IBA - CHAIRPERSON & SECRETARY – OVERSEAS MISSIONS

(No. B/345) 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 the overseas missions undertaken by the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Independent Broadcasting Authority since January 2006 to January 2007, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to if—

(a) the missions were approved by the Board, and
(b) they were granted any entertainment allowance over and above the *per diem* paid to them.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Director of the Independent Broadcasting Authority that the overseas missions undertaken by the Chairperson and the Administrative and Board Secretary between January 2006 and January 2007 were ratified by the Board.

The Board also approved the payment of an entertainment allowance to the Chairperson, over and above the *per diem* allowance paid to him, at the rate of US Dollar 90 per night for the duration of the missions.
GLUCOMETERS – PURCHASE

(No. B/377) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the last exercise for the purchase of glucometers, he will state –

(a) the name of the supplier;
(b) the number purchased, indicating the cost per unit;
(c) if deliver has been made according to the terms and conditions of the contract, and
(d) the number of glucometers found not to be in compliance with the specifications and which were returned to the supplier.

Reply: As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed that the last tender exercise for the purchase of glucometers and strips for testing glucose in blood was started in January 2006. The exercise was completed in September 2006 and after approval of the Central Tender Board, the contract was awarded to Messrs Bikspharma Ltée.

Regarding part (b), I am informed that the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has purchased only the test strips as the glucometers are provided free of charge with the strips. In fact, 60,000 boxes of test strips have been ordered at the rate of Rs230 per box. In addition, the supplier has provided 1,000 apparatuses free of charge.

With regard to part (c), in the bid the supplier had mentioned that the make of the glucometers and the strips was “Glucosensor”. However, the sample assessed by the evaluators was of make “Glusensor” and the items delivered were according to the sample submitted for evaluation. The attention of the supplier was drawn immediately to difference in make. The supplier replied that there was a misspelling of the word “Glusensor” by their principal in China.

On 30 January 2007, the evaluators who had carried out the evaluation exercise confirmed that the apparatus originally tested by them was of the same make as the one supplied.
As regards part (d), no glucometer has been found to be non compliant. However, as per reports received from the five regional hospitals, out of 684 glucometers issued by the Central Supplies Division only eight apparatuses were not functioning properly at Flacq Hospital and three at Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital. There was in all only eleven apparatuses out of 684 which were found to be faulty, i.e about 1.6%. The supplier has already replaced these apparatuses.

PRIMARY SCHOOL – TELEGU LANGUAGE – SUPERVISOR

(No. B/393) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the posts of supervisor, for the Telegu language at primary level, he will state if vacancies exist in respect thereof and, if so, since when.

Reply: There is only one post of Supervisor of Oriental Languages (Telugu) at my Ministry. I wish to inform the House that the post is vacant since 22 February 2007 following the retirement of the substantive holder.

Action has already been initiated by my Ministry to request the Public Service Commission to promote the senior-most Assistant Supervisor (Oriental Languages) (Telugu) as Supervisor of Oriental Languages (Telugu) with effect from 22 February 2007.

PRISONS – HIV/AIDS

(No. B/394) Dr. A. Husnoo (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to HIV and AIDS in the prisons, he will state –
(a) the number of inmates who are confirmed as being HIV positive and who have contracted AIDS, and
(b) if any screening programme exists thereat for the detection thereof.
**Reply:** I am informed that the number of prison inmates who are confirmed as being HIV positive is 438, out of whom 39 are in AIDS stage.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am also informed that screening tests are being carried out for all incoming detainees on a voluntary basis after counselling and informed consent.

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**CAMP MARCELIN – VOLLEYBALL PITCH**

(No. B/395) Dr. R. Mungur (Second Member for Flacq and Bon Accueil) asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the volleyball pitch at Camp Marcelin, he will state where matters stand as to its becoming operational.

**Reply:** The scheme for the construction of the volleyball pitch at Camp Marcelin was allotted to the Development Works Corporation (DWC). But following the decision to wind up the DWC, work has stopped and minor outstanding works remain to be completed.

I have personally had two meetings and have undertaken several site visits with Forces Vives and representatives of the area and the general impression has been that there is a need for additional amenities.

Negotiations have consequently been held with Constance Sugar Estate, which has agreed to make available an additional plot of land adjoining the existing project.

It is therefore contemplated, in consultation with the Forces Vives and other stakeholders of the locality, to proceed with an integrated sports complex project for the benefit of the inhabitants of the region at large.
DEVELOPMENT WORKS CORPORATION - PROJECTS

(No. B/396) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the projects which were being implemented by the Development Works Corporation at the time of its closure, he will table a list thereof which have been stopped.

Reply: At the time of the announcement of the closure of the DWC, delays had accumulated on several projects. DWC was allowed to complete works nearing completion. Action was initiated to contract out the other projects through tender procedures.

I am tabling the list as requested.

MEDCO COLLEGES – BOARD MEMBERS

(No. B/397) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the MEDCO colleges, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom information as to –

(a) the composition of its Board, and
(b) a list of its Managers

Reply: I wish to inform the House that MEDCO is a private company and the affairs of the company are regulated by its Board. I am tabling information requested as per parts (a) and (b) of the question.
DEVELOPMENT WORKS CORPORATION – ASSETS - SURVEY

(No. B/398) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Development Works Corporation, he will state if the Technical Committee set up to carry out a survey of its assets, following its closure, is currently negotiating with Betonix for the disposal of any of its assets.

Reply: There is no negotiation taking place with Betonix for the sale of any asset of the DWC except for the sale of DWC shares in Fine Crush Ltd of which DWC and Betonix are strategic partners.

VALE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – EXTENSION WORKS

(No. B/399) Mr R. Guttee (Third Member for Grand’ Baie and Poudre d’Or) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware that works for the extension of the Vale Government School which were started by the Development Works Corporation have stopped since a long time and, if so, will he state the remedial measures that are envisaged.

Reply: The extension of the Vale Government School comprises a toilet block, covered link and the upgrading of the football ground. This contract was awarded to the DWC in August 2005 and works due for completion in July 2006 were excessively delayed.

Subsequent to the Government’s decision to close the DWC, the following outstanding works -

(i) internal and external rendering;
(ii) plumbing and electrical installation;
(iii) finishing works, such as tiling, painting; and
(iv) the upgrading of the football pitch

were awarded to another contractor after a new tender exercise and will be completed in July 2007.
OUTLINE SCHEME - APPROVAL

(No.B/400) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas & Floreal) asked the Minister of Housing & Lands whether, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Town and Country Planning Board, information as to how long it takes for the Board to notify an applicant of its decision.

Reply: I am advised that the Board considers two types of applications, as follows -

First

Representations from land owners following the deposit of an Outline Scheme or subsequent modification thereof.

In such cases, once the representations have been examined and a decision taken by the Board to approve or modify, as appropriate, the Outline Scheme, the relevant documents are submitted to the President of the Republic for his approval. Thereafter, action is initiated for the publication of the notice in the Government Gazette to declare the Scheme or the modified Scheme to be in force.

The decision of the Board is communicated to the persons who have made the representations only after publication of the notice in the Gazette.

In principle, it takes about eight weeks to notify the persons making the representations of the Board’s decision.

Second

Appeals made against decisions of Local Authorities regarding the issue of Building and Land Use Permits.

Once an appeal has been heard and a decision taken by the Board, the Minister’s approval to confirm, vary or revise the Local Authority’s decision, is sought. The appellant is informed of the decision thereafter.

The general time frame for such cases is three weeks, on average.
HIV/AIDS - BASIC INVALIDITY PENSION - BENEFICIARIES

(No. B/401) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas & Floreal) asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to the beneficiaries of the Basic Invalidity Pension who suffer from HIV/AIDS, she will state the number thereof—

(a) as at July 2005, and
(b) as at February 2006.

Reply: The number of beneficiaries of the Basic Invalidity Pension who suffer from HIV/AIDS is, as at July 2005, 847 and, as at February 2006, 839.