



**FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY**

**DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

**SECOND SESSION**

**TUESDAY 21 MAY 2013**

## **CONTENTS**

**PAPERS LAID**

**QUESTIONS** (*Oral*)

**MOTION**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

**BILLS** (*Public*)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**QUESTIONS** (*Written*)

Members

Members

**THE CABINET****(Formed by Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam)**

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**MAURITIUS**

**Fifth National Assembly**

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**SECOND SESSION**

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**Debate No. 08 of 2013**

**Sitting of 21 May 2013**

**The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis,**

**At 11.30 a.m**

**The National Anthem was played**

*(Mr Speaker in the Chair)*

**PAPERS LAID**

**The Prime Minister:** Sir, the Papers have been laid on the Table –

- A. Office of the Speaker –**  
The Report of the Public Accounts Committee – 2013.
- B. Prime Minister's Office –**  
Certificate of Urgency in respect of the Seeds Bill (No. VIII of 2013).
- C. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development –**  
The Gambling Regulatory Authority (Government Lotteries) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 97 of 2013).
- D. Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping –**
- (a) The Road Traffic (Amendment of Schedule) (No. 2) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 101 of 2013).
  - (b) The Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 102 of 2013).
- E. Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security –**
- (a) The Wildlife (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 98 of 2013).
  - (b) The Cane (Specification of Varieties) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 100 of 2013).
- F. Ministry of Industry and Commerce and Consumer Protection –**  
The Rodrigues Consumer Protection (Control of Price of Taxable and Non-Taxable Goods) (Amendment No. 11) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 96 of 2013).
- G. Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives –**  
The Business Registration (Access to CBRD) (Fees) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 99 of 2013).

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### MITD - ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE

**The Leader of the Opposition (Mr A. Ganoo)** (*by Private Notice*) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the alleged case of sexual abuse at the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, he will -

- (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if -
  - (i) disciplinary measures have now been taken against Mr Y. S., for failing to act on the report Mrs P. B. submitted thereto, in November 2011;
  - (ii) Mr Y. S. apprised the then Director, Mr R. D., of the matter in December 2011 and, if not, why not;
  - (iii) Mr Y. S. was instructed to report the alleged case of conspiracy and forgery against Mrs P.B. and Mrs S.S. to the police and, if so, by whom, indicating the documents he produced to the Police in support thereof, and
- (b) state the flaws noticed in the report of the Fact-finding Committee, if any.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Speaker, Sir, as the House is aware, in my statement of Tuesday 09 April 2013, I informed that the Fact-Finding Committee which was presided over by a Senior Magistrate to look into the case of alleged abuse of a former minor student of the MITD by an ex-Instructor, had submitted its Report on Friday 29 March 2013 after carrying out an in-depth enquiry.

I highlighted, *inter alia*, the main findings of the Report which were as follows –

- (a) No independent evidence has been adduced to support the allegation of abuse, and
- (b) In view of the medico-legal report submitted to the Fact-finding Committee, it has been found that the issue of sexual intercourse between the Instructor and the minor cannot stand. The Fact-Finding Committee had found that this medical evidence is crucial to put an end to speculations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, however following the report, the MITD is initiating such action as necessary, on one hand, to prevent its image from being tarnished due to speculations and, on the

other hand, initiate disciplinary measures against those employees who have been involved directly or indirectly and causing prejudice to the minor whose rights ought to have been defended.

With regard to part (a)(i) of the question, I wish to inform the House that, following a report submitted by the Psychologist of MITD in November 2011, both Mr Y.S. and an Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) had dealt with the matter. Mr Y.S. chaired a meeting on 07 November 2011 in the presence of the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) and the minor denied the allegations. The Psychologist Mrs P.B. was then called in the meeting and the minor still denied the allegations in her presence. The minor had then to sit for examinations which were scheduled to take place between 14 to 22 November 2011, and for this reason the Psychologist was requested by Mr Y. S. and the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) to call a meeting with the minor and parents in the presence of the Training Centre Manager after her examinations.

The outcome of this meeting was not communicated to Mr Y.S. or the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I was personally made aware of the Minutes of that meeting, chaired by the Psychologist in the presence of an instructor Mrs S. S., only when it was tabled at the National Assembly by the then hon. Leader of the Opposition. In fact, the presence of Mrs S.S. at that meeting is not understood. In fact, until today the Management of the MITD still has no reason to explain her presence in that meeting.

Mr Y. S. has himself stated that he did not get a copy of the Minutes referred to above.

Hence, the question of disciplinary measure to be taken against Mr Y.S., as at now, on the basis of information available, does not arise.

With regard to part (a)(ii) of the question, I am informed that it was the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) who had apprised the then Director Mr R. D. of the matter in December 2011. And I have been informed afterwards that the Minutes referred to above - that is, the Minutes I have just mentioned - were in the custody of the then Director.

Regarding part (a)(iii) of the question, following articles published in the Press and information aired on private radios during the weekend, contrary to the allegations in the media, Mr Y.S. did not give a statement to the CCID under his own will, but did so pursuant to a decision of the Institute to that effect. As a matter of fact, it was following a meeting held in the office of the Officer in Charge of the MITD on the morning of 19 April 2013 that the Chairman of the MITD, the Assistant Manager HR, Mr Y. S. and a Legal Adviser called at the CCID at Line Barracks, Port Louis.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it follows that it was in his capacity as Acting Divisional Manager MITD, responsible for the Training Delivery Division, that Mr Y.S. was duly mandated by the MITD to give that statement to the CCID on its behalf, in the presence of the above-mentioned persons.

I am further informed by the MITD that a number of documents, which include Minutes of meetings and a document supposedly to have been signed by the mother of the minor who is denying having signed that document, were produced to the CCID.

With regard to part (b) of the question, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Fact-finding Committee had made a number of recommendations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to state in no uncertain terms that I have never stated that I have found flaws in the report and should not be understood to have ever said that the report is flawed, though the report has identified flaws in the system.

Government, Mr Speaker, Sir, has set up a high level Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine the Report and look into the implementation of the recommendations of the Fact-Finding Committee.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee will be chaired by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities and comprises the Minister of Education and Human Resources, the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology, the Attorney General and the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

Mr Speaker, Sir, appropriate action as may be deemed necessary would be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as it may be noted from the above, in spite of the submission of the Report of the Fact-Finding Committee, further action on the findings and recommendations are in the pipeline at the level of the Police and the CCID, as well as at the level of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The MITD is also conducting an enquiry.

We should, Mr Speaker, Sir, let these institutions pursue their work and respect their roles and responsibilities as such.

**Mr Ganoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the first part of the question concerns the fact that Mr Y. S. when he was made aware of the report of the psychologist, did not inform either the Officer-in-Charge, Mr P. G., or the then Director of the MITD when the report was transmitted to him by mail by the psychologist. This is the point of this question and this is the crux of the matter. Therefore, what I want to know is: why did not Mr Y. S. therefore inform his immediate superiors of the report, and on the contents of the psychologist relating to the alleged sexual abuse of the minor student?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I think I have replied to this question in the past, but the thing is that when the matter was reported to Mr Y. S. and another person in the management, as I have mentioned, they took the matter in hand - cases do happen - and they called the child who denied forcefully and even in the presence of the psychologist, who was brought in the meeting, the child continued to deny and I have been told there that were no signs of trauma and the child had her examinations on the following days, as I have mentioned. So, they said that as soon as the exams are over, they are going to see the child again and the parents of the child in the presence of the Manager of the Centre, and then was expecting the matter to be followed up and, as I have said, the Minutes of that meeting were tabled here in the Assembly many months later and has never been found - at the time when the PNQ was on and even after that - in the files of the MITD. But, as I have mentioned, later on, we were made aware that it was in the custody of the then Director. So, it must have gone to the then Director at some point in time.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the law states that the superior officers, including Mr Y. S, should have reported that matter to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Child Development for an enquiry to be opened? This is the crux of the matter. The law protects children, so that any officer, be it part of a medical, para-medical or school staff, should

report the matter to the superior officer, who in turn has imperatively to report the matter to the Ministry of Child Development. This was not done in this case. Mr Y. S. kept the report sent to him in his drawer somewhere.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** No, not that. There were other things that happened. This is why I always said in this matter, and I am making an appeal to the Opposition also to understand that there is the future and the destiny of a child. That is what has been taken ...

*(Interruptions)*

If you consider this as a flaw, we can look into the matter, but things like this happen at schools. The Ag. Manager, Mr Y. S, is a high level officer of the institution, and he took the matter in hand. He was expecting that to come back to him, but the report has been sent, as I said, to the Director of the institution, and the Director took that in hand.

**Mr Ganoo:** This is why, Mr Speaker, Sir, I put it to the hon. Minister that even the hon. Prime Minister, last Tuesday, when this point was made to him, conceded and said -

“That is probably one issue that could be argued upon, but although they looked into the matter, they did not refer it to the PS straightaway.”

... which means, therefore, that this is a matter which should have been done. Now, I come to the Director, Mr Dubois. Is the hon. Minister aware that the then Director, Mr Dubois, had to send an email to Mr Y. S. seeking explanation from the latter about why he did not inform him of the allegations made by the student?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Dubois, first of all, was on holidays for some time. During the same period, the father of Mr Y. S. passed away – you may know how this goes on for days in the Hindu families. Other people have also been involved in that. If you ask me why Mr Y. S. did not respond, there are so many reasons! But, there is not only Mr Y. S.! When something does not work, you have to go to the other one. I am saying again that the Minutes of the second meeting of the Psychologist was never sent to Mr Y. S. or anybody else at the MITD, except that it was in the custody of the then Director.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the explanation given by Mr Y. S. to Mr Dubois, explaining why...

**Mr Speaker:** Don't mention name, please!

**Mr Ganoo:** The explanation that Mr Y. S. then gave to the then Director was that his email had been hacked and that he had given a declaration to the Police. The email sent to him had been lost, had been hacked, and this is why he did not send the email to then Director.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** The matter is in the hands of the Police. He said it, and the matter has been referred to the Police. Let the Police look into that. This is why I say that we have to respect institutions.

**Mr Ganoo:** Did I understand the hon. Minister to say that he only became aware of the report of the Psychologist when the former hon. Leader of the Opposition raised the matter in this House?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** No, I am sorry; the hon. Leader of the Opposition has not understood me. There are two reports of the Psychologist. We were aware of the first one, and we responded to that. Once the report of the Psychologist was sent to the MITD - let me take it again -, the MITD looked into the matter, that is, Mr Y. S. called the child in the presence of someone who works in the MITD - because the child is a minor and had to be accompanied - and the child denied once, twice, many times. Then, Mr Y. S. called the Psychologist in the meeting, and said that the child was denying; and the child continued to deny in the presence of the Psychologist. That was the first report sent to the MITD. After that first report, Mr Y. S. and the other Manager told the Psychologist: 'Look here! The child is denying and denying, in front of you also. Now she has her examinations. Let her go through the examinations, and immediately after you - the Psychologist - are going to call the parents of the child in the presence of the Manager of the Training Centre, and from there, there will be follow-up.' But that second meeting was concluded by a Minutes of the meeting, which remained in the custody of the then Director - as I have said, and I am repeating. I don't know at what time it went to Mr R. D., that is, the then Director - as I have said in public, *farouchement gardé*, never seen anywhere. Therefore, he took in charge the rest of the enquiry. This is what happened in fact. There have been two things: one, the report of the Psychologist, which has been looked into, and then, after some time, the Minutes of meeting, which only the then Director was aware of. We have seen the Minutes, but much later. I heard of it for the first time when it was deposited here. And it is accompanying those Minutes, that that paper was laid on the Table of the Assembly by the then hon. Leader of

the Opposition, whereby it was said - and you know, the then hon. Leader of the Opposition, *sa verve, etc...*

*(Interruptions)*

...which I respect.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** You have to understand! So many things have been said!

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, address the Chair!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, please. I was saying that the Minutes were in the hands of the then Director, and from there Mr Y. S. - I won't say not involved - was not directly having the responsibility of the enquiry. So, we have to put questions to the then Director. But the then Director is no longer Director, and we cannot call him at any time. It is not correct to say what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. I got the Minutes, myself, for the first time here, when it was deposited. I was shocked. I must inform the House also - you know how it goes. As soon as we go out of the Parliament, we go to our officers - that I called them and asked: 'What is that? How could I not have that Minutes of Meeting?'

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Don't say 'Ah', please! This is very serious. As I was saying, on that paper, there is a signature. Supposedly, the mother of the child had signed. The then hon. Leader of the Opposition was hitting on that, and until now that mother is denying. She has gone to the Police to make a declaration that she had never signed that paper. She has been to the Ombudsperson for Children, and the same thing was taken up there. She has been asked many times by many people. She has been and is still adamant. That has been to the Police. The hon. Prime Minister gave the information last time that it has been looked into by the Police, and you know what has happened. This is the real story.

**Mr Ganoo:** I take it that the hon. Minister was aware of the report. I am not talking about the Minutes of Proceedings. Was the hon. Minister aware of the report?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, I was aware of the first report.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware, therefore, that, in the course of that meeting, the minor child confessed that she had a close relationship with Mr C., that they had sexual intercourse on eight occasions in a *pensionnat*, and that all this was said in the presence of the Psychologist and the mother of that minor student?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope this will be the last time we are going to hear this because it is being taken up by the Police. Let me read to you ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Vous avez demandé une enquête, on vous l'a donné. Vous avez demandé d'aller à la Police, on vous l'a donné ! Mais, c'est quoi maintenant ?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Order, please!

**Dr. Bunwaree :** Personne de l'autre côté de la Chambre, aucune de ces honorables dames n'a porté intérêt pour aller voir cet enfant dans sa demeure, voir comment elle vit, quels sont les problèmes. C'est la honte !

*(Interruptions)*

L'enfant me l'a dit. Personne ! C'est la honte!

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Speaker, Sir, let me read what the child has written to her lawyer, in a letter which has been transmitted to me: "*Ce jour-là (...)*."

*Elle parle de la visite de routine à l'école de la Psychologue P.B.*

*"Ce jour-là (...)"*.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Ganoo:** On a point of order!

**Mr Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr Ganoo:** This is a conversation between somebody and a lawyer. Isn't this privileged information, which should not be divulged to the public?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I have said that I have been given this information....

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, refrain ...

**Dr. Bunwaree:** ... and I have been ...

**Mr Speaker:** Refrain from this course, please!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Pardon!

**Mr Speaker:** Refrain from this course!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, but I am saying what I know that the child has said. The child has said: "*Ce jour-là, la prof (...)*".

*(Interruptions)*

*L'enfant ....*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, I am speaking to you! What happens between that child and the lawyer is privileged.

**Mr Mohamed:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir, would you agree that, however, if the child waives that privilege then there is no more privilege?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! I am on my feet!

*(Interruptions)*

Now, the hon. Minister of Labour is saying that, if. This House is not concerned with any hypothetical question.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Well, I am not going to quote from there, but this has been mentioned many times by the child, even to me.

**Mr Speaker:** I have said: refrain from this course!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** No, I am not mentioning this, but I am saying that the child has deposed in the Fact-Finding Committee.

**Mr Speaker:** Okay!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** There is a report of the Fact-Finding Committee ...

**Mr Speaker:** That's enough!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** I said no interruptions! Yes, proceed, hon. Minister!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** She has mentioned that many times, to many people in fact, that it was one of the instructors in the school who had forced her to say certain things.

*(Interruptions)*

It is privileged information, of course, but obtained from the family and the child, and which has been deposed at the level of the MITD as well. And she further went on to say: "Mrs S. S.", she said, "once told her that Mrs S. S was in love with N. C." This is what is mentioned in the *déposition* of the child.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No, no, no! Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** They want to hear only what they only want to hear.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, there is a question which is quite clear, which has been put to you, just limit yourself to the question.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that, so far, in spite of the fact that the Fact-Finding Committee has completed its work and produced its report, no Police Officer has recorded any statement from the suspect, the child and the spouse of the suspect?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** This is the work of the Police; it is for the Police to decide. I am the Minister of Education; I hope the hon. Leader of the Opposition is sufficiently educated to know that.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Jugnauth!

**Mr Ganoo:** Allow me one last question, Mr Speaker., Sir.

**Mr Speaker:** We will give you the last question.

**Mr Ganoo:** This is a direct one. Regarding the allegation of forgery against Mrs P. B., is the hon. Minister aware that Mrs P. B. the Psychologist was never asked to give any specimen of her handwriting in the course of the Police enquiry or in the course of the Fact-Finding Committee and everybody wonders how the expert could have come to the conclusion that this lady had allegedly committed a forgery? No specimen writing had ever been taken from her during the Police enquiry!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition! I am speaking to the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have to remind the House that the purpose of a question is to seek information and to press for action but, unfortunately, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is giving information. So, this question is not allowed. Hon. Jugnauth!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Ganoo:** I am asking the hon. Minister whether he is aware that no specimen has been taken from Mrs P. B.!

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, it is in the form of a question, but its content is information given to the House. I have ruled. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, you put a proper question, but refrain from giving information.

**Mr Ganoo:** Then, I ask again to the hon. Minister if he is aware that no specimen has been taken from Mrs P. B.

**Mr Speaker:** Answer!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I don't know how the Police is operating. What I know is that two people have already been arrested and bailed out.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Jugnauth!

**Mr Jugnauth:** The hon. Minister has said that, at the meeting of 07 November 2011, Mr S. chaired that meeting in the presence of Mr L. and another Officer of the MITD and the minor. And, he said that the minor had denied everything. I put it to the hon. Minister that the minor, in

fact - and this was reported by Mr L. - had admitted during that meeting that she was going out with the suspected pedophile ...

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. Is he giving information or putting a question?

*(Interruptions)*

Then put the question!

**Mr Jugnauth:** The minor admitted...

**Mr Speaker:** This is what I do not appreciate ... while giving a different turn to a statement ... in fact, the hon. Member puts it in the form a question when, in fact, he is giving information. He should put his question because he is here to seek information, not to give information.

**Mr Jugnauth:** I ask the hon. Minister whether, he is aware that Mr L. has reported, during that meeting, that the minor was going out with the Teacher on Tuesdays, on Saturdays, and you know for what reason, that the Physical Instructor was helping her in her Mathematics. And let me go further, there is now...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No, no! I am sorry. The first part is a proper question, it is allowed; but, the second part is giving information, this I don't allow. The first part, let the hon. Minister answer!

**Mr Jugnauth:** Then, is the hon. Minister aware that there is a recording of the conversation of Mr L., who was present in that meeting, now in the hands of the Police?

**Mr Speaker:** Okay!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But, the recording by whom?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No, the hon. Minister has no right to put a question.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I don't know which recording.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Minister has no right to put a question. Are you aware or you are not aware?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But the question...

**Mr Speaker:** Are you aware or you are not aware?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, I am aware....

*(Interruptions)*

No, I have not finished. I have to reply to the question. I am aware and well aware of what is being mentioned, but I can say that there are many allegations in that question. Let me tell you that that was not the same meeting which the hon. Member is talking about. There have been two meetings where Mr L. was involved.

*(Interruptions)*

He says no, he knows better!

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry. Try to be brief, hon. Minister, because time is up. I will allow only two questions. One to hon. Dr. S. Boolell ...

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Time is up!

**Mr Speaker:** Wait! I am on my feet! Just try to be brief. I will have two more questions, one to hon. Dr. S. Boolell and the last question to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Let me tell you there were two meetings with Mr L. and what is being mentioned is in regard to the second meeting, and I have in my hand a letter which has been given to me by Mr L., because he has been put questions, because his name has been mentioned in the press, in the weekend, and he is saying, let me quote -

“He never requested Mrs S. S. to record the short meeting (...).”

This is why I was putting the question.

“... to record the short meeting which she had...”

*Enn specialist de recorder partout senela!*

“...which she had with me together with the minor V. A. sometime in November 2011. This meeting was held on the request of Mrs S. S. who told me that the minor V. A. wanted to

talk to me.” This is why Mr L. held the meeting and during that meeting “Mrs S. was the one who was prompting minor V. A. to relay (...).”

This is an official letter.

*(Interruptions)*

What happened between the latter and her Teacher - if you want me to continue I can continue.

**Mr Speaker:** No, I don't want the hon. Minister to continue.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But this is what is happening there.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence, please! I say order. Hon. Dr. S. Boolell!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Minister, order!

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the part of the answer the Minister referred to is a medico-legal examination. I would like to know under whose authority this medico-legal examination was conducted, especially in view of the fact that the case had not been referred to the Police initially.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I think the Police was enquiring at one point in time, but the examination was held by the Chief Medical Officer of the Police, Dr. Gungadin.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question to the hon. Leader of the Opposition!

*(Interruptions)*

Silence!

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the Minister aware, Mr Speaker, Sir, that neither the Chairman of the Board of the MITD nor the Officer in Charge gave their consent to Mr Y. S. before the latter went to make his statement at the Central CID and, in fact, it was two Advisers of the Minister who conspired with Mr Y. S. before he went to give his declaration...

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry, hon. Leader of the Opposition, I said...

*(Interruptions)*

Please, I am on my feet! The question has to be clear. The hon. Leader of the Opposition puts a question and he gets into the habit of giving information.

**Mr Ganoo:** My question was: whether the Minister is aware that neither the Chairman of the Board of the MITD nor the Officer in Charge of the MITD gave their consent, their authority, for Mr Y. S. to go and open up this declaration? It was, in fact, before meeting two...

**Mr Speaker:** No, but the fact ...

**Mr Ganoo:** Is he aware that it was before meeting two Advisers of the Minister that Mr Y. S. then went to Central CID to open up this enquiry and this was because Mr Y. S. is known to be a political *protégé* of the Minister?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** How can you talk of political *protégé*! Mr Y. S....

**Mr Speaker:** Please, answer the question!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But he has mentioned that I can't allow this to go.

**Mr Speaker:** Answer the question!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Y. S. has been working there since 1993. So, if he was a political *protégé*, it must have been by these people who were there at that time, not me! When I came to the MITD, he was already there. Now, what is being mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition is false because the Chairman of the MITD and a few other members of the Board were together with the Director – I have said it in my reply – and they had a preparatory meeting for Mr Y. S. to be briefed to go there and he went there at the level of the MITD...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence, please! Time is up!

*(Interruptions)*

I want some order! Questions addressed to the hon. Prime Minister!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Jhugroo, I have said questions addressed to the hon. Prime Minister! You have got your question.

**Mr Jhugroo:** *Malpropre*, dirty Minister, step down! PQ. No. B/315!

**Mr Speaker:** Wait, wait! Hon. Jhugroo, you have to withdraw whatever you have said.

*(Interruptions)*

Whatever you have said you have to withdraw.

*(Interruptions)*

Silence!

**Mr Jhugroo:** I withdraw.

**Mr Speaker:** Now, you may proceed with your question.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, on a point of personal explanation!

**Mr Speaker:** Is the hon. Member rising on a point of order?

**Mrs Ribot:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

**Mr Speaker:** No personal explanation, point of order!

**Mrs Ribot:** M. le président, j'aimerais m'élever contre l'accusation gratuite du ministre de l'éducation.

*(Interruptions)*

Il vient d'affirmer à l'effet que les honorables dames de l'Opposition n'ont jamais rendu visite à la victime alléguée. M. le président, c'est précisément...

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt you, hon. Member, it is not a point of order. You are explaining.

*(Interruptions)*

This is not a point of order, you are explaining. You may have the chance afterwards to come to this.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**MBC - FOOTBALL MATCHES - ARREARS**

**(No. B/315) Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the football matches, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to if arrears are due for the broadcasting thereof, as at to date and, if so, to whom, indicating in each case –

- (a) the quantum thereof, and
- (b) since when.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Director-General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that, as at to date, there is only one case where an overseas company has claimed arrears from the Corporation for the broadcasting of football matches.

In regard to part (a) of the question, the Director-General has informed that the Corporation is currently negotiating with legal representatives of that company with a view to determining the exact amount of arrears due in order to reach a mutually satisfactory settlement.

Concerning part (b) of the question, the Director-General has informed that the arrears relate to the period 2007 to 2009.

The Director-General has also further indicated that there is a confidentiality clause in the contracts between the MBC and the suppliers of broadcasting materials, including football matches. This clause requires non-disclosure of the terms and conditions of the contract. It would, therefore, not be appropriate to disclose the details thereof.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm whether the MBC actually owes an amount of €260,160 to Trans Image Communication according to the last claim from its Attorney at Law?

**The Prime Minister:** I won't go into the detail because they are negotiating apparently to try to find an amicable solution but, at one point, different amounts of money have been claimed. In fact, three sums of money have been claimed. The sums have changed, so that is why they are negotiating.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Is the hon. Prime Minister aware whether, in April 2011, the Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs in India had to intervene with his Mauritian counterpart so that an early and amicable settlement of overdue payments could be done at that time?

**The Prime Minister:** Probably yes, that is why they were negotiating, trying to find whether, in fact, that amount is owed and if it is, what can be done to come to an amicable agreement.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can we know from the hon. Prime Minister for what reason the Director-General of the MBC failed to discharge his contractual and legal commitment in complete disregard of Indian Government intervention in 2011 to settle this amount due?

**The Prime Minister:** In fact, I think I mentioned, Mr Speaker, Sir, that, as far as the Director-General is concerned, there was no invoice or any contract available in the records of the Corporation. That is why they didn't settle it. Now, it is claiming that it is due, so they are trying to work out. I think that is why you will see the amount is changing.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm that the Director-General of the MBC refused to effect the payments due to the fact that he suspects that a *maldonne* may have occurred in these transactions by the former Director-General of the MBC?

**The Prime Minister:** I cannot say, Mr Speaker, Sir, because he says he cannot find any claim or contract at the MBC at this point. That is why they are discussing to try to find an amicable solution.

**Mr Roopun:** I heard the hon. Prime Minister stating that there was no invoice, does it mean that it is the practice at the MBC to purchase whatever they have to purchase without any invoice, without any document, just like that?

**The Prime Minister:** No. I can't understand the question of the hon. Member. Precisely, there need to have an invoice to be paid. Any Tom, Dick or Harry comes along and says: 'buy the thing from me'. There is a whole procedure.

**Mr Jugnauth:** May I know from the hon. Prime Minister if an enquiry has been conducted at the MBC with regard to that issue in order to situate responsibilities?

**The Prime Minister:** No. There is no enquiry because they are trying to find an amicable solution from what I understand.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question!

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm whether there has been any *mise en demeure* which has been served to the Director-General of the MBC in February this year through its Attorney at law?

**The Prime Minister:** In fact, the legal representation of the company went to see and start discussing with the MBC about the settlement.

### **MBC - MR D. R. - TERMS & CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

**(No. B/316) Mr Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to Mr D. R., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to –

- (a) the post occupied, and
- (b) his present salaries and terms and conditions of employment.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Director-General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that Mr D. R. holds a post of Camera Technician at the Corporation.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Director-General of the Corporation that Mr D. R. is drawing a salary as recommended in the Pay Research Bureau Report of 2013. His terms and conditions of employment are also in line with the recommendations contained in the report.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm to the House whether Mr D. R. had been suspended from his duty recently due to the fact that he had not replied to the request of the Prime Minister's Office to send a cameraman of the MBC to cover the Prime Minister's visit in a *cit * at Curepipe during the last Municipal election?

**The Prime Minister:** In fact, there is no request from the Prime Minister's Office for the MBC to cover any of my meetings. They come if they want, they don't come if they don't want.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! Next question!

**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICE - PRESS RELEASES**

(No. B/317) **Mr C. Fakeemeeah (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the Government Information Service, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if consideration will be given for the press releases to be sent by email instead of fax for a more cost effective and eco-friendly approach.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Director of Information Services that the Government Information Service has already embarked on a computerisation project which will be gradually extended to cover all its activities.

Accordingly, as an immediate measure, since February of this year, all press releases are uploaded on the new Government Web Portal which can be accessed by the press and the public at large.

I am also informed, Mr Speaker, Sir, by the Director of Information Services that action has already been initiated by its Press and Publication Unit for press releases to be sent by e-mail.

In this respect, the two officers posted to the Press and Publication Unit responsible for transmitting press releases and notices to the press, have been given the necessary training in Information Technology. Also, additional computers and the relevant softwares are being acquired.

The mailing list of all the press organisations has already been compiled.

The system of sending press releases by e-mail will be operational on a trial basis in the second fortnight of June of this year and will become fully operational from 01 July of this year.

During the trial period, press releases will be sent out by fax, as well as by e-mail, and thereafter, only the e-mail system will be resorted to.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House of the costs incurred for sending those press communiqués by fax?

**The Prime Minister:** I will have to look into the details of the costs by fax from when because I think that since fax existed, they are sending faxes. So, it would be a long workout list, I am sure.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** I heard the hon. Prime Minister saying on the website of the Government. In this era of modern communication, can the hon. Prime Minister state to the House whether the Government Information Service has its own website?

**The Prime Minister:** I said there is a new Government Web Portal that is operational, I think, since February of this year. I agree with the hon. Member that it is late; they should have done it earlier.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** Mr Speaker, Sir, can I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether it is possible that those press communiqués be posted on the website of each of the respective Ministries?

**The Prime Minister:** The hon. Member means different Ministries? I think they would have automatically if they concern the Ministries.

#### **NATURAL CALAMITIES - SMS ALERT SYSTEM**

**(No. B/318) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the natural calamities, he will state if a Short Message Service Alert System in cases thereof is now operational and, if so, indicate -

- (a) the protocol put in place in relation thereto, and
- (b) who is responsible therefor.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, following the flash flood of 30 March 2013, I had personally requested the Information and Communication Technologies Authority to take the necessary regulatory steps for mobile operators in Mauritius to send out warning messages to the public, at no cost, in order to provide prior warning of the occurrence of natural disasters. I did so without waiting any further for modalities for putting in place such a system, as recommended by Judge Domah, to be worked out. They have been trying to do this but I must say they were not extremely happy with the fact that it should be at their cost, not to the Government or the public.

I am informed by the Executive Director of the ICT Authority that on 01 April 2013, pursuant to section 17(3) of the ICT Act, the Authority issued a Directive to all Public Land Mobile licensees to require these operators to take immediate steps to send out warning messages to their respective subscribers, at no cost, and using the most appropriate technologies available.

I am further informed by the Executive Director of the ICT Authority that the Short Message Service, that is, the SMS, is one of the technologies which the mobile operators may use for this purpose. Indeed, it is precisely this technology which was used, on a pilot basis, by all mobile operators on 14 April 2013 to inform the subscribers about the evolution of Cyclone Imelda when the Class 2 warning was issued in Mauritius.

In regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question, I am also informed by the Executive Director of the ICT Authority that, in accordance with the protocol put in place for the SMS Alert System, the operators have provided the names of three focal persons within their respective organisations who will be responsible to receive the message to be sent during natural disasters, if there are any, and to send these messages forthwith through their network infrastructure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service that, following discussions at the Central Cyclone and Other Natural Disasters Committee, the Director of the Mauritius Meteorological Services has been tasked with the responsibility of providing information to mobile operators concerning natural disasters likely to affect Mauritius.

The Executive Director of the ICT Authority has also indicated that, the maximum length of the message to be sent should not exceed 140 characters to ensure that all the different kinds and versions of mobile phones present in Mauritius can effectively receive the same full message.

Following the pilot exercise on 14 April 2013, the ICT Authority had held meetings with the mobile operators to receive feedback and to draw on lessons learnt so that the transmission of warning messages can be further improved for the benefit of the public.

The operators had informed the ICT Authority that they could send out messages to a maximum of 25,000 subscribers at a time. As such, they had to send out the messages in different batches and at different times in order to ensure that they do not create bottlenecks on their networks which could have resulted in a network saturation.

**Mr Seeruttun:** M. le président, l'honorable Premier ministre nous parle d'un message envoyé lors du passage du Cyclone Imelda. Est-ce qu'il est au courant qu'un des messages envoyés le 14 avril, pour aviser des gens qu'il y a une alerte cyclonique 2 sur Maurice et Rodrigues, les abonnés ont reçu ce message à 10 heures du soir et même après 10 heures du soir, leur demandant de prendre des précautions nécessaires ? Est-ce qu'il pense que c'est normal de recevoir un message pareil à cette heure-ci pour prendre des précautions nécessaires ?

**The Prime Minister:** As I explained, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a problem of saturation, there is a limit. So, they are sending it by batches, unfortunately. But, this is why we are trying to see if they can invest in new technologies so that they could respond in time.

**Mr Seeruttun:** L'honorable Premier ministre doit aussi savoir que le 13 février lorsque Port Louis a été inondé, le 30 mars lorsqu'on connaît le drame qu'a connu Port Louis et aussi le 03 mai, l'accident du Sorèze, ces trois jours où les gens avaient le plus besoin de communiquer, il y avait, comme on dit, un *jam* du *network* d'Orange et c'était impossible de communiquer. Que compte-t-il faire pour assurer que, à l'avenir, dans des moments pareils, lorsqu'on a le plus besoin de communiquer, il n'y ait pas ce genre de problème, qu'on puisse communiquer, que les *SMS* puissent partir, et qu'on puisse être informé comme il faut ?

**The Prime Minister:** All the operators - I must say Orange has a higher number of subscribers, so, obviously, it has more problems.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**The Prime Minister:** But they all agree that they will have to upgrade the infrastructure. In fact, I spoke to the Minister of ICT so that we can ensure that Orange has to invest more and upgrade its structure, but it has more subscribers, I must say.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, how can the hon. Prime Minister explain that in such a small country, with a small population, we are having these kinds of problems like bottleneck and congestion? Concerning the mobile, I think there are not more than one million mobiles that we have in this country.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No! Leave your thinking alone! You put a question. That's all!

*(Interruptions)*

**The Prime Minister:** The hon. Member will be surprised, Mauritius is one of the countries - it appears from what we see from the statistics - where individuals have more than two or three mobiles. So, do not just look at the 1.3 million people! People are carrying more mobiles, it seems, than other countries, normally they have one mobile generally.

*(Interruptions)*

It is a good thing then!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister what difference he makes between natural calamities and a divine sanction, because we should identify to give short messages.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Prime Minister:** Divine sanction?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** I mean natural calamities.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Prime Minister:** I am afraid...

**Mr Speaker:** Well, I do not know whether I can allow this question, hon. Member.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Jugnauth:** May I know from the hon. Prime Minister if, after the publication of the Domah Report in 2008...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Mr Jugnauth:** ...recommending that an SMS alert system be implemented, first of all, the then Secretary to Cabinet was requested to look into the implementation of that measure and,

if yes, whether it is correct to say that even one of the service providers had agreed to bear the cost in implementing this alert system?

**The Prime Minister:** In fact, as I have explained, Mr Speaker, Sir, after the report, the Secretary to the Cabinet did try to put that in and there were difficulties. Perhaps we should not go into the detail of the difficulties, but one of them was the cost because we had to talk to all the three. One of them was more flexible, but not the other two. So, that is why they were trying to work out a system until I felt that the law allows us to give them instructions. They have been given the instructions and they have to comply.

### **STANLEY & ROSE HILL –**

#### **GAMING HOUSES, BOOKMAKERS & BETTING OUTLETS**

**(No. B/319) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the casinos, bookmakers and betting outlets, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, in each case, information as to the number thereof located in Constituency No. 19, indicating –

- (a) the number of police operations carried out thereat in respect of any illegal activity, over the past two years, and
- (b) if it has been observed that traffic congestions occur in the vicinity thereof and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken in relation thereto.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, there are no “casinos” as such in Constituency No. 19 I am informed, but “gaming houses”. In fact, a distinction is to be made between a “casino” and a “gaming house”. A “casino” is either wholly owned or partly owned by the State, while a “gaming house” is owned by a company.

There are currently three gaming houses, three bookmakers and seven betting outlets that are licensed to operate in Constituency No. 19.

Of particular interest are the three gaming houses which are as follows -

- Jumbo Club which was licensed on 01 July 1992, and operating at Royal Road, Rose Hill

- Flamingo Club, licensed on 14 March 2000, and operating at St Ignace Street, Rose Hill, and
- Pallagames Club, licensed on 19 December 2001, and operating at St Ignace Street, Rose Hill

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am making a particular mention of the gaming houses because these are the ones which attract a host of people of varied categories within their premises for long hours, while bookmakers and betting outlets attract members of the public briefly for the purpose of betting.

In regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that for the past two years, 24 Police operations have been carried out at those places involved in gambling activities in Constituency No. 19.

In regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the region around Duncan Taylor Street in Rose Hill is a very busy one in view of its proximity with Rose Hill market and other commercial activities. On racing days, because of the presence of three betting outlets and two bookmakers' outlets along that street, the traffic in this area is more dense.

Consequently, in order to ensure fluidity of traffic on racing days, two Police officers are deployed to perform fixed point duty at the corner of Duncan Taylor and Maurice Curé Streets and at Elias Street in Rose Hill from 09 00 hours to 17 30 hours. Another Police officer performs patrol duties from Elias Street to Sir Gaëtan Duval Stadium.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Will the hon. Prime Minister recall in his reply to Parliamentary Question No. B/165 on 12 April 2011 and Parliamentary Question No. B/420 on 21 May 2011 respectively, I quote, Mr Speaker, Sir -

“As announced, Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Government Programme 2010-2015, Government will relocate gambling activities either in specifically designated areas or at one designated area away from residential and commercial areas with a view to mitigating the unintended consequences of gambling.”

May I know where matters stand, Mr Speaker, Sir?

**The Prime Minister:** We are still at the level of discussions because many people do not agree with this and this is our view. But, I must tell the hon. Member since then no new permit has been given to anyone. That is why we have stopped giving the permits.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Prime Minister aware that applications are submitted on prescribed forms and examined by the Licensing and Inspectorate Unit Police Clearance, and Local Authorities, but at no time is the Traffic Management Unit involved to give clearance especially Avenue Berthaud in Rose Hill is very narrow and is being used by buses of the NTC, UBS and Rose Hill Transport, thus causing traffic jam at anytime and mainly when betting places are open? Can I know why approval has not been obtained from the Traffic Management Unit?

**The Prime Minister:** That would be a surprise, Mr Speaker, Sir, because one is sent to the Police and one of the issues that they have to look at is, in fact, the creation of traffic jam. They have to provide for parking and all those things. So, I would think this is unlikely. I do not know where the hon. Member got the information, but I cannot see how it can be like this.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Is the hon. Prime Minister aware that there has been a petition - with many signatures - against the opening of a Teletote Supertote house at Berthaud that he just mentioned, Avenue Stanley Rose Hill, on 23 May?

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that we have this, but if they have a request from the public, Police always look at it in detail. I can tell you, for example, there was the case of Ti Vegas which was opened in August 2005 and there were numerous complaints and representations from the inhabitants of Quatre Bornes, letters were sent – as the hon. Member is mentioning in this case - and eventually, Government decided that Ti Vegas will not operate any longer and cancelled its licence as a gaming house. So, we do look at what people are saying.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** *Dans le sillage de la moralisation de notre société et notre système*, I would like to know if the hon. Prime Minister agrees with me that it is high time to decrease the already high number of these gaming houses and casinos.

**The Prime Minister:** What does the hon. Member want me to do with the members?

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** I would like to know if...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** I would like to know if the hon. Prime Minister agrees with me that it is high time to decrease the already high numbers of these gaming houses and casinos.

**The Prime Minister:** This is why we are looking at the whole policy. We have not given any new licence to anyone and that is why we are looking at the policy, whether we should remove them all to one place. There are difficulties, I must tell the hon. Member, for example with the Champ de Mars, they have a real problem with this. We are in the process of discussing and I hope we will find a solution.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister in relation to gaming houses whether Government has carried out any study on the social impact of casinos and gaming houses before delivering 500 licences between 2005-2010?

**The Prime Minister:** This is not something new, Mr Speaker, Sir. For example, in my answer, if you see, for example at Rose Hill in the same street, as if next door, you have two such gaming houses. Do you know why? My guess is one is from the MSM and one from the MMM.

*(Interruptions)*

Once the MMM has got...

*(Interruptions)*

We have to give to the MSM....

*(Interruptions)*

That must be the reason!

*(Interruptions)*

There is pressure!

*(Interruptions)*

So, the first culprits are the politicians themselves!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Okay, silence now!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Nagalingum:** With your permission, Mr Speaker, Sir, - I know that the hon. Prime Minister will give due consideration to that petition - can I lay that petition on the Table of the National Assembly?

### **DECLARATION OF ASSETS ACT - AMENDMENTS**

**(No. B/320) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the declaration of assets, he will state if consideration will be given for proposed amendments to be brought to the existing legislation in relation thereto to provide for -

- (a) additional types of assets that need to be declared, and
- (b) same to be made available for inspection by the public.

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in my replies to previous Parliamentary Questions on this matter, I explained to the House that the Prevention of Corruption Act provides for a Parliamentary Committee for the monitoring of the ICAC and that one of the main functions of the Parliamentary Committee is precisely to make a report to the Assembly where it considers that it is expedient that the attention of the Assembly be directed to the need for further legislative reforms.

The Parliamentary Committee itself is an independent mechanism which has been set up by law to ensure that ICAC is monitored.

I would like to remind the House that the Select Committee Report on Fraud and Corruption highlighted the role of the Parliamentary Committee as a monitoring mechanism for ICAC in the following terms -

“ICAC will need to expect that it will be under constant scrutiny by Parliamentarians.”

It is a long quote.

“The Committee shall examine each report of ICAC and report to the House thereon. The Committee shall also follow up on the Legislation on Corruption and Money

Laundering and will make such recommendations as it feels necessary with regard to any amendments required in the Law”.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the issues regarding the scope and content of asset declarations and public disclosure, which have been raised by the hon. Member in parts (a) and (b) of his question, are precisely the kind of issues that the Parliamentary Committee is meant to address.

Asset declaration systems are indeed an important element in building successful anti-corruption programme and promoting good governance and a culture of integrity. And it is, therefore, appropriate for them to raise the questions there.

Mr Speaker, Sir, however, I must say that the Parliamentary Committee has submitted a Report containing numerous proposals aimed at reinforcing our anti-corruption framework. The Committee has also submitted a draft of a new Declaration of Assets Bill to replace the existing one. The draft legislation addresses the issue as to what additional assets will have to be included in the declaration and also the issue of public disclosure.

The proposals made by the Parliamentary Committee are presently being examined.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I must say that the issue of public disclosure of asset declarations raises some important questions. In a World Bank document, published in 2009, it was mentioned that, I quote -

“granting public access to asset declaration information is an important dimension of asset declaration regimes that can enhance both their effectiveness and their credibility. Many countries are struggling with whether and how to make asset declaration information accessible to the public; the central issue at stake being whether or not public access to this information violates the privacy of public officials, or causes a threat to their security”.

The document has also cautioned that there is no “one size fits all” and that “building and strengthening the administration of an asset declaration system may take considerable time.”

Furthermore, in a document published in 2011, the OECD examined the question as to which information relating to asset declarations should be open to the general public. In this regard, the document highlighted the following -

“while there is a global trend towards greater disclosure, striking the right balance between public disclosure and protection of privacy remains a subject of debate. There are strong reasons for disclosing, at least partially, data of political officials, such as MPs. Politicians should be prepared to provide explanations regarding the disclosed information, if there are any serious concerns raised in the media or by civil society. Concerning the lower-level public officials, the right degree of public disclosure should be determined on the basis of a careful weighing of various considerations, such as domestic traditions, perceptions of corruption in a given country, possible safety concerns, and other dangers.”

Let me say, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the proposed new asset declaration regime is in the pipeline. We are looking at it very closely. There are many issues, as I said, that are raised by this and the Government is looking at this very closely and we will take whatever steps to ensure what this House will agree to. However, we have taken other initiatives at fostering anti-corruption practices and good governance in the public sector –

- (i) we have already developed a Code of Corporate Governance for public bodies;
- (ii) the declaration of assets of all permanent employees of the Mauritius Revenue Authority is now a fact;
- (iii) setting up the Office of Public Sector Governance under my office is also in line with these decisions;
- (iv) reform of our procurement system with the enactment of a new Public Procurement Act;
- (v) setting up of the Equal Opportunities Commission;
- (vi) setting up of the Asset Recovery Unit - very important. This is a great tool that we have managed to give to the authorities;
- (vii) implementation of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework in public organisations, and
- (viii) mandatory declaration of assets by Municipal and District Councillors.

These measures, Mr Speaker, Sir, have produced and are producing concrete results. Last year, the “United Nations Public Service Award” for the African Region was conferred on the ICAC for the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Framework initiative in the category “Preventing and combating corruption in the public service”, where there were some 28 entries from different countries.

Furthermore, at an international conference on Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies, organised last year in Jakarta by the Indonesian Commission for the eradication of corruption, in collaboration with UNDP and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, it was mentioned that out of 130 Anti-Corruption Agencies established around the world, only in six countries have such agencies successfully contributed to control corruption. And Mauritius is one among the six countries, which also include Singapore, Hong Kong and I think Malaysia, if I am not mistaken.

Mr Speaker, Sir, once again, let me reaffirm, most emphatically and unequivocally, the commitment and determination of Government to continue our relentless fight against fraud and corruption and root out this scourge from our society. In that regard, I must say, Mr Speaker, Sir - perhaps I should say this here – we are looking at strengthening our institutions and we find that we need to have expert advice on certain matters that are ongoing here, and that is why we are doing that.

**Mr Uteem:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister just mentioned recommendations made by ICAC Parliamentary Committee. May I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether one of the recommendations was the deletion of section 5 of the Declaration of Assets Act, which required the Commission to cause declaration of assets to be laid before the Assembly, subject to the guidance of the Speaker? That was abolished in 2011.

**The Prime Minister:** I cannot remember seeing that as an issue, but I will have to look at it. I cannot remember this, Mr Speaker, Sir.

*(Interruptions)*

They are saying no; that this is not the case.

**Mr Uteem:** Precisely, Mr Speaker, Sir, because this was the source of concern of the Opposition, we wanted declaration of assets to be made public, and in the Local Government Act of 2011, this section was abolished. May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether, when he comes

up with the new legislation, he will make sure that declaration of assets made by the Members of Parliament will be accessible to the public?

**The Prime Minister:** Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two quotations I made from the World Bank Report and also from the OECD. There are issues, as I explained, about privacy cases; whether we can just open this like this. We are looking at it. We have kept our mind open, but we have to look at these issues very carefully; whether we could just leave it like this. If there is no enquiry and it comes out in the open, then we'll see people targeting these people because they think they are very rich or whatever. This also we have to look at.

**Mr Ganoo:** The crux of the matter, Mr Speaker, Sir, is the public declaration of assets. May I put it to the hon. Prime Minister that the purpose of a Bill to provide the public declaration of assets on politicians and Members of Parliament is to reinforce confidence in the democratic system? I will repeat the question that has just been put to the hon. Prime Minister. Knowingly or unknowingly, when the law was passed in November 2011, i.e. the Local Government Act, it did away with the necessity for politicians and MPs to publicly declare their assets. By virtue of the new provisions, we have to declare our assets to the Director of ICAC, who can shelve the declaration of our assets somewhere in his office. But it is not a public declaration of assets, contrary to what the law has been providing since 1985, the first time when the Declaration of Assets Bill was enacted. Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister to revisit this piece of legislation, which in fact does not make it imperative now for politicians and MPs to publicly declare their assets?

**Mr Speaker:** That is a lengthy question!

**The Prime Minister:** Let us be very clear, Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two issues here; the politicians have to declare their assets, I think we agree on that. Whether it should be public or it should be with the ICAC or with Mr Speaker, that is the issue. There are issues about making it public, there are issues of privacy. It is not us who say that, it is the World Bank, the OECD and also certain lawyers have also told us these are issues that we really have to look at. But we are not saying that the issue of declaring their assets has to be and the Declaration of Assets Act has been amended times before us. It not as if the previous Declaration of Assets Act has been there for all time and we have just changed it, it has been amended in the past, but that is the issue that we are looking at very carefully. I must tell you, the question speaks of assets – the assets itself is

the definition, it is extremely complicated but then everything can be considered as an asset. A table in your house can be an asset, a chair can be an asset, and a carpet can be an asset! We have to make sure that we define it properly and that whether everything should be made to go into the public domain is an issue that we have to look at.

**Mr Speaker:** Time is up, but I will allow one last question to hon. Jugnauth.

**Mr Jugnauth:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Will the hon. Prime Minister consider extending the obligation to declare the assets to high ranking Officers of Government, Public Bodies and Parastatals?

**The Prime Minister:** It is already being done, Mr Speaker, Sir. In fact, as I have said, for certain categories already it is there and we are looking at extending it. I think I mentioned that earlier.

**Mr Speaker:** The mover of the question one last time, and we finish.

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. The OECD which the hon. Prime Minister just quoted, says –

“There are strong reasons for disclosing at least partially data of political officers such as MP”.

So, may I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether consideration will be given for the declaration of wealth held not only directly, but also through nominees and *prête-noms*?

**The Prime Minister:** Normally, this is one of the ways that people try to hide their assets, we know this. You must know some friends who do that.

**Mr Speaker:** Time is up! The Table has been advised that PQ Nos. B/324 and B/330 have been withdrawn.

#### **DRIVING LICENCE – CHRONIC DISEASES - ISSUE**

(No. B//324 **Dr. S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the driving licence, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the criteria considered for the issue thereof

(a) to drive (i) heavy goods vehicles and (ii) public transport vehicles and (b) to persons suffering from chronic diseases, including epilepsy?

*(Withdrawn)*

### **GOVERNMENT HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS – CODE OF CONDUCT**

**(No. B/330) Mr Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, following the recent alleged public incidents in which Ministers are allegedly involved, he will state if urgent consideration will be given for the implementation of a Code of Conduct for high ranking Government officials pertaining to, *inter alia*, standards of public behaviour, public business activities of close relatives and issues of conflict of interest?

*(Withdrawn)*

*At 12.55 p.m. the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 2.32 p.m. Mr Speaker took the Chair.*

**Mr Speaker:** Questions addressed to hon. Ministers! Hon. Mrs Ribot!

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

**(No. B/331) Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill)** asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare whether, in regard to the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence, she will state the objectives thereof which have not yet been implemented, indicating the timeframe set for the implementation thereof.

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, progress has been achieved in all the 5 Strategic Objectives of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence for period 2008-2010. As regards Strategic Objective 2, implementation is outstanding in respect of the Victim and Abuser Empowerment Policy.

As far as Strategic Objective 4 is concerned, only the establishment of a Media Complaints Commission, either by media houses or a national one, is outstanding. The time frame for its implementation was end of 2008.

In line with this objective, the Gender Links and Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) in collaboration with my Ministry organised several capacity building programmes for Journalists. I am, however, informed that there was very poor participation in those capacity building programmes and workshops.

Hence, with a view of encouraging participation of media practitioners, my Ministry has laid much emphasis to enhance the capacity of media to provide appropriate reporting on GBV at all levels in the Costed National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2012-2015).

My Ministry will pursue capacity-building programmes with Editors and Journalists on reporting on GBV and also to improve coverage of GBV in the media in November 2013.

In addition, my Ministry will seek the collaboration of the University of Mauritius to include the component of GBV in the Gender Code of Ethics of the media which has been developed by the University of Mauritius. The Code of Ethics will be launched in approximately 2 weeks time and the University of Mauritius is prepared to collaborate with my Ministry to use the Code of Ethics already developed by them as a baseline.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the time frame for the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence was supposed to be over the next three years, that is, it is supposed to have been implemented by 2010. Can the hon. Minister justify such a delay in the implementation of the whole plan?

**Mrs Martin:** As I have indicated, Mr Speaker, Sir, only a few components remain. As at now, I am informed that 94% of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence as reported in the PBB has been achieved. The remaining 6% account for the Victim Empowerment and Rehabilitation Policy as indicated and the evaluation for the Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence which can be done once this Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy has been implemented.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, with a view to discourage and prevent the recurrence of acts of domestic violence, the plan proposed a sanction for breach of undertaking to undergo counselling. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the sanction and how often it has been imposed?

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have indicated in my answer that it's precisely what we are talking about when we talk about the Abuser Rehabilitation Policy and the victim empowerment. I formerly replied to a PQ where I informed the House on the progress regarding the formulation of the policy. I would kindly refer the hon. Member to that PQ which is PQ No. B/244.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the plan also proposed a review of the criteria for eligibility of legal aid to the survivors of domestic violence. Can I know from the hon. Minister what are the criteria for eligibility and the quantum of the legal aid?

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not have that information right now, but I can provide it to the hon. Member. I think it has been clearly spelt out and everyone who benefits from that sort of service is informed about it. But, I can make it available to the hon. Member later on.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, recent events both in India and South Africa, point to the critical importance of the Police being sensitised to issues of domestic violence and to have the appropriate setup to respond to requests from women in distress. May we know from the hon. Minister whether any action is envisaged under the National Action Plan in that regard?

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say that the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence, the programme as such, has ended in 2010. As at right now, we are working on the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence which is a continuation of the same policy.

However, with regard to the question of the hon. Member, we are indeed working on improving the Police effectiveness in the handling of cases of violence against women. We are continuing to train the Police Officers and empower them with regard to taking care of victims and we have eight Police Family Protection Units which are operational and the Training-of-Trainers programme in regard to development of effective Police responses to violence against women with Police Officers has been ongoing since 2011.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** May we, therefore, be told how many Police Officers have participated in such training programmes as yet and since the hon. Minister mentioned the Family Protection Service which is notoriously understaffed and, therefore, there are no persons there to attend to

women in distress, what is being done to improve the infrastructure and human resources of the Family Protection Service?

**Mrs Martin:** As regards the infrastructure and especially the human resources concerning the Family Protection Unit, Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been, year by year, asking for more personnel and we are still struggling to have more of them and it all depends on the different facilities which are given to us since those officers are, in fact, employed by the PSC. We are waiting to have some more. Every year we are indicating that we need more officers and this is a concern for us all. As regards the number of Police Officers who have been actually trained, I don't have the number. I am sorry, but I can make it available to the hon. Member. What I know is that we have had several sessions with different officers and the process of training more officers is still ongoing. May I also add that through the national platform to end gender-based violence, we have established further working relationships with the Police in general so that we may cater for the problem of domestic violence.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the plan also proposed additional shelters with rehabilitative support services to be strategically distributed across the island. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the number of shelters that have been setup since 2007, because in the Budget Speech 2011/2012, the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development said that six new shelters were going to be opened across the island in 2012.

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I think what the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development mentioned was the six new shelters with regard to children in distress. It did not concern domestic violence as such.

**Mrs Navarre-Marie:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the plan also mentioned that training will be provided to victims of domestic violence to increase their employability on the labour market. Victims are supposed to be assisted in job search and financial assistance is supposed to be provided to them. Will the hon. Minister state the number of victims who have benefitted from such financial assistance and the quantum of the financial assistance?

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, that would require a specific question with regard to the number and the quantum and whatever else the hon. Member is asking. But as regards taking in charge of the victims, I must say that when the victims report at the Family Support Bureau, every effort is done to support that victim in whatever transaction or *démarche* that that person

wants to do. So, we try to assist as much as we can, orient and support the victims with a view especially to economic empowerment.

**Mrs Radegonde-Haines:** Mr Speaker, Sir, can I know from the hon. Minister if there is enough funding to achieve the implementation of the National Action Plan?

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, like I said, National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence ended. Now, we are working on the National Action Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence and every year, money is provided for that purpose. However, as you know, money is not the solution to everything. It also depends on the degree of participation of the different stakeholders, their willingness and commitment in order to be able to achieve the different targets which we have set.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask from the hon. Minister what measures are being taken by her Ministry to help victims of violence who, in spite of protection orders, are still being battered?

**Mrs Martin:** Every time a case like that is reported to us, Mr Speaker, Sir, we try to see in what way, besides the law, we can support the victim. Psychological support is being given to the victim, sometimes reference to a shelter for battered women also are being counselled to the victim to go to or we try to see, within the family unit, whether there is any kind of support that can be further provided to the victim.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, of critical importance in this battle against gender-based violence, of course, is the issue of the young people. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why it is not the case that in our schools there is not a National Plan with talks to raise awareness of young people as to the risks and significance of gender-based violence?

**Mrs Martin:** I must inform the hon. Member that, in fact, we are working with youngsters. However, we are not working within the school unit as such. What we are doing, for example, with the National Women Council, just in February last, the youths themselves have established a strategic framework whereby there are five strategic areas within which they are willing to work in order to combat all sorts of violence and abuse against women and domestic violence forms part of one of the strategic area where the youths want to work into. Also, with regard to the training and the support measures that we want to involve the youths in,

this Ministry is intending to set up very soon a specific module to be able to work with regard to teenagers in domestic potential violence identification and the risks that might be involved in teen dating.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question, hon. Mrs Ribot!

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the report also proposed to target men in awareness campaigns using former abusers as resource persons. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many men former abuses have been trained to carry out an effective and integrated communication campaign?

**Mrs Martin:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I indicated in a former reply that we are working towards the abuser rehabilitation policy and, in fact, the consultant is going to submit in June-July, this year, the training manual and reference training kits to facilitate the training and support of abusers. In that instance, once the policy has been set up, the work can be initiated.

## **MINISTER OF HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE**

### **- UNPARLIAMENTARY WORD – WITHDRAWAL**

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members, at the sitting of the House on Tuesday 07 May 2013, the hon. First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien (Mr M. Jhugroo), rose on a point of order to the effect that the hon. Minister of Health and Quality of Life had uttered the word '*batchara*' to the address of the hon. Second Member for La Caverne & Phoenix (Mr S. Soodhun).

The hon. Minister of Health and Quality of Life denied having uttered the said word, he is expected to assume his responsibility.

I reserved my ruling. A perusal of the transcript does not reveal that the unparliamentary word had been uttered.

I am, therefore, not in a position to rule on the matter.

However, the hon. Minister of Health and Quality of Life admitted having used the word '*bechara*' which he himself explained as meaning 'poor insignificant figure'. I am of the opinion that this is not proper.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to withdraw the offending word and expression.

**Mr Bundhoo:** I do.

*(Interruptions)*

**MINISTER OF LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & EMPLOYMENT -  
UNPARLIAMENTARY WORD - WITHDRAWAL**

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members, at the sitting of the House of Tuesday 07 of May 2013, the hon. First Member for Grand River North West & Port Louis West (Mrs A. Navarre-Marie), rose on a point of order to the effect that the hon. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment stated that the hon. Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle (Mr M. Seeruttun) was behaving like a ‘she’.

The hon. Minister did not deny having made the statement or used the word ‘she’. The transcript does not reveal that the hon. Minister had made that statement or used the said offensive word. However, shortly after the point of order was taken, the Minister stated the following and I quote –

“Mr Speaker, Sir, may be, if the hon. lady would like to meet me afterwards, we will get into a debate as to what it means. I don’t find anything unparliamentary about it.”

May I first of all remind hon. Members that it is for the Chair to decide as to whether a word or expression is unparliamentary.

I consider that referring to the hon. Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle (Mr M. Seeruttun) as behaving like a ‘she’ is not in order.

I also consider that it is most inappropriate for the hon. Minister to invite the hon. First Member for Grand River North West & Port Louis West (Mrs A. Navarre-Marie) to get into a debate as to the meaning of the hon. Seeruttun behaving like a ‘she’.

*(Interruptions)*

Please, don’t interrupt me!

I therefore request the hon. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment to withdraw the offending word and statement.

**Mr Mohamed:** I withdraw.

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – HON. MEMBERS - SEXIST REMARKS

**Mr Speaker:** Now, I have a further statement to make. Hon. Members, several hon. Members have also drawn my attention to the bad habit of other hon. Members brandishing the names of ladies and by making sexist remarks during their interventions.

I seize this opportunity to appeal to hon. Members from both sides of the House to refrain from making such unwarranted remarks.

Thank you.

Now, we proceed to the question of hon. Dr. Sorefan!

## PENALTY POINTS SYSTEM – OFFENCES

**(No. B/332) Dr R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Penalty Points System, he will state if proposals for amendment to the existing legislation will be introduced in the National Assembly, especially in relation to the mandatory sentences and, if so, when.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been advised that according to the Black's Law Dictionary, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition a mandatory sentence is a sentence set by law with no discretion for the Judge to individualise punishment. The Third Schedule to the Road Traffic Act (RTA) does not provide for any mandatory sentences, but a range of points is provided for each offence.

Section 123 AH (2)(a) of the Road Traffic Act provides for the licensing officer to make a written application to a Magistrate for the issue of a summons to show cause why a person should not be disqualified.

Moreover Section 51 of the Road Traffic Act already provides that a person aggrieved by the refusal of a licensing officer to grant or renew a driving licence may cause a summons to be served upon the licensing officer to show cause why his decision should not be reversed, modified or suspended.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Mr Speaker, Sir, may we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister if and when there is a genuine case in court whether the judiciary can inflict no penalty points at all or will have to stick to the minimum mandatory sentence where two points may cause loss of licence?

**Mr Speaker:** First of all, the hon. Vice-Prime Minister cannot answer for the Judiciary. Secondly, when you use the word 'if', it makes the question hypothetical. Your question should be based on facts and pure facts and facts that can be verified. Next question!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a supplementary.

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, carry on!

**Dr. Sorefan:** May we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister why the DLC given to motorists are not as per the 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule, for example, no barcode and no other security features incorporated in the DLC?

**Mr Bachoo:** Well, it has been designed in such a way. I don't find any problem in not having those barcodes.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Enough now! I said, enough! Proceed, hon. Member!

**Mr Jhugroo:** Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister confirm whether there is a list of vehicles that will not be concerned with the Penalty Points System, if so, can we know what are the criteria use for these vehicles to be on that list?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't have any problem in submitting the whole list, but that concerns the Police cars, the ambulances, the SAMU, etc. and the essential services. But, I am going to submit a list to the House.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Roopun!

**Mr Roopun:** Since the coming in force of the Penalty Points System, we have seen long queues and artificial traffic jam all around the island. Could I urge the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to consider whether the different categories of speed limits could be rationalised so that it is easier for everybody to know what the speed limit is? We should have only two or at most three types of speed limits so that it is easier for everybody to move around.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, with the coming in operation of the penalty point system, a Committee has already been set up; a Technical Committee composed of technicians, to have a look at the different speed limits that we have because there have been many articles in the papers, and also representations have been made that there are places where we have to increase, and other places where there is a short notice before coming down. So, all these things are being looked into. I do hope that, within a month, we will be coming with additional measures and new recommendations.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister what is the number of permit holders who have not yet taken their DLC and the reason why we have heard of so many persons who have not yet taken their DLC, and what action is being taken?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, first, I cannot read the mind of those who are not willing to take their DLC. Second, many of them have passed away, and third there are many who are abroad, either as students or have settled abroad. Then, we have got - I don't know exactly how much - a few percentages who have not taken. But, in fact, now they are queuing up at Line Barracks in order to take up the DLC. This is what I have been informed.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Mr Speaker, Sir, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House about the grade of a Police Officer who has the discretion, - whenever papers are issued, people going on the motorway - the authority not to prosecute or not to give points? Is there any specific grade of Police Officer?

**Mr Bachoo:** No, we don't have any specific grade as such, Mr Speaker, Sir.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House whether there are actually cases where people receiving penalties are being debarred from having these points at the level of the Police?

**Mr Bachoo:** We have not come across any such case. I will have to look into it and report because that is dealt by the Police.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister how he explains the fact that, on the one hand, the number of vehicles is increasing, and on the other hand, the speed limit is decreasing? I think that it is for this reason that we are having several road congestions at different points of this country.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, as we have been telling all the time, at least the mindset has to change a little bit. There has been a sense of restraint, but I get the feeling that it has been too much of restraints these days. Deliberately, there are places where drivers are taking extra care, extra precaution. I get the feeling that, within months probably, things will come to normal.

Secondly, we are not decreasing the speed. I have just mentioned earlier - when a question was put by the hon. Member - that we have set up a Committee. We are looking into it, wherever possible. For example, there are places where it is 60 km. If we feel the need to go a bit higher, we don't have any problem. But, it all depends on the technicians because I am not myself a traffic expert on that. I am awaiting their recommendations, and we are going to implement it.

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether instructions have been given to the Police to be overzealous these days because there is an epidemic of blue uniforms all over the damn places.

**Mr Bachoo:** I get the feeling that we are extra careful these days, in order to prevent accidents. But, I am not aware of any such instructions being given.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. May we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether, in case of accidents where there is mutual arrangement, penalty point will apply?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the law is meant for everybody. If someone has committed an accident and is responsible, of course, the law is there; it will apply. But I can't tell you more than that. It all depends on the Police and the law.

### **SPEED CAMERAS - TENDERS**

**(No. B/333) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the speed cameras recently installed, he will state when tenders therefor were launched, indicating the -

(a) scope of works therefor, and

- (b) names of the bidders therefor, indicating the -
  - (i) value of the respective bids, and
  - (ii) name of the successful bidder.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo):** Mr Speaker, Sir, a pre-qualification exercise was carried out through the floating of a pre-qualification document, which was vetted by the Procurement Policy Office (PPO) and approved by the Central Procurement Board (CPB) on 19 August 2011. The closing date was 21 September 2011, and I am going to submit a copy of the pre-qualification document.

After completion of the pre-qualification exercise at the CPB on 19 March 2012, only four pre-qualified bidders were invited to submit their bid, and the deadline was 24 April 2012. I am submitting a copy of that bid document also, so that there can be full transparency in this case.

The scope of the works and services comprise five components, as follows -

- (i) Component A consists of the supply, installation and commissioning of 50 fixed photographic speed enforcement cameras along black spot areas where speed related accidents have been registered.
- (ii) Component B consists of the supply and commissioning of six mobile photographic speed enforcement cameras mountable on tripod.
- (iii) Component C consists of the supply of equipment and setting up of a Back Office IT System and network, with secured and tamper proof software to process speed violation.
- (iv) Component D consists of provision of services required for proper operation of the net photographic speed enforcement camera system by trained officers, using appropriate software under close supervision of Police Officers of Police Traffic Branch (PEU) and Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit.
- (v) Component E consists of maintenance services and regular calibration of the equipment, and also the services of expert witness to testify calibration in Court.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to part (c), I wish to inform the House that only two bidders responded out of the four pre-qualified bidders, namely -

1. TMT Services & Supplies (Pty) Ltd, (S. Africa) – for the sum of Rs167,535,118 (VAT included for local components only), and
2. Proguard Ltd. (Mtius) – for the sum of Rs171,126,111.10 (VAT inclusive).

Public opening of the bids was held on 24 April 2012 at the CPB.

The name of the successful bidder is Proguard Ltd, and the corrected value of contract is Rs149,705,314.00 plus VAT. That comes to Rs172,161,111.10.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Mr Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister inform the House whether he was the campaign manager of Ward 5 of the recent municipal election, where a base *travalliste* was erected at Proguard Office?

**Mr Speaker:** This question is not allowed.

Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Now that we know that it is a private firm which is supplying these cameras, I have a few questions with regard to that issue. First, whether the officers of this private firm are bound by the Official Secret Act. Second, what action has been taken with regard to their database; whether they comply with the Database Act?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me, on this issue, to clarify a few points. Apprehensions have been expressed by certain quarters on some operational aspects of the system. To dissipate these apprehensions, the whole process had been reviewed, and the Police have been made to take over all the critical activities. Besides those tasks which were performed by the contractor, a few tasks are also closely supervised by the Police. The latter is predominantly in charge and responsible for the Speed Camera Scheme, and the contractor only acts as a facilitator by providing technology solutions under Police supervision.

The Back Office is entirely under the responsibility of the Police, and the contractor does not have access to the database of the National Transport Authority. These new arrangements are already in place since 16 May 2013, following a meeting which involved the Police, the contractor and my Ministry. I would like to reiterate that we have about 11 Policemen under the supervision of one Senior Police Officer, one Sergeant, who is looking after all these operations.

So, the involvement of the private contractor has been more or less eliminated. He is left with only a few officers.

**Mr Baloomoody:** One Police Officer came on the radio and said that the data is given to the Police; the Police vet the document, and then decide to prosecute or to serve notice on the drivers. Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister what exactly the Police do when they say that they vet the document? Because, apparently, the private firm does not have the data regarding the owners of the vehicles! So, may I know whether there is an element of interference at this stage, at least by the Police?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, that's why I have mentioned since the very beginning - and I want to make everything clear - that there have been apprehensions and that is the reason why a few functions which were occupied by the private operator have already been taken off. If the Members can bear with me, I will just explain the different steps that are being utilised in processing of those offences. There are 11 Police Officers who operate the system. The Officers are assisted by a few members of the staff of Proguard only for administrative work. This system follows a sequential flow from the instant a speed camera flashes a speeding vehicle to the moment the violation is posted to the offender.

The general systematic flow of events is as follows: number one, the speed camera detects a speeding vehicle and flashes it. A photograph of the vehicle is taken and instantly transmitted to the Back Office through wireless technology. The photograph is securely received on the server of the back office in coded format, that is, it is encrypted. The photograph is then transformed into a comprehensive format, that is, it is decrypted and downloaded by tamper-proof software to another server. The decrypted photograph is distributed to ten workstations and processed by specially designed tamper-proof software called draftsman. The draftsman software is operated by print Police Officers. The draftsman software identifies the registration number plate of the vehicle and matches it with the NTA database which is daily being transferred to a dedicated computer at the Photographic Enforcement Unit. The process to transfer the information from the NTA to Photographic Enforcement Unit is ensured by the Central Information Systems Division of the Police of Government. Particulars of the vehicle such as the owner are obtained without human intervention. The photograph cannot be deleted from the system and the information received from the process is validated by the Police Officers for

prosecution. Once the Police Officers have validated the prosecution, the staff of Proguard Ltd starts procedures to dispatch same to the offender. It should be noted that similar processes and procedures are in place in other countries where Truvelo Manufacturers Pty (Ltd.) had provided the speed cameras and this is how it works. So that is the reason why I believe there has not been too much intervention of the private contractor.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. The hon. Vice-Prime Minister said that the tender price for Proguard Ltd. is around Rs149 m. without VAT. Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether this price includes all the five components mentioned in the specific procurement notice and also the origin of the cameras?

**Mr Bachoo:** Yes. It includes all the prices and, at the same time, I would hasten to add that, according to section 33 of the general conditions of the contract, the scope of work, that is what we have changed likely and, of course, it will be in relation to the services provided by the contractor, that is, what you are going to pay and we have also put up a diligence committee to look into this.

**Mr Jugnauth:** May I know from the hon. Vice- Prime Minister why the services of the private company have been sought in this case and public money being spent when, in fact, the Police has the required staff and the expertise to carry out this same exercise.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in the beginning, we had a problem of human resources I have to admit and secondly, the Police did not have that expertise in that particular field and that is the reason we had to seek the services...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence, allow the Minister to explain.

**Mr Bachoo:** ...to monitor the particular system and that is the reason why we had recourse to the private contractor.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. There are already existing speed cameras before the new tender was launched. May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister the precise expertise, experience which Proguard Ltd. has in speed cameras in Mauritius?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, as far as the tender is concerned, neither my Ministry nor any Department of my Ministry is responsible for it. That was an open bidding. They participated into it. I am not here to pass comments on that. I have got a copy of the award which the Central Procurement Board has made and I am going to submit a copy but, unfortunately, I am not in a position on to pass comments on the decision taken by the Central Procurement Board.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Lesjongard!

**Mr Lesjongard:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. One of the problems that drivers have been facing since the installation of those cameras is the flashing of the cameras at lower speed. In his reply, the Vice-Prime Minister, with regard to the project description, mentioned five components and he stated that component (e) is related to maintenance services and regular calibration of the equipment, but I did not hear him saying regular calibration of the equipment from an independent recognised laboratory. It is there in the tender documents. Now, may I ask the Vice-Prime Minister to give the name of that independent recognisable factory laboratory which is going to calibrate the equipment?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I'll try to find out the answer. I don't have the exact name definitely. Secondly, there is one more question which was asked by the hon. Member. Of course, that aspect is being looked into by an independent calibration committee. Once I get the name, I am going to submit it.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo!

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House what criteria has been used to install these speed cameras in different places and can we know how many speed cameras have been installed in Plaines Wilhems; how many in Constituency No. 9 and how many in Constituency...

**Mr Speaker:** I have to interrupt the hon. Member. He is putting too many questions at the same time. It should be one question.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, at the end of the documents which I have submitted, you will find all the dark spots which have been detected not by me but rather by the Traffic Management Authority and the Road Safety Unit as well as the Police. They have put up the list of, I think, thirty and then apart from the thirty, there are places of not only thirty black spots but one black spot can range from half a kilometre to two kilometres or one kilometre. There are places where two speed cameras have been installed. This has been taken care of by the Police Department and the Traffic Management Unit.

**Mr Bhagwan:** I heard the Central Procurement Board issuing the tenders and doing the procedure. Has there been any technical input or otherwise from the Ministry? From the impression which is being gathered – I won't go into details – there is an impression that the cake has been cooked for Proguard Ltd. So, ...

**Mr Speaker:** No, no, no!

*(Interruptions)*

Put your question! Manage how you will put a question, but making a statement no.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can I ask the Vice-Prime Minister, following information we have received that the project was tailor-made for Proguard Ltd., whether there was...

**Mr Speaker:** No, the hon. Member is making an allegation. It does not form part of the question.

**Mr Bhagwan:** I am asking the Vice-Prime Minister, Sir, in the public interest ...

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Bhagwan, put your question, please!

**Mr Bhagwan:** In his own interest, ....

**Mr Speaker:** Put your question, please! Put it with a smile, hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** I am always smiling, Sir. Can I ask the Vice-Prime Minister what he really has to say to the Mauritian people, the taxpayers that this contract was not tailor-made for Proguard Ltd.?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, that is the reason, since the very beginning I submitted the two documents which are made public. There hasn't been any type of hidden agenda on the part of the Ministry because the responsibility is for the Central Procurement Board; they have taken

their decision. An Expression of interest was called and then the tenders were invited. In the beginning, there were about ten; it was shortlisted to four. Two of them participated. The Central Tender Board did its work. We had nothing to do with it. We have to accept it and that's why I am submitting a copy of the award.

**Mr Baloomoody:** One of the complaints with these speed cameras is that, very often, they flash when you are not speeding and the reply from the Police is that: 'Don't worry when this comes to *Casernes Centrales* we won't sue you because we will vet, we will select only those who are speeding'. So, there is room for Police to interfere. Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister tell us whether there is room for Police to interfere, especially when the cameras are auto servicing?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, one guarantee I can give to the House is that, on the part of the Police, there won't be any selective things but I have to inform the House that – I use the word, I have to use it properly – a slight technical mistake has been detected and it has already been corrected. That is the reason why experts have been called from abroad and they are working on that.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question, hon. Dr. Sorefan!

**Dr. Sorefan:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. One of the components mentioned is component (d), I quote: 'Software and services for processing the speed limit violation by trained officers integrating the previous Back Office in the new network.' Can the hon. Minister confirm whether that previous Back Office, that is, from the Police Department, is the property of the Government and under the control of the Mauritius Police Force? Is it legal for the private sector to acquire this previous back-up and whether it is a perpetual contract?

**Mr Bachoo:** I have mentioned that the Police have taken a hundred percent control of the whole system. Now, it is the Police who are controlling.

**Mr Jugnauth:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am drawing your attention because I had a question put precisely on that issue. I heard the hon. Vice-Prime Minister saying that the Police do not have the necessary expertise in regard to this issue. May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister how Proguard Ltd. has better expertise and experience with regard to managing those specific equipment?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, there might have been other experts whom they have called from abroad, but I have only mentioned that there are certain sections which the Police were not looking into. Now that we have taken over, we have requested the Police to look into those things and they have agreed. They have got only a skeleton staff to support us in our administrative work that is on the responsibility of Proguard Ltd..

**Mr Speaker:** This question has been sufficiently aired, but I can see the interest of Members. I'll allow only two more questions, one last for the author of the question.

*(Interruptions)*

Well, I use my discretion. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Now that we have learned from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister that during the recent period, there have been some problems with these cameras and experts have come from abroad to look into it, can I ask him whether he is prepared to give an amnesty for all those who have been caught recently because there are also some problems with these cameras - it is a fact? Let's start anew, let us say, in a few weeks' time.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Member, that may go against your professional interests. Yes, hon. Vice-Prime Minister!

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, the experts have come from Truvelo which is a manufacturing company. They have come from that institution from South Africa. Secondly, we have already referred the matter to the State Law Office to seek advice on the request which the hon. Member has made.

**Dr. Sorefan:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give the opportunity to my friend, hon. Lesjongard, to ask the last question.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Member, you do not decide for the Chair. Time is up! Next question!

### **BUS SERVICE – ROUTES NOS. 5, 58 & 243**

**(No. B/336) Mrs J. Radegonde-Haines (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the buses servicing Route No. 5, from Baie

du Cap to Quatre Bornes and Route No. 243, from Chamarel to Rivière Noire, to and from, and Route No. 58, Chamarel *via* Case Noyale and Rivière Noire, he will state if it has been observed in each case that the timing thereof is erratic, that they run at fast speed and are very poorly maintained and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken in relation thereto.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the National Transport Authority that services along Route Nos. 5 and 243 are presently regularly disrupted because of road works at Quatre Bornes and Palma. As regards Route No. 58, no disruption has been noted.

The service is constantly being monitored by the inspectorate to ensure that the travelling public in general benefits from a satisfactory level of service. Checks on buses are also being carried out regularly to urge operators to maintain their buses in good running condition.

So far, no complaints have been received about over speeding.

I am also informed that a meeting with the President of the Black River District Council and other village councillors was held at the National Transport Authority on Thursday 09 May 2013 to examine the transport situation along Route No. 5 and to initiate remedial actions.

**Mrs Radegonde-Haines:** Mr Speaker, Sir, from my information, buses on the following Route Nos. 5, 58 and 243 still run on an erratic timetable, fast speed and poorly maintained. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister tell us whether he will plan tougher legislative measures to put pressure on both the private and public bus companies serving these routes?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, my hon. friend, Hervé Aimée also raised up the issue and I have submitted to him a list of the decisions that we have taken.

Mr Speaker, Sir, 20 buses owned by individual operators are licensed to operate along Route No. 5 (Quatre Bornes to Baie du Cap). It is important for me to inform the House that 14 buses start operation at Quatre Bornes and 6 buses start operation at Baie du Cap.

The first bus leaves Quatre Bornes (Jules Koenig Square) at 05.10 hrs and buses operate at intervals of 15 to 20 minutes between 05.10 hrs in the morning till and 06.30 hrs in the afternoon. In all, 48 trips are performed throughout the day amongst which 14 trips are performed *via* Le Morne Beach. That concerns Route No. 5.

The running time from Quatre Bornes to Baie du Cap is 1 hr 50 mins. Stand Regulators are posted at different points at Bambous and Black River to ensure that the running time is observed failing which a suspension of two hours is inflicted to those buses. However, due to road works at Quatre Bornes and Palma, the operation of buses is regularly disrupted.

The operation of buses along Route No. 5 is regularly being monitored with a view to keeping a satisfactory standard of service.

The four short services in the direction of Quatre Bornes are performed during weekdays

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- From Cotteau Raffin at 06.15 hrs and 06.35 hrs, and
- From Cascavelle at 11.55 hrs and 17.35 hrs.

As regards Route No. 243, two buses operate along that Route (Quatre Bornes to Chamarel *via* Case Noyale). The first trip from Quatre Bornes is released at 06.25 hrs in the morning while bus operation starts at 05.00 hrs from Chamarel. Eight trips are performed each way. The running time of buses from Chamarel to Quatre Bornes and *vice versa* is 1 hr 30 mins. However, in this case also, due to road works at Quatre Bornes and Palma, the running time is disturbed.

There are two buses which are licensed to operate along Route No. 58 (Chamarel to Chamarel *via* Case Noyale, Rivière Noire, Le Morne, Baie du Cap and Choisy) and the journey is covered in 90 minutes.

The first bus starts its operation from Chamarel at 05.50 hrs and the last bus from Chamarel is at 17.15 hrs in the afternoon. A total of eight trips are performed daily.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have given all the details but, at the same time, I will request the inspectors of the MPA to have a look at it and to monitor closely the situation.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question!

**Mrs Radegonde-Haines:** Mr Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Vice-Prime Minister aware that since 2008, Saint Esprit College has been requesting two school buses? However, one additional bus has been added on Route No. 5 for the children going to SSS College La Gaulette, from Quatre Bornes to La Gaulette and vice versa and no decision has been taken yet for the children

attending Saint Esprit College, Rivière Noire, and how he intends to solve this persistent problem.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, we do not have dedicated buses. The number of buses which are in demand is very difficult for either NTA to meet. That is the reason why we are providing the regular buses but, at the same time, I can assure the House that, in fact, we are looking into these problems. Concerning Saint Esprit College, we have received many letters from them. I will try to see if we can increase the number of buses in that region.

**Mr Ganoo:** Has the hon. Vice-Prime Minister been informed that on most of these lines there is a problem of illegal operators who contribute to disrupt the system and has he received representations also that there is a problem of effective and appropriate monitoring from the part of the NTA Officers?

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, we have booked many illegal operators. In many cases, we have put the cancellation in the utilisation of their contract vans and buses. We have done that, but we will try to continue monitoring the situation.

#### **PETITE RIVIERE NOIRE - CHEMIN BARACHOIS – DRAINS**

**(No. B/337) Mrs J. Radegonde-Haines (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to Chemin Barachois, at Petite Rivière Noire, he will state if there is any project for the construction of drains thereat and, if not, why not.

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that a drain of a length of 90 metres already exists along the Barachois Road at Petite Rivière, but which has no outlet to the sea due to the topography of the region, the land is lower than the sea level.

I am further advised that an alternative solution would have been the construction of an absorption pit. However, from observations made on site, it is noted that seawater oozes out of the land and in which case, the solution is not feasible.

I am informed that a proper study is therefore being envisaged by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping to explore other solutions.

**Mrs Radegonde-Haines:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I heard the hon. Vice-Prime Minister making his point but, in the meanwhile, can I ask him to make sure that the contractors carry out regular maintenance in the region at least once a week?

**Mr Aimée:** Unless the hon. Member is mentioning the cleaning, then, yes.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question, hon. Quirin!

### NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL - BOARD MEETINGS

**(No. B/338) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the National Youth Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the number of Board meetings held, since September 2012 to date, indicating the name of the chairperson thereof in each case.

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the National Youth Council that six Board meetings have been held since September 2012 to date. The Board meeting held on 06 September 2012 was chaired by Mr Jawahar Lall Athal, Chairman of the National Youth Council. The five Board meetings held thereafter, were chaired by the Acting Chairman, Mr Putchay, who is none other than the Director of Youth Affairs of my Ministry.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, est-ce que l'honorable ministre des Sports peut nous dire si le poste de président du NYC est un poste à plein temps ou à temps partiel?

**Mr Ritoo:** He is a part-time Chairman.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, le ministre des Sports peut-il nous dire si malgré son absence du pays - je suppose que le président est absent du pays - il perçoit toujours ses allocations ?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, actually he is not receiving any money.

**Mr Uteem:** Can I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister for how long has Mr A. been absent from Mauritius?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, the Chairman was appointed on 17 May 2012 and I was informed on 06 December 2012 that he had gone on a personal mission to UK. He was not in Mauritius and, in fact, he had been Acting Chairman up to November 2012 because it is only

after I received a letter that he was on a special mission in UK that he was replaced by the Director of Youth Affairs of my Ministry.

**Mr Quirin:** Est-ce qu'on peut savoir, M. le président, si à son retour au pays il compte reprendre son poste ou est-ce que le ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports compte le remplacer?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am waiting for the Chairman to be back. In fact, I understand that he is coming to Mauritius during the weekend and I will be meeting him on Monday to decide.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, est-ce que le ministre est au courant qu'il y a des informations qui circulent sur Internet et entre autres sur *Facebook* à l'effet que le *Chairman* du NYC - je dis bien ce sont des informations, ce ne sont pas des allégations qui circulent - ne possède pas les qualifications dont il prétend détenir ? Est-ce que le ministre peut éclairer la Chambre et ainsi dissiper les malentendus en demandant à Monsieur Athal de bien vouloir lui remettre ses qualifications et ainsi le ministre pourrait déposer des copies certifiées de ses qualifications ?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact I have got the CV of the Chairman. I want to inform the hon. Member that the choice of the Chairman of the National Youth Council was not based on academic qualifications, but rather on his outstanding youth leadership capabilities. In fact, twice he has been the winner of the Youth Excellence Award of the Ministry. He was winner of the Youth Leadership and Community Work and Entrepreneurship and Initiatives. He has a wide international exposure on several conferences. In fact, he was present on the Young World Summit in UK, in the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore, in the International Youth Saliger Award in Russia, International Youth Climate Forum in Indonesia and the Sixth International Peace Festival in India.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Mr Ritoo:** So, he was chosen Chairman based on his experience.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question!

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, avec votre permission, je demanderais à l'honorable ministre de bien vouloir vérifier si tout ce qui est mentionné dans le CV est effectivement vrai parce que les informations que je détiens font mention aussi que pas mal de choses ont été ajoutées.

**Mr Ritoo:** I have got his CV with me.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question, hon. Quirin!

### **JUDO REPUBLIC CUP 2013 – PARTICIPANT - INJURY**

**(No. B/339) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Judo Republic Cup 2013 held on 06 April at the Dojo de Beau Bassin, he will state if –

- (a) all the participants thereof were licensees of the Mauritius Judo Federation, and
- (b) if he is aware that A. P., a participant thereof, was severely injured in the course thereof and, if so, the actions taken by his Ministry in relation thereto, as at to date.

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to inform the House that the Judo Republic Cup is an annual regional competition featuring on the calendar of activities of the Mauritius Judo Federation. I am also informed that on 15 March 2013 the Federation gave its approval to the *École de Judo* of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill for the organisation of this year's edition at the Dojo of Beau Bassin which was held on 06 April 2013.

I am informed that all participants held a license from the Federation, except 11 of them whose applications were still being processed.

Normally, applications for licenses are made by athletes to the Federation through their respective coaches. The coach who was responsible for the competition had in January 2013 submitted a first batch of five applications to the Federation for processing. Those applications were still under consideration by the Federation.

Another batch of six applications were received by the coach since February 2013 but not yet submitted to the Federation. This batch included the application of A. P.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that pending the issue of new licences or their renewal, athletes are normally allowed to participate in regional competitions with their parents' consent. I am informed that A. P. had his parents' consent.

Unfortunately, he got injured during the competition. I am informed that he had a dislocated elbow. Immediately after his injury, A. P. was taken to the hospital for treatment. Subsequently, his parents transferred him to a private clinic.

I personally contacted the parents of the athlete to enquire about his health and have, exceptionally, approved a request from the Federation to support financially the medical expenses incurred in this case. Secondly, I am impressing on all Federations to have an insurance policy to cover their licensees and other participants during training and competition as provided for in the Sports Act. This will become a screening criterion for disbursement of funds by my Ministry as from 2014.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am indeed very much concerned about this incident. I have therefore set up a committee to enquire about the exact circumstances of the incident and to situate responsibilities.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, si j'ai bien compris le ministre dans sa réponse, j'aimerais quand même lui demander s'il confirme que le judoka A. P. avait une licence de la Fédération au moment de sa participation à cette compétition?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I stated in my answer that the coach was processing the license of the applicant. Normally, a coach makes an application to the Federation when he receives a batch of licenses.

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, peut-on savoir si au moment de la compétition, le judoka avait sa licence pour participer à cette compétition?

**Mr Ritoo:** It was submitted to the Federation for processing.

**Mr Quirin:** Donc, j'aimerais que le ministre nous explique comment un jeune débutant dans cette discipline a pu participer. Il est clair qu'il a participé sans licence, M. le président, avec les conséquences qu'on connaît. Donc, j'aimerais que le ministre nous dise si la Fédération avait donné son feu vert pour l'organisation de cette compétition et si au préalable elle s'était assurée que les règlements et conditions de participation étaient respectés.

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Federation that they gave consent for the holding of this competition and also, the coach informed the Ministry that she got the consent of the parents to allow the athlete to participate.

**Mrs Ribot:** J'aimerais savoir de l'honorable ministre - si je comprends bien il y a eu un comité disciplinaire qui a été institué - si l'entraîneur a été suspendu ou non, et si oui, comment cela se fait que l'entraîneur a été suspendu avant les conclusions de ce comité disciplinaire?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no disciplinary committee; it is only a committee at the level of my Ministry, headed by the Director of Sports to enquire. And more so, the coach is an Officer of my Ministry and she has not been suspended.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question, hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** M. le président, est-ce que le ministre peut nous dire si tous les participants à cette compétition étaient couverts par une police d'assurance?

**Mr Ritoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I stated in my answer about the insurance policy. We are, now, at the level of my Ministry, setting up a committee to help the Federation. We have 39 sports Federations but not all of them are able to insure - mainly in that combat sports because at some point in time due to high cost in the insurance policy the Federations are not able to get all their licensees insured. I am proposing to set up a committee at the level of my Ministry to help the Federations in the insurance cover of all their athletes.

### **MATERNAL DEATH - INQUIRIES**

(No. B/340) **Ms S. Anquetil (Fourth Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the Fact-Finding Committee set up to look into the maternal death of one Mrs C. D. and of one Mrs B. I., reported in October 2012, he will state where matters stand as to the inquiries carried out thereinto.

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, a Fact-Finding Committee has been set up to carry out an in-depth enquiry into three cases of maternal deaths, including those of Mrs C. D. and Mrs B. I. I am informed that the hearing of all witnesses in the three cases has been completed and that the report and findings will be submitted around mid-June 2013.

**Ms Anquetil:** Can the hon. Minister state if a copy of the report will be tabled at the National Assembly?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I am afraid that a full-fledged copy of the report would not be tabled at the National Assembly, but an executive summary of the report may be submitted to the National

Assembly. I can assure the hon. Member that the heirs of those deceased, on request, would be given a copy of the relevant part of the report for them to consider.

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is now standard procedure to have Fact-Finding Committees on every case of suspicious deaths or alleged negligence in hospitals and what about the judicial inquiry following a Police investigation?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not normal procedure, but pending such time that we review the Medical Council, especially in cases where at the level of the Ministry, we consider them to be grave and serious enough and to ensure that they are speedy with regard to findings, we would and shall continue to apply a Fact-Finding Committee. Hopefully, once we review the Medical Council and the way it conducts its inquiry, I am sure we would depart from this methodology.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** Can I know from the hon. Minister whether the Medical Practitioner involved in these cases has been interdicted for negligence in the past?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, unfortunately, I do not have the information at hand.

**Dr. S. Boolell:** May I ask the hon. Minister what is the time frame for this Fact-Finding Committee?

**Mr Bundhoo:** As I said earlier, in this specific Fact-Finding Committee there were three cases and we expect it to be over within six months.

**Mr Uteem:** May I know from the hon. Minister, with respect to these three deaths, whether the matter is also being inquired by the Police or has the Fact-Finding Committee usurped the constitutional role of the Police in this country?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I am afraid we have not usurped the role of the Police; that is not the case. But, once the findings are being tabled in my Ministry, they will be given on request to the family, while respecting the confidentiality nature of the findings and recommendations. If the Police require the findings, they are going to be sent to them. I have to inform the House that the recommendations and findings will be used to initiate disciplinary measures as and when required.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Mr Speaker, Sir, just to follow the question of my learned colleague, hon. Uteem regarding the Fact-Finding Committee, may I ask the hon. Minister who is chairing that Fact-Finding Committee and whether all the exhibits, the books, the personal files of these three cases have been secured so that in case they need to take further action - be it civil or criminal - their relatives will get possession of these documents?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, Magistrate Seebaluck is presiding over the Fact-Finding Committee and all the documentary evidence, including the findings and the report will be submitted to the Police on request.

**Ms Anquetil:** M. le président, étant donné qu'il est difficile pour les parents des victimes d'obtenir seuls les informations, est-ce que l'honorable ministre pourrait indiquer à la Chambre, s'il compte intervenir pour pallier au manque de communication et d'explication entre les médecins et les parents des victimes?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I humbly request the hon. Member, once the report is being tabled in my Ministry, she can accompany those people - in her Constituency - who are concerned with this and we will be very pleased to hand over a brief to them. But I have to insist on one thing: this is with regard to the medical reports and all the findings. Confidentiality has to be maintained at all time.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he will consider setting up a Fact-Finding Committee following the death of the baby who was burned in an incubator and died afterwards?

**Mr Bundhoo:** This has already been done, Mr Speaker, Sir, and the Senior Magistrate, Mrs Ratna Seetohul, is already presiding over it.

**Ms Anquetil:** Can the hon. Minister state the composition of the Fact-Finding Committee and how many times they met?

**Mr Bundhoo:** They have met - if I am not mistaken - at least 15 times. The composition is -

- Magistrate R. Seebaluck (Intermediate Court, new Court House Port Louis) - Chairperson;
- Dr. Jean Claude Ng Fat Cheong – retired Consultant;

- Mr Peeroo, PAS - Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and
- Mr Mookram Munboth, Principal Court Officer - acted as Secretary.

**Mr Ganoo:** Can I ask the hon. Minister whether the parents of the victims, of the deceased were informed that they had a right to be represented by Counsel, who could have kept a watching brief during the proceedings of this inquiry?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I have every reason to believe that it would have been the duty of the Senior Magistrate to invite the parents of the deceased person to be accompanied, if they so wish and to depone before the Fact-Finding Committee.

**Mr Ganoo:** Can the hon. Minister inform us whether it did happen that way? Was there any lawyer keeping a watching brief for the victims or parents of the victims?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I am not so sure whether this happens this way. With regard to the case that was raised earlier by hon. Jhugroo concerning the child who passed away at the Flacq Hospital, I have personally received the father, the mother, the paternal grandfather and grandmother. I have talked to them. I have informed them that I have set up a Fact-Finding Committee and I have personally invited them. It is not my responsibility as such, but I have done it in good spirit because of what has happened to this child. I consider it quite normal and moral also to phone and invite them in my office and talk to them.

**Mr Jugnauth:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether in cases of death or where there is alleged medical negligence, the responsible parties upon request to have access to medical documents, are granted the facility to obtain those medical records and documents?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I can assure the hon. Member that this is exactly the instructions that I have given. They should be able to have access to the medical records of these persons, as I have said to hon. Ms Anquetil earlier, but we have to ensure confidentiality at all times.

#### **TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES - ORANGE - DISRUPTION**

**(No. B/341) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to Orange, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Information and Communication Technologies Authority, information as to if there has been a disruption in the

mobile telecommunication services thereof, on Friday 03 May 2013 and, if so, indicate if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I shall reply to PQ Nos. B/341 and PQ B/364 together as they relate to the same issue. One question is from hon. Fakeemeeah and the other from hon. Ameer Meea.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the ICT Authority that some disruptions were experienced in the mobile telecommunication services of Cellplus, especially in the region of Port Louis on 30 March and 03 May 2013. Upon my request, Mr Speaker, Sir, the ICT Authority conducted an inquiry into the causes of the breakdown. The ICT Authority has informed that the cause of the outage was a sudden network saturation in Port Louis area where the main switching centre of Cellplus is located, resulting in an abnormal surge of call attempts from subscribers being made within a very short span of time on those days. The onset of the surge coincided with the time when flash floods occurred on 30 March 2013, and also at the time when the tragic road accident happened at Sorèze, Pailles, on 03 May 2013. The disruptions lasted for around two hours in the first case, and around half an hour in the second case. In both cases, Mr Speaker, Sir, the total number of call attempts made during those periods was much more than the normal call rate expected.

The ICT Authority has not taken any sanction against the licensee in view of clause 24 issued of the licence to Cellplus relating to an 'Excused Non-Performance Clause', which provides for the licensee to be excused from performance only to the extent, and for so long as such performance is substantially hindered or prevented by war, civil disturbances, strikes, natural disaster, fire, explosion, other public emergencies or any other occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the licensee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as regards part (b) of PQ No. B/364, I am informed by the ICT Authority that, in a competitive market, it is not convenient at all for authorities to impose a limit on the number of subscribers per operator, to ensure quality of service. However, a quality of service framework can be developed and imposed on operators. In this context, Government has, on 19 April 2013, agreed to the ICT Authority setting up a National Quality of Service Framework for Broadband Internet Services, to better monitor the quality of services offered by

Internet Service Providers, and the framework will also be applicable to other telecommunication services, with a view to enabling -

- (a) operators to determine their service level and subsequently plan their network investment and capacity requirements, and
- (b) consumers to know whether they are receiving value for money.

Moreover, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no provision in the ICT Act presently for the ICT Authority to impose sanction on operators for breach of provisions in their licences. My Ministry is working in close collaboration with the ICT Authority and the Attorney General's Office to bring amendments to the ICT Act, to empower the ICT Authority to take sanctions against defaulters.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Minister why is it that the disruption happened only to 'Orange' and not to other operators?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have been given to understand from the Group Orange itself that there was a saturation of the *réseau*. In fact, the home location register, which is responsible for that, is now being looked into. They will install a new one. I understand it has already been done, and has been in operation since 20 May 2013, that is, yesterday.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has intervened to compensate the users for their loss of usage on both dates.

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** It is not possible for me to look into it, but anyway, Mr Speaker, Sir, as I mentioned in my answer itself, there are certain instances where the regulator cannot intervene because we have to go according to what our law says. Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, we are looking into section 24 of the ICT Act. Most probably, in the course of this term itself, we are going to bring the necessary amendments before the House because if we have to sue Mauritius Telecom, it must be on conviction that they can be fined. As we know, only the Courts that have the power to convict, and that is why we are going to amend the law to make provision for that.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I make an appeal to the hon. Minister, so that this kind of situation does not happen again, especially to Cellplus, and whether he can convey this message to his good friend, Mr Sarat Lallah?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! Hon. Ameer Meea, I have to draw your attention that you have to put a question. You can't make appeal during question time.

**Mr Roopun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, following the saturation which occurred on 13 February and 30 March, I did put a PQ here regarding the reasons, and in a written reply, the hon. Minister stated that, as from 30 April, there would be an upgrading of the system. Now, a few days thereafter, we have this failure again on 03 May. Can the hon. Minister give us an explanation why, after supposedly there has been an upgrading of the system effective as from 30 April, a few days thereafter there was again the same failure?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** The hon. Member can understand, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we have said that new technologies will be introduced. But, in fact, when we introduce it, we will not get the result immediately. We have to work it out, and as I have mentioned in my reply, the new technology which we have introduced, that is, the home location register, has already been installed and it has been in operation since 20 May, that is, yesterday.

**Mr Uteem:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, answering to a PQ on why 'Orange' did not work on 14 February, gave exactly the same answer he is giving today. Doesn't he think that the ICTA, as regulator, has the power, and should impose conditions on the licensee 'Orange', so that everybody is serviced, even in times of crisis?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, my good friend seems to forget that the ICT Act was introduced before this House in the year 2003, and at that time no provision was made in the law insofar as sanction is concerned.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as we all know, *il n'y a pas de dispositions sans texte*. What we have to do, Mr Speaker, Sir, is come with new amendments, and this is being catered for in the new sets of amendments which we are going to introduce in the coming days.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether this situation will be sufficient enough for the hon. Minister to see to it that new players join the market because of the incapacity of 'Orange' to deliver the goods to the population.

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** I must say that I am very pleased by the question which is being put by the hon. Member. Mr Speaker, Sir, for new operators to come, you must create ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Well, I am sorry. Members should not interrupt the hon. Minister! He is answering! How many Ministers of IT do we have in this House? Only one! Please, answer your question. I don't want any interruption from any quarters.

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, when we amended our legislation through the Finance Act last year, new players like Belgacom have come. When we have opened the landing station, Belgacom, a foreign operator, has come to Mauritius. It has already launched its office one or two weeks ago. You will see for yourself that this will transform *le paysage informatique à Maurice*.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Will the hon. Minister agree with me that the network went down because of the inadequate powerful servers used by 'Orange'?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the question has already been answered since day one. In fact, there has been saturation. We all know that the existing technology cannot answer the needs of the great demand that we have today. We have already introduced the home location register which has already been installed and has been operational since yesterday. So, you have to wait for some time to see whether the situation will occur again, or not.

**Mr Jugnauth:** With regard to the National Quality Framework that the hon. Minister has just evoked, may I know if there is a Committee which has been set up to look into that and, if yes, may I know who are the members of that Committee and how the Government is proceeding about it?

**Mr Pillay Chedumbrum:** M. le président, on a eu l'aval du gouvernement à travers le Cabinet ministériel. Effectivement, l'ICTA a été autorisé à introduire un nouveau *software*, c'est-à-dire le *National Quality of Service Framework for Broadband Internet Services*. Pourquoi on introduit cela, c'est parce qu'on veut donner *value for money*. Aujourd'hui, vous achetez 2 mégabits, vous ne savez pas si vraiment vous avez des mégabits et là, avec ce *new software*, *Mr Speaker, Sir, everything will be monitored at the level of the regulator. So, there will be no problem about it and you will have value for money.*

**Mr Speaker:** Next question! Hon. Ameer Meea!

#### AGALEGA – AIRSTRIP - UPGRADING

(No. B/342) **Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to

Agalega, he will state the projects earmarked to be implemented thereat, indicating where matters stand as to the proposed upgrading of the airstrip thereat.

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the following projects have been earmarked in the PBB 2013 for implementation by the Outer Islands Development Corporation (OIDC) in Agalega -

- (i) construction of a Refugee Centre on South Island;
- (ii) construction of a duplex type quarters;
- (iii) purchase of equipment;
- (iv) purchase of a fire fighting vehicle, and
- (v) upgrading of the airstrip.

Mr Speaker, Sir, works for the construction of the Refugee Centre on the South Island which started last year, will be completed in this financial year, whilst procurement procedures have been initiated for the construction of a duplex type quarters for the benefit of the inhabitants of Agalega. As regards the procurement of equipment, two generators have been purchased and shipped to Agalega in February 2013. Furthermore, the procurement exercise for the acquisition of an Airport Crash and Rescue Fire Fighting Vehicle has been completed and the vehicle will be delivered shortly to IODC.

Mr Speaker, Sir, over and above the projects mentioned, the House may wish to note that the OIDC is also implementing a project for the creation of a Leisure Park at Village 25 in Agalega which is being funded by the Employees Welfare Fund to the tune of Rs1 m. Works have started and are expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to the project for the upgrading of the airstrip, I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply of the Parliamentary Question No. B/19 which I made on 26 March 2013, whereby I informed the House that the present tender exercise is being cancelled, being given that only one bidder has agreed to extend its bid validity. In the meantime, consultations are still underway with relevant stakeholders and alternative proposals are being examined for the implementation of the project.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, going to the issue of airstrip which has been long on the cards, the tender was launched on 04 October 2011 and it has been almost one and half years now that we understand that the tender has been cancelled and the hon. Minister just stated that consultation is on for the construction of this airstrip. Can I know from the hon. Minister if there is a new tender that will be launched or what will happen to this project?

**Mr Aimée:** Government is studying different avenues of doing this airstrip; not through tender, probably from G to G.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, sorry, I did not quite understand what the hon. Minister said.

**Mr Aimée:** Government to Government.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Minister which Government are we talking?

**Mr Aimée:** Up to now, it has not been disclosed. It is only the Prime Minister who has informed that they are trying to have discussion from G to G. I don't know which Government. I have not even asked.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this Government has the intention to upgrade the airstrip at Agalega and, if so, can we have a time frame? We cannot come and say that it is a PBB project or we are going to ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Put your question!

*(Interruptions)*

Silence!

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have explained that there are discussions between Government and Government...

*(Interruptions)*

That is the information I have. When the hon. Member asked if I can give a time frame, it would be difficult. *Je ne suis pas dans le secret des Dieux.*

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a serious matter and it is a pity that the hon. Minister is not taking this matter seriously. He does not know the problems that the people of Agalega are facing because of the bad state of the airstrip.

**Mr Speaker:** Just put your question!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Can I ask the hon. Minister if he is aware of the very bad state of the jetty which is found in Agalega? This is causing a lot of distress and discomfort to the people of Agalega because of the problem of disembarkation of the ship.

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in the Parliamentary Question the hon. Member has asked for various projects, including the airstrip.

*(Interruptions)*

Yes, but actually, there is no project for a jetty for the time being.

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr Ganoo:** Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that between the negotiations which have taken place between G and G, the options of a new airstrip or the rebuilding of the jetty were not considered as an option because another third possibility cropped up for the other G to touch base at Agalega?

**Mr Aimée:** No, Mr Speaker, Sir.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may go back to the question asked by hon. Ameer Meea, in the recent report drawn up by Mr Jimmy Harmon, emphasis is laid on the urgent necessity of either a wharf or acquisition of the beach vessel, being given the danger posed to people disembarking at Agalega and, linked to this, is the issue of disembarkment of goods that are shipped to Agalega. If that is not part of the projects, will he take a solemn undertaking before this House to urgently ensure that this project is addressed by Government?

**Mr Aimée:** Yes, Mr Speaker, Sir. We are doing our best. As I said, probably in the discussion between G and G, we probably will have the airstrip done and we probably would

have the jetty done. During the last seven years, I have been with the Agalean, working with them. I am concerned about that.

*(Interruptions)*

This is a few days ago, after Mr Jimmy Harmon, that I have seen so many people interested with Agalega.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, I am sorry to interrupt you. A question has been set; your responsibility is to answer the question.

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I can only answer questions which I have got the answers already with me ...

*(Interruptions)*

...or from the institution concerned. I can't answer - like somebody told me, Mr Speaker, Sir - when the airstrip will be done. As I have mentioned, there are discussions between Government and Government for that. I can't answer the question.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Being given that the jetty is in a very critical situation, will the hon. Minister consider having a port development mentioned during the discussions between G and G meeting which will be held soon?

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, this would be taken on board. I just mentioned it now.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! Silence, please! There is a question from hon. Jugnauth!

**Mr Jugnauth:** The hon. Minister has said that he is not aware of the discussions that are ongoing between this Government and the other Government. Can he inform this House, at least, who are the people on Government side who are aware about the identity of the other G?

**Mr Aimée:** I don't know.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! Yes, hon. Obeegadoo!

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the question concerns project implementation. Being given that it would appear that we are going round and round in circles concerning project

implementation, will the hon. Minister consider the request made last year in an open letter to the hon. Prime Minister by Father Labour that the whole of the O IDC be reorganised and that the Island Council be dissolved to be constituted anew as an Island Council representative of the people of Agalega?

**Mr Aimée:** M. le président, je pense que j'aurai l'occasion de mentionner cela au Premier ministre et au Cabinet, et certainement on va prendre cela en considération. Mais j'ai quand même fait une proposition qui est peut-être plus facile. Au lieu de faire l'aéroport – tout cela est en discussion - on aurait pu acheter un hydravion. Mais tout cela est à étudier. Ce n'est pas dans l'immédiat.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the subject matter of the question is about where matters stand as to the proposed upgrading of the airstrip and the hon. Minister said to the House that he is not aware. Since he is the hon. Minister responsible for Agalega and he is not aware of anything, should he not resign from his post?

**Mr Speaker:** Well, the hon. Minister has given the hon. Member an answer.

*(Interruptions)*

His answer may be a “no” answer, but this is an answer.

*(Interruptions)*

Unfortunately, I cannot compel the hon. Minister to answer! Last question, hon. Obeegadoo!

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in the recent report concerning Agalega, an important point made was the Educators posted at Agalega, the need to revisit present arrangements, looking on the one hand at the quality and commitment of Educators, on the other hand, of having an educational curriculum that takes on board the specificity of Agalega. May I know whether this is part of the projects being considered, and if so, what is being achieved so far?

**Mr Aimée:** M. le président, je remercie l'honorable membre pour cette question. C'est vrai que nous avons besoin de revoir le système d'éducation à Agalega. En 2008, on avait fait un collège pour les enfants qui venaient, à cette époque, après leur CPE, à Maurice. Il y a encore des problèmes de transport et de communication en général. Je pense qu'on a tout essayé, mais vu qu'on a ces problèmes de communication, c'est difficile. On est en train d'étudier aussi le

*distance learning*, mais les réseaux de communication à Agalega ne sont pas aussi performants qu'à Maurice. Même ici, à Maurice, nous nous plaignons du système d'Orange.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question!

### HIV/AIDS - MEASURES

**(No. B/343) Mr C. Fakeemeeah (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to HIV/AIDS, he will state the number of persons infected therewith, giving a breakdown gender-wise and indicating the measures taken by his Ministry in relation thereto.

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would kindly beg for the indulgence of the House because the reply is a little bit lengthy. If you decide at a point in time that I should circulate it, I will be happy to do that.

*(Interruptions)*

I am informed that as at date, a total of 5,577 persons, comprising of 4,412 males and 1,165 females were infected with HIV.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I wish to highlight that there has been a significant decrease in the overall number of new HIV cases detected since 2011. In fact, the monthly number of new cases registered in 2010 was 45 and it decreased to 33 in 2011 and further decreased to 27 in 2012. Furthermore, the number of new cases of HIV among males has decreased from 433 in 2010 to 298 in 2011 to 215 in 2012.

As regards the number of new cases of HIV among females, in 2010, 135 cases were registered, 103 in 2011 and 105 in 2012. In fact, more women are now coming forward for an HIV test following aggressive educational campaigns targeting women at community level.

With regard to the second part of the question, the decrease in the number of new cases detected has resulted from a series of measures which my Ministry has initiated. Allow me here to mention a few of them with the collaboration, of course, of the Secretariat for HIV which falls under the premises of the Prime Minister's Office.

- (i) The treatment, care and support services to people living with HIV and AIDS which were available only at Dr. A. F. Bouloux Area Health Centre until

September 2009, have been decentralised to other regions, namely at Volcy Pougnet CHC in the region of Dr. A.G. Jeetoo Hospital, Victoria Hospital, SSRN Hospital and the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital.

With this measure the number of HIV patients attending our Day Care Centres has increased. In 2009, 2,267 HIV patients representing 51% of registered cases were attending the centres while as to date, 4,274 patients, that is, 76.6% are attending the centres.

Likewise, the number of HIV patients who were adhering to the antiretroviral treatment has increased from 65% in 2009 to about 82% as at to date.

- (ii) The Harm Reduction Strategy, comprising the Methadone Substitution Therapy and the Needle Exchange Programmes to address the problem of transmission of HIV through injecting drug use, has been scaled up.

In fact, there was a constant increase in the number of new cases of HIV among People Who Inject Drugs. In 2001, injecting drug use represented 7% of the total number of new HIV cases detected and it is increased to 14% in 2002, 66% in 2003, to reach a peak of 92% in 2005. With the Harm Reduction Strategy which is being implemented since 2006, the number of new cases of HIV among drug use has decreased substantially from 86% in 2006 to 73% in 2010, to 68% in 2011 and to 47% in 2012.

- (iv) The HIV and AIDS Act 2006 aiming at amongst other things to address the problems of stigma and discrimination is being enforced. HIV testing has been made more accessible with the provision of voluntary testing in all Area Health Centres, Medi-clinics, Community Health Centres and Peripheral Hospitals. People are encouraged to undertake a test at any health point of their choice without fear in all confidentiality.

In this respect, I wish to point out that in 2005 the total number of HIV tests being carried out was 80,000. In 2012, 109,000 persons were tested for HIV, representing an increase over the years to 36.3%.

- (v) The prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) Programme which started in 1999 has been reinforced. A mobile team comprising, *inter alia*, Medical Officers, Specialised AIDS Nurses and Midwives has been set up since 2010 to track HIV pregnant women who are unwilling to come for treatment or to adhere to the PMTCT Programme.

With this measure, Mr Speaker, Sir, the percentage of HIV positive would-be-mothers attending the PMTCT Programme has increased from 68% in 2009 to 94% in 2012.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the other measures taken by my Ministry include -

- (i) the formulation and implementation of multi-sectoral National Strategic Frameworks 2007-2012 and 2013-2016;
- (ii) reinforcement of awareness, sensitisation and educational programmes in educational institutions as well as at workplace and in the community;
- (iii) conduct of targeted education and screening programmes for key affected persons, namely men having sex with men, commercial sex workers, prison inmates and seafarers and
- (iv) capacity building of health care workers and social workers.

Moreover, Mr Speaker Sir, the National AIDS Secretariat has been set up under the Prime Minister's Office in 2007 with a view to coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the multisectoral HIV and AIDS activities is also being extended to Rodrigues.

**Mr Fakeemeeah:** Although this long declaration of the hon. Minister, I would like to ask him still if the protocol can be reviewed to ensure more confidentiality as I have been informed that the number is significantly more consequent. And I just heard this last Sunday only the chief of the Catholic Church, Monsignor Piat, talking about this problem and saying that many persons do not come forward to carry out the HIV test.

**Mr Bundhoo:** Despite what the hon. Member has just said, I have just given the figures of how the sensitising campaign has been effective, and the number of people coming out to do the test has increased at least by 40% over the last years. Maybe I agree with the hon. Member that there is always room for improvement, but I would also request the hon. Member to understand that it is not compulsory for the Government of Mauritius to have HIV tested on

every citizen of this country. Therefore, as long as it is voluntarily, we are going to make all efforts to sensitise our people, the population, to have the test done.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon Bodha!

**Mr Bodha:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. May I ask the hon. Minister how is the situation in the prisons, because this is one of the areas where the prevalence is very, very high?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I didn't quite get the question of the hon. Member.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bodha:** How is the situation in the prisons where the prevalence is usually very high?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I will very humbly request the hon. Member to refer to the question that was answered by the hon. Prime Minister. It was a question that was put by hon. Ms Anquetil. I have the reply with me, I can give it to the hon. Member. The hon. Prime Minister has extensively replied to the HIV situation in the prisons as this falls within the ambit of the Prime Minister's Office. He has done so.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may! On this issue of prisons, there is a specific suggestion that has been made in this House by several colleagues such as hon. Dr. S. Boolell about the systematic screening or be it voluntary, but systematic screening, of prisoners when they arrive in the prisons and when they leave prisons so that we can target them as a vulnerable group.

*(Interruptions)*

I do not think that it is being done! Will the hon. Minister undertake to urgently look into the practicability of implementing ...

**Mr Bundhoo:** No, the hon. Prime Minister has replied specifically to this question. If I am not mistaken, it was hon. Dr. S. Boolell who has put this question to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Prime Minister has said that it is now a practice in the prison, as much as possible voluntarily, to test the inmates when they come in, and also to check them when they leave the prison and do everything if they are positive, to ensure about the medications, the facilities, the support. It has been answered by the hon. Prime Minister and action has already been initiated

with regard to that. I don't know who has put the question, but a Member has put the question. I have read them. I think it is hon. Dr. S. Boolell himself who did that.

**Mr Baloomoody:** One of the main complaints of the NGOs working in this sector is that the National AIDS Committee chaired by the hon. Prime Minister has not met for quite a long time. Can I ask the hon. Minister to inform the House when that Committee met for the last time?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I have to inform the hon. Member that may be the hon. Prime Minister has not chaired personally the National AIDS Committee, but Mrs Pathak who is the Director, has held several committees and I have myself met them. But what is most fundamental, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that it is only when hon. Dr. Navin Ramgoolam assumes office as Prime Minister, that he took over the HIV Committee, ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence, hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Bundhoo:** ... that it is over the last seven years that hon. Dr. Navin Ramgoolam as Prime Minister that HIV has decreased substantially; that it is hon. Dr. Navin Ramgoolam who has negotiated with GEF to ensure financial support from overseas in order to sustain the campaign with regard to HIV/AIDS in Mauritius. There is no other Prime Minister in Mauritius who has committed himself with HIV/AIDS other than hon. Dr. Navin Ramgoolam.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon Mrs Navarre-Marie!

**Mrs Navarre-Marie:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir, ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! There is a supplementary question now.

**Mrs Navarre-Marie:** The Minister has still not yet answered the question on when was the last meeting held and under whose chairmanship. And second, whether it is still the practice that an MP from the Opposition sits on that committee.

**Mr Speaker:** One question at a time!

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have just said that last year I have myself presided over a Committee with all the NGOs. Secondly, I have said that Mrs Pathak, delegated from the Prime Minister's Office, has presided over several committees. As to whether it is still the practice for a Member of the Opposition to sit in this committee, I don't know exactly what the practice is, but if this is a case, I am sure it will be done.

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister to give us the statistics of the age range of contracting the virus and at which age the virus infection is now peaking in both males and females? The age range!

**Mr Bundhoo:** I don't have the information at hand, but I will certainly circulate it, Mr Speaker, Sir.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Has the hon. Minister taken cognizance of the different comments made by genuine NGOs of Government's commitment and the personal commitment of the Minister to meet them and to work together? *Il y a un relâchement au niveau du gouvernement en ce qui s'agit de cette contrepartie gouvernement-NGO.*

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am going to repeat myself. It is because there has been permanent contact with NGOs, Prime Minister's Office, NATReSA and all those concerned that, today, we see the result from 98 in 2002 where it peaked to 538 in 2008 and today, in 2012, it is 320. Bottom line, that count is the result; HIV/AIDS is re-diminishing in Mauritius.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Can the hon. Minister table a copy of the meeting which he chaired?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Of course, I can do that, Mr Speaker, Sir.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. The hon. Minister has just said that the trend is downward, can he confirm that this is the case also for inmates in prisons, that the number of

HIV prisoners is going down and, if not, doesn't he agree that there is a blatant failure at the level of the Prime Minister's Office to reduce AIDS in prisons?

**Mr Bundhoo:** In fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is exactly the contrary because it is through the initiative of the Prime Minister and Prime Minister's Office that HIV testing, control and support has been introduced in the prisons.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Li Kwong Wing!

**Mr Li Kwong Wing:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Can the Minister inform the House what specific measures are taken by his Ministry to prevent discrimination against HIV patients in hospitals?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have just given a full lengthy reply with regard to the initiatives being given. In fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, there is no discrimination between male and female in the Ministry for this matter anywhere in Mauritius with regard to treatment and support for HIV/AIDS.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr Ganoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, there is one issue which is troubling me on this question. We are talking of making of Mauritius an international education hub. The Minister of Tertiary Education very often talks of new campuses to accommodate foreign students. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether there is any arrangement or protocol with regard to foreign students coming to study in Mauritius?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I don't know whether it is with regard to students, but, as far as I can remember in the Ministry of Health there is a specific section with regard to health for foreigners coming to work in Mauritius. I would not be surprised if this also would be applied to would-be students, but I have checked upon that. I am sure there must be some kind of protocol to cover this.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Obeegadoo!

**Mr Obeegadoo:** I note with interest that the Minister mentioned schools. May I know what resources are available to the AIDS Unit for campaigns in school and what is the frequency of visits to schools for the purposes of sensitisation campaigns?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I can assure the hon. Member that regular sensitisation campaigns are being organised in all schools. There is a distribution of leaflets. There are face-to-face discussions and, if I am not mistaken, forums are organised on Friday in order to sensitise the youth on HIV/AIDS.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question, hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes, Sir. May I come back again to that National Committee - I am sure you are aware now that you are the President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum. We have adopted the principle that each country there should be a National AIDS Committee chaired by the Prime Minister or the President and, in that Committee, not only NGOs and Ministries, they should be also a backbencher of the Government and a Member from the Opposition. This was put into place when we were in the MMM/MSM Government. In fact, I was the one for the backbencher and hon. Minister A. Boolell was the one for the Opposition. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this principle has been done away with because this is an essential condition in the SADC countries?

**Mr Bundhoo:** I have already replied to this, Mr Speaker, Sir, but I can assure the hon. Member that there is a National AIDS Committee and the coordinator is Dr. Pathak. I will liaise with her to make sure that things are done as it should be.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question, hon. Nagalingum!

#### **GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES - OVERSEAS MISSIONS - BENEFICIARIES**

(No. B/344) **Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the overseas missions/scholarships/courses granted by the Government Fire Services, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Fire Services, a list of the officers who have benefitted therefrom, over the past two years, indicating in each case, the –

- (a) nature thereof;
- (b) country visited;
- (c) length of service of the selected officer, and
- (d) cost incurred.

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Fire Services Department that no Officer benefitted from overseas scholarship and overseas courses during the past two years. However, some officers proceeded on overseas mission in years 2011 and 2012 to Austria and Germany respectively in connection with pre-delivery inspections of fire-fighting equipment.

With regard to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) of the question, the information is being placed in the Library.

**Mr Nagalingum:** Mr Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that one Fire Officer on probationary basis, and who has not been confirmed yet, has benefitted from overseas courses to the detriment of other long serving Officers. He only joined the service on 11 January 2012 and benefitted from his first overseas course in September 2012 on urban search and rescue.

**Mr Aimée:** Mr Speaker, Sir, as Minister, I got my information from the Fire Department. Unless the hon. Member can prove what he says; from the information I have here no Officers have benefitted from overseas scholarship for training courses.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question, hon. Soodhun!

#### **PHOENIX ROUNDABOUT – TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS**

**(No. B/345) Mr S. Soodhun (Second Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the roundabout at Phoenix, he will state if he has received complaints from the inhabitants thereof in relation to the traffic arrangements thereat and, if so, indicate if actions will be taken in relation thereto.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that complaints from the inhabitants of Phoenix have been received in a letter dated 19 April 2013 regarding traffic movement at Phoenix roundabout.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit and the Police have taken appropriate measures to alleviate the traffic congestion caused by the closure of *Pont Fer* roundabout bypass and have accordingly extended the hours of opening of the bypass, both in the morning and the evening. The new opening hours on weekdays are in the morning from 07.00 hrs to 09.30 hrs and from 14.00 hrs to 19.00 hrs in the afternoon. On Saturdays, the new opening hours are 10.00 hrs

to 14.00 hrs. Besides, Police is physically present to regulate and ease vehicular traffic in the morning. The bypass is opened to ensure that the traffic flow can be absorbed without any inconvenience.

The long-term solution will be applied in the context of the Road Decongestion Programme wherein provision has been made for the construction of a grade separated junction at that location to cater for movement of vehicles on all the three roundabouts, that is, Jumbo, Phoenix and Dowlut roundabouts.

**Mr Soodhun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, will the Minister be able to liaise with the Police Department so that the access to Valentina and Petit Camp – as the hon. Minister has mentioned - there is a long queue because of the school children in the morning especially.

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, I understand the hardship of the people. There were representations made that hardships were caused to those people and then my Ministry decided to construct an additional entrance in front of the Kovil, that is, about 100 metres away from Jumbo roundabout, and, at the same time, we had decided to construct a footbridge adjacent to the narrow bridge so that pedestrians could move safely. The foot bridge was constructed but, unfortunately, the RDA could not proceed with the construction of the road because there had been a group of people, inhabitants of the region, who had created problems. They prevented RDA from going ahead with the programme. That is the reason why I intend, once again, to call the inhabitants of the locality and I will try to see if we can go ahead with the construction of that road which can ease the problems of the inhabitants. That is one of the measures which we can take.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question from hon. Dr. S. Boolell!

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I note the absence of the hon. Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

An absence of the hon. Minister; and my question is addressed to him!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

## **MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE – INVESTIGATIONS**

(No. B/346) **Dr. S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to medical negligence, he will state if Government proposes to set up a minimum period for the carrying out of investigations into allegations thereof and to inform the families of the victims of the findings thereof.

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to pledge my apology for the slight delay.

I wish to inform the House that Government has set up a Ministerial Committee to look into the review of the Medical Council Act. One of the tasks of the Committee will be to address the issue of alleged medical negligence, and to advise on ways and means to improve the investigation process, including the fixing of a timeframe and the review of modalities to inform families of victims of alleged medical negligence of the findings.

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Considering, Mr Speaker, Sir, that we were informed by the Minister that a Fact-Finding Committee takes about six months and we have a toothless wonder in the Medical Council, which is yet to produce any form of report, could I humbly ask the hon. Minister whether it would not be practical and more transparent to refer any cases of medical negligence for a Judicial Enquiry where even the relatives might have access to information concerning the alleged mishap?

**Mr Bundhoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like, first of all, to make a small amendment to what the hon. Member said earlier. It has taken six months in the case of which I referred earlier because the Fact-Finding Committee was instituted with regard to three cases of maternal and child death, whereas with regard to the latest case, the timeframe is only one month.

Secondly, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet has decided to set up a Ministerial Committee to review the functions of the Medical Council, which includes the way enquiry is conducted, the way discipline is being applied, and the way sanctions are being taken. I am sure this Committee will also take on board what the hon. Member has just recommended, what he has just advised.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Obeegadoo, one last question because time is up!

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, a month ago, in answer to a question from hon. Bodha, the Minister said that the Ministerial Committee was in existence, that a working paper had been submitted to the Ministerial Committee. Four weeks later, we are being told that a Ministerial Committee has been set up.

**Mr Bundhoo:** No, what I said is that a Ministerial Committee has already been set up, the working documents have already been given to the Ministerial Committee. The chairmanship of this Ministerial Committee is with hon. Dr. Kasenally, and is composed of hon. Dr. Bunwaree, hon. Dr. Arvin Boolell and hon. Satish Faugoo, former Minister of Health, and also with a legal background. They have had several sittings.

*(Interruptions)*

Of course, the Minister is there! We have had several meetings, and we are looking at different Medical Councils from Singapore to the UK. We will also see what is happening in Mauritius, and then we will come up with a consolidated law with regard to the amendments to the Medical Council.

I must also add one thing. Part of the Medical Council was already amended through the Budget in November last year. With regard to the minimum requirement in order to study medicine, it has been raised to 3 'A' level and 21 minimum points. We have already made amendments in the Medical Council with regard to setting up what is called an examination in order to assess the eligibility of students to practise medicine in Mauritius. We have also made amendments to make it compulsory for continuous development programme, and we have also made amendments to establish a Postgraduate Specialist Board in order to review specialists who wish to practise medicine as specialists in Mauritius.

**Mr Speaker:** Last supplementary question to hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie!

**Mrs Navarre-Marie:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. To a question which I put on 16 November 2010, following a liposuction surgery at the *Clinique du Nord* leading to death, the then Minister of Health informed the House that an enquiry was being carried out at that time. Could the hon. Minister state whether the enquiry has been completed in the case, stating the number of such cases since 2010, and which enquiry has not yet been completed?

**Mr Speaker:** Let me draw your attention, hon. Member, that you are having too many questions in one.

So, hon. Minister, please answer quickly and fast. Time is already up!

**Mr Bundhoo:** As far as I know, the hon. Leader of the Opposition came up with a PNQ. The Committee has sat; there is an independent person from overseas who has looked over with

regard to liposuctions. There were two or three cases. With regard to two cases, the findings have already been submitted to the Ministry. There is one case still where the findings have to be submitted. The family of those concerned will be duly informed.

**Mr Speaker:** Time is up! The Table has been advised that PQ Nos. B/347, B/348, B/351, B/354 and B/363 have been withdrawn. I invite the Deputy Speaker to take the Chair.

*At this stage, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.*

### COMMISSIONER OF BORROWERS – CASES

(No. B/347) **Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the protection of the borrowers, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Borrowers, information as to, since the adoption of the Protection of the Borrowers Act to date, on a yearly basis, the number of -

- (a) cases referred thereto, indicating the outcome thereof in each case, and
- (b) properties sold at the Master's Court.

*(Withdrawn)*

### LAND (DUTIES AND TAXES) ACT – AMENDMENTS

(No. B/348) **Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the exemption of registration duty for the first time buyers of bare lands and built up lands, he will state if proposals for amendments will be introduced to the Land (Duties and Taxes) Act to provide for a specified quantum of exemption, irrespective of the selling price and, if not, why not.

*(Withdrawn)*

### MOTION

#### SUSPENSION OF S.O. 10 (2)

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Mr Deputy 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.*

(4.41 p.m.)

### **STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

#### **AFRICAN UNITY/AFRICAN UNION – 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - CELEBRATION**

**The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Dr. A. Boolell):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 25 May, this year, we will be celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Organisation of African Unity/African Union.

This defining moment provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our engagement to Africa and to the aspirations of its people. This is a People that has known slavery, colonial subjugation, racial discrimination, abject famine and poverty. This is the Continent that has too often been described as a failed Continent, and yet, today, the world sees it as the Continent of the Future. The History of Mauritius is similar to that of Africa, moving from a model of Malthusian doomsday to a model of successful economic development. Our future remains inextricably linked to that of the Continent.

This inextricable link stems from the far-sighted decision of the Father of the Nation to seek membership of the OAU immediately after Mauritius' independence, and his ability to persuade the leaders of the OAU of the rightful political appurtenance of Mauritius to the Continent. In the early years of independence, we were visited by many African dignitaries, and Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam was regarded as one of the wise leaders of Africa and as a strong promoter of Pan-Africanism. In 1976, Mauritius hosted the OAU Summit.

Our active and regular participation at high level in the statutory and regular meetings of the OAU/AU have enabled us to contribute to advance the objective of unity and solidarity among the African States and among its people as embodied in the spirit of Pan-Africanism, rightly emboldened by stalwarts such as Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the OAU, through the OAU Liberation Committee, has played a critical role in the liberation struggle in many parts of the Continent. With limited means and resources, both with great political resolve and collective commitment, the OAU was able to

mobilise the political will to spearhead the emancipation of Africa. We, in Mauritius, have always benefitted from the strong support of the Continent for the effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago.

The political struggle of the African people for freedom was the first step of Africa's emancipation. The second step has been the economic advancement of the continent and the progress and well-being of its people. The adoption of the Abuja Treaty in 1991 and the proposed establishment of the African Economic Community through phased process of consolidation of Regional Economic Communities heralded this second phase.

This prompted the need for the transformation of the OAU into the African Union with the ultimate objective of addressing succinctly the challenges facing the continent and realise the vision of the Founding fathers of the OAU - namely a peaceful, prosperous and united Africa. The Constitutive Act of the African Union - a landmark document that has replaced the OAU Charter, was adopted by the African leadership with a view to accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mauritius has participated in various continental initiatives based on shared collective aspirations for the socio-economic transformation of the continent. Through our active participation, Mauritius has left indelible marks on such initiatives as the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, where Mauritius has been among the pioneer countries to subject itself to peer review on its socio-economic governance. We are also an active participant in the works of the African Commission on People's and Human Rights and the Pan-African Parliament.

Mauritius has also contributed to the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa with the ultimate aim of creating the enabling environment for sustained development of the continent. We have participated in the Central Organ Meetings of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, the Peace and Security Council of the AU and in the civilian component of some of the peacekeeping missions. Our diplomatic engagements have also been intense in the search for lasting solutions to conflicts in countries in the region, namely in the Comoros and currently in addressing the political situation in Madagascar. Our participation in several AU electoral observer missions to monitor elections on the continent also testifies to our solid credentials in respect of good governance.

Whilst there is continuing global economic meltdown, growth rates across the continent have been averaging beyond 6%. Sound macro-economic governance and indeed better prices in the global markets for primary products have enabled African economies to register robust growth rates. Africa is attracting growing interest from the developed and emerging countries as the new “Eldorado”.

Added to this, is Africa’s young population, another major driver of growth. Africa’s population is expected to grow from one billion in 2010 to about 1.8 billion in 2040. The proportion of African aged between 15-64 years, prime ages for consumption and production in the World’s population, will reach 20% by 2040, second to Asia and well ahead of Europe and America.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, one of the pillars of the enlarged FTA that we are currently discussing within the SADC-COMESA-EAC Tripartite FTA is a successful integration of the three Regional Economic Communities. Let me recall that the tripartite initiative will cover 26 countries and open up a market of 600 million people and a total GDP approaching one trillion USD. Mauritius is looking forward to hosting in July 2013 a Ministerial Meeting of the tripartite arrangement with a view to discuss accelerated measures to speedily operationalise the FTA.

Africa’s increasing integration is borne out by the fact that the continent has started to speak with one voice on many issues of common global interest such as climate change, food and energy security, poverty alleviation, attainment of the Millennium development goals. No surprise that issues pertaining to the continent are being discussed at the helm of international meetings such as the G8 with the active participation of the African Union. Clearly, Africa stands today as a major political force.

We welcome the emergence of our continent as an increasingly important player in global affairs. It has also emerged as a land of opportunities as Mauritian investors already know. There are numerous opportunities that can yet be seized by big or small companies in the corridor projects and other laudable initiatives to bolster food security.

Mauritius has the potential to develop as a major financial centre for Africa and as an important Gateway between Africa and Asia. Our network of Investment Protection and Promotion Agreements and our Double Taxation Agreements will bear us well in this direction.

We will continue to pursue initiatives to encourage trilateral initiatives between Asia and Mauritius to take advantage of opportunities on the continent.

In fact, our interaction with the continent has significantly increased over time. Many are the Mauritians who today have set up home in Africa whether as employees or as investors stretching from Mozambique to Senegal. Mauritian companies continue to prospect the continent and it augurs well. A number of our own students are studying in prestigious African universities and several have taken employment opportunities in key institutions on the continent. Mauritius continues to provide some fifty scholarships to students from Africa at tertiary level. Today, we have eased travel to Mauritius through a relaxation of visa regulations for many countries of the continent.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the continent continues on this course, if it is able to consolidate the drivers of change through democratic and economic reforms, through institutional consolidation, through the harnessing of its agricultural and industrial development capacity, then the continent will be poised to leap frog its development and improve the conditions of its citizens. The dream of realising a politically and economically integrated continent is not far away. The aspirations of the Founding fathers of the OAU would not have been in vain.

Thank you very much, Sir.

## **PUBLIC BILLS**

### *First Reading*

*On motion made and seconded the Seeds Bill (VIII of 2013) was read a first time.*

### *Second Reading*

*Order read for resuming adjourned debate on the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill (No. XIV of 2012).*

*Question again proposed.*

(4.37 p.m.)

**The Minister of Information and Communication Technology (Mr T. Pillay Chedumbrum):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank and congratulate my

dear friend hon. Dr. Kasenally, Minister of Housing and Lands, for bringing these amendments to the House. At the same time, I would also like to thank the Opposition for their positive response to the amendments.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, any citizen of this country can hold property in their own personal name. This right is enshrined in our Constitution at sections 3 and 8 and also in the Civil Code, Article 537 and following. However, these rights are not absolute; we may have restrictions imposed on those rights.

As regards right to property, the State can purchase back forcibly from the individual upon payment of certain compensation and this also, in some cases which are enumerated like cases which are linked to defense, public safety, public order, public morality, public health, or so as to promote social benefit for the well-being of the citizens. As a consequence, the Constitution provides that there should be a law pertaining to compulsory acquisition and this law is the Land Acquisition Act.

Before addressing those amendments, I think the best thing is we must first understand the mechanism set up by the Act regarding compulsory acquisition.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the procedure is well-defined where the Minister wishes to compulsorily acquire any property, notice of same must be given in the Government Gazette and in two daily newspapers and at the same time it must be served on the owner of the land. The owner of the land must then, on receipt of that notice, claim compensation in writing from the Minister, who, in his wisdom, can agree to pay him the full compensation claimed or try to negotiate for a lower amount. Where the Minister is able to settle the matter within 28 days of receipt of the claim, a compromise will be reached between parties.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, where the matter has not been settled within 28 days, the matter must be referred to the Board of Assessment, set up under the Act, which will then give an award pertaining to same. This, therefore, is the background against which the amendments must be considered.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, section 14(1) of the Land Acquisition Act enables a person, whose land is compulsorily acquired, to make a claim for the apportionment of compensation. The amendment brought to section 14 enables the authorised officer, who is an officer

designated by the Minister, to make an interim payment of compensation to an interested person - which term would include an owner - of such amount as may be determined by the Director, Valuation and Real Estate Consultancy Services. The authorised officer shall cause the Board of Assessment to be informed of any such payment made. The Board will then deduct any interim payment made from its award.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the amendments, therefore, expressly provide to the Minister of Lands via an authorised officer to make interim payments and further provide for the Board of Assessment to be informed so as to be in a position to deduct same from the award it has to make. The amendments clarify the law, adding a greater certainty to it. They are, therefore, welcome. Therefore, all the amendments contained in the Bill are welcome. They provide for greater clarity and certainty in the law pertaining to compulsory acquisition of land. They show that Government is alive to existing *lacunes* in our existing legislation and is taking steps to correct this.

With these few words, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I commend the Bill to the House.

(4.42 p.m.)

**Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, when one has a look at the list of orators for the Land Acquisition Bill which has been circulated today, one takes note that debates were adjourned on 07 May and it is today that we are resuming the debates. Those who were present on that day still remember how hon. Members of Government were embarrassed on that day for not having the three-quarter majority required to allow this Bill to go through.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, when one has a look at the speech of the hon. Minister, at the very first paragraph, this is what the hon. Minister had to say. He stated that this is a very short Bill, and we see that it is taking a long time to get this Bill through. But it is very important in the sense that it is an amendment to the Land Acquisition Bill. And any amendment to the State Land Act on that matter requires a comfortable three-quarter majority, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

*Ce qui est arrivé ce mardi-là est incompréhensible, M. le président. Je qualifierai cela comme le summum de l'incompétence d'un gouvernement, M. le président.*

They knew, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the very beginning that a three-quarter majority was required to get that Bill through. They had ...

*(Interruptions)*

Why?

*(Interruptions)*

I am talking! We have adjourned the debates!

**The Deputy Speaker:** Hon. Lesjongard, please carry on!

**Mr Lesjongard:** They had consultations with the Opposition on that day, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. And we played the game all through. We were here in the House, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. We ensure that on our side, we have the three-quarter majority required and more than that. Now, I do not want to put the blame on the Whip, although that was his job on that day. We understand the difficulties that he had on that day, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, because when we look at the role of the Whip, his role is to ensure that the elected representatives of his party are in attendance when important votes are taken. But, this was not the case on that Tuesday. We have another interesting term used by Whips which is a hunting term, that is, “whipping in”. There is a very nice British expression which states -

“Whipping in, that is, preventing hounds from wandering away from the pack.”

On the very day, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Members of Government did wander very far away from the pack.

Now, like I said, debates were adjourned. One question that we should ask is: did we have to adjourn the debates, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir? We, on this side of the House, do not think so. We could have gone through the Second Reading and the Committee Stage, and then as it is stated in the Standing Orders of our National Assembly, we could have adjourned the debates on the Third Reading. Because section 62(1) states that -

“A Bill having passed through a Committee of the whole Assembly, or having been reported to the Assembly by a Select Committee and the report of the Select Committee having been approved by the Assembly, may, on motion made forthwith, be read the third time and passed, or, if the Assembly so direct, the third reading may be postponed.”

And then, after that we could have taken the Third Reading today and gone through the voting, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

Here again, we see that on the other side of the House, they do not master our Standing Orders. We do understand the Government embarrassment. Like I said, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the First Reading of this Bill was made almost a year ago. When it was circulated at that time, we were supposed to amend two sections of the Land Acquisition Act, one pertaining to compensation and the other one pertaining to appeal. Now, we understand that we are no more going ahead with section 10 and that we are amending only section 14 of the Act. As observed by the hon. Leader of the Opposition last time, since we are deleting now that section 14 of the Land Acquisition Act, it would be proper to delete also in the explanatory memorandum, that is, the object of this Bill, part (a) which deals with expeditious hearing of appeals.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Government acquires compulsorily land, they have an obligation to ensure that the process is completed in an equitable and transparent manner. One question that we should ask is: is it the case in our country? People should not become poor because Government has acquired their land. Legislation to establish the Government's power to compulsorily acquire land should be written clearly and with precision. One of the fundamental issues is to ensure that people know what their rights are, all throughout the process of acquisition, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, and that decisions Government Officials take are well structured and controlled. It should not be that those whose land is being acquired, that is, owners and occupants are at a disadvantage and that the burden is on those people.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that whenever we have such discussions going on, those people whose land is being acquired have discussions with very experienced officials and supported with all the powers and resources of Government and very often it is the land of the poorest that is being acquired compulsorily for projects. Why? The reasons are multiple, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, because the value of the land is usually low as compared to land owned by others and it becomes less costly to acquire such land and it is also known that it is much easier to locate an unpopular public project in a very poor area and also that those residents, those owners of those land, they lack the political influence. It is for this reason that people whose land is being compulsorily acquired need full support. They need assistance to contest decision; they need to get second opinion on the value of their land to ensure that

compensation will be paid in a timely manner. It is for this reason and I refer to that paragraph, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, that the habitat agenda reaffirmed by the Istanbul declaration on human settlement asserts that –

“Government should proactively provide advocacy assistance to affected individuals (...).”

It states that Government should -

“...Provide access to effective judicial and administrative channels for affected individuals and groups so that they can challenge or seek redress from decisions and actions that are socially and environmentally harmful or violate human rights (...)”,

The primary responsibility of the Government is to ensure that those affected owners and occupants do not suffer injustice as a result of compulsory acquisition.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come to the second amendment to this piece of legislation, that is, with regard to an interim payment of compensation. Compensation, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether it is in the financial form or whether it is swapping or replacement of land is the heart of compulsory acquisition. As a result of compulsory acquisition by Government, people lose their homes, land and, at times, their means of livelihood. In other words, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, compensation is to repay them for these losses. Any compensation should be based on the principal of equity and equivalence.

*J'ai envie de terminer mon discours parce que j'ai comme l'impression qu'ils sont en train de compter le nombre de députés présents.* Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, financial compensation on the basis of equivalence of only the loss of land rarely achieves its aim, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. What one should understand about the factors that lead to unjust compensation, one of the main factors is that if negotiations are not carried out in good faith and very often this is the case and this leads to appeals, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. Now fair and transparent compensation, negotiations can help to break down those barriers. This will allow each party to have better understanding of their needs. It is a fact that many laws say that compensation should be paid promptly. Now, what we are stating in this piece of legislation is that an interim payment of compensation is to be paid to the interested party, pending the determination of the amount by the board of assessment. We go along with that amendment, Mr

Deputy Speaker, Sir, but we fear that while Officers make that interim payment, they can later tell these persons, when they come forward to claim for the rest of the payment; that you have already benefited from an interim payment and that you should wait for the final payment to be made. That is why I believe in such legislations we should make provisions for payment plans, time limits and other provisions by which people can be forced to effect payment.

I shall conclude, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, with something which I believe we should look into, that is, valuation and compensation of religious sites. Valuation and compensation of religious sites, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, are very difficult. In the case of a Temple, Church or Mosque it may be possible for the acquiring agency, that is, in this case the Ministry of Housing and Lands, either to provide the group with an equivalent building or another site or to pay compensation that covers the cost of construction of an equivalent place of worship at a new site. But I think - this is my personal opinion, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir,- that financial compensation is often inappropriate when the religious site is a burial ground. Some sacred areas simply cannot be replaced and whenever possible, measures should be taken to avoid destruction of these sites and I have, in mind, the cremation ground at Montagne Longue which has been destroyed to accommodate the Terre Rouge/Verdun Highway.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(5.00 p.m.)

**Dr. Kasenally:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think for the first time a Whip has had the opportunity of whipping up, the Chief Whip using his whip recently. He has been provoked, but I think perhaps sometimes you have to use your scalpel, I am afraid. In fact, it is regrettable that we had to postpone it. Anyway, salt has been rubbed on our wounds, and I think we take lessons from that.

I have listened with interest to the interventions of all hon. Members, and I wish to refer to a few points raised. In the course of his intervention, hon. Ganoo, Leader of the Opposition, requested for the removal of the part which deals with expeditious hearing of appeals in the Explanatory Memorandum. I have been advised that there is no need to amend the Explanatory Memorandum, as the Explanatory Memorandum is not voted, and moreover when the Bill becomes an Act and is published in the Gazette, the Explanatory Memorandum does not appear.

Regarding the question as to who will decide the quantum of interim payment, in fact, I have dealt with that extensively. But just to make things quite clear, I wish to state that, in the first instance, the Government Valuer will assess the value of the land and recommend the amount offered as compensation. The former owner will have the choice to agree or to refuse the offer. In case he does not agree to the offer, the matter will be referred to the Board of Assessment. At the same time, the amount recommended by the Government Valuer will be paid to the former owner promptly. This is the interim payment. On final award of the Board of Assessment, if the amount payable is higher than the amount of the interim payment, the difference will be paid with interests.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition also referred to the comments made by the Director of Audit in his Report. I wish to inform the House that it is now the practice and policy of my Ministry to resort to acquisition only –

- (i) when the project cannot be implemented on land already acquired, and
- (ii) financial clearance has been obtained as regards the implementation of the proposed project.

Furthermore, a database is presently available in respect of land already acquired. The Attorney General, in his intervention, has rightly pointed out the numerous advantages of granting an interim compensation, and that such practice is common in other countries.

Hon. François has been very passionate in his intervention. However, numerous points he raised are outside the ambit of this legislation. I wish to reiterate that the proposed amendments ensure justice, fairness, equity, as the former owners will receive their compensation as assessed by the Government Valuer *in toto* and not a percentage of it, as the hon. Member was thinking. The Boards of Assessment are quasi-judicial instances, and all issues regarding compensation payable are normally dealt with at that level. On final assessment, the former owner, as has been said, will be paid the balance, again with interests, as the record indicated.

Hon. François also raised the issue of land acquired which has remained idle. I wish to reiterate that no acquisition is now resorted to unless there is financial clearance for the implementation of a well-defined project.

Hon. François also mentioned that, for cases where no agreement has been reached regarding quantum of compensation, such cases should be referred to the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal. I wish to point out that the Environment and Land Use Appeal Tribunal provides for appeal regarding the environmental licence and land use permit, and does not deal with any offer of compensation for land acquisition. Hon. Members may note that if we are not using the land, we will have to sell it back to the owner at market value.

Finally, regarding the point which hon. Lesjongard has made, the final payment will be made immediately and promptly after the award of the Board assessment. I have also noted his proposals for religious sites. As far as possible, we will tend to avoid it. But let me inform the House that if it is inevitable, as it will be happening in the case of the Harbour Bridge, where there is one religious site which has to be moved, they will be getting full compensation, especially for setting up the building, and they will get the land at a nominal price. Therefore, it is not so much of a problem for them as far as the financial aspect is concerned, but they will have to be moved, and Government does provide a suitable alternative site.

I wish to thank everybody for their attention, and I move that the Bill be read a second time.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a second time and committed.*

(5.07 p.m.)

## COMMITTEE STAGE

*(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

### THE LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL

**(No. XIV of 2012)**

*Clause 1 (Short Title)*

*Motion made and question proposed: “that the clause stand part of the Bill”.*

**Dr. Kasenally:** I move for the following amendment in clause 1 -

“delete the figure “2012” and replace it by the figure “2013”.”

*Amendment agreed to.*

*Clause 1, as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 3 (Section 10 of principal Act amended)*

*Motion made and question proposed: "that the clause stand part of the Bill".*

**Dr. Kasenally:** I move that clause 3 be deleted and clauses 4 and 5 renumbered accordingly.

*Amendment agreed to.*

*Clauses 4 and 5 renumbered 3 and 4 accordingly.*

*Clauses 3 and 4 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*The title and enacting clause were agreed to.*

*The Bill, as amended, was agreed to.*

*On the Assembly resuming with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair, the Deputy Speaker reported accordingly.*

### *Third Reading*

*The motion was made and seconded for the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill (No. XIV of 2012) be read a third time and passed.*

**Dr. Kasenally:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I move for a division.

*(Division Bells were rung)*

*On question put, the House divided.*

### **AYES**

1. Hon. R. Uteem
2. Dr. the Hon. R. Sorefan
3. Hon. S. Soodhun
4. Hon. M. K. Seeruttun
5. Hon. P. Roopun

6. Hon. Mrs L. Ribot
7. Hon. K. Ramano
8. Hon. Mrs M. J. Radegonde-Haines
9. Hon. J. P. F. Quirin
10. Hon. S. Obeegadoo
11. Hon. Mrs A. Navarre-Marie
12. Hon. D. Nagalingum
13. Hon. K. Li Kwong Wing
14. Hon. G. P. Lesjongard
15. Hon. P. Jugnauth
16. Hon. P. Jhugroo
17. Hon. A. K. Gungah
18. Hon. E. J. R. Guimbeau
19. Hon. Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomum
20. Dr. the Hon. S. Boolell
21. Hon. N. Bodha
22. Hon. V. Baloomoody
23. Hon. S. M. A. Ameer Meea
24. Hon. Mrs P. K. Bholah
25. Hon. J. C. Leopold
26. Hon. Mrs M. J. Perraud
27. Hon. D. S. Khamajeet
28. Hon. A. R. G. M. Issack
29. Hon. A. H. Hossen
30. Hon. J.H.T. Henry
31. Hon. P. G. Assirvaden
32. Hon. Mrs K. B. Juggoo
33. Dr. the Hon. B. Hookoom
34. Hon. Ms M. G. S. Anquetil
35. Hon. Ms K. R. Deerpalsing
36. Hon. R. A. Bhagwan

37. Dr. the Hon. R. R. Hawoldar
38. Hon. M. Peetumber
39. Hon. A. Ganoo
40. Hon. S. Moutia
41. Hon. Mrs M. F. Martin
42. Hon. J. Seetaram
43. Hon. S. Dayal
44. Hon. S. C. Sayed Hossen
45. Hon. L. Bundhoo
46. Hon. J. M. Yeung Sik Yuen
47. Hon. S. Mohamed
48. Hon. M. Choonee
49. Hon. L. H. Aimée
50. Hon. S. Ritoo
51. Hon. L. J. Von-Mally
52. Hon. T. Pillay Chedumbrum
53. Dr. the Hon. R. Jeetah
54. Hon. D. Virahsawmy
55. Hon. S. V. Faugoo
56. Dr. the Hon. V. Bunwaree
57. Hon. Mrs S. Bappoo
58. Dr. the Hon. A. T. Kasenally
59. Dr. the Hon. A. K. Boolell
60. Hon. A. Bachoo
61. Hon. X. L. Duval
62. Dr. the Hon. A. R. Beebeejaun
63. Dr. the Hon. N. Ramgoolam

**ABSENT**

1. Hon. Mrs M. N. F. Labelle
2. Hon. Mrs S. B. Hanoomanjee
3. Hon. J. F. François

4. Hon. C. M. Fakeemeeah
5. Hon. P. R. Bérenger
6. Hon. J. C. Barbier

**AYES : 63                      NOES : NIL                      ABSENCES : 6**

**The Deputy Speaker:** The Ayes have it.

*On the Assembly resuming with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair, the Deputy Speaker reported accordingly.*

#### *Third Reading*

*On motion made and seconded the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill (No. XIV of 2012) was read a third time and passed.*

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**The Prime Minister:** Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 11.30 a.m.

**The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.**

**The Deputy Speaker:** The House stands adjourned.

#### **MATTER RAISED**

(05.17 p.m.)

#### **BOULLINGRIN, MONTAGNE LONGUE - BUS SERVICE & FLYOVER**

**Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis & Montagne Longue):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the specific matter which I am raising today is addressed to the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping and concerns the inhabitants of village of Boullingrin at Montagne Longue.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, Boullingrin is a small village on the edge of the Montagne Longue village with a population of more than a thousand people. The elders of that village are mostly small planters involved in the cultivation of cane, pineapple and vegetables. The younger generation are mostly civil servants and their young children go to the nearby Montagne Longue

Government School; the students go to colleges found mostly outside the village of Montagne Longue.

The village of Boullingrin does not have a bus service and the inhabitants have to walk to go to the nearby bus station.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the construction of the Terre Rouge/Verdun road has caused much hardship to the inhabitants of Boullingrin and, today, when the road is nearing completion, it is the source of a major problem for the inhabitants of that village. The inhabitants are very angry with the authorities and, more specifically, with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, the Road Development Authority, and the contractor COLAS who has been the contractor constructing that highway.

The reasons for such a situation which is prevailing in that village are multiple. Let me enumerate on those reasons. First of all, during the initial stage of the construction of that road, the concerned authority showed the villagers of Boullingrin a plan of the road alignment, hereby the village was supposed to be linked to the highway by a flyover. Now, when the road is nearing construction, the authorities, instead of constructing a flyover as per the plan shown to those villagers, they have built an access road which is under the highway.

This access road is the cause of much hardship to the villagers, again, for several reasons. Now, the villagers have to walk more than 4 km to reach the bus stop and, at some point in time, for more than a km along that access road. There are no houses on both sides of the road and the children who come from school or tuition later in the evening will have to walk along that same road. Their parents are very much worried, especially, when they know the deterioration of the law and order situation in the country in general.

Secondly, at the point where the access road goes below the highway, the road becomes a single lane road, that is, only one vehicle can go along the road at one time. The inhabitants are flabbergasted with the situation. Why, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir? Do you know what they say? Before the construction of this new road, they had an access road which had a double lane all along that road. Now, Government has come forward with the construction of a new, modern highway and part of the access road is being converted into a single lane, when we know that lorries carry sugar cane during the harvesting period regularly use that access road. Can you imagine, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, those lorries going along that single lane now going under that

highway? There is hardly enough space left for a pedestrian to walk. Can you also imagine, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, schoolchildren going along that road everyday on their way to school?

Another problem where the access road goes under that highway can also be a major cause for concern during heavy rainfall. When one has a look at the portion of the road, one comes to the conclusion that during heavy rainfall, there is going to be accumulation of water, thereby causing the level of water near that road to raise up.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will agree that there are numerous problems associated with this access road. And it is for this reason that the inhabitants of that village, that is the village of Boullingrin, is requesting Government to give due consideration to their complaints. The representative of the contractor on site has already told them that because of budget constraints, the flyover has been cancelled. As at today, only one meeting has been held with the representative of the Road Development Authority and he has not confirmed the above information. I have met the inhabitants of Boullingrin and I have also visited the site with them. They have made a few proposals. I am requesting today, the hon. Minister to visit them and hold a meeting on site to listen to their plea and their proposals.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already identified a new access road which is more accessible from the village to the bus stop and the highway and is much shorter in length. Therefore, I am making an appeal, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, to the Minister responsible for Public Infrastructure and to Government to give due consideration to the proposals put forward by the inhabitants of the village of Boullingrin.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.

(5.25 p.m.)

**Mr Bachoo:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact, I would like to thank the hon. Member for raising this issue here. But one thing is clear; there had been meetings with Members of Parliament and the residents of that region. The three Members who are there have met, and I have also received a written letter from a PPS of the region, requesting me to have a fresh look at it. But the original design that I have in front of me makes no mention of the flyover.

Secondly, in 2011, there were two meetings which were held with the Engineers and the inhabitants of the region. On 03 May this year, there was a meeting held with Mr Nawbutt who

represented the inhabitants, and on 06 May 2013, there was a meeting with the inhabitants. I won't say that there is no problem. But I have only to mention a few things here, that to cater for the low traffic, the existing 3.6 metres access road was reinstated by providing an under path of 4 metres wide and five metres high, further southbound taking into account the topography of ground level and vertical alignment of the new road.

Lighting system had been provided in the under path for safety of the road users. Major improvements have also been made on the existing B19 road. Provision for a pair of bus lay-by for safety of road users and pedestrians on B19 is being made. Footpath will also be provided for pedestrians from B19 road to existing access road to Boullingrin village, and road lighting will be provided at Valton roundabout for safety of road users. But, being given that there had been requests from different quarters, next week I will be conducting a site visit, together with Engineers as well as the Consultants, to have a fresh look. And if any additional measures need to be taken, we won't have any objection in taking it.

*At 6.39 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 28 May 2013 at 11.30 a.m.*

## **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

### **MBC – FOOTBALL MATCH – MANCHESTER UNITED F.C. & SWANSEA F.C**

**(No. B/321) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the football match between Manchester United F. C. and Swansea F. C. played on Sunday 12 May 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to the reasons why it was not broadcast, contrary to the advertisement made by the Corporation.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Director-General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that the right for the transmission of the English Premier League matches for the Sub-Saharan region for the season 2012/2013 is held by Optima Sports Management International.

In August 2012, the MBC entered into an agreement with Optima Sports Management International of the transmission of the English Premier League matches for the season 2012/2013.

According to the provisions of the Agreement, the Corporation is authorised to broadcast one live match during each weekend, to be regularly scheduled on Saturdays.

I am further informed by the Director-General that the English Premier League matches were not played on Saturday 11 May 2013 due to the holding of the final match of FA Cup. The final match of FA Cup, like all other matches of FA Cup tournament, was live broadcast on MBC/TV on that day.

The Director-General has also pointed out that, in an email dated 26 April 2013, Optima Sports Management International informed the Corporation that the match Manchester United against Swansea, scheduled for Sunday 12 May 2013 at around 16.00 hrs GMT would be made available to MBC for live broadcast. The MBC, therefore, informed its football fans accordingly.

However, on 09 May 2013, Optima Sports Management International informed the MBC that the match Manchester United against Swansea would not be made available for live broadcast, without giving any specific reason.

The Corporation immediately contacted other sources to secure the transmission right for the live broadcast of the match Manchester United against Swansea. It was only in the morning of Sunday 12 May 2013 that the Corporation was finally informed that the signal for that match would not be available.

The MBC informed the general public and in particular the football fans, as from noon on Sunday 12 May 2013, through MBC Radio and Television Channels, of its inability to broadcast live the match Manchester United against Swansea.

Being given that there were other English Premier League matches that were being played on Sunday 12 May 2013, the MBC, for the benefit of its football fans, was able to secure from other sources the signal for the match Fulham against Liverpool which was eventually broadcast live.

Over the last six years, the House has, on more than one occasion, been informed of the difficulties encountered by public broadcasters, including the MBC, to acquire the rights for live broadcast of matches of the English Premier League.

The House would appreciate that the MBC can only broadcast those matches which are available to public broadcasters.

### **DRUGS SEIZURE – MADAGASCAR – AIRPLANE**

**(No. B/322) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the drugs recently seized on a plane arriving from Madagascar, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the inquiry carried out thereinto, indicating if any arrest has been effected in connection therewith.

**Reply:** I am informed that on 05 May 2013 at around 20.00 hrs, a team of six Customs Officers accompanied by a sniffer dog, carried out a routine search onboard of airplane MK 289 which had landed from Madagascar at 19.36 hrs. During the search operation, one of the Customs Officers, Mr M. S. C., found one of the garbage bins in one toilet to be abnormally full with dirty napkins. The Officer requested the Airline Supervisor, Mr I. G., to have the bin emptied in the presence of Customs Officers, as the cleaning personnel were not present at that particular time. The six Customs Officers left the airplane to proceed with profiling of passengers.

At around 20.30 hrs the Airline Supervisor Mr I. G. informed Customs Officer Mr M. S. C. to be present for the inspection of the bin. Consequently, Customs Officer Mr M. S. C. accompanied by another Customs Officer, Mr Z. M. and one Officer from ADSU, Police Constable G. S. went onboard the aircraft. One Mr P. C., Cleaner from Airmate, emptied the bin in presence of the two Customs Officers and the ADSU Officer and found a plastic bag containing six parcels wrapped in cellotape. The six parcels contained in all 4.04 kg of white powder suspected to be heroin. The parcels were secured and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination.

Airport ADSU immediately initiated an enquiry into the case. Statements have been recorded from 33 persons, mostly employees of Air Mauritius who were on duty at the airport on that night as well as members of the cabin crew who were detailed on the flight from Madagascar.

So far, no arrest has been made and enquiry is in progress.

The seizure of this significant quantity of drug is the result of sustained efforts by the authorities in the fight against drug. In this regard, I wish to highlight that since January this year there have been six major drug seizures at the airport, totalling to 7.3 kg and representing a total street value of Rs108,380,400.

### **POLICE OFFICER – GANDIA – CULTIVATION**

**(No. B/323) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the recent case of a Police Officer arrested for cultivation of gandia in his garden, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the inquiry carried out thereinto.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, on 09 May 2013, Police Constable R. D. was arrested after a search carried out at his residence and plants and seeds suspected to be Cannabis were seized.

On 10 May 2013, he appeared before the District Court of Pamplemousses and the following Provisional Charges were lodged against him -

- Drug Dealing - Cultivating Cannabis plants;
- Drug Dealing - Possession of Cannabis seeds for the purpose of cultivating Cannabis plants, and
- Drug Dealing - Possession of Cannabis for the purpose of distribution.

He was remanded to Police cell. He reappeared in Court on 17 May 2013, and his next appearance has been fixed for 24 May 2013.

His lawyer has applied for his release on bail. The hearing for the bail motion has been fixed for 21 May 2013.

The inquiry is progressing and, on completion, the case file will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice.

**NOUVELLE FRANCE POLICE STATION**

**– DOCUMENTS & POLICE FILES – LOSS**

**(No. B/325) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the recent reported case of loss of documents and police files at the Nouvelle France Police Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if an inquiry is being carried out thereinto and, if so, where matters stand.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 03 October 2012, Police Sergeant N, then posted at the Nouvelle France Police Station, made a declaration to the effect that 14 case files which he had kept in a steel locker at the Nouvelle France Police Station had been stolen by unknown persons between 20 and 25 September 2012.

As the files were allegedly stolen from the premises of the Police Station, the Police started an enquiry and the services of the Scene of the Crime Office and a Police Photographer were enlisted. On 04 October 2012, a Forensic Science Officer attended to the case.

The Commissioner of Police has referred the case to the Central CID for investigation. Statements from the Officer-in-Charge of the shift when the case was reported and the Station Clerk were recorded.

On 20 May 2013, the Sergeant was arrested and will appear today before the Magistrate of Grand Port District Court on a provisional charge of embezzlement.

On completion of the enquiry, the case file will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice.

I would like to stress on the importance for Police Officers to demonstrate a high sense of duty and responsibility. Any indiscipline or neglect of duty will not be tolerated and severe sanctions will be taken against Police Officers who will be found guilty of any neglect.

**M. H. – INQUIRY – MURDER CASE**

**(No. B/327) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the murder case of M. H., he will, for the benefit of the House,

obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the inquiry carried out thereinto.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, upon the instruction of the Director of Public Prosecutions on 23 July 2012, the Police re-opened the enquiry into the murder case of M. H. The Police solicited the assistance of a French forensic expert from the *Laboratoire d'Hématologie Médico Légale* of Bordeaux, France who came to Mauritius in August 2012 for DNA analysis of certain exhibits.

On 22 February 2013, three investigating officers from the Serious Crime Branch, Crime Operations Department, Belfast, Northern Ireland came to Mauritius in order to assist the Police in the investigation. They had several working sessions with the enquiry team at the CCID.

Since the re-opening of the enquiry, the Police have interviewed 38 persons; they have taken fingerprints from 25 persons who had access to the room of the then Legends Hotel and have sent 346 DNA samples taken from the hotel staff members to the Forensic Science Laboratory for profiling.

The Police have submitted the case file to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice on further action to be initiated.

The Government will soon bring to this House the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and the Judicial and Legal Provisions Bill which will provide for the retrial of a person who has been acquitted or convicted of an offence in certain cases. The Judicial and Legal Provisions Bill will also have provisions regarding the manner in which the Court of Appeal will exercise its jurisdiction to order the retrial of a person who has been acquitted or convicted of an offence.

#### **PORT AREA – BBC WORLD NEWS – ACCESS PASS**

**(No. B/328) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the Port Area, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Ports Authority, information as to if a reporter of the BBC World News was recently refused delivery of an access pass thereto and, if so, the reasons therefor.

**Reply:** I wish to highlight at the very outset that the case being referred to is not recent but dates back to a request made in January 2011 and let me emphasise that access has not been denied.

I am informed by the Mauritius Ports Authority that on 10 January 2011, one Mr Nicola Cutcher of the BBC World News applied for permission for a team to shoot a film in the port between 11 and 17 January 2011, in the context of a new BBC television series for the Indian Ocean. The series entitled “Simon travelling through the countries of the Indian Ocean”, also included Madagascar and Seychelles.

Following consultation with my Office, the Mauritius Ports Authority conveyed on 17 January 2011 its no objection subject to the following conditions:

- (i) BBC World News should highlight the “Strategic importance of Mauritius”, and
- (ii) the team does not film any strategic locations in the port areas or any other locations of security interests.

On 18 January 2011, the applicant confirmed in writing his acceptance of the conditions and the final approval was issued by Mauritius Ports Authority on 24 January 2011. However, operators in the Seafood Hub strongly objected to the BBC World News filming their activities and made representations to the then Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues. They mentioned the case of Ghana whereby the BBC World News team gave a very negative image of its fishing industry which had an adverse impact; hence, the apprehension of the local Seafood operators.

I am also informed that, on 02 February 2011, a meeting was held at the then Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues. Representatives of the External Communications Division, the National Coast Guard, the Mauritius Ports Authority, the Mauritius Film Development Corporation and Cameleon Production, representing the BBC World News attended the meeting. After discussions, it was decided that the then Ministry of Fisheries and Rodrigues would not entertain the request.

In the circumstances, on 09 February 2011, Mauritius Ports Authority informed BBC World News that it can proceed with the shooting of the film except for the Seafood Hub activities, including unloading of tuna. The BBC World News was also informed that conditions regarding security as conveyed initially should be complied with.

But, there has been no further response from the applicant.

**SPEED CAMERAS –**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC ENFORCEMENT PENALTY NOTICE**

**(No. B/329) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the speed cameras recently installed, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the data matching procedures put in place at Proguard and at the Photographic Enforcement Unit;
- (b) the number of persons involved in the vetting process, indicating their respective rank, and
- (c) who is responsible for the issue of the Photographic Enforcement Penalty Notice.

**Reply:** In regard to part (a) of the Question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that data in respect of all speed violations captured by the 20 newly installed fixed speed cameras are automatically transferred through wireless technology in an encrypted form to the server based at the Photographic Enforcement Unit which is manned by the Police and located at Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit premises. The data in respect of all violations captured and auto-test images are automatically decrypted by the system.

The data matching procedures which were initially planned to be carried out by Proguard Ltd has, on 16 May 2013, been entrusted to the Police. Consequently, Police personnel posted at the Photographic Enforcement Unit will view the raw images and the particulars of the owners of motor vehicles will be automatically retrieved from the database of the National Transport Authority by the system. The Police will then verify and validate the processed violations following which the Photographic Enforcement Device Notices will be printed and issued by the Police.

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, NDU, Land Transport & Shipping has informed that a specifically designed tamperproof software called “Trafman” has been acquired for processing of speed violations. For security reasons, the staff of the contractor cannot have

access to the database of the National Transport Authority by any manual operation; and images cannot be deleted from the system by anybody. The Trafman software is an automated application and requires minimum human intervention. The software has only to be given a few specific commands to be able to process the images, and this part is being done by trained staff of the contractor Proguard Ltd.

In regard to part (b) of the Question, 11 Police Officers, namely one Police Sergeant and 10 Police Constables from the Traffic Branch are based at the Photographic Enforcement Unit. These Police Officers are directly involved in the vetting process and work under the supervision and instructions of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic Branch.

In regard to part (c) of the Question, Section 17 of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 2012 which, *inter alia*, provides that where a specified offence is detected by means of a Photographic Enforcement Device, a Police Officer shall, within 14 days, cause a Photographic Enforcement Device Notice to be served on the owner of the motor vehicle. Hence, the responsibility for issuing and serving a PEDN rests with the Police.

#### **CALDWELL ROAD, HENRIETTA – MORCELLEMENT - DRAIN**

**(No. B/334) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development whether, in regard to a *Morcellement* at Caldwell Road, Henrietta, in Vacoas, he will state if the natural drain thereat has been obstructed following the clearance sought and obtained from his Ministry and, if so, indicate if the environmental impact thereof has been assessed and, if so, give details thereof and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** My Ministry has not given any clearance to obstruct any drain at Caldwell Road, Henrietta, in Vacoas.

In fact, on Friday 19 April 2013, the Mayor of Vacoas /Phoenix drew the attention of my Ministry on a problem of blocked drains at Henrietta. On the same day a joint site visit was effected together with representatives of the Municipality of Vacoas/Phoenix, the Forestry Services and *Police de L'Environnement* as well as the *Forces Vives* of Henrietta in the presence of hon. Ms Stephanie Anquetil and the Mayor of Vacoas/Phoenix.

An excavator was found on site and the drain was observed to be dry and partially obstructed with soil and other debris. The driver of the excavator working for a private contractor was instructed to immediately stop all works to which he complied.

A subsequent joint site visit was effected on Monday 22 April 2013 with representatives of the Water Resources Unit (WRU) of the Ministry of Public Utilities, the Forestry Services, the Ministry of Housing and Lands and the Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix as well as Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development with a view to confirm the status of the drain and ownership of the land. It was then confirmed that the blocked drain is a natural watercourse and is, in fact, a feeder to River Papayes.

I wish to point out that the following actions have been taken -

- (a) The Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix has issued -
  - (i) a contravention to the contractor on 19 April 2013, in accordance with Section 61 of the Local Government Act 2011, for the illegal dumping of solid waste materials on bare land, and
  - (ii) a letter to Medine Sugar Estate on 30 April 2013 instructing the latter to clear the drain and restore the land to its original state. Medine Sugar Estate confirmed on 07 May 2013 that it will take actions as instructed.
- (b) My Ministry has also instructed Medine Sugar Estate on 08 May 2013 to stop further dumping on the drain with immediate effect and to take appropriate measures to reinstate the site, and
- (c) Officers of the *Police de l'Environnement* have carried out regular site visits to ensure that there was no further dumping of soil and other debris on the site.

I have now been informed by the Municipality of Vacoas/Phoenix that Medine Sugar Estate has already cleared the drain and reinstated it to its original state.

#### **SCHOOLS - SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS - PUPILS & TEACHERS**

**(No. B/335) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Special Education Needs Schools registered with his Ministry, he will state the number thereof, indicating the -

- (a) total number of pupils attending thereto, and
- (b) table a list thereof, indicating in each case, the -
  - (i) address thereof;
  - (ii) name of the officer responsible therefor and his/her qualifications;
  - (iii) number of teachers posted thereat, and
  - (iv) per capita grant paid thereto, over the past five years.

**Reply:** There are at present forty Special Education Needs schools and eight Day Care Centres registered with my Ministry for the purpose of providing education for some 1,732 children with special education needs.

With regard to part (b), the information requested is being compiled and will be tabled shortly.

#### **NATIONAL SMARTCARD ID - PROCUREMENT**

**(No. B/349) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to the proposed procurement of the new National Identity Card, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** I am informed that the implementation of the MNIC project is on target. The Steering Committee set up to manage and monitor the progress of the project has met on six occasions since the signature of the contract in October 2012. The Card Artwork was finalised in March 2013 and the Artwork Digital Proof was approved by Government in April 2013. The first National Smartcard ID will be released across Mauritius in October 2013. The project is expected to be completed in December 2014. Some 906,000 cards will be issued.

I am informed that the Mauritian team is working closely with the Singapore Corporation Enterprise on the key components and that satisfactory progress has been achieved so far.

#### **ROSE BELLE HEALTH TRACK - SECURITY**

**(No. B/350) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development whether, in regard to the Rose

Belle Health Track, he will state if he has been informed that it is in an abandoned state, with the presence of bushes, tall grasses, wastes and that insecurity prevails thereat and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken in relation thereto.

**Reply (Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands):** In the context of the splitting of District Councils, the newly elected Councillors were given an opportunity to make a survey of all social and sports amenities in their respective areas and to propose a plan for their regular cleaning, maintenance and upkeeping. The health track in question was also surveyed and works for its maintenance and cleaning have started and have been completed about three weeks ago. The bollards and wooden structures will also be replaced after calling of quotations.

I have further been informed that the site has been subject to acts of vandalism as a result of which 100 treated pine poles, 25 metres of chain link fencing and the inauguration plate have been stolen.

#### **POOR PERSONS - MONTHLY INCOME**

**(No. B/351) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the poor persons, he will state the number and proportion thereof, categorized into rural and urban areas, for the years 2007 and 2012, indicating the average monthly income thereof and the -

- (a) percentage thereof derived from social aid, and
- (b) reasons therefor.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **INFLATION**

**(No. B/352) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to inflation, he will state the -

- (a) estimated rate thereof for 2013, compared to the average wage compensation rate and the average bank savings rate, indicating the impact thereof on the consumers and the pensioners, and

- (b) national savings rate, since 2010 to 2013, on a yearly basis, indicating the reasons for the trend thereof and the corrective measures taken in relation thereto.

**Reply:** Regarding part (a), Statistics Mauritius is projecting an inflation rate of 4.5% for 2013.

As the House is aware, the 2013 PRB Report was released last year and the award of the PRB Report was implemented *in toto* with effect from January this year. The award included the revision in salaries and took into consideration catch up for the loss in purchasing power since the previous salary review. The total cost of the award, including the Errors, Omissions and Anomalies Commission Report which was approved by Government yesterday, will cost upward of Rs5.6 billion per annum.

The compensation awarded to the private sector employees has already been made public. The average salary compensation turns out to be 3.0%. However, I wish to inform the House that this compensation was based on the expectation that the rate of inflation would be around 4.3% in 2012. As we all know, the actual rate of inflation for 2012 turned out to be much lower at around 3.9%. Thus all employees in the private sector earning Rs8,000 and less were more than fully compensated for the loss in purchasing power. On the other hand, as the House is aware, there are many increases in the private sector which are privately negotiated and these are based on a number of factors, including the capacity to pay and productivity.

For pensioners, there has not been loss of purchasing power due to inflation in any year as they were fully compensated for inflation.

As regards banks' savings rates and the gross national savings rates, these are published by the Bank of Mauritius and the Statistics Mauritius, respectively.

As regards part (b) of the question, as from 2010, the National Savings Rate continued its falling trend that started in 2001. In fact, between 2001 and 2005 the saving rate declined by 10.7 percentage points. Had this trend continued, the national savings rate today would have been below 7 percent. But since 2006, this Government has significantly slowed down that sharp decline. The savings rate fell by just 2.7 percentage point between 2006 and 2012. Clearly, the reasons for the continued decline lie in the policies or absence of actions by the then Government in 2001 to 2005.

As regards the corrective measures taken by this Government to slow down the decline in the national savings rate, they are many.

First of all, job creation.

For people to save they must first of all earn an income. Between 2001 and 2005 the then Government created only 4,500 jobs on average annually. In contrast, this Government created an average of 8,100 jobs annually during the period 2006 to 2012. Just last year, in spite of the challenging economic conditions and an increase in labour force by around 1.8% we were able to limit the unemployment rate at 8.1% to create some 9,100 jobs on a net basis.

The then Government actions led to higher levels of unemployment. We did the opposite – we put people first. The rate of unemployment, which was on a rising trend peaked at 9.6% by 2006, was subsequently brought down to 7.2% by 2008 and rose to 8.0% in 2012, mainly due to the international crisis and rapid increase in labour force. The performance of the economy with regard to improving job prospects has been much better after this Government implemented the reform programme since 2006.

Moreover, it was this Government that increased the disposable income of both households and corporates by slashing income tax rates and taking 40,000 people from the tax net. Between 2001 and 2005, the then Government did the opposite, taking VAT to 15%, thus significantly reducing household ability to save.

And it is this Government that has achieved a balance on the current account of the Budget thereby contributing significantly to slowing down the decline in the national savings rate.

#### **FINANCIAL SECRETARY - CONTRACT**

**(No. B/353) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Financial Secretary, he will state –

- (a) when his contract was last renewed, indicating the terms and conditions thereof;
- (b) the boards on which he represents the Ministry, indicating in each case, the date of appointment and allowances drawn, and

- (c) the number of overseas missions he has attended, since his appointment to date, indicating in each case, the country/ies visited, cost of air fares and *per diem* and other allowances.

**Reply:** With regard to part (a) of the question, I wish to inform the House that all the details relating to terms and conditions of the contract of the Financial Secretary which was last renewed in July 2012 are posted on the website of my Ministry.

I would also refer the House to the answer provided in response to PQ No. B/24 on 31 March 2009 by the then Minister of Finance. He pointed out that in considering appropriate remuneration, one has to take account of the real opportunity costs in respect of salary foregone by the employee. In this regard had the Financial Secretary remained in his previous position, he would be in a salary band after tax of Rs525,575 to Rs683,225 per month without taking into consideration benefits such as -

- (i) education benefits for university for children up to the age of 25, consisting of two-thirds of tuition, annual air tickets, living allowance and book allowance;
- (ii) tickets between Washington and Mauritius annually for the whole family plus an annual cash grant;
- (iii) spouse allowance of about Rs12,500 monthly;
- (iv) contribution to pension paid by the employer amounting to about five percent of salary, and
- (v) contribution of half medical insurance costs for the family.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I wish to inform the House that the Boards and Committees that the Financial Secretary is serving on as well as the date of his appointment are also posted on the website of my Ministry. However, the House may wish to note that there is no remuneration for most of the Boards and Committees on which the Financial Secretary is representing my Ministry. The remunerated positions are, namely -

- The National Pension Fund/National Saving Fund Investment Committee - with a monthly fee Rs15,000;
- The Treasury Foreign Currency Management Fund – with a monthly fee of Rs12,000;
- Statistics Mauritius - no fee is claimed.

The Financial Secretary also represents my Ministry on the following bodies which are not remunerated -

- The Mauritius Road Infrastructure Finance Ltd;
- The Regional Multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence;
- The Financial Services Consultative Council;
- The Financial Stability Committee, and
- The National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering and the Combating of the Financing of Terrorism.

Concerning part (c) of the question, the information requested is being compiled and will be tabled in due course. However, it should be noted that senior officials such as the Financial Secretary only travel when Government deems this to be necessary. His travels are no more frequent nor costly than that of other senior public officers. Furthermore, significant shares of his travel costs are covered by other agencies which value his contribution. For example, almost all the cost of his last mission (to Finland, Spring Meetings of the IMF/World Bank and Haiti) was not covered by this Government.

#### ***FOYER NAMASTÉ - OMBUDSPERSON FOR CHILDREN - RECOMMENDATIONS***

**(No. B/354) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Second Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka)** asked the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare whether, in regard to the *Foyer Namasté*, she will state if she is aware of the recommendations of the Ombudsperson for Children in relation to the children attending thereto and, if so, indicate the actions taken, if any, by her Ministry in relation thereto.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **DARNÉ FORTIS CLINIC – INCINERATOR – FOUL SMELL**

**(No. B/355) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the Darné Fortis Clinic in Floreal, he will state if his Ministry has received a petition signed by the inhabitants of the vicinity thereof complaining of emanation of foul smell from the incinerator thereof and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given for actions to be taken for the closing down thereof or the transfer thereof to a non-residential area.

**Reply:** My Ministry has received a copy of the petition in March 2013 from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Site visits were effected at Clinique Fortis Darne by officers of the Environmental Health Engineering Unit of my Ministry on 28 and 31 March 2013, 19, 22, and 26 April 2013 and 08 and 16 May 2013.

I am informed that no foul smell was detected on the three days when the incinerator was in operation, that is, on 31 March, 19 and 26 April 2013.

### **BLUE LINES BUSES – SPARE PARTS - PURCHASE**

**(No. B/356) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Blue Line buses, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Transport Corporation, information as to the total value of spare parts purchased in respect of each one of them, over the past five years, indicating the -

- (a) percentage of genuine spare parts as compared to non-genuine ones, and
- (b) names of the suppliers thereof, indicating in each case, the value thereof purchased, over the past five years.

**Reply:** I am informed by the National Transport Corporation (NTC) that out of a fleet of 519 buses, 274 buses are of the Ashok Leyland make; of these 34 are air-conditioned buses, commonly known as Blue Line buses.

All the Ashok Leyland buses are constructed on identical chassis and, therefore, their critical parts, such as engine, the automatic transmission and braking system are similar. Only the air-conditioned system, the body and the suspension of the air-conditioned buses differ.

Thus, all Ashok Leyland buses are clustered whenever the NTC has to procure specific quantities of spare parts at any given point in time.

The amounts spent on spare parts for the maintenance of all Ashok Leyland buses and of the parts required solely for the maintenance of the air conditioning system in the air-conditioned buses are being placed in the Library.

As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Acting Chief Engineer of the NTC that Ashok Leyland does not manufacture most of the spare parts that are fitted in its buses but that it sources them from original equipment manufacturers such as Sundaram Clayton Ltd, TVS, Wabco, Indian Pistons Ltd, Hino Japan, Mico and Bosch, Tel – KKK, Allison USA, SC India, Meritor Indian, Automative Axle, Rockwell, Rane, Pricol India, Volvo India, Lucas TVS, among others. This demonstrates that Ashok Leyland itself sources many of its spare parts from other original equipment manufacturers. This may also explain why numerous attempts by the NTC to procure spare parts directly from Ashok Leyland since end 2009 have been unsuccessful. It is only last week that Ashok Leyland replied to one email of the NTC, quoting prices for a few spare parts. In this respect, I am tabling for the benefit of the House, copies of e-mails addressed to Ashok Leyland by the NTC since end 2009 and whereto no reply were received.

Consequently, the NTC has had to resort to local suppliers for procuring spare parts for its Ashok Leyland buses. I am also informed that other bus companies operating fleet of Ashok Leyland buses, such as Rose Hill Transport and Triolet Bus Service, also resort to the same suppliers for the procurement of spare parts for their buses. I am also tabling a copy of a letter from a local supplier (DSS Trading Ltd) in support thereof. The latter is a major spare parts supplier to the NTC as well and it has confirmed that it deals with Ashok Leyland original equipment manufacturers for importing spare parts. This supplier has also informed that since last year, Sundaram Clayton Ltd has merged with Continental India to create a new brand, Wabco India. The latter is also an original equipment manufacturer to Ashok Leyland for air brakes, clutch systems and belting. Besides, in year 2012, Wabco won the Top Award for its outstanding support to Ashok Leyland, as a leading global supplier of technologies and control systems for the safety and efficiency of commercial vehicles.

As regards part (b), I am tabling the names of the suppliers of spare parts for the last five years.

### **FINANCIAL SCAMS - DEPOSITORS**

**(No. B/357) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the recent alleged financial scams, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Financial

Services Commission, the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Bank of Mauritius respectively, information in each case, as to-

- (a) the names of the -
  - (i) depositors, indicating the (I) amount and (II) company/ies in which investment was made, and
  - (ii) commercial banks in which they have an active account, indicating the total amount of money deposited in each one of them to date, and
- (b) if inquiries are being carried out to establish the source of funds of each depositor and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** I am informed that since the investigation in the financial scams conducted by the Enforcement Authority is still ongoing, any disclosure with regard to names of individuals/companies/banks involved may cause prejudice to the enquiry. In such circumstances, the information sought cannot be provided.

However, where any case of infringement of the Financial Intelligence and Anti-Money Laundering Act is found, the Police will take appropriate action. Similarly, the MRA will look into any cases of tax evasion.

#### **FINANCIAL SERVICES - OMBUDSPERSON - SETTING UP**

**(No. B/358) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the proposed setting up of an office of Ombudsperson to investigate into complaints from consumers against commercial banks and other financial institutions, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** I announced in the Budget Speech 2013 that the Ombudsperson for Financial Services Bill is being finalised and that Government will also give more clout to the Borrowers Protection Act. The measure was scheduled to be implemented by June 2013.

Accordingly, the draft Ombudsperson (Financial Services) Bill which has been prepared, after consultation with the regulators, is under consideration at the Attorney General's Office. The draft Bill provides for the establishment of the office of Ombudsperson for Financial Services to better protect consumers of financial services, for the transfer of responsibility of the

Commissioner for the Protection of Borrowers under the Borrower Protection Act to the Ombudsperson and for related matters.

The draft Ombudsperson (Financial Services) Bill will be finalised after taking into consideration the recommendations of the forthcoming IMF mission.

#### **INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANTS LTD. - ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT**

(No. B/359) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether he will state if his Ministry has received representations concerning cases of alleged embezzlement in which the International Consultants Ltd. is allegedly involved with regard to some Mauritian Nationals attempting to migrate to Canada, and if so, indicate the actions, if any, taken in relation thereto.

**Reply:** The simple answer is “Yes”.

I have to inform the House that I held two meetings, firstly on Friday 26 April 2013 at my residence office, and secondly on Monday 29 April 2013 at the Ministry, with a group of some 80 Mauritian nationals who claimed to have been swindled by a company called Ozi International Consultants Ltd.

I then promptly requested the Commissioner of Police, the Passport and Immigration Officer, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr A. Dip, and the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr H. Jangi of the CCID, to conduct a detailed enquiry into this matter.

A dedicated desk (i) at the Rose Hill Police Station and (ii) at the Vacoas Police Station has been set up to register complaints of those who claimed to have been cheated by Ozi International Consultants Ltd.

I am informed that investigations are still under way.

#### **RENGANADEN SEENEVASSEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **- HARBOUR BRIDGE PROJECT**

(No. B/360) Mr J. C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Harbour Bridge

Project, he will state if the Renganaden Seeneevassen Primary School of Les Salines will be concerned therewith and, if so, how, indicating the actions taken in relation thereto.

**Reply:** I am informed that, in regard to the Harbour Bridge Project, a portion of an extent of 4,112 m<sup>2</sup> out of a total of 10,410 m<sup>2</sup> of the Renganaden Seeneevassen Government School would be concerned. This portion, where two classroom blocks and a toilet block are situated, has been retrieved from my Ministry in April last.

Officers of my Ministry and of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping have already initiated action for the preparation of bidding documents for the construction of a new toilet block and the relocation of the playground of pre-primary unit on the remaining portion of an area of 6,298 m<sup>2</sup>.

I am also informed that there would be no need to construct new classrooms as the existing ones on the remaining portion of land would be sufficient to accommodate the present school population given the decreasing trend in intake at Standard I level.

#### **POINTE AUX SABLES - FISH LANDING STATION**

**(No. B/361) Mr J. C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Fish Landing Station at Pointe aux Sables, he will state who is responsible for the cleaning and lighting thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed that there are two proclaimed fish landing stations at Pointe aux Sables, namely at Ex-Golden and one on the public beach at La Pointe. Both fish landing stations do not have any building structure and are only demarcated by sign posts.

The cleaning of the fish landing station at Ex-Golden is effected regularly by the maintenance team of the Ministry of Fisheries whereas the fish landing station at La Pointe is maintained by the Beach Authority. I am informed that no request for lighting facilities has been received so far, as fishing operations and landing of fish are mostly carried out during the day.

#### **VILLE VALIO PUBLIC BEACH – INTERCONTINENTAL MAURITIUS RESORT**

**(No. B/362) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the public beach at L'Union, at Ville Valio, he will state if part thereof has been de-proclaimed and, if so, indicate the –

(a) extent thereof, and

(b) reasons therefor.

**Reply:** The Ville Valio Public Beach, of an extent of 3A11P or 13,120m<sup>2</sup>, was proclaimed as a public beach in 1991. However, up till now, it has remained bare and covered with shrubs, thereby constituting a hideout for certain illicit activities such as drug dealings. Moreover, the Director of the adjacent hotel, namely Intercontinental Mauritius Resort, has complained of regular intrusion to the hotel site despite protective wall barbed wire netting and CCTV and disturbance to the hotel guests who are among the high-spending tourists. A case of hanging has also been reported on the site. These incidents tarnish the reputation of the island as a safe destination for tourists.

The Intercontinental Mauritius Resort has, thus, proposed to convert the site into a purposeful socio-economic land use, namely a lush and luxurious garden to be used for the organization of international weddings and events and other recreational activities in line with Government objective to promote Mauritius as a first class tourist destination highly prized for wedding ceremonies. The request has been examined and considered positively by Government. A letter of reservation has been issued to Lateral Holdings Limited, the owner company of Intercontinental Mauritius Resort, on 26 February 2013 over the subject site, found to be of an extent of 3A18P after survey, for hotel extension. The site was de-proclaimed as public beach on 16 March 2013.

However, the beneficiary will need to create, under its Corporate Social Responsibility Fund, a view point with all required amenities on part of the site, together with an access to the beach for the public. I must inform the House that the hotel has responded positively.

#### **MITD – TRADE UNIONS & NGOs - PROTESTS**

**(No. B/363) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the Mauritius

Institute of Training and Development, he will state if he has taken cognizance of the protests of the Trade Unions and of the Non-Governmental Organisations, further to the -

- (a) termination of the contract of Mrs S. S., as Teacher thereat;
- (b) suspension of Mrs P. B., as Psychologist thereat, and
- (c) issue of a severe warning to Mr H. M., a trade unionist and, if so, will he state if his Ministry has inquired thereinto.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **MAURITIUS TELECOM - ORANGE - CELLULAR NETWORK**

**(No. B/364) Mr C. Fakeemeeah (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to Orange, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Information and Communication Technology Authority, information as to -

- (a) the reasons why the cellular network thereof went down/was unresponsive on 30 March and 03 May 2013 respectively, indicating the actions taken, if any, against Mauritius Telecom in relation thereto, and
- (b) if consideration will be given for the imposition of a limit of the number of customers per network operator to ensure quality of service.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/341)*

### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

**(No. B/365) Mr C. Fakeemeeah (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the unemployment rate, he will give a breakdown thereof per constituency and per category of workers concerned therewith.

**Reply:** I am informed that Statistics Mauritius does not compile the unemployment rate by Constituency.

However, it produces official estimates of the rate of unemployment at national level based on the Continuous Multi Purpose Household Survey.

### **POLICE OFFICERS – ON-DUTY TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE**

(No. A/117) **Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the on-duty travelling allowance paid to Police Officers to carry out inquiries for miscellaneous duties, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if same has been paid, since December 2012 to date, and if not, indicate –

- (a) the reasons therefor, and
- (b) when same will be paid.

**Reply:** The Commissioner of Police has informed that payment of on-duty travelling allowance in respect of the months of December 2012 and January 2013 have already been effected to all eligible Police Officers.

### **WAQF BOARD – WAQFS REGISTRATION**

(No. A/118) **Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the Waqf Board, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the number of Waqf registered therewith, indicating the number thereof which are in default of the obligation to file annual accounts and the actions, if any, taken against them in relation thereto.

**Reply:** The Board of Waqf Commissioners is appointed by the President in accordance with section 49 of the Waqf Act of 1941. The Board is an independent body and it exercises its functions as per powers conferred upon it by the Waqf Act.

The Board of Waqf Commissioners has informed that there are 542 Waqfs registered with the Board and 95 Waqfs have not yet submitted their Annual Returns containing the Annual Accounts for the year 2012.

The Finance Committee of the Board carries out regular monitoring exercise and requests the defaulting Mutawallis to file their returns.

### **POLICE STATIONS (NEW) – CONSTRUCTION**

(No. A/119) Mr A. Gungah (First Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the regions which have been earmarked for the setting up of new Police Stations, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, a list thereof, indicating in each case –

- (a) where matters stand, and
- (b) when construction works are expected to start.

**Reply:** The Commissioner of Police has informed that the schedule for the construction of new Police Stations is as follows –

<b>Region</b>	<b>Expected start date of construction</b>
Trou d’Eau Douce Police Station	Started on 08 March 2013
Cité La Cure Police Station	November 2013
La Gaulette Police Station	November 2013
St. Pierre Police Station	December 2013
Cent Gaulettes Police Station	Year 2014
Moka Police Station and Sub-Divisional Headquarters	Year 2014
Camp Diable Police Station	Year 2014
Pamplemousses Police Station	Year 2014
Trou Fanfaron Police Station	Year 2014
Vallée Pitot Police Station	Year 2014
Abercrombie Divisional Headquarters and Police Station	Year 2016

## FEEDSTOCK – PRICE

**(No. A/120) Mrs J. Radegonde-Haines (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River)**

ask the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the feedstock, he will state the -

- (a) reasons for the 13 percent rise thereof within three months;
- (b) measures taken to create a balance between the increase thereof and meat, and
- (c) direct support given to the small farmers.

**Reply:** The last increase in the price of feed was in January 2013, representing an average increase of 6% compared to prices in September 2012.

With regard to part (a) of the question, the reasons for the increase in the prices of feed can be attributed, *inter alia*, to the following factors -

- An increase in the price of the cost of raw materials like maize and soya bean which are imported from South Africa, Argentina, Brazil and Chile;
- Increase in the sea freight cost;
- Increase in insurance cost, and
- Increase in maintenance cost of equipment and machineries.

With regard to part (b), figures show that despite an increase in the price of feed, it is expected that meat production will increase by 4% in 2013 (50,000 tonnes) compared to 48,000 tonnes in 2011.

With regard to part (c), to support small farmers, Government has -

- (i) introduced since 2009, a subsidy scheme on feed with a budget of Rs6 m. per annum. The subsidy is Rs2,000 per tonne of feed up to a maximum monthly quota of three tonnes for dairy, 50 kg for goat and sheep and 400 kg for pig. This scheme is being implemented by the Livestock Feed Promotion Scheme Unit of the Agricultural Services of the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security;
- (ii) the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit (AREU) has come up with a new cow feed formulation which is economically more advantageous than

the traditional cow feed proposed by private factories. This new feed is presently being sold at Rs10,350/metric tonne compared to Lacto feed at Rs13,550/metric tonne, both have the same nutritional value (17% crude protein), and

- (iii) in view of the new challenges, the Government will support breeders who wish to cluster and set up mini feed factories. Facilities are to be given for purchase of equipment and storage.

#### **CHAMOUNY - BUS SHELTER – LITTER BIN**

**(No. A/121) Mrs J. Radegonde-Haines (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether in regard to the bus shelter located in Chamouny, he will state if consideration will be given for the provision thereof of a bin for garbage disposal and for the collection thereof.

**Reply (Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands):** I am informed by the District Council of Savanne that provision has already been made for placing of one litter bin at each bus shelter in Chamouny on Thursday 23 May 2013.

#### **MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS - VACANCIES**

**(No. A/122) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the medical practitioners, he will state the number -

- (a) of vacancies that presently exist in the public sector in the grade of -
  - (i) Medical and Health Officer and Senior Medical and Health Officer, and
  - (ii) Specialist and Senior Specialist, indicating when they will be filled, and
- (b) thereof awaiting enrolment in the Pre-Registration Training Scheme, indicating the number thereof that will be enlisted.

**Reply:** The information sought for is as follows -

- (a) (i) the number of vacancies in the grade of MHO/SMHO: 69

Vacancies were advertised by the Public Service Commission on 24 April 2013 and the closing date is 28 May 2013.

(ii) the number of vacancies in the grade of Specialist/Senior Specialist: 81

Vacancies were advertised on 01 November 2012 and 22 January 2013 in the fields indicated in the document laid in the Library. The closing dates were 21 November 2012 and 11 February 2013 respectively.

(b) The number of doctors awaiting enlistment under the Pre-Registration House Training scheme is 205 and the number to be enlisted in June 2013 is 150.

### **CIVIL SERVANTS - CRIMINAL OFFENCE - SANCTIONS**

**(No. A/123) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms whether, in regard to the civil servants who have been convicted of a criminal offence, since 2005 to date, he will state the number thereof, indicating in each case the -

- (a) nature of the offence;
- (b) sentence imposed by court, and
- (c) sanctions, if any, taken against them by the Public Service Commission.

**Reply:** The information is being laid in the Library.

### **MONT ROCHES - ST MARTIN ROAD - BUS STOPS**

**(No. A/124) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the St. Martin Road, he will state if he has received representations for the installation of two additional bus stops thereat, between the Mont Roches Cooperative Store and the cemetery, and if so, when, indicating if consideration will be given thereto and if not, why not.

**Reply:** As a matter of fact, five bus stops are located along St. Martin Road between Mont Roches Cooperative Store and St. Martin Cemetery. The bus stops are situated as shown on the annexed sketch as follows -

- (a) at point A near Mont Roches Cooperative Store in the direction of St. Martin;
- (b) at point B near the cemetery in the direction of St. Martin;
- (c) at point C apposite Mont Roches Cooperative Store in the direction of Mont Roches;
- (d) at point D opposite La Chaumiere Road in the direction of Mont Roches, and
- (e) at point E opposite the cemetery.

Between A and B which covers a distance of 1.3 kms the land is under sugarcane and other crops cultivation while the other side is unoccupied land. It is pointed out that no request has been received so far regarding provision of additional bus stops between Mont Roches Cooperative Society and the cemetery.

However, consideration will be given for location of additional bus stops if the need arises.

#### **MSB – SOAP POWDER - CHEMICAL TEST**

(No. A/125) **Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to imported soap powder, he will state if chemical tests thereof are carried out by the relevant authorities to certify that they are not the source of contamination to the aquifers and damage the environment and, if not, the actions taken for the control thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed that no chemical test is being carried out by any Government Laboratory on imported soap powder. However, the Mauritius Standards Bureau has developed standards relating to synthetic laundry powder detergent for household use and hand dish washing detergents (liquid), but such testings are presently voluntary. Both standards also require that constituents be listed on the labeling.

The Chemical Technology Laboratory of MSB is equipped to conduct testing for the performance characteristics of above detergents in terms of -

- (i) cleaning efficiency;
- (ii) redeposition index;
- (iii) water insoluble matter content;
- (iv) pH value;

- (v) foaming properties;
- (vi) moisture content;
- (vii) fluorescent whitening agent content;
- (viii) chemical damage to cotton fibres, and
- (ix) corrosiveness.

I am further informed that –

- (a) the Mauritius Standards Bureau is not presently equipped to assess the biodegradability of soap powder which is the source of contamination to aquifers, and
- (b) soap commonly contains phosphates, which when released in large quantities may contribute to the contamination of ground water and water ways. As such, monitoring of phosphates in water is being carried out by the Central Water Authority and the National Environment Laboratory. Latest results from NEL reveal that the level of phosphates in water in general is within standards.

#### **CYBER CITY – LAND LEASE**

**(No. A/126) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the Cyber City, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Sugar Investment Trust, information as to the extent of land leased, indicating the -

- (a) price paid per acre, indicating the conditions of lease thereof in each case;
- (b) total area of buildings under construction, indicating if they will be used for Information and Communications Technologies activities, and
- (c) name of the consultants/contractors who had submitted tenders for consultancy/construction works, indicating the respective price quoted and the names of the successful bidders.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Sugar Investment Trust (SIT) that –

- (a) the present lease price for 2.56 acres is Rs304,110 for year 2013. A copy of the lease agreement inclusive of the conditions has been placed in the Library;

- (b) the total area of the building under construction is 29,580 m<sup>2</sup>. The building will be used for Information and Communications Technologies activities, amongst others, and
- (c) the list of consultants/contractors who submitted tenders for consultancy/construction works and price quoted has been placed in the Library. The successful bidders are as follows –

(i) Consultancy

1. GIBB (MTIUS) Ltd
2. Ong Seng & Goburdhun & Partners
3. Urban Architects
4. WSP Mauritius Ltd
5. Servansingh Jadav Partners & Consulting Engineers Ltd

(ii) Contractors

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Rhem Grinaker Construction Ltd  | - Main Contractor  |
| 2. Rey & Lenferna Ltd              | - Electrical and Allied Services Contractor  |
| 3. Rey & Lenferna Ltd              | - Public Health and Fire Fighting Services Contractor                                      |
| 4. Rey & Lenferna Ltd              | - HVAC Contractor  |
| 5. Scomat Ltd                      | - Generator Sets Contractor  |
| 6. Elevator Escalator Services Ltd | - Lift Services Contractor   |
| 7. Nundun Gopee Co. Ltd            | - Aluminium Cladding Contractor  |
|                                    | China Jiangsu International<br>Economic Technical Cooperation<br>Corporation Joint Venture |
| 8. Nundun Gopee Co. Ltd            | - Aluminium Openings Contractor  |

China Jiangsu International Economic  
Technical Cooperation Corporation  
Joint Venture

### **BUSINESS PARKS OF MAURITIUS LTD - PROFITS**

(No. A/127) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, since 2007 to date, on a yearly basis, information as to the total -

- (a) profit generated, indicating the amount thereof obtained through the sale of assets, and
- (b) amount of loan contracted under the India line of credit, indicating in respect of the installments -
  - (i) the number thereof paid;
  - (ii) the quantum and dates thereof, and
  - (iii) if same have been effected on time and the amount thereof outstanding.

**Reply:** The information in respect of part (a) of the question has been laid in the Library.

With regard to part (b), the amount of loan contracted under the India line of credit by BPML, stands at US\$ 16,553,338. In 2007, Government agreed to capitalise 50% of the amount disbursed, i.e. an amount of US\$ 8,276,694 and therefore only an amount of US\$ 8,276,694 representing the other 50% had to be repaid by the BPML.

With regard to part (b) (i), (ii) and (iii), in 2008, following discussions between the Ministry of Finance and BPML, payment of the amount of US\$ 8,276,694 was rescheduled and the terms for rescheduling were as follows -

- (a) capital and interest to be payable over a period of seven years starting 2012, and
- (b) arrears on interest amounting to US\$ 2,838,915 payable over four years starting 2013.

Repayments are being effected in a timely manner in line with the agreement reached between the Ministry of Finance and BPML. Therefore, two installments have been paid in 2012 as follows -

Instalment	Date	Capital Repayment		Interest Repayment	
		USD	Rs	USD	Rs
1.	03 Oct 2012	593,768	18,436,487	264,969	8,030,410
2.	26 Dec 2012	593,768	18,355,880	82,014	2,512,422

#### **QUARTIER MILITAIRE –**

##### **L’ESPERANCE LINK ROAD BONNE VEINE – SAFETY MEASURES**

(No. A/128) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to Bonne Veine, on the Quartier Militaire - L’Espérance Link Road, he will state if measures will be taken to avoid the recurrence of fatal road accidents to occur at the dangerous curve found thereat.

**Reply:** The main road running through L’Espérance village is called the Bonne Veine Road (classified - B51). It starts from its junction with the A7 Road at Bonne Veine (Quartier Militaire) to its junction with A7 Road at Alma. Some sections of the B51 Road are horizontally curved in some parts of L’Espérance and Bonne Veine villages, particularly through the agricultural areas, while the straight portion of the road runs through major parts of the L’Espérance village.

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit is in the process of implementing a series of road safety measures along the Quartier Militaire – L’Espérance Link Road Bonne Veine, including at the short bend, which are as follows -

- (a) Painting of ‘SLOW’ road markings at the sharp bends concerned;
- (b) Setting up of bend signs, and

(c) Setting up of chevron signs.

Furthermore, the Road Development Authority will be requested to implement the following measures -

- Removal of cane plantations nearer than five feet from the road edge between Quartier Militaire and Alma (as per section 68 of the Roads Act, and
- Repainting of all road markings over the whole length of the Bonne Veine Road (B51).

### **BASMATI RICE & PULSES - PRICE**

(No. A/129) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to Basmati Rice and pulses, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to the reasons for the recent price increases thereof, indicating if measures will be taken to stabilize the prices thereof on the local market.

**Reply:** Presently, the prices of Basmati Rice and pulses are not subject to any price control by government. The prices are determined by the market forces and the various players dealing in such trade.

As regards the State Trading Corporation, it imports neither basmati rice nor pulses. However, it does import ration rice, the price of which is subsidised by Government.

According to the figures collected by Statistics Mauritius, the average prices from June 2012 to March 2013 for Basmati Rice and pulses such as Black Lentils, Split Peas and Broad Beans have fluctuated as follows -

#### **Average prices (Rs) of selected commodities in Republic of Mauritius (June 2012 to March 2013)**

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Jun-12</b>	<b>Jul-12</b>	<b>Aug-12</b>	<b>Sep-12</b>	<b>Oct-12</b>	<b>Nov-12</b>	<b>Dec-12</b>	<b>Jan-13</b>	<b>Feb-13</b>	<b>Mar-13</b>
Trader's Rice*	kg	54.44	54.25	54.86	55.39	55.20	56.02	55.52	55.66	55.98	57.55

Black Lentils	500 gm	19.06	19.1 9	19.5 8	18.6 1	18.9 9	19.2 3	18.3 8	19.9 5	20.8 6	20.73
Split Peas	500 gm	15.90	16.2 8	16.3 5	16.9 0	16.5 9	16.5 4	16.2 7	17.2 2	17.0 6	17.29
Broad Beans	500 gm	29.64	29.4 9	30.0 2	30.1 0	29.8 0	28.9 6	25.9 5	28.7 1	29.8 6	30.45

(\*Trader's rice refers to Basmati Rice)

It is to be noted that a number of the factors that lead to price fluctuations of these products are outside our control such as demand and supply on the world market, exchange rates, climatic changes and freight charges.

### **ROADS - MARKINGS AND TRAFFIC SIGNS**

(No. A/130) **Mr P. Jhugroo (First Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the classified /main roads and motorways, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Road Development Authority, information as to if urgent consideration will be given for additional road markings and traffic signs to be adequately displayed thereat, following the implementation of the Penalty Points System.

**Reply:** Road markings and traffic signs are initially approved by the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) and included in execution of all road project and traffic schemes which are always adequately displayed along main roads and motorways.

Road markings normally get defaced depending on the traffic volume and weather conditions and traffic signs are subject to vandalism and to wear and tear.

The maintenance of road markings falls under the highway authority, that is, either the Road Development Authority or the Local Authority (District Council or Municipal Council).

The Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit advocates a periodical maintenance of traffic signs and road markings to enhance road safety and to make the penalty point system more effective with prompt enforcement of the existing Road Traffic laws. Before the

implementation of the Penalty Point System and the promulgation of the Road Traffic (Amendment) Act 2012, the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit carried out an extensive review of road markings round the island particularly along full white lines near bus stops. Speed limit signs have also been placed all over the island in line with the Speed Limit Regulations 2011.

#### **ABERCROMBIE – POLICE DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS - CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. A/131) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a new and modern Divisional Headquarters at Abercrombie, he will state if his Ministry is working on the preliminary architectural plans for the proposed building thereat and, if so, indicate where matters stand, including the expected date of completion thereof.

**Reply:** The proposed construction of a New and Modern Divisional Headquarters at Abercrombie is among one of the various projects submitted by the Commissioner of Police for Design and implementation by my Ministry. A programme has been established in close collaboration with the Police Department and a progress review of all Projects of the Police Department is done on a regular basis. The last co-ordination meeting was held on 09 May 2013.

As regards the project at Abercrombie, action has been initiated to complete a thorough survey of the existing buildings and the land area that is available by June 2013.

On the other hand, Architects and Senior Officers of the Police Department are finalising the brief of the project, taking into consideration the experience gathered in the New District Headquarters at Curepipe, Vacoas and Flacq.

It is expected that the architectural design will be completed by January 2014. During the following year, after approval of the Project Plans Committee and the Building Plan Committee, depending on the allocation of funds in the budget, the detailed design will be completed. By the end of 2015, public tenders will be launched for construction works to start in 2016. At this stage, it would be premature to give an expected completion date as the detailed scope of works

and design would determine the duration of the project. A more detailed time table has been laid in the Library.

#### **NICOLAY ROAD & VELORE STREET - BUS STOPS**

**(No. A/132) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the bus stops at the Nicolay Road and the Velore Street, in Port Louis, he will state if he has received a petition from the inhabitants of Camp Yoloff, dated 30 April 2013 in relation thereto and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given thereto and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** It is pointed out that there is no bus service along Velore Street. However, the United Bus Service Co. Ltd and the individual operators provide a bus service along routes 42/77/235 and 70 via Camp Yoloff along Military Road and Noor-E-Islam Mosque Street (Ex-Nicolay Road) in the direction of the Transportation Centre, Port Louis.

Site observation has revealed that a bus stop sign post has been placed along Nicolay Street in the direction of Transportation Centre at a distance of 35 m from the junction of Borneo/Nicolay Streets. This bus stopping place serves the locality along Noor-E-Islam Mosque (ex-Nicolay Road) and Velore Street.

#### **PAMPLEMOUSSES/RIVIÈRE DU REMPART DISTRICT COUNCIL - VACANCIES**

**(No. A/133) Mr A. Gungah (First Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the vacancies that presently exist at the Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart District Council, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Council, information as to the number thereof in each grade, indicating if same will be filled and, if so, when.

**Reply:** The information requested by the hon. Member is being placed in the Library.

#### **SSS - BUILDINGS - RENOVATION WORKS**

**(No. A/134) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the State Secondary Schools the buildings of which are thirty years old and above, he will give a list thereof,

indicating those which have been earmarked for major renovation works, indicating in each case the –

- (a) scope of works thereof;
- (b) estimated cost thereof, and
- (c) expected start and completion dates thereof.

**Reply:** The list of State Secondary Schools whose buildings are 30 years and above and which have been earmarked for major renovation works are as follows –

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completion/ Expected Completion Date
1	M. P. S. Jugdambi SSS, Goodlands	(i) Replacement of opening in gym, covered link between main block and gym, raising of blockwall	Not available	Awaiting appointment of District Contractors (DC)	Not available	
		(ii) Pigeon Proofing	Not available	Preparation of bidding documents	Not available	
		(iii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
2	P. Hassan Raffa SSS,	(i) Renovation of Staff Toilet	Rs0.9 m.	Ongoing	27 March 2012	End May 2013

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completion/ Expected Completion Date
	Terre Rouge	(ii) Pigeon Proofing	Not available	Preparation of bidding documents	Not available	
		(iii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
3	R. Prayag SSS, Rivière du Rempart	(i) Upgrading Works including painting, replacement of naco, structural repairs, Renovation in gym, repairs to roof, replacement of openings, landscaping works	Rs68.6 m.	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(ii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
4	Royal College	(i) Upgrading Works	Rs25 m.	Future Project	Not available	

S/N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completion/ Expected Completion Date
	Port Louis	(ii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
5	Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed SSS, Port Louis	(i) Replacement of Openings in Gymnasium, Tarring of Play area, Upgrading works in laboratories	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(ii) Inclined Boundary Wall	Rs0.3 m.	Completed	October 2012	November 2012
		(iii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
6	John Kennedy College, Beau Bassin	(i) Provision for aluminium doors, Review of water distribution network	Not available	To be implemented by Zone Directorate	Not available	
		(ii) Waterproofing Works, Pigeon	Not available	Preparation of bidding	Not available	

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completion/ Expected Completion Date
		Proofing Works		documents		
7	Queen Elizabeth College, Rose Hill	(i) Upgrading Works: - Fixing of metal openings - Repairs to floor in gym and behind stage	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(ii) Construction of covered link between toilet & corridor				
8	R. Gujadhur SSS, Flacq	(i) Repair of roof in prevocational classes	Not available	To be implemented at Zonal level	Not available	
		(ii) Lightning	Rs 3.8 M	Works to	June	December

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completion/ Expected Completion Date
		Protection System	(for 23 schools)	start soon	2013	2013
		(iii) Photovoltaic System	Rs 8.7M (for 10 schools)	Works to start soon	July 2013	January 2014
9	Shrimati Indira Gandhi SSS, Quartier Militaire	(i) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
		(ii) Raising of Boundary Wall, Waterproofing works inclusive of treatment of expansion, upgrading of Toilet Block, High chain link fencing around football ground and a new gate	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(iii) Pigeon Proofing works	Not available	Preparation of bidding	Not available	

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completion/ Expected Completion Date
				documents		
10	Sir Leckraz Teelock SSS, Flacq	(i) Upgrading of football ground including fencing works	Not available	Moka/Flacq District Council in collaboration with NDU to implement.	Not available	
		(ii) Upgrading of wooden floor in the gymnasium	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(iii) Electrical Works	Rs9m.	Ongoing	January 2013	June 2013
11	Dunpath Lallah SSS, Curepipe	(i) Toilet Renovation	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(ii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
		(iii) Waterproofing Works in	Not	Awaiting appointment	Not available	

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completi on/ Expected Completi on Date
		Workshop, Replacement of Nacos & Replacement of fencing	available	of DC		
12	Emmanuel Anquetil SSS, Mahebourg	(i) Renovation of existing buildings including replacement of openings, structural rehabilitation, waterproofing works, demolition of old buildings, conversion works and creation of parking and recreational area.	Not available	Preparation of bidding documents	Not available	
		(ii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon.	June 2013	December 2013

S/N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completi on/ Expected Completi on Date
13	Royal College Curepipe	(i) Waterproofing Works	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
14	Sookdeo Bissoondoy al State College, Rose Belle	(i) Upgrading of Toilet and waterproofing works	Not available	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(iii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
15	Swami Vivekanand a SSS, Souillac	(i) Construction of boundary Blockwall and high level fencing	Rs5 m.	Awaiting appointment of DC	Not available	
		(ii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon	June 2013	December 2013
16	Dr Maurice Cure State	(i) Covered Link	Rs1.2 m.	Completed	04 June 2011	August 2012

S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completi on/ Expected Completi on Date
	College, Vacoas	(ii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon.	June 2013	December 2013
17	Dr. Regis Chaperon SSS, Belle Rose	(i) Phase IA - Construction of new toilet block, boundary wall, covering of canal  (ii) Extension Works – Phase IB consist of construction of new science block	Rs77 m.	Completed  On going	July 2012  April 2013	March 2013  January 2014
		(iii) Phase II- Renovation of existing blocks including replacement of openings, structural rehabilitation,	Rs45 m.	Design stage by MPI	Not available	

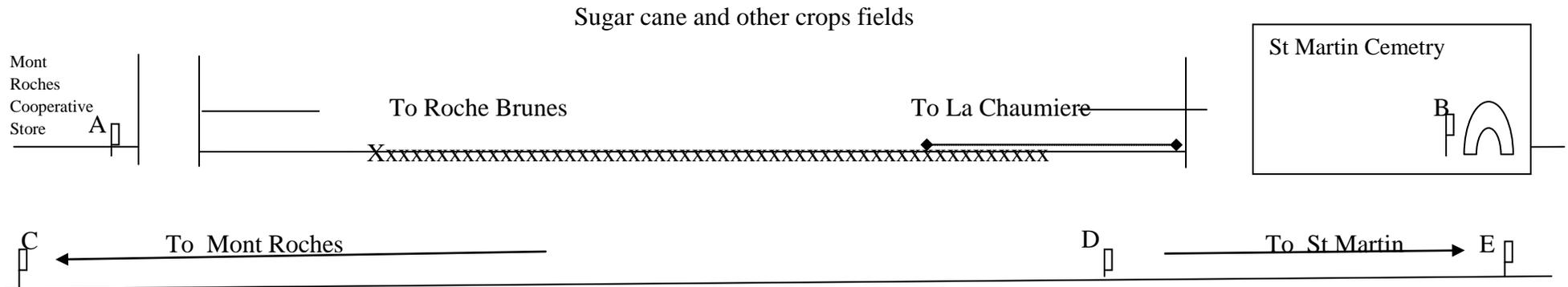
S/ N	School	Projects and Scope of works	Cost Estimates/ Project cost (Rs)	Status	Start /Expected Start Date	Completi on/ Expected Completi on Date
		waterproofing works, conversion works and creation of recreational area.				
		(iii) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon.	June 2013	December 2013
18	Swami Sivananda SSS, Bambous	(i) Plumbing Works	Rs2.72 m.	Completed	12 April 2011	End of June 2012
		(ii) Provision of New centralized LP gas system	Rs2 m.	Completed	July 2012	October 2012
		(iii) Renovation of toilet blocks	Rs3.7 m.	Completed	April 2011	October 2012
		(iv) Lightning Protection System	Rs3.8 m. (for 23 schools)	Works to start soon.	June 2013	December 2013

In regard to works entrusted to District Contractors, these will start upon appointment of the District Contractors by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping.

P. Q No. A/124

APPENDIX

Existing bus stops along St Martin Road between Mont Roches Cooperative Store and St Martin Cemetry



**Legends** (not to scale)

A ,C, D, E	- Existing bus stops
B	- Existing bus stop with shelter
Above 1.3 km	- Distance between A and B
About 1 Km	- Distance between C and D
About 350M	- Distance between D and E
About 75M	- Distance between D and opposite junction of La Chaumiere Road
Xxxxxxx	- Guardrails
◆-----◆	- Drain

17 May 2013