

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HORSE RACING – SMS BETTING

(No. B/1278) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs whether, in regard to horse racing, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information, as to if there is any reported case of minors betting through SMS and, if so –

- (a) the number thereof, and
- (b) the measures that will be taken to prevent same.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, as at to date, no case of minor betting through SMS has been reported to the Police.

Section 140 of the Gambling Regulatory Authority Act 2007 provides the legal framework prohibiting any bookmaker or totalisator operator to accept or offer any type of bet from a minor. The offence carries a fine not exceeding Rs200,000 and imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

As regards betting through SMS, only holders of a deposit account with bookmakers, duly licensed to offer betting facilities through remote communication, are allowed to place bets by SMS. Account holders have to produce an Identity Card at the time of opening of the account. As an additional measure of safeguard, the account holder accesses to his account with a username and a pin code, and the proceeds of the bet are collected by the account holder only and nobody else.

Furthermore, one of the conditions of the licence is the obligation for all betting operators to display in a conspicuous place a notice which clearly mentions that it is prohibited for minors to bet.

I am also informed by the Commissioner of Police that the '*Police des Jeux*' and the '*Brigade des Mineurs*' are on the alert to detect any such offence.

In addition, the Licensing Authority ensures, as far as possible, that no marketing communications regarding betting are directed at minors.

I should also point out that this problem is a worldwide phenomenon and that in Mauritius, appropriate measures and legislation have been put in place to tackle the problem.

## **RODRIGUES - POLICE TOWING VEHICLE**

**(No. B/1280) Mr C. Leopold (Fourth Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs whether, in regard to the services of the Police Force in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if they are equipped with towing facilities, and if not, why not.

**Reply:** The Road Traffic (Removal of Vehicles) Regulations 1962 make provisions for the Police to remove any vehicle which has broken down or has been abandoned or is likely to cause danger or obstruction on a public road.

As far as Rodrigues is concerned, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that at present there is no Police towing vehicle in the island. However, a Police lorry is currently being used to remove and tow Police vehicles in cases of breakdown and accident. The Police lorry is also being used to tow private vehicles when the owners of such vehicles are unable to do so. Such services are offered by the Police against payment of an appropriate fee.

The Police are carefully examining the situation in regard to the traffic flow, the number of vehicles on the roads, the frequency of accidents and vehicle breakdowns on public roads in Rodrigues. In the light thereof, consideration will be given to acquire a towing vehicle for Rodrigues.

## **MINORS – SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST – OFFENDERS – COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**(No. B/1281) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs whether, in regard to the cases of rape and sexual abuse on minors, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if any of the offenders thereof has been sentenced to community work, since 2004 and, if so, indicate if he proposes amending the law to provide for these categories of offenders not to be sentenced to undergo community work.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since the year 2004 up to October 2008, 22 persons, convicted for sexual offences against minors, have had to undergo community service following a Community Service Order issued by the Intermediate Court, in accordance with the Community Service Order Act 2002.

Section 3 of the Community Service Order Act provides that the Court may suspend the sentence of imprisonment not exceeding two years and not being a sentence fixed by law, to a Community Service Order.

With regard to the offence of rape, section 1(2) of the Criminal Code provides for minimum sentence of 5 years, which will be increased to 10 years on proclamation of the Judicial Provisions Bill which has been passed in the National Assembly two weeks back. It is thus clear that, as regards cases of rape, the Community Service Order Act does not apply and, accordingly, no person convicted for such an offence has been granted a Community Service Order.

In Mauritius, we have a Judiciary which is independent under the principle of separation of powers. The Judiciary also has the discretion to decide as to whether a Community Service Order is appropriate depending on the circumstances under which the offence of sexual assault is committed.

It is not felt that Government should interfere with the discretion of the Judiciary.

### **PUBLIC OFFICERS – DECLARATION OF ASSETS**

**(No. B/1282) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs whether, in regard to the public service, he will state if Government proposes to introduce compulsory declaration of assets by public officials of the senior management level.

**Reply:** I am informed that a considerable amount of work has been already done on the proposed compulsory declaration of assets by public officers.

However, difficulties have arisen regarding the precise categories and office holders who would be required to declare their assets and the manner in which they would be defined or described in the draft regulations that have already been prepared on the subject. The general view is that declaration of assets by senior officials alone would not be an adequate safeguard against unethical or corrupt practice in the public sector. What we need to do is to extend the requirement to all categories of officers and all office holders who perform duties and exercise powers of such a nature that citizens affected by those duties and powers may be tempted to offer gratification to those officers. And, obviously, such categories cannot be limited to senior officials. Even “senior officials” must be defined, whether by reference to their salary levels or to the posts held by them.

Accordingly, further consultations are taking place between my Office and the Attorney-General’s Office with a view to improving on the definition of the categories of public officers to whom the declaration of assets requirements would apply. Thereafter, the relevant regulations and legislative measures will be finalised.

**PRIVY COUNCIL - JUDICIAL COMMITTEE - MR A. JUGNAUTH V/S  
MR R. RINGADOO**

**(No. B/1283) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs whether, in regard to the recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, in the case of Mr Ashock Jugnauth v/s Mr Raj Direvium Nagaya Ringadoo, he will state if he proposes to set up a Fact Finding Committee to establish the responsibilities at the level of the Ministry of Health with a view to institute disciplinary proceedings.

**Reply:** The hon. Member should be aware that judgment in the appeal case of GOKHOOL v Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is still pending. The appeal was entered following the decision of the Supreme Court which held that the termination of the contract of employment of General Workers, Hospital Servants and Health Care Assistants by the Ministry was lawful.

In virtue of Standing Order 22(1) (f), I consider that it would not be proper to make any further comment on this aspect of the case.

**MBC – MR R.S. & COONJAN ORCHESTRA - AMOUNT PAID**

**(No. B/1284) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to if the Mr R.S. and the Coonjan Orchestra were invited by the Corporation, on or about 13 to 21 October 2008, and, if so, indicate the (a) purpose thereof (b) duration of their stay and (c) amount of money spent?

**Reply:** I am informed by the Director General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) that Mr R. S., an Indian stage singer was invited to perform for the launching of its ‘live’ sponsored programme “*Pepsi Sega Hungama*”, which took place at Plaza, Rose Hill on 19 October 2008.

Mr R.S. came to Mauritius on 13 October 2008 and left on 20 October 2008. During his stay, he also performed for a two hour musical programme recorded by the MBC and which is to be broadcast during the end of year festivities.

The MBC paid Mr R.S. US \$1,000 for performing live at Plaza and for the recording of the musical programme in MBC studio. He was also provided with a return air-ticket Mumbai-Mauritius-Mumbai through a Trade Exchange Agreement that MBC has with Air Mauritius.

I am informed that the MBC did not invite Coonjan Orchestra which comprised twelve members including musicians, presenters, singers and dancers.

However, the Director General of the MBC informed my Office that the Orchestra had proposed its services while on a private tour in Mauritius from 13 to 21 of October 2008. It was subsequently agreed that the Orchestra together with Mr R.S. would record a two hour variety musical programme, provided that the MBC would disburse US\$ 1,000 and would provide air-tickets Mumbai-Mauritius-Mumbai for six musicians out of twelve members comprising the Orchestra. The six air-tickets were obtained through a Trade Exchange Agreement that the MBC has with the Air Mauritius.

### **OLYMPIC GAMES – BEIJING – DELEGATES**

**(No. B/1295) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the last Olympic Games held in Beijing, China, he will state –

- (a) the names and status of the delegates who participated therein, including delegates from the parastatal bodies, indicating the criteria used for their selection, and
- (b) the total expenditure incurred, giving a breakdown thereof in terms of
  - (i) travel costs;
  - (ii) *per diem* allowances, and
  - (iii) other expenses.

**Reply (The Minister for Consumer Protection and Citizens Charter):** I am tabling the information regarding the names and the status of the delegates who participated in the last Olympic Games.

As regards the criteria for the selection of the athletes, the Mauritius National Olympic Committee is the sole agency responsible for their nomination. The selection is done on the basis of set rules and regulations as stipulated by the Olympic Games Organising Committee. Other delegates including six guests were officially invited by the International Olympic Committee and the Mauritius National Olympic Committee.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the total expenditure incurred by the Ministry amounted to Rs621,975 which included Rs216,674 for travel costs and Rs405,301 as allowance as well as pocket money paid to officials and athletes. Travel costs amounting Rs216,674 included two trips which I had to make to and from Beijing during the Games, since Bruno Julie reached the semi final of the Boxing Tournament. It is to be noted that the cost of air tickets for the official delegation was borne by the Mauritius National Olympic Committee, whereas the guests participated at their own expenses.

The House would also wish to note that it is the first time that athletes selected for the Olympic Games had been allocated an allowance of Rs15,000 monthly during six months, prior to the Games to pursue a smooth preparation.

### **LES SALINES, CASSIS – BOULOUX AREA HEALTH CENTRE – METHADONE TREATMENT**

**(No. B/1320) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the region of Les Salines, Cassis, in the vicinity of the Bouloux Centre, he will state the measures that have been taken to alleviate the problems of the inhabitants thereof, especially, when methadone treatment is dispensed at the Centre.

**Reply:** I am informed that so far, neither my Ministry nor the Commissioner of Police has received any complaint from the inhabitants in the region of Les Salines, Cassis, in respect of the dispensing of methadone at Bouloux Area Health Centre.

However, my Ministry is aware that there is a growing number of clients attending the Methadone Dispensing Unit at Bouloux Area Health Centre for their daily dose. This is causing some overcrowding at the Centre and at times the clients do loiter in the vicinity of the Area Health Centre after having taken their methadone.

In this connexion, I have set up a Committee to look into the decongestion of the Methadone Dispensing Units. This Committee is chaired by the Director Health Services responsible for Harm Reduction Strategies and comprises representatives of the Police Department, the Rehabilitation Centres and other concerned stakeholders.

Following the recommendations made by that Committee last week in respect of the Dispensing Unit at Bouloux Area Health Centre, my Ministry has taken the following measures –

- (a) social workers from the Rehabilitation Centres are now regularly present at the centre during the dispensing hours to ensure that their clients are behaving properly, and
- (b) a sensitisation campaign is being carried out by officers of my Ministry, the Police, NATReSA and the Rehabilitation Centres to inform the clients that the dispensing time of 6.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. should be strictly complied with. Currently, a few clients coming after 9 a.m. are being exceptionally given their methadone.

In addition, consideration is being given for a Mobile Dispensing Unit to be made operational at Plaine Lauzun Community Health Centre. Arrangements will then be made for some clients from Bouloux Dispensing Unit to be mobilised to the new Dispensing Unit at Plaine Lauzun;

Furthermore, I am advised by the Commissioner of Police that the area of Les Salines, Cassis and Bain des Dames are under the control of Bain des Dames Police Station that provides policing arrangements. Foot and mobile patrols are carried out by personnel of the station with the support of members of the ERS, Police du Transport, Divisional Support Unit, CID and ADSU.

### **SMALL ENTERPRISES – CHILD LABOUR**

**(No. B/1321) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the small enterprises and the informal sector, he will, in each case, state the number of inspections carried out by his Ministry with a view to detecting child labour, indicating –

- (a) the number of cases of child labour detected, and
- (b) the actions taken.

**Reply:** All places of work, including small enterprises and the informal sector, are liable to inspection. For period January 2007 to September 2008, officers of the Labour and Industrial Relations Division of my Ministry have carried out 3,918 inspections in different sectors of employment.

Mr Speaker Sir, all inspections carried out by these officers are also meant to detect child employment. In addition, whenever information is received on cases of child employment, prompt action is taken by my Ministry. As a result of such interventions, 13 cases of child employment were detected during the period 2006 to date. Criminal action has been instituted against the employers in 9 of the cases.

In 8 cases, the employers were found guilty and fined. The ninth case is coming before the Industrial Court on 11.03.09. The remaining 4 cases are being processed for reference to Court.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE - RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/1322) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Riviere)** asked the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms whether, in regard to recruitment in the public service on a permanent or on a contractual basis, since July 2005 to date, he will, in each case, state the names, addresses and qualifications of the persons recruited in each post, indicating their respective posting.

**Reply:** I intend to place in the Library of the National Assembly in due course all information in regard to the question of the hon. Member except privileged information of the Public Service Commission.

### **HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS - CONTRACTS**

**(No. B/1323) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Riviere)** asked the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms whether, in regard to the Health Care Assistants whose contracts had been terminated in July 2005, he will state if Government will consider the advisability of reemploying them.

**Reply:** As the hon. Member may be aware, the case of the Health Care Assistants is the subject matter of an appeal before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

The appeal was heard when the Judicial Committee sat in Mauritius in September. I am given to understand that judgement will be delivered by the Judicial Committee in the first week of December.

Therefore, the matter being *sub judice* and in accordance with the Standing Order 22(1)(f), it would not be proper for me to make any further comment thereon.



## **CLEANING CAMPAIGNS – BINS - DISTRIBUTION**

**(No. B/1325) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether, in regard to the cleaning campaigns and the distribution of bins, since September 2000 to date, he will state the number of campaigns organised, indicating –

- (a) the places where they have been carried out;
- (b) if for each campaign, bins have been distributed and, if so, the number thereof, and
- (c) the total cost of each campaign.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/1288)*

## **BEAU VALLON FOOTBALL GROUND - RENAMING**

**(No. B/1326) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the renaming of the Beau Vallon football ground as the Lutchmeeparsad Badry football ground, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that the proposal to rename the Beau Vallon football ground as the Lutchmeeparsad Badry football ground is still under consideration. The substantive Minister will take appropriate action in due course.

## **FISHERMEN INVESTMENT TRUST/ FISHERS OF BAMBOUS VIRIEUX – AQUACULTURE PROJECT**

**(No. B/1327) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Protection and Security whether, in regard to the aquaculture project to be set up by the Fishermen Investment Trust and the fishers of Bambous Virieux, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Trust, information as to the number of meetings held between the Trust and the fishers, indicating if a list of the fishers present at each meeting will be tabled.

**Reply:** The Fishermen Investment Trust (FIT) is finalising a Business Plan to carry out fish farming in floating cages in the region of Bambous Virieux. The aim of the project is to provide new opportunities to the fishermen community as well as to increase fish production with regard to food security. In this respect, fishers of the region will be directly involved in the project and appropriate training programmes will be mounted accordingly.

I am informed by the Fishermen Investment Trust (FIT) that three meetings have, so far, been organized with the collaboration of the Fisheries Division of my Ministry with the fishers of Bambous Virieux during which the fish farm project was presented to them and they were explained its benefits as well.

The three meetings were held at the Bambous Virieux Village Hall on the following dates.

- (i) Friday 14 March 2008 – some 40 fishers were present
- (ii) Wednesday 20 August 2008 – some 80-100 fishers were present out of a total of 103 registered fishermen at Bambous Virieux.
- (iii) Friday 3 October 2008 – some 60 fishers were present

The fishers were, in principle, agreeable to the proposed project.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as regards the list of the fishers present, I am informed that their attendance at the three meetings has not been recorded given the informative nature of the meetings.

I also wish to inform the House that further meetings will be organized by the Fishermen Investment Trust with the fishers of Bambous Virieux as soon as the Business Plan will be finalised.

## **PORTE AU FEUILLE – AQUACULTURE PROJECT**

**(No. B/1328) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Protection and Security whether, in regard to the on-going aquaculture project at Porte au Feuille, he will state if cases of loss of fish from the cages thereat have been reported and, if so, indicate –

- (a) the quantity thereof, and
- (b) the circumstances thereof.

**Reply:** With regard to the ongoing aquaculture project at Pointe aux Feuilles which is operated by Ferme Marine de Mahebourg Ltd, I am informed that two cases of loss of fish have been reported namely –

- (i) At the Police Station of Mahebourg on 27 March 2007 where the loss of 17 units of fish was reported.
- (ii) At the Police Station of Vieux Grand Port on 15 November 2008 where the loss of a total of approximately 100 kilos of fish was reported.

As regards part (b) of the question, the exact circumstances in which the losses of fish have occurred are still under investigation by the Police Department.

### **FISHERMEN (REGISTERED) – FISH CATCH**

**(No. B/1329) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Protection and Security whether, in regard to the registered fishermen, he will state the total fish catch for the financial year 2007-2008 for –

- (a) Rodrigues;
- (b) mainland Mauritius
  - (i) in lagoon, and
  - (ii) off lagoon and
- (c) the respective number of fishers involved in each case.

**Reply:** For the financial year 2007-2008, the total fish catch and number of fishers were as follows –

**(a) Rodrigues**

- (i) total catch in the lagoon was estimated at 1102 tonnes
- (ii) total catch in the off lagoon was estimated at 403 tonnes
- (iii) there were 1594 registered fishers operating in the lagoon and 329 registered fishers in the off lagoon.

**(b) Mainland Mauritius**

- (i) total catch in the lagoon was estimated at 340 tonnes
- (ii) total catch in the off lagoon was estimated at 396 tonnes, and
- (iii) there were 214 registered fishers operating in the lagoon, 731 in the off lagoon and 1341 in the lagoon/off lagoon area. Total: 2286

## **FISHING BOAT (REGISTERED) - NUMBER**

**(No. B/1330) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Protection and Security whether, in regard to the registered fishing boats, he will state the number thereof –

- (a) island-wise;
- (b) region-wise, and
- (c) attached to each fish landing station

**Reply:** Regarding part (a) there are two thousand four hundred and sixty two (2462) fishing boats registered island-wise with my Ministry. As regards parts (b) and (c) I am tabling the required information.

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER – FINANCIAL REPORTING COUNCIL - POST**

**(No. B/1331) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the post of the Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Reporting Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Council, information as to –

- (a) when the post was filled;
- (b) the number of persons who were shortlisted, indicating their qualifications and experience, and
- (c) the qualifications and experience of the successful candidate.

**Reply:** I am informed that following a public recruitment exercise, three candidates were shortlisted for the post of Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Reporting Council. The post was filled on 02 May 2008.

The information sought for in parts (b) and (c) of the question are being tabled.

## **RODRIGUES - TELECOMMUNICATIONS & INTERNET ACCESS**

**(No. B/1332) Mr J. Von-Mally (Fourth Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to telecommunications and internet access in Rodrigues, he will state Government policy on the improvement thereof and the development of call centres thereat, indicating if he will arrange for the EASE, SEGANET or any other optic cable to connect Rodrigues and, if so, the time frame therefor.

**Reply:** In regard to telecommunications access in Rodrigues, the policy of Government is to ensure that the inhabitants in Rodrigues benefit from the same telecom services, in terms of prices and quality of service, as their fellow citizens living in the mainland Mauritius. In this respect, the house will note that for the very first time in this country, this Government had in May 2008 approved the policy for a uniform pricing for all local calls made between Mauritius and Rodrigues on either a fixed line or a mobile phone.

The competitive telecommunications environment which was initiated by the then Government under the Prime Ministership of Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam in 1998 is also producing its results; since December 2006 the inhabitants in Rodrigues have an alternative telecom operator, Emtel Ltd, which has started offering mobile telecommunication services at more competitive prices.

The policy of this Government for Telecommunications, be it for the mainland or the islands of the Republic of Mauritius is to foster further competitive safeguards with a view to developing a market-driven environment that will ensure sustainable telecom services at affordable rates. This can only benefit the consumers.

As regards Internet access in Rodrigues, I wish to remind the house that prior to December 2006, Internet access in Rodrigues was mainly through dial-up and with very limited possibility to broadband access. I am informed that since December 2006, with the operation of Emtel in Rodrigues, the International bandwidth which was at only 2 megabits per second has now been increased to a total of over 9 megabits per second. This technical innovation has allowed broadband mobile Internet services to be available in Rodrigues.

Once again, I would like to point out the original policy of this Government, which was initiated in 1998 and is now producing its results tangibly.

In order to improve internet accessibility to both Rodrigues and the mainland, Government has launched the Public Internet Access Point project in post offices and e-Cafés in Youth Centres where Internet will be provided free of charge to students and pensioners.

Finally, as regards the development of call centres, the sine qua non condition to attract this kind of activities in this competitive market is to have international connectivity through optical fibre. Regarding SEGANET project or any other fibre optic cable, I am informed that the possibility to provide connectivity to Rodrigues exists. The technico-economic feasibility of the said project will soon be undertaken by the Indian Ocean Commission and Government will ensure that connectivity to Rodrigues be also undertaken in the study.

### **RODRIGUES MUSEUM – SETTING UP**

**(No. B/1333) Mr J. Von-Mally (Fourth Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the project for the setting up of a Rodrigues Museum, he will state if Government will consider arranging with friendly countries to have certain fossils/artifacts, like the Solitaire, to be handed over to the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for them to be placed in the museum.

**Reply:** The reply is in the affirmative.

The Mauritius Museums Council (MMC), which operates under the aegis of my Ministry, is already collaborating fully with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the setting up of the Rodrigues Museum.

In September 2008, the Chairperson and two senior officers of the MMC had working sessions in Rodrigues with the view to helping in the setting up of the Rodrigues Museum and to advise on the collection of specimens and artifacts.

The MMC has also agreed to hand over to the Rodrigues Museum a set of bones of the Solitaire, presently in its collection.

I am also informed that an unmounted skeleton of the Solitaire is available and is presently being kept in an office of the Rodrigues Forestry Services.

This may be taken over by the Rodrigues Museum.

My Ministry will also do its utmost to assist the Rodrigues Museum in obtaining any fossils/artifacts which are either unique or specific to Rodrigues or are associated with its history and environment.

This will be done through the Cultural Agreements, which we have with several countries.

### **SAINT PIERRE TRAFFIC CENTRE - UPGRADING**

**(No. B/1334) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether, in regard to the Saint Pierre Traffic Centre, he will state if he will consider the advisability of enlarging and upgrading same.

**Reply:** I am informed that the St Pierre Traffic Centre cannot be enlarged owing to the unavailability of space in its surroundings. However, certain upgrading works such as placing of additional safety measures and appropriate traffic signs can be considered to mitigate any security problems. The situation will be assessed and action will be taken accordingly.

### **MOUNT ORY, MOKA – CREMATION GROUND**

**(No. B/1335) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the compulsory acquisition of land for the construction of a cremation ground at Mount Ory, Moka, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** At the request of the Ministry of Environment & National Development Unit, procedures were initiated at the level of my Ministry for the acquisition of a site of an extent of OA25p for the upgrading of the existing cremation ground at Mount Ory. However, the site was not found suitable due to lack of parking spaces and a proper access road.

Consequently, the acquisition of a more appropriate alternative site for the cremation ground is being considered. A site near Le Bocage School has been identified and clearances from the different stakeholders concerned are being awaited prior to the acquisition of the land.

## **SIR ABDOOL RAZACK MOHAMED STREET, PORT LOUIS – ROAD HUMPS & PEDESTRIAN CROSSING**

**(No. A/22) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether in regard to the Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed Street, Port Louis, he will state if consideration will be given for the installation of –

- (a) road humps, from its junction between Military Road and Dr. Ambroisine Street, and
- (b) a pedestrian crossing, between its junction from Canal Bathurst and Cité Laval Streets, in the vicinity of the two bus stops.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a), Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed Street is a classified road and the setting up of road humps on classified roads should be avoided to the extent possible. In fact, for some years now, this Ministry has refrained from putting up humps along classified roads. However a road hump has, exceptionally, been installed on Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed Street near the Coeur Sacré de Jesus RCA primary school for the safety of the school children. Whenever any request is received for the installation of a hump along such roads, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) assesses the request from a technical viewpoint and takes into account numerous elements including the road configuration, density of traffic flow, pedestrian movement and so on and the needs for traffic calming measures along that road are determined accordingly. Where conditions so dictate, a hump is put up and where required other infrastructural measures to improve road safety in the region are applied.

Observations on the road environment and traffic conditions do not indicate that the section of Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed Street between Military Road and Dr. Ambroisine Streets necessitates road humps. According to the Road Traffic (Speed) Regulations, the speed limit on Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed Street is 50 km/h and 60 km/h, depending on the categories of vehicles. An assessment of the situation will be made to find out whether the speed limit should be further reduced. The need to apply other road safety measures will also be investigated into.

With regard to part (b), the setting up of a pedestrian crossing on Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed Street between Canal Bathurst St and Cite Laval St and between the existing bus stops, it has been found that the distance between the bus stops is 70 m. This distance is inadequate, from safety point of view, for the provision of a pedestrian crossing. The setting up of a pedestrian crossing would require the



shifting of the bus stop in the direction of Khadafi Square and this could cause other inconveniences as the whole set up of bus stops on Sir Abdool Rajack Mohamed Street would be disturbed. A study will be carried out to assess the need for pedestrian crossings along the whole of Sir Abdool Rajack Mohamed Street and decisions as appropriate will be taken.

### **MILITARY ROAD, CITÉ MARTIAL – ROAD HUMPS**

**(No. A/23) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether in regard to the setting up of a road hump at Military Road, Cité Martial, in the vicinity of its community centre, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit of my Ministry has informed that site surveys have been carried out and it has been observed that the setting up of road humps in the vicinity of the Community Centre along Military Road at Cité Martial is not justified. The Community Centre is located some 100m away from the junction of Military Road and Paul et Virginie Street. Vehicles from Paul et Virginie Street drive uphill when getting into Military Road and as such their speed is reduced. Consequently, the vehicles passing on the road in the vicinity of the Community Centre are at reduced speed. According to the Speed Regulations under the Road Traffic Act, the speed along Military Road is 40 Km/h and any vehicle being driven in excess of that speed would be contravening the law. Moreover, a speed Survey indicates that the speed of the majority of vehicles near the Community Centre does not exceed 50 Km/h.

It is noted that footpaths exist on both sides of the road. However, it has been observed that certain sections of these footpaths are on the same level as that of the road. This part of Military Road falls under the purview of the Municipality of Port Louis and the latter will, as a matter of urgency, be requested to look into the possibility of raising the footpath or improve it in some way or the other so that the accident risk element is fenced off.

Road humps remain an exceptional measure of road safety and should not be resorted to automatically as a speed reduction measure. As far as possible, the proliferation of road humps should be avoided as it carries in its wake negative impacts as well.

Judicious use of road humps allows for good and effective flow of vehicular traffic and any excessive use of these structures seriously hamper traffic flow.

For the case under consideration, it is not considered, from the traffic management and road safety angle, that the construction of a hump is justified.