ministry is looking into various possibilities to prevent pollution during medical waste treatment by incineration. One alternative will be to have recourse to new generation of incinerators with inbuilt pollution abatement technology for treatment to reduce and prevent pollution.

Another alternative would be to invest in new equipment which would involve autoclaving and shredding of medical waste for its disposal.

## **NATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND - FOOTBALL BETTING – UNCLAIMED WINNINGS**

**(No. B/239) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to football betting, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Gambling Regulatory Authority, information as to the

- (c) amount of money remitted as unclaimed funds to the National Solidarity Fund during the period 2003 to 2011, indicating the names of the companies suspended during the said period for non-compliance, and
- (d) if Peerless Ltd. And Empowering People Ltd. were suspended in 2010.

**Reply (The Prime Minister):** The Gambling Regulatory Authority was set up in December 2007. I understand that prior to December 2007, football betting was unregulated.

As regards part (a) of the question, in 2008, the Gambling Regulatory Authority issued licences, for conducting fixed odds betting on football matches played outside Mauritius, to 10 bookmakers. I am informed, however, that not all the bookmakers started operation in 2008: some started in 2009 whilst others in 2010.

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for non-remittance of the unclaimed prize to the National Solidarity Fund within the prescribed time.

However, the licences of BOSCO CO. LTD and VALUE PLUS LTD were subsequently reinstated in 2011.

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I am further advised that –

- (iii) the licence of PEERLESS LTD was not renewed on expiry on 16 July 2011; and
- (iv) EMPOWERING PEOPLE LTD was revoked on 29 July 2011.

I am informed that both these Licensees have applied for Judicial Review before the Supreme Court against the decision to suspend their licences.

In the case of Peerless Ltd, I am further informed that the Supreme Court has refused to grant leave to apply for Judicial Review. PEERLESS LTD has appealed against the decision of the Supreme Court to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The matter was heard on 25 March 2015 and judgment has been reserved.

### **HORSERACING - 2015 TURF SEASON**

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**Reply (The Prime Minister):** I am informed that the organisation of horseracing in Mauritius for the 2015 Turf season by the Mauritius Turf Club was approved by the new Gambling Regulatory Board, at its meeting held on 19 March 2015. This was done in strict compliance with the Provisions of the Gambling Regulatory Authority (GRA) Act 2007, especially as it relates to Section 7(1) (g) and the licensing conditions under Section 31 (3).

However, the Honorable Member should be aware of the catastrophic situation in the horse racing sector as a result of the ‘*silence coupable*’ of some people at the helm of the Gambling Regulatory Authority under the previous régime. Furthermore, following widespread concerns emanating from different stakeholders on horse racing in Mauritius, a Commission of Inquiry was set up, *inter-alia*, to inquire into the matter and to come up with appropriate recommendations to address these issues.

I have the pleasure to inform the House that the Commissioners have submitted their Report and in line with the commitment undertaken by my Government to tackle the problematic issue of “*Nation Zougadère*”, I shall later on, today, make a Statement thereon.

### **CANCER HOSPITAL PROJECT**

**(No. B/246) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the proposed Cancer Hospital Project at the former Medpoint Clinic, he will state -

- (a) the responsibility under which it would be placed;
- (b) the estimated cost thereof in respect of the -
  - (i) renovation of the building;
  - (ii) purchase of equipment, and
  - (iii) furniture, fixtures and other costs;
- (c) if quotations have been launched for the purchase of equipment and, if so, give a list thereof;
- (d) if the personnel for the running thereof has been identified and, if so, give details thereof, and
- (e) the expected date of coming into operation thereof.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that the former Medpoint Clinic which will be rehabilitated into a modern Cancer Centre, will be under the responsibility of my Ministry.

It is to be noted that the project for a Cancer Centre would be carried out in two phases, as follows -

- a. **Phase I** would comprise rehabilitation of the existing building infrastructure and the premises including creation of parking area and landscaping works to render the Centre operational.

- b. **Phase II** would consist of (a) the construction of a Bunker or other appropriate structure to accommodate a Linear Accelerator and (b) the procurement, installation, testing and commissioning of the Linear Accelerator and Accessories.

The estimated cost of the rehabilitation works will be prepared by the Consultants who will be appointed to work out the design and tender documents for the project. Presently the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport is working on the terms of reference for consultancy services for the rehabilitation of the ex-Medpoint Clinic.

With respect to part (b) relating to the estimated cost of the purchase of (ii) equipment and (iii) furniture, fixtures and other cost, I would wish to point out that it has been decided to resort to consultancy services. Based on the design and the scope of works, estimated cost of construction, equipment, accessories and other requisites will be worked out for preparation of bid documents.

With regard to part (c) of the question, the House may wish to note that Expressions of Interest have been invited for the procurement of a Linear Accelerator and the construction of a bunker to house the apparatus. The Expressions of Interest will be assessed and examined for shortlisting of suitable bidder.

As for part (d), the medical, nursing and other staff presently working at the Cancer Unit of Victoria Hospital will eventually be transferred to the new Cancer Centre and we are working with the IAEA for the training of our personnel.

With the completion of the rehabilitation works and the transfer of the Cancer Unit from Victoria Hospital, it is expected that the Cancer Centre will become operational by December 2015.

## **BELLE MARE WATER PARK AND LEISURE VILLAGE - CLOSURE**

**(No. B/248) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food

Security whether, in regard to the Belle Mare Water Park and Leisure Village, he will state since when it is closed to the public, indicating -

- (a) if the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry set up by Government in relation thereto have been implemented and, if not, why not, and
- (b) when the re-opening thereof to the public is being contemplated.

**Reply:** I am advised that the Commission of Inquiry set up to investigate into the death of two children at Belle Mare Water Park and Leisure Village has submitted its report. The recommendations are actually being examined by the Board of the Sugar Investment Trust.

One the main recommendations is that the Water Park should be revamped to attain world class standard. However, this would necessitate an investment estimated at more than Rs200 m.

In view thereof, the Board of the Sugar Investment Trust has decided to seek a strategic partner for the modernisation of the infrastructures that would render the Water Park safer, more attractive and profitable.

The Water Park is closed to the public since October 2013. The date of its re-opening cannot be known at this stage as much would depend on the outcome of the Board's initiative to secure a strategic partner for the renovation project.

#### **PAY RESEARCH BUREAU REPORT - PUBLICATION**

**(No. B/249) Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Civil Service Affairs whether,

in regard to the next Pay Research Bureau Report, he will state the expected date of -

(a) publication, and

(b) implementation thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed that the publication of the Pay Research Bureau Report would, in principle, be in October 2015 and the effective date of its implementation would be 01 January 2016.

#### **MSPA – LAND TRANSFER**

(No. B/250) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the 2000 acres of land obtained from the sugar industry, he will state the extent thereof –

(a) received region-wise, and

(b) released, giving details as to the

(i) name of the beneficiaries thereof;

(ii) date of release thereof, and

(iii) project to be implemented and the terms and conditions thereof, indicating the number thereof implemented to date, giving details thereof in each case.

**Reply:** The agreement signed between the Government and the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association (MSPA) on 22 April 2008 provides for the transfer of 2000 *arpents* of land to the State over a period of 10 years, ending in December 2017.

Out of the 2000 *arpents*, an extent of 1200 *arpents* were to be released for agriculture and 800 *arpents* for housing and other social infrastructure projects.

The Government has so far acquired 757 *arpents*, out of which 460 *arpents* have been vested in my Ministry for agricultural projects.

With regard to part (a) of the question, land has been acquired in the following regions –

- 50 *arpents* at the Rouge Terre in the North;
- 63.11 *arpents* at Mare D'Albert, 34.76 *arpents* at St Hubert; 24.31 *arpents* at Joli Bois, Mare Tabac; 43.86 *arpents* at Grand Bois and 19.55 *arpents* at Rivière du Poste in the South;
- 50 *arpents* at L'Esperance, (Quartier Militaire); 40 *arpents* at Melrose; 7 *arpents* at La Laura; 25 *arpents* at Bel Etang and 72 *arpents* at Olivia for the eastern region, and
- 30 *arpents* at La Chaumière in the West.

With regard to part (b) of the question, out of the 460 *arpents* vested in my Ministry, 420 *arpents* have been released to 69 Cooperative Societies/Agro-Based Companies for foodcrop and livestock production.

Note also that one plot has been released at L'Esperance (Quartier Militaire) and St Hubert respectively for implementation of small-scale farming projects under the Vulnerable Woman Empowerment Programme being implemented by the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment.

Details regarding date of release, projects implemented and conditions of lease are being tabled.

### **CITÉ MARTIAL - SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE**

**(No. B/251) 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 proposed sewerage network project for the sewerage connection of house numbers 20 to 26, at the Alfred Gellé Street, Cité Martial, in Port Louis, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Waste Water Management Authority, information as to where matters stand, indicating the expected start and completion dates thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Wastewater Management Authority that the Alfred Gellé Street houses number 20 to 26 are included in the Cité Paul et Virginie Housing Estate, Port Louis which has been identified as one of the six priority sites for the rehabilitation of the sewerage infrastructure.

Topographical surveys, detailed design and the bidding documents for the Works Contract have been completed.

The detailed design report has revealed that -

- (a) many houses have been constructed over the existing sewer line and sewer manholes contributing to the degradation of the sewer system, and
- (b) rehabilitation works will have to be carried out in some cases, inside the houses and the collaboration of the inhabitants will be needed for the sewer works to be carried out.

I have requested the WMA to discuss with the inhabitants concerned and the neighbours. The collaboration of the hon. Member is most welcome to help the WMA resolve this issue.