

### CPE EXAMINATIONS 2007 – RESULTS

**(No. B/102) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Certificate of Primary Education examinations for the year 2007, he will table –

- (a) the results thereof, and
- (b) the pass rate recorded by each school.

**Reply:** The information asked for are already available on the website of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES). I am nevertheless tabling the results of the Certificate of Primary Education examinations 2007 globally and school-wise for the information of the House and the hon. Member in particular.

### FREIGHT REBATE SCHEME

**(No. B/103) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance & Economic Development whether, in regard to the Freight Rebate Scheme, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Revenue Authority, information as to if –

- (a) there has been over-refund of some Rs1.9 m., and
- (b) if refunds to exporters have been made on the basis of un-certified documents/airway bills and if so, if a Departmental Inquiry Committee has been set up thereon, indicating where matters stand.

**Reply (The Minister of Agro Industry & Fisheries):** I shall reply to this Parliamentary Question given that Freight Rebate Scheme (FRS) is operated under the aegis of my Ministry since 1991. The scheme, whose objective is to boost up export of some selected agricultural products to specified markets, was revised more than once to take on board new agricultural products, new export destinations, new rates and criteria for the refund.

Under the Scheme which is managed by the AMB, relevant exporters of agricultural products are refunded freight costs ranging from 25 to 50% depending on the product. Claims are submitted by exporters to AMB with documentary evidence such as airway bills, Bill of Entry and EUR1 Certificate. The claims, after verification by the AMB, are sent to my Ministry for payment.

Following a complaint made in May 2006 against beneficiaries of the Scheme, the Internal Control Unit of my Ministry carried out an inquiry for period August to December 2005 and found out that there was an over-refund of Rs1.9 m. made to a particular company, as a result of inadequate information submitted by that company. Consequently, a Departmental Inquiry Committee was set up to make an in-depth investigation on the refunds of freight made to the Company during the period 2001-2005. It was also decided to stay action on further claims from that particular Company and to withhold all amounts refundable though the subsequent claims were found to be in order and were certified by air carriers.

The Departmental Inquiry Committee, in its report submitted in October 2006, indicated that there has been an overpayment to the Company because of inadequate documents submitted particularly as regards actual weights exported. The Committee recommended that investigation be carried out in more details for the period 2001 to 2005 in consultation with air carriers. The exercise was carried out by AMB and completed in September 2007. It revealed that over refunds of more than Rs 1.9 M were effected.

The matter was referred to the SLO for advice in November 2007 on the course of action to follow in this case. The SLO has in February 2008 advised that any overpayment made to the Company may be offset against payment withheld since year 2006 and to discuss with the Company accordingly.

Furthermore, I wish to inform the House that since the Scheme was introduced as far back as 1991, my Ministry is currently revisiting its design with a view to making the planters, instead of exporters, benefit fully from it.

### **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE & REFORM INSTITUTIONS - MEDICAL BOARD AND DOMICILIARY VISITS**

**(No. B/104) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions whether in regard to the Medical Board and Domiciliary Visits, she will state –

- (a) the amount spent in terms of fees and allowances in each case for the year 2006-2007, and
- (b) if an independent committee has been set up to look into the matters.

**Reply:** In reply to part (a) of the question, the amount spent in the year 2006-2007 in terms of fees and allowance is Rs2,034,450.00 for Medical Board and Rs13,117,540.00 for Domiciliary Visits.

As regards part (b) of the question, the Director of Audit, had in his report, observed that there was unequal distribution of medical sessions and Domiciliary visits among doctors. This issue has been looked into at the level of the Medical Unit of my Ministry. From information

obtained, it appears that the unequal distribution of workload was due to the fact that, some of the doctors prefer to work nearer to their places of residence, whereas others were unavailable for particular slots during the day.

Since then, necessary action has been taken at the level of the Medical Unit, for an equitable distribution of work among the doctors. Consequently, the need for the setting-up of an Independent Committee does not arise as the issue has been dealt with administratively.

It is noted that the number of medical sessions as well as Domiciliary Visits have increased over the past three years and the amount spent has consequently increased from Rs11.9 m. in the year 2005-2006 to Rs15 m. in the year 2006-2007.

### **MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS - MR M.E. – ADVISER**

**(No. B/109) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether in regard to Mr M. E., Adviser to his Ministry, he will state if his contract has been renewed and if not, the reasons therefor.

**Reply:** Mr M. E. was first employed on contract as Adviser/Coach at the Ministry of Youth and Sports since 03 January 1994. His contract of employment has since been renewed on an annual basis after consultation with the Mauritius Football Association as regards the continuous need for his services for the promotion and development of football.

In December 2005, the Mauritius Football Association recommended that the services of Mr M. E. would be required for a further period of two years. Accordingly, the contract was renewed for a further period of one year with effect from 03 January 2006.

In January 2007, the Mauritius Football Association supported the final renewal of the contract of Mr M. E. for a further period of one year with effect from 03 January 2007.

Mr M. E., therefore, ceased to serve as Adviser/Coach at the Ministry of Youth and Sports at the date of expiry of his contract of employment on 02 January 2008.

I must here point out that it is nationally recognized that Mr M. E. has made a remarkable contribution to the development of football in Mauritius and I wish to take this opportunity to express to him our thanks and appreciation for his contribution to the promotion of football.

## HOSPITALS - VACANCIES

**(No. B/113) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he will state the number of existing vacancies, per grade, in each hospital.

**Reply:** The establishment of my Ministry involves nearly 340 grades. The information sought for is being compiled and will be laid in the Library of the National Assembly soon.

## INTER-COLLEGE GAMES – REINSTATEMENT

**(No. B/114) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether in regard to the Inter-college Games, he will state if they will be reinstated and if so, when.

**Reply:** I would like to thank the hon. First Member for Curepipe and Midlands for this question which provides the opportunity to shed light on the organisation of the National Inter-College Games scheduled from 17 to 19 June this year.

At paragraph 224 of the Government Programme 2005-2010, it is mentioned that Government will give a new impetus to school sports as this provides a breeding ground for potential and upcoming high level athletes.

Accordingly, a Technical Committee comprising officials of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and those of the Ministry of Youth and Sports as well as representatives of the Private Secondary Schools Association and the Mauritius Secondary School Sports Association (MSSSA) was set up in order to make proposals on measures to be taken to boost up secondary schools sports, with regard to, firstly, on how to encourage a larger number of students to participate in school sports competitions at national level, and, secondly on how to bring back greater number of student spectators to the stadium during such competitions to support their respective collegemates and schools thus creating a sense of belonging.

Several meetings had been held with all stakeholders to identify an appropriate formula whereby inter-college sports competitions could be boosted up.

In March 2007, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, the Private Secondary Schools Association and the Mauritius Secondary Schools Sports Association agreed, in principle, with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to the formula of holding of a National Inter-College Games involving competitions in a few sport disciplines over two to three days. After further consultation with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Mauritius Secondary Schools Sports Association, it was proposed that the Games be held from 17 to 19 June 2008.

Since September 2007, an Implementation Committee, comprising all stakeholders including Sports Federations concerned has been set up to look into all organisational aspects and to make all the necessary arrangements for the holding of the Games in June 2008.

In February 2008, after obtaining the necessary clarifications, the Mauritius Secondary Schools Sports Association reiterated its commitment to the holding of the Games as initially scheduled. However, at the end of February 2008 a few Physical Education Teachers from Private Secondary Schools had expressed their apprehension as they considered that they would require some more time for participation in the Games. My colleague, the substantive Minister of Youth and Sports had met them in order to give them the assurance that with their collaboration the Games would be held on the target dates.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports is proceeding with the launching of the first edition of the National Inter-College Games on 17 June 2008.

### ***PERMIS A POINTS - IMPLEMENTATION***

**(No. B/115) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether, in regard to the '*permis à points*', he will state when it will be implemented.

**Reply:** The implementation of the '*permis à points*' will require a computerised system. I am informed that the Police Department is in the process of awarding the contract for the preparation of an E-Business Plan for the Traffic Branch, which will integrate the Penalty Point System and the new driving licence project.

My Ministry and the Police Department are concurrently holding consultations with the State Law Office to finalise the Road Traffic (Driving Licences) Regulations, which incorporate the penalty points system.

### **NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS – EXPENDITURE**

**(No. B/116) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Arts & Culture whether, in regard to the celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius, he will give a detailed breakdown of expenses incurred by Government thereon.

**Reply:** The detailed breakdown of expenses incurred by the different Ministries and departments is being compiled and will be tabled as soon as it is ready.

## STATE LAND & PAS GEOMETRIQUES – BALACLAVA - LESSEES

(No. B/119) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Housing & Lands whether, in regard to the lease of State Land and *Pas Géométriques* in the region of Balaclava since 2005 to date, he will table a list of the beneficiaries thereof.

**Reply:** The requested information concerning lessees of State Land and *Pas Géométriques* in the region of Balaclava is being placed in the Library of the National Assembly today.

## RESERVOIRS –WATER STORAGE LEVEL

(No. B/122) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Public Utilities whether, in regard to the rainfall registered since January 2008 to date, he will state –

- (a) the total amount thereof;
- (b) the present water levels in the reservoirs, and
- (c) the measures taken to prevent the loss of water from the reservoirs.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Meteorological Services that the rainfall registered island-wide over the period January 2008 to date is 1,025 millimetres.

Regarding part (b) of the question, we have to reckon with the fact that the recent rainfall was not evenly distributed over the island and the characteristics of the catchment areas of the reservoirs differ one from the other. Actually, the maximum rainfall was registered in the North and East and the minimum, in the centre.

Thus, La Nicolière, Piton du Milieu, Mare Longue and Midlands Reservoirs are at 100% water storage level. As for Mare aux Vacoas and La Ferme Reservoirs, the storage levels as at yesterday were at 77.6% and 81.1% respectively.

As regards part (c) of the question, I am informed that there is no apparent loss of water from our reservoirs due to leakages. It is worth pointing out that my Ministry implements a rehabilitation programme in respect of all main dams and feeder canals, in order to ensure that the reservoirs are structurally safe, stable and sound, and that there is no water loss. I must also inform the House that the Water Resources Unit of my Ministry carries out regular maintenance on these dams and feeder canals.

## **CEB/CT POWER LTD – POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

**(No. B/126) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Public Utilities whether, in regard to the negotiations held in view of the Power Purchase Agreement between the Central Electricity Board and CT Power Ltd, he will state –

- (a) the composition of the delegation of the Central Electricity Board;
- (b) the names of any representative of his Ministry or of any other Government officials, if any;
- (c) the composition of the delegation of the CT Power, and
- (d) if any committee of high ranking Government officials will review the draft Power Purchase Agreement.

**Reply:** In July 2006, the Board of the CEB set up a Negotiating Panel to negotiate the terms and conditions of a Power Purchase Agreement (Mtius) CT Power Ltd in respect of a proposed coal based power plant at Pointe-aux-Caves, Albion.

The Negotiating Panel comprises representatives of the CEB, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the promoter and my Ministry.

I have caused a document outlining the composition of the panel to be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

I would like to point out that the panel was chaired by Dr. Coowar until November 2007 when he resigned from the CEB for personal reasons. He has been replaced by Mr S. Mukoon who was already a member of the panel. Besides, Mr M. Boodhun, the representative of my Ministry was replaced by Mr R. Mungur, Principal Planner of my Ministry on 26 April 2007 and Mrs Sew Hee was replaced by Mrs P. Rojoa as representative of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development on 17 September 2007 as a result of the schedule of duties of these officers in the respective Ministries.

As regards part (d) of the question, it is not envisaged to set up a committee of high ranking Government officials to review the draft PPA.

## MRA - NRPT & MUNICIPAL TAX – AMOUNTED COLLECTED

**(No. B/127) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the National Residential Property Tax, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Revenue Authority, information as to –

- (a) the number of tax payers thereof;
- (b) the number of tax payers who pay the National Residential Property Tax and the municipal tax;
- (c) the number of tax payers who pay the National Residential Property Tax but who do not pay the municipal tax, and
- (d) the total amount paid for the income year 2006-2007 by these two categories as National Residential Property Tax only.

**Reply (The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment):** I am informed by the Mauritius Revenue Authority as follows –

- (i) 16,588 persons in total, that is around 3% of the working population, have paid the National Residential Property Tax (NRPT), including 124 companies;
- (ii) the total amount of NRPT collected is Rs119 m., including Rs20 m. from companies.

In regard to parts (b) and (c), the information is being compiled.

I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Member that the total amount of Rs119 m. will be utilised by the National Development Unit to implement socio-economic development projects such as the construction or upgrading of Market fairs at Curepipe, Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill, Riviere des Anguilles, Centre Flacq, Rose Belle and Abercrombie, the development of a waterfront at GRSE estuary and a marketing infrastructure for fishermen at Grand' Baie.

## SOUTH EASTERN HIGHWAY

**(No. B/129) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the new South Eastern Highway Project, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** The South Eastern Highway from Plaine Magnien to Ferny (8 km) is open to traffic since 14 December 2007. Upgrading works from Kewal Nagar to Bel Air (9 km) have also been completed, providing footpaths, drains and street lighting in built-up areas.

A footbridge has also been constructed over Pont Lardier and a new roundabout at Bel Air eases traffic flow at the junction of Flacq-Mahebourg and Montagne Blanche – Bel Air roads.

## LE RÉDUIT - BUS STAND

(No. B/138) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the increase in business activity at Le Réduit and in order to improve public security thereat, he will consider having the bus stops in the region replaced by a single bus stand and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** In order to improve road safety and alleviate traffic congestion at Réduit, several measures have already been implemented. These are –

- parking restrictions on sections of the Réduit Access Road in front of the University of Mauritius;
- allowing vehicular exit from the Réduit access road onto the Julius Nyerere Road in the afternoon under Police control only; and
- allowing buses going towards Port Louis to link the motorway through Martindale, thus bypassing Réduit roundabout and the second layby.

As medium and long-term measures, my Ministry has already approved –

- the construction of a bus holding area of a capacity of fifteen buses at Réduit;
- enlargement of the road leading towards the Mauritius Institute of Education and provision of raised footpath;
- widening the access road to Octave Wiehe Auditorium, and
- conversion of the existing vehicular exit from the parking to the roundabout into two lanes.

With the proposed bus holding area, buses which are now being parked near the auditorium or on the pavements will be transferred to a defined area, thus facilitating traffic flow.

Provision is being made for the implementation of this project during the next financial year.

The removal of the two existing bus stops will be considered subsequently, in the light of the impact of the proposed bus stand on the movement of traffic.

## TROU AUX BICHES HOTEL – EXTENSION

(No. B/140) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas and Floreal) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether, in regard to the project for the extension of the Trou aux Biches Hotel complex, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to –

- (a) the number of rooms and other amenities, and
- (b) where matters stand.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that the project for the extension of the Trou aux Biches Hotel by the New Mauritius Hotel Limited involves the demolition of existing four star hotel of 194 rooms and the construction of a new five star hotel of 460 rooms.

Provision has been made, *inter-alia*, for the following main amenities in the context of the upgrading of the hotel –

- (a) six restaurants;
- (b) a sports complex;
- (c) a spa;
- (d) a Beachcomber ‘Head’ Academy(Tennis)
- (e) nautical sports facilities;
- (f) a mini club for children

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that New Mauritius Hotels Limited has already obtained the necessary clearances/permit from the authorities concerned.

I am informed by the promoter that demolition works are expected to start by January 2009 and the realignment of the Pointe aux Piments – Mon Choisy coastal road by May 2008.

The whole project would involve investment to the tune of Rs3 billion and would generate some 500 direct employment and 1000 indirect employment.

This project is in line with the policy of my Ministry to promote development of four and five star hotels with a view to consolidating our competitive edge.

I am further informed that a group of residents of Morcellement Jhuboo, Trou aux Biches has lodged an appeal before the Environment Appeal Tribunal against the decision of the Ministry of Environment and N.D.U to issue the EIA licence to New Mauritius Hotel Limited.

## **FRENCH MOBILE PHONE COMPANY ORANGE – BRAND LICENCE AGREEMENT**

**(No. B/141) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Minister of Information Technology & Telecommunications whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Telecom, information as to if it is envisaging any joint venture with the French Mobile Phone Company, Orange.

**Reply (The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment):** I am informed that Mauritius Telecom does not envisage any joint venture with the French Mobile Company Orange or with any other company. Nor has Mauritius Telecom entered into any agreement to change its name to Orange.

I would like to refer to my reply to PQ B/1117 in November 2007.

A brand licence agreement has however been entered into by Cellplus for the use of “Orange” as a commercial brand. The agreement concerns only “products” and not the company’s corporate name. The corporate name of Cellplus (Cellplus Mobile Communications Ltd) will remain unchanged.

Cellplus, a private limited company, is governed by the Companies Act and operates in a fully liberalised and competitive environment.

The conditions of the agreement entered into by Cellplus are commercially highly sensitive and the competitiveness of the company may be affected if such terms and conditions were to be made public.

I am further informed that the comparative costs and benefits of the agreement have been examined and found to be to the advantage of Cellplus.

## **ETHANOL/MOGAS MIX PROJECT**

**(No. B/142) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Minister of Public Utilities whether, in regard to the implementation of the use of ethanol as a component of mixed fuel, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply (The Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Cooperatives):** I wish to inform the House that the Ethanol/Mogas mix project was conducted jointly by Total Mtius Ltd. and Alcodis Ltd. with the support of the Ministry as well as other stakeholders concerned.

Total Mtius Ltd. has already submitted the technical report regarding the field testing on engine performance using a 1:9 Ethanol/Mogas mix. The field test was carried out on 25 vehicles of different ages and on the whole, not problem has been encountered on these vehicles.

Actually, the Monitoring Committee set up to look into the ethanol project is still working on the economic, financial and technical aspects of the project. The State Trading Corporation in collaboration with Total Mtius Ltd. will be importing ethanol for the second phase of the project whereby a larger fleet of vehicles, including motorcycles would be tested.

## **SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS – ALLEGED MALPRACTICES**

**(No. B/145) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity & Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions whether, in regard to cases of alleged malpractices in the payment of social security benefits, she will state if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, where matters stand.

**Reply:** As indicated in a reply to hon. Jugroo's PQ No. B/1073, on the same issue in November last year, an Audit Team was set up at the level of the Ministry of Social Security to investigate into the whole issue of alleged cases of malpractices in the payment of pension. The team started work in May 2007, that is soon after information was obtained to the effect that there was an unusually large amount of refund from the Post Office, representing unpaid pension. May I remind the House that the project of shifting the whole pension payment to the office started in April 2007.

In its report, the Audit Team confirmed several dark areas in the payment of pension. However, in view of the forensic nature of the inquiry to be carried out, the whole matter was then referred to the Police Department for further investigation. The Information Management System of the Ministry was scrutinized by the Police and a report was handed over to a forensic team from UK, which was in Mauritius at that time on some other assignment.

We have been informed by the Forensic Science Laboratory of Mauritius last month that a report is awaited from the Forensic Science Service of UK soon.

In a reply to hon. Jugroo's PQ last year, I did mention that corrective measures have been taken since then by the pension unit of my Ministry. From information obtained the situation has significantly improved.

Moreover, my Ministry has already embarked on a major review of the whole computerized system. A Social Insurance Management Information System will be operational in the near future. This system will integrate all the functionalities and business processes of the Ministry and will include enhanced verification and controls at each process to eliminate risk of fraud and irregularity.

### **MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF QUATRE BORNES – ALLOCATION OF STALLS – ALLEGED CORRUPTION**

**(No. B/146) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the case of alleged corruption in the allocation of stalls by the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Council, information as to where matters stand.

**Reply:** I wish to refer the hon Member to the reply I made to Parliamentary Question No. B/1123 on this issue.

I am informed that the case of alleged corruption in the allocation of stalls by the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes is still under investigation at the level of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

### **NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS – FUNDS DISBURSED**

**(No. B/147) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Arts & Culture whether, in regard to the National Day Celebrations of 12 March 2008, he will state –

- (a) the amount disbursed from public funds to –
  - (i) local authorities;
  - (ii) non-governmental organisations, and
  - (iii) parastatal bodies;
- (b) the amount of contributions received from the private sector, and
- (c) give a breakdown in each case.

**Reply:** As regards part (a) (i) of the question, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to PQ No. B/99

As regards part (a) (ii), no public funds have been disbursed by my Ministry to non-governmental organisations.

Regarding part (a) (iii), as in previous years, funds have been allocated to Ministries and Departments concerned with the celebration of the National Day and not to parastatal bodies directly.

### **BANK FISHERS (REGISTERED) - ALLOWANCE**

**(No. B/148) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries whether, in regard to the registered bank fishers, he will state –

- (a) the number thereof and
- (b) if they are eligible to any allowance from Government and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, the number of registered bank fishers for the fishing season 2008-2009 is 192.

As regards part (b) of the question, the registered bank fishermen are eligible to an allowance paid by Government. In order to encourage active participation from stakeholders and with a view to promoting a culture of self dependency and saving within the bank fishers community, Government has set up a Contributory Scheme in January 2006 under the Fishermen Welfare Fund along the following lines -

- (i) bank fishers contributing at least Rs2,000 annually up to May of each year;
- (ii) bank fishing operators making a minimum contribution of Rs2,000 per fisher annually; and
- (iii) the Fishermen Welfare Fund providing a similar amount of Rs2,000 per fisher annually from funds deposited in the special account of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries.

The Contributory Scheme is designed to assist the bank fishers during the off-season period, i.e. from June to August when the bank fishing vessels are not fully active. Under the scheme each registered bank fishermen is eligible for Rs6,000 as winter allowance. In order to be eligible to receive the allowance, each registered bank fisherman should have completed at least two fishing trips during the fishing season.

However, the House may wish to note that fishers have not yet made any contribution to the scheme up to now. Thus they have been paid their winter allowances for each season amounting to Rs4,000 from the contribution of the Bank Fishing Operators and Fisherman Welfare Fund for the period starting from 01 September to 31 May for years 2006 and 2007.

## JEETOO HOSPITAL – MRS N. L. - DEATH

(No. B/152) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to one Mrs N. L. who was admitted at the Intensive Care Unit at the Dr A. G. Jeetoo Hospital, on 31 December 2001, and who subsequently passed away, he will state -

- (a) the reasons for which she was admitted thereat;
- (b) the treatment she received;
- (c) the cause of her death, and
- (d) if his Ministry has received any complaint from her relatives.

**Reply:** I am informed that there is no patient known as N. L. admitted to the Intensive Care Unit at Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital on 31 December 2001. However, according to records available, one patient named N. L., a known case of schizophrenia was admitted to Brown Sequad Mental Health Care Centre on 30 December 2007 at around midnight. It was observed that she was suffering from high fever and appropriate treatment was given to her by the Medical & Health Officer on call.

## GOVERNMENT/UPSEE - AGREEMENTS

(No. B/153) 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 agreements signed between Government and the Union of Private Secondary Education Employees in 1983, he will state if his Ministry has decided to override same.

*(Withdrawn)*

## NATIONAL SCHOOLS – FORM I - ADMISSION

(No. B/154) 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 National Schools, he will state if -

- (a) the vacant seats at Form I level thereat have been filled and
- (b) he will give the names and the examination results of the students who have been admitted in the second admission exercise.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **TROU D'EAU DOUCE – PUBLIC BEACH – TUCK SHOPS**

**(No. B/155) Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether, in regard to the Trou d'Eau Douce public beach, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Beach Authority, information as to if

- (a) the Tuck shops constructed thereat have been pulled down and
- (b) the limekiln has been rented for any commercial purpose.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **BANK OF MAURITIUS – GOVERNOR – CAR PURCHASE**

**(No. B/156) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the purchase by the Bank of Mauritius of a car for use by the Governor, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank, information as to –

- (a) the date of purchase;
- (b) the type;
- (c) the cost, and
- (d) the amount for which it has been insured.

*(Withdrawn)*