(No. B/1244) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the post of President of the African Union, he will state if the candidature of Mr Cassam Uteem has been submitted and, if so –

(a) when, and

(b) the steps that have been taken by Government to support his election.

Reply: Following consultations I had with the former President Mr Cassam Uteem, Government decided to support his candidature for election to the post of Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The candidature of former President Cassam Uteem was officially submitted to the AU on 12 September and subsequently an acknowledgement note was received from the AU on 17 September 2007.

Immediately after the closing date for submission of candidatures on 30 October, the AU officially announced and circulated the list of candidates which comprised six names, including that of Mr Cassam Uteem.

Our lobbying exercise started right from the time the candidature of Mr. Cassam Uteem was submitted. In this regard, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation addressed a letter on 25 October to all the Foreign Ministers of the AU member states requesting their support for our candidature.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Kampala recently, I also canvassed support in favour of Mr Cassam Uteem. Furthermore, I am also in the process of writing to the African Heads of State and Government.

I will seize the opportunity of my participation in the EU-Africa Summit later this week to rally further support for the candidature of Mr Cassam Uteem.
MINISTRIES – ADVISERS & PRESS ATTACHES

(No. B/1245) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Advisers and Press Attachés attached to the Ministries either on a full time or part time basis, since 11 April 2006 to date, he will state –

(a) their names and qualifications;
(b) the salaries and allowances drawn;
(c) their terms and conditions of service, and
(d) the fringe benefits to which they are entitled.

Reply: The information is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

BEAU BASSIN POLICE STATION - MR M. D. – ARREST AND DETENTION

(No. B/1246) Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the arrest and detention of one Mr M. D. at the Beau Bassin Police Station, on or about 28 September 1999, he will for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if –

(a) any charge has been retained against him, and
(b) he is subject to an objection to departure and, if so, the duration thereof.

(Withdrawn)

MCIT - MR S. O. – ARREST

(No. B/1247 Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, he will, for the benefit of the House obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if, on 13 April 2007, one Mr S. O. was arrested and detained by the Major Crime Investigation Team, and if so –

(a) the reasons therefor;
(b) if the alleged offence fell within the purview of the MCIT;
(c) the time of the arrest;
(d) the duration of the detention;
(e) the outcome of the inquiry, and
(f) if other complaints have been reported against him and, if so –
   (i) when;
   (ii) by whom, and
   (iii) the nature thereof.

(Withdrawn)
MCIT – CASES, NUMBER, ETC.

(No. B/ 1248) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the cases being presently investigated by the Major Crime Investigation Team, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof, indicating where matters stand in each case.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the Major Crime Investigation Team is enquiring into three hundred and nine cases. Details pertaining to each case are being compiled and will be laid in the Library of the National Assembly.

MR R. G. – CASH DEALER - LICENCE

(No. B/1249) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the recent alleged case of money laundering by one Mr R. G. of Curepipe, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to whether an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, where matters stand.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 04 May 2007, one Mr R. G. was caught carrying out the business of money changer without licence. A search was carried out inside his shop and a substantial amount of foreign exchange, travellers cheques, the passport of a national of Seychelles and a black cylinder capable of discharging noxious substance were secured.

On the same day, the residence one Mr R. G. was searched but no incriminating article was found.

On 07 May 2007, Mr R. G. appeared before District Court on charges of engaging in the business of cash dealer without an appropriate licence from the Central Bank and possession of weapon capable of discharging noxious substance.

Mr R. G. was released on bail upon furnishing surety of Rs16,000 and recognizance for an amount of Rs60,000 for both charges.

The case will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions shortly for advice.
(No. B/1250) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to whether it is the new policy of the MBC/TV to run programmes designed to promote private companies.

(Withdrawn)

POLICE STATIONS – POLICE OFFICERS – SHIFT SYSTEM

(No. B/1251) Dr. P. Ramloll (Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the proposed reform of the Police Force, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to whether the present roster of duties of the Police Officers posted in the Police Stations will be reviewed.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the hours of duty for Police Officers working at Police stations are governed by Police Standing Order No. 70(3).

A new shift system known as the Five Shift System is in operation in some Class A Police Stations as from 2000.

In the context of the proposed reorganisation of the Police Force, the review of the roster of duties of the Police Officers posted in Police stations will be taken into consideration by the Commissioner of Police.

POLICE TRAINING ACADEMY – SETTING UP

(No. B/1252) Dr. P. Ramloll (Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the project for the setting up of a Police Academy, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

(a) its aims and objectives, and
(b) if a site has been identified and, if so, when works are likely to start.

Reply: In the context of the modernisation of the Police Force and with a view to enhancing its institutional and operational effectiveness, the Commissioner of Police has submitted a proposal for the establishment of a Police Training Academy.
The aim of the proposed Police Training Academy is to provide a modern training centre with up to date facilities and equipment. It will be a fully comprehensive and integrated training institution to respond to the present and future needs of all branches of the Police Force.

The Academy is expected to provide ongoing training to police officers, inter alia, in modern policing, psychology, occupational safety and health, first aid, interviewing techniques, human trafficking, human rights principles, leadership, strategic planning, criminal investigation and drug control.

There is an imperative need for the Police Force to have a modern training infrastructure with all support facilities as the Police Training School of Beau Bassin, which was established in 1955 does not cater to the exigencies of the Force for modern training.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that a site has been identified in the region of La Tour Koenig at Pointe aux Sables for the setting up of Police Training Academy. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has advised the Police Department to carry out an economic and technical feasibility study of the project. Appropriate procedures will be initiated for the implementation of the project on completion of the feasibility study.

**MR C. E -- POLICE SHOT**

(No. B/1253) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will state if Government will consider compensating one Mr C. E. of Pointe aux Sables who was shot by the Police in 1982 in a bungalow in Black River, as a result of mistaken identity and which led him to being physically handicapped.

*(Withdrawn)*

**MISSING PERSONS - INQUIRIES**

(No. B/1254) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to persons who have been reported missing since January to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof, indicating if searches or inquiries are being carried out thereinto to find them and the outcome thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since January 2007 to 30 November 2007, 679 persons have been reported missing to the Police. Out of these, 592 persons have been found safe, 17 have been found dead and 70 are still missing.

Police is actively enquiring into the cases with a view to tracing them out.

In all cases where a person is reported missing, a message tagged ‘Urgent Priority’ is circulated throughout the Force by the Police Headquarters Operations Room, whereby different units of the Police such as the Special Supporting Unit, GIPM, Police Dog and Police Helicopter are called in to look for the missing person. Searches and enquiries are conducted by Regular Police, CID and other Units with a view to tracing out the missing person and Police actions in such cases are governed by Police Standing Order No. 117.
INDEPENDENT COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATION BUREAU – SETTING UP

(No. B/1255) Mr. A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, he will state if Government proposes to introduce legislation with a view to set up a Police des Polices and, if so, when.

Reply: It is Government’s intention, as spelt out in my reply to PQ B/1099 at the sitting of 20 November 2007, to come up with the setting up of the Independent Complaints Investigation Bureau.

SCHOOLS (PRIMARY) - DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER – PROMOTION EXERCISE

(No. B/1293) Mr. G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether in regard to the promotion exercise to the grade of Assistant Head Teacher, he will state if there is any disagreement between the primary school teachers unions and his Ministry.

Reply: I wish to inform the House that the grade of Assistant Head Teacher does not exist on the establishment of the Ministry, there is in fact a grade of Deputy Head Teacher. Moreover, I am not aware of any formal disagreement between the primary school teachers unions and my Ministry.

However, it seems some unions are not agreeable to any change in the actual mode of promotion to the grade of Deputy Head Teacher which is by seniority. This dissatisfaction is being voiced out in the context of the forthcoming Pay Research Bureau Report 2008.

I wish to point out to the House that according to Section 14(b) of PSC Regulation which reads as follows -

14(1) In exercising its powers in connection with the appointment or promotion of officers in the public service, the Commission shall have regard to the maintenance of the high standard of efficiency necessary in the public service and shall -

“In the case of officers in the public service take into account qualifications, experience and merit before seniority in the public service”.

Both in the Public Service as a whole and the education sector in particular, appointments can be made either by selection or by promotion as provided for in the Scheme of Service for the post to be filled. In the case of a post which is filled by promotion, generally from one grade to another within a cadre, seniority is taken into account but is not the sole or absolute criterion for promotion. The other non lesser, criteria of qualifications, experiences and merit are also taken into account through confidential reports and ad hoc reports on work and conduct. It is to be noted that as per Scheme of Service, the post of Deputy Head Teacher is filled by “promotion on the basis of work experience and merit of officers from the grade of Teacher/Senior Teacher”. Seniority contrary to what is perceived by some has never been the sole or absolute criterion.

Moreover, I wish to point out that the PRB had recommended in 2003 that a Performance Management System (PMS) be introduced in all the Ministries. The philosophy of PMS rests on the premise that the best performing officer be promoted. My Ministry has, therefore to ensure that the reforms agenda in the education sector takes into account the overarching principle of performance without neglecting the other criteria in identifying and committing resources for the delivery of a World Class Quality Education.

SCHOOLS – RESUMPTION OF STUDIES, REGISTRATION, ETC.

(No. B/1294) Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether in regard to the resumption of studies in the primary and secondary schools for the year 2008, he will state if –

(a) he has held any meeting with the different Unions concerning their grievances, if any, and
(b) obtain from the Private Secondary Schools Authority, information as to whether it has been advised of the closing down of any private secondary school.

Reply: As an integral part of the ongoing educational reforms programme, there are standing arrangements for officials of my Ministry who act specifically as Desk Officers for different subject areas to meet Trade Unions both on a regular and an ad hoc basis to sort out industrial relation issues. The process works out well and it is only as a matter of last resort when there is a dead lock i.e when a particular trade Union and the official side are unable to progress towards a satisfactory solution to an outstanding problem that the Minister steps in to exceptionally meet that trade union.

I am informed that meetings have been held on a regular basis with all recognized trade unions of the Education Sector and at which all outstanding issues are transacted including, those related to resumption of studies which any trade Union may wish to raise.

Independently of these meetings, my Ministry has been working since 2006 on a set programme for resumption of studies in order to plan, coordinate and ensure smooth implementation of the various activities. The House will appreciate that the resumption of studies in 2006 and 2007 were neither “houleuse” nor “chaude”. On the basis of planning and forecast, the January 2008 resumption of studies is not likely to be different but if there are problems which crop up at any point in time these will be addressed accordingly. For the January 2008 resumption of studies a final presentation of arrangements/activities was made at
the Ministry on 14 October 2007. It is precisely on the basis of this programme that it has been possible to complete the exercise for the transfer of Primary School teachers, for the first time, in mid-November instead of as late as beginning of January as it used to be in the past. Similarly, a number of initiatives are being taken like for example the briefing session for the “Bridging the Gap” project for all Standard I teachers.

As regards part (b) of the question, the reply is in the negative. I am informed by the PSSA that all the grant-aided private secondary schools which were in operation in 2007 have been re-registered for the academic year 2008 although some of them which are compliant to only 50% of the requirements have been registered provisionally and will be requested to upgrade their facilities in the course of next year. The PSSA is closely monitoring the situation.

**MON CHOISY PUBLIC BEACH – TOILET BLOCK**

(No. B/1295) Mr R. Guttee (First Member for Grand’ Baie and Poudre d’Or) asked the Minister of Local Government whether in regard to the Mon Choisy public beach, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Beach Authority, information as to whether it will consider the advisability of –

(a) putting up one more toilet block, and  
(b) installing lighting thereat.

Reply: I am informed by the Beach Authority that it will construct a new toilet block at the Mon Choisy public beach which will be more spacious in replacement of the existing one which is in a deplorable condition. Works will start in January 2008.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that tenders for the provision of 30 lighting poles have already been launched and works will start in January 2008.

**TEC – RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE**

(No. B/1379) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the restructuring exercise being carried out at the Tertiary Education Commission, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commission, information as to –

(a) the names, qualifications and experience of the individuals involved therein;  
(b) if an appropriate resource mapping has been carried out _a priori_;  
(c) how may cadres thereat are qualified in higher education or policy development, and  
(d) the research work carried out and published by its staff.

Reply: In view of the developments in the higher education sector and the expanded role of TEC, I wish to inform the House that the TEC Board has approved the principle of a restructuring exercise. As this is a major one, management has undertaken a first diagnostic exercise taking into account the mission, vision, objectives, activities, functions and responsibilities of TEC to determine a different structure for the TEC.
As regards part (a) for this diagnostic exercise, a Committee chaired by Hon Justice B. Domah, Board Member and comprising Acting Executive Director TEC and Administrative Consultant (Mr. D. Sookhoo) was set up.

It is premature to envisage a full resource mapping without Board’s approval and recommendation of this first diagnostic exercise. In case, the diagnosis reveals that there is a need for a resource mapping, a decision will be taken in due course by the TEC Board.

As regards part (c) of the question, I am informed that as per the Scheme of Service, all officers at senior level at the TEC are required to have postgraduate degrees and/or PhD’s although not necessarily in higher education or policy development where it is difficult in the local market to specifically recruit staff with such a profile.

It is not incumbent upon the Staff of the Commission to carry out research for publications in refereed journals. However, the staff is required to carry out research for assisting in decision making and policy formulation. I am tabling the items of research carried out by the staff of the Commission, which illustrates that they are involved in their daily duties in research work in policy formulation and higher education.

**STCM LTD – BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

(No. B/1380) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Co-operatives whether, in regard to the STCM Ltd, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to the business activities in which the company has entered so far, indicating the names of the business partners thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the STC that up to now, STCM has been importing yellow split peas, butter beans and full cream milk powder.

The other information asked for is being compiled.

**STC – FLOUR – IMPORTATION**

(No. B/1381) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Co-operatives whether, in regard to the importation of flour from China, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to the names of the officers involved in the drafting of the contract, if any, after the negotiations had been finalised in China.

Reply: I am informed by the STC that, in regard to the importation of flour from China, no agreement has yet been signed.

A draft contract is being prepared by the technical staff of the STC under the supervision of the General Manager, and would be vetted by the Solicitor General’s Office.
LE CORNU, STE CROIX - SPORT COMPLEX

(No. B/1299) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the project for the construction of a sport complex at Le Cornu, he will state if he has had a meeting with the Comité Vigilence de Ste Croix.

Reply: I presume that my colleague is referring to the Fédération Groupes Sainte Croix. I am given to understand that the members of the Comité Vigilence de Ste Croix now form part of the Federation.

In my reply to Parliamentary Question No. B/1189 last week, I have already informed the House that I was liaising with the Ministry of Housing and Lands with a view to identifying a suitable site which would be acceptable to all parties concerned, especially the Forces Vives of the region.

In fact, I met some representatives of the Fédération Groupes Sainte Croix on Sunday 25 November last and apprised them of the situation.

I would like again to reassure the House that arrangements will be made for the setting up of the sports complex on obtention of the appropriate extent of land from the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

My colleague, the Minister of Housing and Lands and myself, will meet the stakeholders shortly to sort out matters.
AFRICAN SWINE FEVER - PIG BREEDERS ASSOCIATION - MEETINGS

(No. B/1300) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries whether, in regard to the African swine fever, he will state when he last met the members of the Pig Breeders Association, indicating whether there have been developments since then.

Reply: Since the outbreak of the African swine fever, I have been maintaining regular contact with members of the Pig Breeders Association through official meetings, visits on infected farms and by phone to solicit their collaboration for the effective implementation of measures taken to control the spread of the disease and to inform them of the different decisions taken by Government to assist them in this difficult situation and to eventually help them to relaunch their activities.

The last formal meeting I had with the breeders and technical staff of my Ministry was on Saturday 17 November 2007 to follow up the situation. During that meeting, I had impressed upon the breeders to collaborate in the stamping out process so as not to cause unnecessary delay in the repopulation exercise. I am glad to report that most of the breeders have followed our guidance.

My Ministry is encouraging the pig breeders to engage in new activities to enable them to earn some revenue in addition to the monthly income support. In this context, the Federation of Pig Breeders has been authorised to import 30 tons of frozen pork cuts so far. A next consignment is expected shortly. On the other hand, the Federation of Pig Cooperatives has been granted an import permit for the importation of 30 tons of frozen pork from South Africa. Other import permits will be granted upon demand.

Moreover, 2,000 day old chicks and 250 ducklings are being supplied weekly free of charge to interested pig breeders through the Pig Cooperatives. Till date, 6,000 day old chicks and 500 ducklings have been distributed.

The FAO has favourably responded to the request of my Ministry for the services of an expert to assist in –

(a) a post culling zero surveillance strategy using antibody Elisa technique; and
(b) dispensing appropriate training to the laboratory personnel.

The expert, Mrs Alison Rubisi from Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute of South Africa has arrived on 22 November 2007 and will stay in Mauritius for three weeks.

Yesterday, I had a meeting with the representatives of Pig Breeders Associations, Development Bank of Mauritius, Empowerment Programme and other relevant stakeholders. The Expert delegated by the FAO also attended the meeting. I impressed on the representatives of breeders on biosecurity measures and the full support in speeding up the stamping out process. In addition to the support being already provided, I invited them to work in close collaboration with the Empowerment Programme for the relaunching of pig breeding activities.
Breeders were also made aware that FAO will put at the disposal of DVS 10,000 doses of antigen elisa kit to diagnose pigs, with a view to carrying out continuous assessment of pigs in low risk areas.

I also informed them that the Solidarity Fund for Pig Breeders will be launched on Wednesday 12 December 2007. The objects of the Fund shall be to pay to pig farmers such sum as the Committee may determine as compensation in respect of any pig which has been destroyed as a result of a disease; to procure in exceptional cases financial assistance to pig farmers who have incurred severe financial losses as a result of a disease or a natural calamity that has adversely affected their pigs and; to procure such other assistance to pig farmers as the Committee may determine.

Government has agreed to provide a seed capital of Rs1 m. from the Prime Minister’s Solidarity and Relief Fund. An appeal has been made to the private sector to contribute generously to the Fund. The National Solidarity Fund established under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions has also been approached to contribute to the Fund. I would invite hon. Members of this Assembly to also bring in their contribution.

The hon. Member may rest assured that everything is being done at the level of my Ministry, to assist the pig breeders in this difficult situation.

**LA CITADELLE – LIVE CONCERTS**

(No. B/1301) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from Discover Mauritius Ltd, information as to whether live concerts are scheduled to take place at *La Citadelle* during the coming months.

*(Withdrawn)*

**RICE (RATION) - SUPPLY**

(No. B/1302) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Co-operatives whether, in regard to ration rice, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to whether there is presently a shortage thereof on the local market and, if so, the measures he proposes to take to ensure a regular supply thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*
BELMONT CEMETERY – BUS SHELTERS

(No. B/1303) Mr D. Rucktooa (Second Member for Grand’ Baie & Poudre d’Or) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether he will state if he will consider the advisability of having two bus shelters constructed near the Belmont Cemetery.

(Withdrawn)

CONSTITUENCY NO. 8 – BUS SHELTERS

(No. B/1304) Dr. P. Ramloll (Third Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether he is aware that there is an insufficient number of bus shelters in rural areas, particularly in Constituency No. 8 Quartier Militaire and Moka and, if so, will he state if he proposes to invite private companies and sponsors to put up additional ones thereat.

(Withdrawn)

SPORTS MEDICINE - SEMINARS

(No. B/1305) Dr. P. Ramloll (Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to seminars organized by his Ministry and the federations on sports medicines, he will state –

(a) if there has been any follow up of those held in 2006-2007, and
(b) the ones programmed for 2007-2008 as at todate, indicating where matters stand.

Reply: My Ministry in collaboration with the National Olympic Committee and other stakeholders organized the following seminars for the benefit of athletes and the sporting community:

(i) the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA), Education Travelling seminar from 16-17 March 2007;
(ii) three half day seminars on sports medicine, first aid, psychology and anti doping matters for all athletes and officials participating in the Indian Ocean Island Games in July 2007, and
(iii) a three-day workshop on the orthopedic aspects of sports injuries from 10 to 12 November 2007.

The aims of these workshops are to sensitize athletes and officials on the various aspects of sports medicine and anti doping matters to make them more responsible. This is an ongoing exercise and regular monitoring is undertaken by the Sports Medical and the Anti Doping Units of my Ministry.

I would like to add that since Mauritius joined the World Anti Doping Agency, we are benefitting from expertise from this agency.
As regards part (b) of the question, I would like to inform the House that, in addition to the ongoing sensitisation campaigns, my Ministry proposes to organize one Sports Medicine seminar prior to each international sports event in 2008, that is, the CJSOI Games in July, the Olympic Games in August, and the Junior Commonwealth Games in October.

**SADC/ECONOMIC UNION COMMISSION – TRADE DEALS**

(No. B/1306) Dr. R. Mungur (Second Member for Flacq and Bon Accueil) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Co-operation whether, in regard to the Economic Partnership Agreement and the expiry of the World Trade Organisation Waiver on 31 December, he will state –

(a) the number of new trade deals being effected between the SADC and the Economic Union Commission, and

(b) the issues that will be addressed such as goods, investment rules and services.

*(Withdrawn)*

**SSRN HOSPITAL - AMBULANCES**

(No. B/1307) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the ambulances attached to the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam National Hospital at Pamplemousses, he will state the number thereof, indicating if new ones have recently been purchased and, if so, when and whether they are operational.

**REPLY:** Eight ambulances including one SAMU ambulance for general cases and one for Neo-natal cases are posted at Health region 2, SSRN Hospital.

Three additional ambulances have been purchased on 26 September 2007 for replacement of SAMU ambulances and these have been posted at J. Nehru, Victoria and Flacq Hospitals respectively.

I am informed that the ambulance fleet at SSRN Hospital is adequate and there is no problem for the conveyance of patients in that health region. Moreover, that hospital was provided with one SAMU ambulance only in August 2005.

Furthermore, I wish to inform the House that there is also one ambulance posted at the Cardiac Centre of Pamplemousses.