

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****PETROLEUM PRODUCTS – PRICE - DECREASE**

**(No. B/1249) Mr M. Allet (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Consumer Protection & Citizens Charter whether, in regard to the decrease in the price of petroleum products, he will state the measures he proposes to take to ensure that such decrease is reflected in the price of other commodities.

**Reply:** Following the decrease in the price of petroleum products, my Ministry has implemented appropriate proactive measures to ensure that the decrease is ultimately passed on to consumers.

The House is already aware that the price of only 18 essential items is controlled by my Ministry. Among that list, the only item where there is a correlation with the price of petroleum products is bread. Given that the price of that commodity is fixed, an exercise will be undertaken to ascertain whether the percentage decrease in the price of petroleum products would have a significant incidence on the price of bread. As regards the price of non-controlled items, a price monitoring mechanism has been set up to undertake an in-depth survey of the prices and to analyse any fluctuation on the local market. Regular checks and inspections are being carried out by officers of the Consumer Protection Unit to that effect.

Furthermore, given that prices are determined by market forces, I have sought the collaboration of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry to press on its members to practice a fair and reasonable mark-up on all goods which should reflect the real market price.

I have also appealed to them to publicise any reduction in prices, in the best interest of consumers. In that breadth, I have taken note that some importers have already advertised the reduction in price, which is indeed a positive signal.

Officers of my Ministry are presently undertaking site visits to collect relevant data on different commodities and, in the event of abusive mark-ups, all legal and administrative avenues would be explored to curb those abuses.

## HAWKERS LICENCE – APPLICATION

**(No. B/1250) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the hawkers licence, he will –

- (a) state if he will consider the advisability of issuing same to the unemployed persons who have dependents, and
- (b) obtain from the local authorities information as to if appropriate sites can be identified for them to operate.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that applications for hawkers licence were not being entertained by the Local Authorities since 1994.

## SCHENGEN VISA – MAURITIAN NATIONALS

**(No. B/1251) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether, in regard to the proposed abolition of visa requirements for entry in the Schengen area for Mauritian nationals, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** As the House is aware, Mauritian nationals travelling to European countries are required to obtain a Schengen visa prior to departure.

Since assuming office, this Government has actively sought to have Mauritius removed from the list of countries whose nationals require visas to enter those European countries.

On 30 December 2006, the European Union (EU) Commission published EC Regulation No. 1932/2006, amending EC Regulation No. 539/2001 which would move Mauritius, along with Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Saint-Kitts and Nevis and the Seychelles, from the list of countries whose nationals require visas to travel to the EU to the list of those not requiring a visa for stays not exceeding three months in aggregate during a six months period following the date of first entry. The European Commission then needed to seek the necessary mandate from the European Council to negotiate the proposed reciprocal visa exemption Agreements.

In the meantime, however, a new development had occurred whereby 9 of the 10 new member States which joined the European Union in 2004 namely, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and Czech Republic decided to adhere to the Schengen Area Agreement. They had to complete the procedures for their adherence to the Schengen visa system and consequently resulted in a delay in the implementation of EC Regulation No. 1932/2006.

The European Union (EU) Council, which met on 5-6 June 2008, adopted the recommendations of the European Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of a short stay visa waiver agreement between the EU and the concerned countries, including Mauritius.

A first round of negotiations between the 6 countries, including Mauritius, and the European Commission was held in Brussels on 11 July 2008 on the basis of a draft agreement proposed by the EU side. The comments made by the Mauritian delegation on the issues of people travelling for the purpose of employment, the period of notice for the suspension of the Agreement and the implementation of Joint Committee for the management of the Agreement, were welcome and submitted to the EU Member States for consideration.

Subsequently, on 07 October 2008, the European Commission invited Mauritius to the second round of negotiations which took place on 16 October 2008 on the basis of the updated draft agreement. The Mauritius delegation, which comprised of our Ambassador in Brussels, Mr S. Boolell, Parliamentary Counsel, and Mr S. Gokhool, Deputy Commissioner of Police and Head of the Passport and Immigration Office, successfully completed the negotiations with the European Commission for the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and Mauritius on the short stay visa waiver.

As regards territorial application, the Agreement shall apply to all EU Member States except the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The House is also aware that currently Mauritian nationals have to pay a visa application fee of sixty Euros while seeking a Schengen visa.

Therefore, upon implementation of this Agreement, Mauritians will be able to travel to the Schengen EU Member States for short stays not exceeding three months without having to obtain a visa prior to travelling.

Although they form part of the Schengen visa system, Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein will not be covered by the Agreement, as they are not EU Members.

According to this Agreement, Mauritian citizens will not need a visa to enter and stay in the concerned EU Member States for a period not exceeding three months from the date of the first entry, during a six months period.

Although the Agreement provides for multiple entries, Mauritian nationals may only stay up to a cumulative period of 3 months during a six-month period as from the first date of entry in the concerned EU Member States.

This Agreement will apply reciprocally to both Mauritius and the concerned EU Member States.

The Agreement does not apply to our citizens who propose to travel to the European Union for the purpose of carrying out a paid activity, in other words, those persons who wish to enter the EU for the purpose of carrying out a gainful employment/remuneration as an employee or as a service provider in an EU Member State.

However, businesspersons, sportspersons and artists performing an activity on an *ad hoc* basis, journalists sent by the media of their country of residence and intra-corporate trainees will not require visas to travel for short stay periods.

I am glad to announce that the Agreement will be initialled tomorrow by our Ambassador in Brussels. This will trigger a series of procedures leading to the implementation of the Agreement.

According to information obtained from the EU Council, the initialled Agreement will be submitted to the EU Council for approval before signature by both parties to be followed by ratification procedures and notification thereof.

This process will lead us to about April 2009 for the implementation of the Agreement.

While this Agreement will be for an indefinite period, each contracting party may suspend in whole or in part this Agreement, in particular, for reasons of public policy, protection of national security or protection of public health, illegal immigration or the reintroduction of the visa requirement by either contracting party.

In this respect, we have to ensure that the terms of the Agreement be observed scrupulously.

To conclude, I would like to inform the House that Government is taking the necessary steps to complete the procedures for the timely implementation of this important Agreement.

I propose to table to the House a copy of the Agreement once it is formally signed.

#### **TEACHERS – ALLEGED CASES OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

**(No. B/1252) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to alleged cases of sexual abuse by teachers on their pupils, he will state the number thereof, indicating the actions taken or proposed to be taken at the level of his Ministry.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/1212)*

## **MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS, QUATRE BORNES – ALLEGATIONS OF BRIBE & CORRUPTION**

**(No. B/1253) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to allegations of bribe and corruption levelled against some municipal councillors of 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 inform the House that there is no allegation of bribe and corruption against any municipal councillor of Quatre Bornes. In fact, cases for alleged conflict of interests have been lodged against four municipal councillors before the Intermediate Court.

I am further informed that these cases have been fixed proforma on 17 November 2008.

## **RODRIGUES – TV-DECODERS – LOAN FACILITIES**

**(No. B/1254) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the change in the retransmission of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and television broadcasting in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd., information as to if it will consider granting loan facilities to persons who cannot afford to purchase a decoder.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Development Bank of Mauritius Ltd that it does not operate a loan scheme for the purchase of TV-decoders. It is believed that in view of the low cost of decoders, it would not be a viable proposal for the Bank to operate such a loan scheme. The administrative procedures and costs involved would not justify the scheme especially as the purchase of such goods is commonly financed by commercial outlets.

**RODRIGUES – PTE MONIER CHANNEL – DREDGING WORKS**

(No. B/1255) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the dredging works to be carried out at the Pte Monier Channel, Rodrigues, he will state –

- (a) who launched the tender;
- (b) the cost of the project;
- (c) when works are likely to start, and
- (d) if it is connected with the project of the marina project in Oyster Bay and, if so, how.

**Reply:** I am informed that the tender for dredging works at Pte Monier, Rodrigues has been launched by the Mauritius Ports Authority with the objective to deepen the Pte Monier Channel up to 4 mt to allow for the safe harbouring of crafts and fishing boats during cyclonic conditions.

With regard to (b) and (c) of the question, I am informed that the project which is estimated to cost Rs40 m., will start around March 2009 and is expected to be completed by September 2009.

The House may wish to note that as far as the last part of the question is concerned, I am informed by the Mauritius Ports Authority that the works are not connected in any way whatsoever with any marina project at Oyster Bay.

### **RODRIGUES – OYSTER BAY – REVETMENT WALL**

(No. B/1256) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the marina project in Oyster Bay, he will state –

- (a) if an Environment Impact Assessment was required and, if not, why not;
- (b) the cost of the project and the amount disbursed as at to date;
- (c) when works started, indicating where matters stand;
- (d) the surface area of the lagoon involved and the impact thereof on the lagoon fishermen, and
- (e) if the payment of any compensation to the local area fishermen is being envisaged.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly that no marina project is currently being implemented at Oyster Bay. However, a revetment wall to provide for a fishing port in the future has been constructed at the cost of Rs23.6 m.

The House may wish to note that EIA has been exempted for the construction of this wall as per section 28 of the EIA Act 2002.

### **MINISTRY OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE - MEDICAL & HEALTH OFFICERS (FOREIGN) - EMPLOYMENT**

(No. B/1257) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Health & Quality of Life whether, in regard to the foreign Medical and Health Officers who were employed by his Ministry on a contractual basis in November 2001, he will state –

- (a) the number thereof, and
- (b) those who are still in service, indicating if changes have been brought to their initial contracts.

*(Withdrawn)*

**RETIREMENT AGE – POLICY**

**(No. B/1258) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms whether, in regard to the retirement age, he will state if there has been a change in policy with regard to the determination thereof, following the 2006 decision to gradually raise the retirement age as from August 2008.

*(Withdrawn)*

**FORT GEORGE POWER STATION – EXPLOSION 29.09.2008**

**(No. B/1259) Mr J.R. Spéville (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the accident which occurred at the Fort George Power Station, on or about Monday 29 September 2008, whereby four workers of the Central Electricity Board were seriously injured, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Board, information as to if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto, indicating the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the CEB that following an explosion which occurred at Fort George Power Station on 29 September 2008, three CEB employees namely, Mr Clency Bibi, Shift Foreman, Mr Benjamin Moutou, Assistant Shift Foreman and Mr Bernard Raffa, Shift Technician sustained severed burn injuries.

Furthermore, Mr Twafick Pooloo, Cadet Technician, who was involved in fire fighting after the explosion, experienced breathing difficulties by the smoke, while Mr J. Pitchen, a contract employee of Ideal Cleaning Ltd. was knocked down by a pressure wave.

All the injured persons were transported to Dr. Jeetoo Hospital and subsequent events are as follows –

- Mr Clency Bibi, Mr Benjamin Moutou and Mr Bernard Raffa who sustained severe injuries were transferred to the Burns Unit of Princess Margaret Hospital, Candos;
- Upon request of his relatives, Mr Pooloo was transferred to Clinique Darné and he was discharged from the Clinic on 09 October 2008;
- Mr Pitchen resumed duty the next day following the accident;
- Mr B. Moutou was discharged from hospital on 01 November 2008, and
- Mr B. Raffa has fully recovered and is undergoing rehabilitation and physiotherapy and is expected to be discharged by the end of this week.

As regards Mr C. Bibi, upon medical advice, he was transferred on 10 October 2008 to Belle Pierre Hospital in Réunion Island where he is still under intensive care.

Following the tragic accident, I effected a site visit at Fort George Power Station to take cognizance of the nature and magnitude of the damage caused by the explosion and then paid a visit to the injured personnel at Victoria Hospital, Burns Unit. The CEB is extending full assistance to the injured personnel and their families.

I am informed that a preliminary inquiry was started on the same day by CEB. Additionally, CEB requested Burmeister & Wain Scandinavian Contractor A/S (BWSC), which was responsible for the installation and commissioning of the concerned engine in 1997, to carry further investigations into the causes of the explosion.

An expert from BSWC carried out the investigation from 02 to 07 October 2008 and submitted his report on 31 October 2008 to the CEB.

From the report submitted by BWSC, it is noted that a crack in the engine component caused an ingress of combustion gases which resulted in an explosion.

The first recommendation of the consultant regarding reconfiguration of the engine protection systems so that engine will trip in case of oil mist detection has already been implemented. All the other recommendations made by the expert from BWSC, namely enhancing safety with regard to the operation of the engines, implementation of a more rigorous operational procedure, an enhanced training programme for operations personnel and review of routine maintenance programme to reflect more fully the present mode of operation are in the process of being implemented.

Moreover, the CEB will seek assistance from the Mauritius Standards Bureau, as and when required, for detailed inspection of engine components during maintenance using non-destructive testing technique.

### **RODRIGUES/MAURITIUS – PATIENTS - TRANSFER**

**(No. B/1260) Mr J.R. Spéville (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Health & Quality of Life whether he will state if he is aware of the difficulties encountered by patients transferred from Rodrigues to Mauritius for further investigation and treatment and, if so will he state the remedial measures that will be taken.

**Reply:** I am advised by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Regional Health Directors of our Regional Hospitals that they are not in the presence of any verbal or written complaints or difficulties encountered by patients transferred from Rodrigues to Mauritius for further investigation and treatment.

I am informed that the patients transferred from Rodrigues for further care and management are immediately taken in charge by the Airport Doctor. The patient is then transferred to the appropriate hospital. Upon arrival, the Medical and Health Officer takes over the case and patient is admitted and appropriate treatment provided.

Furthermore I wish to state that with a view to improving the handling of patients to Mauritius for further management, a protocol was signed in May 2008 between my Ministry and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly regarding the joint responsibility to look after the treatment of patients –

- (i) in Rodrigues;

- (ii) those sent to Mauritius for treatment and further management;
- (iii) those who pass away whilst on treatment in Mauritius.

### **RODRIGUES/ CREDIT UNIONS – CORPORATE TAX**

**(No. B/1261) Mr J. R. Spéville (Second Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise & Co-operatives whether he will state if during his recent visit to Rodrigues and in course of a meeting with the managing committees, he stated that the 15% corporate tax paid by all the Credit Unions in Rodrigues will be removed and, if so, where matters stand.

**Reply:** During my visit to Rodrigues, in a meeting with the Board Directors of Co-operative Credit Union, the question concerning corporate tax was raised.

The Co-operative Credit Union mentioned that a case has been filed in Court against the State of Mauritius and the hon. Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance regarding this issue.

### **BAMBOUS VIRIEUX – AQUACULTURE PROJECT**

**(No. B/1262) Mr J.C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security whether, in regard to the aqua culture project at Bambous Virieux, he will state -

- (a) if he has met the representatives of the fishers, and
- (b) any decision has been taken by his Ministry in relation thereto.

**Reply:** I met the representatives of Association of Fishermen of Bambous Virieux in my office on 6 November 2008. The fishermen expressed their concerns on the possible environmental impacts of fish farming activities by ‘La Ferme Marine de Mahebourg’ at Pointe aux Feuilles and the effects on their fishing activities. I explained to them that their concerns would be looked into by my Ministry in consultation with all the stakeholders.

As regards part (b), the Association of Fishermen was informed that 'La Ferme Marine de Mahebourg' should be allowed to continue its activities in view of its fish production and economic and social benefits. Furthermore, a meeting was scheduled for 11 November 2008 by officers of my Ministry with all the stakeholders to discuss the matter further.

Mr Speaker Sir, I would like to inform the House that my Ministry has taken a series of initiatives with a view to improving the livelihood of fishermen. Firstly, fishers are being encouraged to fish outside the lagoon around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and they are given proper training to do so. Fishing around Fish Aggregating Devices results in better catches for the fishers. In this respect the Fishermen Investment Trust together with the Mauritius Export Association are teaming up on a project for the acquisition of six well equipped fishing boats including fishing gear and provision of ice for fishing around Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). Both parties will invest Rs 5 million each in this project. The Mauritius Export Association will assist in the marketing of the fish catches.

In addition Government has agreed to allocate two barachois to the Fishermen Investment Trust for integrated development for the benefit of fishers.

Furthermore the Fishermen Investment Trust will be allocated one zone out of the eight identified zones for fish farming in the South East of Mauritius. In this context Fishermen Investment Trust held several meetings with fishermen of Bambous Virieux and will soon submit to the Board of Investment an application together with a Business Plan to carry out fish farming in floating cages in the allocated zone. A request will be made for funding of this project under the Food Security Fund to the tune of Rs 15 million.

The House may also wish to note that one Fishermen Cooperative Society has benefited from the consultancy services of the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator for preparation of its project for semi-industrial fishing for financing under the Decentralised Cooperation Programme.

## **PORT LOUIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – HAWKERS - REPRESENTATIONS**

**(No. B/1263) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the hawkers operating in the city centre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to where matters stand, following the meeting of the representatives of the hawkers organisation with the Lord Mayor.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Municipality of Port Louis that representations made by the representatives of the hawkers during a meeting with the Lord Mayor are still under consideration at the level of the Council.

## **POINTE AUX CAVES - COAL FIRED POWER PLANT**

**(No. B/1264) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the construction of a coal fired power plant at Pointe aux Caves, he will state if the Environment Impact Assessment has already been granted to CT Power and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** The reply is no, as the application is still being processed.

## **RESIDENCE RICHE LIEU – QUARANTINE - COMPLAINTS**

**(No. B/1265) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Protection and Security whether he will state if he is aware of several complaints made by the inhabitants of Residence Riche Lieu and the surrounding localities regarding the quarantine and, if so, indicate the remedial measures that are being taken.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **“HAPPY COW” MILK**

**(No. B/1266) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the “Happy Cow” milk, he will state if the importation thereof from China has stopped and, if so, since when.

**Reply:** I am informed that no importation of powdered milk ‘Happy Cow’ from China has been effected.

### **STATE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LTD - CHAIRPERSON - INQUIRY**

**(No. B/1267) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to one Mr V. B., Chairperson of the State Property Development Company Ltd., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Company, information as to if it will consider requesting him to step down pending the completion of an inquiry initiated against him by the Independent Commission Against Corruption and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that the Chairperson of the State Property Development Company Ltd has stepped down.

### **MAURITIUS TELECOM - MESSRS R. AND C. – LAYING OFF**

**(No. B/1268) Ms K. R. Deerpalsing (Third Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to the laying off of Messrs R. and C., two trade unionists of the Mauritius Telecom, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Telecom, information as to the reasons of their dismissal.

*(Vide reply to PQ. No. B/1247)*

**MAURITIUS TELECOM - MESSRS R. AND C. – LAYING OFF**

**(No. B/1269) Mr V. Mardemootoo (Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac)** asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the negotiations for the reinstatement of Messrs R. and C. two trade unionists of the Mauritius Telecom, he will state where matters stand.

*(Vide reply to PQ. No. B/1247)*

**EDIBLE PRODUCTS – HARMFUL SUBSTANCES**

**(No. B/1270) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Consumer Protection and Citizens Charter whether, in regard to the edible products, he will state if he has taken cognizance of a list thereof available on the internet which may contain substances harmful to human health and, if so, indicate if such products are available on the local market.

**Reply:** I am informed that there is no definite list on the internet of substances present in edible products which are harmful to human health. However, from information gathered, it is understood that Government Agencies in developed countries are working out a list of harmful substances that may be present in food products.

I am also advised by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life that guidelines received from the FAO/WHO are being followed to ensure that harmful substances are not present in food for sale. From the World Health Organisation lists, White Rabbit Creamy Candy which contained substances, namely melamine, harmful to human health has already been removed from the local market.

As regards, M & M's candies, it is on sale on the market as the results of analysis carried out indicate that the said candy is free from melamine.

Once my Ministry was made aware of the possible existence of contaminated products on the local market, pro-active measures were taken and officers of the Consumer Protection Unit of my Ministry and those of the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life sought the collaboration of the media to sensitize the public on the risks associated with the consumption of those products. In addition, site visits were effected and the edible products concerned were detained and subsequently banned. Meetings were also held with Consumer Associations as well as with importers to make sure that the public is duly protected.

I am also informed that Section 23 and the third schedule of the Food (Amendment) Act 2004, already stipulates that for the importation of edible products, a pre-market approval permit from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life is required. All importation of food items are only authorized subject to clearance from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. Samples are analysed by the Government Analyst Division of the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life, and it is only after satisfying the Food Regulations that a pre-market approval permit is issued to MRA for clearance of the consignments.

### **SCHOOLS - MINORS – HEARING AIDS**

**(No. B/1271) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions whether, in regard to the minors attending special or normal schools and who are in need of hearing aids, she will state –

- (a) the number thereof, and
- (b) if they have been provided with same.

*(Withdrawn)*

**SIR EDGAR LAURENT STREET, PORT LOUIS  
– STREET LIGHTING**

**(No. A/21) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to if consideration will be given for the installation of a street lighting point at the Sir Edgar Laurent Street, Port Louis, opposite the Plaine Verte Police Station.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Municipality of Port Louis that Edgar Laurent Street is well lighted and does not require any additional lighting. However, arrangement has already been made by the Council to install one new lighting pole together with lantern near the Police Station found at Magon Street.