



FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SECOND SESSION

WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2012

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MAURITIUS

Fifth National Assembly

SECOND SESSION

Debate No. 30 of 2012

Sitting of 28 November 2012

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis,

At 11.30 a.m

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

PAPER LAID

The Prime Minister: Sir, the Paper has been laid on the Table –

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development –

The Reports of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Mauritius Ex-Services Trust Fund for the 18 months period July 2009 to December 2010 and for the year ended 31 December 2011 (In Original).

MOTION

SUSPENSION OF S. O. 10 (2)

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Mr X. L. Duval) rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BILL

THE APPROPRIATION (2013) BILL

(NO. XXVII OF 2012)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Consideration of the Appropriation (2013) Bill (No. XXVII of 2012) was resumed.

Ministry of Education and Human Resources –

Programme Code 421: Policy and Management for Education and Human Resources was called.

Mr Obeegadoo: I hope that the 20 minutes do not start running until I am given the floor, Mr Chairperson.

(Interruptions)

No, I need to wait to be given the floor by the Chairperson.

Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 325, fourth bullet - *Student Tracking Mechanism*. I would like to know what precisely is this 'Student Tracking Mechanism' which is supposed to have been a major achievement for 2012 when, according to the Minister of Finance in the Budget Speech, there are some 5000 children who are either not attending or not attending regularly schools in Mauritius.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Chairperson, it is a special project that started in late 2011, and the purpose of that project was to identify school children and to produce reliable statistics on children not attending school in both the primary and the secondary sector. The aim was to ensure that children aged between 5 and 16 years are attending school as per existing law.

The objective was clear, and we had a methodology. The tracking of student involves the compilation of individual records of each child by school and grade together with other personal

parameters. The total list of pupils in Standard I is compared to the list of children born in the corresponding year to identify children not enrolled at school. Similarly, the children in Standards II to VI and Forms I to VI are monitored using comparative list for any dropout.

The system covers State grant aided and fee paying schools - the Prevoc schools, PSSA schools and the MITD centres, and also institutions falling under the MQA. So, as I mentioned, it started in 2011. *C'est assez récent ; on est en train de travailler là-dessus, et cela semble donner de bons résultats.*

Mr Obeegadoo: Why is it listed as a major achievement if it is just at a stage of compiling figures? Let me turn to page 326 then - *Major Constraints and Challenges* at the bottom of the page. I note that the Ministry refers to the need to review the CPE, including the current system of certification and allocation of seats, and I find the same thing on page 333, whereby the Ministry intends by June of this year to bring proposals to Cabinet. May we know what we are being called upon to fund here? What does the Ministry have in mind?

Dr. Bunwaree: The hon. Member just mentioned the achievements of the tracking mechanism. As I said, it just started and we already have the methodology; awareness of Head of schools/zone staff have been completed, standard form for registration of pupils, two versions of software for recording and capturing of data have been developed inhouse for use by schools, and training of staff involved in data collection and capture have been carried out twice in 2012.

Coming to CPE, in fact, we had a first consultative forum organised in December 2011, where all stakeholders were called upon to discuss and to see all the aspects of the CPE because we want to review the system. It is the talk of the country, I must say, and, as an outcome of this first major forum, five working groups were set up to examine proposals received during the forum. The five committees were set up as follows –

- (a) review and deloading of curriculum;
- (b) review of paper design and format;
- (c) review of assessment and automatic promotion;
- (d) reinforcement of pedagogy and remedial education, and
- (e) selection and allocation of seats.

Mr Chairperson, the working group which comprises representatives, as I have said, from different stakeholder organisations, worked on the assignment culminating in the submission of a report by each group. *Chaque groupe a déjà soumis son rapport.* A committee at the level of my

Ministry then examined the reports to ensure consistency and coherence in the different recommendations. *Ils ont fait des recommandations aussi.* A summary of the recommendations with clearcut measures that may be implemented in the immediate short term, medium term and in the long term has been worked out, and is being discussed at the level of my Ministry.

With a view to further discussing, analysing and validating the various findings and recommendations and evolving consensus, a full fledged national forum - *un deuxième* - will shortly be held, I expect in the month of December, *après les resultats du CPE.*

Donc, l'année dernière on a eu cela, et puis on a eu cinq comités de travail pendant un an. Le ministère a eu les recommandations de tous ces cinq comités ; on a déjà terminé le travail. Maintenant, il faut réorganiser le grand forum *with all the stakeholders concerned, so that we can work out an implementation timeframe for period 2013 to 2015. This will have to be elaborated then.*

Mr Obeegadoo: Again, the hon. Minister speaks of processes, but does not tell us where with the budget he is asking us to vote will be taking us in 2013. Nobody understands where we are going; we are just looking at processes. Let me, Mr Chairperson, refer to page 333. Again, this is very confusing. I refer to the first outcome indicator. We are told that in 2011 the actual school life expectancy is 12.1 years and 2013 is 12.1 years. Is the Minister telling us that, right now, in Mauritius, the average number of school years, the average number of years of education that a young person gets is 12 years? This cannot stand, this cannot be. I want the Minister to confirm that this is not totally misleading; the average number of school years of education of a young Mauritian cannot be 12 years.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Chairperson, I don't know whether we are talking of school life expectancy. It represents the average number of years of schooling that individuals can expect to receive in school or university, including years spent on repetition. It is defined as the age specific enrolment ratio for primary, secondary, post secondary, non tertiary and tertiary education. With regard to the calculation method for primary and secondary education - I think this will be interesting for you - school life expectancy is calculated as the sum of the age specific enrolment rates for primary and secondary education (*de 5 à 17 ans*) plus the enrolment that is not distributed by age, multiplied by duration of that level of education over the school age population for the level of education they are enrolling. It is a complicated formula, but it gives the figures. The school life expectancy from primary to tertiary in the world is 11.5; *dans*

le monde entier. In developed countries, 16.3; upper middle income countries, 12.8; sub-Saharan Africa, 9.1 et pour Maurice *on a les chiffres*.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Under Major Constraints and Challenges, I see that the services of Project Managers will be enlisted. When I look at the posts created, I don't see any post of Project Managers. Can I know from the hon. Minister how many Project Managers he proposes to recruit, whether those Project Managers will not be in clash with the Project Managers at the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, and which projects he specifically has in mind?

Dr. Bunwaree: We are talking essentially about capacity building; it is under capacity building because for Prevoc we are reinventing the wheel, for Special Education Needs also. We have already set up a few mechanisms, and for the ICT *on est en train de rénover*. *Donc, pour chacun de ces programmes, pour pouvoir aller vite, on est obligé d'avoir des Project Managers*, and we are using the capacity building programme.

Mr Obegadoo: Mr Chairperson, I turn to page 352, which is the staffing position. I note that, once again this year, having regard to human resources analysis, there is no position of Director HR Development nor is there a Principal HR Analyst or a Senior HR Analyst. So, my question is: how can we be asked to fund for a Ministry of Education and Human Resources whereas all the work on human resources is now shifted out to the HRDC, and the Ministry has not a single specialist staff member to look into human resource issues?

Dr. Bunwaree: This is not exact. Nothing is being shifted to the HRDC. The HRDC has got its Council, and it works accordingly. We have a Unit at the level of the Ministry which takes care of human resource. *Mais, je suis d'accord qu'il faut renforcer ce Unit, parce que c'est un élément important*. So, there is a post of a Director of Human Resource Development, *parce qu'on est en train de construire cette unité*. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, as we know, has been entrusted the portfolio of Human Resource Development, and it is responsible for the formulation of policy and strategy in relation to training, Human Resource Development implemented by institutions, which fall under the aegis of the Ministry, namely the HRDC, the MITD also, the MQA, and a regulatory body for Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

So, to coordinate matters relating to human resources strategy development, it is being contemplated to set up this new HR Unit which is going to be made up of the HR Director, - as I mentioned, the post is there - the PAS responsible for HR, and working in cooperation with these

institutions the HRDC, MITD and MQA. *Donc, je pense qu'on est sur la même longueur d'onde. Il faut faire comprendre que c'est un facteur important au niveau du ministère de l'Education concernant le développement des ressources humaines.*

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, on the same point. *Je ne suis nullement sur la même longueur d'onde que le ministre.* Which is which? The hon. Minister tells us there exist right now a HR Unit. We are being asked to vote hundreds of millions of rupees. I want to know, as at now, how can this be called a Ministry of Human Resources when it does not have a Human Resource Unit. If it does, I would like to be told who staffs that Unit, where are the positions on the staff positions outlined at page 352.

Dr. Bunwaree: If the hon. Member heard me well, I said that we are setting it up, and now we are structuring that Unit. We have people of the Ministry working in that Unit for the time being. *Cela va prendre forme maintenant.*

Mr Obeegadoo: Should I then suggest to the hon. Minister that before we vote the budget, he should ask that the name of the Ministry be changed, so that we delete Human Resources until it is set up?

Dr. Bunwaree: We are already doing the work. *Seulement, c'est fait d'une façon intégrée dans le système. Mais là, on veut individualiser ce système.*

Mr Obeegadoo: Can we ask the hon. Minister, before we vote this budget, to tell us how it is being integrated, how the work is already being done? I am putting it to the hon. Minister that, in fact, this Ministry has washed its hands of human resources for years now. Everything is with the HRDC.

The Chairperson: No. Wait a minute!

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: Ce que vous dites n'est pas correct du tout.

The Chairperson: Please, no comment, no statement, no further speech on the Budget. It is a question that you have to put.

Mr Obeegadoo: So, let me put the question again. The question is: why is it that we should vote hundreds of millions of rupees for this programme when, in actual fact, the Ministry has, to all intents and purposes, washed its hands of human resource development strategies in this country?

Dr. Bunwaree: No, this is not true. I don't want to go into words that could hurt. *Ce n'est pas du tout ça. Le travail est fait d'une façon extrêmement importante, mais je sens moi-même qu'il faut individualiser ce Unit, so that it is called the Human Resource Development Unit of the Ministry, tout comme pour le Special Needs c'est déjà set up.* The HRDC has been working under the directives given by this Unit, and it is doing a marvellous job.

The Chairperson: We have to move. We have only five minutes for this Programme Code.

Programme Code 421: Policy and Management for Education and Human Resources (Rs227,428,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 422: Pre-Primary Education was called.

Mr Obeegadoo: I refer to page 340, *Pre-Primary Education, Item No. 21 - Compensation of Employees.* Last year, and again this year I am raising the issue of alignment of conditions of employment of the dedicated staff of the pre-primary sector. Last year, when we voted the 2012 estimates, the hon. Minister gave assurances in this House that consultations were ongoing, discussions were ongoing, and that the matter would be sorted out. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why, a year later, we are being now asked to vote another budget of more than Rs200 m. whereas we are still in the same situation. Since the merging of the different categories of employees ten years ago, we still do not have uniformisation of conditions of employment, and that is creating tremendous frustration within the sector.

Dr. Bunwaree: I will, again, tell the hon. Member that the work has been done. *On n'est pas resté les bras croisés ; on a même beaucoup avancé.* A new organigram has already been worked out and submitted to PRB. Now we are in the process, and we have reassured the workers there. In fact, most of them will obtain satisfaction, but we have to probably wait a few weeks for that to be set up.

Mr Obeegadoo: The hon. Minister does not seem to be conversant with the issues, with all due respect. I am looking at terms, the years of service of these teachers, some of whom were employees of PTAs in the past, others of the Ministry, others still of the Pre-Primary Authority; years of service, pension rights and various other benefits attached to their employment. My question is: why should we now, again, just like last year, vote a budget when the assurances given to us last year have not been respected?

Dr. Bunwaree: No. Much has been done, Mr Chairperson. In 2012, three educators who were working on a contractual basis have been confirmed to permanent and pensionable basis after having passed their course in the proficiency certificate at the MIE. This was a condition. There are two educators who, I believe, have not been successful, and they are still left out.

I will also say that for pre-primary, we have been working for the alignment of conditions of service. This is in progress and, as I said, only for two or three teachers, the problem is not yet settled. I am also informed that 184 School Attendants have been placed on permanent and pensionable establishment in 2012.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 340, *Item No. 26323 – Capital Grant to Extra Budgetary Units - Early Childhood Care and Education*, I see that for year 2012, a sum of Rs 10m. was earmarked, but we see for 2013 and 2014, it goes down to Rs5.5m. and then goes down again to Rs3.5m. Can we know why it is so when the hon. Minister is saying, at page 328, that he wants to ensure that all pre-primary schools offer quality education?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, there is under-spending because the cost of construction of PPU at Rivière des Créoles Government School will be met from the Ministry's budget. *Il y a un budget pour le ECCEA*, but there is the Ministry also. When the Ministry does, of course, there will be under-spending on the other side. Project value is Rs 5m. Programme 423 – *Item No. 31112002 – Construction and Extension of Schools* is being taken care of by the Ministry.

Mr Uteem: On page 328, *Programme 422 – Major Services – Regulation and inspection of pre-primary schools (private and public)*. May I know from the hon. Minister how many people are attached to that Unit and how many inspections they have done in 2012?

Dr. Bunwaree: Inspection of schools?

Mr Uteem: Of pre-primary school.

Dr. Bunwaree: I need notice on this question. I am going to circulate it later.

Mr Obeegadoo: On page 340, *Item No. 26323071 – Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA) Public-Private Schools*. Will the hon. Minister indicate who chairs this Authority and who is the Executive Director at the present time?

Dr. Bunwaree: The Executive Director is Mrs Kisnamah, and the Chairperson used to be the PS of my Ministry. A new Chairperson has been appointed about one week ago; Mr Madhukar Narayan.

Mr Obeegadoo: May I know the qualifications of this gentleman in the pre-primary sector?

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: This gentleman has been one of their people for years and years, and he is no longer satisfied now!

(Interruptions)

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, let us be serious!

The Chairperson: Silence! Put your question again!

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes, public opinion is noting this. The question I asked is: at a time we are being asked to vote Rs200 m. for this Authority, what are the qualifications of the new Chairperson? I am told "he has been one of your people for many years, and he is now frustrated". And that is his qualification? Is that what the hon. Minister of Education is telling to the nation that those are the criteria upon which he selects a Chairperson for the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority?

Dr. Bunwaree: The hon. Member was asking whether he is qualified. Now the hon. Member is asking his qualifications! He is an Educator. He is a graduate, and he has got a lot experience in early childhood and primary also.

Programme Code 422: Pre-Primary Education (Rs201,150,000) was, on question put, agreed to

Programme Code 423: Primary Education was called.

Mr Bhagwan: On the issue of primary education, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about two specific cases of primary schools in my constituency, which are directly linked with primary education. Can I ask the hon. Minister what is the follow-up concerning Barkly Government School?

The Chairperson: Under which item?

Mr Bhagwan: Vote 423 - Primary Education.

The Chairperson: We are under Programme No. 423.

Mr Bhagwan: Yes, primary education in general.

The Chairperson: Put your question!

Mr Bhagwan: I am asking the hon. Minister about the Barkly Government School. He knows about the problems there. So, I would like to know whether he has received requests

from the PTA and the inhabitants for an enlargement of that school. Is there a possibility of enlarging the school with the next door State land or whatever training school which exists there?

Secondly, there is also the very bad state Vel Govinden Government School. Its yard is a real danger for the children attending that school

The Chairperson: Your question relates to Item No. 31112402- *Upgrading of Schools* at page 341?

Mr Bhagwan: Yes, regarding Barkly.

Dr. Bunwaree: In fact, I have had many requests, including from the hon. Member. There is a project for the extension of that primary school, construction of eight classrooms and a pre-primary unit. The project is already there. The project cost is Rs10.3 m. The start date was supposed to be in 2011 and to be completed by March 2012. I am informed that there is some retention money which remains to be paid. Consideration has been given to that school and to Vel Govinden Govt. School also. I must say that it is under consideration.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: On page 354, *Item No. 42302 - Public Primary Schools*, and *Item No. 06 43 56 - Health and Physical Education Instructor*. May I ask from the hon. Minister the number of primary schools that presently exist in Mauritius and the number of instructors that are already in service, and whether the number planned to be appointed next year, that is, 31, would be sufficient?

Dr. Bunwaree: It is certainly not sufficient, Mr Chairperson. We have a problem there, but what we are doing is clustering of schools. There is one physical instructor who is in charge of a cluster of schools. To make it more easy and practical, we have been trying to identify in each school someone from the staff who could support the school – someone who stays there and does not move to the other schools - and work under the direction of the instructor. We are trying to get more and more. Sometimes, when schools close down, we use the services of other members of the staff to be able to do that work, but we are giving as much as possible importance to that field. We would have wished to do more, but it is a question of budget. We are trying our best, and I hope that, in the course of next year, we will be able to find some other ways to have resource persons because many people want to help in that programme.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 343, *Item No. 31112002 - Construction and Extensions of Schools, (j) Others*, and *Item No. 31112402 - Upgrading of schools, (f) Others*

respectively. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any provision under these two items has been made in relation to any school in Constituency No. 2, particularly in respect of Labourdonnais Government School where there is a problem of sewerage?

Dr. Bunwaree: Drain! Yes, I know this problem well. I have visited that school myself on two occasions in the course of the present year. Some works are being done. With regard to the drain so far, I know there are some difficulties because it is not only the school which is involved, it is *la région autour*. We are working hard to clarify this, but some works have already been done. There has been improvement in that school but, of course, we have to monitor to see whether more has to be done and in which way we are going to do it.

Mr Baloomoody: Can I ask the hon. Minister, under *Item No. 31122 - other Machinery and Equipment* at page 343, whether provision has been made in the Budget to have drinking water in all the primary schools during school days?

Dr. Bunwaree: So far I know, the situation is rather satisfactory, but we do have problems from time to time in certain places, and that point is very important. In fact, it is not functioning the way I would have liked it to. But, here also, it involves a lot of resources. We keep the water tanks as far as possible, in the best way we can, and they are kept under control. They are verified regularly, and tests are carried out on a regular basis in all schools to see the quality of water that is being given to the children.

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, on page 341, under *Item No. 28211040 – PTA (Primary Schools)*, can I ask the hon. Minister how many PTAs are concerned, and on what basis these sums are disbursed to those PTAs?

Dr. Bunwaree: *En pratique, cela doit être pour les PTAs de toutes les écoles; on ne fait pas deux poids deux mesures.* The information that I have been given is that the grant is, first of all, a *per capita* grant, which is based on the number of pupils enrolled in the schools and could be used for such expenses as Independence and Republic Day celebrations, the rate being Rs3 per pupil. There is also a basic grant which is fixed and intended for meeting the cost of minor repairs; the quantum is as follows –

- one stream schools Rs2,000;
- two stream schools Rs2,500, and
- three stream schools Rs3,000.

There is also a matching grant. This grant is based on the amount of funds raised by the school of the preceding financial year, and could be used for such projects as identified by the PTA.

The ceiling of the grant is as follows -

- (1) One stream – Rs 10,000;
- (2) Two streams – Rs 12,000, and
- (3) Three streams – Rs15,000.

There are some conditions, of course, attached to the grant. PTAs are eligible to benefit from the grant on the condition that the PTA is fully registered with the Registrar of Association, that it produces audited accounts showing evidence that the funds have been used for the benefit of the schools. The accounts will be available for verification by the Ministry when required.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 341, *Item No. 22070 - Cleaning Services*, can the Minister say how that sum of Rs21 m. has been used? Whether he has had resort to private contractors, who has been awarded the tender, whether he is satisfied that the services have been good? Because we all know that, in primary schools, children are still complaining about *l'état des toilettes*.

Dr. Bunwaree: Cleaning services include cleaning of toilets and cleaning of premises in all primary schools and, under the Estimates, Rs21m. were provided last year.

As regards cleaning of toilets, the contract was awarded to Mauri Clean Ltd with effect from 15 July 2009 for a 3-year contract, renewable for two subsequent periods of 12 months on satisfaction of performance of works by heads of sections during the preceding year. The contract expired on 15 July 2012, and the Ministry decided that *ad hoc* labour be employed and paid to PTA of schools to carry out cleaning of toilets of schools and institutions as from that date, that is, 16 July. The work is being carried out to the satisfaction, I must say, of the heads of schools. *Mieux qu'auparavant*.

Insofar as cleaning of premises is concerned - the scope of the cleaning -, the cleaning of premises of schools and institutions starts from the entrance and covers all areas of the compound. The contract for the four zones was awarded to *Service Maison Ltée* with effect from 01 July 2010, for a 3-year contract, renewable for two subsequent periods of 12 months, again on satisfaction of performance of work by heads of sections during the preceding year.

The contract has been terminated in the three zones: 1, 3 and 4 with effect from 01 July 2011 due to unsatisfactory services provided by the contractor. Since the services of *Service*

Maison Ltée was satisfactory in zone 2, the contract was renewed for 1-year period with effect from 01 July 2012, and will expire on 30 June 2013.

Number of schools serviced by that company: 73; contract value: Rs 6,049,220, and insofar as zones 1, 3 and 4 are concerned, following an open advertised bidding, contracts were awarded on a lot wise basis with effect from 18 July 2012 to Mauri Clean and New Cleaning Service Ltd. The contract was for a period of 12 months and renewable on an annual basis.

Mr Baloomoody: On page 343, under *Item Upgrading of Schools: Others*, in reply to a PQ, the hon. Minister informed us that part of the Renganaden Seeneevassen School at Cassis will have to be demolished in view of the construction of the harbour bridge. May I know whether provision has been made in his Budget for that demolition and reconstruction of other departments?

Dr. Bunwaree: No, discussions are ongoing with the PTA there. We have not provided for demolition of the school at this point in time, and I don't think that during the course of the year we are going to go along these lines.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: On the same page, under *Item 22090 - Security Services*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether these services were provided by private companies and, again, which companies are involved? What type of contracts was made?

Dr. Bunwaree: Again, Mr Chairperson, there is a contract, and the contractor is required to provide watch and security services in primary schools, State Secondary Schools and other institutions of the Ministry as follows –

From 15:30 hours to 8.00 hours the following days: Mondays to Fridays, 24-hour coverage; Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays and on days during cyclonic conditions and whenever the sites have to be closed, for instance, during sports activities and for any reason as decided by the Ministry.

Concerning the present contract, following an open advertised bidding, the contract for security services has been awarded to RSL Security Services Ltd with effect from 01 July 2012 for a period of 12 months renewable for two subsequent periods of 12 months, subject to the Ministry being satisfied with the performance of works during the preceding period. The contract has been renewed for a further period of 12 months as from 01 July 2012, and will expire on 30 June 2013.

The Ministry is closely monitoring the performance of the contractor, which is, I must say, according to people of my Ministry, satisfactory up to now. Thefts in schools have decreased quite considerably.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, at page 342, under *Item 22120025 - Fees to oriental language teachers*, there is a sum of Rs28 m. budgeted for each of the coming three years. May I know from the hon. Minister why are we budgeting such a fee and why are we not creating substantial position for oriental language teachers instead?

Dr. Bunwaree: According to Government policy, the main concern of the evening schools is to give great importance to the preservation of the ancestral languages of Mauritius. Languages taught are, therefore, oriental languages, and the classes are held during weekdays, Monday to Friday in the evening, or Saturdays and Sundays. The minimum number of hours per month is 12, and the allowance is paid as per qualifications. Those holding School Certificate: Rs 1,000, those holding Higher School Certificate: Rs1,500 and Degree Holder: Rs2,000.

There is a condition attached to that. The teacher:pupil ratio must be 1:5. There is a Zonal Monitoring Committee which has been set up in each zone to drive the whole system. It is chaired by the Director or Assistant Director of the Principal School Inspectors and Senior Inspectors, Desk Officers and Visiting Officers of each language on a fortnightly basis. I think I have answered the question. There seems to be a decrease in the number of schools and teachers. This is because pupils are often taken up by other activities at schools such as enhancement period. They are not substantive positions.

Mr Obegadoo: At page 335, *Zone d'Éducation Prioritaire (ZEP)*, Programme-Based Budgeting, we vote monies as a function of targets. How can we vote the budget proposed to us for ZEP when, up till 2015, according to what is at page 335, the target for CPE pass rate for ZEP schools is 37.5%? How can we be asked to vote a budget for ZEP schools when this Minister and this Government are condemning ZEP children - 65% thereof - to fail CPE up till 2015?

Dr. Bunwaree: Je ne suis pas d'accord avec ce que dit l'honorable membre. J'ai déjà expliqué plusieurs fois à cette Chambre que le concept est bon, mais seulement il y a aussi le niveau ZEP dans les ZEP schools. On a pris la décision de donner un repas chaud, mais il y a quelque chose qui me fatigue à l'intérieur de mon cœur. On va donner aux enfants des ZEP schools un repas chaud, mais il y a des enfants dans d'autres écoles qui ont le niveau ZEP je

dirais. Je vais essayer de voir ce que je peux faire pour eux. Donc, ce n'est pas bon d'aller dans le sens que l'honorable membre est en train de dire. On est en train de faire beaucoup de progrès, et je dois aussi annoncer que parmi les ZEP *schools* qui ont été répertoriées dès le départ, il y a au moins un tiers qui ne qualifie plus, je dois dire, comme les ZEP *schools*, mais seulement on est en train de les maintenir encore parce qu'on ne peut pas enlever cette discrimination positive brusquement. On est en train de faire beaucoup pour les ZEP *schools*, et je ne vois pas comment l'honorable membre peut raisonner comme cela.

The Chairperson: Last question, Mrs Hanoomanjee.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 341, *Item 22070 - Cleaning Services*, I just heard the Minister saying that he has had to resort to the services of *ad hoc* labour. Can I ask the Minister clarification on the mode of recruitment of that *ad hoc* labour which he mentioned for the cleaning services of toilets?

Dr. Bunwaree: It is worked out by the PTA *de concert avec les représentants du ministère*. Usually, they decide among themselves, but I have already noted that there are some positive results, better than what existed before. Dans certains cas, ils peuvent faire appel à quelques personnes intéressées et trouver qui sera le meilleur; dans d'autres cas, ils peuvent décider par eux-mêmes.

Programme Code 423: Primary Education (Rs3,522,375,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 424: Secondary Education was called.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, at page 356, *Sub Programme 42403: Management of Secondary Education, Item No. 06 59 71 - Pedagogical Inspector*. May I ask the hon. Minister the number of pedagogical inspectors that are presently in service, the number of schools that they will have to visit?

Dr. Bunwaree: For secondary schools, we don't have many pedagogical inspectors. There are about four, but the project makes provision for some more to be appointed. This, I must say, is a weakness – I thank the hon. Member for this question - and I have been pressing. In fact, this is why we have got Quality Assurance Officers that are going to be appointed this year. I think we have got eight on top of the four that are already existent.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Quality Assurance Officers at the Human Resource Department will be working in collaboration with the pedagogical inspectors at the Ministry of Education for the secondary schools?

Dr. Bunwaree: They will certainly have to work in collaboration.

Mr Obeegadoo: Page 335, *Programme 424: Secondary Education - Outcome Indicators* - does the Minister agree that education up to age 16 is compulsory in this country?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes.

Mr Obeegadoo: If so, can he explain how we are voting a budget which provides that, in 2013, at best, as per the target, only 60% of our children in the mainstream will attain Form V and only 78% of children in pre-vocational education will complete the pre-voc cycle? How can we have compulsory education and a supposedly tracking mechanism when children are being allowed to drop out?

Dr. Bunwaree: *These are problems that have existed for quite some time y compris* quand mon ami était ministre de l'Education. Je n'ai pas les chiffres en tête ; c'était surement pire, mais on a pris des mesures intéressantes, et on espère que ces mesures apporteront des résultats positifs. Beaucoup de choses sont en train d'être réalisées au niveau de l'éducation secondaire. On a introduit l'examen en forme III. Il y a un *assessment* qui a déjà été fait, un deuxième en cours qui nous donne des résultats extrêmement probants. Il faut attendre pour que les résultats soient plus plausibles.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, on page 357, *Item No. 06 25 52 - Educational Social Worker*, I find that we have eight educational social workers already in function in the public secondary schools. May I ask the Minister whether such educational social workers will also be attributed to the private secondary sector?

Dr. Bunwaree: The answer is yes.

Mr Obeegadoo: At page 347, *Item No. 26210152 - Contribution to OECD (Programme for International Student Assessment)*, last year we were told by the Minister that there was going to be participation in the PISA exercise in 2012. Yet there were no funds voted, and for next year we are being asked to vote Rs1.6 m. I would like to know whether we have already participated in a PISA assessment. Are the results available, and if so, will they be made public?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, indeed, I did mention that last year, Mr Chairperson, Sir. PISA is an international study, for the knowledge of hon. Members. They are launched by OECD in 1997,

and it assesses how fast students of 15 years of age have acquired the knowledge and skills in the domain of reading literacy, mathematical literacy and scientific literacy for full participation in society. Mauritius did participate in PISA in 2010. The objective of PISA is not to compare the academic performance of students. It assesses the extent to which the students are able to apply knowledge and skills in key areas to analyse reason and communicate effectively as they examine, interpret and solve problems. The PISA Survey for Mauritius has been completed with a view to bringing improvement to the situation in three domains. The Ministry will set up specific sub-committees comprising all stakeholders, with well defined terms of reference, to make concrete recommendations for implementation. *On a eu le rapport il n'y a pas très longtemps.* Implementation of recommendations of PISA will complement ongoing educational reform process.

Mr Obeegadoo: My question, Mr Chairperson, was: we are being asked to vote Rs1.6 m. again for next year. If a report is ready, I am asking the hon. Minister whether he will he agree to laying a copy thereof on the Table of the Assembly for information of Members of Parliament.

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes. But then, to avoid confusion, I will certainly lay a copy of the executive summary.

Mr Obeegadoo: We are being asked to vote a lot of money for this. Why can the report not be made public, so that representatives of the people here, in this Chamber, can take cognizance thereof?

Dr. Bunwaree: The executive summary will sum up because there is comparison. I can ask the hon. Member to come and meet me to see the report himself. I have been advised to lay the copy of the executive summary.

Mr Obeegadoo: Is the hon. Minister not aware that in all the developed countries, PISA Reports are made public for everybody, all educators to see and draw conclusions?

Dr. Bunwaree: Not necessary! When the hon. Member comes to my office, he will see the report. Then he will know the reasons.

Mr Roopun: The question is of a general nature. Concerning the underperformance of boys at all levels of education, could we know what measures are being taken to deal with this specific problem?

The Chairperson: I am sorry! Under what item or what number the hon. Member is referring to?

Mr Roopun: I am referring to page 326, *Major constraints and challenges*.

Dr. Bunwaree: We have noticed that there is problem concerning boys insofar as their academic performances are concerned. There is a study on gender equality in learning outcomes that is being carried out, and the objective is to achieve gender equality in learning outcomes. I must say, Mr Chairperson, that gender equality refers to the notion of boys and girls experiencing the same advantages and disadvantages in attending schools, receiving teaching methods, curricula and academic orientation, and producing equal learning achievements and subsequent life opportunities. The performance of boys is found to be lagging behind that of girls at all levels. *Je dois dire que c'est plus pour Maurice que pour Rodrigues. A Rodrigues, il y a plus ou moins une sorte d'équilibre.*

Tant mieux pour eux! For Mauritius, boys are lagging behind. At primary school level, boys are found to have lower reading skills than girls. There is a larger proportion of boys among repeaters and in the pre-vocational classes. It is pertinent to remain alert on the issue, so as to address the fundamental issue of equity and how we cannot rely only on tuition to address the issue of underperformance of boys. There is need for empirical evidence, and it is proposed that a study be conducted to identify the root causes of this gender difference. A sum of Rs1 m. has been earmarked for the study.

Mr Obeegadoo: I take it we are still on Programme 424, Sir. I refer to page 357, staffing positions in public secondary schools. Mr Chairperson, when I left the Ministry, there were some 70 secondary schools, and I take it none of them has been closed. How is it that we have only 54 positions of Rector this year and only 62 for next year? How can the hon. Minister assure the House that funds we are being asked to vote will be utilised, so that there is one Rector per school, and that the Rector be guaranteed, at least, tenure of five years in each school in the interest of stability?

Dr. Bunwaree: I am not against, but there is a system, and to change the system is not so easy.

(Interruptions)

Je veux bien, mais il y aura un cri extraordinaire. On essaie de faire cela petit à petit. Pourquoi il faut changer de recteur ? Laissez un recteur dans son école ! Si on veut bien, on va aller dans cette direction, on va faire tout le monde comprendre. Je suis content d'avoir entendu l'honorable membre dire cela.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Allow the hon. Minister to answer!

Dr. Bunwaree: I am informed there are 62 State schools and there is, of course, one Rector per school. Many schools have got Deputy Rectors as well.

Programme Code 424: Secondary Education (Rs6,941,814,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 425: Technical and Vocational Education and Training was called.

Mr Roopun: May I, on item 425, Mr Chairperson, ask a question of a general nature?

The Chairperson: Wait a minute! Do not go very fast! Not of a general nature, but on a specific item!

Mr Roopun: Yes. I am making reference to three items at page 325 regarding *Major achievements*. I do not see much has been mentioned about technical and educational training. No major constraint appears at page 326, and also as to the strategic direction at page 327 I see mere generalities. Could the hon. Minister give us some clear guidelines and objectives about how he intends to deal with the technical, vocational and educational training, especially in the light of the youth unemployment?

The Chairperson: Technical and vocational education.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Chairperson, the institution that is responsible for this, the MITD, is implementing the following measures in line with a strategic direction 2013-2015 - it is good to know that. Firstly, the development of a business plan for MITD to emerge as a regional training of trainers centre. Secondly, the project proposals for setting up two new training centres, namely at Triolet and Ville Noire, Mahebourg, have been submitted. The training programmes of MITD are being aligned with the National Qualifications Framework based on unit standards. As at date, a total of 47 courses out of 73 have already been aligned with the NQF. New training programmes at National Certificate Level IV and V and National Diploma levels have been introduced to promote further training and provide pathways for progression to higher level courses to MITD trainees, and upskilling of persons already in employment. Greater emphasis on promotion of training under the apprenticeship scheme, integration of sustainable development in TVET courses, collaboration with other organisations such as the Ministry of Labour, the National Empowerment Programme, the HRDC on training and placement programmes, and the MITD to embark on training programmes to train from the region and enhance its visibility and

revenue generating capacity. The MITD is poised to be a leading institution in this part of the Indian Ocean. There is a strategic direction that has been established, and I would wish to ask the hon. Member to take cognizance of this.

Mr Baloomoody: We are asked to vote a block grant to the MITD without giving any details about how it is going to be spent. Can we have details from the hon. Minister of the expenditure, especially with regard to the staff? Can we have a definition, probably of what they mean about physical education of MITD, the instructors especially?

Dr. Bunwaree: I can, for the information of the hon. Member, lay the breakdown on the Table of the Assembly.

(Interruptions)

If the hon. Member does not know what physical education is, I regret. But the MITD, Mr Chairperson, is doing a very good job, and I would wish to call on hon. Members to be very careful when they talk. The students who go there are usually deprived persons, and it is not because of that that we are going to look down upon them.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: I just heard the hon. Minister saying that MITD will have two centres in Triolet and Ville Noire. Can I ask him when he will consider having centres in areas like Surinam and Bambous? I would like to know whether it is envisaged because those are areas where there are people who need MITD centres, but where no consideration is being given.

Dr. Bunwaree: I fully agree with the hon. Member. We are looking into this aspect. The population sometimes poses problem because we do not have the amount needed. But concerning these two schools that have been mentioned, at Ville Noire, Mahebourg, there is already a school. That school will be closed, and a new one will be opened. Those are schools that we are calling green MITD schools. The concept is different from the other MITD schools. They are special. But what the hon. Member is talking about is to set up training centres in deprived areas. I am all for, and I will discuss with any Member who would wish to find ways and means to help the children and students in these deprived areas to be able to get courses from the MITD.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, may I be given certain details about the courses run by the MITD, the number of students enrolled, the length of training, and also the percentage of those who eventually get employed? Do you have statistics?

Dr. Bunwaree: Concerning the percentage of students who get employment readily - I am just talking out of memory - it is more than 60% to 65%. I think I better circulate all the data that have been asked by the hon. Member because there are quite a number of figures.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, I would like to make a motion at this stage. I refer to page 350, where we are being asked to vote a provision of Rs395 m. in favour of the MITD. I would like to move that this amount be reduced by a symbolical amount of Rs10, recognising the importance of funds to be provided, and I would like to explain why. I am moving because it has come to light, over a recent past, that there has been grave mismanagement and utter incompetence in the running of the MITD, as exemplified by three cases. First, the case of a lady who did not have appropriate qualifications was registered, including with the MQA, and allowed to work at the MITD. Second, the case where there have been allegations of grave improprieties against an instructor - I say allegations; we are not here to judge -, and yet the authorities, despite being in presence of very serious reports by independent professionals, chose not to act and to sit on the file. Third, the widespread allegations of partisan activities in the recruitment of unqualified staff, as denounced by the Trade Unions of the MITD, and for which the Minister has not yet provided any response. So, in the circumstances, and as a measure of grave concern of Members of this Parliament and of the public at large, I would like to formally move that the budget of the MITD be reduced by a symbolical amount of Rs10.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Chairperson, I wish to inform the House that there has been a way of doing there in the last few months, and I myself mentioned in this House that I am not satisfied with the way things are going. I have frozen all promotions; I have frozen all the papers that were being sent to the Board for people on temporary basis to be made permanent because we have noticed, in fact, a lot of things that are unacceptable. There was definitely mismanagement. But I have said we have a new person who is going to chair the Council. He has been appointed by Government last week and we are, in fact, finding more and more discrepancies in the way things have been done, but the hon. Member is bringing the unions in. I would not like to go into this debate because I can also retaliate, and then the hon. Member will find that there are things that would be better to take cognizance of before coming in this House and saying things. I would wish the hon. Members to be made aware that a very profound transformation of the MITD is taking place. Maybe it is due to the fact that it was new, it was in a transitional period, and they had a council there. We wanted them to do the job, they had to discuss with the unions,

they had to set up the new work programme at the MITD. There are so many things. But I will completely deny the fact that there has been partisan. I have given the names of people who have been employed at the MITD from the date that has been mentioned. In fact, I am going to submit to this House the names of all those who have been employed at the MITD since its creation, and then all Members will see for themselves.

Mr Obeegadoo: Can we clarify? Is the hon. Minister speaking in favour of the motion? That is the impression gathered.

Dr. Bunwaree: I thought we are talking to intelligent people. I am saying that I am myself not satisfied, but I myself have proposed this budget. So, the budget is there, and we are putting order at the MITD. In fact, we need more funds. We have not obtained the funds we really needed to be able to do what we want to do. But I am proposing the hon. Member not to go into that direction.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On the same line of thought, can I ask the Minister to ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No. We are debating a motion of hon. Obeegadoo.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: To support the motion, and on the same line of thought, can I ask the Minister whether ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The hon. Member can put question, but should not put in arguments.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, I am glad to hear the hon. Minister, in fact, conceding that there are serious shortcomings at the MITD, and I think that a symbolical reduction of Rs10 could give the right signal to that institution. We will also try to explain the concern of this House about the way MITD is being run.

Dr. Bunwaree: I wish to add, Mr Chairperson, that there is a report that we are expecting from the Conciliation and Mediation Commission that has been set up, presided by Professor Thorul. In fact, I am waiting for this report to be able to take further action. But I am not going on the line of the hon. Member.

Mr Obeegadoo: May I just state that I wish to maintain the motion on the grounds that it is undue influence by the Ministry that is at the root of all the evils and problems at the MITD.

The Chairperson: The question is that the sum of Rs395 m. to be appropriated for the MITD be reduced by Rs10.

On question put, motion defeated.

Mr Roopun: Since the motion has not been retained and ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Silence, please!

(Interruptions)

I say silence now! Silence! I want to hear hon. Roopun. Please, some order!

Mr Roopun: We heard the hon. Minister himself stating that he is not satisfied with the amount which has been appropriated for MITD.

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: No, I never said that.

The Chairperson: Wait a minute! The question has been put and the vote taken.

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: Don't put words in my mouth.

Mr Roopun: Regarding the amount which we are called upon to vote, can we have details about the amount of Rs394 m. and how it has been reached? I am not on the motion. I want to have details about how the sum appearing on page 350, Rs395 m., is arrived at. The grant of Rs395 m. is composed of what?

The Chairperson: If I may draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that, under Item 26, all the details are already there - Current Grant and so on and so forth.

Mr Roopun: I want to have details about the amount of Rs395 m. At page 350, at the top, the grant is Rs395 m., and the hon. Minister stated that he is himself not satisfied with the lump sum given to him! I want to know how that sum is arrived at. Could the hon. Minister give us some details about it?

Dr. Bunwaree: I cannot give it offhand. I need notice of this question, but I will certainly give it to the hon. Member. I have already circulated the figures that the hon. Member mentioned just now, but if he needs more than that I will give it to him. No problem. I can again circulate how we have come to the various figures mentioned in the estimates.

The Chairperson: Anyway, I want to make it clear that 2012 is not yet over.

(Interruptions)

Mr Roopun: I have a further question. At page 358, under *Programme Code 425*, I do not find any detail about the staffing position. Could the hon. Minister give us details about the staffing at the MITD?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, I will circulate that, Mr Chairperson. I will circulate as well how the estimates for 2013 have been worked out (Appendix I).

Mr Obeegadoo: Will the Minister tell us, according to his enquiries, how many persons employed at the MITD are not qualified for the positions they hold, since he has informed the unions that they are now going to sit for the School Certificate exams to gain the qualifications required?

Dr. Bunwaree: I replied to that question which was put to me by the hon. Member. I never said that. Of course, I do not think there are people who are not qualified, but the way they work there, the recruitment procedures are different from other places. Everything has followed procedures. I have mentioned that many times. To answer the question of hon. Roopun, I am informed that staffing for parastatals does not appear in estimates usually. But I will circulate the list (Appendix II).

Programme Code 425: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Rs395,400,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 428: Special Education Needs of School Age Children was called.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, I refer to page 337, *Programme Code 428, Outcome Indicator - Percentage of children with special needs enrolled in schools*. I remember the Minister stating, when he became Minister, that he cared for children, he was a doctor, and would ensure that all children are in schools. How does he, therefore, reconcile that statement with the fact that, despite the budget which we are going to vote, the target for 2013 is that less than two-thirds of children with special educational needs will be enrolled in schools, and how can he explain that, at page 358, we have only a skeleton staff for special educational needs education in 2013?

Dr. Bunwaree: I must inform the House, Mr Chairperson, that for special education needs *on fait un effort monstrueux, mais les moyens manquent toujours. Les moyens ne sont jamais suffisants pour pouvoir faire le travail comme on le voudrait. Un chiffre a été mentionné, mais cela ne veut pas dire qu'on va se fier à ce target. Ce target a été mis pour pouvoir examiner* the performance that we have reached *l'année suivante*. So, we decide on a target. This does not mean *qu'on va se fixer là-dessus. Je dois dire que pour les special education needs, depuis*

l'année dernière on a demandé, exigé, et fait le forcing pour que les parents qui ont des enfants ayant des besoins spéciaux pour l'école, à l'âge de cinq ans, viennent se faire enregistrer. Ce projet a été un succès, parce que nous avons eu plus de cinquante enfants sur l'ensemble du pays qu'on a pu récupérer ; sinon ces enfants auraient continué à rester à la maison.

Mr Chairperson, I mentioned at the beginning that, under Capacity Building, we are trying to do the best we can to put into action what we have in mind and what we have in our programme.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am referring to page 350, *Item No. 28211 - Other Current Transfers to non-profit Institutions*. Could the hon. Minister table the list of non-profit institutions that are receiving grants?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, I will table that.

Mr Obeegadoo: I would like to ask the Minister whether he has the figures for the per capita spending by the State on children with special educational needs as opposed to the per capita allocation to able-bodied children.

Dr. Bunwaree: That figure does exist. It is not with me, but I will certainly give it to the hon. Member. If I can get it immediately I will give it. I am circulating the list of NGOs. The per capita has been worked out. I do not have it in mind, but I expect to give it to the hon. Member as soon as it is ready.

Mr Obeegadoo: Can the Minister please give us an indication? Are we at long last at par? Are children with special educational needs getting, at least, as much as able-bodied children?

Dr. Bunwaree: Insofar as I am concerned, there should be positive discrimination. They should get more. But I do not have the figure. As soon as I get it, I will give it to the hon. Member.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I would like the hon. Minister to give us a list of criteria according to which those non-profit institutions qualify for the grants.

The Chairperson: Under which item, please?

Mrs Ribot: *Item No. 28211* on page 350.

Dr. Bunwaree: I think I will need notice of this question.

Mr Obeegadoo: Could the hon. Minister, at least, tell us how many institutions presently benefit from that grant?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, as I said, I am circulating the paper.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, the hon. Minister replied that he needed notice for that question. I suppose that there are non-profit institutions that are already benefiting from those grants. I would like to know according to which criteria they are qualifying for those grants.

Mr Obeegadoo: On the same point, surely the Minister comes with a brief for the Committee of Supply, and he has his staff here. The practice has been for staff to provide Ministers with additional information. Before we vote the Budget, at least, we are entitled to know where that money is going.

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, I should give the criteria, but I am saying that I do not have them offhand. If I get them, I will give. There is a list of criteria. In any case, I will submit it to the House.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Any more question?

(Interruptions)

Anyway, the hon. Minister has undertaken to give the criteria.

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Chairperson, I said I will submit, but I am being informed that there are clearances to be obtained from the authorities.

Mr Chairperson: Okay.

(Interruptions)

Programme Code 428: Special Education Needs of School Age Children (Rs52,793,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 429: Human Resource Development was called.

Mr Obeegadoo: I refer to page 338, again on the performance indicators, on *sub-programme 42903 – School Staff Development, Research and Curriculum Development*. We are provided with absolute numbers of educators from pre-primary to secondary that are trained. These figures do not tell us anything unless we have the percentages. So, my question to the hon. Minister is: how did these figures translate into percentages? What percentages of our educators or teachers in 2011 were actually trained? What is the target for 2013 percentagewise?

Dr. Bunwaree: The training of educators is an ongoing process. I must say that the system also is changing because now the training does not take place at one place, which was

known to be the MIE. There is online training. The figures are worked out differently, not as they were worked out before.

Mr Obeegadoo: The hon. Minister does not seem to understand. The Ministry of Education has always produced figures, telling us that X percent of pre-primary teachers are trained - primary is always 100 percent -, Y percent of secondary school teachers are trained. All that I am asking is, instead of these targets that do not tell us anything, whether the hon. Minister can express these figures in percentages. I am sure that the hon. Minister has looked at his brief before the session, and that he has the percentages.

Dr. Bunwaree: I have mentioned that these figures are being looked into differently. I will give the routine figures. But this is different now. Training is taking place even in the other regions. I am not in a position to give the hon. Member figures if they are not ready yet.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 329, *priority objectives*. I see that the objective is to ensure that every student is equipped with the necessary information to make informed choices. We know that there is up to now a complete mismatch between jobs available and qualifications ...

The Chairperson: Please, put your question because time is running out.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: I am explaining to come to my question. On page 359, it seems to be as if there is a skeleton staff at the level of Principal Careers Officer and Senior Careers Officer. How can the hon. Minister explain this?

Dr. Bunwaree: It is a question of finding the funds. We always fight, but we do not get all that we want.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I would like the hon. Minister to explain how is it that the staff seems to remain the same with the recommendations of the PRB coming in January, and the personal emoluments have had a decrease?

Dr. Bunwaree: There should be some reasons for that. I believe there are people going and not being replaced. There are other people who are being promoted and others, for some reason or another, are leaving the sector.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo, please!

Dr. Bunwaree: The decrease in provision is because MIE will be using part of its reserves to meet its recurrent expenditure. This is the difficulty we have because we are in crisis still. We did not get all the funds that we asked for.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 351, under *Item 28 – Other Expenses, sub-item 28212008 – Scholarship to Foreign Students*. I see that the amount of Rs620,000 budgeted is constant; it is the same in 2012, and will be the same in 2014 and 2015. May I know from the hon. Minister whether that takes into account the 50 or so additional scholarships which the Minister of Finance has announced for foreign students?

Dr. Bunwaree: No, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Uteem: Was it budgeted for additional scholarships?

Dr. Bunwaree: The additional scholarships that we have announced?

Mr Uteem: The amount which the hon. Minister of Finance has announced.

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, this is budgeted, but it is not the same that the hon. Member is talking about. This one is for foreigners.

Mr Uteem: And the additional scholarships?

Dr. Bunwaree: The scholarships we have announced are for Mauritians, not for foreigners.

Mr Uteem: In the Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance announced additional scholarships to foreigners to come and study in Mauritius. So, this is why I want to know where it is budgeted.

Dr. Bunwaree: This is tertiary.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, on page 338, *sub-programme 42903: School Staff Development, Research and Curriculum Development – SS2: Course contents digitised for Primary and Secondary classes*. Again, I don't understand these targets set by the Ministry. Are we to understand that, in 2011, all the course contents for Standard IV have been digitised and are presently available?

Dr. Bunwaree: So far, the answer is yes for core subjects, oriental languages and so on.

Je pense que l'honorable membre doit avoir un choc en m'entendant dire cela. Quand il a fait son discours, j'ai bien écouté parce que cela paraît lointain et inacceptable. J'avais dit dans mon discours que tous les cours des enfants de quatrième dans les *core subjects* sont maintenant

dans le langage digital - qui est en train d'être utilisé. L'année prochaine, ce sera pour les enfants de la quatrième et cinquième aussi.

Mr Obeegadoo: The tablet PCs being made available in Form IV!

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes.

Mr Obeegadoo: So, should we understand that it is the digitised course material for Standard IV that will be offered to those who get tablets in Form IV?

Dr. Bunwaree: The hon. Member should not mix issues. He asked a question for Standard IV. I am saying that for Standard IV, the answer is yes. Even for Standard V, it will be coming soon. For Form IV, we are working on that.

M. le président, il faut savoir qu'on a réussi à faire cela dans l'espace d'un an pour deux classes. Je donne la garantie à cette Chambre qu'on le fera rapidement parce qu'on a toutes les ressources nécessaires, les compétences nécessaires pour réaliser ce qu'on est en train de dire pour la Forme IV. Je donne la garantie à cette Chambre. L'honorable membre va encore avoir un choc.

(Interruptions)

Mr Obeegadoo: Let us be clear. Is the hon. Minister telling us that in 2013 all the course materials for Form IV in all the subjects offered in secondary schools in Mauritius will be digitised in anticipation of provision of tablet PCs in 2013?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes! It will go along a transitional line. *On va donner les tablettes tactiles en février ; on va commencer avec certains cours, mais jusqu'à la fin de l'année le projet serait réalisé.*

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I will come back to the same question again. On page 338, the number of scholarships awarded to needy students seems to be going up. The target for 2013 is 1,165 against 763 in 2011. Yet the budget seems to be going down. I would like to understand something out of it.

Dr. Bunwaree: The scholarships are, in fact, going up. The budget is going down probably because the budget has not been utilised completely. This is an ongoing business, and it is clear that we are increasing the number of scholarships as much as possible.

Mr Obeegadoo: Can the hon. Minister tell us how much of the 2012 budget has gone underutilised?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, I will certainly give the figure. I don't have it at hand. The hon. Member should give me notice. But even if he doesn't give me notice, I will give it to him.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, I can circulate all details concerning scholarships that have been given for this year - *toutes les bourses à tous les niveaux pour cette année.*

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 351, under *Item No. 28212 - Other Current Transfers to Household Scholarships*, we are budgeting a lot of money to pay for scholarships. May I know from the hon. Minister if he has the figures of the number of laureates that do not come back to Mauritius after completion of their studies?

Dr. Bunwaree: We have been working on that, Mr Chairperson. It is not easy because some do come back and then go, and some do not come back at all; some come back after a long period of time, and Government has taken a decision, in fact, to allow the scholars to continue their studies the way they want. But there is a bond which is attached to it. We are looking into this question of bond also.

Mr François: Regarding the same item, may I know the quota for Rodrigues under the Additional Scholarships, please?

Dr. Bunwaree: The quota for Rodrigues has not changed, but the Prime Minister has announced a number of scholarships that is being worked out. This is not the additional scholarship, but it is other types of scholarships that are going to be given.

Programme Code 429: Human Resource Development (Rs439,208,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: I suspend for one hour fifteen minutes.

At 1.06 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 2.20 p.m. with Mr Speaker in the Chair.

Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security –

Programme Code 481: Policy and Strategy for Agro-Industry and Food Security was called.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, at page 361 *Major Achievements for 2012*, with regard to 'The Mauritius Cane Industry Authority', would the hon. Minister inform the House whether the creation of that Authority is over now, and what has been the process of that creation?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, under that programme, it was, in fact, one of the KPIs of the EU for accompanying measures to be provided to Mauritius. We had to reduce cess by nearly 50%, from Rs597 m. to Rs297 m., and also to merge six service providing institutions. So, we passed the law last year; the six SPIs concerned are the Mauritius Sugar Authority, the Control Board, the MSIRI, the FSC, the SPMPC and MSTC. Now, all these six institutions have been merged, and the total staff in all the six SPIs was 908. Now the staff of MCIA, the new body which was created under the law, is 490. Some staff have been redeployed; some have taken VRS and others have reintegrated the new institution, and we are at the final stage. Maybe in two weeks' time from now, the whole process will be completed.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, at page 365, under Programme Code 48, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he could justify the decrease in the policy and strategy for agro-industry and food security grants from Rs233 m. to Rs172 m. by 2015.

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, for the current year, that is 2012, provision under this programme was made for payment of sick leave, contribution to NSF, and compensation of salary 2012 for all staff of the Ministry. For the year 2013, provision for these components has been made in their respective programmes. This reflects the reduction.

Mr Roopun: I see that, at page 365, among the *Priority Objectives*, there is -

- Preparation of appropriate legislations.

Could the hon. Minister inform us about which legislation he has in mind, and what are the amendments which he intends to bring to the legislation?

The Chairperson: This is a matter of policy. No need to answer, hon. Minister. The hon. Member may put another question.

Mr Seeruttun: Again, going back on that creation of the MCIA, the hon. Minister mentioned the fusion of the six institutions. Can he confirm whether the Control Board has also been merged into that institution, and whether the employees of the previously Control Board have had the same treatment with regard to the VRS scheme proposed to the other employees of the other institutions concerned with that MCIA?

The Chairperson: This issue has been canvassed during the debates and has been the subject matter of a PQ. The hon. Member has to put a question on a specific item.

Mr Roopun: It was mentioned during debate that the Ministry is proposing to take measures with a view to putting to some productive purpose uncultivated wasteland. Could we

know as regards objectives under Programme Code 481, what is the line of action the hon. Minister proposes to follow?

Mr Faugoo: It is again a policy issue, Mr Chairperson. It has been said in the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance and Economic Development and I also, when I intervened, that there is a lot of land which has been neglected by sugarcane planters, especially the small ones. We are trying to see means by which we can encourage people who are asking for these lands to cultivate. We will put up a mechanism whereby it will be easier for the demand and supply to match.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 374, under *Item No. 26323202 - Food Security Fund*, some Rs27 m. have been catered for in 2013. Would the hon. Minister give to the House some details about that grant, where it is going?

Mr Faugoo: This amount is for the food security to be spent under the programme *Food Security Fund*. In this year's Budget, provisions were made under *Extra Budgetary Units* of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, as it was a transitional period. For next year, 2013, provision is made for financing of schemes through the DBM and the MPCB. The details are at Appendix C under Special and Other Extra Budgetary Funds, at page 691 of the Budget.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, with reference to the same item, *Food Security Fund*, can we know from the hon. Minister - this is a special Fund voted by Parliament - whether we have had an annual return on the activities of the Fund? How is it operated? Is it operated under the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, and what is the outstanding balance in the Fund as at date?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, the Fund was with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development until last year, but from this year the funds have been allocated under each programme of the Ministry. So, it is included in the general budget of the Ministry.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, under *Item No. 22130 - Studies and Surveys*, I note an increase of almost double from last year, and again with a drop coming afterwards to Rs1.5 m. I would be most grateful for some clarification on those studies and which surveys, and whether we have any publications on this issue.

Mr Faugoo: Provision is being made for payment of consultancy services for the setting up of a national wholesale market, Mr Chairperson.

Dr. S. Boolell: Can we know about the assignment?

Mr Faugoo: I think we have gone public. There is an expression of interest which we have called for. There is going to be a tender exercise.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 374, under *Item No. 26323202 - Food Security Fund*, can the hon. Minister inform the House how many people have benefited during this financial year and if he can circulate the name of the beneficiaries?

Mr Faugoo: I think the figures have to be compiled. I have got it here. It is a long list. We have 12 separate different schemes under the Food Security Fund.

The Chairperson: The question is whether the Minister is prepared to circulate it.

Mr Faugoo: I can circulate it.

Mr Roopun: Could we have some details about those 12 schemes?

Mr Faugoo: Yes, Mr Chairperson. We have the Seed Potato Purchase Scheme which has allowed us to increase production of potatoes from about 40% in 2005 of national consumption to nearly 100%. We are, for the first time in the history of this country, exported potato to Reunion Island. There is one company which is exporting potato. We have the Seed Onion Purchase Scheme, Seed Garlic Purchase Scheme, Sheltered Farming Scheme, and Onion Curing Scheme. There are 12 like these. I can circulate this also.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, concerning the Food Security Fund, the hon. Minister said that these items of expenditure are now allocated to different schemes run by the Ministry. Does it mean, therefore, that this Food Security Fund has no purpose? Has it been wound up? Why is it put under the item Food Security Fund when they are allocated under different programmes run by the Ministry and not by a special Fund with its special committee?

Mr Faugoo: As I said, it was a special Fund. It was announced in one Budget, I think, a couple of years ago. Rs1 billion was voted for this Fund, and then afterwards there were certain problems of implementation because there was lack of capacity to spend the money. The Fund was transferred to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. In fact, it was always there, but now we are being given from that particular Fund under each programme, for example, for livestock it's a different programme, for food crop it is a different programme. So, we have different amounts for different programmes which are included in the budget of the Ministry. It has all the purpose.

Mr Seeruttun: I am still on page 374, *Item No. 22120 - Fees*. Some Rs8 m. have been earmarked for 2013. May we know to whom that fee is being paid, and for what purpose?

Mr Faugoo: These fees are in regard to Board members falling under this programme, and the amount is on the rise because fees are now being paid to members of DTC and BEC, as per Circular Note No. 5 of 2012. The DTC is the Departmental Tender Committee, and BEC is the Bid Evaluation Committee.

Mr Roopun: The hon. Minister mentioned that the amount of fees is for Board members. Could we know how many Board members there are, how much they are paid, and how they are paid?

Mr Faugoo: The answer will be circulated.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 374, *Item No. 22180 – Overseas Travel (Mission and Capacity Building)*, a sum of some Rs 2.2m. has been earmarked for Mission and Capacity Building. Can we have an idea about how much goes for missions and how much goes for capacity building on that item?

Mr Faugoo: There was no such provision for 2012. This is a new item. I think the hon. Prime Minister explained lengthily.

The Chairperson: It is for 2013.

Mr Seeruttun: What I am asking is what this amount is catered for mission and capacity building.

The Chairperson: Exactly, the money has not yet been spent. So, you cannot get a breakdown. It has to be spent, then you can make breakdown.

Mr Faugoo: It is an estimate for next year.

The Chairperson: It has to be spent before you can get a detail. Do you have more questions?

Mr Roopun: I am referring to page 382. I see that for the Policy and Strategy for Agro-Industry and Food Security the staffing has diminished. Could we know the reason why the number of staff has decreased?

The Chairperson: Do you have another question? Okay, you put it!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 374, *Item No. 31122802 – Acquisition of IT Equipment*, some Rs 2m. has been earmarked for all the years, from 2013 and all throughout to 2015. May we know for what they are being catered for?

Mr Faugoo: It is for IT equipment.

Dr. S. Boolell: Under *Item No. 22030 – Rent*, I note the sum of Rs 12,975,000. Could we have some indications as to who is earning this rent from the Ministry?

Mr Faugoo: The Ministry is renting places in three different buildings. We have some 21,871 square ft at Blendax House. We have at Sterling House, its parking also, and at NPF building, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 362, under *Strategic Note - Major Constraints and Challenges and how they are being addressed - Sugar sector- the schemes such as derocking, land preparation, provision of irrigation facilities and mechanisation are being implemented to reduce production cost*, it looks like that is not giving the result as expected. May we know what has been provided in the 2013 Budget to address that problem?

Mr Faugoo: There is a sum which has been provided under that particular scheme, which is FORIP, Mr Chairperson. There is a target of 12,000 hectares to be completed in a period of nine years. We have nearly completed 50% of the target. There are about 5,000 small planters who are involved, and it is working well. We have seen the result also, where costs have gone down by 25% and production has increased by nearly 30%. So, it is working out. There are certain small problems which we have to face now and then, but we are addressing them.

Programme Code 481: Policy and Strategy for Agro-Industry and Food Security (Rs198,802,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 482: Competitiveness of the Sugar Cane Sector was called.

Mr Jhugroo: Under *Item No. 22160 – Overseas training*, can the hon. Minister give us an indication why there is no provision for overseas training for years 2013 to 2015, and those who have benefited from? Can the hon. Minister circulate a list for the year 2012?

Mr Faugoo: For this, provision is made under Programme 481, Mr Chairperson, and as far as the list is concerned, this can be circulated.

Mr Roopun: On this Programme Code 482 – *Competitiveness of Sugar Cane Sector*, I refer to page 367. I see that the amount earmarked for this coming year is nearly Rs487m. compared to that of last year, which was Rs1.2 billion. Could the hon. Minister explain this difference; whether there have been funds not used for this financial year? How does the hon. Minister explain this drastic decrease by nearly one third of the amount?

Mr Faugoo: Which item?

Mr Roopun: *Programme Code 482*, on page 367. Why this decrease by at least one third of the amount, from Rs 1.2 billion to Rs 487m.?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, under this item provision is made for payment of salaries to 81 officers only, as others will be proceeding for VRS under the merging of the six SPIs. There is also provision for PRB report 2013 and salaries of 43 officers of the six SPIs will be redeployed to this Ministry. Under Field productivity, no provision is made for item accompanying measures for sugar sector, VRS, as the DRBC, Deep River-Beau Champ, will not cease its operation next year. This is where we needed nearly Rs400 m. So, it is not being provided for because they have indicated that they are going to close down in the centralisation process in the year 2014 and not 2013. Again, in 2012, an amount of Rs400 m. was allocated for payment of compensation to officers of six SPIs. No provision is needed as far as next year is concerned.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 374, *Item No. 22060 – Maintenance*. There was a provision for year 2012, an amount of Rs 775,000. Then the provision for next year 2013 has decreased to Rs550,000. Then, again, provision for 2014 and 2015 has increased to Rs775,000. Can we have an explanation on this?

The Chairperson: The fifth or sixth item from the bottom.

Mr Faugoo: The decrease in provision, Mr Chairperson, is because the ex-Control Board will operate under MCIA. It is expected that the current expenses will be decreased.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 374, *Item No. 21111 – Other Staff Costs*, some Rs15.9 m. has been budgeted for 2012, and it goes down to Rs 6.5 m. and up again in 2014 to Rs 10 m. The number of employees has remained unchanged for those years. Could we have an explanation as to how it goes up and down from year 2012 to 2014?

Mr Faugoo: Next year, 2013, the decrease is due to redeployment of the staff from the six SPIs, as well as VRS of the employees, and provisions made for the payment of contribution to NSF.

Mr Seeruttun: Concerning that sum of Rs15.9 m., can we know how was it spent?

Mr Faugoo: I don't have the breakdown, Mr Chairperson. This is for this year.

Mr Roopun: I refer the hon. Minister to page 365– *Programme 482: Competitiveness of the Sugar Cane Sector – Sub-Programme 48202: Field Productivity – Priority Objectives*. I want to ask the hon. Minister how he intends to improve the competitiveness/productivity of small

sugar planters' lands. In fact, we know that the number of small planters is decreasing. Will he say what are the budgetary provisions that are included in the programme to improve the competitiveness of small planters?

The Chairperson: It is a matter of policy.

Mr Faugoo: I said it earlier, Mr Chairperson, that we know what the constraints are. We have to decrease the cost of production, which is being done through the programme of FORIP, and also increase the productivity. That is the only way we can make the small planters competitive.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 375, *Item No. 32 - Acquisition of Financial Assets*, a loan of Rs400 m. is earmarked in 2012. May we know to whom that loan has been given and also the terms and conditions of that loan?

Mr Faugoo: No provision is made for 2013, as compensation for employees who proceeded on VRS has already been effected. As I said, for next year, there will be no VRS in the sugar sector.

Mr Seeruttun: That was made in 2012. To whom that loan has been made to, and what are the terms and condition of that loan?

Mr Faugoo: It is for VRS, for employees in the sugar sector, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 375, *Item No. 48202 - 26 Grants*, can the hon. Minister circulate a list of all those small planters who have benefited from the derocking scheme for the year 2012?

Mr Faugoo: I will do so, Mr Chairperson.

Programme 482: Competitiveness of the Sugar Cane Sector (Rs 487,786,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme 483: Development of Non Sugar (Crop) Sector was called.

Mr Roopun: I want to be enlightened about the major services provided for at page 366, regarding monitoring of pesticide residue levels on crop produce. I understand that lately the Ministry initiated action regarding control of level of pesticide with regard to small planters. Could we know what have been the results, and whether progress has been made to control the level of pesticide?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, there was a major change in the system which was in place for monitoring of pesticide residue back in 2010. Instead of taking samples from the market at random, we started taking samples at farm gate level with the possibility of traceability of the

planter and also their produce. We cover a wider range of vegetables now, and also a wider range of pesticides.

The number of samples collected so far this year stands at 440, and the result in terms of percentage that is above Codex MRL, 6.3%, when, in fact, world average is around 7%. The measures which are being taken are sensitisation campaign on good agricultural practices by our farmers and also integrated pest management, a combination of control methods. We are also giving training on judicious handling and use of pesticides. There have been 472 sessions this year, and some 5458 planters have participated.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairman, at page 377, *Programme 483, Item No. 28225006 - (e) Rainwater Harvesting*, I notice that an amount of Rs4 m. has been earmarked for the year 2012. May I ask the hon. Minister how many applications he has received and if this money has been disbursed, and also why it has been decreased by Rs2 m. for the following years?

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, are you prepared to accept several questions and answer them at the same time?

Mr Faugoo: No, let me answer this one first. Rainwater harvesting is one of the schemes which was put in place under the Food Security Fund Programme. We have around 20 applications which are pending; one has already been disbursed, and others are being processed.

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, under *Item Capital Transfers under FSF – Foodcrop, (b) Land preparation and Infrastructure Development Project (Rodrigues)*, Rs8 m. are being earmarked for next year and then Rs1 m. for 2014. Do I understand that, under FSF, mechanical equipment or bulldozer will be bought for Rodrigues to continue this land preparation project?

Mr Faugoo: The answer is yes.

Mr Roopun: As regards measures which have been announced regarding use of compost by small planters, we know that there is a project for subsidising the price of compost. I want to know from the Minister whether there is any policy to encourage, in fact, the use of compost by small planters, especially those producing vegetables.

Mr Faugoo: We have, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: Page 375, *Item No. 22090 – Security*, can the hon. Minister explain to the House which company has got the tender for security, and if so, when was the tender exercise done last time? Can he table a copy of the contract?

Mr Faugoo: From what I understand, Mr Chairperson, services of security is being provided by employees of the Ministry. There was a tender which was launched, but unfortunately, there was a case entered before the Supreme Court which is pending. So, I am not in a position to give further details on this.

Mr Roopun: I am still with the vegetable production, Mr Chairperson. There was also the question of the proceeds of vegetable planters being stolen, and there was a project for the traceability of these. I want to know from the Minister whether it has given results.

Mr Faugoo: This is being addressed, Mr Chairperson. It is a very difficult issue. It's been there for quite some time. We are getting cooperation from other authorities like the Police and also cooperative societies. We are trying our best, but it is a difficult issue.

Mr Roopun: Under the same item, a mechanism was to be put in place at the level of markets so that, at this level, we could know from whom, in fact, those selling vegetables derive their products and so on. I want to be enlightened on that aspect.

Mr Faugoo: No, it's not on yet, Mr Chairperson.

Mrs Ribot: Page 376, *Item No. 26210087*, could the hon. Minister give us some clarification regarding the significant increase in the contribution to the SADC regional Food Security Programme?

The Chairperson: Page 376, *Item No. 26210087 - Contribution to SADC Regional Food Security Programme*, more or less in the middle of the page.

Mr Faugoo: I understand Mr Chairperson that there is a new coordination centre at the level of SADC countries, which is called CCARDESA, so that the additional amount is in that regard.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 375, *Item No. 22090 - Security*, can the hon. Minister explain to the House how much money has been paid out of the provision for this year 2012?

Mr Faugoo: I don't know the amount paid so far, Mr Chairperson, but this amount Rs9.5 m. is for the current year. I don't know how much has been disbursed so far.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 375, *Item No. 22130 - Studies and Surveys*, Rs4.6 m. is being earmarked every year. May we have some details about the different studies and surveys carried out and for which food crop? What has been the outcome of those surveys and studies?

Mr Faugoo: This is provision made for expenses which includes starter kits for mechanisation for small planters. It is a programme especially for vulnerable groups.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, at page 375, *Item No. 22040 - Office Equipment and Furniture*, can the hon. Minister explain to the House the sudden increase from Rs290,000 to Rs1.6 m. for next year?

Mr Faugoo: I understand, Mr Chairperson, that the increase reflects the purchase of printer, scanner and photocopier for the setting up of an agricultural land bank, a new unit which is being created.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, at page 377, *Item No. 31113032 - Setting up of Quarantine Facilities*, may I know why the figure has decreased from Rs8 m. to Rs3 m., and can the hon Minister be more specific about the setting up of these facilities?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, as far as quarantine is concerned under this item, it is a provision with regard to the construction of a multipurpose containment facility for the containment of genetically modified organism, high risk quarantine material, as well as breeding and multiplication of biological control agents.

Mr François: I refer to page 376, *Item No. 25210011 - Subsidies to Crop Producers(Compost)*. Being given this is a new scheme, will this concern individuals or cooperatives projects, and will it be extended to Rodrigues crop producers also?

Mr Faugoo: It concerns both individuals and cooperatives, and it will be extended to Rodrigues as well.

Mr Roopun: At page 366 – *development of new crop varieties*, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is being done to maintain our biodiversity as regards crop varieties, which have been here for years, and which are disappearing from the market. Is there any mechanism to maintain these crop varieties which have been growing for decades in our country?

Mr Faugoo: There is, Mr Chairperson.

Programme Code 483 - Development of Non Sugar (Crop) Sector (Rs660,940,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 484 Livestock Production and Development was called.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 378, *Item No. 21 - Compensation of Employees*, there is a substantial increase in the amount, although the number of employees has remained unchanged. Could we have some explanation as to the increase apart from the fact that there is the PRB report?

Mr Faugoo: It's for PRB report only.

Dr. S. Boolell: *Item No. 26313110 - Current Grant – MSPCA*, can I have some breakdown on what justifies this figure to the MSPCA and what it is used for?

Mr Faugoo: This is an annual grant which is being given to MSPCA. It has been there for the past 20 years, Mr Chair.

The Chairperson: The question is about the details.

Mr Faugoo: The money goes in the budget, and it is up to MSPCA to apply the funds where they want or where they feel they need is.

Dr. S. Boolell: Is there any control from the Ministry on that sum?

Mr Faugoo: We don't have any control, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: At page 378, *Item No. 22060 - Maintenance*, there has been a significant increase from Rs2.7 m. to Rs6.6 m. for the year 2013. Can we have some details why there has been almost a threefold increase?

Mr Faugoo: The increase reflects the requirement for repairs of roof, renovation of building at the Divisional Veterinary Services at Réduit; maintenance agreement for plant, equipment and laboratory apparatus of the Livestock Division. This amount reflects all these works which are going to be undertaken next year.

Mr Roopun: Coming back to the MSPCA, I am a bit puzzled by the reply of the Minister that there is no control, but I want to know how the amount, the quantum paid to the MSPCA is being determined at his Ministry; is it given like that without any prior study, without any project. How, in fact, is worked out the amount of Rs3.5 m.

Mr Faugoo: MSPCA is an independent body. It is an NGO. It operates under the control of a Board, which is an elected Board. We don't have control over the day-to-day management of MSPCA. This is a one-off yearly grant. On the other hand, there was about Rs 10 m. voted this year for catching of dogs. For this one we do have control, Mr Chairperson. It is paid on the basis of the number of dogs which are caught. This is a different item. This is a yearly grant which is given to them; which goes in their budget. We know that they have a programme of sensitisation. They also do dog catching. So they apply the fund in their own way which they find it important. As I said, there is another amount of Rs10 m. for 2012 which is controlled by my Ministry.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 378, *Item No. 22120 - Fees*, can the hon. Minister explain the House why this amount of Rs6.7 m. has increased to Rs7.6 m., then down again for 2014 to Rs4.9 m? Can he circulate a breakdown of this amount of Rs6.7 m.?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, increase in provision for next year reflects the fact that the Food Tech Lab has to be accredited and we need some Rs2 m for that, and to participate in Proficiency Training Programme in 2013 to maintain its quality requirements according to ISO 17025.

Mr Roopun: On page 378, *Item No. 22060 – Maintenance*. I see that the amount for last year was Rs2.7 m., and it is being increased to Rs6.6 m., nearly three times the amount. Could we know what has been the amount disbursed for this year, and what will be disbursed next year?

The Chairperson: This question has been answered.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 379, under *Item No. 28225 – Transfers to Private Enterprises*, Rs8 m. have been earmarked for 2013. May we know which private enterprises are going to benefit from the transfers?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, provision is made for a reproduction farm for cattle and goats to be constructed at Curepipe Livestock Station. Secondly, it is for the setting up of a Productivity Cash Scheme for production of calf and heifer.

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 378, *Item No. 22120 - Fees*. I note an increase of about Rs1 m., from Rs6,715 m. to Rs7,615 m. Can I have some justification for the increase, and to whom the fees are being paid?

The Chairperson: This question has been put, and the hon. Minister has answered it.

Mr Faugoo: Yes.

Mr Seeruttun: Sir, allow me to go back to that question with regard to transfers to private enterprises. I did not get the reply regarding the private enterprises. Who are going to benefit from the transfers?

Mr Faugoo: Farmers!

Mr Jhugroo: On page 378, *Item No. 26321001 - Capital Grant - Rodrigues Regional Assembly*. Why this amount has decreased from Rs10 m. to Rs7 m.?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the contract for the construction of a slaughterhouse at Baie Diamant, Rodrigues, was awarded to COMO Construction on 05 December 2011 for the

sum of Rs56 m., and the contractual completion date is January 2013. So, that amount is in that regard.

Programme Code 484: Livestock Production and Development (Rs334,083,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 485: Forestry Resources was called.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 379, *Item No. 22160 - Overseas Training*. Here, Rs1 m. earmarked in 2012, no more amount is catered for 2013 and beyond. Do we assume that there won't be any training given to those employees anymore?

Mr Faugoo: I understand the provision is required for next year because whatever had to be paid has already been paid this year.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 379, *Item No. 22490 - Security*. Can the hon. Minister explain to the House which company has been awarded the contract and whether this was awarded after a tender exercise, and if so, when it was done, and if he can table a copy of the contract?

Mr Faugoo: The same answer applies, Mr Chairperson, Sir. The services are being provided by employees of the Ministry. There was a tender, and there is litigation on the tender exercise.

Mr Roopun: I wanted to go to page 366 about the afforestation/re-afforestation to protect watershed. We know the problem around Mare-aux-Vacoas. Is there any project for re-afforestation specifically in that region of Mare aux Vacoas? Could we have some details?

Mr Faugoo: Yes, we do have. I will circulate the details.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 379, same *Item No. 22090 - Security*. Can I know from the hon. Minister whether officers of the Ministry can tender for this exercise?

Mr Faugoo: Yes, they can.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister has answered. He said: yes.

Mr Jhugroo: Can we have any clarification if the officers can tender and how?

Mr Faugoo: Mr Chairperson, previously the service of security used to be provided by independent contractors. Even now we want to give it to contractors. There was a tender which was launched, and there is a litigation on that particular tender; there is a case which is pending before the Supreme Court.

The Chairperson: Is it before the Supreme Court?

Mr Faugoo: It is before the Supreme Court.

The Chairperson: Then, the matter is *sub judice*.

Mr Faugoo: This is what I am saying. I am not giving details.

The Chairperson: No, the hon. Minister does not have to give details, it is *sub judice*.

Mr Faugoo: But for the moment, security services are being provided by employees of the Ministry.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 380, *Item No. 31410 – Non-Produced Assets*. Rs1 m. is catered for. Could we have details about what those non-produced assets are?

Mr Faugoo: This is for the opening of two new nature walks at Plaine Sophie and Ile d’Ambre, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: On the same item, security. Can we know from the hon. Minister why we are voting for such an amount when this work is being done by the officers of the Ministry?

The Chairperson: No, no, this is not what the hon. Minister said.

Programme Code 485: Forestry Resources (Rs203,578,500) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 486: Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and Conservation was called.

Mr Roopun: In fact, I asked the hon. Minister earlier on what are the specific measures which are being taken to protect our terrestrial biodiversity regarding crop varieties, and I think that it is essentially under 486. Could we have more details about the project?

Mr Faugoo: This is a matter of policy. Nevertheless, I will circulate the information.

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 380, *Item No. 22120008 – Fees to Consultants*. Has there been any tender concerning the issue of this kind of Rs13,704,000 or Rs12,674,000 earmarked for next year? Has there been a tender exercise and who applied?

Mr Faugoo: This is with regard to PAN project.

The Chairperson: No, no! The question is whether there has been any tender.

Mr Faugoo: Yes, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 380, *Item No. 22090 – Security*. Can we know the name of the company which has got this contract, and if so, whether a tender exercise has been carried out, when, and if he can table a copy of the contract?

Mr Faugoo: It is *sub judice*, as I said earlier on.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, Sir, programme 486 relates to the protection and conservation of our terrestrial biodiversity. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what measures have been take to safeguard the biodiversity at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical Garden Trust.

On page 391, we note that there are no general workers in post, and seemingly no intention of recruiting any in 2013 as well.

Mr Faugoo: General worker in SSR Botanical Garden. SSR Botanical Garden is a Board, and they do their own recruitment, Mr Chairperson. It is not reflected in the budget here. And as far as conservation of biodiversity is concerned, this is being done.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, may I ask the hon. Minister, considering the fact that a lot has been said about the state of affairs at the SSR Botanical Garden, whether measures should not have been taken to ensure that there is an upgrading of the garden?

Mr Faugoo: But this falls outside the scope of this budget, Mr Chairperson. It is a matter of policy.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, on page 391 of the Budget, reference is made to the Botanical Garden Trust, and the very fact that it occurs and it appears on the Budget, I think that it would be proper to have some explanations on the state of affairs going on there.

Mr Faugoo: The hon. Member should come with a PQ, Mr Chairperson. She is talking of the Budget Speech; mention has been made in the Budget Speech. I am not answering here what is contained in the Budget Speech; I am answering for amounts which have been proposed to be appropriated, Mr Chairperson.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: I will rephrase my question, Mr Chairperson. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount that has been budgeted for the SSR Botanical Garden?

Mr Faugoo: This is the whole issue. We don't give any grant to SSR Botanical Garden.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, may I ask the hon. Minister, why then has it been included in this document presented to the National Assembly?

Mr Faugoo: This should go to the Ministry of Finance, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 381, under *Item No. 26313129 - Current Grant - Vallée d'Osterlog*, I remember in the Budget Speech the hon. Minister of Finance did mention that a sum of Rs10 m. has been catered for that Vallée d'Osterlog. But when I look at that document

here, there is no mention of that amount earmarked for. Could the Minister explain to us why there is no mention of that amount which is earmarked in the document?

Mr Faugoo: This amount is going to be financed from the National Parks and Conservation Fund, Mr Chairperson.

Programme Code 486: Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and Conservation (Rs66,257,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development -

Programme Code 401: Environmental Policy and Management was called

Mr Li Kwong Wing: At page 399, under *Item No. 26323201 - Maurice Ile Durable Fund*, an amount of Rs100 m. has been earmarked. Can we have some information and details from the Minister about the projects under this Fund, and how it is going to be spent? Also, why is it that the Director and the Chairman of the Fund have resigned in the course of the year?

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, there are many projects, and I am going to circulate the list amounting to Rs100 m. The Director resigned because he was appointed Secretary General of the the National Economic and Social Council. The Chairman resigned because he was not happy with the allowance which he was getting.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, in spite of a sum of Rs100 m. that has been voted for the Fund, how is it that there has not been enough funds voted to pay the Chairman's fees?

Mr Virahsawmy: No, the hon. Member has misunderstood me. The fees were voted, but the Chairman did not agree with the quantum of fees which was proposed. He wanted more. He did not believe in *Maurice Ile Durable*.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: People should be paid properly. If not, they won't work in the public sector.

The Chairperson: This is not a question. Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, if we go back to page 393 on *Major Constraints and Challenges*, it is observed that there is a lack of in-house expertise, and emphasis should be made on training. But when we look at the money catered for training and capacity building, it is really negligible. Can the hon. Minister explain to the House how is he going to address that problem of getting the necessary expertise?

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, most of the training is financed by the Adaptation Fund Board, from whom we obtained Rs90 m. There is an important element of training within

that Fund. There is also the Africa Adaptation Fund Board, which also provides for training to different categories of employees.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: At page 399, Mr Chairperson, under *Item No. 22120 – Fees*, there is a sum of the order of Rs3,125,000. May I ask the hon. Minister for which purpose these fees were paid?

Mr Virahsawmy: Fees are paid under the Capacity Building Programme to members of the staff of the *Maurice Ile Durable* Fund, which is the MID Fund Coordinator, the Project Coordinator and the Communication Manager.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Can I ask the hon. Minister whether apart from their salaries, they are paid extra fees for capacity building?

Mr Virahsawmy: No.

Mr Roopun: I refer to *major achievements* for this year about erosion on public beaches. I see that 2.8 km had been protected and rehabilitated. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the projection regarding rehabilitation of erosion on public beaches for this coming year, and whether sites have been identified.

Mr Virahsawmy: In fact, we are carrying out projects on three beaches which have been highly eroded at Poudre d'Or, Cap Malheureux and Grand River South East. For next year, there is a whole list of other places where works will be carried out, depending on the degree of erosion. This has been identified by experts from Japan who have carried out a survey of the whole island and established, in order of priority, where there are more erosion than other places, and this is where we are going to do the work.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, at page 398, under *Item No. 22030 - Rent*, can I ask the hon. Minister to clarify to whom we are paying this amount of rent?

Mr Virahsawmy: Rent is paid to Mr Ken Lee for the building. The Ministry is renting the 9 floors.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, at page 393, on *Major Achievements* for this year I see that there are 20,000 medicinal and decorative plants distributed. Can we know from the hon. Minister how the distribution has been carried out?

Mr Virahsawmy: The Ministry has a nursery where we produce our own medicinal plants, and throughout the year we have programmes where we distribute free of charge medicinal plants to all the Mauritians who are interested to grow in their yard the medicinal

plants. We also have people who provide sensitisation to explain to the Mauritian people the virtues and the benefits of using medicinal plants.

Mr Seeruttun: In line with the policy of the Government to have a cleaner environment, there was the project of having vehicles to use a blend of ethanol and petrol. Will the hon. Minister inform the House where matters stand with regard to that project?

Mr Virahsawmy: I think that the hon. Member is not addressing himself to the proper Ministry. I am not responsible for vehicles.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I would like to refer the hon. Minister to page 398, *Item No. 21110 - Personal Emoluments*. It seems that there are going to be three additional employees, and yet the personal emoluments are going down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he intends to manage the institution?

Mr Virahsawmy: Yes. This is prepared according to the basic salary of employees plus the compensation and allowances, which is the exact amount.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 399, under *Item No. 26323201- Maurice Ile Durable Fund*, a sum of Rs100,000,000 is being earmarked. Could we have some details on how that money is going to be spent?

Mr Virahsawmy: But, Mr Chairperson, I have just replied to that question.

The Chairperson: Is it about the capital grant with extra budget to *Maurice Ile Durable*? But this has been answered.

Mr Virahsawmy: I have replied to it already.

The Chairperson: Is there any question?

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, excuse me, I am going to come back to the same question because I consider I have not got the right answer. I asked the hon. Minister how is it that if we have additional employees, the personal emoluments are going down, and is the sum here inclusive of PRB. It is just a question of logic.

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, as from financial year 2013, social contribution on salary compensation will now be allocated separately for each programme.

Mr Roopun: On page 398, *Item No. 22010 - Cost of Utilities*, I see Rs6.9 m. I wanted to have details about this amount, and moreover to be enlightened about whether renewable energy also is being used at the level of the Ministry.

Mr Virahsawmy: It depends on what we call renewable energy because we are using economical bulbs. We cannot use renewable energy such as solar or wind because it has to be fitted on the building. The utilities are the telephone bills, electricity charges and water charges.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 399, *Item No. 26323201 - Maurice Ile Durable Fund*, can I know from the hon. Minister whether this Board is functioning, and if so, can we know how many sittings we have got for this year? Have we got any report from this Board, and if so, can the hon. Minister table a copy of that report?

Mr Virahsawmy: Yes, Mr Chairperson, the Board sits as and when required, but nearly twice a week. They have a programme of work, and they are doing the work. I do not think that it is proper for me to lay in front of the Assembly workings of the Board.

Mr Virahsawmy: This is administrative matters.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 399, regarding *Item No. 22120 - Fees*, some Rs3,125,000 earmarked for 2013. May we know to whom the fees are being paid for, and for what purpose?

Mr Virahsawmy: But I have just replied to the fees.

Mr Seeruttun: The purpose.

Mr Virahsawmy: But I have just replied to that question.

Mr Seeruttun: I asked for the purpose.

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, I explained that the fees are paid to staff of the MID Fund. So, the purpose is that there is staff, and they have to be paid a salary. My friend, hon. Li Kwong Wing, just said that people have to be paid a good salary. What is the problem of the hon. Member?

(Interruptions)

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am going to come back to the same question for the third time. We cannot be asked to vote a budget where there seems to be a miscalculation of the salary of employees. The hon. Minister said that the salaries are going to include social contributions etc; so far, so good! The compensation of employees is going down by about Rs2 m. in spite of the fact that there are going to be three additional employees, including PRB. I feel there is something wrong somewhere.

Mr Chairperson: But the hon. Member has not put a question.

Mr Virahsawmy: No, there is nothing wrong somewhere...

The Chairperson: Wait a minute!

Mr Virahsawmy: I think the hon. Member did not understand when I spoke...

The Chairperson: Wait a minute!

(Interruptions)

Put a question!

Mrs Ribot: I would like the hon. Minister to clarify.

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, I think for the third time I am explaining the same thing, and the hon. Member does not seem to understand that, as from year 2013, social contribution and salary compensation will be allocated separately for each programme. If the hon. Member looks at other programmes, she will see that the compensation of employees has increased. While it has decreased in this one, in other programmes it is increasing.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, but if we look at *Personal Emoluments*, which is the basic salaries, it has come down from Rs34 m. to Rs33.3 m. So, how can they be paid less salaries when you have PRB and when you have more employees? The accounting is wrong, the budgeting is wrong.

Mr Virahsawmy: No, I do not agree with the hon. Member. I can give the hon. Member a list of salaries of staff by staff, and then the hon. Member may add it and he will get the value.

(Interruptions)

Programme Code 401: Environmental Policy and Management (Rs168,361,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 402: Environmental Protection and Conservation was called.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: On page 400, Mr Chairperson, Sir, under *Item No. 22120008 - Fees to Consultants*, may I ask from the hon. Minister, first of all, which projects are we talking about and for which purpose are we having to pay such fees to the consultants, and the number of projects involved?

Mr Virahsawmy: Yes, Mr Chairperson, fees to consultants are paid out of the funds from the Africa Adaptation Programme. The fees are as follows: for the GEF (POPs) Rs600,000; for the GEF Third National Communication: Rs2 m.; for the Adaptation Fund Board: Rs6.5 m.; for the Government Input: Rs2 m., and I can circulate a list of all the different fees and to whom these are being paid. But most of it is being funded by the Adaptation Programme.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he will be agreeable to lay on the Table of the National Assembly the names of the companies of consultancy receiving these fees?

Mr Virahsawmy: Yes, for example, a sum of Rs2 m. is paid to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This is an international company. But I can lay the list, it is not a problem.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 400 under it *Item No. 22120007 - Fees for Training*, I see that there was a provision of Rs35 m. for this year. Can the hon. Minister table a copy of all those who have benefited from that training and why the amount earmarked for next year has been decreased to Rs4.6 m.?

Mr Virahsawmy: Fees are being reduced because we are completing the Africa Adaptation Programme. This is the last year for that programme, so the fees go down. But I will lay down a copy of to whom the fees are paid.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, under *Item No. 31410 – Non-Produced Assets, sub-item 31410402 – Rehabilitation of Beach and Beach Reprofiling*. May we know from the hon. Minister the beaches involved, and also where the reprofiling is being carried out?

Mr Virahsawmy: The Beach Reprofiling is being carried out in several places. There are, at least, nine beaches; Bras d'Eau, Roches Noires, Bois des Amourettes, Rivière des Créoles, Blue Bay, Le Morne, Palmar, Trou d'Eau Douce and Flic en Flac.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 399, under *Item No. 22090 – Security*. The amount has gone up from Rs1.5 m. to Rs2 m. in 2013, and goes up again in 2013. May we have some justifications for that increase and to whom it is being paid to?

Mr Virahsawmy: I know security is provided on several sites of the Ministry, such as Dauguet, Signal Mountain, SSR Memorial Park and Petit Sable. I have to check to whom it is paid, and I will give the hon. Member the information because there is one site which has increased. So, the fees will increase.

Programme Code 402: Environmental Protection and Conservation (Rs201,418,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 403: Uplifting of the Physical Environment was called.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am referring to page 401, *Item No. 31113 – Other Structures, sub-item 31113425 – Embellishment of Infrastructural Works* Rs18 m. Can we have a breakdown of those infrastructural works, and the cost of each?

Mr Virahsawmy: I don't have any problem to give a list of all infrastructural works which have been done. This is a rather comprehensive list. There are 55 places where this has been done. I shall lay a copy.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, on page 401, under *Item No. 22060 – Maintenance – Grounds and Rivers/Canals*. May we obtain from the hon. Minister the companies which have obtained the contract for these maintenance programmes?

Mr Virahsawmy: This is being done in-house.

Mr Roopun: May I put a question of a general nature? Regarding the uplifting of the physical environment, what is the mechanism put into place to identify those sites, and is this done at the level of the Ministry or ...

Mr Virahsawmy: Which item?

Mr Roopun: Under *programme code 403: Uplifting of the Physical Environment*. What is the mechanism put into place to identify the locations, and is it at the level of the Ministry?

Mr Virahsawmy: The Ministry has a Department which is responsible to do that. They travel all over the place. There are also other organisations who write to the Ministry. We have the inspectors who carry out the site visit and establish whether the works are justified or not.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 401, under *Item No. 22060 – Maintenance*. Can the hon. Minister inform the House in which regions these works are going to be carried out?

Mr Virahsawmy: All over the island.

Mr Roopun: Coming back to the physical environment, can I ask the hon. Minister what is the mechanism, in fact, for the MPs or for the members of the public in general to come and to make request to the Minister ...

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, I do not propose to reply on policy matters.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 401, under *Item No. 22900 – Other Goods and Services*, there is Rs1.8 m. earmarked. Can we have some details about the expenses this goes for?

Mr Virahsawmy: This is for the purchase of protective equipment for the workers of the Living Environment Unit.

Programme Code 403: Uplifting of the Physical Environment (Rs198,890,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 406: Sustainable Development was called.

Mr Roopun: May I, Mr Chairperson? I take the hon. Minister to page 395 – *Sustainable Development*. The amount earmarked for this year is Rs51 m., and for the next year it is nearly Rs7 m. Can I know the reason for this drastic decrease in the amount earmarked for next year?

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, if the hon. Member had read the Budget properly, he would have seen that in 2012 we have provided Rs45 m. for the Eco-Village Project. In 2013, we are not providing any amount because the project is being finalised by the consultant. The Master plan is now being finalised and has to be submitted to PPC. We feel that we will not finalise the detailed designs, and also there is land acquisition to deal with and that is why we have not provided that amount of Rs45 m. in 2013. But we will see that it is provided again in 2014.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 401 – *Eco-Village Project*. Can we know from the hon. Minister which villages have been identified for this project?

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, this appears in the Budget Speech, but if the hon. Member wants the information, I can give it. We are not hiding anything. It is a common project, and since last year we have been talking about it. There are nine villages; Pointe aux Piments, Panchavati, Port Sud Est in Rodrigues, Rivière Coco, Le Morne, Baie Du Cap, Souillac, Vuillemin and Clementia.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 401, under *Item No. 21110 – Personal Emoluments*, the increase is more than 60%. Could the hon. Minister inform the House, apart from the PRB report impact, what has caused that increase?

Mr Virahsawmy: Sustainable Development, Mr Chairperson, is a new department which has been created, as indicated, with five employees. In 2012, not all the five employees were in post, and in 2013 we are providing for all the five employees to be there.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 401, under *Item No. 22120 – Fees – Master Plan for Eco-Village Project*. Can we know to whom this amount of Rs 5 m. is being paid every year?

Mr Virahsawmy: The fees are being paid to a consultancy firm, which has been appointed after all proper procedures have been followed and advertised. If I remember rightly, I think it is GIBBs International.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again on the same item, with regard to fees payable for Master Plan. Do we take it that a Master Plan will be submitted every year because the same amount is being catered for every year?

Mr Virahsawmy: No, Mr Chairperson. We are providing for the Master Plan because, as I have said, there are nine villages to do and we cannot do nine villages in one year. It will be spread. If every year we do three villages, the consultant will have to prepare the Master Plan for three villages every year.

Mr Jhugroo: Can I know from the hon. Minister whether a Master Plan for nine villages costs about Rs19 m.? Because the project will cost about Rs45 m. How is it, hon. Minister?

Mr Virahsawmy: Mr Chairperson, now I think I'll have to start giving lessons on how to read budget items. If he looks at the item *Master Plan for Eco-Village Project*, he will find Rs5 m. every year. Where did he find Rs19 m.?

Programme Code 406: Sustainable Development(Rs7,164,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology –

Programme Code 741: Policy and Management for Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology called.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, *Programme Code 741*, on page 408, has as objective '*Review of policies, measures and procedures for cost-effective and high quality tertiary education and research*'. May I ask from the hon. Minister whether an audit was carried out to monitor and assess the performance of our tertiary institutions, and whether he will be agreeable to give the outcome of this audit?

Dr. Jeetah: My Ministry is currently working on measures in line with the Government Programme to rationalise research. A new legislation will be presented to the House next year, to widen the scope of MRC, and to ensure a more coordinated and inclusive research and innovation system approach.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, I think the hon. Minister did not get my question. On page 408, we are talking about the '*Review of policies, measures and procedures for cost effective and high quality of tertiary education and research.*' My question is whether any audit has been carried out to monitor and assess the performance of local tertiary institutions, and if so, what are the outcomes of such an audit?

Dr. Jeetah: Yes, Mr Chairperson, this is currently being done by the Tertiary Education Commission. I think this is done as a matter of routine by the TEC.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 441, *Item No. 22030 – Rent*. Can we know from the hon. Minister to whom this rent is being paid? Has any tender exercise been carried out, and if so, when has the contract been awarded, and can he table a copy of the contract?

Dr. Jeetah: Mr Chairperson, tender procedures were followed, and the offices are being rented from the BPML. I don't have any difficulty in providing all the information sought by the hon. Member.

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 408, under *Programme Code 742 - Tertiary Education*. Mr Chairperson, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he does not consider it to be conflictual for his Ministry to promote Mauritius as a centre for higher learning, and also to be the actual Ministry that is monitoring the quality and regulate. You cannot promote and regulate. This is my contention.

Dr. Jeetah: Mr Chairperson, as a matter of policy, I promote and I do not regulate. It is the Tertiary Education Commission which is the regulator, and is an independent body.

Dr. S. Boolell: May I ask the hon. Minister the criteria for certification of medical schools and dental schools in Mauritius?

Dr. Jeetah: I can certainly table the clinical framework; it is a pretty bulky document. I don't have any problem in laying it on the Table of the Assembly.

Mr Seeruttun: Page 412, under *Item No. 31112037 - Construction of New University Park*, Rs100,000,000 were earmarked in 2012. May we know if that park has been completed, who was awarded the contract to do that work, and where is that park found?

Dr. Jeetah: This item has been transferred to *Item No. 32145 - Loans (Disbursement)*. The hon. Member wishes to know about the status of construction?

Mr Seeruttun: Has the money been spent?

Dr. Jeetah: Part of it has been spent for consultancy, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: On the same item, can we know how much money has been spent, and can the hon. Minister give the location for this university?

Dr. Jeetah: Construction as such has not started, Mr Chairperson, but I am aware that part of the funds has been spent on consultancy. Construction will be on three sites, namely Ebène, Pamplémousses and Montagne Blanche.

Mr Jhugroo: Can we know the name of the contractor to whom this tender has been awarded?

Dr. Jeetah: No, it has not been awarded as yet. We still have to go through a few stages. I have got a list of 20 stages that we've been through. We are currently at the PPC stage, that is, the Projects Planning Committee. After that, it will go to Cabinet, to the PPC, BPC, that is, the Building Plans Committee, then prepare the tendering documents, the tendering process, and then the award. Then, I will be a happy Minister.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I would like to get something right. I think I heard the hon. Minister say a few minutes ago that, out of those Rs100 m., some of that money had been spent. Now we hear that we are far from starting the construction. So, I ask the question anew. Out of those Rs100 m., how much money has been spent, and for what purpose?

Dr. Jeetah: I can give the amount spent on consultancy. TEC should have the figures, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: *Item No. 32 - Acquisition of Financial Assets, Loans to Special Purpose Vehicle icw construction of new University Park.* May I know from the hon. Minister why is it that there is need to set up a special purpose vehicle for that, and who will be the participants or the equity partners in that special purpose vehicle? Will it be under TEC or under the Ministry or under SIC? How is that amount of Rs225 m. worked out, and for what purpose? Can we have some details?

Dr. Jeetah: There has been a proposal, Mr Chairperson, to set up this special purpose vehicle because currently my Ministry has a number of sites. This would be in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Housing and Lands, my Ministry, the Tertiary Education Commission and so on and so forth. The purpose of setting up this SPV would be to look into issues such as maintenance charges, leases and so on. With regard to the amount spent on project, the figure I have here for consultancy paid so far for the Master Plan is Rs9,653,556 plus Rs7.8 m. for the ex-MBC building.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, does the hon. Minister have an intention to make it a PPP project, or is it a purely Government financed project?

Dr. Jeetah: The Iconic Tower will be owned purely by the State, that is, the Government of Mauritius and its entities; but then there would be provision for the private sector as well to build their own campuses on these sites. The two sites are of 50 acres each, that is, the one in

Pamplemousses and in Montagne Blanche, whereas the other one in Ébène is around 25 acres, if I am not mistaken.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: To come back to Programme Code 741 on page 408, the hon. Minister was stating earlier about improving research in the island. May I ask the hon. Minister how many research projects were carried out this year by the Mauritius Research Council?

Dr. Jeetah: From my understanding, it is about 99 or so projects that have been financed by the MRC in addition to a number of projects implemented in each of the public universities, such as the University of Mauritius, UTM, *Université des Mascareignes*, etc.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask the hon. Minister whether any of these projects have been carried out by the University of Mauritius Trust?

Dr. Jeetah: I do not have any information on this, Mr Chairperson. I can see the Vice-Chancellor making a sign to me. None of them have been done by the UOM Trust.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, has there been any provision under *Item No. 31 - Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets*. We know that the University of Mauritius is space stressed, and there are complaints about lack of buildings and space amenities. May we know why no provision is made for any further construction at the University of Mauritius, or is it that the provision is stuck in some items somewhere there?

Dr. Jeetah: The hon. Member would appreciate, although it is a matter pertaining to policy. I agree the Réduit site is fully congested. It was originally designed to house about 3,000 students. Today, it has nearly 13,000 students. That is why it is now Government policy to delocalise campuses. That is why we should have another campus next to the University; one in Ébène; one in Pamplemousses, as well as one in Montagne Blanche. I also have a new site in Curepipe. That is the ex-MBC building; and another one in Bel Air.

Programme Code 741: Policy and Management for Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology (Rs269,490,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 742: Tertiary Education was called.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 413, *Item No. 26323088 - (a) University of Mauritius*, we see that there is a provision of Rs44 m. for this year, and then Rs27 m. and Rs24 m. Can we have an explanation from the hon. Minister how the work will be carried out at the University of Mauritius?

Dr. Jeetah: Mr Chairperson, if you will allow me, I have a long list of works that are being carried out at the University. Following an audit of compliance with health and safety requirements at the University of Mauritius, several improvements were proposed. Project for 2013 consist of improving fire safety in all buildings: early warning fire detection system, emergency door, fire extinguishers, fire safety signs, emergency lighting, lab safety, flammable cabinets, corrosive cabinets, safety showers, fume hoods, transport carts, protective apparel and upgrading of chemical store.

With regard to furniture and laboratory equipment, there has been a request to replace damage and obsolete furniture and equipment.

With regard to improving access for disabled students, there is now a provision of lifts at the Library and at the Faculty of Engineering Phase One Building, as well as ramps and footpaths to enable disabled students to have easy access to buildings on campus.

With regard to the setting up of a Marine Science Station at Bel Air, the building is being currently refurbished to accommodate the Marine Station. Provision is being made for research equipment, storage room for chemical hazards, health and safety equipment, outdoor tanks, appropriate boat, 4 X 4 truck for boat transportation, trailer boat, solar water panels for the eco-friendly station.

With regard to equipment for the Faculty Examinations Section, there is a proposal to replace five heavy duty photocopy machines to be used for the examination sections. In general, there is a sum of money earmarked for replacement of damaged student chairs and desks.

With regard to UoM Integrated Information System, an amount is earmarked for Consultancy Services for the implementation of a new University Integrated Information System.

With regard to the MRT telescope, that is, the Mauritius Radio Telescope project, a sum of Rs1 m. is earmarked to replace stolen or damaged cables and for the upgrading of research equipment at the MRT.

If you would bear with me, Chairperson, there is a sum of money earmarked for further renovation of the ex-DWC, that is, the Bel Air Centre.

I have three other points. There is a sum of money earmarked for revamping. Sorry, I have gone to other institutions. That was the list I had for the University of Mauritius. I can go on for other institutions if you wish.

Mr Seeruttun: Under the same *Item No. 26323 - Capital Grant to Extra Budgetary Units*, may we have some details about the Rs5 m. earmarked for the Fashion & Design Institute?

Dr. Jeetah: Yes. Mr Chairperson, this amount is meant for the replacement of damaged and obsolete furniture and equipment. There is also a request to acquire and replace training equipment and software.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask the hon. Minister whether the building housing the Fashion & Design Institute is part of Government-owned building, or is it a rented building?

Dr. Jeetah: From my recollection, I know I brought the law in Parliament. The building used to be part of the IVTB, and after the law was passed in Parliament, all the assets, including the building, were vested into that institution, that is, the Fashion & Design Institute.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, if you look at *Item No. 26313 - Current Grant to Extra Budgetary Units*, we find that the amount provided for Tertiary Education Commission has increased from Rs62 m. to Rs68.5 m., whereas for the University of Mauritius the amount that has been provided this year is the same as last year. For the University of Technology, Mauritius, it has been reduced from Rs57 m. to Rs5 m.

May I know from the hon. Minister how does he explain that while the TEC has got more budget, the University of Mauritius and University of Technology, Mauritius, have their budgets capped and there is no increase? And this, in spite of the fact that PRB must be paid, and we have a Visitor who is going to redo the salary scale for the coming year.

Dr. Jeetah: This can be easily explained, Chairperson. The increase in the budget of Tertiary Education Commission is the provision made by Government for the financing of 50 scholarships for African students. So, the increase would take care of that item which amounts to a sum of Rs11.5 m.

With regard to the reduction in the budget of the UTM, it is not a reduction as such. What actually happened is that the sum of Rs55 m. was earmarked for SDIM and IST, which is now part of the *Université des Mascareignes*, and you had a third issue.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, if you would allow me. What I am saying is that the budget for all these institutions have remained the same, but yet these institutions will have to pay PRB. So, where will they get money to pay PRB? Does it mean that they will have to increase the fees for students?

Dr. Jeetah: I do not have all the details, but I can tell you what actually is happening. There are a number of students paying their own fees for Masters and Postgraduate courses. So, I suspect that could be making the difference.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 413 – *Item No. 26313088- Tertiary Education Commission /Tertiary Education Institutions (i) Fashion & Design Institute*, the hon. Minister just replied to hon. Seeruttun that the Rs 5m. are meant for repairing broken desks. There is a provision of Rs 5m. every year. Does the hon. Minister mean that there are broken desks every year, and we are going to spend Rs 5m. every year for these broken desks?

Dr. Jeetah: These are provisions made, Mr Chairperson. There is a certain amount of wear and tear, as you will expect, in any Institution, but then there is a component for software and other IT materials in the Budget as well.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 413, *Item No. 26313 – Current Grants to Extra Budgetary Units*, the amount earmarked for the Tertiary Education Commission is Rs68.5 m. May we have some details about how that money is going to be spent?

Dr. Jeetah: I can certainly table the details in the Assembly, but the difference – I just mentioned - is because of the extra scholarships that are being funded by the Tertiary Education Commission.

The Chairperson: Yes, last question!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, I come to *Item No. 26323 - Capital Grant to Extra Budgetary Units – Tertiary Education Commission/ Tertiary Education Institutions*. We find that the budget for Capital Grant has reduced from Rs70.3 m. to Rs47 m. Can the hon. Minister clarify us on the reasons for reducing the grants for Capital expenditure of all these Tertiary Education, when he is earmarking Rs225 m. for a new facility which will come in five year's time, when the existing facilities are not given the adequate funds to prevent degradation of the amenities?

Dr. Jeetah: This is not true, Mr Chairperson. Last year, I personally talked to the hon. Minister of Finance. He was kind enough to provide funds for health and safety and for other requirements from the University of Mauritius. You would appreciate that there has been a period of transition at the University of Mauritius, and I am not happy with the way resources had been used. So, at the level of my Ministry and at TEC, a monitoring system will be set up to

ensure that TEIs implement capital projects in a timely manner, and do not rush towards the end of the year to meet the deadlines.

With regard to the PRB provisions, I am informed that these are provided separately under *Item No. 26314* on page 635 of the Budget.

Programme Code 742: Tertiary Education (Rs714,578,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 743: Harnessing Research, Innovation, Science and Technology for National Development was called.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 414, under *Item No. 22900 – Other Goods and Services*, an amount of Rs 4 m. has been earmarked for National Science Week. May we have some details how that budget is made up of?

Dr. Jeetah: Yes, Mr Chairperson, it is a phenomenon throughout the world that students are more inclined towards other subjects than science. This is the reason why my Ministry together with the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre will be organising National Science week in ten regions in Mauritius to increase awareness on the importance of science and technology, and hopefully increase enrolment in science. 19 Ministries and/or Departments dealing with science will participate in these events. The first science week was scheduled to be held in Rose Belle, and I am hoping that we would be able to do so this year; otherwise it would be early next year.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, if you will look at the Programme 743, which is the budget for research and innovation, if you take out Rs 4 m. for National Science Week, actually the budget for this year is less than last year. So, how can we make Mauritius a knowledge hub, a centre of research, innovation and all these big projects when your budget for research itself has been cut? So, is there not a contradiction that the hon. Minister of Finance has cut research to size when the hon. Minister is coming up with such a big high-flown project of research centre of the world?

Dr. Jeetah: Mr Chairperson, it is not a question of just rupees and cents, although it does help. There are a number of actions being taken by my Ministry. We are reviewing the whole research set-up. It is very fragmented. There are many institutions doing things in their own way. My Ministry has the mandate to rationalise all institutions currently engaged in research. There is something else happening in Mauritius. We are now able to attract institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). Our negotiations have reached a very advanced stage.

We have links now with the University of Geneva, which is currently working with the University of Mauritius for the setting up of a School of Medicine. We have already started a Masters in Public Health with Imperial College. So, we have taken a number of actions, which will enable us to move to promote research in our institutions. I am further informed that there is no decrease in the MRC budget; this is what I have been informed.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, the budget is Rs63 m. as against Rs62 m., but if you reduce the special item of National Science Week, it is Rs59 m. So, it is Rs62 m. against Rs59 m. So, can the hon. Minister inform the House what this research budget represents in terms of percentage of GDP – because if you want to be a research centre...

The Chairperson: No, this question is not allowed! No GDP at Committee of Supply Stage!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: But this is an insignificant budget, Mr Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Hon. Member, I say no GDP!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: For the high-flown...

The Chairperson: That would be for the debate! No! The question is not allowed!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again, let me go back to my previous question where the hon. Minister replied that there are 10 sites where the National Science Week will be organised; and I am glad that the hon. Minister mentioned Rose-Belle. Could we know the nine other sites where that event will take place?

Dr. Jeetah: The decision, Mr Chairperson, was taken before my good friend, hon. Aimée, when he came up with his new law. So, it was going to be in each Municipal Council and District Council, and in Rodrigues. Now, I understand that there are some changes, and there could be a few more.

With regard to GDP, Mr Chairperson...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: The question...

Dr. Jeetah: I have some information that can be obtained at page 410.

The Chairperson: Does the hon. Minister want to debate the budget?

Dr. Jeetah: No.

Mr Speaker: Therefore, he must sit down! Next question!

Mr Roopun: I am referring to page 408 about major services is a promotion of science. Could I know from the hon. Minister what is being done to encourage students to take science subjects at secondary and tertiary levels?

Dr. Jeetah: The hon. Member did not listen to me at all, Mr Chairperson. I did mention that we are organising a number of events around this subject with the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. I did mention that there was going to be ten meetings throughout the island to encourage students – in collaboration with 19 Ministries and Departments - to promote science subjects.

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, just one question under *Item No. 26323042 – Mauritius Research Council*. There was a proposal for the creation of the offshore farms in Rodrigues, which has been mentioned in the Budget Speech by the Mauritius Council once in Rodrigues. Does this provision cater for the initiation of this project?

Dr. Jeetah: Yes, I couldn't give the hon. Member the exact details, but I was there myself, in Rodrigues, earlier this year. We are currently working on a project on the use of algae for adding value.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 414, *Item No. 26323077 – Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre –Acquisition of Exhibits & Equipment*, can the hon. Minister give to the House the details of the exhibits and equipments which have been bought during this financial year?

Dr. Jeetah: Yes, I have from my notes here that there has been the purchase of a vehicle for the Executive Director for which he is eligible after five years as per the PRB.

Mr François: Just on a point of clarification, with regard to the answer of the hon. Minister, I am referring to farm with regard to renewable energy.

The Chairperson: What is the item?

Mr François: Under the same *Item No. 26323042 - Research Projects*. Just for clarification! I am not quite sure whether the hon. Minister will be able to answer.

Dr. Jeetah: There is a list of about 99 projects which have already been undertaken. But I can certainly later, as I said earlier, table the list for your consultation.

Mr Seeruttun: Again on that question regarding *Acquisition of Exhibits and Equipment* on *Item No. 26323077*. The hon. Minister just stated that that amount catered for Rs2.8m. was for the purchase of vehicles. But here it is mentioned Acquisition of Exhibits and Equipment. Is not that misleading?

Dr. Jeetah: Mr Chairperson, I have to apologise. I think the hon. Member is right. I thought he was referring to Acquisition of Vehicles under *Item No. 26323042*; that was for MRC. The one he is referring to is for Exhibits and Equipment related to science. The one above refers to the purchase of vehicle for the Director of MRC, I do not have the details, but it looks to be a kind of expensive car. I can certainly table the details in the Assembly.

Programme 743: Harnessing Research, Innovation, Science and Technology for National Development (Rs 63,354,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

*Ministry of Information and Communication Technology –
Programme 661: Policy and Strategy for ICT was called.*

Mr Seeruttun: On page 423, under *Item No. 22030 - Rent*, there has been a substantial increase in the amount paid for rent. Will the hon. Minister explain to the House how come this amount has been substantially increased, and to whom that amount is paid to?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: In fact, Mr Chairperson, the item *rent* goes to rental of buildings, rental of parking slots, rental of facilities for events, rental of lines for network system. And here, I would like to point out, Mr Chairperson, that the item *Network System* absorbs the bigger amount...

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, I am interrupting you. You answer the question simply, no speech! Next question!

Mr Jhugroo: On the same item, can I know from the hon. Minister whether there was a tender exercise, and if yes, when this tender exercise was launched? Who was awarded the contract? I asked a similar question in the House last year during the debate and the hon. Minister mentioned that the same rent is being paid, and today we are finding that the amount has been increased. Can the hon. Minister explain to the House whether there has been a tender exercise, and if so, when and who has been awarded the contract, and can he table copy of the contract?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Can the hon. Member enlighten me on one thing, Mr Chairperson? When we say rent, it is in respect of what? Is it buildings, parking lots, facilities or network system!

Mr Jhugroo: Concerning the documents of each of the items the hon. Minister just mentioned.

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, in fact, provision is made for monthly rent at Medco. This was done since a long time. We have the building which is rented to NCB; this also since years, Mr Chairperson. For Belmont, this is also the same thing. This is insofar as buildings are concerned, and as far as intranet system is concerned, Mr Chairperson, MT is the sole provider for the telecom lines.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, could the hon. Minister give us a breakdown in writing of all those items falling under rent? I think that could be most helpful for us. Secondly, could we get some clarification on *Item No. 22120 - Fees*.

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Insofar as the other item is concerned, I am going to table it so that the hon. Member can have a better look. Concerning fees, Mr Chairperson, these are for the Chairman and members of Board and Committees, assessors, training, consultants, and fees in connection with Information Security Management System.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 423, same item rent, can the hon. Minister explain to the House why there has been nearly 28% of increase in rent?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, I have already spelt out why this is like that. It is only Mauritius Telecom which provides that service. We have to pay for it, and the most important thing is that if you want to have high broadband services, Internet access free where we can download in those Ministries, we have introduced the GPON technology there.

The Chairperson: Is the Minister saying simply that the increase comes from Mauritius Telecom? The reason for the increase!

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Let me explain myself. That process of optic fibre to those buildings, Mr Chairperson, was done on a pilot basis for four buildings. Now, we are extending it to the other buildings where we have Ministries and Departments.

The Chairperson: That does explain the increase. Any more questions!

Mr Seeruttun: Again, Mr Chairperson, on that same item, the hon. Minister seems to be saying that the crunch of that amount relates to rental paid to Mauritius Telecom. Would he inform the House how much of that sum of Rs122m. goes to the rental of line to Mauritius Telecom?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Rs75 m., Mr Chairperson.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: On page 102, *Programme Code 424: Item Intangible fixed Assets*, I refer to *Item No. 31132102 - Mauritius National Identity Card and Related Projects*. An

amount of Rs600 m. has been voted this year, and now an additional amount of Rs606 m. is provided under this Budget 2013. Can we know from the hon. Minister how much has been spent in year 2012, to whom has the money been paid, and for what purpose? Also can we have details of the expenditure that is budgeted for this year, that is, Rs 606 m?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: As at date Mr Chairperson, the amount of Rs10,916,204 has already been disbursed to Singapore Corporation Enterprise. In fact, a contract has just been signed with Singapore on 17 October 2012. By next week, I hope, we will have another sum of Rs225 m. to be paid for work which has already been done because the process is now ongoing insofar as the ID card is concerned. The hon. Member wants to have a breakdown of those figures. I have already communicated it during the PNQ session which we had on MNIC, but still I can give you a breakdown. Programme office Rs102,148,296; MNIC system Rs311,937,165; Smart Card Rs179,633,608; Central Population Database Version Rs77,030,062; MNIS Certification Authority Rs88,546; MNIS e-services and Government service platform Rs90,597; card conversion exercise estimated cost Rs167,992; operation and support Rs33,766,162; MNIS infrastructure setup Rs60,012,778; IT Security Audit Rs4,912. The estimated total cost project is Rs1,116,575,477.

Mr Seeruttun: On the same item, will the hon. Minister inform the House how much of the Rs1.1 billion he just mentioned will go for the Singapore Corporation Enterprise, and how much will go to the other Singaporean company, Crimsonlogic, I believe, which has got the contract?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, the contract was signed by the Mauritian authority and Singapore Corporation enterprise, which deputed Crimsonlogic as you can see in this case. There is a consortium, and payment is being effected through this.

Mr Jhugroo: Can we have a timeframe when this new NIC will be available?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we are expecting that, by October 2013, we will be in a position to see the first card, and by December 2014 the whole 900,000 cards will be ready.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, at page 324, *Item No. 31132401- Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure*, the question is: we are talking for the improved competitiveness and growth of ICT sector. I would like to know why there is a decrease. May I have some clarification please?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, since the project is now fully operational, we have one leg which concerns the VVIP; the other one e-education and e-health. As no additional equipment is required, the cost of the operation has thus gone down.

Mr Seeruttun: Again at page 424, *Item No. 31132801 - Acquisition of Software*, I can see that some Rs4.35 m. has been earmarked for 2013 and it is the same amount for 2014 and 2015. May we have some details about what software are being bought?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, we are making provision for the maintenance of antivirus for all Ministries and Departments, and for the purchase of software for other Ministries as well.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: On the same item, Mr Chairperson, can we know from which company these software are being purchased?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: This is an ongoing process. Now we have made provision for that.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Concerning the National Identity Card, may I ask the Minister how many identity cards will be issued under this project?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Mr Chairperson, I have answered this question ...

The Chairperson: Answer the question

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: 900,000, man.

The Chairperson: I am sorry hon. Minister, you said 'man'.

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: No. hon. Man.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, you withdraw the word 'man' okay.

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Yes, okay.

Mrs Radegonde: Under programme 661, *Item No. 31132401- Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure*, I heard the Minister mention that the upgrading of ICT infrastructure is not yet operational. Can the hon. Minister clarify that? How have the Rs500,000 been spent?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: What I have said Mr Chairperson is that we have already completed that exercise insofar as PanAfrican e-Network project is concerned. This concerns the VVIP, the e-health and the e-education. As I have said, since the project is fully operational, no additional equipment is required. That is why the price has gone down

Mrs Radegonde: I would like to ask the hon. Minister how many National Identity Cards will be issued, and what is going to be the final cost of one Identity Card?

The Chairperson: You may not answer or you may.

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: So far, as for the number, I have already said, Mr Chairperson

The Chairperson: Can you answer the question?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: 900,000.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: At page 424, Mr Chairperson, again for *Item No. 31132801 - Acquisition of Software*, the Minister mentioned that it is a routine activity. I would like to ask the hon. Minister for 2012, from which company was the software purchased?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: This will be made through a tender exercise asking for the specifications and all that.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: My question was: for year 2012, the purchase that was made was from which company?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: New Hedge Limited.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Again with regard to the National Identity Card project, in what way will Mauritian companies be involved in the production of the National Identity Cards, and will this involve additional costs to the cost of issuing a card?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: No, Mr Chairperson. In fact, where Mauritian industries can perform certain works, this will be given to those Mauritian industries. So far the cost is concerned, it will be paid in Mauritian rupees directly to those firms. As I said, Singapore Corporation enterprise will source those items locally in Mauritius, and it will fully involve local companies.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again, on page 424, on *Item No. 311132801 - Acquisition of Software*, may we know whether...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No interruption!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 424, the last item, on Programme Code 661, that is, *Item No. 311132801 - Acquisition of Software*. May we know more about the Microsoft Licensing Board some years back? Are these licences still available for use to the users, or have they all been used up to now?

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: Can you state precisely which software you are alleging to?

Mr Seeruttun: I mean Microsoft licences.

Mr Pillay Chedumbrum: This is another issue. Microsoft is another thing, it does not concern that.

Programme Code 661: Policy and Strategy for ICT (Rs883,578,000,500) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 662: Provision of Citizen-Centric Services through ICT (Rs208,174,500) was called and agreed to.

Ministry of Fisheries -

Programme Code 751: Policy and Strategy for Fisheries was called.

Mr Roopun: On page 429, concerning aquaculture of 'berri rouge' and 'camaron juveniles' in Rodrigues, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister what are the stages of the project for aquaculture.

Mr Von-Mally: What do you want to know about aquaculture, please?

The Chairperson: What is the question?

Mr Roopun: The issue is about the project of 'berri rouge' on aquaculture.

The Chairperson: Wait a minute! The hon. Member has to put a proper question. What is the question? What does the hon. Member want to know about 'berri rouge'? The hon. Member should put the question.

Mr Roopun: Where matters stand about the aquaculture project in Rodrigues?

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, it falls under the RRA, and we have already written to the RRA for a pilot project, that is, to start the project. Up to now, it seems that they are not really willing for us to go forward.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 434, *Item No. 21 – Compensation of Employees*. We can see that the amount earmarked for 2013 has gone down, despite the fact that the number of employees has gone up and also with the increase due to the impact of the PRB report. How can you explain that decrease?

Mr Von-Mally: The decrease is due to departure and transfer of officers along with no replacement of vacant post, and it is due to the implementation of the PRB Report of 2013, which is included in it. We have two senior officers, two officers who have been transferred and one procurement officer who is interdicted.

Mr Seeruttun: If I go to page 438, when you see the list of staff, I can say that the number has gone up from 72 to 73, and grade-wise there has not been any movement. How can you explain, therefore, that the amount has gone down in 2013?

Mr Von-Mally: This is the same question. Yes, it is. It's due to departure and transfer of officers, and there has been no replacement.

Mr Seeruttun: But if you look on page 438, the number of staff for 2012 is 72 and for 2013 it is 73. So, it is one more, it has gone up.

Mr Von-Mally: One?

Mr Seeruttun: Yes. You said there have been departures and no replacement.

Mr Von-Mally: Yes, that is 72 to 73; it has moved under the sub-programme.

Mr François: I am referring to page 429 - *Major Achievements*. With regard to fingerlings of 'gueule pavé' released at Black River Reserve, I would like to know whether this has worked or not.

Mr Von-Mally: For 'gueule pavé', yes. This is working marvellously well, and we are releasing many more, maybe millions this year.

Programme Code 751: Policy and Strategy for Fisheries (Rs45,072,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 487: Fisheries Development and Management was called.

Mr Seeruttun: On 435, on *Item No. 22090 – Security*. The amount has gone up to Rs2.7 m. Can we have some explanation as to why the increase, and to whom that amount is paid to?

Mr Von-Mally: This is done in collaboration with the Regional Police Headquarters. For security services, the contract has been awarded for the Fish Auction Market, which is included. You want to know which company?

(Interruptions)

You mean why it has gone up? It has gone up because we need security services not only at Albion Fisheries Research Centre, FITEC, Blue Bay Marine Park, Mahebourg Fish Landing Station, the Fish Auction Market and Trou Fanfaron Fishing Port.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I would like to get a few details, on page 435 - *Item No. 22130 – Studies and Surveys* that have cost Rs 3m., and now it is going to go down to Rs2.8 m. I would like to know under which items were those studies and surveys carried out, and by whom.

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, there has been a decrease, as several surveys are being entertained by the SWIOF and the NORAD, the Norwegian. So, we do not have to pay a lot; that is the reason.

Mr Seeruttun: Again, on page 435, *Item No. 22120 – Fees* for laboratory test Rs6 m. May we know for what sort of test the fees are, and to which laboratory?

Mr Von-Mally: It is for seafood test - the competent authority.

(Interruptions)

Yes, for the officers working there.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, at page 436, under *Item No. 28225 - Transfers to Private Enterprises (a) Purchase of Fishing Boats (Rodrigues)*, a sum of Rs5.5 m. has been earmarked. Can we have details about these transfers to private enterprises?

Mr Von-Mally: This is meant for the acquisition of five fishing boats to five companies in Rodrigues. These have already been acquired. It is up to the RRA to cater for this.

Mr Seeruttun: Coming back to the question I asked earlier on regarding fees for lab test, may we know to which lab that money is paid to?

Mr Von-Mally: To the SGS.

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 436, *Item No. 28212016 Other Current Transfers – Compensation to Heirs of Fishermen (i.c.w Accidental Death at Sea)*. May I know how many cases are pending at the level of the Ministry, and how long it takes to compensate these cases? I know of a case which is still awaiting compensation for more than 2 ½ years?

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, there are only two cases.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to give us a few clarifications on *Item No. 22060 - Maintenance* at page 435.

Mr Von-Mally: It is a new contract for upgrading the MS, and it costs less than the previous contract.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, at page 436 under *Item No. 31112010 - Construction of Fisheries Posts*, I would like to know the status of Case Noyale Fishery Post.

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, we are working in close collaboration with the MPI, and the plan has been completed.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, at page 436, *Item No. 31112032 - Construction of Marine Park Centre (Blue Bay)*, we can see that some Rs15 m. were earmarked in 2012 and

Rs25 m. in 2013. May we have status about the project, where we have reached with regard to that construction and who is conducting that job?

Mr Von-Mally: Concerning the construction of the Marine Park Centre at Blue Bay, the Building Plans Committee approved the revised plans of the Blue Bay Marine Park Centre on 02 February 2011, and on 09 July, 2012, the MPI submitted the draft tender document together with the cost estimate of the project. The cost estimate has been revised from Rs25.5 m. to Rs30.6 m. The increase is, *inter alia*, due to the following factors: increase in cost of construction, increase in cost of electrical works and so on. I can add that the clearance has been obtained from PPC on 07 November 2012, and the bidding exercise has been set in motion at the level of the Ministry.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 437, under *Item No. 31121803 - Acquisition of patrol vessels*, we see that there are provisions of Rs3.5 m., Rs4 m. and Rs1 m. Can we have some clarification from the hon. Minister?

Mr Von-Mally: This is for the purchase of speed boats for the Fisheries Protection Service.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, at page 436, under *Item No. 31112031 - Construction of Fish Auction Market*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the construction has been completed and whether this market is lying idle there, under whose authority and responsibility it is being vested, who is managing it, and if there has been any feasibility study to ascertain that this market is going to be of any use?

Mr Von-Mally: In fact, it has already been completed. We have already launched expressions of interest twice, and nobody turned up. But I have good news that there are private operators from Mauritius who are interested in that. We are working with them, and maybe we will find a solution very soon.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, I asked the Minister whether there has been any prior feasibility study before carrying out this prestigious project. If there has been any feasibility study, can he table that report for us?

Mr Von-Mally: Surely, the feasibility study was done. When I took office, it was already started. The hon. Member can rest assured that the fish auction market will become operational very soon.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 437, under *Item No. 31113412 - Re-opening of Boat Passage*, Rs6 m. for 2012 and another Rs6 m. for 2013 have been earmarked. May we know in which region works have been carried out in 2012, and what are the regions earmarked for 2013?

Mr Von-Mally: It is for the re-opening of the passage at FITEC because we need boats to get in. It gets silted, and so we have to reopen it. This will help our fishermen when they go training at FITEC.

(Interruptions)

The hon. Member does not know where FITEC is? It is found at Pointe aux Sables.

Programme Code 487: Fisheries Development and Management (Rs266,566) was, on question put, agreed to.

At 4.53 p.m, the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 5.20 p.m with Mr Speaker in the Chair.

Ministry of Youth and Sports –

Programme Code 681: Policy and Management for Youth and Sports (Rs20,103,000) was called and agreed to.

Programme Code 682: Promotion and Development of Sports was called.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, I would like to go back to page 443 – *Major Constraints and Challenges, Youth Section, Lack of awareness and involvement in youth activities*. May we know what are the measures being taken in that Budget to address that problem of lack of awareness to youths with regard to sport activities?

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, this will be done by conducting programmes, for example, initiation, detection, coaching, seminars, workshops, competitions with the collaboration of major partners involved in the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Programme Code 682: Promotion and Development of Sports (Rs390,325,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 683: Youth Services was called.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 451 under *Item No. 22090 – Security*, the sum of Rs3.7 m. is earmarked. May we have some details as to whom that amount is paid, and what are the premises being concerned with?

Mr Ritoo: The contractor is Rapid Security Services Ltd, and the increase is due to a proper allocation of funds to appropriate programmes - I mean the sum has been moved from programme 68202 and 68301 respectively.

Mr Seeruttun: Again on page 451, *Item No. 22120 – Fees*, where a sum of Rs595,000 has been earmarked for 2013, may we know to whom the fees are paid and for what purpose?

Mr Ritoo: The fees are for air tickets, catering, sports equipment, medals and prizes, and for overseas participation of athletes.

Mr Roopun: On page 452, *Non-Residential Buildings*, I see a list of youth centres. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether all these youth centres have been completed, and if not, which of these are still under construction.

Mr Ritoo: This is an ongoing process; some of the youth centres have already been completed, while for others upgrading works are actually being done.

Mr Seeruttun: Again on page 452, *Item No. 22030 – Rent*, where there has been an increase compared to last year. May we know why this increase, and to whom that amount is paid?

The Chairperson: Yes, why the increase?

Mr Ritoo: It is for renting of buildings for which additional rent is required.

Mr Seeruttun: It is paid to whom?

Mr Ritoo: There are different owners because we have the Bank of Baroda, Goburdhun in Rose Hill, NPF building in Rose Hill, NPF building in Beau Bassin, Athletics Federation in Rose Hill. Also houses rented for the National Technical Directors and Coaches from abroad.

Programme Code 683: Youth Services (Rs73,613,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands –

Programme Code 461: Policy and Management of Local Government was called.

The Chairperson: Is there any question?

Mr Seeruttun: On page 467, *Item No. 22030 – Rent*, under *Item No. 22030007 - Rental line for Network Services*, may we know to whom that amount is paid and for what purpose?

Mr Aimée: Rent for fees at Renganaden Seeneevassen Building for the Minister's Office, secretariat. Rent for office space at Bahemia Building, Port Louis.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please, put your question!

Mr Seeruttun: It says *Rental for Network Service*.- Is that what this relates to?

Mr Aimée: Which item, please?

Mr Seeruttun: *Item No. 22030.*

Mr Aimée: It is for the payment of connectivity fee, Government online centre, and in connection with the e-Government project.

Programme Code 461: Policy and Management of Local Government (Rs45,867,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code: 462: Facilitation to Local Authorities was called.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 461, *Setting up of Audit Committees in Local Authorities*. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether these Audit Committees are independent committees or whether they are Committees within his Ministry.

Mr Aimée: On page 461, which item number, please?

Mr Roopun: At page 461, under *Programme Code 462, Setting up of Audit Committees in Local Authorities*.

The Chairperson: Last item, first part at page 461!

(Interruptions)

Page 461, the first part: *Priority Objectives, Major Services*; the last item, *Setting up of Audit Committees in Local Authorities*. Did the hon. Minister get it?

Mr Aimée: I will circulate it, Mr Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Next question!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 467, *Item No. 26312001 – Municipal Council of Port Louis*, I can see a decrease in the amount earmarked for 2013 compared to last year. May we know why this decrease in the amount allocated to that Municipality?

Mr Aimée: The decrease is due to the withdrawal of Rs200 m. provided by MOFED in 2012. Municipal councils are expected to generate their own revenue as from 2013 under the LAVIMS project.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on the same page, under the same item. After listening to the hon. Minister, how can it be that the provision for the Municipal Councils of Port Louis, Curepipe, Vacoas/Phoenix, Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes have decreased? The one for Curepipe by Rs40 m.; Vacoas/Phoenix by Rs38 m.; Beau Bassin/Rose Hill by Rs40 m. Port

Louis Municipal Council has decreased by Rs30 m., and the allocations for all the District Councils have not decreased.

The Chairperson: What is the question?

Mr Aimée: I have explained in my reply before. It is because of the LAVIMS project - it will be ready later on, not immediately.

(Interruptions)

I cannot answer for the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, this is not a proper way to put and answer questions! Any question? Hon. Roopun!

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 461, *Programme 462: Facilitation to Local Authorities*, under *Major Services*. I would like to be enlightened about measures which are being taken for the *Development of a code of good governance for the local authorities*. Could the hon. Minister enlighten the House about how this code of governance is being developed?

Mr Aimée: The item is?

Mr Roopun: Third bullet point - *Development of Code of Good Governance for Local Authorities*, under *Major Services*.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, it is a policy matter. I would suggest that the hon. Member puts a PQ to have the answer.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 467, under *Item No. 26312 – Current Grant to Local Authorities*.

Mr Aimée: Which item?

Mr Seeruttun: Under *Item No. 26312 – Current Grant to Local Authorities*. In his reply earlier on, the hon. Minister mentioned that the reason for the decrease in the amount catered for is due to the increase in tax rates. Could the hon. Minister elaborate by how much taxes are going to be increased in those different Municipalities?

Mr Aimée: Again, Mr Chairperson, the decrease is due to the withdrawal of Rs200 m. provided by MOFED in 2012. Municipal Councils are expected to generate their own revenues as from 2013 under LAVIMS.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, on the same item. The fact that the hon. Minister has answered right now that the local authorities are expected to generate their own

income and that the amount received from MOFED will go down, may I ask him, to compensate for this lower amount of funds coming from MOFED, whether the Municipal Councils will have to increase the rate payable ...

The Chairperson: This will be a matter of policy.

Mr Aimée: No....

Mr Duval: Mr Chairperson, what is happening is that there are a number of houses in Municipal Councils which do not pay rates. They have not been identified as such. LAVIMS now has a data base of all the houses around the towns. So, there will be a number of people now who will have to pay rates. We are even introducing a self-assessment system. So, the rates are not going up; it is the number of rate payers that is going to increase.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Following what has been given as an answer from the hon. Minister of Finance, may I ask the hon. Minister of Local Authorities, whether the local authorities are not already aware of new houses being built due to the fact that they have to issue permits for the building of new houses? Hence, they should have known all the number of ...

The Chairperson: No, I am sorry; this is a matter of policy.

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 467, *Item No. 26314 – Local Authorities, RRA and Extra Budgetary Units*, sub-section 26314001 – *PRB Local Authorities*. Do I understand that employees under the RRA will be paid PRB under this section?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, the amount is provided to cater for the implementation of the PRB Report 2013 in all Councils, but this amount represents only about 65% to 70% of their own implementation costs.

Mr François: I want to know whether it is for RRA employees also or just for the Local Authorities.

Mr Aimée: This is just the code name, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 467, let me refer to the reply from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Finance with regard to the new tax rates. What mechanism is going to be put in place to ensure that there are such criteria for people to self-assess the rates to be paid to the Municipality?

Mr Aimée: There is a new formula put in place by the Ministry of Finance *qui va être en vigueur très prochainement*.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 468, under *Item No. 31121801 – Acquisition of Vehicles*, can I have some clarification from the hon. Minister regarding purchase of vehicles?

Mr Aimée: The amount is provided for the purchase of compact lorries for Local Authorities, to enable them to offer a more regular scavenging service.

Mr Jhugroo: Can I know how many lorries or compact lorries, and for which authority?

Mr Aimée: Provision has been made for Rs100 m., and I cannot say because we have the tender exercise which has to be carried out for that.

Mr Seeruttun: With regard to District Councils, I believe as for next year ...

Mr Aimée: Which page?

Mr Seeruttun: On page 467, under *Item No. 26312 – Current Grant to Local Authorities*, I believe that as from next year, there will be a split of District Councils, that is, instead of Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart, there will be Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart; Grand Port/Savanne will be one Grand Port, one Savanne. But the amount is being allocated to those previously known District Councils like Grand Port/Savanne. How would that amount be split between these two new District Councils henceforth?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, there is an amount of Rs107 m. earmarked to cater for the splitting of all the three District Councils. We already have existing building for the splitting of the three District Councils.

Mr Seeruttun: May we know how those Rs107 m. are going to be apportioned among those new District Councils?

Mr Aimée: This is meant only for furniture and equipment, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: I heard from the hon. Minister that we distributed to each District Council?

Mr Aimée: We have the initial District Council which exists actually. They have got their own finance, but provisions have been made - Rs107 m. - for the cost of running of the three District Councils annually.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on the same item, the reply from the hon. Minister is that the Rs107 m. is with regard to equipment to be purchased for the new District Councils. How the personnel of those new District Councils are going to be paid and other running costs are going to be made, and from what fund is that going to come from?

Mr Aimée: I have already answered that. I said that Rs107 m. is budgeted for the staff of the three District Councils.

Programme Code 462: Facilitation to Local Authorities (Rs2,317,656,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 463: Solid Waste, Landscaping and Beach Management was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, on *Programme Code 463*, under *Item No. 22070 – Cleaning Services*, there is an amount of Rs401,400,000 which has been increased. May I know how this money is being paid, to which services, and whether there are tenders?

Mr Aimée: It is for the cleaning and maintenance of public beaches, including toilet blocks. About 50 secondary beaches are being serviced by the Field Services Unit of my Ministry, and the cleaning of the beaches is contracted out.

Dr. S. Boolell: Which companies are entitled to be paid that amount?

Mr Aimée: It is a long answer, Mr Chairperson.

Dr. S. Boolell: Which company has the lion share?

Mr Aimée: There is no lion there.

(Interruptions)

The hon. Member wants for each contractor, I will give him. There are ten of them. I am going to circulate it.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 469, under *Item No. 31113009 - Construction of Solid Waste Disposal, Facilities/Stations*, there is a provision for coming years of about Rs900 m. Can we know the name of the company which got the contract for this construction, and whether there has been any tender exercise done, and if so, when? Can we have a copy of the contract?

Mr Aimée: Adjustment for CPI (Construction Price Index) is applicable for all contracts except for La Laura. Payment for operation is a fixed sum per month while transporting cost to Mare Chicose Landfill is based on tonnage and waste transported. Sotravic for St Martin - shift to La Laura – Sotravic, Securiclean, Maxi Clean and CRSE.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 468, under *Item No. 28222021 - Compensation for Relocation of Inhabitants of Mare Chicose*, a sum of Rs24.5 m. is budgeted for 2012. May we know how much of that money has already been disbursed to date, and so far within that programme of relocation, how much compensation has been paid to date?

Mr Aimée: No provision has been made for compensation to the inhabitants. Otherwise, MOFED has agreed during the budget discussion stage to provide fund in case compensation has to be paid.

Mr Seeruttun: I asked for the year 2012. An amount of Rs24.5 m. has been budgeted. I want to know how much of that amount for this year 2012 has been disbursed so far to the inhabitants of Mare Chicose, and for that whole project how much has been disbursed to the inhabitants of Mare Chicose to date because some amount of money has been disbursed in the previous years.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, 38 landowners will benefit from this compensation; 29 families have already received their compensation and title deeds; seven cases are currently before the Notary public. The total compensation amount payable is Rs80 m. The amount paid today is approximately Rs59 m.

Mr Seeruttun: Again, Mr Chairperson, let me insist on that question. The Minister said as to date a sum of Rs59 m. has disbursed, but I want to know how much has been disbursed from the amount of Rs24.5 budgeted during this year 2012.

Mr Aimée: As I have explained, there was a sum of Rs80 m. as provision; from that sum of Rs80 m., an amount of Rs59 m. has been paid as compensation.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 468, under *Item No. 26313003 - Beach Authority*, can the hon. Minister explain to the House why there has been an increase from Rs15.3 m. to Rs18.9 m.?

Mr Aimée: It is Rs3.6 m. for the coastal protection work.

Mr Seeruttun: Page 468, *Item No. 22900903 - Awareness Campaign*, there is Rs1 m. earmarked. May we know in what form that campaign will take place, and the remaining Rs3.4 m. goes for what expenses?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't disturb! Carry on!

Mr Aimée: It is intended to conduct a sensitization programme to promote new ways of purchasing which is more resource efficient. The efficiency of the campaign will be assessed by the number of complaints received as well as the number of 'Eyesore Abatement Notice', and contravention served as from the start of the campaign.

Mr Seeruttun: Concerning the remaining Rs3.4 m., could we have the detail of those expenses?

Mr Aimée: I will circulate it.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 469, under *Item No. 31121801 - Acquisition of Vehicles*, there was a provision of Rs3.7 m. for year 2012. Can we have some details about the purchase of vehicles?

Mr Aimée: No provision has been made with a view to remain within the budget ceiling set by MOFED.

Programme Code 463: Solid Waste, Landscaping and Beach Management (Rs848, 276,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 464: Fire Fighting and Rescue and Fire Prevention was called.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 469, under *Item No. 22030 - Rent*, there is an increase in the rent...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Silence!

Mr Seeruttun: There is an increase in the rent amount.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I say, silence!

Mr Seeruttun: May we know what justifies the increase in the rent amount, and to whom that amount is paid to?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, it is for payment of rental of building to cater for the Head Office, Bahemia Building, to house the Prevention Section and also for payment of rent to the Municipality of Port Louis and the Municipality of Quatre Bornes. An increase is due to new agreement. Provision is also made for the rental of parking slots for the six offices, which cost about Rs7,590 as per the new contract.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 470, *Item No. No. 31112 - Non-Residential Buildings, (b) New Rose Belle Fire Station*. Rs10 m. were earmarked in 2012, and there is no more money allocated out of this for 2013. May we know why, and what was the sum of Rs10 m. earmarked in 2012 for that project?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, there is a new Fire Station at Tamarin, and it is now supposed to be completed in March 2013. According to MPI, the project was planned to start in May 2013. No provision has been made for the year 2013, in accordance to Circular No. 11 of 2012, expenditure policy guidelines from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Mr Seeruttun: I am referring to the New Rose Belle Fire Station project.

The Chairperson: The question is about the New Rose Belle Fire Station.

Mr Seeruttun: May we know whether that project is going ahead or not, and out of the Rs10 m. earmarked in 2012 how much is spent, and for what purpose?

Mr Aimée: What page and what item?

The Chairperson: Page 470.

Mr Aimée: It is a full page. I will table it, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Seeruttun: The question was whether that project is going ahead or not.

Mr Aimée: Yes, next year.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, in his reply the hon. Minister said that the project is going ahead next year, but there is no money allocated for that project. How can the hon. Minister explain that the project is going ahead just by the fact that no money is being provided for?

The Chairperson: Next question!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, *Item No. 31122803 - Acquisition of Fire Fighting Equipment.*

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I don't want cross-talking!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask from the hon. Minister what are the specifications of this equipment?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please, you are disturbing the hon. Member; she is putting a question! Allow her to put a question! Hon. Member, put your question again because I, myself, have not understood the question!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, will the hon. Minister inform the House about the specifications of that fire fighting equipment?

The Chairperson: Certification?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Specifications.

The Chairperson: Okay.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, provision with regard to the purchase of stabilising equipment, battery operated combi tools, submersible pumps, multi-purpose saw, gas detector, breathing apparatus, imaging cameras, personal protective equipment and gear and miscellaneous equipment.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 469, *Item No. 22120 - Fees*, may we know to whom those fees are being paid and for what purpose?

The Chairperson: Last question!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: At page 470, *Item No. 31122 - Other Machinery and Equipment*, may I ask from the hon. Minister whether these will also include lorries for fire fighting?

The Chairperson: Please, hon. Minister, stand up and answer!

Mr Aimée: I have not caught the item, Mr Chairperson.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, may I repeat? I am asking the hon. Minister whether, among the equipment that is to be purchased, we include fire fighting lorries.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, provision is made for three fire fighting vehicles, and actually we are commissioning one lorry ladder, which can go up to 30 metres height, which will be at our disposal in the beginning of next year.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask the hon. Minister whether we actually have one such lorry at the Ministry?

Mr Aimée: Such a lorry where?

The Chairperson: At the Ministry? Do you have such a lorry at the Ministry?

Mr Aimée: Yes.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, I am still waiting for the reply to my previous question.

Mr Aimée: The amount is provided for payment of fees to members of Tender Committee and Bid Evaluation Committee.

Programme Code 464: Fire Fighting and Rescue and Fire Prevention (Rs347,834,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 465: Outer Islands Development was called.

The Chairperson: Page 462.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 470, *Upgrading of Agalega Airstrip*. Can I ask the hon. Minister where matters stand?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, following a procurement exercise initiated in October 2011, two bids were received at the Central Procurement Board. During the public opening of the bids in January 2012, it was noted that the financial offer far exceeded the budget earmarked for the project which was estimated by the Consultant GIBBs, Mauritius, to the tune of Rs120 m. The CPB had convened that it may not be worthwhile to proceed with the evaluation of the bids in

view of the wide difference between the bid price and the estimated cost, and had requested for a policy stand on the matter.

The bid prices as read out by the Central Procurement Board are as follows -

Gamma Civic Ltd. - Rs350,931,673.55

Colas - Rs318,029,048.85

And, they have given one option of Rs5,117,155.00, which can save from the first offers. The second one is Rs46,394,967.50. If Rs350,931,673.55 is used, this will be discounted figure. One option is being considered, namely the implementation of the project by a donor country through a bilateral negotiation. In the meantime, bid validity is being extended for a further period of three months as from 23 November 2012. A budgetary provision of Rs120 m. has again been made for the upgrading of the Agalega airstrip for the year 2013.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on that same item, may we know how much so far has been paid to Consultants with regard to that project?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, I don't have the information here. I will table it.

Programme Code 465: Outer Islands Development (Rs206,100,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Arts and Culture -

Programme Code 621: Policy and Management of Arts and Culture was called.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, I would need some clarification under *Programme 621, Item No. 22120 – Fees*. It is for what purpose and to whom?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, the fees are payable to the Chairman of the Board of stage plays and members, payment of fees to service providers under the Capability Building Programme, previously under the Centrally Managed Programme, and it has now been transferred to the Ministry. We have the decrease because one officer has had his contract not renewed.

Mr Roopun: On page 476, *Major Achievements for 2012 – 480,000 pages scanned, indexed and uploaded on the Electronic Archives System*. Could I ask the hon. Minister what percentage of the Archives has, in fact, been scanned, and what remains to be done?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, the National Archives is implementing its first phase of Electronic Archives System, and this will, of course, enable the public to have easy access

through the internet. We are left with many more pages. Up to now, it is about 512,000 pages, which is an equivalent of 10%.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, under *Programme 621, Item No. 22160 – Overseas training*, I would like to know what type of training, the number of people trained and who are the beneficiaries. Are they artists or others?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, overseas training is mainly for artists. When they get their international grant scheme, they go to perform outside Mauritius, and there they get training and the exposure with foreign artists.

Mrs Radegonde: May I know the number of artists trained?

Mr Choonee: There are 52.

Programme 621: Policy and Management for Arts and Culture (Rs27,454,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 622: Promotion of Arts and Culture was called

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, on page 483, under *Programme 622, Item No. 22130001 - Studies and preliminary project preparation, (a) Development of Framework for Film Industry and (b) Study on the setting up of a Mauritius Symphony Orchestra*, I would like to know the status of the two items given. I would also like to know why *(a) Development of Framework for Film Industry* is earmarked Rs1.5m. when it was earmarked Rs2m. in 2011.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, concerning the Development of Framework for Film Industry, this is being catered for by the Board of Investment. It is from their Budget that they are carrying forward the project. Further, preliminary consultations have been held locally, and consultants are looking into the project, into the technical assistance from friendly countries. It will be a G-to-G endeavour.

Mrs Radegonde: Can I have detailed information about it? The status where they stand.

The Chairperson: Well, this will be a PQ. Details!

Mr Roopun: Can I refer the hon. Minister to page 477, *Priority Objectives – promote social cohesion?* Can I have some details about how the hon. Minister wishes to promote social cohesion?

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister should not answer this question because it is a matter of policy.

Mr Roopun: I wish to be guided by you, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Chairperson: Put your question.

Mr Roopun: Now we have now a performance-based budgeting, and this is why we have all these programmes and objectives included in the Budget, so that we can know what is being done and for what purpose. This is what I understand.

The Chairperson: I understand your concern about this project. The hon. Minister may give you the information, but for the purpose of the Committee of Supply this is not a proper question. Next question!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 483, *Item No. 22120030 – Fees to Resource Persons for promoting SLAM, Drama, Photography, Reading and writing in Schools*, there are Rs3m. for 2012 and Rs2m. for 2013. May we know to whom the fees were paid for 2012?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, the fees were paid to the Chairman and members of the Drama Committee for ten languages of the National Drama Festival; instructors giving training at the *Centre de Formation Artistique* at Paillote, Plaines des Papayes, Pointe Canon and Goodlands, and also to resource persons for promotion of SLAM. The decrease is due to the fact that we are having merging of training classes in the *Centre de Formation Artistique*, and further to that the SLAM project has been taken care of by the Ministry of Education.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, at page 476 - *Major Achievements for 2012*, we have two new *Centres de Lecture Publique et d'Animation Culturelle* at Fond du Sac and Baie du Cap. Coming back to page 484, I can see CELPAC. Is that included in that Budget, or it is different? Because here it is CLAC, and on another page it is CELPAC.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, CELPAC and CLAC are the same. CELPAC is *Centres de Lecture et d'Animation Culturelle*. We have modernised the institution to call it *Centres de Lecture Publique et d'Animation Culturelle*. It's the same thing.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 483, under *Item No. 26313036 – Mauritius Film Development Corporation*, there was a provision of Rs8.2m. for this financial year, and I do not find anything regarding the achievements of the Mauritius Film Development Corporation. Can we know what they achieved during this year?

The Chairperson: No. Hon. Member, you won't get the achievement in the Budget. You will get the sum of money that is earmarked. Put a question on the sum.

Mr Jhugroo: So, can we know what they have achieved during this financial year? What have they done?

Mr Choonee: You mean future activities of the MFDC? It is there to facilitate the implementation of the scheme for the refund of 30% approved expenditure by the film producers in Mauritius. This has just been passed in the Budget. It is a continuation of capacity-building programmes, organisation of film festivals, facilitator for film producers, film production scheme, assistance to local producers. A new legislation is coming. It is called the Film Commission.

Dr. S. Boolell: Page 484, *Item No. 28211026*, there is a sum of Rs1,200,000 being paid to a sociocultural organisation every year. May I have the name of that sociocultural organisation which is entitled to Rs1,200,000 every year in the Budget?

Mr Choonee: We got numerous, Sir, not one.

Dr. S. Boolell: Something called numerous has a name? Can we, at least, have an example?

Mr Choonee: I can circulate the list, but it is too lengthy. To make it clearer where it is numerous, let me say that the grant is between Rs3,000 to Rs20,000 to each cultural organisation, depending on what regional activity they are organising. If the hon. Member wants it for one year, I will find the list and table it. I don't mind.

Mrs Radegonde: Mr Chairperson, I need some clarification. At page 484, the Minister stated that *CELPAC* and *CLAC* are the same. Should I then ask the hon. Minister what is the amount earmarked for this financial year for the two new centers constructed at Baie du Cap and Fond du Sac respectively?

Mr Choonee: It is not together. It is Rs5.2 m. for all the *CELPACs*. It is 17 in Mauritius and three in Rodrigues. We have a separate budget for personal emoluments for the officers who will be serving there. We have 17 attendants and eight *CELPAC* officers.

Mrs Radegonde: Can the hon. Minister table the list?

Mr Choonee: Yes, without any problem, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Seeruttun: We go back to page 483, *Item No. 22900923 - International Film Festival*, where a sum of Rs1m. is earmarked in 2012. It has gone up three times in 2013. May we know how many participants were involved in that Film Festival in 2012, and how many are being projected to participate next year?

Mr Choonee: We earmarked Rs 1m. for this current year, and we are having Rs3 m. for next year. The fact that next year is the 45th anniversary of independence of Mauritius, we are

having a Grand Film Festival organised in Mauritius next year. An International Film Festival will be organised in Mauritius next year for the 45th anniversary of independence!

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, page 484, *Item No. 28212014 - Financial Assistance to Artists*. Can the hon. Minister circulate or table the list of names of artists who have benefited from the following -

1. scheme for concerts;
2. international development grant scheme for performing artists, and
3. other support to artists.

Mr Choonee: I will table the list, Chair.

The Chairperson: Circulate the list! Last question!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, let me go back to my previous question where I asked the hon. Minister to inform the House how many participants took part in that international film festival in the year 2012.

Mr Choonee: Sir, I said we did have the international film festival in 2012. We will have it next year, and only then I can say how many people will participate.

Mr Seeruttun: May we then ask the hon. Minister how much money has been spent this year from the Rs1m. earmarked?

Mr Choonee: This year it was PR being done; of course, all networking being done, and next year would be the international film festival.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, page 485, *Item No. 31112038 - Construction of Galerie d'Arts Nationale*. There is a provision of Rs40 m. this year. May we know from the hon. Minister whether this construction has already started, and if so, the name of the contractor? Also whether this was granted by the exercise of tender, and if so, when and can he table a copy of the tender?

The Chairperson: The name of the builder?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, once again, the sum earmarked was Rs40 m. We looked for assistance from the French experts, and we received a positive reply. The expressions of interest and tenders have been launched this year, no valid offer was received after the evaluation exercise, and hence assistance from friendly countries and institutions are being sought for consultancy services.

Programme 622: Promotion of Arts and Culture (Rs252,639,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme 623: Preservation and Promotion of Heritage was called.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, page 485, *Item No. 22030 – Rent*. There was a provision of Rs 3.5m. Can we know to whom this rent is being paid?

The Chairperson: The name of the landlord!

Mr Choonee: The rent goes to the NPF Building, next to the Municipality, Ramkissoon Building, and Baden Powell House.

Mrs Radegonde: At page 485, under *Programme 623, Item No. 22130 - Studies and Surveys*. May we know who are working on the following -

- *Study on the setting up of a Virtual Museum on the History of Mauritius, and*
- *Master Plan for Museums.*

What is their timeframe?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, this is an innovative project that requires specialised skills and knowhow that are not available on the local market. Therefore, the Indian authorities are being approached for technical assistance. The concept paper is being finalised.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 485, *Item No. 22030 – Maintenance*. Can the hon. Minister explain to the House why this provision has decreased from Rs245,000 to Rs85,000 yearly for the three coming years after what happened at the Pamplemousses Garden?

Mr Choonee: The decrease in the provision is because of the purchase of new IT equipment in 2012, hence the decrease of maintenance cost for next year.

Programme 623: Preservation and Promotion of Heritage (Rs140,768,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment –

Programme 541: Policy and Management for Labour and Employment (Rs38,439,000) was called and agreed to.

Programme Code 542 - Labour and Employment Relations Management was called.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 499, *Item No. 22030 - Rent* has gone up to Rs14 m. May we know why that increase, and who is the beneficiary of that rental income?

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, provision required for payment of rent of Victoria House and regional labour offices; provision has also been made to cater for increases in rentals on renewal of lease contracts during 2013. Increase is based on contracts.

Mr Seeruttun: Again on page 499, *Item No. 22120 – fees*, some Rs1.3 m. has been earmarked for 2013. May we know to whom those fees are paid and for what purpose?

Mr Mohamed: With regard to fees, there are provisions required for the payment of fees to the Chairman and members of the Labour Advisory Council, the NRB and the CCM.

Programme Code 542: Labour and Employment Relations Management – (Rs145,050,900) was, on question put, agreed to.

The following Programme Codes were called and agreed to –

543: Registration of Associations, Trade Unions and Superannuation Funds (Rs23,976,000)

544: Employment Facilitation (Rs74,909,000)

561: Attorney General's Office: Policy and Management for Legal and Drafting Services (Rs60,555,000)

Programme Code 562: Legal Advisory and Representation was called.

Mr Roopun: On *Item No. 22120017 - Legal Fees*, I see Rs20 m. earmarked for this year, and this has been brought to Rs92 m. for next year. Can I have details about the amounts for this year and for next year?

Mr Varma: It's as regards the Chagos case.

Programme Code 562: Legal Advisory and Representation (Rs206,921,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The following Programme Codes were called and agreed to –

563: Law Reform and Development (Rs14,100,000)

341: Ministry of Tourism and Leisure: Policy and Management for Tourism and Leisure

Programme Code 342: Sustainable Tourism Industry was called.

Mr Roopun: At page 524, *Item No. 22060 - Maintenance*, the amount was Rs725,000, and it had been brought to Rs970,000. Could we know the reason for the increase?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, this provision is for plant and equipment. It was Rs300,000 earmarked for 2012; now it is Rs520,000 for 2013. As IT equipment, for 2012, it was earmarked for Rs150,000; for 2015, it is earmarked for Rs175,000.

Mr Roopun: Item 31 - *Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, 31113431 - Zoning of Lagoons*, I see Rs7.6 m has been earmarked for next year. Can we have details on this new item in the Budget?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it is provision for demarcation of swimming zone at Flic en Flac.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 524, *Item No. 22130 - Studies and Surveys*, Rs1,550,000 is earmarked for 2013. May we have some details about the studies and surveys that will be carried out, and who is going to carry out those surveys and studies?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: There is no amount earmarked.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 524, *Item No. 22120 - Fees*, there was Rs100,000. So, can we know to whom this had been paid?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will circulate the list.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 524, *Item No. 31113016 - Construction of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure*, for this year there is a provision of Rs3.4 m. and for next year it is Rs4 m. I see that there is an item *Construction of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure*. Can we have some clarification from the hon. Minister, how is this done, and by whom?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it is a sum earmarked for renovation works at Citadelle.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 525, the last item which is under *Item No. 26323089 - Capital Grant - Tourism Authority: (i) Cleaning and Embellishment Programme*, Rs2 m have been earmarked for each and every year. May we know for which region there is this programme, and will the whole island be covered by that programme?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, the Rs2 m. are earmarked to buy equipment such as generators, water pumps, bush cutters, blowers, water pressure, air compressors and so on. I have also a list of the cleaning where it has been done in Mauritius. I will table it.

Programme Code 342: Sustainable Tourism Industry (Rs90,390,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 343: Destination Promotion was called.

Mr Roopun: On page 525, I see a sum of Rs50 m. has been earmarked for this year for emerging markets, and the same amount has been earmarked for next year. Can we have from the hon. Minister a breakdown of the amount spent this year per country, and also what is projected for next year?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will circulate the details.

The Chairperson: Do you have the breakdown? You will circulate?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes.

The Chairperson: All right! The hon. Minister will circulate.

Mr Seeruttun: Again, on page 525 on the same *Item No. 26313047 – Current Grant - Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority*. The amount of Rs340 m. earmarked for traditional markets and only Rs50 m. for emerging markets, and there has been much talking about going East, going for new markets. How come that only Rs50 m. is being earmarked for those emerging markets when we know very much so that the tourism industry is booming in those countries?

The Chairperson: The question is not allowed. It is a matter of policy. Next question!

Mr Roopun: As regards the amount earmarked for traditional markets, Rs340 m. for this year, could the hon. Minister inform the House how much has, in fact, been spent?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I would circulate the details.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Wait a minute! The Minister said that he will circulate. Next question!

(Interruptions)

Do not disturb!

Programme Code 343: Destination Promotion (Rs390,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 344: Promotion of Leisure was called.

Mr Jhugroo: At page 525, *Item No. 22030 – Rent*. Can I ask the hon. Minister which building is being rented and to whom this rent is being paid?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, the building is at Victoria House, and the rent is being paid to Jolima Ltd.

Mr Roopun: On page 525, *Item No. 21110 – Personal Emoluments*. I see that the amount has nearly doubled. Could we have details about that, please?

The Chairperson: The details will be circulated.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I have the amount. It is for the basic...

The Chairperson: No, but the question is about the details. Am I right? Yes it is about the details. Do you have the details or you don't?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, I have it.

The Chairperson: If you don't, you will circulate.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: O.k. I will circulate.

Programme Code 344: Promotion of Leisure (Rs10,010,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life –

Programme Code 581: Health Policy and Management was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: In view of the Ministry's strategy, I note, at page 530, the number of new cases of HIV/AIDS detected per month has decreased by 30%, and two pages later, on page 532, we find that it is estimated that 50% of HIV cases go unnoticed; this is conflictual. Can we be informed by the hon. Minister about the actual figures of HIV/AIDS in this country, estimated or otherwise?

Mr Bundhoo: Can I inform the hon. Member we are doing everything that is possible to sensitise the population in Mauritius to undergo tests as much as possible? We have, if I am not mistaken, achieved quite a lot in doing that. With regard to the number of persons detected with AIDS, it is definitely on the decrease. I have already circulated this reply to previous PQs in the House, but I will resubmit a copy to you.

Dr. S. Boolell: Again, on the Strategic Note from the Ministry under the item *Priority Objectives and Major Services* on page 533, it is written to *Improve clinical quality by establishing minimum educational requirements to pursue medical and dental studies*, and there is something called a *Board of Postgraduate Medical Education*. Since we are called upon to vote eventually for this, could I ask the hon. Minister how he intends setting up the Board? Who will be a member of the Board, and how fair would it be?

The Chairperson: This is a policy matter, but if the hon. Minister wishes to answer, he can do so.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, the information sought with regard to HIV/AIDS, it will be circulated. Now, with regard to the setting up of the Board for a specialist in Mauritius, only last week somebody from Bordeaux was in Mauritius. He is advising the Government of Mauritius, and as soon as he'll submit his report and recommendations, it will go through Cabinet, and we will ventilate it to the public.

Programme Code 581: Health Policy and Management (Rs436,645,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 582: Curative Services was called

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 541, *Item 22140002 – CT Scan and MRI Fees and Materials.* Rs7 m. being voted and I think it is planned in 2014 to be Rs9.5 m. But you have initially in your achievements talked about a very efficient MRI scan being bought and fixed at Dr. Jeetoo Hospital. Can I have some details about these MRI fees that are being paid, and who are they being paid to?

Mr Bundhoo: From memory I can say it is being paid at the moment to City Clinic and to others. The information will be circulated. I can assure the hon. Member that we are doing everything to make sure that Dr. Jeetoo Hospital is equipped with one of the most sophisticated MRIs.

Dr. S. Boolell: Are we still paying the private sector for these services?

Mr Bundhoo: I can assure the hon. Member that once the system is in place and is functioning, of course, we will reduce the amount of patients we send to the private sector.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 541 *Item No. 22030 – Rent.* I see that there is an increase in the rent from Rs7 m. to Rs18.5 m. So, can we have some clarification from the hon. Minister?

Mr Bundhoo: The information sought will be circulated.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 541, *Item No. 22070 – Cleaning Services.* I see that there is an increase from Rs59.5 m. to Rs68.3 m. So, can we have some clarification from the hon. Minister?

Mr Bundhoo: The reason is that we are opening new centres, new area health centres, new wings in the hospitals, new medi clinics, and there has been recently the publication of new remuneration orders for cleaning workers, and that's what explains the additional sums/provisions for next year.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 541, *Item No. 22120 – Fees*. I can see that in 2013, Rs7.4 m. earmarked, but there was nothing for 2012. May we know why that amount is catered for under Fees, for what purpose, and to whom it is being paid?

Mr Bundhoo: These are fees for consultancy services with regard to several projects that we intend in the Ministry, ranging from the women hospital, from new research units and a few others like this. I would circulate the information.

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 542, *Item No. 31112003 – Neuro Surgical and Spinal BK – Victoria Hospital*. Rs16 m. earmarked last year, Rs9 m. for the next year on the Estimates, and eventually Rs20 m. May I ask the hon. Minister to inform the House at which stage is this unit operational or not, and the money used last year?

Mr Bundhoo: In fact, this unit is not operational. The new block has been built, and this is exactly what I replied earlier. A study is being carried out in order to set up a modern, new Neuro Surgical Unit. But I can assure the hon. Member that this year we are proceeding immediately with the construction of the two wards, male/female, in the existing building, just above the Accident and Emergency Unit.

Dr. S. Boolell: Let's have a tentative date, Mr Chairperson - I beg your indulgence. Two months, three months or six months for that Unit, which is long overdue.

Mr Bundhoo: I am afraid I am not in a position to provide a tentative date for that Unit. But I can give, at least for the next coming year, as far as the setting up of the two male wards and two female wards are concerned.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, at page 541, under *Item No. 22090 - Security*, can the hon. Minister explain to the House to which companies this contract has been awarded, and why has there been an increase from Rs27 m. to Rs33 m.? When this contract was awarded, may I know whether there was a tender exercise carried out, and can he table a copy of all the contracts?

Mr Bundhoo: I can assure the hon. Member that this is due to, as I said earlier, inflation, Remuneration Order and other spaces where we need security. The amount paid for the year 2012 was for ongoing contracts, but new contracts, from what I understand, have been issued now, and will take effect in the coming weeks. This has been awarded by the Central Procurement Board.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, at page 542, under *item 31121801 Acquisition of Vehicles*, we can see that Rs20 m. was budgeted for 2012, that is, this year. May we know how many ambulances have been bought out of that money catered for vehicles?

Mr Bundhoo: The information sought will be circulated.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, at page 541, under *Item No. 22120 - Fees*, I can see for this year there has been no amount budgeted, but for next year there is a provision of Rs7.4 m. I would like to have some details about it from the hon. Minister.

Mr Bundhoo: I have just replied to this question, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 541, *Item No. 22140002 - CT Scan and MRI Fees and Materials*. Can I ask the hon. Minister how many CT Scan and MRI apparatus we have got in this country and how many times, during this year, they have got breakdowns, and how much money has been paid to the private sector to send our patients there?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, my hon. friend will appreciate the complexity of information he requires with regard to breakdowns, where they are, how many CT Scans have been performed. I don't have the information at hand, but I can always circulate it.

Mr Seeruttun: At page 542, under *Item No. 31112403 - Upgrading of Hospitals*, some Rs219 m. were budgeted for 2012. May we know how much has been spent so far under the upgrading of hospitals expenses?

Mr Bundhoo: I must say quite surprisingly that most of the money has been spent because we have already opened the new Emergency Unit at SSRN Hospital. This is for the upgrading one. We have already carried out a few major works at Victoria Hospital, same at the Flacq Hospital, where hon. Bachoo was with me – the hon. Member must have seen on TV probably. There is not much work that has been done with regard to Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital. But I can assure the hon. Member that most of the money has been spent, and it was well spent.

Programme Code 582: Curative Services (Rs7,068,867,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 583: Primary Health Care and Public Health was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, at page 544, under *Item No. 28211 - Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*, we note that cash transfers to many organisations which basically could be getting their money from social security. May I ask the hon. Minister whether these

organisations, which are taking money from the Ministry of Health, send a report every year to the Ministry to justify their diving into medical cash?

Mr Bundhoo: I am sure the hon. Member would appreciate, being a doctor by profession, that when we give cash to Blood Donors Organisations, they are doing a splendid job. He would appreciate that.

(Interruptions)

They do provide a report. I have come to the House with regard to the Mauritius Family Planning Bill - the hon. Member would remember - and I have suspended it because I was not satisfied with it and, just to give an example, we are monitoring the Mauritius Family Planning Unit, and for all the other NGOs we do exactly the same thing. We are also reorganising NATReSA, which I have said in the House, and this goes in line with the monitoring of any grant that we give to those NGOs through NATReSA.

Dr. S. Boolell: There is an Alzheimer's Association of which I was not aware. Would the Minister consider advertising the fact that this organisation exists, so as to enable more people with the disease to get support?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: This question is not on any item.

Dr. S. Boolell: I know it is a matter of policy.

The Chairperson: The Minister will take note of the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Programme Code 583: Primary Health Care and Public Health (Rs962,459,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 584: Treatment and Prevention of HIV and AIDS (Rs96,865,000) was called and agreed to.

Programme Code 585: Promoting Quality of Life and Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, at page 546, under *Item No. 22120008 - Fees to Consultant (Health Literacy Programme)*, can we get some clarification from the hon. Minister on this Health Literacy Programme?

Mr Bundhoo: I can assure the hon. Member that for 2012 we have not paid any money for that. At my last visit at the World Health Organisation, I did take up the matter with the Director-General of the World Health Organisation. They are proposing to send to Mauritius an

expert who will advise us to devise what is called a Health Literacy Programme, whereby we are going to devise a literacy programme as we have for economics - it is a science - with regard to health, in particular for diabetic, cancer and other non-communicable diseases for Mauritius and the Islands of the Indian Ocean.

Programme Code 585: Promoting Quality of Life and Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (Rs101,759,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The following programme codes were called and agreed to –

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection

601: Policy and Management for Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection (Rs10,887,000)

602: Industrial Development (Rs154,438,000).

603: Trade Development (Rs58,879,000)

525: Consumer Protection and Market Surveillance (Rs25,796,000)

Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment –

731: Policy and Strategy for Social Integration and Economic Empowerment (Rs37,700,000)

363: Socio-Economic Empowerment and Widening the Circle of Opportunities (Rs472,000,000)

Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives –

701: Policy and Management for Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Rs32,132,000)

703: Enterprise Development and Competitiveness (Rs50,048,000)

604: Promotion and Development of Cooperatives (Rs86,270,000)

Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare -

521: Policy and Management for Gender Equality, Child Development, Family Welfare and Social Welfare (Rs80,835,000)

522: Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming (Rs113,485,000)

523: Child Protection, Welfare and Development (Rs120,888,000)

524: Family Welfare and Protection from Gender-Based Violence (Rs45,975,000)

526: Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities (Rs252,023,000)

Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms -

301: Civil Service Policy and Management (Rs72,700,000)

302: Administrative Reforms in the Civil Service (Rs11,770,000)

Programme Code 303: Human Resource Development and Capacity Building was called.

Mr François: Just one question, Mr Chairperson...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Sit down please. Quiet! Listen to the hon. Member!

Mr François: I refer to page 629, *Item No. 28213008 - Civil Service College*. May the hon. Minister just give us a few information under this provision with regard to Civil Servants from Rodrigues, and is there any arrangement that will be made?

Mr Moutia: Rodrigues forms part of the Republic of Mauritius. So, the Civil Service College will be for the Civil Servants who are working in Rodrigues as well.

Programme Code 303: Human Resource Development and Capacity Building (Rs25,800,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The following Programme Codes were called and agreed to -

304: Human Resource Management (Rs242,870,000)

305: Occupational Safety and Health (Rs43,160,000)

951: Centrally Managed Expenses of Government (Rs1,979,085,000)

952: Centrally Managed Initiatives of Government (Rs1,187,185,000)

989: Contingencies and Reserves (Rs1,600,000,000)

The Schedule was agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and agreed to.

The title and the enacting clause were agreed to.

The Bill was agreed to.

On the Assembly resuming with Mr Speaker in the Chair, Mr Speaker reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Mr X. L. Duval): Mr Speaker, Sir, I move for the adjournment of the House to Tuesday 11 December, 2012, at 11.30 a.m.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo) rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Mr Speaker: The House Stands adjourned.

At 7.02 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 11 December, 2012, at 11.30 a.m.

MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT
ESTIMATES - YEAR 2013

	Estimates 2013 Rs m
Expenditure:	
Recurrent Expenditure:	
Salaries, Allowances, Travelling & End of year bonus	379.5
Operating Costs:	
Utility Charges (Electricity, Water & Telephone)	22.5
Maintenance Charges (Buildings, Training Equipment, Office Equipment, IT Equipment & Motor Vehicles)	13.7
Rent of Building (La Tour Koenig, Bel Air Training Centres)	2.7
Cleaning and Security Services	16.8
Stationery, Books & Publicity	7.2
Course Materials	17.0
Fees to Overseas Trainers, Consultants, Legal & Audit fees, Overseas Travelling	13.7
Fees to Part Time Trainers	4.5
Insurance of Buildings and Training Equipment	2.2
Trainees Expenses (Stipend to Trainees, Transport	10.4

Allowance under Second Chance Project)	
Staff Training and Welfare	2.8
Capital Expenditure (Training Equipment, Tools, IT Equipment, Furniture for MITD Training Centres, Security System for Assessment and Certification Division & Extension of Resource Centre in Ebene)	7.8
New Training Centre at Mahebourg	38.4
Total	539.2

Note :The above excludes the Pre Vocational Education Project.

	Estimates 2013 Rs m
Expenditure:	
Recurrent Expenditure:	
Staff Cost	379.5
Operating Cost	113.5
Capital Expenditure	7.8
New Training Centre at Mahebourg	38.4
Total	539.2
Financing:	
Government Grant:	
Recurrent	394.4
Capital	1.0
Total Government Grant	395.4
Course fees	46.2
Other Income	44.2
HRD Fund	-
Foreign Grant (Chinese Authorities)	38.4
Fixed Deposit Account	15.0
Total	539.2

Notes:

		Estimates 2013
		Rs m
1 : Course fees		
	Full Time	14.9
	Part Time	31.3
	Total	46.2
2 : Other Income		
	Rental fees	29.3
	Others	14.9
	Total	44.2

3 : Estimates 2013-2015 do not take into account the PRB Report 2013.

APPENDIX II

As at November 2012, a total of 828 persons are in employment at the MITD. The breakdown is as follows:

STAFFING AT MITD INCLUDING NTCF AS AT NOVEMBER 2012

	Male	Female	Total
Non Teaching Staff	237	191	428
Training Staff (Trainers & Instructors)	276	124	400
Total	513	315	828

STAFFING AT HEAD OFFICE

	Male	Female	Total
Administrative Staff	56	58	114

STAFFING AT TRAINING CENTRES

	Male	Female	Total
Non Teaching Staff	168	115	283
Trainers	225	64	289
Total	393	179	572

STAFFING AT NTCF

	Male	Female	Total

Non Teaching Staff	13	18	31
Instructors	51	60	111
Total	64	78	142