

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****MBC – ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP LEAGUE - BROADCAST**

(No. B/789) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the football matches of the forthcoming English Premiership League, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to if arrangements are being made for their live transmission and, if so, where matters stand.

**Reply:** In reply to PQ B/1023 on 06 November 2007, I informed the House of the difficulties many public broadcasters, including the MBC, are facing to acquire and broadcast live football matches of the English Premier League.

I am informed by the Director-General of the MBC that the situation has become even more difficult and in spite of all efforts made, the MBC will not be able this year too to provide live transmission of football matches of Category A and Category B.

Category A includes matches played between the big four teams, that is, Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal whereas Category B comprises matches played between the big four teams and the other teams of the English Premier League.

I am further informed by the Director-General of the MBC that, as was the case last year, the MBC will broadcast the Free-to-Air Category C package which includes the transmission of one live match of the English Premier League per week end. The Category C package includes some matches of the big four teams against other teams. The MBC will have to disburse an amount of Euros 210,000 for the Category C package for the English Premier League Seasons 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

The Director-General of the MBC has further informed that through international relations, the MBC has been able to acquire the rights to broadcast 38 deferred matches of Category A and Category B of the 2008/2009 Season of the English Premier League with a 24-hour delay.

As I mentioned in reply to PQ B/1023 on 06 November last, the international climate dictating the acquisition and broadcast of English Premier League live matches is such that the Right Holders give priority of consideration to Pay Channels. Public broadcasters, including the MBC, are finding it extremely difficult to secure live matches in addition to those included in the Category C package.

I have, nevertheless, requested the MBC to continue to explore other avenues for additional live matches of the English Premier League.

#### **AU SUMMIT, EGYPT – ZIMBABWE – PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

**(No. B/790) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to Zimbabwe, he will inform the House of the latest developments following the re-election of President Robert Mugabe, indicating if the matter has been discussed at the African Union Summit, in Egypt.

**Reply:** As the House is aware, Mr Robert Mugabe was sworn in as President of Zimbabwe on Sunday 29 June, 2008, following the presidential run-off elections held on 27 June, 2008.

Prior to the elections opposition leader Mr Morgan Tsvangirai had stated that he would not participate in the elections as the situation in Zimbabwe had been affected by wide ranging political violence and intimidation since the first round of the presidential elections on 29 March. However, the elections went ahead and Mr Mugabe is reported to have obtained 85.5 % of the votes cast.

The electoral observer Missions of the AU, SADC and the Pan African Parliament have unanimously reported that the elections fell short of the normal standards. The AU Summit which was held in Sharm El Sheikh,

Egypt from 30 June to 01 July 2008 took note of and expressed deep concern over the reports. Mauritius was represented in the SADC Electoral Observer Mission by a team of 19 persons including the Electoral Commissioner.

The issue of Zimbabwe came for intense discussions at the level of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Sharm El Sheik Egypt. President Mugabe participated in the AU Assembly.

The AU Assembly adopted a resolution on Zimbabwe drafted by Angola as the current Head of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security. The resolution resolves as follows -

- to encourage President Robert Mugabe and the Leader of the MDC Party Mr. Morgan Tsvangirai to honour their commitment to initiate dialogue with a view to promoting peace, stability, democracy and reconciliation of the Zimbabwean people;
- to support the call for the creation of a Government of National Unity;
- to support the SADC Facilitation, and recommend that SADC mediation efforts should be continued in order to assist the people and leadership of Zimbabwe to resolve the problems they are facing;
- to appeal to States and all parties concerned to refrain from any action that may negatively impact on the climate of dialogue, and
- In the spirit of all SADC initiatives, the AU remains convinced that the people of Zimbabwe will be able to resolve their differences and work together once again as one Nation, provided they receive undivided support from SADC, the AU and the world at large.

The full text of the resolution is being tabled.

In addition, the UN Secretary General has issued a statement to the effect that conditions were not in place for a free and fair election and that the two sides should negotiate a political solution. The UN Secretary General also supports the efforts of the AU and SADC to promote an agreement acceptable to the people of Zimbabwe.

Mauritius fully supports the AU resolution and the ongoing efforts of the SADC and AU for a resolution of the present political situation.

## ACCUSED PERSONS - BAIL

**(No. B/791) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, he is aware of the recent judgment delivered by a special Immigration Appeals Commission in the United Kingdom, regarding the release on bail of a radical islamic cleric, and if so, will he state if Government will consider amending the Bail Act to provide stringent conditions for the release of accused persons on bail.

**Reply:** I presume the hon. Member must be referring to the case of Abu Qatada who has been released on bail by the Special Immigration Appeals Commission upon very stringent conditions. This followed a Human Rights decision by the Appeal Court stating that Abu Qatada could not be deported to Jordan where he is wanted on suspicions of plotting terrorist activities. Bail was granted to him pending an appeal to the House of Lords to determine on the issue of deportation.

Despite the far-reaching bail conditions, this decision to release Abu Qatada was met with a chorus of criticisms from across the political spectra and Jacqui Smith, the UK Home Secretary, is reported to have said that: “the Government’s priority is to protect public safety and national security and we will take steps necessary to do so”.

The question of amending the law relating to bail has come up time and again mainly because of the concerns expressed against either the release on bail of persons charged with serious offences or the unduly long pre-trial detention of suspects.

The general right to liberty is a principle enshrined in our Constitution and under the Bail Act itself every person who is under arrest on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence has the general right to be released on bail, subject however, to the usual strict grounds for objections as set out under the Bail Act.

The Supreme Court and the Privy Council have repeatedly held that the 1999 Bail Act must always be read together with Section 5 and Section 1

of the Constitution which guarantee the right to personal liberty and which preclude any automatic denial of bail even in the most serious or heinous offences and crimes.

It is also worth recollecting, as stated in one of my previous answers to the House on the issue of bail that Privy Council has explained in the case of Hurnam that the Bail Act of 1989 was constitutionally defective because it did not reflect the principle that the ground of bail should be the rule as opposed to the exception. The Privy Council also stated that the 1999 Bail Act has in fact cured that defect by stating that bail should be the rule. It was further highlighted that the 1999 Act was by and large in line with English Law as set out in the UK Bail Act and also consonant with the European Convention on Human Rights which is similar to Chapter II of our Constitution on Fundamental Rights.

The real issue is not whether to amend the Bail Act to provide for more stringent conditions for the release of detainees on bail, but rather instead to focus on the issue of the type of evidence which can be gathered and put before the Court in support of objection to bail in case where it is genuinely felt that bail should be refused to a suspect.

Legally, there are strict grounds for objection to bail and these risks are assessed by the Courts having regard to the seriousness of the offence and the penalty to be imposed. Each bail application and objection must therefore continue to be dealt on its particular facts and its own merits.

It will be for the Police and the Prosecution to bring before the Courts the necessary evidence and the arguments that can persuade the Courts that, for example, the release on bail is likely to lead the suspect to tamper with evidence or abscond and it will be for the Court then to determine and decide whether such risks could be attenuated by the imposition of such conditions as the Court may deem fit and proper in the circumstances.

It must be pointed out that the decision referred to by the hon. Member emanates from an Immigration Tribunal and it does not carry the authority of a Judgment of the House of Lords or that of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council upon which our Law is interpreted. It would thus be premature to adopt the proposals made in that Judgment and it is, therefore, not envisaged to amend the Bail Act at this stage.

**DRUGS (ILLICIT) – WORLD DRUG REPORT**

**(No. B/792) Mr N.Bodha (First Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the consumption of hard drugs in Mauritius, he will state if he has taken cognizance of the latest report of the World Narcotics Bureau and, if so, indicate the measures Government proposes to take.

**Reply:** The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a global leader in the multilateral effort against illicit drugs and international crime. The World Drug Report 2008 prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime gives a statistical view of the global illicit drug situation annually.

In this year's edition of the Report, mention is made of Mauritius at page 57 on the prevalence rate of opiate use in Mauritius as well as in three statistical tables on the annual prevalence of abuse of opiates and cannabis as percentage of the population aged 15 to 64 and on primary drugs of abuse among persons treated for drug problems in Africa.

I wish to inform the House that the figures used for this year edition are same as that used in the 2007 World Drug Report. In fact, the figures used for compilation are for the year 2003 (opiates) and 2004 (cannabis).

With regard to Opiates, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has used Mauritian figures for year 2003, while the remaining countries under Eastern Africa are for the year 2004. With respect to Cannabis, the Mauritian figures are for the year 2004, while for some countries the figures are for the year 1994, 1999 and 2002.

It is, therefore, clear that the figures contained in the 2008 World Drug Report in respect of Mauritius do not reflect the current drug situation in the country.

My Government is fully committed to tackle the drug problem in the country and is sparing no efforts to that effect, to counter the proliferation of

drug abuse and trafficking. The fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking is ongoing and requires resources and determination.

To this end, the capacity of the existing institutions and agencies involved in the fight against drug abuse and drug trafficking is being reinforced. New strategies are developed and implemented to cater for the changing environment.

The recent detections of two cases within a week resulting in the arrest of Tanzanians, Kenyan and Portuguese Nationals and seizure of 6.5 kg of heroin are indicative that the Police is achieving good results in so far as the supply reduction strategy is concerned. Since January 2008 to June 2008, the ADSU registered a total of 1292 cases related to drug where 1160 persons have been arrested and 17,050 gandia plants have been uprooted.

In my reply to PQ B/817 on 24 July, 2007, I enumerated a series of measures forming part of a multi-pronged approach to combat the drug problem, namely, on the supply and demand reduction, education, treatment and rehabilitation fronts.

To sustain a national consensus towards zero tolerance for drug abuse, we will continue to take additional measures as and when required.

There is need to re-examine the statistics stated in the report in the light of results achieved following measures taken to address the drug problems. In fact according to up-to-date official source, the prevalence rate is much less than is stated in the report. Also the policy with regard to penalties under the Dangerous Drugs Act is being re-looked with a view to providing harsher penalties for drug consumers.

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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY – DEBATES - BROADCAST

**(No. B/793) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the proposal for the setting up of a Select Committee on the live broadcasting of the debates of the National Assembly on television and radio, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** In my reply to PQ No. B/79 in April last, I reiterated that I am not against the idea of live broadcast of the debates of the National Assembly. I am all for it. I also agreed, in principle, to come forward with the motion for the setting up of a Select Committee, on the understanding that there is a consensus in the House on the matter.

However, as I explained in my reply, there are complex issues in the live broadcast of the proceedings of the House. Clear rules of coverage will first have to be established – rules that will ensure a balanced fair and accurate account of the proceedings of the House. But above all, these rules will also have to ensure that the dignity of the House and its function as a working body is respected.

Further guidelines will also have to be established covering the use that can be made of excerpts from the proceedings both for broadcasting and non-broadcasting purposes.

For these reasons, I propose, as a first step, to hold further consultations with Mr Speaker first and then with all parties concerned to define the terms of reference of the proposed Select Committee.

I also wish to point out that most countries which have introduced live telecast of parliamentary proceedings, did so on an experimental basis in the first instance.

## NIGHT CLUBS – MINORS

(No. B/794) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the night clubs, he will for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if there are cases of minors having been admitted thereat, and if so –

- (a) the number of night clubs and children involved, and
- (b) the remedial measures that have been taken.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that there have been two cases where minors have been admitted in a night club on 20 July 2007. Following information received to the effect that “Student Parties” were being organised in two night clubs at Flacq, a Police operation was launched whereby checks were carried out simultaneously in the two night clubs.

During the operation 53 students were found on the premises. 8 of them who were above eighteen years, were contravened by Police for the offence of being “found in a night club during prohibited hours”. The 45 minor students were allowed to go, after enquiry, under the responsibility of their parents and they will be called as witnesses in Court in the cases against the owners of the night clubs who have been contravened for -

- (i) operating night club during prohibited hours;
- (ii) allowing minors to get access and remain on licence premises during prohibited hours;
- (iii) failing to affix sign board; and
- (iv) operating with expired licence.

I would like to point out that Section 16 of the Child Protection Act makes it an offence for any person who causes or allows a minor to have access to any Night Club selling liquor.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that the *Brigade des Mineurs*, the Police Family

Protection Unit, CID, ADSU and local Police carry out regular checks in night clubs to ensure that they are operating within the legal framework.

Police also carries out awareness campaigns throughout the Island in schools, colleges, youth clubs and youth centres in order to sensitize the youth, parents and community on the risk of minors having access to night clubs. Furthermore students and the public are sensitized through talks, lectures, public exhibitions, radio and TV programs.

The Brigade des Mineurs also keeps watch near night clubs and whenever information or complaints are received to the effect that minors are allowed access in night clubs, the said information is verified and surprise checks are carried out.

### **FLOOD VICTIMS - GRANT**

**(No. B/795) Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the victims of the floods of 26 March 2008 who have benefitted from the grant of Rs5000, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if its services have submitted a report in relation thereto, and if so, indicating if the report discloses if the beneficiaries reside on the ground or first floor, and if so, the number thereof in each case.

**Reply:** On 30 March 2008, a High Powered Committee, under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions, decided that a Special Allowance of Rs5,000 be paid to the heads of households who were victims of the floods of 26 March.

With a view to expediting matters, the Police was requested to assist that Ministry to carry out onsite inspection and verify the genuineness of the cases.

A survey form was prepared to facilitate the collection of data but it was not required to report whether the victims resided on the ground or the first floor.

I am informed that Police submitted the forms duly filled to the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions in 5825 cases. Police recommended 5731 cases for consideration.

Payment has been effected in 4476 cases only after additional scrutiny by the Officers of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare and Reform Institutions.

I would invite hon. Members, if they have any information that there has been abuse, to report it to Police.

### **TEXTILE FACTORIES - CLOSURE**

**(No. B/825) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the textile factories, he will state the number thereof, which have closed down, since September 2005 to date, indicating the number of workers who have been laid off.

**Reply (The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations & Employment):** I am tabling a paper giving an indication, on a yearly basis, of the closures and employment loss in the textile and clothing sector in the export-oriented enterprises for period September 2005 to March 2008.

I am also tabling another paper giving the same information for the period October 2000 to June 2005.

I am not going to comment on the statistical information provided in the two papers tabled. I leave it to the appreciation of Members of the House as the figures speak for themselves.

However, I would like to point out that since 2005 a Redeployment Unit of laid off workers has been set up at the Employment Division of my Ministry and placement has been redynamised with the result that since then to date, the placement of 1338 laid off workers has been effected by that unit.

**MR K. M. – ROAD ACCIDENT – ST GEORGES STREET**

(No. B/826) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he is aware that, on 26 June 2008, the SAMU attended to one Mr K. M., who was victim of a road accident, at St Georges Street, Port Louis, two hours after the accident, and if so, will he state the reasons therefor.

**Reply:** As soon as I was made aware on 26 June 2008 through the press that a road accident had occurred on the same day at St. Georges Street, Port Louis in which one Mr K. M. was involved and had to wait for 2 hours before being attended to by SAMU, I instructed that a full enquiry be carried out.

On 30 June 2008, the Regional Health Director of Dr. Jeetoo Hospital submitted a report which revealed that the Control Room of the hospital received a call at 1333 hours from the Police informing that a double cabin vehicle and another vehicle, I quote: *“ine cogne par derrière, ene zenfant et ene madame pas fine gagne narien mais monsieur la ena problem are so lipied, mais li conscient, pe causer tout.”* End of quote. Immediately, necessary arrangements were made to send an ambulance on the site. The ambulance reached the site at 1353 hours, that is, only twenty minutes after receiving the call. However, the injured person refused to be conveyed to the hospital in the ambulance insisting for a SAMU ambulance.

Although it was explained to him that he had to wait, as both SAMU ambulances from Dr. Jeetoo and SSRN Hospitals were out of station and were attending to other emergencies, he maintained that he would travel only in a SAMU ambulance.

As soon as the first SAMU ambulance was available, it proceeded to the site of the accident and reached there at 1435 hours. Immediately, a cervical collar was applied on the patient and he was transferred on a stretcher to the SAMU ambulance which reached Dr. Jeetoo Hospital at 1455 hours.

On examination, the patient was found to be fully conscious without any external injury. Upon further examinations, it was revealed that there was neither internal injury nor any neurological deficit. Nevertheless, he was referred for admission to be under observation. However, the patient refused to be admitted. He signed a DAMA form and left the hospital on his own.

**LA TOUR KOENIG - COMPAGNIE MAURICIENNE DE TEXTILE  
LTEE - POLLUTION**

**(No. B/827) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether he will state if he has recently received representations from the residents of La Tourelle, La Tour Koenig, regarding pollution emanating from the Compagnie Mauricienne de Textile Ltée., and if so, the remedial measures that have been taken, if any.

**Reply:** Representations were made to my Ministry regarding dust pollution on 26 June.

After investigation, the company confirmed the emission of black smoke due to a broken air filter in one of its boilers. The filter was changed within hours and the boiler re-started in normal running condition.

The situation is being monitored and no complaint has been received since then.

**SC EXAMINATIONS 2006 – FACT FINDING COMMITTEE**

**(No. B/828) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Fact Finding Committee set up to look into the technical errors of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate in relation to the results of the November/December 2006 Cambridge School Certificate Examinations, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Syndicate, information as to if it has submitted its report, and if so, inform the House as to the findings and recommendations thereof.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/796)*

**TERTIARY SECTOR – STUDENTS - LOAN SCHEME**

**(No. B/829) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the measures announced in the Budget Speech for the provision of a loan scheme to the students in the tertiary sector, he will state the mechanism put up at his Ministry, in connection therewith.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/798)*

**PETIT VERGER, BOIS CHERI ROAD – TARRING**

**(No. B/830) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if he will consider upgrading and tarring the road near the mosque, at Petit Verger.

**Reply:** The main road at Petit Verger (Bois Cheri Road B47) was resurfaced by the Road Development Authority in 2006 and it is presently in a very good state. I presume that the hon. Member is referring to the lateral road near the mosque which is the Petit Verger Branch Road. This road is not a classified road and it does not fall under the responsibility of the Road Development Authority.

The request to resurface this road will be transmitted to the Local Authority for appropriate action by the Moka-Flacq District Council.

**CHEMIN GRENIER POST OFFICE  
– MR R. M. A. B. – APPOINTMENT**

**(No. B/831) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunications whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Post, information as to if, one Mr R. M. A. B., has recently been appointed as postman at the Chemin Grenier Post Office.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **FOREIGNERS – BUSINESSES – JULY 2006 TO JULY 2008**

**(No. B/832) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Co-operatives whether, in regard to businesses run by foreigners, he will state the number thereof for the period July 2006 to date, indicating the number thereof which have ceased operation since then.

**Reply: (The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development):** The information requested is being compiled and will be tabled in the Assembly

## **MOGAS, GAS OIL & FUEL OIL – PRICE STRUCTURE**

**(No. B/833) Mr G. Guinness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE)** asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce & Cooperatives whether, in regard to mogas, gas oil and fuel oil, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to the components of the price structure thereof, which is effective as from Wednesday 02 July 2008.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **EMPLOYEES WELFARE FUND – ALLEGED FRAUD**

**(No. B/834) Mr G. Guinness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Employees Welfare Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Fund, information as to if any fraud has been detected thereat and, if so –

(a) the sum involved,

- (b) if any inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **STC – FLOUR AND BROAD BEANS – SALE**

**(No. B/835) Mr G. Guinness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE)** asked the Minister of Industry, Small & Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Co-operatives whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to if the Corporation has recently sold flour and broad beans to the Funny Flour and Rice Company Ltd. and, if so, indicate in each case –

- (a) the quantity sold, and
- (b) the selling price.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **RIVER DICKSON, DAGOTIERE – DREDGING WORKS**

**(No. B/836) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether he will state if he will consider the advisability of carrying out dredging works at the River Dickson, at Dagotièrè.

**Reply:** Cleaning and dredging works will be undertaken by September.

### **ZEEL PEERUN'S LANE, MOKA – UPGRADING AND TARRING**

**(No. B/837) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Local Government whether he will state if he will consider the advisability of upgrading and tarring the Branch Road, at Bois Chéri, Moka, commonly known as the Zeel Peerun's Lane.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Moka/Flacq District Council that a decision regarding the complete resurfacing of the Zeel Peerun's Lane will be taken within a month.

### **MR Y. D. – BELL VILLAGE – POLICE ASSISTANCE**

**(No. A/9) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if, one Mr Y. D., has reported that Police Officers of the Special Supporting Unit who were in Government vehicle GM 8574, refused to give him assistance in the early morning of Tuesday 27 May 2008 at Bell Village, Port Louis and, if so, if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** The Acting Commissioner of Police has informed that in the early morning of 27 May, 2008, one Mr. Y. D. reported to the Line Barracks Police Station that earlier on that day he was driving along Royal Road, Grand River North West towards Beau Bassin when another vehicle overtook his car dangerously and stopped abruptly. Two occupants alighted from the vehicle, dragged Mr. Y. D. from his car, assaulted him, stole his cellular phone and a sum of Rs1, 800. The two individuals drove away in the car of Mr. Y. D., leaving the other vehicle behind. The latter was injured and needed medical treatment. He sought and obtained assistance from a taxi driver who was passing and whilst they were proceeding to Line Barracks Police Station, they came across a SSU van which was parked at Bell Village. Mr. Y. D. reported the incident to the SSU personnel and sought their assistance. However, according to Mr. Y. D., he was told by the SSU Officers that they could not move from the spot without directives from Line Barracks.

The Police Enquiry started on 27 May 2008. It revealed that on 26 May 2008, following a message from the Police Headquarters and the Information Room regarding a case of larceny of car committed at Beau Bassin by a group of individuals who also committed a case of larceny with violence at Terre Rouge, the Iron Rod Scheme was launched with a view to tracing the culprits. Two teams of the Special Supporting Unit each composed of three Police Constables, were given directives to stop and check vehicles at the following strategic points –

- (i) along Brabant Street at Bell Village near Courts, and
- (ii) along New Trunk Road near Royal College, Port Louis.

The team at Bell Village started the operation at 20 13 hrs on 26 May and the exercise ended at 06 38 hrs at 06 38 hrs. The team stopped and checked a total of twenty one vehicles.

At about 02 00 hrs on 27 May, one Mr. Y. D. called on the team of the SSU posted at Bell Village and requested for assistance stating that his car had been stolen at GRNW. The SSU Officers noted the particulars and requested Mr. Y. D. to make a statement at Line Barracks Police Station. The SSU team immediately relayed the information obtained from Mr. Y. D. to the Police Headquarters and the Operations Room so that all other Units on ground could be informed of the stolen car. The vehicle of Mr. Y. D which had been left unattended at Coromandel, was located by ERS Officers at Coromandel at about 02 16 hrs on the same day.

The Police enquiry into the matter is underway.