

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

TRIOLET – IRRIGATION

(No. B/928) Mr M. Dulloo (First Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or) asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production & Security whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Irrigation Authority, information as to if the Authority is used to receive and process applications for the supply of water for purposes other than irrigation, indicating if such an application was recently received from an inhabitant of Triolet, and processed, indicating

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- (a) details thereof, and
- (b) if representations were received against the application from planters of the region for being unsatisfied with the irrigation input of the Authority.

Reply: I am advised by the Irrigation Authority that a request was made by an inhabitant of Bon Air Road, Morcellement St André in January 2009 for the supply of water for purposes other than irrigation.

The matter was examined by the Board of the Irrigation Authority on 26 June 2009 and it was resolved that legal advice be sought on the request. My Ministry has accordingly written to the State Law Office which has advised that the request should not be entertained as the Irrigation Authority Act does not provide for the supply of water meant for irrigation for commercial purposes.

With regard to part (b), I am informed that no representations have been received at my Ministry regarding the current irrigation input of the Irrigation Authority.

I would like to inform the House that there was a precedent in 1989 when the Irrigation Authority accepted to supply water to Bon Air Fashions Ltd for industrial purpose. The water supply was stopped only in 2002.

NTA – CHIEF ENGINEER – LEAVE – 02 JULY 2009

(No. B/929) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Chief Engineer of the National Transport Corporation, he will, for the benefit of the

House, obtain from the Corporation, information as to if he was on unauthorised leave since 02 July 2009, and if so –

- (a) for how long, and
- (b) if any action has been taken against him.

Reply: I am informed by the National Transport Corporation that the Chief Engineer of the Corporation was not on unauthorised leave on 02 and 03 July 2009. Accordingly, parts (a) and (b) of the question do not apply.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS – PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

(No. B/930) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education, Culture & Human Resources whether he will state if Physical Education classes are carried out in Government Primary Schools and, if so, indicate the number of schools where such classes are carried out.

Reply: One of our main policy objectives is to promote the teaching and practice of Physical Education so as to foster the overall development of the child.

In line with the above objective, each class in every primary school has been allocated 2 slots of 25 minutes weekly in the time-table for the teaching of Physical Education.

Following a policy decision in 2000, all General Purpose Teachers are called upon to teach Physical Education in their classes. PRB Report 2008 has endorsed this as being part of duties of General Purpose Teachers.

In addition, 34 Physical Education Instructors provide support to primary schools. In line with PRB Report 2008, they are responsible for implementation of curriculum on physical education and health. Each Instructor caters for a cluster of 6 to 7 schools in a zone and provides exposure on Physical Education and Health.

In practice certain types of physical exercises such as breathing, drills, jumping and stretching are generally carried out in schools. Normally it is the class teacher who takes this responsibility. However, where playgrounds and other sports facilities are available, the Physical Education Instructors organise sports activities such as football, race and other types.

MINISTRY OF AGRO INDUSTRY, FOOD PRODUCTION & SECURITY - FOREIGN ADVISER – ALLEGED HARASSMENT

(No. B/931) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire & Moka) asked Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production & Security whether he is aware of the allegations pertaining to harassment leveled against a foreign adviser at his Ministry by a lady Scientific Officer and, if so, will he state the actions taken, if any.

Reply: Following allegations of harassment made by one lady Scientific Officer of the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security against a foreign Adviser, an investigation has been initiated.

Appropriate action will be taken in the light of the outcome of the investigation.

As soon as I took cognizance of the allegations, I called the officer at my office and spoke to her and gave her the guarantee that she will remain at the Animal Production Division, Réduit.

Meanwhile, I have asked the Internal Control Unit of my Ministry to investigate into the matter.

MILITARY ROAD, PORT LOUIS – HORSE TRAINING SESSIONS – TRAFFIC CONGESTION

(No. B/933) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether he is aware of the traffic congestion being caused by the disorderly parking of vehicles along the Military Road, Port Louis, in the vicinity of the Champ de Mars, since early morning during horse training sessions and, if so, will he state the remedial measures that will be taken.

Reply: No complaint has been received at the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit of my Ministry regarding any traffic congestion caused by the disorderly parking of vehicles in the vicinity of the Champ de Mars.

However, I have requested the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit to carry out the necessary survey to gauge the impact of the problem, if any, and to apply necessary measures which may be deemed appropriate.

DR. IDRICE GOUMANY MUNICIPAL CENTRE – BADMINTON COURT – TRAINING SESSIONS

(No. B/934) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the badminton court of the Dr. Idrice Goumany Municipal Centre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, a list of the organisations which have been allocated training sessions thereat, indicating in each case, the

- (a) days;
- (b) time period;
- (c) period of training, and
- (d) fees payable

Reply: The information asked for is being laid in the Library of the National Assembly.

DECENTRALISED CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME – RODRIGUAN FISHERMEN

(No. B/935) Mr J. A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance & Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the programme financed under the Decentralised Co-operation Programme, for the training of the Rodriguan fishermen in Mauritius, he will state if the delegation which recently attended thereto was composed of fishermen and other persons, and if so, indicate the names of these persons, their respective occupation, indicating if any one of them is the director of a company.

Reply (The Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands): I am advised that no training has been carried out in Mauritius for the Rodriguan fishers under the Decentralised Co-operation Programme.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME – CULTURAL TROUPES/INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS - SELECTION

(No. B/936) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education, Culture & Human Resources whether, in regard to the cultural exchange programme between his Ministry and the foreign countries, he will state the mechanism that has been set up for the selection of troupes or individuals.

Reply: There is no specific mechanism for selection of cultural troupes or individual artists under the Cultural Exchange Programme.

The selection of cultural troupes or individual artists to give performances in foreign countries is made by my Ministry in consultation with the respective missions in Mauritius and our missions overseas. The selection is based on the following criteria –

- (i) nature of festivals/events;
- (ii) cultural background of countries hosting festivals/events;
- (iii) number of performers required;
- (iv) musical and dance style requested by host countries;
- (v) availability of the artists during the period concerned, and
- (vi) financial considerations.

Based on the above criteria, my Ministry ensures that a maximum number of artists have the opportunity to perform in foreign countries under the Cultural Exchange Programme. However, it is to be noted that some countries clearly specify the style of dance/musical groups needed and in some cases even the names of groups are indicated.

We also have cases when cultural troupes or artists have made requests for performance overseas which have received positive reply from host countries. In such cases, as stipulated under the Cultural Exchange Programme, we provide the air tickets and all other costs are borne by the host country.

As for foreign cultural troupes visiting Mauritius under the Cultural Exchange Programme, in certain cases we indicate the style of music/dance group needed for specific festivals, like we request specific style for Divali, Eid, etc., otherwise the sending countries just inform us of the groups coming to Mauritius.

PAILLES – WATER SUPPLY

(No. B/937) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Renewable Energy & Public Utilities whether he is aware of the serious and recurrent disruptions in the water supply in several regions of Pailles and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

Reply: I am informed that the regions of Pailles are supplied with water from Anse Courtois Reservoir which is of a capacity of 4,000 m³. The reservoir is fed from the Pailles Water Treatment Plant through a pumping station.

I am informed that there were several complaints regarding water supply to these regions, especially in March-June. On 16 March, there was disruption of supply due to a breakdown of the main pump and repairs were completed on 25 March. CWA will install a spare pump to avoid disruption of supply in future. In June, the main pipe was broken and repaired on the same day.

In order to eliminate the hardships caused to the inhabitants by water disruption due to clogging of filters after heavy rainfall, the CWA has embarked on a project for the construction of a new Rapid Gravity Filter plant at Pailles of a capacity of 30,000 m³ daily.

I am also informed that with the coming into operation of the Bagatelle Dam in the year 2013, water supply in the region will be greatly improved.