WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MBC – NEWS BROADCAST

(No. B/9) 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 he is aware that the broadcasting of news at the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation is not in keeping with the provisions of the MBC Act, that is, in a fair and balanced manner and, if so, will he state the remedial actions which he proposes to take.

Reply: The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation is governed by the legal provisions of the MBC Act and I am advised that it is doing its level best to adopt a fair and balanced approach in the broadcasting of news. Aggrieved parties, if any, can avail themselves of the provisions of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act to file any complaint against the MBC.

ECROIGNARD, MR F. – ADVISER
– TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

(No. B/10) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second 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, in regard to Mr François Ecroignard, Adviser in Communication Matters to the hon. Attorney-General, Minister of Justice & Human Rights, he will state why his contract has been terminated.

(Vide reply to PQ No. B/7)
(No. B/11) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second 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, in regard to the end-of-year party organised by the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation for its employees he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to –

(a) the total expenditure incurred;
(b) the restaurant where the party was held, indicating the names of its owner and of the caterer, and
(c) if the amount claimed has been settled and, if not, why not.

Reply: I am informed by the Director General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that an end-of-year party was organised in December 2006 by the MBC Welfare Committee.

The total expenditure incurred in respect of the party amounts to Rs440,400.00

The party was held on the MBC premises and the catering services for food and snacks were provided by Green Lagoon Restaurant. I am informed, the latter was selected as the lowest bidder following the launching of quotations.

Claims representing an amount of Rs200,400.00 have already been settled and those from Green Lagoon Restaurant are still being examined by the Management of MBC.
ASSAULT CASES – AUGUST 2005 TO 21 MARCH 2005

(No. B/12) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second 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 Commissioner of Police, information as to -

(a) the number of reported cases of assaults since August 2005 to date, indicating the number thereof which resulted in death, and
(b) the additional measures taken or being taken to reinforce security.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since August 2005 to 21 March 2007, the number of reported cases of assaults is 20,280 out of which 55 have resulted in death.

These cases are investigated in accordance with the established procedures for the collection of evidence, scientific examination of the locus, scene of crime or incident, recording of statement within a reasonable delay.

As regards, part (b) of the question, I have already enumerated the measures taken to reinforce law and order in my reply to parliamentary question B/6.
KING FISH II AND V FISHING VESSELS  
– DISAPPEARANCE AT SEA

(No. B/13) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands) 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 disappearance at sea of the fishing vessels King Fish II and V, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

(a) where matters stand as regards to the search operations, and
(b) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

(Vide reply to PQ No. B/8)

SWIMMING POOLS (PRIVATE) – SAFETY MEASURES

(No. B/14) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands) 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 children who have been victims of accidents in private swimming pools, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases, since July 2005 to date.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that two such cases have been reported to the police since July 2005 to date.

The Government is conscious of the need to reinforce safety measures around private swimming pools in order to avoid such tragedies.

In view of the inherent dangers of swimming pools, especially to children, the Ministry of Youth and Sports has prepared some guidelines on safety and security measures around private swimming pools. These guidelines have been submitted to the Ministry of Local Government which will forward a copy thereof to all owners of private swimming pools for their guidance. Moreover, these guidelines will henceforth form part of the conditions for the grant of a building and land use permit, where applicable.
ANTI-PIRACY UNIT/BRIGADE DES JEUX – CENTRAL CID
SUPERVISION

(No. B/15) 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, in regard to the Anti-Piracy Unit and the Brigade des Jeux, he will, for the Benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the reasons for the recent changes at the Head thereof.

Reply: I am advised that as from 19 March 2007, the Commissioner of Police has placed the “Police des Jeux” and the Anti-Piracy Unit under the command of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (CID). These two sub-units now form part of the Central CID and their day-to-day activities are supervised by the Head of the MCIT.

I am informed that these changes have been made by the Commissioner of Police in the best interests of the service and based on the need to achieve the operational objectives of the Police Force which aim at ensuring the overall organisational effectiveness and efficiency of all Police Units in the fight against crime.

It is felt that the ADSU, being relieved of these additional responsibilities, is henceforth more poised to lead a relentless fight against the drug scourge.

I would like to stress the fact that these two units have not been disbanded as speculated by a certain section of the press. But they have only been placed under a new command.

(No. B/16) 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, in regard to offences, including larceny, burglary, sexual assaults and rapes, committed against tourist since October 2006 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

(a) the number of -

   (i) reported cases ;
   (ii) cases in which prosecution has been initiated, and

(b) the value of property alleged to have been stolen.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that for the period of October 2006 to date, the offences committed against tourists are as follows –

Number of cases of larceny / burglary reported: 326
Number of cases of rape reported: 1
Number of cases of sexual assault: nil
Value of property alleged to have been stolen: Rs8,473,545.

All the cases are pending enquiry.

In view of the importance of the tourism sector in our economy, this Government is fully committed to creating the necessary conditions to make it become one of the main engines of growth through a more coherent strategy involving all stakeholders including the Police. It is a fact that security is a major determining factor influencing tourist arrivals. In this context, in addition to normal policing arrangements provided by the different units of the Force, the following additional measures have been taken -

(a) the entire mandate of the Police du Tourisme has been reviewed and the duties assigned to this Unit have been redefined with new responsibilities;
(b) Furthermore, with a view to increasing the investigative skills of officers of the *Police du Tourisme* in dealing with complaints from tourists, a tourism related investigation course has been dispensed to selected officers of the said Unit from 23 October 2006 to 28 October 2006 at the Police Training School, Beau Bassin;

(c) The officers from the *Police du Tourisme* are also attending various conferences, meetings and seminars with all the stakeholders involved in the tourism sector with a view to examining the areas of weaknesses and coordinating the activities of each stakeholder. Tourists are advised on precautions to be taken and some identified bad spots that need to be avoided;

(d) Several major joint operations involving different agencies of the Police Force such as Local Police, Divisional Support Unit, CID, ADSU, SSU and SMF are being carried out near affected areas and on spots where the exposure of tourist is predominant;

(e) The Police is also envisaging to train a number of officers in different foreign languages with a view to facilitating interaction with tourists for a more speedy, rapid and prompt service, hence saving time in enlisting the services of interpreters/translator;

(f) Regular interactions with hotel managers and security officers on crime prevention initiative and safety precautions to be taken by tourists to protect their money and valuables;

(g) The provision of a 24-hour service information counter at the airport terminal to inform the tourists about the contact numbers of the Police and other emergency institutions in case of need and help, and

(h) The Police Bike Patrol Unit also maintains regular patrols at beaches, hotels and other sports which attract visitors.

Moreover, in view of the increasing number of alleged cases of thefts and assaults on tourists, a Steering Committee has been set up in November 2006, under the chairmanship of the Permanent Secretary of my office to address the issue of tourist security in Mauritius.
KING FISH II AND V FISHING VESSELS – DISAPPEARANCE AT SEA

(No. B/17) 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 disappearance at sea of 17 bank fishermen during the passage of cyclone Gamede, he will state if Government is considering the advisability of setting up a Commission of Inquiry.

(Vide reply to PQ B/8)

CONSTITUENCY NO. 4 – MPs/AGENT - INCIDENTS

(No. B/18) 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 he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases, since 2000 to date, in which Members of the National Assembly of the Constituency No. 4 have encountered problems with their constituents?

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, apart from the incidents which occurred during the two last general election campaigns involving mainly agents and candidates of different political parties and which have been dealt with accordingly, no cases have been reported against, or by, any member of the National Assembly in constituency No. 4, except the one involving hon. B. Juggoo at Vallée des Prêtres and Montagne Longue.
MR D. R. – DEATH – MONTAGNE BLANCHE POLICE STATION

(No. B/19) 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 one Mr D. R. who was killed during the night of 11 March 2007 on the premises of the Montagne Blanche Police Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, the outcome thereof.

Reply: With your permission, Sir, I would like to answer to the Parliamentary Questions B/19 and B/27 together as they relate to the same issue.

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 11 March 2007 at about 16 50 hours, Mr D. R. came to report a case of arson at the Montagne Blanche Police Station. Whilst he was in the yard, one Mr I. M. arrived in his private van. Mr D. R. approached Mr I. M. and the latter stabbed him in the abdomen.

Mr I. M was immediately arrested and the victim was conveyed to the Flacq Hospital where the treating doctor certified that he had already passed away.

On the same day at 20 00 hours, the Chief Police Medical Officer carried out a postmortem and certified that the death of Mr D. R. was due to “stab wounds at the abdomen”.

On 13 March 2007, a provisional charge for murder was lodged against Mr I. M at the Moka District Court and he was subsequently remanded to police cell. On 19 March 2007, he made an appeal for a bail motion which has now been fixed for 28 March 2007.

The enquiry is still in progress and after completion, the case will be forwarded to the Director of Public Prosecution for advice.

As regards part (b) of Parliamentary Question B/27, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that a Police Station offers policing services on
24 hour basis to the general public. Although the movement of visitors is closely monitored, it is quite difficult to know the exact nature of their visits and their intention. However, all Police officers have been instructed anew to be more alert and vigilant as regards the movement of persons calling at the stations.

**SC/HSC EXAMINATION FEES – SUBSIDIES**

(No. B/20) 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 new scheme of subsidies for the SC and HSC examinations fees, he will state if he has received a letter from the Plateforme Nationale and, if so, will he state if he proposes to bring any changes thereto.

**Reply:** Yes, I have indeed received a letter from the *Plateforme Nationale*. However, I considered it more appropriate to meet the parents and students as they are the ones who are directly concerned with the issue. I have always favoured dialogue and it is in this spirit that I met them for an exchange of views. I heard their concerns and apprehensions and on my side I explained to them the rationale behind the new scheme which takes into account -

(a) the present difficult economic situation;  
(b) the challenges on the international front including the triple shock, and  
(c) the need to offer better social protection to the most needy of our citizens.

As the House is aware, the Government has given due consideration to the arguments of the parents and students and agreed, in spite of the very difficult economic situation, that exceptionally for this year, 25% of the cost of the examination fees would be paid by Government for the students not already benefiting from a subsidy under the new policy.

The system for this year would, therefore, be as follows -
Government would meet -

(a) the full cost of examinations fees of students whose parents are beneficiaries of social aid, Unemployment Hardship Relief and Basic Pensions and those whose monthly income is up to Rs7,500;

(b) 50% of the cost of examination fees of the students in cases where more than one student in a household would be sitting for SC or HSC examinations provided that the monthly income of the household is between Rs7,500 and Rs10,000, and

(c) 25% of the cost of examination fees for other students.

The cost of subsidising the SC and HSC examination fees this year would be between Rs140 m. and Rs150 m. This would be financed by a reallocation from the budget on tourism promotion and from contribution from the Hotel and Banking Sector.

MS Z. B. – PRISONS - VISITS

(No. B/21) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien) 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 Prisons, information as to if one Ms Z. B. has been recently visiting the prisons and, if so –

(a) in what capacity,
(b) the reasons therefore, and
(c) the frequency of her visits.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Prisons that during the period May 2006 to February 2007, one Ms Z. B. visited the Beau Bassin Prison on 28 occasions and the Phoenix Prison on 3 occasions. I am also informed that she presented herself as a legal counsel to visit detainees.
It was later found by the Prison Authorities that her name does not appear on the list of practicing counsels.

I view this matter with serious concern. It is clear that there have been flaws in the control mechanism in place in the prisons and no proper supervision has been exercised by prison staff on the visits effected by legal counsels.

A Departmental Enquiry at the level of the Prisons Department has been set up to situate responsibilities on this matter. The case has also been reported to the Police for a thorough investigation.

In the light of the findings of the Departmental Enquiry, disciplinary action, as appropriate, will be initiated against the concerned officers.

Furthermore, the procedures regarding the visits of legal counsels to Prisons have been reviewed. In this respect, the Commissioner of Prisons has issued clear guidelines regarding such visits so as to avoid recurrence of such incident.

**TRAINEE POLICE OFFICERS – RECRUITMENT**

(No. B/22) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal) 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 last recruitment of trainee Police Officers he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the newspapers in which the advertisement was published, indicating the dates in each case.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that in regard to the last recruitment of Trainee Police Constables, the advertisement was published in l’Express and Le Mauricien on 22 December and in Sunday Vani on 28 December 2003.
CIPAYE BRULE, VALLEE DES PRETRES – INCIDENT – 11 FEBRUARY 2007

(No. B/23) 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 and Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if any incident was reported to have occurred at Cipaye Brulé, Vallée des Prêtres, on Sunday 11 February 2007, following which six inhabitants were arrested and subsequently released on bail and, if so, if an inquiry was carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

(Withdrawn)

MR LEKRAM REEKOYE – POLICE CORPORAL - TRANSFER

(No. B/24) 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 he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if one Mr R., residing at Royal Road, Montagne Longue was –

(a) transferred from the Montagne Longue Police Station, and
(b) recently arrested and suspended from duty and, if so, the reasons therefor.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that one Lekram Reekoye, Police Corporal, residing at Royal Road, Valton, Long Mountain was on 09 August 2006 transferred from Long Mountain Police Station to the Northern Division Supporting Unit and on 28 February 2007 he was transferred to the Special Mobile Force.
With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that on 02 March 2007, one Reekoye was arrested in connection with a case of “Outrage against depository of Public Authority” reported against him on 18 February 2007 at Long Mountain Police Station. On the same day he appeared before the Pamplemousses District Court and he was bailed out upon furnishing surety of Rs 2000 and Rs 300 cost.

Since criminal proceedings for the above offence are being instituted against one Reekoye, he has been interdicted from duty with effect from 02 March 2007.

MR Q. C. – DEATH – POLICE CUSTODY

(No. B/25) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal) 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 whether one Mr C. Q. died while in Police custody in January 2007 and, if so, if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof?

Reply: I wish to point out that late Q. C. did not die in Police custody. In fact, he was serving sentence for a case of ‘embezzlement’ since 16 November 2006.

I am informed by the Commissioner of Prisons that on 28 January 2007, detainee Q. C. was referred by the Prisons Medical Officer to the Jawaharlall Nehru Hospital where he was admitted to the ICU ward.

He passed away in hospital on 10 February 2007 at about 15:35 hours.

I am further informed that the cause of death, as established by the postmortem report was due to “acute pulmonary oedema”.

In accordance with section 110 of the District and Intermediate Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act, the case has also been referred to Barkly Police and investigation is on-going.
MBC – OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER

(No. B/26) 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 Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to whether an Occupational Health and Safety Officer is presently in post and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Reply: I am informed by the MBC that, in compliance with law, the Corporation has retained the services of a Safety and Health Officer, on a part-time contractual basis.

MR D. R. – DEATH – MONTAGNE BLANCHE POLICE STATION

(No. B/27) Mr L. Bundhoo (Second 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 incident which occurred on 11 March 2007 on the premises of the Montagne Blanche Police Station which led to the death of one Mr D. R., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

(a) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, the outcome thereof and

(b) the measures that are being taken to prevent such incidents.

(Vide Reply to PQ No. B/19)
CPE – STRATEGY FOR CURRICULUM REFORM

(No. B/51) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the strategy for curriculum reform approved by Government, he will state if it is proposed to abolish the Certificate of Primary Education both as a certification and a selection tool and, if so –

(a) the time frame that has been set down, and

(b) the steps that have been or will be taken to attain this objective

Reply: I wish to remind the House that the Curriculum Reform which is at the heart of the Government programme 2005-2010 is a long drawn process which started with the national debate in December 2005 and led, as a first step to the document “Towards a Quality Curriculum-Strategy for Reform”. The document was approved by Cabinet on 29 September 2006 and thereafter made public.

One has to remember that the said document is a strategic one which sets out the long term objectives of developing an education system which responds to the needs of the country while at the same time redefining society and shaping the future responsible citizens of our country.

Admittedly, the document “Towards a Quality Curriculum-Strategy for Reform” does make reference to the abolition of the CPE as the last phase of a long-term plan premised on four phases as set out in the document that I am tabling. The proposed timeframe is 3 to 4 years which will, in fact, coincide with the new assessment framework in respect of which work has already begun and is expected to be completed by 2010 or so.

After the national debate, the next step for my Ministry was the elaboration of the National Curriculum Framework. In this respect, a National Curriculum Steering Committee was set up under the chairmanship of the Director, MIE, and the Committee has submitted a first report on the Primary sector which is being examined by my Ministry. The Committee has been requested to work on the secondary sector.
A National Curriculum Advisory Committee under the chairpersonship of the Chief Technical Officer of my Ministry has also been set up. Independently of the question of curriculum and assessment, there is a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Director (Planning) of my Ministry which is considering the different options for the transition of students from primary to secondary once the new assessment framework comes into force.

The House may wish to note that Curriculum Reform is a complex exercise which normally takes a cycle of 8 to 10 years to be completed. The new process has to be properly planned and has to be trialed and tested before a full scale implementation.

L’AMITIÉ - ROYAL ROAD - FLOODING PROBLEMS

(No. B/52) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether he is aware of the problem of flooding at Royal Road, l’Amitié and which has been aggravated since 2003 and, if so, will he state the remedial measures that have been or will be taken.

Reply: I am aware of the problem of flooding at Royal Road, l’Amitié. The accumulation of water and flooding adjacent to the main road at l’Amitié are caused mainly by several residential constructions on an existing canal.

I would like to inform the House that arrangements have been made to call on the consultancy firm extending consultancy service in respect of flooding and land drainage matters to conduct a thorough survey and come up with recommendations to redress the situation.
PORT AREA – CRANES – PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

(No. B/53) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Cargo Handling Corporation, information as to whether the cranes used in the port area have been recently damaged as a result of the bad weather conditions and, if so, will he state the remedial measures that have been taken.

Reply: I am informed by the Mauritius Ports Authority that none of the three ship-to-shore cranes at the Mauritius Container Terminal sustained any damage whatsoever as a result of the bad weather conditions prevailing recently.

However, on 13 March 2007, at around 13.48 hours, whilst the operator on duty on one of the cranes, namely, crane No. 101, had stopped operations and was about to hand over the equipment to the Maintenance Contractor, Messrs SOMIM, for securing it in its pin positions, the crane started drifting abnormally towards the southern end of the Terminal due to the effects of a sudden gust of about 33 metres per second, in other words, 119 kph. The technicians of Messrs SOMIM who were on site reacted promptly by activating the storm pins and the crane stopped immediately without any damage.

As a precautionary measure and following consultation with the Maintenance Contractor, it has now been decided that all cranes would be secured as soon as gusts of the order of 16 metres per second, that is, 58 Kph are registered compared to 20 metres per second (72 Kph) previously.

I wish to inform the House that I am appointing an independent surveyor to investigate the matter and to make recommendations as appropriate.
VEGETABLES (FRESH) - IMPORTATION

(No. B/54) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries whether he will state Government policy in regard to the importation of fresh vegetables following the shortage caused by the recent cyclone.

Reply: Following the passage of cyclones, a rapid survey is normally conducted by AREU to assess the extent of damage of vegetables island wide. Based on the findings of the survey, necessary measures, such as importation of vegetables over a limited period of time, are taken to ensure that such vegetables are available to consumers.

For the recent cyclone Gamede, the extent of damage to vegetable cultivation ranged from 50% to 70%. I personally chaired a Committee on 26 February 2007 with all stakeholders to take stock of the situation and to implement measures for the importation of vegetables to make up for the shortage on the local market.

From survey and market information, the shortage of vegetables on the market was assessed and import of short supplied vegetables was recommended namely carrots, cabbages and green beans. A Committee was immediately set up at level of my Ministry to allocate quotas for imports, quantities to be imported and time frame for imports while looking into the interest of local planters and consumers to access for a choice of vegetables. A press communiqué was issued to invite potential importers to express interest for imports with closing date of 02 March 2007. AMB was requested to import a certain quantity of carrots and cabbages by air freight for immediate supply to the market.

Fifty importers expressed their interest for importation of the fresh vegetables and a shortlist of fifteen importers was drawn according to a selection criteria based on experience in imports of vegetables, and logistic facilities to ensure reliable supply of fresh vegetable to consumers and at affordable price. Out of the fifteen (15) importers to which permits were issued for week 04 to 10 March 2007, only five (5) responded. In the spirit of empowerment, an import permit was also granted to one small farmer group.
Importation of fresh vegetables is subject to compliance with the phytosanitary regulations of the National Plant Protection Office of my Ministry and certified according to the exporting countries. Importation of leafy vegetables and fresh tomatoes is strictly prohibited.

The importation of carrots, cabbages and green beans was allowed and is based on weekly consumption volumes and shortfalls obtained from estimates of production. Importation of fresh cauliflower, which is an off season commodity, has also been allowed for the general public, since importers have not been successful in the procurement of fresh quality fine beans on the foreign markets. The import quantities were graduated on weekly basis to prevent eventual supply gluts on the market.

AMB had already a buffer stock for potatoes and onions for period of one month. Since these might be consumed as substitutes food items, AMB had increased orders for imports of such commodities for the month of March 2007. They have also urgently proceeded with importation of canned tomatoes.

The situation is being closely monitored on a weekly basis to determine future imports depending on crop establishment and crop recovery which is expected to return by end of April 2007 or early May 2007.

**IRON BARS – CUSTOMS DUTY**

(No. B/55) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Co-operatives whether, in regard to iron bars, he will state if it is proposed to remove –

(a) customs duty on all iron bars imported from non-SADC countries, and
(b) that item from the list of controlled commodities and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

(Withdrawn)
SOCIO-CULTURAL/RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS – GRANTS

(No. B/56) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Arts and Culture whether he will state if it is proposed to withdraw grants allocated to socio-cultural and religious organisations and, if so, when and the reasons therefore.

Reply: (The Prime Minister) I am informed that no grant is provided to socio-cultural organisations. However, they benefit from various assistance from the Ministry of Arts and Culture subject to -

(a) a formal request being made to the Ministry;
(b) the activities for which the assistance being sought are of a cultural nature, and
(c) funds/resources being available.

Financial assistance is given for setting up salle verte, rental of halls, payment of cachet to performing artists; technical assistance is provided by Officers of the Ministry of Arts and Culture; and logistic support in respect of sound and other equipment and transport facilities.

Furthermore, my Ministry provides subsidies to religious bodies affiliated to Federations and fixed grants are provided by the Ministry of Finance to non-affiliated religious organizations.

It is not proposed to change the present policy.
RIPAILLES, ST. PIERRE – CREMATORIUM – UPGRADING

(No. B/57) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether in regard to the project for the upgrading of the crematorium at Ripailles, St. Pierre, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: In my reply to PQ B/473 in May 2006, I informed the House that the consultant of the NDU had submitted the concept, preliminary design and cost estimates for the upgrading of the cremation ground at Ripailles and that it would be implemented in due course.

I would like to inform the House that the project is being included in the Development Programme for the financial year 2007/2008. In the meantime, arrangements have been made by the Environment Division of my Ministry for the clearance of cremation ground site.
SOLERINO, MOKA AND FLACQ MAHATMA GANDHI SCHOOLS –
CLASSROOMS

(No. B/58) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and
Moka) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether in regard
to each of the Mahatma Gandhi Schools at Solferino, Moka and Flacq, he will state

(a) the number of available classrooms;
(b) which specialist rooms are available including playfields, computer
room, Design and Communications, Library, Gymnasium, Food and
Nutrition, Fashion and Fabrics, and
(c) for January 2008

(i) the number of classrooms that will be required, and
(ii) if Lower VI classes would be accommodated thereat,

and, if not, the contingencies plans, if any, that will be resorted to.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that at MGSS
Solferino, there are 16 classrooms available. For MGSS Moka, there are 28
classrooms, whereas at MGSS Flacq, 24 classrooms are available.

As regards part (b) of the question, I have been given to understand that a
Science block is available at both MGSS Moka and MGSS Solferino. For MGSS
Flacq, the Science block is presently under construction and is expected to be
completed by end May 2007.

Moreover, makeshift arrangements have been made in all the three schools
for the provision of facilities regarding I.T, Design and Communications, Library,
Food and Nutrition, Fashion and Fabrics as well as a Gymnasium. They would all
be put up within a period of 3 years and a programme has already been prepared,
but the implementation will depend upon the availability of funds. It is to be noted
that land has already been earmarked at those schools, and the global designs of
works there have already made provisions, for all those facilities.
I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the number of classrooms required for January 2008 is 24 at each of MGSS Solferino and MGSS Flacq and 18 at MGSS Moka. Thus with 28 classrooms at present, Moka MGSS already has a sufficient number of classrooms. As regards MGSS Solferino, the construction of an additional block of 12 classrooms has been projected for financial year 2007/2008 to enable that school to obtain the required number of classrooms. As for MGSS Flacq, it will obtain 4 additional classrooms when its Science block is completed in May 2007 making a total of 28 classrooms at that school.

With the policy of Government to transform all State Secondary Schools into Forms I – VI schools, the three MGSSs will also accommodate Lower VI classes within the classrooms available at the schools as from January 2008. The Hon. Member may rest assured that, should a delay in the completion of the classroom block at MGSS Solferino occur, my Ministry will make proper contingency arrangements, as has been the practice in the previous years, so as to cause minimum disruption to the students.

MAHATMA GANDHI SECONDARY SCHOOL, MOKA – BUS STOP

(No. B/59) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware that most buses plying on their way to Moka, St. Pierre, Nouvelle Découverte and Dagotière do not stop at the lay-bye at the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School, Moka, to pick up students in the afternoon and, if so, will he state the remedial steps that have been or will be taken.

Reply: I am informed by the National Transport Authority that buses do not stop near the Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School in the direction of St. Pierre as there is no bus stop or lay-by in front of the school, but further down near the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

I have requested the National Transport Authority and the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit to examine the advisability of constructing a bus stop and a bus lay-by near the school.
(No. B/60) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether he is aware of the deplorable state of the road leading from the main road to the Nouvelle Découverte Government School which is causing hardship to the students and, if so, will he urgently consider the advisability of requesting that upgrading works be carried out thereat, together with the provision for drains and pavements and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

Reply: I am informed by the Moka/Flacq District Council that patching works had recently been effected to the road leading from the main road to the Nouvelle Découverte Government School. However, due to the rainy season and with the passage of cyclone Gamede, the road in question has sustained damage.

I am further informed that the road will now have to be resurfaced with premix asphalt. The estimated cost including construction of drains and pavements on both sides of the road is Rs350,000.

Given that the Moka/Flacq District Council will not be in a position to undertake these works, due to financial constraint, my Ministry is exploring the possibility of funding same in this financial year.
ALEEMIAH COLLEGE, PHOENIX – MEDIATOR - APPOINTMENT

(No. B/61) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the Aleemiah College, Phoenix, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Private Secondary Schools Authority, information as to if a mediator was appointed to look into the problems prevailing thereat and, if so –

(a) the date he was appointed, and
(b) if he has submitted his report and, if so, will he consider the advisability of tabling a copy thereof, indicating which of the recommendations have been implemented so far.

Reply: As regards part (a) of the question, in my reply to PQ B/1587 of 05 December last, I informed the House that a mediator was appointed on 04 September 2006 to look into the circumstances which led to a deterioration of the relation between Management and the staff, and to establish the causes of such state of affairs, and to make appropriate recommendations.

As regards part (b) of the question, I also informed the House that the mediator submitted his report on 05 October 2006. However, given the situation at Aleemiah College was coming back to normal gradually, it was considered not appropriate to publish the report in full in order to avoid an unnecessary debate on the subject. It is, therefore, the policy of Government not to release the mediator’s report. However, I wish to point out here again that the 22 major recommendations contained in the mediator’s report were released to all stakeholders. A copy thereof was also tabled in the National Assembly on 05 December 2006.

The House is already aware that an Implementation Committee was subsequently set up by my Ministry to ensure the implementation by the PSSA of the recommendations contained in the mediator’s report. Up to now, most of the 22 recommendations have either been implemented already or are nearly reaching completion. These include the appointment of a new Manager, the fencing off of the boundaries between the two schools, corrective measures taken by Management to overcome problems pertaining to staff functioning as per their scheme of duties, and staff embarking on courses offered by tertiary institutions for
enhancement of their qualifications. In addition, there is presently no interference of the President of Halkae Quadria Ishaat-I-Islam or any Board member in the day-to-day running of the schools. Furthermore, the Implementation Committee is continuing its work and will ensure that the remaining recommendations are implemented within the shortest delay. I am tabling a copy of a status report from the PSSA on the 22 major recommendations contained in the mediator’s report.

I wish to add that my Ministry, in liaison with the PSSA, is closely monitoring the situation at the school and, from our point of view, the situation has considerably improved. Further, I personally met the President of the Halkae Quadria Ishaat-I-Islam on 14 March 2007 to review with him the situation at Aleemiah College and to ensure that all problems affecting the school are resolved within the set structures. I also propose to have a meeting with the Implementation Committee shortly and to effect a visit to Aleemiah College for a de visu assessment of the situation.

ALBION SHELTER FOR WOMAN & CHILDREN IN DISTRESS – CHILD DEATH

(No. B/62) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Women’s Rights, Child Development, Family Welfare & Consumer Protection whether she will state the number of inmates who passed away in the shelter of Albion from September 2006 to date, indicating whether an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

Reply: Since September 2006 to date, one child has died at the shelter for women and children in distress at Albion.

The child, a boy of around five months was found dead by the caregivers of the shelter on 06 March 2007 at around 06.00 a.m. The Police were immediately informed, and a statement was given at the Police Station of Albion by the caregiver.

The Police Medical Officer, to whom the body was referred for postmortem certified that the cause of death was due to “aspiration of regurgitated stomach contents”. Police inquiry is still in progress.
Officers of my Ministry called at the shelter on the same day for an internal inquiry. Both the person responsible for the management of the shelter and the caregiver concerned were questioned.

The caregiver reported that the baby had been fed on the eve with milk as usual, in line with established diet for the age of the baby. The baby was later put to sleep.

Around 6.00 a.m., on the following morning, the caregiver noticed that the baby had stopped breathing.

I would like to point out that the management of the shelter had not been to my satisfaction. The organisation which had been entrusted with the management of the shelter, following tender procedures in 2004, had many weaknesses, and my Ministry has already launched fresh tenders.

Pending the finalisation of this tender exercise, my Ministry has temporarily taken over the management of the shelter with effect from Monday 19 March 2007.

I personally effected two visits at the shelter –

One, on 09 March 2007, following the death of the baby.

The following one, on 19 March 2007. I called a meeting convening officers of my Ministry and the president of Shalom Association. On that day, I informed the President of our intent to take over the management of the shelter in the interest of children.

I also assured the personnel that they would be paid directly by the Ministry from now onwards. I also called upon their sense of commitment, so that in future inmates are given still better care.
ZIMBABWE – POLITICAL SITUATION

(No. B/63) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade & Co-operation whether, in regard to the political situation prevailing in Zimbabwe, he will state Government’s stand.

Reply: The Government of Mauritius views with concern the arrest, detention and assault of the main opposition Leader of Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai, and other opposition leaders and activists by the Police authorities in Zimbabwe.

As the House may be aware, the political situation in Zimbabwe is currently in a state of chaos and disarray. The political and economic crisis, now in its seventh year, is pushing Zimbabwe towards total collapse.

The Government of Mauritius is urging the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure that the basic rights and fundamental freedoms of all Zimbabweans are observed.

As a result of the political turmoil in Zimbabwe, the Government of Mauritius issued a communiqué on 16 March 2007 in which it, inter alia, expressed its concern regarding the arrest, detention and assault of the Opposition leaders by the Police authorities in Zimbabwe. I am tabling a copy of the said communiqué.

The international community has also expressed concern regarding the situation in Zimbabwe.

In this connection, the United States, United Kingdom and Australia have strongly condemned this crackdown on the Opposition and are calling for the sanctions against Zimbabwe.

The United Nations Secretary-General and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed serious concern on the reported detention and assault on leaders of the Opposition.

/…
The Presidency of the European Union has, in a statement, condemned the ongoing violent suppression of the freedom of opinion and of assembly, as well as of other fundamental rights.

South Africa, following this incident, issued a statement urging the “Zimbabwe Government to ensure that the rule of law, including respect for rights of all Zimbabweans and leaders of various political parties is respected”.

Our stand is also in line with the position of the African Union on this issue. The Chairperson of the African Union, Mr Alpha Oumar Konare, in a statement issued on 16 March 2007, has recalled the need for the scrupulous respect for human rights and democratic principles in Zimbabwe in accordance with the AU Constitutive Act.

The Government of Mauritius calls once again on the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure that the basic rights and fundamental freedoms of all Zimbabweans are observed.

I wish to inform Members of the House that my Ministry is monitoring the situation closely.
IRON BARS – SUPPLY ON LOCAL MARKET

(No. B/64) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Co-operatives whether, in regard to the supply of iron bars on the local market, he will state –

(a) the actual stock available, and
(b) if there is any shortage in the supply of 6mm iron bars and, if so, the mechanism which Government proposes to put in place to avoid any such shortage.

Reply: A report dated 23 March 2007 obtained from the Consumer Protection Unit of the Ministry of Women’s Rights, Child Development, Family Welfare & Consumer Protection indicates that the stock of iron bars in the country is 4365.5 metric tons.

The House may wish to note that additionally there is a stock of 3,600 metric tons of billets.

Regarding part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that there are presently 774 metric tons of 6mm iron bars.

CEMENT – PRICE & SUPPLY

(No. B/65) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Co-operatives whether, in regard to cement, he will state if Government proposes to grant any compensation to the importers thereof and, if so, the reasons therefor.

(Vide reply to PNQ)
SOCIAL/COMMUNITY CENTRES – CYCLONE GAMEDE -
RUFUGEES

(No. B/66) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions whether, in regard to the refugees who are still in social and community centres, following the passage of the cyclone Gamede, she will state –

(a) the number thereof in each centre, and
(b) the mechanism that has been set up to allow these centres to resume their normal activities.

With regards to part (a) of the question, I am informed that on 25 February, before the “all clear” signal was issued, a total of 807 refugees had sought refuge in the different Cyclone Refugee Centres. However, immediately after the “all clear” signal, a majority of them left the centres. There are, at present, 109 refugees representing 35 families in six Cyclone Refugee Centres.

The list of refugees is being tabled.

Regarding part (b) of the question, I am informed that to date, my Ministry has carried out a social enquiry among all the 60 families who were at the Centres at the beginning of March. The reports have been submitted to the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups (TFSIVG).

The TFSIVG has consequently made its own survey and has come to the conclusion that only 35 families are entitled for assistance in terms of iron sheets and wooden poles to the amount of Rs8000 per family to enable them to repair their damaged houses. Appropriate measures are being taken accordingly by the TFSIVG and the refugees would be asked to vacate the centres.

It has also been agreed that the remaining 25 families would be channeled to the Ministry of Housing and Lands. Necessary arrangements would be made for the provision of temporary shelters on available appropriate State land.
With these measures, it is hoped that all the refugees will evacuate the centres and normal activities may resume thereafter.

It is worth pointing out that the 6 families (14 refugees) occupying the Ste Croix Social Welfare Centre have set a good example and have left the centre on Saturday 24 March.

CAMP DE MASQUE PAVÉ - WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/67) Mr L. Bundhoo (Second Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE) asked the Minister of Public Utilities whether he is aware that the inhabitants in the region of Camp de Masque Pavé are encountering severe disruptions in the water supply and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

Reply: I am informed by the CWA that the region of Camp de Masque Pavé is presently supplied with water on a 24 hour basis from L’Unité Reservoir through an old cement pipe of length 1.8 km. From 01 February to 20 March, the pipes broke on eight occasions and at different places. This resulted in major disruption in the supply of water to that region. Repair works took at least half a day and another three to four hours for the flow to build up.

The inhabitants were kept informed of the water disruption through radio communiqués. To mitigate the extent of the inconveniences caused by the disruption of the water supply, water tanker services were provided to the affected areas.

The Central Water Authority is presently implementing a major project on the rationalization, upgrading and extension of the water distribution system in the East. Under Phase II of this project, the pipeline will be replaced so as to resolve this problem in a definite manner.
RÉDUIT – FLOODING PROBLEMS

(No. A/1) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether he is aware of the serious problems of flooding following heavy rainfall in the residential areas of Réduit and, if so, will be state what remedial measures will be taken.

Reply: I have been advised by the Moka/Flacq District Council that the following regions in Réduit are prone to flooding–

- the front of Rodrigues shop
- the front of Tamil League
- Soobramanian Avenue.

Necessary steps are being taken by the Moka/Flacq District Council for the clearance of the drains in the course of this week.

CHAIRMAN OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE – OVERSEAS MISSIONS

(No. A/2) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Arts and Culture whether, in regard to each of the overseas missions undertaken by the Chairman of the Islamic Cultural Centre since July 2005 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Centre, information as to–

(a) the countries visited and the duration;
(b) the composition of the delegation;
(c) the expenditure incurred in terms of airfares, per diem allowances and other fees, and
(d) the purpose and outcome thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Islamic Cultural Centre that since July 2005, the Chairman of the Islamic cultural Centre has effected five overseas missions.

The information requested by the hon. Member is given at Annex. (Appendix I)
POLICE FORCE – PROMOTION EXERCISE

(No. A/3) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) 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 last promotion exercise carried out in the Police Force, he will for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, the following information –

(a) the names, grades and length of service of the officers promoted, and
(b) their postings prior to and after the promotion exercise.

Reply: The information requested for by the hon. Member has been laid on the Table of the Assembly.

Appendix I

PQ No. A/2

1. Pre Hadj Mission 2005 – Saudi Arabia

Date of Mission : 01 September 2005 to 08 September 2005

Composition : Hon. Abu Kasenally, Minister of Public Utilities and Chairman, ICC

Air Fare Chairman Rs29,773.
Allowance to Chairman Rs45,451.

Purpose :

To meet inter-alia Saudi Hadj authorities, namely the Ministry of Hadj, the Muassasah Office and the Adillah Establishment of Madinah for preparation of Hadj 2005.

Outcome
Confirmation of number of visas, take cognizance of latest Saudi regulations/instructions pertaining to next Hadj, more specifically as regards civil aviation issues, health, internal transport and accommodation for Hadjis and liaison with Muassasah office.

2. **Pre-Hadj Mission in Saudi Arabia and official mission in Abu Dhabi**

   Date of mission : 20 November 2005 to 28 November 2005

   Composition : Chairman, ICC and Mr Nazir Allybokus, (ex ICC staff)

   - Air Fare Chairman Rs32,379.
   - Allowance Chairman Rs46,440

   **Purpose**

   (a) Inspect buildings booked by operators;

   (b) Finalise accommodation formalities in Makkah and Madinah on behalf of five operators;

   (c) Meeting in Abu Dhabi with officials of the Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation regarding funding of outstanding works in ICC multi-purpose hall.

   **Outcome**

   (a) Upon inspection, building booked by Arafat Group in Makkah found to be below standard and the operator was subsequently pressed to take corrective action.

   (b) Received around 200,000 US $ for the completion of the ICC Multipurpose Hall


   Date of mission : 16 December 2005 to 19 January 2006

   Composition :
- Mr H. Sayen Hossen
- Mr S. Molotoo
- Mr T. Budullah
- Dr. F. Kauroo
- Mr A. B. Manjoo
- Mr M. S. Peerally
- Mr M. I. Thérèse
- Mr B. I. Mustun
- Mr H. Beeharry
- Mr M. Maudarun
- Mr S. F. Tinkoree
- Mr N. Gureebun

- Air Fare Chairman   Rs36,523
- Allowance           Rs 9,996

**Purpose**

To facilitate performance of Hadj by pilgrims

To fine tune logistics regarding transport and accommodation.

**Outcome**

Mission members provided assistance to the Hadjis for smooth pilgrimage

3 operators sanctioned by Saudi authorities for violating Saudi Hadj regulations.

4. **Pre-Hadj Mission 2006 in Saudi Arabia**

Date of Mission : 07 July 2006 to 16 July 2006

Composition : Hon. Abu Kasenally, Minister of Public Utilities and Chairman of ICC

- Airfare                    Rs34,636.
- Allowance to Chairman      Rs67,617.50
Purpose

(a) To meet Saudi Hadj authorities, namely the Ministry of Hadj, Muassasah and the Adillah Establishment of Madinah for preparation of Hadj 2006/07.

(b) To meet Dr. Mohamed Ally, the Director of the Islamic Development Bank to seek technical assistance with regard to Islamic Financing in Mauritius.

Outcome

(a) As the number of visas for Mauritius was reduced to 1200, negotiations were initiated for additional 800.

(b) To take cognizance of latest Saudi regulations/instructions pertaining to next Hadj more specifically as regards civil aviation issues, health, internal transport and accommodation for Hadjis and liaison with Muassasah office.

5. Hadj Mission 2006/07 – Saudi Arabia

Date of Mission : 23 December 2006 to 06 January 2007

Composition :

- Mr H. Sayed Hossen
- Mr T. Twahair Budullah
- Mr Swadeck Somally
- Mr Aboo Bakar Manjoo
- Mr Abdullah Cassim Beedassy
- Mrs Begum Gurrib
- Mr Nizam Ruhomutally
- Mr Moossa Maudarun
- Mr Kamil Fazelkhan
- Mr Fazeruddin Hamad Soyfoo
- Mr Ecrefan Isseljee
- Mr Fareed Maulaboksh

Air Fare Chairman  Rs36,940
Allowance Chairman  Rs  9,050
Purpose

To facilitate performance of Hadj by pilgrims.

To fine tune logistics regarding transport and accommodation.

Outcome

Mission members provided assistance to the Hadjis for smooth pilgrimage.

Performance of Operators : Correspondence/Assessment from Saudi authorities being awaited.