

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ST PIERRE TRAFFIC CENTRE - ACCIDENTS

(No.B/421) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the St Pierre Traffic Centre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if fatal accidents have occurred thereat since its coming into operation and, if so, indicate the number thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since the coming into operation of the *St Pierre* Traffic Centre in July 1992 to date, five cases of fatal road accidents have been reported to Police.

I am also informed by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping that the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) has studied the problem. It has observed that passengers are disembarked in a hazardous manner and at non designated locations, thus creating traffic hazards. Also some buses were overtaking and manoeuvring dangerously in the Traffic Centre.

The TMRSU has accordingly implemented the following measures inside the Traffic Centre to improve road safety conditions -

- (a) construction of two road humps, including one humped pedestrian crossing and one road hump to reduce speeding;
- (b) fixing of handrails on the central reservation to prevent pedestrians to walk across the bus carriageway;

- (c) yellow lines to prohibit stopping of buses at hazardous locations, and
- (d) yellow lines and a yellow box inside the car park adjacent to the bus terminal.

POLICE CUSTODY– MONEY - DISAPPEARANCE

(No.B/422) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the sum of money which has disappeared, whilst being in the Police custody in April 2009, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the amount and the origin thereof,
- (b) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto, and
- (c) other cases, if any, of important sums of money kept as exhibits having disappeared, since April 2008 to date.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that no case concerning the disappearance of a sum of money while being in Police custody has been reported in April 2009. However, two such cases have been reported to Police on 09 April and 26 November 2008.

In both cases, Police enquiry has been completed and Police Constable K has been charged under Section 309 of the Criminal Code.

The two cases are pending Court decision. The accused Police Officer has been interdicted from the exercise of the powers and functions of his office.

GAMING HOUSES – STUDENTS – SCHOOL HOURS

(No. B/423) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the gaming houses, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if there are reported cases of students who have been caught thereat during school hours, since 2005 to date, and, if so, the number thereof, indicating the measures that will be taken to avert same.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that no case involving children being caught in Gaming Houses during school hours has been established by the Police for period 2005 to date (07 May 2009).

However, for the same period, there were 136 cases where students were caught playing in places of amusement outside opening hours.

As for the second part of the Question, I am informed that the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare has, jointly with the National Children's Council, the *Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs*, together with NGOs and the 'Forces Vives' of different localities organized intensive crackdown operations to discourage children from loitering in public places during school hours.

These crackdown operations have been carried out islandwide and have covered places such as gaming houses and other places of amusement, bus terminals, commercial centres, public gardens, and public beaches. From January 2008 to March 2009, 236 crackdown operations have been conducted.

On its part, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Human Resources is taking the following measures to avert students going to gaming houses and other places of amusement -

- (i) reinforcement of measures to prevent truancy at the level of schools whereby Heads of Schools have been requested to carry out sensitization campaigns mainly during morning assemblies to inform students of the risks and consequences of such unlawful actions as, well as the disciplinary measures which can be taken by the school against wrong-doers;
- (ii) encouraging schools to set up Pastoral Care Committees to monitor students' behavior, and
- (iii) introduction of Students' Charter to control attendance of students.

PERSONS MISSING - JANUARY 2008/MAY2009

(No. B/424) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to people who have been reported missing, since January 2008 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 inquiries have been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since January 2008 to date, 1384 persons were reported missing. Out of these -

- 1290 persons were traced out and found safe;
- 21 persons were found dead. After investigation 5 cases were classified as no foul play was suspected, one case is pending judicial enquiry and 15 cases are pending enquiry; and
- 73 persons are still missing and the cases are still under investigation.

HOSPITALS – PERSONNEL – ASSAULT CASES

(No. B/425) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the hospitals, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if there are reported cases of violence and aggressions against its personnel, including medical practitioners and nurses, since July 2006 to date and, if so, the number thereof, indicating the nature, in each case.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since July 2006 todate, (i.e. up to 07 May 2009), 28 cases of ‘Assault’ upon medical practitioners, nurses and staff at hospitals, have been reported to the Police.

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS – GRANT & SUBSIDIES

(No. B/426) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands) the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the religious organisations registered in Mauritius, he will state the total amount of grant and subsidies given to each of them yearly by Government for the past two years.

Reply: The total amount of subsidies and grants distributed to religious organisations for the past two years under the Prime Minister’s Office Vote ‘*Financial Support to Religious Organisations*’ is as follows -

- Financial Year 2007/2008 - Rs 68,453,919
- Financial Year 2008/2009 - Rs 74,025,368

The subsidies allocated to each religious body are calculated on the basis of the religious distribution of the population as estimated on a yearly basis by the Central Statistical Office.

I am tabling the detailed information with regard to the amount of such subsidies and grants allocated to each religious organisation.

RODRIGUES – MBC/TV – LICENCE FEES & LOCAL EVENTS

(No.B/427) Mr J. C. Leopold (Third Member for Rodrigues) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the MBC/TV broadcasting in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to –

- (a) if television licence fees are being charged and, if so, the quantum thereof,
- (b) the frequency at which local events of interest are broadcast, and
- (c) if events pertaining to the celebration of the Labour Day 2009 in Rodrigues was broadcast and, if so
 - (i) when, and
 - (ii) the reasons therefor.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Director-General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, that with effect from 01 February 2002, the Corporation is collecting television licence fees in Rodrigues at the revised rate of Rs 25 monthly from domestic customers and an annual fee of Rs500 per television set from non-domestic customers.

As regards part (b) of the Question, the Director-General of the MBC has informed that local events are covered and broadcast on a regular basis, at least once a week. Priority is given to the proceedings of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and to decisions of the Executive Council of the Regional Assembly.

Other events are covered depending on availability of TV crews and on the basis of newsworthiness. The events thus covered are broadcast either in the daily Radio and TV news bulletins or in news programmes such as “Carnet de Rodrigues”, which is a weekly news magazine or in the fortnightly feature programme on Rodrigues.

Mr Speaker Sir, in so far as the last part of the Question is concerned, I am informed by the Director-General of the MBC that, with regard to the celebration of Labour Day 2009 in Rodrigues, the activities organised by one Party could not be properly recorded because of a technical problem. In the circumstances and on grounds of fairness, the MBC decided not to broadcast activities of other Political Parties held in Rodrigues on the occasion of Labour Day 2009.

I have requested the Director General of the MBC to initiate disciplinary action against the officers concerned for neglect of duty, that is, failing to properly record an activity for which they had been assigned the responsibility.

Mr Speaker Sir, notwithstanding this technical problem, the MBC did provide coverage of Labour Day 2009 activities on Radio in Rodrigues in the evening of 01 May 2009 at 20 00 hours and on 02 May 2009 at 6 00 hours in the morning.

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES -
ASIAN LANGUAGES - ASSISTANT SUPERVISORS**

(No. B/455) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the vacancies in the post of Assistant Supervisors in Asian languages, he will state the number thereof in each case, indicating –

- (a) since when, and
- (b) the reasons for the delay in the filling thereof, if any.

Reply: I am informed that there are 13 vacancies in all in respect of the post of Assistant Supervisor (Oriental Language) as at May 2009 out of which 2 in Hindi, 1 in Urdu, 5 in Tamil, 1 in Telugu, 2 in Marathi, 1 in Arabic and 1 in Mandarin.

As regards part (a) of the question, the vacancies occurred as from the following dates in each Oriental Language:

- (i) Hindi since March 2008
- (ii) Urdu since August 2008
- (iii) Tamil since December 2006
- (iv) Telugu since June 2008
- (v) Marathi since August 2007
- (vi) Arabic since September 2007
- (vii) Mandarin since July 2006

The only candidate was appointed Deputy Head Teacher in December 2007 and will complete her 3 years experience in December 2010. She will then be able to postulate for the post of Assistant Supervisor

Regarding part (b), I am informed that the Scheme of Service for the post of Assistant Supervisor (OL) is being reviewed and this is why it has not been possible to fill vacancies so far. The review has been a lengthy and time consuming procedure and my Ministry is expediting matters for its finalization to ensure that recruitment is made by PSC in 2 months time.

SMEs/SEHDA - MEETING

(No. B/458) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether he will state if he has recently had a meeting with the representatives of the Small and Medium Enterprises and, if so, indicate the outcome thereof.

Reply: Following representations received from associations of SMEs regarding the difficulties and problems faced by the sector, due to the present economic situation, I requested the SEHDA to conduct a meeting with all operators in the sector. This would also be platform to give further information to them on the MASMED Fund and the Stimulus Package, which has been put at their disposal by Government.

2 resource persons from Enterprise Mauritius, in the person of Mr Darga and Mr Bedassy were invited to enlighten operators under the MASMED Fund and the Stimulus Package.

About 1200 entrepreneurs were present and the session was very interactive. Officers from the SEHDA have also met operators individually and explained to them on development of business plans.

The outcome of this meeting was very positive as the numbers of applications for assistance for the different projects under the MASMED Fund has, since then, increased considerably.

SEDHA – CEO – TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

(No. B/459) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the former Chief Executive Officer of the Small Enterprises Handicraft Development Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to the reasons for the termination of his contract of appointment.

Reply: The termination of the contract of the former Managing Director was made following repeated representations received from stakeholders in the SME sector regarding the conduct of affairs at the level of the SEHDA. There were also regular press articles and interventions on private radios complaining about the needs of the SME operators, which were not being addressed.

After investigation, the Board of SEHDA came to the conclusion that these representations were justified and that it would be in the interest of the SME sector that SEHDA be headed by a person well versed in the sector.

CEB – FINANCIAL SITUATION

(No. B/460) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the financial situation of the Central Electricity Board, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Board, information as to –

- (a) the amount of overdraft taken, and
- (b) the amount of debt and net losses for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Reply: I am informed by the CEB as follows-

(a) Amount of overdraft –

2006	-	Rs937 m.
2007	-	Rs1.378 billion
2008	-	Rs1.55 billion (unaudited)

(b) Total borrowings –

2006	-	Rs5.51 billion
2007	-	Rs4.89 billion
2008	-	Rs5 billion (unaudited)

(c) Net losses –

2006	-	Rs1.1 billion
2007	-	Rs156.80 m.
2008	-	Rs321.32 m. (unaudited)

As the House is aware, the financial situation of the Central Electricity Board (CEB) has been influenced by rising costs of fuel oil and coal, coupled with the loss on foreign exchange against major foreign currencies such as USD and Euro and that electricity tariffs do not reflect market fluctuations.

It is to be pointed out that net loss had been exceptionally high in the year 2006 partly due to the first full capacity payment of Rs302.7 m. made to CTDS and partly to foreign exchange losses especially vis-à-vis the USD and the EURO, amounting to Rs582.3 m.

CAMP CRÉOLES, ALBION - PRIMARY SCHOOL

(No. B/461) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the new primary school set up at Camp Créoles, Albion, he will state if all the sanitary amenities have been installed and are in good conditions.

(Withdrawn)

EXPATRIATES - WORK PERMITS

(No. B/462) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the issue of work permits to expatriates since 30 June 2008 todate, he will state the number thereof, indicating the number issued to-

- (a) professionals, and
- (b) skilled workers.

Reply: Since 30 June 2008, 20,572 work permits have been issued, out of which 1,769 are for professionals and 18,691 for skilled workers.

LAND ALLOCATED – ST FELIX- HOTEL PROJECT

(No. B/463) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether, in regard to the land allocated to MIDAS for the construction of a hotel project at St Félix after having been retrieved from Ouest Concasseuse, he will state-

- (a) the date the new lease was issued;
- (b) the extent of the land;
- (c) the annual rent payable, and
- (d) when will the project be implemented.

Reply: In regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question, only a letter of allocation has been issued to the Company on the 10 October 2006 over a plot of 30 Arpents of State land at St Felix for a hotel project.

In regard to part (c) of the question, rental payable will be in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 2008.

It is to be noted that the Groupe Ouest Concassage has in, August 2007, entered a case against Government and Midas Acropolis Co. Ltd regarding the retrieval of the land and its ultimate allocation. The case is still subjudice.

HOSPITALS – RECEPTION DESK - OFFICERS

(No. B/464) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the nursing and other officers posted at the reception desk to attend to emergency cases at the casualty departments in the hospitals, he will state the number thereof in each case.

(Withdrawn)

TIANLI PROJECT

(No. B/465) Dr. A. Husnoo (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Tianli Project, he will state where matters stand.

(Vide reply to PQ No. B/440)

HIGHLANDS – CITY PROJECT

(No. B/466) Dr. A. Husnoo (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the new city project at Highlands, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: As the House may be aware, the project preparation of the new city at Highlands started in April 2007 with the appointment of a multidisciplinary team of consultants to carry out a feasibility study and to assist in the selection of a master developer for its implementation. The cost of the services was met from a grant under the Technical Assistance Facility Programme of the SADC Banking Association.

The feasibility study which was completed in March 2008 indicated that the project was commercially viable under a Public Private Partnership arrangement.

Furthermore, as part of a marketing strategy to attract high profile master developers, a series of road shows were conducted jointly by the Consultants and SLDC in key international locations between July and October 2008.

Following the feedback received from these roadshows and taking into account the advice of the consultants, SLDC, the executing agency of the project, launched a Request for Qualification exercise in November 2008. Five submissions were received by the date limit of 21st January 2009.

In February 2009, two Committees were set up; one, a Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, to oversee the selection process and make recommendations to Government on the choice of a master developer for the project, and second, the Project Implementation Committee, chaired by the Financial Secretary, to address implementation issues.

An evaluation of the submissions was carried out by the Consultants. Based on the criteria set out in the Request For Qualification (RFQ), two applicants were short-listed as qualified (SQA) to participate in the second stage of the selection process, that is, the competitive dialogue stage.

Furthermore, SLDC has last month, informed the five respondents to the RFQ of the outcome of the evaluation exercise.

A letter explaining the steps involved in the competitive dialogue process will be issued to the qualified applicants by next week.

The Steering Committee will enter into competitive dialogue with the two qualified applicants and it is expected that by September 2009, a Master Developer could be selected for the implementation of the new city at Highlands.

PAUL ET VIRGINIE / TRICHINAPOLY - BRIDGE

(No. B/467) Dr. A. Husnoo (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the bridge at the Corner of Paul et Virginie Street and Trichinapoly Street, Port Louis, he will state if the structural verifications thereof have recently been carried out and, if so, indicate the state thereof.

Reply (Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands): I am informed by the Municipality of Port Louis that following a survey of the bridge at corner of Paul et Virginie Street and Trichinapoly Street, Port Louis carried out on 09 May 2009 by it has been found that the bottom reinforcements to the slab are exposed at several places as a result of normal wear and tear.

I am also informed that although the structure does not represent an immediate danger, it will have to be replaced for the safety and security of its users. The estimated cost of the project is Rs2m. and the Council is exploring the possibility of financing same out of its own funds.

VACCINATION PROGRAMME - INFANTS – VACCINES CANCER

(No. B/468) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he will state if Government will consider including vaccines against cancer in the Vaccination Programme for infants.

(Withdrawn)

FOND DU SAC- CREMATION GROUND

(No. B/469) Mr D. Rucktooa (Second Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or) asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether he is aware of the bad state of the Fond du Sac cremation ground and, if so, will he state if upgrading works will be carried out thereat, indicating when.

Reply: I am informed by the Pamplemousses/Rivière du Rempart District Council that there are two cremation grounds at Fond du Sac namely at Belle Vue Pilot and Aussaille.

I am further informed that-

- (i) both cremation grounds are provided with 2 pyres each and one of them is covered;
- (ii) one of the pyres at Belle Vue Pilot Cremation ground requires some minor repairs which will be carried out by the Council by the end of this month;
- (iii) the complete resurfacing of the roads leading to these cremation grounds has been carried out in March this year by the Council, and
- (iv) both cremation grounds are regularly cleaned and maintained by the Council.

PETIT RAFFRAY /FOOTBALL GROUND

(No. B/470) Mr D. Rucktooa (Second Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Petit Raffray Football Ground, he will state if upgrading works will be carried out thereat, indicating when.

Reply: The project for upgrading works of the Petit Raffray Football Ground is in the list of priority projects of my ministry and comprises the following -

- (i) the removal of the existing fencing, supply and fixing of new high level chain link fencing and supply and fixing of new gate;
- (ii) renovation of cloakroom and toilets, and
- (iii) leveling and turfing of the pitch.

This project will be implemented in phases. My Ministry is in the process of carrying out a restricted bidding exercise for the first part of the project to enable its implementation on a fast -track basis.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - EDUCATIONAL TOOLS - FRIDAYS

(No. B/471) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the circular letter recently issued to the primary schools stating that, henceforth, excursions will have to be organized on Fridays instead of Thursdays, he will state if he is aware of the prejudices that such a decision will cause to the teachers of the Muslim faith in accomplishing the Friday prayers.

Reply: It had been observed that a majority of pupils coming back from educational tours, commonly known as outings, absented themselves on the day following the tour on ground of tiredness. The rate of absenteeism was high in schools with, in some cases, going up to 100%. It generally ranged from 42% to 100% on many days. Moreover, in ZEP schools, it was noted that the problem was more pronounced and was becoming rampant.

With a view to addressing the problem of absenteeism in Primary Schools on the day following educational tours, it was decided in January this year that henceforth educational tours organized by Primary Schools for pupils should be held on Fridays. In this respect, a circular was issued by the Ministry on 22 January 2009 to all Heads of Primary Schools to convey the decision.

Following the issue of the circular, my Ministry received representation in February 2009 to the effect that the scheduling of educational tours on Fridays was not convenient for teachers of the Muslim faith who have to attend prayers.

After taking into consideration the representation, my Ministry reviewed the matter and decided that there should be flexibility in the scheduling of educational tours in Primary Schools with high concentration of teachers of Muslim faith.

This decision was communicated to the Principal Inspectors of all Zones during the course of a meeting at the Ministry on 4 March 2009 and Heads of schools concerned were informed accordingly.

**SOOPAYA SOOBIAH GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – REDUIT –
LANDSCAPING WORKS**

(No. B/472) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the Soopaya Soobiah Government School at Réduit, he will state if Government will consider carrying out landscaping works in the yard thereof, indicating if consideration will be given to the putting up of benches thereat.

Reply: I am aware of a request in this respect. It is under consideration at the Living Environment Unit of my Ministry. The hon. Member will be informed of developments.

LE MORNE – SMALL PLEASURE CRAFTS OPERATORS

(No. B/473) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether he is aware of the difficulties being faced by the small pleasure crafts operators operating at Le Morne, and, if so, will he state the reasons therefor, indicating the remedial measures that will be taken.

Reply: I am informed that the Tourism Authority has received a representation from the “*Association des Pecheurs Professionels et de Plaisance*”, also regrouping small pleasure craft operators of that region, to the effect that officers of the National Coast Guard are restricting their ability to market their services on the beaches of Le Morne.

Following the introduction of the Tourism Authority Act 2006, a small number of provisional attestations were issued to eligible applicants already engaged in canvassing activities to operate on a pilot basis. However, following various representations received to the effect that some of the canvassers were unduly harassing tourists on our beaches, the Tourism Authority decided not to renew the attestations on expiry, pending a review of the situation.

We consider that in order to ensure that our image as an up-market tourist destination is not tarnished and that tourists really enjoy a unique memorable experience during their stay in our country, they should not be harassed on our beaches, neither should our beaches become areas for commercial transactions rather than for fun and relaxation.

We consider that the small operators should be given an adequate opportunity to interface with the tourists and market their services. Various measures have accordingly been taken as follows -

- a) procedures for the granting of tour operator licences have been highly simplified with a view to facilitating the opening up of such activities to small operators and many people have availed themselves of this;
- b) provision of facilities on the MTPA website for the promotion of small operators;
- c) contracting out of boating activities to small operators by hotels has been encouraged;
- d) in line with the democratization policy of Government, priority is being given to small operators in the issue of licences in respect of certain types of activities, such as boathouse, and Tour operators;

- e) negotiation is being finalized with MBC for the setting up of a TV Channel dedicated to Tourism. This tourism channel will be available in all hotels rooms and will give a great opportunity to small operators to promote and market their services directly with tourists, and
- f) organisation on a regular basis of “Foire Touristiques” in order to facilitate direct encounter of small operators and tourists.

I wish to seize this opportunity to mention that in the same spirit of making our beaches a safer and pleasurable place for the tourists, my Ministry has facilitated the signature of a Code of Conduct between the “*Association of beach hawkers*” and the respective hotels where they operate. Under these arrangements, nineteen hotels have already signed an agreement that provides for a number of facilities to be extended to the beach hawkers who in turn undertake to abide to certain conditions in their ways of operation.

Similarly, my Ministry is working on a new policy for canvassing activities based on our experience with beach hawkers.

SOREZE – STREET LIGHTING

(No. B/474) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Black River District Council, information as to if consideration will be given for the installation of street lights in the Sorèze region, especially along the Old Moka Road.

Reply: I am informed by the Black River District Council that forty street lanterns had already been installed in the Sorèze region out of which five had been fixed between June to December 2008 along the old Moka Road.

PORT LOUIS MARITIME AND EAST – HUMPS

(No. B/475) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Constituency No. 3, Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East, he will state the places where humps have been installed, since July 2005 to date, indicating if it is proposed to -

- a) install additional ones, and
- b) implement alternative safety measures to the installation of humps thereat.

Reply: I wish to inform the House that since July 2005, 17 humps have been installed in Constituency No. 3. The details are as follows –

2 humps near bridge and 1 near Bombay street along St François Xavier street, 1 hump near mosque and 2 humps near Forges Tardieu along Nicolay Road, 3 humps near school along Gorah Issack street, and 3 humps near school along Cocoterie Road.

Other humps have been installed along Sir Abdool Razack Mohammad street near school, Ambroisine street near mosque, Velore street near Yoloff street, Hassen Sakir street near mosque and Balisage street near school.

- a) Road hump is not a road safety measure that is implemented in a general and automatic manner. It is an exceptional measure, a measure of last resort, and opted for only when it is not possible to implement other road safety measures. Installation of humps is effected on a case-to-case basis. However, as a matter of policy, road humps are installed where there is a school. The principle when examining requests for installation of hump is to contemplate other road safety measures and avoid the setting up of humps as far as possible.
- b) Other road safety measures like construction of footpath, provision of pedestrian crossings, provision of hand rails and guardrails, signalized pedestrian crossings, traffic lights at junctions are systematically considered and implemented where circumstances so dictate. The process of implementing road safety measures, other than humps, is an ongoing one and whenever spots are identified, the necessary surveys and studies are carried out and the solutions considered most suitable are implemented.