(No. B/200) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the Agalega Island, he will state if consideration will be given for the provision of the necessary facilities to the Honourable Members of the National Assembly for the Constituency No. 3, Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East to effect visits thereto.

Reply (The Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands): I would like to reiterate the reply I made to a Parliamentary Question (B/314) on 17 May 2011.

I said then that I very much appreciate and warmly welcome the proposals of the Honourable Members of Constituency No. 3 to visit Agalega, an Island which really deserves our attention. In fact, in one of my speeches before the House, I deplored the fact that there were Members of Constituency No. 3 who were elected and remained five years in this house but never thought it necessary and useful to pay visits to the Agalean community.

This being said, I wish to inform the hon. Members of Constituency No. 3 that, Agalega Island, being part of the Republic of Mauritius, any Mauritian citizen is free to travel to Agalega, subject to availability of passenger seats on board ships travelling to and from Agalega.

In fact, I am informed by the Outer Islands Development Corporation that the Mauritius Pride effects two voyages per year to Agalega, one around the first quarter of the year and another one in November. Passengers travelling through Mauritius Pride normally stay over a period of 2 nights/3 days in Agalega. Outer Island Development Corporation has always offered proper and decent accommodation to persons visiting Agalega.

The House may also wish to note that currently, the Dornier flies to Agalega only in case of emergencies, in view of the current state of the airstrip. The Dornier can take only 2 persons on the Mauritius-Agalega leg and 3 to 4 persons on the Agalega-Mauritius leg. However, Government is taking necessary measures to upgrade the airstrip at Agalega which would definitely improve air access to the island. The recommendable means to go to Agalega for the time being is by ship.
JUVENILE SUSPECTS - LEGAL AID

(No. B/203) Dr. S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the juvenile suspects, he will state if consideration will be given for the –

(a) granting of legal aid thereto as from the time of arrest and up to appeal, as the case may be, and

(b) setting up of a juvenile court or appointment of a Juge pour Enfants.

(Withdrawn)

VICTIM RIGHTS BILL - INTRODUCTION

(No. B/206) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether he will state if Government proposes to introduce a Victim Rights Bill with the objective of safeguarding the rights of the victims of crime and, if so, when.

Reply (The Attorney-General): As stated in the Government Programme 2012-2015, “Moving the Nation Forward”, Government has placed law and order and the protection of its citizens as one of its foremost priorities.

As far as victims’ rights are concerned, the Programme provides for the introduction of a Police and Criminal Evidence Bill with Codes of Conduct that will regulate the conduct of police and other investigators and address a number of issues relating to criminal enquiries, including victims’ rights. Legislation will be introduced to assist and protect victims and witnesses in order to better safeguard the rights and interests of victims, and a special witness scheme will be developed for Courts to provide certain facilities to special categories of witnesses.
It is expected that the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which contains inter alia provisions aiming to protect victims of crime, will be introduced in this House in November this year. Extensive consultations have already taken place with stakeholders, including the legal profession, and I shall be holding further consultations with a view to finalising the draft Bill.

**MAMADE ELAHEE MUNICIPAL STADIUM - POLLUTION**

(No. B/233) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Mamade Elahee Municipal Stadium at Cité Martial, in Port Louis, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to if it is in a bad state and that there is presence of dust thereat due to the bad state of the turfi ng which is a source of pollution causing inconveniences to the inhabitants living in the surroundings thereof and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken.

**Reply:** I am informed by the City Council of Port Louis that the Mamade Elahee Municipal Stadium at Cité Martial is neither in bad state nor there is presence of dust thereat causing any pollution.

I am further informed that no complaint whatsoever has been received from any inhabitants living in the surroundings of the stadium regarding any dust pollution.

I am informed that the turf of the stadium is in a good condition and it is being regularly mowed.

**WWMA - SEWERAGE PROJECTS - VARIATION WORKS**

(No. B/234) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the sewerage projects, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Waste Water Management Authority, information as to if there are projects where the variation works have exceeded the contract amount and, if so, indicate in each case, if the prior approval of the Central Procurement Board was sought and obtained before approval thereof and payment therefor.

*(Withdrawn)*
CEB - BLACK OUT - 13 DECEMBER 2011

(No. B/235) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the black out which occurred on 13 December 2011, he will -

(a) table copy of the report submitted to his Ministry by the Central Electricity Board, and

(b) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, information as to;

(i) the estimated financial losses incurred by the country as a result thereof;

(ii) the remedial measures taken, if any, by the Board to restore electricity supply within the least possible delay in future, and

(iii) if the persons responsible for the delay in restoring the electricity supply have been identified and if so, the actions, if any, taken against them.

(Withdrawn)

CANE DEMOCRATISATION FUND - SETTING UP

(No. B/237) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the proposed setting up of the Cane Democratisation Fund, he will state where matters stand.

(Withdrawn)

FOOD SECURITY FUND - SET UP
(No. B/238) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the Food Security Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Fund, information as to the -

(a) date on which it was set up, and
(b) amount of money -
   (i) earmarked therefor, and
   (ii) disbursed as at to-date, indicating the number of beneficiaries thereof.

(Withdrawn)

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF VACOAS/PHOENIX / MAYOR - FOOD SECURITY FUND/ AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENTION UNIT - FUNDS

(No. B/239) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to Mr N. A., Mayor of the Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Food Security Fund and from the Agricultural Research and Extention Unit respectively, information as to if it has advanced funds thereto and, if so, indicate -

(a) when;
(b) the quantum thereof;
(c) the purpose therefor, and
(d) the conditions attached thereto.

(Withdrawn)

BEL OMBRE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – CPE PASS RATE

(No. B/241) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Bel Ombre Government School, he will state -

(a) over the past five years, the;
(i) number of pupils who have attended/are attending thereat;
(ii) percentage pass rate at the Certificate of Primary Education examinations;

(b) if he has received complaints regarding the;

(i) frequent transfer or absences of the teachers posted thereat, and
(ii) project for the fencing thereof.

(Withdrawn)

LE MORNE HERITAGE TRUST FUND - RECRUITMENT

(No. B/242) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Arts and Culture whether, in regard to the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Trust, information as to the -

(a) present number of employees thereat, indicating the respective grades thereof, and
(b) when the last recruitment exercise thereat was carried out, indicating the -

(i) procedures followed therefor;
(ii) number and grade of the posts advertised for;
(iii) names and addresses of the successful applicants, and
(iv) if consideration was given to the applicants residing in Le Morne, and if not, why not.

(Withdrawn)

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF PORT LOUIS - PAVEMENTS/FOOTPATHS

(No. B/244) Mr J. C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the pavements/footpaths, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to –

(a) if private parties are allowed to construct/renovate same, and
(b) consider the advisability of putting up new pavements/footpaths thereat to facilitate the use thereof by persons moving on wheelchairs.
Reply: I am informed by the City Council of Port Louis that pavements and footpaths adjoining major construction sites are normally damaged in the course of ongoing works.

I am informed that in such cases the promoters usually reinstate the pavements/footpaths to their original state at their own costs.

With regard to the last part of the question, I wish to inform the House that legislation in force makes it compulsory for the provision of access facilities to disabled persons to all government buildings.

UNEMPLOYMENT – YOUTH - STATISTICS

(No. B/246) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to youth unemployment, he will state the latest available statistics thereof, indicating –

(a) if his Ministry has commissioned a study in relation thereto, and

(b) the specific measures taken, if any, to address the challenges thereof.

(Withdrawn)

MORCELLEMENT RAFFRAY, PAILLES - CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

(No. B/247) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare whether she has received a petition from the inhabitants of the Morcellement Raffray, Les Guibies, Pailles, for the setting up of a Centre Communautaire thereat and, if so, will she state if consideration will be given thereto and, if not, why not.

Reply: I am informed that on 28 January 2012 the Guibies Senior Citizens Welfare Association sent a request to my colleague, the hon. Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions for a ‘Centre Communautaire’ to be set up in the region of Morcellement Raffray, Pailles.

The request was subsequently referred on 13 April 2012 to the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund (SILWF), which operates under the aegis of my Ministry. Representatives of
SILWF met members of the Guibies Senior Citizens Welfare Association on 17 April 2012, and they were invited to use the nearby existing Camp Chapelon Community Centre, Pailles whenever needed for their activities.

The policy of my Ministry is to promote community welfare through a host of leisure and educational activities at community level, through a network of 132 community centres and 57 social welfare centres across the island. In view of the current economic situation, it is not proposed to set up a new centre at this point in time.

**TRANQUEBAR - FOOTBALL GROUND**

(No. A/124) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a football ground in Tranquebar, in Port Louis, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** The construction of the football ground in Tranquebar in Port Louis is being undertaken by the National Development Unit (NDU) of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping.

The project will be implemented in two phases. During the first phase, the levelling, turfing and fencing of the football pitch will be undertaken and lighting works will be carried out during the second phase.

As at date, the plot of land identified for the construction of the football ground has been cleared. The design and scope of work have already been finalised and the National Development Unit is awaiting the outcome of a global tender exercise for football grounds around the island to start implementing the project.

**HARRIS STREET, PORT LOUIS - SPORT COMPLEX - CONSTRUCTION**
(No. A/125) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a sport complex in the Harris Street, in Port Louis, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: Only the following works remain to be completed at the sport complex in Harris Street, Port Louis -

(i) asphalting of yard and parking spaces;
(ii) upgrading of volley-ball/basket ball pitch, and
(iii) reconstruction of part of reinforced cement concrete boundary wall and provision of entrance gate.

LA SALETTE ROAD-CAP MALHEUREUX - STREET LIGHTING

(No. A/128) Mr A. Gungah (First Member for Grand’ Baie & Poudre D’or) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the proposed extension of the street lighting system from the La Salette Road to Cap Malheureux, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart District Council, information as to where matters stand.

Reply: I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to PQ No. B/886 on this issue. As already indicated in my reply, the Central Electricity Board has already been approached by the Pamplemousses-Rivière du Rempart District Council with a view to extending the street lighting network along Chemin 20 pied from La Salette Road up to the junction of Petit Raffray to enable it to fix the street lighting lamps thereat.

I am informed that the matter is being closely followed up by the Council.

GOODLANDS - FIRE STATION - CONSTRUCTION

(No. A/129) Mr A. Gungah (First Member for Grand’ Baie & Poudre D’or) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a new fire station at Goodlands, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Fire Services, information as to where matters stand, indicating if the approval of the Project Plan Committee has been obtained therefor.
Reply: I am informed by the Fire Services Department that the Project Plan Committee has recommended the proposed construction of a new Fire Station in Goodlands for inclusion in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

I am further informed that preliminary details such as write up details of the requirements of the proposed Fire Station have already been submitted to the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping.

BEAU BASSIN & PETITE RIVIERE - ROADS RESURFACING

(No. A/130) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Constituency No. 20, Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière, he will give a list of the projects being implemented by the National Development Unit, indicating in each case, the -

(a) roads earmarked for resurfacing, and

(b) names, regions and implementation dates thereof.

Reply: The information requested is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

CANOT VILLAGE AND IN MAINGARD, BEAU BASSIN – FOOTBALL GROUNDS

(No. A/131) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the proposed construction of football grounds at the Canot Village and in Maingard, Beau Bassin, in Constituency No. 20, Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière, he will state where matters stand.
**Reply:** Tender for the construction of new Football Grounds throughout the Island, which includes the Football Ground at Maingard, was launched on 22 February 2012 and the closing date was 03 April 2012. The bid evaluation exercise is ongoing.

As regards the proposed construction of Football Ground at Canot Village, two sites have been identified and the Ministry of Housing and Lands has been requested to initiate acquisition procedures.

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**MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF PORT LOUIS – WELFARE DEPARTMENT – OVERTIME - ALLOWANCE**

(No. A/132) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Welfare Department of the Municipal Council of Port Louis, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Council, a list of the Officers attached thereto who have been paid overtime allowances over the past three years, indicating, in each case -

(a) the total amount thereof paid on a yearly basis, and

(b) who approved the roster for the carrying out of overtime.

**Reply:** The information requested by the hon. Member and pertaining to the list of the officers of the Welfare Department who have been paid overtime allowances over the past three (3) years and the total amount thereof paid on a yearly basis are being placed in the library of the National Assembly.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that -

(i) there was no such roster as overtime was paid to employees posted on their respective sites of work and who had performed duties over and above their normal working hours;

(ii) at the time of approval of activities by the Public Welfare Committee for the last three years, approval was also conveyed in principle for the performance of overtime related to such activities, and

(iii) payment for overtime was approved in the first instance by the Chief Welfare Officer and thereafter by the Chief Executive of the Council.
BATS - CULLING

(No. A/133) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to bats, he will state if there has been an increase of 139% of the population thereof over the past five years, and, if so, indicate the remedial measures that will be taken, indicating if consideration is being given for amendments to be brought to the Wild Life and National Parks Act to allow for their culling and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

Reply: It is proposed to amend the Wildlife and National Parks Act (1993) for the setting up of a Special Technical Committee to advise whether control is necessary in case a protected species becomes a threat to the economy, health, national security and food security. The Bill will soon be posted on the website of my Ministry for public comments.

I am informed that surveys carried out by the National Parks and Conservation Service in 2010 indicates that there has been an increase of 123.4% in the endemic fruit bat population since 2006. The Mauritian fruit bat is endemic to the Mascarene Islands and is found only in Mauritius. It is a protected species under the Wildlife and National Parks Act (1993) and advice has been sought from the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN) on the control of the bat population.

The IUCN has delegated two bat experts namely, Professor Paul Racey and Dr. Anthony Hutson who were in Mauritius last week, to investigate on the conservation status of the Mauritian fruit bat as well as advising on the remedial measures relating to fruit bats and fruit production. The experts will submit their report in a fortnight.

A meeting was held at my Ministry on 31 May 2012 with the experts and the following recommendations are under consideration -

i. Netting of fruit trees remains the most effective way in preventing fruit damage.

ii. There is no example around the world where culling has reduced fruit damage.

iii. Native fruit trees should be grown around fruit orchards to act as alternative hosts for the bats.

iv. Native forest restoration should be intensified to provide for a reservoir of native fruits.
v. A concerted strategy over the short term, medium term and long term has to be worked out to protect the Mauritian fruit bat from being endangered and in parallel to ensure better fruit crop management.

With a view to protect fruit plantations, fruit growers have been advised by Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) to carry out netting and pruning of fruit trees.

ROUTE DES PAMPLEMOUSSES, PORT LOUIS – LIGHTING SYSTEM

(No. A/134) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Route des Pamplemousses, in Port Louis, from the Abercrombie roundabout to the Khadafi Square, he will state if he has been informed that the lighting system thereat is inadequate either because of lack of lighting points or that the existing ones are of low capacity or are shielded by overgrown trees, thus impairing visibility and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to if consideration will be given for a review of the whole street lighting system thereat and for the trimming of the trees.

Reply: I am informed by the City Council of Port Louis that there are fifty two (52) street lanterns of 150 watts Sodium High Vapour Pressure type along Route des Pamplemousses starting from the Abercrombie roundabout up to Khadafi Square. These lanterns are fixed at regular intervals of approximately 30 metres and no dark spot has been noted.

I am also informed that regular maintenance is carried out by the Council to ensure that the lighting system is in good condition and overhanging branches which occasionally shield lanterns are lopped.

ABATTOIR ROAD – POTHOLES & STREET LANTERNS

(No. A/135) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Abattoir Road, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to if it is in a bad state and that there are pot holes at different places
thereat and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken, including the installation of additional street lanterns thereat.

**Reply:** I am informed by the City Council of Port Louis that Abattoir Road consists of two stretches as follows -

(i) starting from Tombeau Bay Road up to the Motorway, and

(ii) starting just after the Motorway passing through the Roundabout at Military Road near ABC Motors – ending with Farquar Street.

I am informed that a few potholes have been noted near the junction of Pump Street close to the Auction Market, while the wearing course on a strip of the road between the roundabouts at Military Road up to the junction of St Martin Street is partly worn out.

I am informed that necessary reinstatement works will be completed by next week.

As regards additional street lanterns, I am informed that a survey will be effected, and should the need arise, action will be taken by next week to fix the required lanterns.