WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NATIONAL RESILIENCE FUND - BENEFICIARIES

(No. B/639) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the National Resilience Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Fund, information as to –

(a) the opening balance thereof as at 01 January 2012;
(b) since 01 January 2012 to date, the total amount of funds injected therein (c) the amount of funds disbursed, indicating in each case the –
   (i) names of the beneficiaries thereof, and
   (ii) purpose therefor
(d) the names of the officers who dealt therewith, and
(e) the proposed deployment of the balance of funds available as at date, indicating the reasons for low drawdown.

(Withdrawn)

ROSE HILL MARKET - CONSTRUCTION

(No. B/640) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Rose Hill market, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, information as to if it is in a bad state and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given for the construction of a new modern market.

(Withdrawn)

STC - PETROLEUM PRICING STRUCTURE

(No. B/641) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard
to the petroleum pricing structure, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, since the introduction thereof to date, information as to the aggregate amount of money received from the sale of petroleum products representing the –

(a) Maurice Ile Durable Levy;

(b) contribution to the Road Development Authority;

(c) contribution to Rodrigues transportation and storage;

(d) provision for hedging, and

(e) if consideration will be given for a review thereof.

Reply: As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed by the State Trading Corporation that the Maurice Ile Durable Levy in the price structure of petroleum products was introduced in June 2008. Initially it was fixed at 15 cents per litre, but was subsequently increased to 30 cents per litre in November 2010. According to the State Trading Corporation, the total amount collected in respect of the Maurice Ile Durable Levy stood at Rs1.08 billion as at 30 September 2012 and has been paid to the Mauritius Revenue Authority.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am further informed by the State Trading Corporation that the total amount collected by the Corporation in respect of the contributions to the Road Development Authority since its introduction in September 1990 to September 2012 amounts to Rs5.01 billion. This sum has been paid to the Road Development Authority.

With regard to part (c) of the question, according to the State Trading Corporation, an amount of 5 cents per litre is collected by the Corporation on Mogas, Gas Oil and Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK) for inland trade as from September 2000. The total amount collected from September 2000 to September 2012 is Rs237.3 m. and has been paid to the Rodrigues Division of the Prime Minister’s Office through the Accountant General.

As regards part (d) of the question, I am informed by the State Trading Corporation that an amount of Rs1.50 per litre was included in the Price Structure of Mogas and Gas Oil under the item “Provision for Hedging” in January 2008. The amount was subsequently increased to Rs 3.00 per litre in November 2008 on both products.
However, in April 2011, the amount in the Price Structure was decreased to Rs 1.25 per litre for Mogas and Rs1.00 per litre for Gas Oil.

According to the records of the State Trading Corporation, the total amount collected from January 2008 to September 2012 is Rs 4.19 billion.

**MUNICIPAL COUNCILS - LORD MAYOR, MAYORS & COUNCILLORS - OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

(No. B/644) Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the overseas missions undertaken by the Lord Mayor, Mayors and Councillors of the Municipal Councils, since October 2005 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Councils, a list thereof, indicating in each case the -

(a) countries visited;
(b) composition of the delegation
(c) duration thereof;
(d) purpose therefor, and
(e) total amount of money spent in terms of air tickets, *per diem* and any other allowances/fees.

**Reply:** Similar information requested and pertaining to period October 2005 to 2010 had been compiled and had already been placed in the Library of the Assembly. I am, nevertheless, placing a copy in the Library.

As regards the information for the period 2010 to date, same is being updated and will be placed in the Library as soon as the exercise will be completed.

**MUNICIPAL COUNCILS - BUDGET DEFICITS**

(No. B/645) Mr S. Soodhun (Second Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Municipal Councils,
he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to their respective cumulative budget deficits as at date, indicating the remedial measures that will be taken, if any.

**Reply:** I am informed that the Municipal Councils of Port Louis, Quatre Bornes, Curepipe and Vacoas/Phoenix have had no budget deficits as at to date except the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill which had budget deficits as follows –

(i) for year 2009, an amount of around Rs7 m.;
(ii) for year 2010, an amount of around Rs14 m.;
(iii) for year 2011, an amount of around Rs17 m. and
(iv) for year 2012, an amount of around Rs18 m.

I am informed that for the year 2009 the Council obtained a loan of Rs7 m. from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to offset the deficit, whereas for the other three years the Council was able to manage the deficits by a better recovery of debts and arrears, a reduction in expenditure. Steps have already been taken to improve the financial situation of all local authorities through stricter financial and fiscal discipline, avoidance of wastages, reduction of unnecessary costs and the elaboration of a Grant-in-Aid formula. It is worth noting that the financial situation of local authorities had worsened because they were instructed to bear part of cost of PRB 2008 to their employees.

**MAURITIUS – PETROLEUM HUB**

(No. B/646) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to the development of Mauritius into a petroleum hub, he will state -

(a) if a prior study was carried out in relation thereto and, if so, indicate the -
   (i) date thereof, and
   (ii) names of the consultants therefor, and
(b) how and why was the site of Pointe aux Caves chosen to house the facility in connection therewith.

*(Withdrawn)*
RICHE TERRE - JIN FEI PROJECT
(No. B/647) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Jin Fei Project at Riche Terre, he will state the -
(a) amount of Foreign Direct Investments injected therein;
(b) number of jobs created for Mauritian nationals, and
(c) amount of money invested by Government in terms of -
   (i) road infrastructure;
   (ii) drains;
   (iii) sewerage;
   (iv) water infrastructure and network, giving details thereof in each case.
(Withdrawn)

STRAY DOGS - DISPOSAL METHOD
(No. B/648) Dr. S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the stray dogs, he will state -
(a) if the methods used by the Mauritius Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for the disposal thereof are in line with the international humane disposal standards, and
(b) obtain from the Veterinary Council of Mauritius, information as to if it has queried the disposal method used therefor, and asked for a report thereon, and if so, the outcome thereof.
(Withdrawn)

COUGH MIXTURES – IMPORTATION & DISTRIBUTION
(No. B/649) Dr. S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the cough mixtures containing codeine and codeine-derivatives, he will state -
(a) if they are readily available in public hospitals, and
(b) the policy of his Ministry for the issue of import permits therefor to the private sector, indicating the -

(i) protocol for the distribution thereof by the importers and to the individual pharmacies, and

(ii) monitoring effected, if any, for the prevention of dispensing abuse by the pharmacies.

(Withdrawn)

HARBOUR BRIDGE PROJECT - BIDDING EXERCISE

(No. B/652) Mr J.C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Harbour Bridge Project, he will state -

(a) the outcome of the bidding exercise carried out in relation thereto, and

(b) if the alignment of the road has now been finalised.

Reply: I am informed that the bidding exercise for the Public private Partnership Road Decongestion program, which include the construction of the Harbour Bridge has not been completed yet. The bidders have submitted their Best and Final offer Response (BAFO) on 23rd October 2012 at the Central Procurement Board and the evaluation exercise will start shortly.

As regards part (b) of the question, the reply is in the affirmative.

NEOTOWN PROJECT - IMPLEMENTATION

(No. B/653) Mr J.C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Neotown Project, he will state where matters stand as to the implementation thereof.

Reply (The Minister of Housing and Lands): I wish, in the first instance, to refer the hon. Member to the replies made to Parliamentary Questions B/452 and B/550 of 03 July 2012 and 17 July 2012 on the issue wherein it was indicated, inter alia, that the waterfront development project is an integrated project comprising, inter alia, the construction of a hotel, boardwalks and marine gardens, a tourist heritage centre, a luxury condominium complex with a boutique hotel, a marina club, apartment complex, office buildings, shopping malls, office
campus, tourist attractions and entertainment facilities. A detailed report was also given on the infrastructural works being carried out on the site.

A recent site visit has revealed, that the onsite infrastructural works are progressing.

Furthermore, in June 2012, the promoter submitted preliminary plans for the development of residential apartments on the site. A number of discrepancies have been noted and the company has been requested to submit amended plans in August 2012.

The promoter has also been requested to submit a schedule of implementation in accordance with the provisions of the Lease Agreement clearly indicating the proposed development for period 2013-2015 and to expedite matters regarding the onsite infrastructural works.

LABOUR LAWS - AMENDMENTS

(No. B/654) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the employees, he will state -

(a) the number thereof whose employment has been terminated, since the coming into force of the Employment Rights Act to date, on a yearly basis, and

(b) if the proposed amendments to the labour laws have now been finalized and if so, indicate when same will be introduced.

Reply (The Minister of Education and Human Resources): According to records at the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment, the number of employees whose employment has been terminated with effect from 02 February 2009, date of promulgation of the Employment Rights Act, is as follows -

February 2009 – December 2009 - 4461

2010 - 4291
2011 - 5320
2012 (up to September 2012) - 4810
TOTAL - 18,882

As regards part (b) of the question, after various working sessions with the Attorney General’s Office, the Ministry has received the draft Employment Rights (Amendment) Bill and the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill and is proposing to introduce same in the National Assembly as soon as Cabinet’s approval is obtained.

**POINTE AUX SABLES - MORCELLEMENT GHURBURUN – BUS SERVICE**

(No. B/656) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the route to and from Morcellement Ghurburun, Pointe aux Sables and Port Louis, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Transport Authority, information as to if consideration will be given for the advisability of providing adequate bus services therefor during peak hours.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that the region of Pointe aux Sables is served by Triolet Bus Service on route 51 (Port Louis – Pointe aux Sables). 60-seater buses are operating as from 05.45 up to 19.45. Extension services at average intervals of 30 minutes are also provided to Morcellement Pic Pic, which is situated at a distance of 1 km from the bus terminal of La Pointe.

Morcellement Ghurburun is a housing settlement comprising approximately 200 houses and is found at a distance of 1.5 km from the bus terminal. No bus service exists there. The inhabitants usually walk over a distance of 500 metres up to Morcellement Pic Pic to catch buses.

The road leading to Morcellement Ghurburun is narrow. The Triolet Bus Service is agreeable to extend its services up to the Morcellement provided that the road is enlarged and a proper reversing point is identified.
It is to be noted that over the years, Pointe aux Sables, La Tour Koenig and its vicinity have developed considerably. Consequently, this has impacted on the demand and supply side of public transport.

The existing bus stand, which is situated on the road itself (B31), has become totally inadequate to cope with the high frequency of buses. The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit and the National Transport Authority has already identified a plot of land along Petit Verger Road for the creation of a bus station. The National Development Unit will be requested to execute the project as soon as possible.

Additionally I wish to inform the House that the Road Development Authority is contemplating the possibility of widening the main road from Petite Rivière to Pointe aux Sables along the (B31) road.

**TAMARIN - FIRE STATION - CONSTRUCTION**

(No. A/272) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the project for the construction of a new Fire Station in Tamarin, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Fire Services, information as to when it will be implemented and be operational.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Fire Services Department that the project for the construction of a new Fire Station in Tamarin is expected to be completed by mid-December 2012. Thereafter, the new Fire Station will have to be furnished and equipped prior to becoming operational.

**BEL OMBRE – FOOTPATH - CONSTRUCTION**

(No. A/273) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the village of Bel Ombre, he will state if there is a project for the installation of sidewalks thereat, as it is being done in the vicinity thereof including the villages of St Martin and Baie du Cap.
Reply: The Road Development Authority has scheduled the construction of footpath along the Black River-Savanne Road Coast Road [B9] at Bel Ombre for next year.

The first phase of the proposed project will be implemented from the Cemetery towards the football playground over a length of about 500 metres.

ADOLPHE DE PLEVITZ SSS – PAINTING WORKS

(No. A/278) Mr. A. Gungah (First Member for Grand’Baie and Poudre D’or) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Adolphe de Plevitz State Secondary School in Grand’Baie, he will state if he has been informed that the external walls thereof need to be repainted and, if so, if remedial measures will be taken.

Reply: I am informed that the painting of the external walls of the Adolphe de Plevitz State Secondary School has been soiled by dust emissions due to ongoing construction works at Grand’Baie La Croisette Project and needs a fresh coat of paint. In this respect, tender documents for external painting works are being finalised. Should everything proceed smoothly, works are expected to start this December year and will be of duration of eight weeks.

MONT ROCHES & BARKLY YOUTH CENTRES - ACTIVITIES

(No. A/280) Mr. R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Mont Roches and Barkly Youth Centres, he will state if same are operational, indicating -

(a) the number of staff attached thereto;
(b) the activities organized for end of the year festivities, and
(c) if equipment for indoor and outdoor activities are available thereat, and if so, give details thereof.

Reply: The Mont Roches and Barkly Youth Centres are both fully operational.

(a) Personnel -

One Youth Officer and one Caretaker are posted to each Centre and they work under the supervision of a Senior Youth Officer and a Principal Youth Officer.
(b) Activities scheduled for November and December 2012 -

Mont Roches Youth Centre-

1. Community Based Activities, including football tournament, Petanque, *salon culinaire*, quiz/scrabble, playstation competition and *chasse aux trésors*.
2. Leisure activities at Le Waterpark.
4. Slam competition.
5. Youth leaders gathering.

Barkly Youth Centre -

1. Fun day.
2. Beach games.
4. Youth Leaders gathering
5. *Animation vacances*, including indoor activities, karaoke, *Atelier Artisanale* and *Ciné Débat*.

(c) Equipment available -

1. PCs with internet connection.
2. Indoor games including Carrom Boards, Scrabble and Domino.
3. Petanque pitch and sets
4. Fitness equipment.
5. Basket ball pitch.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND REFORM INSTITUTIONS - MEDICAL UNIT

(No. A/281) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform
Institutions whether, in regard to the Medical Unit of her Ministry, she will, since July 2007 to date -

(a) give a list of the medical practitioners attached thereto, indicating the
   (i) number of domiciliary visits effected by them to the ex-servicemen and
   (ii) amount of money paid thereto, on a yearly basis and

(b) state the number of domiciliary visits effected by the Director thereof to the ex-servicemen, indicating the amount paid thereto.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, the details are as such –

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As regards part (a)(ii), please note that the Ministry is not aware of the amount of money paid as the payment was made directly by the ex-servicemen to the doctors.

As regards part (b), it is to be noted that the Director of the Medical Unit did not effect ant visits to the ex-servicemen during the period mentioned.

CITÉ MARTIAL, PORT LOUIS - DRAIN WORKS

(No. A/282) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Cité Martial, Port Louis, in Constituency No. 3, Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to -

(a) the reasons for the stoppage of the drain works being carried out at Maigrot Street at the level of House K 27, indicating if same will be resumed and extended to the level of House K30, and
(b) if the pavements situated at Latanier Street, between its junction from Impasse Macao and Canal Bathurst Street, are in a bad state, indicating if same will be reinstated and canals provided thereat.

Reply: I am informed by the City Council of Port Louis that the drain works over a length of 40 metres were carried out in 2011 along Maigrot Street, Cité Martial up to house K27.
However, there was no need to continue the work up to house K30 as the topography facilitates proper drainage.

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

- the concrete pavements along Latanier Street between its junction from Impasse Macao and Canal Bathurst Street have been damaged as most of the inhabitants park their vehicles thereon;
- although the pavements have become undulated, they do not represent a risk to pedestrians;
- the Council is proposing to fix bollards at intervals of 1.5 metres to prevent parking of vehicles, and
- the pavements will be reconstructed upon availability of funds.

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ROCHE BOIS - FOOTBALL GROUND - LIGHTING

(No. A/283) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the football playground, known as La Plaine Dragon, at Allée Tamarin, Roche Bois, he will state if he has been informed of the absence of lighting thereat depriving the inhabitants of the opportunity of playing football after sunset and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given for the installation of flood lights thereat.

Reply: A court case has been entered against Government about a dispute over the ownership of the land of an extent of 6,930m² presently being used as a football playground situated at Allée Tamarin in Roche Bois.

Pending a court judgment in the matter, no major infrastructural works can be carried out on the football playground.

However, in order not to penalise the inhabitants willing to play football after sunset, the above ground has been included among the football grounds which will shortly be provided with lighting facilities.