

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**TOURISTS - LARCENY – REMEDIAL MEASURES**

**(No. B/07) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill)** 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 reported cases of larceny committed in bungalows rented to tourists, since January 2006 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the number thereof, and
- (b) the remedial measures that have been or will be taken

**Reply: (The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure & Internal Communications):** With regard to part (a), I am informed that the number of cases of larceny committed in bungalows and villas, reported to the Police since January 2006 up to 21 March 2008, is as follows –

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Cases of Larceny</u>
2006	369
2007	394
2008 up to 21 March 2008	114

Concerning part (b) of the question, I have been advised that the following remedial measures have been taken to enhance the security of tourists –

- (1) As part of the licensing requirements, the Tourism Authority is applying the following measures which will become effective as from 01 July 2008 -
  - (i) all licensed bungalows, villas and apartments will be required to have an alarm system with active response as well as a concealed electronic safe, and
  - (ii) bungalows and villas with 5 rooms or more as well as all guest houses and hotels will need to be equipped with an appropriate number of security cameras.

- (2) Government is planning the installation of security cameras in Grand Baie, as well as Flic en Flac;
- (3) Police officers posted to Tourism Police have increased from 42 to 65, as from January this year;
- (4) An Operations Room has been set up at the *Police du Tourisme* and a hotline (8910) is available round-the-clock, and
- (5) There is now a fast track system operating since January 2008, to bring offenders to Court where these offenders have been charged prior to departure of the tourists.

#### **MINORS – ALLEGED RAPES – JULY 2007 – MARCH 2008**

**(No. B/08) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill)** 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 reported cases of alleged rapes on minors since July 2007 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof, indicating in each case if the Police inquiry has been completed and, if so, the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed that since July 2007 to date, 28 cases of alleged rapes on minors have been reported to the Police.

Up to now, one case is pending before Court while another one has already been completed and will be referred to the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Police is actively working on the remaining cases so as to effectively complete the enquiries as soon as possible.

**SSU & SMF – INCIDENTS - INTERVENTION**

**(No. B/09) 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, in regard to the Special Supporting Unit and the Special Mobile Force, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of times they have been requested to intervene with regard to incidents and/or social disturbances which have occurred since January 2006 to date, indicating the dates and places thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that the intervention of the Special Supporting Unit and the Special Mobile Force is normally resorted to in situations where the level of threat to public security is high, for instance, in cases of riots, social disturbances, and public disorder. The Special Mobile Force provides additional support in very complex situations. It is the Commissioner of Police who decides on the deployment of the two units whenever the circumstances so warrant.

I am further informed that from January 2006 to date, the Special Supporting Unit has been requested to intervene in 112 cases whilst the Special Mobile Force has intervened in 11 cases. Detailed information on the cases is being tabled.

**LARCENY, MURDERS, ASSAULTS ETC – JANUARY 2007 – MARCH 2008**

**(No. B/10) 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 reported cases of alleged larceny with violence, murders and deadly assaults, assaults against tourists, rapes, including rapes involving minors, kidnapping, including kidnapping of minors, hold ups and gang robbery, public riots and public demonstrations, since 01 January 2007 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of the Police information as to the number thereof, indicating the status of the enquiries.

**Reply:** The information requested for by the hon. Member is being compiled and will be tabled in the Library of the National Assembly.

## DEATH PENALTY

**(No. B/11) 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, he will state if Government will consider the advisability of reintroducing the death penalty.

**Reply:** I would like to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to Parliamentary Question B/778 on 20 June 2006.

The International trend shows that fewer and fewer countries are retaining death penalty in their statute books. I am convinced that there are other measures to combat criminality which is becoming a societal scourge, and which should be the concern of each and every one among us. We need an informed public opinion shaped by education and moral leadership. I believe that the problem of criminality should be addressed in an integrated way with the partnership of both Government and the Civil Society. I have at various occasions informed the House about measures that Government is taking to combat criminality. A complete reorganisation of the Police Force is underway to reinforce its institutional and operational effectiveness. The criminal code will be shortly amended to provide stiffer penalties for atrocious crimes.

## POLICE OFFICERS – ASSAULT CASES

**(No. B/12) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second Member for Savanne and Black River)** 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 reported cases of assaults on Police Officers on duty since August 2005 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof, indicating the measures, in addition to those already taken, that are envisaged to prevent the recurrence of such acts.

*(Vide Reply to PQ No. B/06)*

## TOURISTS – ASSAULT CASES

**(No. B/13) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second Member for Savanne and Black River)** 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 reported cases of alleged assaults on tourists since January 2006 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the number thereof,
- (b) the number of cases which have already undergone trial, indicating the outcome in each case.

*(Vide Reply to PQ No. B/03)*

### MR O. U – POLICE ARREST

(No. B/14) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien) 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 one Mr O. U. he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to whether he was arrested in 2005/2006 and, if so –

- (a) the reason as to why he was arrested;
- (b) if he was released on bail and subsequently absconded, and
- (c) if he is equally wanted in respect of other cases.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Ag. Commissioner of Police that one Mr O. U. was arrested on 09 July 2005 after being incriminated by one Mr S. R. in respect of the importation of drugs. On 11 July 2005, a provisional plaint of “drug dealing” was lodged against him.

He remained in Police custody until 25 August 2005 when he was released on bail after furnishing a surety of Rs100,000 and entering a recognizance in the rumor Rs500,000 in his own name. He was ordered to report to the nearest Police Station on every Wednesday and Friday. He was also requested to appear in Court on 23 March 2006. However, he never reported to the Police Station. On 23 March 2006, he failed to appear in Court and, therefore, a warrant was issued against him. Police failed to trace his whereabouts and to arrest him.

As regards part (c), Mr O. U. is also wanted in two cases of “Forgery”, three cases of Embezzlement, one case of “Swindling and issuing Cheques without Provision” and one case of “Conspiracy”.

I am also informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that Mr O.U. is still absconding and every effort is being made for the arrest of the accused.

I wish to stress that this case shows the need to have an effective, well-trained Police, operating within a new culture of service. In this respect, the Police has been requested to strengthen its capability, enhance its professionalism and re-structure its operational framework.

## POLICE OFFICERS – RECRUITMENT

(No. B/15) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and 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 last recruitment exercise of Police officers, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the number of male Police officers and female Police officers recruited, and
- (b) the duration of the training they have undergone.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that the last recruitment exercise for the enlistment of Trainee Police Constables was carried out on 10 December 2007, and the Disciplined Forces Service Commission offered enlistment to 400 male and 100 female Trainee Police Constables. However, only 388 male and 94 female Trainee Police Constables reported for training.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that Trainee Police Constables are required to undergo a two-year theoretical and practical training in the different aspects of police duties.

After enlistment, during the first four weeks, the Trainee Police Constables followed an induction training and they were exposed to patrol duties and traffic regulations with a view to preparing them physically and mentally for the Foundation Course. As from January this year, the Trainee Police Constables are following the Foundation Course of 20 weeks' duration in the various training institutions of the Police Force.

### MBC – REPORTS, FILMS, ETC. – STORAGE

(No. B/16) Mr Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) 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 reports, films and other materials produced by the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation which are of national interest or which have acquired the status of cultural or historical patrimony, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Corporation, information as to –

- (a) the measures taken to have them –
  - (i) stored in optimum conditions, and
  - (ii) preserved against the test of time, indicating if the latest technologies are being used, and
- (b) a list thereof which have been reported lost or damaged.

**Reply:** As regards part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Director-General of the MBC that since 1995 videos and audio tapes are kept in an air conditioned store room equipped with labelled shelves.

Since 06 December 2005, the MBC has been making use of a new archiving technology in the audiovisual sector for the preservation of its archives. This has implied making use of an Audiovisual Archiving System called “AIME” (“Archivage Interactif Multimedia Evolutif”). The MBC has installed this system as a measure to preserve audio-visual materials produced by MBC. The “AIME” system is a near-offline archiving system. It allows the exportation of archive materials on Digital Video Discs (DVDs) and on back-up tapes. These archive materials can be re-imported on the near-offline system as and when they need to be re-used as the system uses the latest audiovisual archiving technology.

This involves -

Digitalising the audiovisual materials that are in analog format into a digital broadcast format to ensure preservation of the quality of the audiovisual materials over time.

Cataloguing the digitalised materials for quick and accurate search of audiovisual materials.

Storing the archived materials on fully Secure Storage Servers, on DVDs and on Super Digital Linear Tape (SDLT) Back-up tapes.

As regards part (b) of the Question, I am further informed by the Director-General of the MBC that following information that archive materials and other films of historical and cultural value have been reported lost or damaged, an inventory as well as an internal enquiry have been initiated on 13 March 2008 and are ongoing.

The preservation of archive materials of historical and cultural value is a matter of national concern and should be treated with due respect. Any attempt at causing damage or destruction to such archives would constitute an unpatriotic and ignominious act.

**VALLEE DES PRETRES – MR N. H.  
- ALLEGED LARCENY AGAINST**

**(No. B/17) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** 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 case of alleged larceny with violence which occurred on 16 March 2008 at Vallée des Prêtres whereby one Mr N. H. was seriously injured, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand.

*(Withdrawn)*

**ABERCROMBIE POLICE STATION  
- POLICE OFFICERS – SUSPENSION**

**(No. B/18) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** 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 suspension of three Police Officers posted at the Abercrombie Police Station, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand.

*(Withdrawn)*



**MR J. B., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF POLICE - ACTINGSHIP**

(No. B/19) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) 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 information as to the reasons why the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr J. B., was not called upon to act as Commissioner of Police during the absence of the incumbent from the country.

*(Withdrawn)*

**POLICE INSPECTOR H. T. - POSTING**

(No. B/20) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) 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 Police Inspector H. T., former Officer in Charge of the *Brigade des Jeux* and of the Anti Piracy Unit, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to his present posting, indicating –

- (a) the effective date thereof, and
- (b) the reasons therefor.

*(Withdrawn)*

**RADIO ONE – CCID - LANDING**

(No. B/21) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) 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, on Friday 14 March 2008, officers of the Central Criminal Investigation Division effected a landing at the premises of Radio One and if so –

- (a) the reasons therefor;
- (b) if any statement was taken from the Chief Editor and one journalist, and
- (c) the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** I am replying to PQ B/21 and PQ B/28 together as they relate to the same issue.

I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that on Friday 14 March 2008, Officers of the Central Criminal Investigation Division (CCID) called on the premises of Radio One following an arrangement between Radio One and its Counsel on one hand and the Police on the other. Both parties had agreed that an enquiry team would proceed to Radio One premises to take statements from the Editor in chief and a journalist at the station.

Consequently to suggest that there was a “landing at the premises of Radio One” or in the “newsroom” can only be tendentious.

The statements were taken in connection with a possible offence of “diffusing false news”.

I am further informed that the enquiry is nearly completed and the case will be referred to the DPP for advice in due course.

However I should add, when Radio One realised that the news was false, it did rectify it and presented an apology.

**BANK OF MAURITIUS – BOARD MEMBERS – LETTER OF COMPLAINT**

(No. B/22) **Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and 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 Bank of Mauritius, he will state if he has received any letter signed by six members of the Board complaining about the conduct of the affairs of the bank by the Governor and, if so, will he state where matters stand.

**Reply:** Yes, I have received a letter signed by four Board Directors of the Bank of Mauritius on 04 March 2008 alleging a lack of respect towards Board Directors by the Governor of the Bank. The letter was addressed to the Governor and copied, *inter alia*, to me.

In the exercise of its functions under the Bank of Mauritius Act, the Board is not subject to the direction or control of any person or authority. Besides, the procedures for holding Board Meetings are laid down in the Law.

Since the letter appears to relate to the functioning of the Board and the letter has only been copied to me, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the content thereof.

The Board members may have recourse to the Board procedures to address the issues raised in their letter.

**ELECTORAL REFORM**

(No. B/23) **Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas and 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 proposals for the reform of the electoral system, the financing of political parties and the organisation of elections in the country, he will state where matters stand in each case.

*(Vide reply to PNQ)*

## CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO - SOVEREIGNTY

(No. B/24) **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 Chagos Archipelago, he will consider the setting up of a National Chagos Archipelago desk involving all parties interested to help, prepare and further the case of Mauritius in addressing the issues of sovereignty and related matters as regards the stand of Mauritius vis-à-vis the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the international community at large.

**Reply:** Since taking office in 2005, my Government has left no stone unturned to assert our sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. I have personally, in my interventions in the United Nations General Assembly over the last three years, forcefully denounced the illegal excision of Diego Garcia in violation of UN resolutions (1514 of 1960 and 2066 of 1965), which prohibit the dismemberment of colonial territories prior to grant of independence. I have asked that the British Government comes forward to discuss with us the question of sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago without further delay. I have also referred to the plight of the Chagossians in my interventions in various international fora.

The Anglo-US lease agreement is scheduled to end in 2016 and will automatically be renewed for further 20 years, unless one of the signatories signify to the contrary by 2014. This is precisely why Government has stepped up diplomatic efforts to engage the British Government to discuss with us the issue of sovereignty over Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia.

Besides, the Government has already set up a Standing Committee comprising representatives of Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General's Office to monitor and recommend to Government actions that may be taken on all developments regarding Chagos Archipelago and in furtherance of our sovereignty. Furthermore, during my first term as Prime Minister, my Government retained the services of Professor Ian Brownlie, C.B.E., Q.C., a distinguished British lawyer, as our legal adviser. He is still our legal adviser who is consulted on a regular basis on relevant issues concerning Chagos Archipelago. I met him together with our High Commissioner during my last visit in London.

I personally raised the Chagos issue with the British Prime Minister, Mr Gordon Brown, during the Commonwealth Summit in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2007. I suggested to the British Prime Minister that we should start discussions on the issue of the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, between our two Governments. The British Prime Minister has, in a recent letter, indicated that he is agreeable to my suggestion. However, he suggested that we start at officials' level - Foreign and Commonwealth Office and High Commission. I disagreed and suggested that

discussions be held with designated high-level and qualified officials. I have also indicated this to Baroness Amos who came here for our 40<sup>th</sup> Independence celebrations, and she was agreeable.

At this juncture, I do not think it would be appropriate to set up a National Chagos Desk, as proposed by the hon. Member.

### **MINOR M. K. M. – ALLEGED CASE OF RAPE**

**(No. B/25) 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 case of alleged rape on minor M. K. M., residing in Mahebourg, in 2003, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to who conducted the Police inquiry and the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Police that minor M.K.M. reported a case of 'Rape' at Mahebourg Police Station on 04 January 2004 and not in year 2003.

The inquiry was conducted by the Local CID under the supervision of Mr Jean Claude Gunga, Detective Assistant Superintendent of Police. During the course of the inquiry, three accused were arrested on 04 January 2004 and a fourth one was arrested on 05 January 2004. On 12 January 2004, they were all released on bail upon furnishing a surety of Rs10,000 and entering into recognizance of Rs15,000 each.

The Director of Public Prosecutions advised prosecution against all four accused. On 06 December 2007, three of them were sentenced to undergo 12 months imprisonment and to pay Rs400 as costs for the offence of 'Sexual Intercourse with a Minor under the age 16' while the case against the fourth one was dismissed.

On 27 December 2007, their sentence was converted into Community Service Order. The community service took effect from 03 January 2008 in respect of one accused and 05 January 2008 for the other two.

### **POLICE FORCE – OFFICER IN CHARGE**

**(No. B/26) 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 Police Force, he will state who is presently in charge.

**Reply:** Mr D. I. Rampersad, Acting Commissioner of Police is currently at the head of the Police Force following his appointment by the Disciplined Forces Service Commission, by virtue of Section 91 of the Constitution, after consultation with me as Prime Minister.

In accordance with existing laws, the Acting Commissioner of Police assumes the full responsibility of the Police Force till the resumption of duty of the incumbent.

### **ELECTORAL REFORM**

**(No. B/27) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & 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 proposal for the reform of the electoral system, he will state where matters stand.

*(Vide reply to PNQ)*

### **RADIO ONE PREMISES – POLICE - STATEMENTS**

**(No. B/28) Mr M. Allet (Second 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 he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if, on 14 March 2008, Police Officers landed in the newsroom of a private radio and, if so, the reasons therefor, indicating where matters stand.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/21)*

### AGALEGA ISLAND – MAGISTRATE

**(No. B/29) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third 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 Agalega Island, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to when a Magistrate was last sent there.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Master & Registrar, Supreme Court that Magistrates are sent to Agalega whenever the need arises.

A Magistrate was last sent to Agalega from 27 September to 01 October 1999 for a judicial inquiry into the cause of death of Renald Moutou which occurred on 19 August 1997 in the sea at Daviolle, Agalega North.

On 27 February 2008, there was an arrest in Agalega. Since the Dornier was available shortly after the arrest, the prisoner was sent to Mauritius for Court action.

### IBA – RECRUITMENT

**(No. B/68) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Information Technology & Telecommunications whether, in regard to the persons recruited at the Independent Broadcasting Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to the number thereof as from September 2005 to date, indicating –

- (a) their respective –
  - (i) qualifications
  - (ii) post held
  - (iii) terms and conditions of service
- (b) if the recruitments have been approved by the Board.

**Reply (The Prime Minister):** With your permission, I am tabling a statement giving the information requested by the hon. Member.

### SSS - ALLEGED AGGRESSIONS - JANUARY 2008 TO MARCH 2008

(No. B/60) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to cases of alleged aggressions in the State Secondary Schools perpetrated on students and members of the staff since January 2008 to date, he will, state the number thereof in each school.

**Reply:** It is not clear as to which type of aggressions the hon. Member is referring to. In fact, cases of aggression can be categorized as follows –

- (i) those among students which can be of daily occurrence in all the schools but are mostly minor in nature;
- (ii) those between students on the one hand and teaching or non-teaching staff on the other which can occur from time to time but which remain isolated and rarely serious;
- (iii) aggressions involving PTA members, members of the staff and students which may or may not be serious; and finally,
- (iv) aggressions on either students or members of the staff by members of the public.

I believe the hon. Member is more interested in the latter case. If that is so, I am informed that from January 2008 to date, there has been no reported case of aggression in that category of the State Secondary Schools. However, there is one in the Primary Sector namely, that of a parent of a pupil of Std III of Duperré Government School, Mahebourg who verbally and physically assaulted a teacher on the school premises on 20 March 2008. The matter was reported to the Police and according to latest indications, the parent is being prosecuted for “*assaulting a public officer*” and was remanded to Police cell for failure to furnish a security for bail purposes.

Be that as it may, my Ministry has already reinforced security measures at schools including tighter control on access to school premises, particularly, insofar as members of the public are concerned. However, it appears that in a few cases, members of the public are still enjoying unrestricted access to the schools on account of the laxity of some Heads of school. My Ministry is looking into the matter in order to ensure the safety and security of both staff and students. Disciplinary action will also be taken against members of the staff who fail to comply with instructions and who by so doing endanger the peace and security of the schools.



**SSS – DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS –  
JANUARY 2008 TO MARCH 2008**

**(No. B/61) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to reported cases of drug related incidents in the State Secondary Schools since January 2008 to date, he will state the number thereof in each school.

**Reply:** I am informed that there has been only one reported case of drug related incident in the State Secondary Schools from January 2008 to date. A Form V student was involved in such a case in March 2008. This was reported to the Police and action has been initiated at that level. The student concerned has been placed under special report and his parents informed accordingly. Counselling will also be given to him.

**SSR MEDICAL INSTITUTE – MBBS COURSE 2008 - ENROLMENT**

**(No. B/62) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for Grand River North West & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the students enrolled with the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Medical Institute for the first year of the MBBS course 2008, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Institute, information as to the number thereof.

**Reply:** The answer is as follows –

- (i) Provisions which govern the recruitment of students at the SSRMC are laid down in the Public Information Notice to the general public and the Memorandum of Affiliation signed by the UoM and the Medical College. The Public Information Notice does mention that enrolment of Mauritian Students should be, at least, at the level of 20% of a given cohort.
- (ii) As regards the number of students enrolled on the first year of the MBBS Programme for Academic Year 2008 which started on 03 March 2008, the situation is as follows - a total of 106 students comprising 67 Mauritians and 39 foreigners.

**GOVERNMENT/UPSEE EMPLOYEES – AGREEMENTS**

**(No. B/63) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the agreements signed between Government and the Union of Private Secondary Education Employees in 1983, he will state if his Ministry has decided to override same.

*(Withdrawn)*

**SSS – LOWER VI CLASSES – ADMISSION EXERCISE**

**(No. B/64) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the Lower VI classes in the State Secondary Schools, he will state if the exercise for the admission of the students has been completed and, if not, why not.

*(Withdrawn)*

**NATIONAL SCHOOLS – FORM I LEVEL – VACANT SEATS**

**(No. B/65) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the National Schools, he will state if –

- (a) the vacant seats at Form I level thereat have been filled, and
- (b) he will give the names and the examination results of the students who have been admitted in the second admission exercise.

*(Withdrawn)*

**SSS – PREVOCATIONAL CLASSES - POLICY**

**(No. B/66) Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether, in regard to the prevocational classes in the State Secondary Schools, he will state if his Ministry has defined a clear cut policy for the running thereof?

*(Withdrawn)*

**MR E.D., CITE GRANDE RIVIERE, PAILLES – SURGICAL OPERATION**

**(No. B/67) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Health & Quality of Life whether he is aware that one Mr E.D., of Cité Grande Rivière, Pailles, who has to undergo a surgical operation, has been sent back home on two occasions from hospital, on 10 December 2007 and 19 February 2008 respectively and, if so, will he state the reasons therefor.

**Reply:** I am informed that patient Mr E.D. of Cité Grande Rivière, Pailles was first operated on 03 May 2007. Since then he was regularly reviewed in the outpatient department. As per records available at the hospital the operation of Mr E.D. was not scheduled for 10 December 2007 as purported in the question. A second stage surgery was scheduled for 19 February 2008. However, the operation had to be postponed on that day as the anaesthetic machine in the operating theatre 2 was faulty.

Some patients including Mr E.D. had to be sent back home. I am also informed that the procedure for patient Mr E.D. was not considered as an urgency and I have been assured that the slight delay caused by postponement of the operation will in no way affect the patient's health.

The machine has now been repaired and Mr E.D. will be admitted to the ward on Monday 31 March 2008 for eventual operation.

*(PQ No. B/68 – See after PQ No. B/29)*

**HEALTH CENTRES – DIABETES & HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE – DRUGS - SHORTAGE**

**(No. B/69) Mr M. Allet (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he is aware that there is a shortage of drugs to be issued to patients suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure in most of the health centres in Mauritius and if so, will he state the remedial measures that will be taken.

**Reply:** I am informed that there is no shortage of drugs needed for diabetes and high blood pressure in our health centres.

However, during the first week of January this year, with the constant stock monitoring system put in place, it was noticed that the consumption of Metformin, prescribed to diabetic patients, had increased considerably, thus leading to a depletion of stock at six centres. But there was sufficient stock of the drug at other centres as well as at the main hospitals. Consequently, necessary measures were taken to redistribute adequate quantities of the drug to these six centres.

As regards drugs dispensed to patients suffering from high blood pressure, one newly introduced drug, namely Clopidogrel, which is used for the prevention of the formation of blood clots, is temporarily unavailable because of delayed replenishment of stock due to some queries from the Central Tender Board. The Central Tender Board having approved the tenders in December 2007, orders have been placed in January 2008 and the delivery of the drug is expected by end of April. My Ministry is negotiating with the supplier for an earlier delivery.

In the meantime, aspirin which is a suitable alternative, is being used.

#### **RODRIGUES – MR J. J. F. & MR B. G. – BASIC INVALIDITY PENSION**

**(No. B/70) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions whether she is aware that one Mr J. J. F. and one Mr B. G., of Palisade Rodrigues, have not yet been informed of their Social Security Medical Board results, since 17 October 2007, and have consequently not been paid their Basic Invalidity Pension and if so, will she state where matters stand.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that the processing of applications for pension including medical boarding is entirely effected in Rodrigues whereas only the payment of pension is processed in Mauritius.

Messrs J.J.F. and B.G. were drawing Basic Invalidity Pensions since November 2003 and January 2001 respectively. The authority for payment of pension in respect of Mr J.J.F. expired in October 2007 and that of Mr B.G. in November 2007. In October 2007 both beneficiaries were re-examined by the Medical Board in Rodrigues.

I have been informed that the two reports of the Medical Board in Rodrigues were forwarded to Mauritius but same have never been received at the award section. Information was accordingly conveyed to Rodrigues and Mr. J.J.F. was reboarded on 13 March, 2008, whereas Mr. B.G. has been convened for 26<sup>th</sup> March by the Rodrigues Medical Board. The Medical Report in respect of Mr. J.J.F. has been received only yesterday and necessary action has been taken for award of the pension as from the expiry of the previous authority.

**MRS R. J. P - BASIC INVALIDITY PENSION**

(No. B/71) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues) asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Senior Citizens Welfare & Reform Institutions whether she is aware that one Mrs R. J. P., a severely handicapped woman displacing in a wheel chair, has not been paid her Basic Invalidity Pension, since January 2008, and if so, will she state the reasons therefor.

**Reply:** I am informed that Mrs R.J.P first applied for a Basic Invalidity Pension in March 2006. After Medical Examination she was granted a Basic Invalidity Pension for a period of 1 year ending February 2007. In January 2007 she applied for an additional pension (Carer's) and following a Medical Boarding she was granted both a Basic Invalidity Pension and a carer's allowance for period January 2007 to December 2007.

In November 2007, that is one month prior to the expiration of the validity period, Officers of my Ministry requested the Rodrigues' Department of Social Security to arrange for the reboarding of the applicant.

I have been given to understand that, it is only on 13 March 2008 that the applicant has been reboarded and the medical recommendation has been received at the award unit in Mauritius yesterday 24 March 2008. Pension has already been awarded as from the expiry of the previous authority.

I wish once again to inform the House that presently the Commission of Social Security in Rodrigues is partly autonomous and functions under the direct responsibility of the Commissioner for Social Security. As mentioned in my reply to both PQs B/70 and B/71, processing of application for pensions including medical boarding is entirely effected in Rodrigues, and only the payment of the pension is processed in Mauritius.

My Ministry is currently assisting the Commission of Social Security in Rodrigues to computerize the existing processes so that application for pensions can be dealt with entirely in Rodrigues from start to finish.

### RRA – COMMISSIONERS – PETROL ALLOWANCES

(No. B/72) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the Commissioners of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he will state if –

- (a) in addition to the petrol allowances paid to them, they are still enjoying unlimited petrol paid by their respective Commissions;
- (b) any correspondence from his Ministry has been sent to the Island Chief Executive ordering him to remedy the situation, and
- (c) any action has been initiated by his Ministry to recover the excess amount paid by the different Commissions and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that in accordance with the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Allowances and Privileges) Act 2002, the Chief Commissioner, Deputy Chief Commissioner, Commissioners and Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson Minority Leader and Members of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly are eligible for loan facilities for the purchase of a duty free car once every five years. They can opt to buy a 4 by 2 or a 4 by 4 pick up instead of a car. The Act also provides for the payment of a petrol allowance to them.

Furthermore, insofar as the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner, the Commissioner and the Chairperson are concerned, they are as per the provisions of RRA (Allowances and Privileges) Act, granted a Government vehicle with the services of a driver for *official travelling*. The cost of petrol is met by Government.

I am informed that these Government vehicles are not exclusively used by the Chief Commissioner and the Commissioners but are also being used for other official purposes by the respective Commissions.

The House may wish to note that as compared to what is available in Rodrigues, the eligible Members of the National Assembly in Mauritius are provided with a Government car for both official and private use for which they are paid an appropriate petrol allowance.

Insofar as Rodrigues is concerned, it is the responsibility of the Island Chief Executive to ascertain that these vehicles are used solely for official travelling as provided for in the Act and that their use are accordingly logged so as to prevent any abuse. It is also more importantly the responsibility of the Commissioners as elected Members of the RRA to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Representations have been made in respect of petrol allowance and in reply PQ B/1115 in November last, the House was informed that the matter had been referred to the Island Chief Executive for appropriate action. My Ministry had also advised the Island Chief Executive accordingly. Furthermore, the internal control system in Rodrigues is being reinforced.

Additionally, I am informed by the Island Chief Executive that the Chief Commissioner has reminded all the Commissioners not to use these vehicles for private purpose. There may, if necessary, be a need to review the provisions of the of the RRA (Allowances and Privileges) Act.

#### **BUS FARES – REPRESENTATIONS**

**(No. B/73) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if Government is envisaging any increase in the public bus fares.

*(vide reply to PQ No. B/57)*

#### **IRON BARS – PRICE CONTROL**

**(No. B/74) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Women's Rights, Child Development, Family Welfare & Consumer Protection whether, in regard to iron bars, he will state if there is any new policy for the control of the price thereof in view of the increase of its price since July 2005.

*(Withdrawn)*