



FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SECOND SESSION

TUESDAY 02 APRIL 2013

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MAURITIUS

Fifth National Assembly

SECOND SESSION

Debate No. 02 of 2013

Sitting of 02 April 2013

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis,

at 11.30 a.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

ANNOUNCEMENT**PORT LOUIS – FLOODS – 30 MARCH 2013 – VICTIMS**

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, on behalf of hon. Members and, in my own name, I wish to extend our deep condolences to the bereaved families of the victims of the unprecedented floods which struck the capital on Saturday last. I also wish to extend our sympathy to the families who have suffered losses as a result thereof.

May I now invite hon. Members to stand in silence for one minute as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Members observed a minute of silence)

PAPERS LAID

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

A. Prime Minister's Office –

Certificate of Urgency in respect of the following Bills –

- (a) The Banking (Amendment) Bill (No. II of 2013), and
- (b) The Mauritius Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals (Temporary Provisions) Bill (No. III of 2013).

B. Ministry of Finance and Economic Development –

- (a) The Investment Promotion (Film Rebate Scheme) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 57 of 2013).
- (b) The Investment Promotion (Amendment of Schedule) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 58 of 2013).

C. Ministry of Education and Human Resources –

The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Students' Relief Fund for the year ended 31 December 2012.

D. Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands –

The Municipal Council of Vacoas – Phoenix (Street naming) Regulations 2013 (Government Notice No. 59 of 2013).

E. Ministry of Health and Quality of Life –

The Report of the Director of Audit on the Financial Statements of the Morris Legacy Fund for the year ended 31 December 2012 (In Original).

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

PORT LOUIS – HEAVY RAINFALL & FLASH FLOODS – 30 MARCH 2013

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr A. Ganoo) (*by Private Notice*) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues whether, in regard to the heavy rainfall and flash floods which occurred on Saturday 30 March 2013 in Port Louis, resulting in the death of twelve persons, he will –

- (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the –
 - (i) Meteorological Services, the reasons it did not issue any weather bulletin to inform the public of the eventual risks of heavy rainfall and consequential floods, as was the case in Reunion Island;
 - (ii) Commissioner of Police, as to the measures taken, if any, to assist the public and to restrict access to the capital during the floods, and
- (b) state –
 - (i) when, at what time and under whose chairpersonship the Disaster Management Committee met thereafter;
 - (ii) the urgent measures Government proposes to take with regard to the inhabitants of Canal Dayot, and
 - (iii) the remedial measures taken, if any, regarding the drain system in Port Louis after the floods of 13 February 2013.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is with the deepest feelings of sadness that, before replying to the Private Notice Question of the Leader of the Opposition, I rise to reiterate my Government's and my own sincere sympathies and those of the House to the bereaved families of the 11 citizens who have departed in tragic circumstances.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have, in fact, seen with my own eyes, and with much pain, the havoc and the misery inflicted on our citizens and our country by the natural disaster caused by the flash flood of Saturday 30 March 2013.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this solemn moment is not one for sheer recriminations, as the recriminations will neither bring back to life the eleven citizens who have been victims, nor comfort to the collateral victims. Nor should we display wisdom after the event. Rather, we need to establish the facts as they are and, as a country, ensure that the consequences of such natural disasters are mitigated, thereby protecting, to the best of our ability, life and property.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to emphasise that anyone who has checked the web recently would surely have seen the vast amount of scientific literature and ongoing studies on the subject of

forecasting and minimising the dire consequences of the natural phenomenon of flash floods. The facts and figures concerning the quantity, intensity and suddenness of the Saturday last heavy rains, no doubt testify to the fact that we are indeed the victim of flash floods on that day. Such floods have hit a large number of countries in the past -

- China in 1990 and 2001 where one million people lost their lives;
- in the United Kingdom in November 2000;
- in the United States in 2005 where thousands of people lost their lives in New Orleans. In 2012 following the passage of cyclone Sandy in New York;
- in 2007: in Sudan they had flash floods;
- in 2009: the Metro of Manila, more than 100 people died, thousands of residents were homeless, municipalities were submerged with water for several weeks;
- in 2011: the Philippines, 1200 people were killed, and
- in Russia, last year 172 killed in flash flood which struck at 2.00 o'clock in the morning.

There is a long list, Mr Speaker, Sir; I don't want to go through the list. It was just to say that this is a phenomenon that we have to accept.

Mr Speaker, Sir, these also testify to the fact that these flash floods are still posing formidable problems to the scientific community, including the World Meteorological Organisation. No clear scientific answers or solutions have yet been developed by the scientific community.

According to the Commissioner of Police, Mr Speaker Sir, as at today, 11 persons died as follows -

Underpass near Rogers House	:	6
Harbour Front Car Park	:	2
La Chaussée Street	:	1
Along la Poudrière Street	:	1

One lady at Canal Dayot passed away reportedly due to emotional shock.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in regard to part a(i) of the question, the Meteorological Services detected a zone of instability since Thursday 28 March 2013 in the morning which would affect Mauritius during the weekend. This situation, the Met Services predicted would coincide with a jet stream, thus intensifying the instability. But, it was difficult according to them, to predict the timing and the precise location of the incident. On Saturday 30 March 2013, at 04.30 hours the Met Services predicted the persistence of unstable atmospheric conditions with heavy showers on the Central Plateau, in the East and South.

However, in the early afternoon, a sudden outbreak of heavy showers caused massive local flooding in a limited area.

It should be pointed out, Mr Speaker, Sir, that *Météo Réunion* went on vigilance in its bulletin of Saturday 30 March 2013 at 06.56 hours when the island was already under the influence of the heavy rains.

With regard to the warning issued by La Reunion, I wish to point out that in the absence of scientific facts and figures pertaining to the issue of warning to look at the comparison between our Meteorological Services, what they did and what La Reunion Meteorological Services did, may be unsafe at this point of time, Mr Speaker, Sir.

I wish to share with the House information on the timing and intensity of the rainfall in Port Louis region on that particular day -

11 30	-	12 00 hours	1.4 mm
12 00	-	12 30 hours	0.4 mm
12 30	-	13 00 hours	0.4 mm
13 00	-	13 30 hours	8 mm
13 30	-	14 00 hours	37 mm
14 00	-	14 30 hours	50 mm
14 30	-	15 00 hours	41.4 mm
15 00	-	15 30 hours	2.2mm

It is to be noted, Mr Speaker, Sir, that 15 mm of rain fell in just six minutes, that is, between 14.12 hours and 14.18 hours. Mr Speaker, Sir, these are the hard facts, and give the lie to those who are still in a denial mode as to the impact of climate change.

The House will surely appreciate that, even in the most advanced countries with the most sophisticated equipment, it is not possible to predict such events precisely.

With regard to part a (ii) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that as from 13.35 hrs on Saturday 30 March 2013, Inspector Matar, Traffic Branch and the Police Press Office intervened on Radio Plus, Top FM and MBC and warned the public to be cautious on the roads because of the heavy rainfall particularly in Port Louis; the same message was broadcast on MBC in Bhojpuri by Police Constable Jhugroo, Traffic Branch. During these live broadcast, road users were warned to be very cautious and were strongly advised to avoid using the road in Port Louis.

Furthermore, as from 13.40 hrs, the Officer-in-Charge of the Traffic Branch directed Police Riders who were already on duty on the motorway to deploy at strategic points on the motorway, that is, the New Trunk Road, Immigration, Place d'Armes, Caudan Round About on the M1 and Bell Village, La Butte, Grand River North West and on A1 with instructions to regulate and direct traffic in view of the growing accumulation of water on the motorway from the mountain slopes from Pailles to the Central Post Office. Later, these riders were reinforced by their other colleagues.

The Divisional Commander of the Metropolitan Division personally took charge of the situation and reinforced personnel on the ground to regulate traffic; assist members of the public who were trapped in their vehicles and water, and occupants whose houses were flooded, in particular, at Canal Dayot, Pailles, Tranquebar, Chaussée Street, Poudrière Street, Place d'Armes, Caudan, amongst others.

As from 15.00 hours, three teams from the SSU, were deployed; one at Harbour Front Building; one at Canal Dayot, and one at Camp Chapelon to provide assistance to road users and other members of the public.

As from 15.30 hours, the National Coast Guard deployed as follows -

- (a) a team of divers at Caudan and Port Louis Waterfront underpasses;
- (b) another team was deployed at Underground parking at Harbour Front Building to look for missing persons, and
- (c) four boats with crew in the general areas of Caudan Waterfront, Place d'Armes and Poudrière Street to rescue members of public who were stranded in water and trapped inside their vehicles.

As from 15.30 hours, the SMF was deployed for the following tasks -

- (a) to rescue members of the public trapped in their vehicles or in waters at Caudan and the surrounding areas;
- (b) to search for missing persons mentioned in the two underpasses and in the underground parking at Harbour Front Building;
- (c) to rescue people who were stranded on the roof tops of their houses at Canal Dayot;
- (d) the serious wounded casualties were evacuated by helicopter to SSRN Hospital;
- (e) to evacuate 116 elderly persons who were trapped at James Burty David Recreational Centre at Pointe aux Sables.

As regards traffic diversion, the Traffic Branch put in place the following diversion scheme

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- (a) Vehicular traffic on M1 Northbound was diverted to the level of Autopont Bell Village and Caudan roundabout towards La Butte and the North;
- (b) Vehicular traffic on M1 Southbound was diverted towards the south through the City Centre;
- (c) Vehicles on the M1 Northbound intending to return to the south were channelled on Autopont of Bell Village and Gungah Lane.

The Police have, through Radio, also informed the public to avoid transiting through Port Louis and instead to use alternate routes such as via Nouvelle Découverte.

Mr Speaker Sir, in regard to part b(i) of the question, as the House is aware, even though the Meteorological Services did not issue any warning for torrential rains conditions, a Special Crisis Committee of the National Disaster and Operations Coordination Committee was convened under the chairmanship of the Commissioner of Police and comprised as hereunder -

- (i) Acting Commanding Officer of the Special Mobile Force;
- (ii) Deputy Commissioner of Police, and
- (iii) other senior officers.

The Committee met at 15.39 hours at the Abercrombie Barracks, Special Mobile Force.

Given the urgency of the prevailing situation, I am advised by the Commissioner of Police that all available personnel and units from the Police including the SMF, the SSU, the National Coast Guard and the Traffic Branch were already deployed in the affected areas. The Special Crisis Committee organised, directed and monitored all police deployment and operations island-wide in particular in Port Louis.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in regard to part (b)(ii) of the question, I wish to inform that urgent clearing and dredging of the river Canal Dayot have started on the very next day, that is, the 31 of March. It is also proposed to construct new embankments with an enlarged capacity of Canal Dayot for which consultants have already started survey works as from today.

For the inhabitants of Canal Dayot, the clearing of mud, debris, damaged household materials is being executed as from 31 of March 2013.

Government will also rehabilitate all damaged roads, drains, and other infrastructures for which an assessment is being carried out.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in regard of part b(iii) of the question, I would like to inform the House that, following flooding on the 13 of February 2013, Works Orders had been issued for cleaning and dredging of a number of canals, natural drains namely Canal Anglais, Canal Bissoon, Canal Dayot, Canal Khichri, river Lataniers, reconstruction of Bagooa Bridge. Works have also already started on a major drain project at Batterie Cassée, and Sophia Lane as well as Cité La Cure.

The Works Order in respect of these emergency works involves an amount of around Rs80 m. It must be pointed out that over and above these emergency interventions, the yearly programme of the work of the NDU provides for a series of other works including roads, drains and amenities upgrading.

The service of consulting firms have been enlisted for the medium and long term solutions as soon as the programme of work is generated, Works Order will be issued accordingly.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that from 2005 to 2013, my Government spent a total of Rs3.7 billion in the construction of drains and bridges.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to those who unfortunately lost their lives, the House will, no doubt, know that, as per existing legal provisions, a judicial enquiry into the cause of each death will necessarily be carried out.

Mr Speaker, Sir, a number of people and private companies have expressed their spontaneous willingness to make financial contribution to the relief efforts under way. I have requested that all such donations be channelled through the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to those afflicted by those calamities.

I have already initiated action to have a team of experts comprising of Engineers and Natural Disaster Management Specialists from Singapore and UK to review the overall strategy of dealing with flooding and minimising...

(Interruptions)

If they want to listen, they listen; if they don't want, they get out!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I say order! Order!

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: Eleven people have lost their lives and look at their attitude, Mr Speaker, Sir!

(Interruptions)

They listen to the answer if they want to listen!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Well, I say order now! I want some order, please!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Prime Minister, have you finished?

The Prime Minister: No.

Mr Speaker: Yes, please carry on!

(Interruptions)

I said I want some order. Yes, hon. Prime Minister!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Bhagwan and hon. Mohamed! Yes, carry on, hon. Prime Minister!

(Interruptions)

Order, please! I want some order! Hon. Hossen and hon. Bhagwan, I do not want you to be provocative. Carry on, hon. Prime Minister!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to assure the House that Government will spare no efforts to ensure the safety of the Mauritian nation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the House and the nation will not remain insensitive to this spontaneous *élan de solidarité et* patriotism displayed by private citizens and organisations. I wish to pay a tribute to them as well as to all the emergency and rescue services who have been working day in day out to save lives and to assist in the rehabilitation works.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I, in the name of the Opposition reiterate our deepest sympathy to the bereaved families and express our solidarity to all the Mauritians who have been very helpful in these difficult circumstances.

Sir, I come to the first question regarding the weather bulletin and the reasons why no such bulletin was issued to inform the public of the very serious situation. Is the hon. Prime Minister aware - he made reference to it - that, in fact, on last Saturday, on that fateful day, our Meteorological Services issued a weather bulletin at 11.30 a.m. during the day and the content was as follows: *«plutôt nuageux, avec des averses par moments plus fréquentes à l'Est, au Sud et sur le plateau central»*, whereas the Meteorological Services of Reunion Island issued a bulletin on the eve, on Friday evening, and the contents of which were as follows: *«une alerte vigilance de fortes pluies»* and forecast heavy downpours enjoining the public in Reunion Island to *«réorganiser vos sorties pendant le weekend et que les conditions seront mauvaises»*? How can the hon. Prime Minister explain this difference in the forecast whereas in Reunion Island heavy downfall was forecast and in Mauritius we hear of *«plutôt nuageux, avec des averses par moments plus fréquentes»*? There is something wrong somewhere!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence, please!

The Prime Minister: I am not trying to defend anyone, Mr Speaker, Sir, but let us look at the facts. What the hon. Leader of the Opposition does not say is that Reunion Island was affected before Mauritius. First of all, on Friday 29 March at 6.47 a.m., this is what *La Réunion Météo* says –

«Au lever du jour, seules quelques averses menacent encore les hauts de Sainte Rose et le flanc sud du volcan. Cependant le ciel est aussi nuageux sur les hauts de l'Est et du Sud ainsi que sur les Plaines et la région de Salazie. Plus à l'Ouest, le soleil est au rendez-vous. Au fil des heures les classiques nuages de pente s'invitent sur les reliefs. Cet après-midi, les nuages développés dans l'intérieur en matinée s'évalent et se multiplient. La couverture nuageuse concerne alors la majeure partie du ciel des hauts et la grisaille domine.»

In other words, Mr Speaker, Sir, what they are saying in the morning, everything was fine, except some clouds. But in the evening, on Friday, that is, the same day, at 19.00 hrs, then they come to say that *la situation générale est: flux de sud-est modéré assez fort et humide, les régions du sud, sud-est, est, sont en vigilance de fortes pluies*. In other words, what I am saying is that Reunion Island was affected first. On Friday morning, they said the *soleil* was *au rendez-vous*. It is only in the evening when it started, that they issued that. When you mentioned Saturday, Reunion Island was fully under that torrential rain at the time.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

Mr Ganoo: Would not the hon. Prime Minister agree with me that, in fact, the fundamental problem of our Meteorological Services is that we do not have a sensitive radar equipment? This has been agreed by the Director of Meteo Services a few days ago. He was saying – I have a press cutting with me – that in two years, with the help of Japan, we will have the necessary radar equipment. In fact, we have not invested in this equipment and this is underlined in the report of Justice Domah when in 2008, he enquired into the death of four persons. And Justice Domah says the following –

“The Met Services claimed that it lacked the vital and sensitive radar equipment which has been out of order and which has not been replaced on account of its prohibitive cost.”

Justice Domah made a recommendation that the Met Services should obtain the proper equipment for such purpose and during all this time, Mr Speaker, Sir, the authorities have never purchased this radar equipment. This is confirmed by the Director, Mr Dunpath, himself, who said a few days ago, as I told you, on 23rd of this month, that in two years with the help of Japan, we will purchase the radar equipment.

The Prime Minister: First of all, let me remind the Leader of the Opposition, the radar that we had was practically broken down by 2000 and then it failed completely. It could not be used from 2002 onwards. Now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition was in Government in 2002...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! I say order!

(Interruptions)

I say order! Well, allow the hon. Prime Minister to answer the question!

The Prime Minister: They do not want to listen. I am saying the facts, listen to me!

(Interruptions)

I am saying the facts! They do not want to listen because it hurts!

Mr Speaker: I say order!

(Interruptions)

Please, I am on my feet! I want hon. Members to listen to what I am going to say. Hon. Ameer Meea, hon. Bhagwan! Please listen! The subject matter of today is very important. I want this subject matter to be debated in the proper atmosphere and climate. If Members are going to shout without allowing the hon. Prime Minister to answer the question or if Members are going to make noise...

(Interruptions)

I say order! If Members are going to shout, I am going to suspend the sitting.

(Interruptions)

Well, I am warning. If Members continue to make noise, I am going to suspend the sitting. But this subject matter is very important. So, let us debate it in the proper atmosphere. Let us be serious and I expect Members to respect the principles of ethics and decorum.

The Prime Minister: I just wanted to say the facts. You are right to say, Mr Speaker, Sir, and I appeal to the Opposition, this is a matter of tragic consequences. We have to look at the facts instead of trying the blame game.

(Interruptions)

I have not finished! I must tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition that I have a report here from the Director of the Meteorological Services. I asked him the question point-blank and he said even he had a radar in that case, it would not help. I must say we also have collaboration with Reunion Island where there is exchange and also the internet. In any case, I started negotiating to see whether we can get the radar. Not only do we need to buy the radar, but we need to be able to ensure that people are

trained to use it properly, that it does not break down overnight and the negotiations have started. I did not want to mention the name of the country, precisely, they have told us the name cannot be mentioned until the MoU has been signed. This is going to cost about Rs345 m.; that we are going to get. That is the situation about the radar.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, *si tout va bien, d'ici deux ans notre station aura un nouveau radar !!* The hon. Prime Minister seems to be casting doubt on the forecast of the Reunion Meteorological Services, but I will remind him that in his report, hon. Justice Domah said the following –

“It is also of a view that pending the availability of a weather radar, the accessibility to information from the weather radar from Reunion Island should be considered.”

And should have been considered! It says further –

“The WMO Regional Centre for cyclone tracking and forecasting is situated in Reunion Island and is in close and permanent contact with the Met Services of Mauritius.”

So, all this to prove, Mr Speaker, Sir, that, in fact, our Met Services failed during that last weekend to collaborate with the Reunion Met Services and had they done that, I am sure, they would have issued a warning as the Reunion Island authorities did.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition that I set up this Fact-Finding Committee under Judge Domah precisely to see how we manage everything.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I say no interruptions, please!

The Prime Minister: I have just explained there was no radar available from 2000 onwards and we have started the negotiations and we are going to get it. The radar, I must tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition, is not something on the shelf which we can just take and put. It has to be built. That is why it is going to take a little bit of time and that is why it is not here yet. But I can say that the Director of *Météo* said precisely that in that case the radar would not have been helpful. But I must also say that I was not blaming the *Réunion Météo*, I was just saying what the *Météo* had said. That is all! I was reading what they have said from Reunion Island. They also collaborate, they also get the pictures. I have the satellite pictures from what they get from Reunion Island. But what they say is that they could not predict precisely that there would be such a heavy downfall, a flash flood in certain areas. This, they say, they cannot predict.

Mr Ganoo: The decision of the hon. Prime Minister now to contact the Singaporean authorities to improve this equipment means, therefore, that we did not modernise our Met equipment

at all! It means, therefore, that we should invest in that equipment which we have failed to do since the report of Justice Domah was made public because Justice Domah...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

Mr Ganoo: Justice Domah asked the authorities to invest in the equipment.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I say silence!

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, does not the Prime Minister agree with me that the other problem concerns the protocol? We have no protocol and no special regime for torrential rain in this country, except for school children. This is according to paragraph 134 of the guidelines of the Disaster Management Committee. Does not he agree? In fact, the Met spokesman said on the radio: "why should we issue a warning, it is a Saturday and children do not attend school?" He said that! So, we have to revisit the question of protocol in line with modern society and we have to proclaim a special regime for torrential rain, as in the case of cyclones. Sundays, Saturdays, weekend, public holidays or school day, the Met Services should be able to issue under a new regime an early warning!

The Prime Minister: There are some difficulties with the protocol, I agree with the hon. Leader of the Opposition! I say again, the radar is not functioning since 2000. It was completely broken down in 2002. But, let us not be wise after the event! We have started the negotiation. I know the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development had, in fact, put a sum for that in the Budget, but we are going to get it from a grant. There is no need to take that.

(Interruptions)

It is in the last year's Budget, not this year's Budget.

What I saying, Mr Speaker, Sir, is that is why I think it is important, 11 people have lost their lives, we have thousands of people who have lost their belongings and all those things. We should think of them first, Mr Speaker, Sir.

It is not a question of politically scoring points and going to stir up people! That is

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: That is what they should do! This is what I expected the Opposition to do. But that is not what they want to do!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

The Prime Minister: We must face the facts! As I have just said, they have to face the facts. That is why I have asked experts to look at everything, where we can improve, we should improve. That is why I have asked it.

(Interruptions)

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is not a question of being wise after the event. Justice Domah told us four years ago to invest in meteorological services...

(Interruptions)

Can I ask the Prime Minister about the Police? The hon. Prime Minister has given us lengthy explanations. He has elaborated on this question of the Police intervention, but it is the considered opinion of the Mauritian public that the Police were completely absent during the material time on that day...

(Interruptions)

They failed to put to use their resources, their manpower and their techniques as they should have done according to Standing Orders 134 of the Police. Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has confirmed what I am saying. It was only at 3.29 p.m. that the Disaster Management Committee met in Vacoas - the hon. Prime Minister has just said that - when *la deuxième course avait déjà été renvoyée vers 1h20-1h30 et le Champ de Mars était déjà devenu un lac!* Therefore, could the hon. Prime Minister tell us why did not the Police, the SSU, the SMF, the Police Information Room, which is the nerve centre, circulate; diffuse information and broadcast messages through the Police Press? Why was not the Quick Reaction Group dispatched to provide assistance to the passengers who were trapped in their car? Why did not the Police go to Canal Dayot to provide assistance to inhabitants by way of helicopter?

Mr Speaker: May I interrupt the hon. Leader of the Opposition! The hon. Leader of the Opposition is putting too many questions at the same time.

(Interruptions)

Wait a minute!

(Interruptions)

May I be allowed to speak?

(Interruptions)

I want some silence! If too many questions are put at the same time, all the questions may not be answered. According to the Standing Orders, a question at a time, please!

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, if he had listened to me carefully, he would have understood what I said. It is not at 15.34 hours. What I said is, as soon as the problem started, the Commissioner of Police started acting, but we have to get the people of the Disaster Management Committee to meet. In the meantime what do they do? They go in a meeting instead of doing what they should be doing on the road! This is what they did. He called for the meeting but, at the same time, he started deploying his Forces. He cannot go and wait in a committee room and then start deploying. He acted immediately. If you see, on purpose, I gave you the precise time that everything was done. It is all in it and then they met. In the meantime, they had to do what they had to do. The Police helicopter was used and saved a life...

(Interruptions)

...and saved a life!

Mr Speaker: Silence!

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: I think they could have done it!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence, please! Silence!

The Prime Minister: I explained from the very beginning, Mr Speaker, Sir. I gave the list. Let me go through it again, if the hon. Members would want to listen to it because they don't want to listen. They just want to score points. They don't want to look at the facts.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I say silence!

The Prime Minister: I just said that before I gave the precise time; they must agree to what the facts are. I gave the exact times, Mr Speaker, Sir. At 12.00 hours to 13.00 hours, if you take both together, in each half hour there was only 0.4 mm of rain. There was no heavy rain at that time. It only started at 13.00 hours, it came up to 8 mm and then there was the surge. The Police have to act at the time, not then they will say: "let's go and meet the Disaster Management Committee. The Disaster Management Committee did meet continuously but, at the beginning, when the problem arose, the Police had a duty and this is what they did; they acted immediately.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, the Police...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

Mr Ganoo: The Police must have received information through the use of their CCTVs which are placed in the central region of Port Louis, in the Caudan area especially. Regarding these victims of Canal Dayot, some were on the rooftops. I listened to the radio as from 01.30 p.m. Every 15 minutes SOS were being sent by these inhabitants through the radio and the Police did not intervene at that time. Had they done so, perhaps this lady would have been saved. I put it to the hon. Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Sir, that...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: No interruptions!

Mr Ganoo: I put it to the hon. Prime Minister, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Police, in failing also to block the access to Port Louis on that day after one o'clock, also contributed to the deterioration of the situation on that day.

The Prime Minister: I do not agree with what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. In fact, I commend the Police, and I think they did a tremendous job in the circumstances, Mr Speaker, Sir. Let's look at the circumstances! As I said, as soon as this problem arose, they sent Police Officers. I must say there were very able Police Officers who were on the ground and who acted promptly. So, now they cannot blame the Police for the flash flood, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Ganoo: Regarding the Disaster Management Committee, now the Commissioner of Police is chairing this, and the Secretary to Cabinet is no more the Chairman of this Committee. Does the hon. Prime Minister also know that in the report produced by Mr Justice Domah, he suggested -

“The creation of a National Disaster Management Committee, by way of an Act of Parliament, that will take in charge the responsibility to manage national disasters in Mauritius; it is to be governed by a Board and be chaired by the Secretary to the Cabinet, with a permanent staff.”

This is what he said.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, we must look at the facts. I hope that hon. Ganoo, who has been a long time in Parliament, knows how the Disaster Committee was meeting before. The Secretary to Cabinet, for example, cannot give orders to Police Officers. To save time, for it to be more efficient, this is what was suggested. We saw what Judge Domah said. In fact, we are looking

at the whole matter. We are not sure whether we will have to bring in legislation, but at one point we will probably - I say probably - have to. That is how we will proceed, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, concerning the measures taken ...

Mr Speaker: Before the hon. Leader of the Opposition proceeds, let me say that, in fact, time is over. But in view of the importance of this subject matter, I will allow some more questions. But I will appeal also to the hon. Leader of the Opposition to give a chance to the other Members of the Opposition to put questions.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, concerning the measures taken after the floods of 13 February of this year, I put it to the hon. Prime Minister that, in fact, in the region of Caudan, Central Port Louis, and we remember the floods, where the PPS, hon. Mrs Bholah, had herself a lot of difficulties, nothing has been undertaken by the RDA, by the Ministry of Public Utilities in that region. Isn't it true?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence! Allow the hon. Leader of the Opposition to put his question.

Mr Ganoo: Especially, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the design of the drainage system in the newly constructed roads of M1 Motorway at the entrance of Port Louis and the construction of the Ring Road have not been followed by adequately providing for a drainage system, Mr Speaker, Sir. I put it to the hon. Prime Minister; in the case of the Ring Road, we have chopped off the mountains, we have tarred wide roads, but, in fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, - again I put it to the Prime Minister - in disregard of what Mr Justice Domah said –

“The attitude of the authority that placed Ferro-concrete at the forefront of our development with little heed to the issues of human and material security.”

(Interruptions)

Is the hon. Prime Minister - this is my last question on this issue - aware that Mr Justice Domah himself identified that problem four years ago, namely that impermeable Ferro-concrete and other developments have taken the place of permeable soil, and that there are little compensatory efforts which are being made for soil absorption or drainage of excess water, and this was the cause of the flooding in the Caudan area?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has put a question, and I wish that the Opposition allows me to answer the question. First of all, we all know, Mr

Speaker, Sir, that this has not happened only in this country. In New York, the United States, this has happened, in the UK ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

The Prime Minister: I hope they have the decency to listen, and then they react! We all know that this is not new, Mr Speaker, Sir; that constructions have been happening. I have been saying it myself. Even before the report, we have been saying it. That is one of the reasons why we ensured that the hon. Minister for Local Government can see how permits are given, and all those things. Let me just remind the House, Mr Speaker, Sir, that in 1992, the Ruisseau du Pouce and the canal along the Poudrière Street, which are the main water outlets in this region, were already over flooded before reaching the Jardin de la Compagnie. The excess water finds its way to the lowest point – normally, that is what it does - that is, Place d’Armes. It is important to note that, through an Act of Parliament, the Pouce Stream (Authorised Construction Act) of 1992, under the Primeministership of Sir Anerood Jugnauth, permission was given...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence! Silence please!

(Interruptions)

The Prime Minister: This is the fact! This is what they did, Mr Speaker, Sir!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Baloomoody! I want some silence!

(Interruptions)

I want some silence in this House!

The Prime Minister: This is what they did! Permission was granted to Rogers & Co Ltd, Mauritius Estate Development Corporation and Société Bridge Tower to cover the Pouce Stream for the construction.

(Interruptions)

This is what they did! I am not blaming them. This is what they did at that time.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I say silence!

(Interruptions)

I want hon. Members to behave, please!

(Interruptions)

I am on my feet.

(Interruptions)

I told hon. Members that time was over since long. But in view of the importance of the subject matter, I am giving opportunity for all hon. Members to put questions, so that the public may be enlightened. But if the proceedings are not to be conducted in a serene manner, I will have to put a stop to it. So, I appeal to the hon. Members to behave, and allow this subject matter to be debated properly. Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

(Interruptions)

Wait a minute!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Soodhun! There is a point of order.

Mr Bachoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, from a sitting position hon. Soodhun was insisting that I was responsible. At that time, I was not the Minister of Public Infrastructure; I was the Minister of Commerce and Shipping.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

(Interruptions)

Silence! Hon. Minister, you did not make a point of order. Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, in reply to the hon. Prime Minister, may I put it to him that in Port Louis, in the years 1987 and 1989, *il y avait 195 millimètres à 200 millimètres de pluie à cette époque; il n'y a jamais eu des inondations comme celle qu'il y a eu samedi dernier.* The question which I want to put to the hon. Prime Minister is that...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I said order!

Mr Ganoo: It is the obstruction...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: I made an appeal to hon. Members to allow the proceedings to be conducted in a serene manner or otherwise we will stop here.

Mr Ganoo: I put it to the hon. Prime Minister that, in fact, one of the contributing factors to what happened...

Mr Speaker: I am going to interrupt the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have been lenient in allowing him to make certain statements.

(Interruptions)

Silence! But this is question time. Please put your question.

Mr Ganoo: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Is the hon. Prime Minister aware that one of the pivotal elements that led to the flooding in the Caudan area was the obstruction of *Ruisseau du Pouce* by certain contractors...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mr Ganoo:...who are constructing *la troisième voie* under the supervision of RDA, under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping, and this is the factor that had impeded the normal flow and, in today's *'l'Express'*, we see how the normal flow from Montagne Pouce to the sea has been blocked and this has not been the case for centuries since Mahé de Labourdonnais days - but this time and on 13 February, Mr Speaker, Sir, we saw that *en comblant le lit de ce ruisseau, les responsables du chantier, qui ont travaillé sous la supervision de la RDA, sont responsables d'avoir bloqué tout le passage d'eau*, and this is why the level of water rose, flooded the Caudan area and the vicinity, and this is why...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Leader of the Opposition, may I remind you that the purpose of putting a question is to seek and not to give information. This is according to the Standing Orders!

(Interruptions)

Leader of the Opposition, do you have any more questions?

(Interruptions)

You are wasting time! Do you have any more questions?

(Interruptions)

One last question to the Leader of the Opposition!

Mr Ganoo: I am asking the hon. Prime Minister whether he agrees that it was the obstruction of *Ruisseau du Pouce* by the *contracteur* under the supervision of the RDA which has caused the floods.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

The Prime Minister: Two things, Mr Speaker, Sir. I just mentioned *Ruisseau du Pouce*, when it was allowed to be covered by an Act of Parliament, and I remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition that he was the Attorney General at the time, in Government.

(Interruptions)

Now, listen! It is absolutely...

(Interruptions)

It is easy to become experts now! That is why I want a team to have a look at everything, at whatever was wrong. But, look at this, Mr Speaker, Sir, I have a picture here of *Ruisseau du Pouce* at the time. This is not what '*l'Express*' put. Look at the picture! Where do you see the flooding? There was no flooding there, Mr Speaker, Sir.

(Interruptions)

No! Everything is there! If you do not want to see, you don't see - with four glasses you don't see. But, this is the fact, Mr Speaker, Sir. So, what the hon. Leader of the Opposition is saying is absolutely not true...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Silence!

The Prime Minister: ...and also when he mentioned the eighties, nineties or whatever, there were so many; there were no flash floods then, Mr Speaker, Sir. That is the issue!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Time is over!

(Interruptions)

Listen! I said time is over! Hon. Members, time is over!

(Interruptions)

Order! Order! I said order!

(Interruptions)

Silence, please! I say silence! Let us proceed with the Order Paper!

At this stage the MMM/MSM Members of the Opposition left the Chamber.

(Parliamentary Questions on Order Paper have been withdrawn) **(APPENDIX)**

PUBLIC BILLS

**THE MAURITIUS SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
(TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL**

(No. III of 2013)

The hon. Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Mr S. Faugoo) gave notice of his intention not to move the First Reading of the Mauritius Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Temporary Provisions) Bill (No. III of 2013) today.

THE BANKING (AMENDMENT) BILL

(No. II of 2013)

The hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development (Mr X. L. Duval) gave notice of his intention not to move the First Reading of the Banking (Amendment) Bill (No. II of 2013) today.

THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL (No. XXXI of 2012)

THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL (No. XXXII of 2012)

The hon. Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment (Mr S. Mohamed) gave notice of his intention not to proceed with the resumption of debate of the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill (No. XXXI of 2012) and the Employment Rights (Amendment) Bill (No. XXXII of 2012) today.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 09 April 2013 at 11.30 a.m.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Mr Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

At 12.34 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 09 April 2013 at 11.30 a.m.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS - WITHDRAWN

B/52 The Honourable Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River
(Mrs Radegonde)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the broken speed limit buoys in the lagoons of Le Morne and Bel Ombre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Coast Guard, information as to if they have now been replaced and, if not, why not?

B/53 The Honourable First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (Mr Ameer Meea)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Mauritian territory, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to (a) if the Surveillance Radar System covering same is fully operational and, if not, why not and (b) the number of ships seized on ground of illegal operation within same over the past seven years?

B/54 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (Mr Uteem)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether he has taken cognizance of the World Press Freedom Index published recently by Reporters Without Borders and, if so, state the measures he proposes to take to enhance media freedom in Mauritius?

B/55 The Honourable First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Bhagwan**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the live broadcasting of the proceedings of the House, he will state when he proposes to introduce the motion for the setting up of a select committee to look thereinto and submit its report?

B/56 The Honourable Third Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mr Baloomoody**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether he has taken cognizance of the state of affairs prevailing following a statement made by the Honourable Minister of Local Government, with regard to the Roman Catholic authorities, if any, during his recent visit to Agalega and, if so, will he state the actions he proposes to take in relation thereto?

B/57 The Honourable Third Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mr Baloomoody**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to alleged police brutality, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Human Rights Commission, information as to the number of cases referred thereto, over the past two years, indicating the number of investigations carried out and the outcome thereof as at to date, in each case?

B/58 The Honourable Third Member for Rodrigues (**Mr François**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the recent decision of Air Mauritius Ltd. to increase the price of air tickets on the Rodrigues-Mauritius route, and following the discontent therewith on the part of Rodrigues, he will state if he will consider setting up a High-Powered Committee to look thereinto, including holding consultations with all the stakeholders concerned?

B/59

The Honourable Third Member for Rodrigues (**Mr François**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Police Force, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the promotion exercise to the grade of (a) Corporal of Police (b) Cadet Inspector of Police (c) Chief Inspector of Police and (d) Assistant Superintendent of Police, indicating the number thereof who will be posted to Rodrigues, in each grade?

B/60

The Honourable Fourth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (**Dr Sorefan**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Penalty Points Driving Licence Counterpart, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the reasons for the difference between the list of offences stated therein and those appearing in the Schedule to the Road Traffic Amendment Act 2012?

B/61

The Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien (**Mr Jhugroo**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home

Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the case of alleged diffusion of false news reported by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC, against the Honourable Third Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes, Miss K. R. Deerpalsing, at the Central Criminal Investigation Department, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the inquiry carried out thereinto?

B/62

The Honourable Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands (**Dr Boolell**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the case of late L. S. N. and late N. K. B., Officers of the Special Mobile Force, who died during training at Sept Cascades on 29 September 2012, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if financial compensation has been paid to the dependants thereof and if so, indicate the quantum thereof and, if not, why not?

B/63

The Honourable First Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre D'or (**Mr Gungah**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Police dogs of breed Rottweiler, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof, indicating in each case (a) the date of purchase (b) the cost (c) the nature of the training given thereto and (d) who advised the purchase thereof?

B/64

The Honourable First Member for Vacoas and Floreal (**Mr Bodha**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to Air Mauritius Ltd., he will state if a strategic partnership with any other airline is being envisaged?

B/65 The Honourable First Member for Vacoas and Floreal
(**Mr Bodha**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard criminal offences, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof, since January 2013 to date, indicating if inquiries have been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof, in each case?

B/66 The Honourable First Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (**Mr Jugnauth**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the contracts signed between the State and Betamax Ltd., Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd., Les Salines Waterfront Development Project (Neotown) and Jin Fei Project at Riche Terre, he will state if Government will consider rendering them public and, if not, why not?

B/67 The Honourable First Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mrs Navarre-Marie**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Human Rights Commission,

he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commission, information as to the (a) composition thereof (b) number of cases referred thereto, over the past three years and (c) the date of the last report thereof?

B/68 The Honourable First Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (Mrs Navarre-Marie)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Equal Opportunities Commission, he will state if he has received representations for proposed amendments to be brought to the Equal Opportunities Act having as objective the widening of the scope of the powers thereof?

B/69 The Honourable Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River (Mrs Radegonde)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources:-

Whether, in regard to the new strategy for pre-vocational schools, he will state the (a) number of public and private secondary schools in Zones 3 and 4, located in Constituency No.14, Savanne and Black River, which have the capacity to accommodate same (b) number of teachers recruited therefor, indicating (i) the eligibility criteria therefor and (ii) if they possess the required training therefor (c) curriculum and time table set therefor and (d) monitoring and evaluation procedure put in place therefor?

B/70 The Honourable Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal (Mrs Labelle)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Quality of Life:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed introduction of legislation in relation to *In Vitro* fertilization, he will state where matters stand?

B/71 The Honourable Second Member for Savanne and Black River (**Mrs Hanoomanjee**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare:-

Whether, in regard to the women, children and the family, she will state the researches carried out over the past three years, by the Planning and Research Section of her Ministry, indicating the outcome thereof, in each case?

B/72 The Honourable Second Member for Savanne and Black River (**Mrs Hanoomanjee**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Quality of Life:-

Whether, in regard to dialysis, he will state the number of patients who have attended sessions therefor, over the past two years, indicating the number of (a) private clinics offering dialysis sessions on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and (b) patients who have passed away during dialysis sessions?

B/73 The Honourable Fourth Member for Vacoas and Floreal (**Ms Anquetil**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions:-

Whether, in regard to the allowance of Rs 750 per child per month of families earning less than Rs 6 200 per month, she will state, since the introduction thereof to date, the number of applications received therefor and beneficiaries thereof?

B/74 The Honourable Fourth Member for Vacoas and Floreal

(Ms Anquetil)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources:-

Whether, in regard to acts of violence in public primary and secondary schools, he will state if a survey in relation thereto has been carried out by his Ministry, over the past five years, and if so, give details thereof and if not, why not?

B/75 The Honourable Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill
(Ms Ribot)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed introduction of a Children's Bill, she will state where matters stand?

B/76 The Honourable Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill
(Ms Ribot)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare:-

Whether, in regard to the National Children's Committee, she will state if it has been set up and, if so, indicate the *modus operandi* thereof and, if not, why not?

B/77 The Honourable Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière **(Mr Quirin)**

To ask the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed introduction of a new Sports Bill, he will state the time frame set therefor?

B/78 The Honourable Fourth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (**Dr Sorefan**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the project for the privatization of the Fitness Centre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Transport Authority, information as to (a) the names of the bidders therefor, indicating the name of the successful bidder (b) if all the procedures have been followed therefor and (c) the financial negotiations held and the implications thereof?

B/79 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (**Mr Lesjongard**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities:-

Whether, in regard to renewable energy, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, a list of the projects above 5MW submitted thereto, indicating in each case, the (a) names of the promoters thereof (b) date of submission (c) if discussions with the promoters thereof have started for the signature of a PPA (d) cost of KWh to be purchased by the Board and (e) subsidy to be distributed per KWh?

B/80 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (**Mr Lesjongard**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities:-

Whether, in regard to the project for the implementation of smart metering, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Electricity Board, information as to where matters stand, indicating if

same will be extended to all electricity consumers?

B/81 The Honourable First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (**Mr Ameer Meea**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Arts and Culture:-

Whether, in regard to the Hajj pilgrimage 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Islamic Cultural Centre, information as to if preparations for the organization thereof have started?

B/82 The Honourable Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Li Kwong Wing**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development:-

Whether, in regard to the Mauritius-India Double Taxation Avoidance (DTA), he will (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the (i) Board of Investment, information as to the cumulative amount of investments made in India from Mauritius, since 1983 to December 2012, indicating the percentage of the total foreign investments made over that period and (ii) Mauritius Revenue Authority, information as to the amount of corporate tax and registration duty paid respectively by global business entities in 2011 and 2012, indicating their respective share of the total income tax revenues and registration duties and (b) state where matters stand in relation to the Mauritius-India DTA?

B/83 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Mr Uteem**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Information and Communication Technology:-

Whether, in regard to the upgrading of the Government portal, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Online

Centre, information as to the (a) procurement method used for the award of the contract therefor (b) name of the contractor therefor and (c) contract value thereof?

B/84 The Honourable First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Bhagwan**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands:-

Whether, in regard to the Les Salines Waterfront Development Project (Neotown), he will state where matters stand as to the implementation of the different components thereof, indicating if any (a) revised implementation plan thereof has been submitted and, if so, when and (b) plot of land allocated therefor has been subleased by the promoter thereof?

B/85 The Honourable Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Li Kwong Wing**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the implementation of the Toll Road Network Project, he will state where matters stand, indicating the (a) scope of works therefor (b) length of road involved (c) total cost thereof (d) share of private investment therein (e) procurement method used therefor and (f) toll rates required for the cost effectiveness thereof?

B/86 The Honourable Second Member for Stanley and Rose Hill (**Mr Nagalingum**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed setting up of a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) System, he will state if a feasibility study has been carried out to assess the practicability thereof and the proposed location of the

infrastructure that will have to be put in place in relation therofor?

B/87 The Honourable Second Member for Stanley and Rose Hill (**Mr Nagalingum**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands:-

Whether, in regard to the projects for the rehabilitation of water supply of the NHDC Housing Estates, including the re-installation of new water pipes, water tanks and water pumps, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company Ltd., information as to where matters stand?

B/88 The Honourable Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes (**Mr Ramano**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources:-

Whether, in regard to the new Laureate Scheme, he will state (a) the reasons why the quantum of the scholarship for those ranked second has been reduced (b) if a study has been carried out prior to fixing the ceiling of sponsorship at Rs 300,000 for study cost and air tickets for studies abroad and (c) the eligibility criteria for the fully-funded post graduate scholarships?

B/89 The Honourable Third Member for Rodrigues (**Mr François**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed amendments to be brought to the Corporate Social Responsibility guidelines, he will state where matters stand, indicating if consideration will be given for

the inclusion therein of the financing of educational tours for the students of Rodrigues preparing for the Certificate of Primary Education Examinations?

- B/90 The Honourable Third Member for Rodrigues (**Mr François**)
- To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-*
- Whether, in regard to the proposed replacement of the MV Mauritius Pride, he will state where matters stand?**
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- B/91 The Honourable Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands (**Dr Boolell**)
- To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Quality of Life:-*
- Whether, in regard to the resident inpatients of the Brown Seaward Hospital, he will state the number thereof who are (a) on active psychiatric treatment and (b) long stay and who do not require internment and may benefit from outpatient care?**
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- B/92 The Honourable First Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre D'or (**Mr Gungah**)
- To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-*
- Whether, in regard to the Emergency Rehabilitation Programme, he will state the (a) amount of money (i) budgeted therefor and (ii) disbursed as at to date (b) works undertaken, indicating in each case, the (i) location thereof and (ii) scope of works thereof and (c) projects earmarked thereunder?**
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- B/93 The Honourable Second Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (**Mr Soodhun**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the motorway starting from Mahebourg to the North, he will state if any contract has been allocated for landscaping works to be carried out along the sides thereof?

B/94 The Honourable Second Member for La Caverne and Phoenix (**Mr Soodhun**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Leisure:-

Whether, in regard to the Boards for posters, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Tourism Authority, information as to if it had put up temporary ones in December 2012 and if so, the reasons therefor?

B/95 The Honourable Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology:-

Whether he will state if he has recently received representations from students of the Louis Pasteur Medical College and, if so, give details thereof, indicating the outcome thereof?

B/96 The Honourable Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development:-

Whether, in regard to the tax deduction for educational purposes, he will state if he has received representations from the income taxpayers whose children/wards study at the University of Mauritius and, if so,

give details thereof and indicate the outcome thereof?

B/97 The Honourable Second Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mr Barbier**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the project for the widening of the Pointe aux Sables Coastal Road, he will state where matters stand?

B/98 The Honourable Second Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mr Barbier**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities:-

Whether, in regard to Pointe aux Sables and the vicinity thereof, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Waste Water Management Authority, information as to if any sewerage project is being considered thereat, and if so, give details thereof?

B/99 The Honourable First Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (**Mr Jugnauth**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development:-

Whether, in regard to the Petroleum Hub Project, he will state where matters stand as to the implementation thereof?

B/100 The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (**Mr Seeruttun**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the project for the housing of the Head Office of the Road Development Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to the (a) date of launching of the tender therefor (b) regions earmarked for eligibility (c) specifications thereof (d) number of bids received, indicating the name of the successful bidder (e) duration of the lease and (f) rental value per square metre thereof?

B/101 The Honourable Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes (**Mr Ramano**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Leisure:-

Whether, in regard to Mr R. D., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, information as to (a) the reasons for the termination of his appointment as the Chairperson thereof and (b) during his term of office, the (i) number of overseas missions he has undertaken and (ii) total amount of money paid out to him, as salary, *per diem* and gratifications?

B/102 The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (**Mr Seeruttun**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands:-

Whether, in regard to the heavy rainfall during the month of February 2013, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Fire Services, information as to the number of requests for intervention received, indicating the (a) number thereof effected (b) nature thereof and (c) if the Fire Services was fully equipped therefor?

B/103 The Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien (**Mr Jhugroo**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and

Economic Development:-

Whether, in regard to the recent alleged case of swindling to the tune of Rs 700 millions and involving the Whitedot International Consultancy Ltd., based at Ebene, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank of Mauritius and the Financial Services Commission, information as to (a) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto, indicating the outcome thereof and (b) the measures that the Bank and the Commission are envisaging to take to prevent the recurrence of such cases?

B/104 The Honourable Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal
(Mrs Labelle)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security:-

Whether, in regard to carrots, he will state the quantity thereof imported since January to March 2013, indicating if same are being sold through auction and, if so, indicate if his Ministry proposes to prevent such practice?

A/20 The Honourable First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (Mr Bhagwan)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues:-

Whether, in regard to the Independent Broadcasting Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to the number of persons employed on contract thereat, as at to date, giving details, in each case, of the (a) terms and conditions of employment (b) date of appointment (c) grade (d) previous employment (e) post occupied and (f) if they have attended overseas mission, giving details thereof?

A/21 The Honourable Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River
(Mrs Radegonde)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a bus shelter going east, in the village of Baie du Cap, in Constituency No. 14, Savanne and Black River, in the vicinity of the St. François d'Assise Primary School and the church, he will state where matters stand?

A/22 The Honourable Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River
(Mrs Radegonde)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands:-

Whether he is aware that there are no children playground in Rivière des Galets and Camp Charlot and, if so, will he state if consideration will be given for the construction thereof thereat?

A/23 The Honourable First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (Mr Bhagwan)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to Platform at Petite Rivière, he will state if he has received requests for the installation of traffic lights thereat and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given thereto and if not, why not?

A/24 The Honourable Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill
(Ms Ribot)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources:-

Whether, in regard to the National Education Counselling Service of his Ministry, he will state the number of educational psychologists attached thereto and table information as to (a) their respective

qualifications and (b) the cluster of schools to which each one of them is attached?

A/25 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (**Mr Lesjongard**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands:-

Whether, in regard to Montagne Longue, he will state where matters stand as to the proposed construction of a new crematorium thereat?

A/26 The Honourable Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Li Kwong Wing**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the Swami Chedamburum Street and in the vicinity thereof, at Verger Bissumbar, in Mont Roches, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the measures taken to prevent water-logging and for the installation of an adequate drain and sewerage system thereat?

A/27 The Honourable Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Li Kwong Wing**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the flood-prone area at Arthur Maurice Street, in Mont Roches, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the measures taken for the installation of an adequate drain and sewerage system thereat?

A/28 The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis

Central (Mr Uteem)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment:-

Whether, in regard to Corporate Social Responsibility, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Empowerment Foundation, information as to the amount of money disbursed therefrom, since 2010 to date, indicating the (a) name of the beneficiaries thereof and (b) purpose therefor?

A/29

The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (Mr Uteem)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development:-

Whether, in regard to the Assessment Review Committee, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Committee, information as to the total number of cases pending thereat, indicating (a) the number thereof which (i) are awaiting hearing and (ii) have been heard and are awaiting judgment and (b) in each case, the amount of money in dispute?

A/30

The Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien (Mr Jhugroo)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to the Motorway M1, near the Place d'Armes, in Port Louis, he will state if he has been informed of water accumulation thereat during heavy rainfall and that vehicles encounter difficulties at that juncture and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Road Development Authority, information as to if remedial measures will be taken, including the setting up of an adequate drainage system thereat?

A/31 The Honourable First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien (**Mr Jhugroo**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands:-

Whether, in regard to the A1 road lying at the Place d'Armes, in Port Louis, near the taxi stand, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to if the (a) bollards found at the two green spaces are damaged, outdated and contain wastes therein and, if so, indicate if consideration will be given for the replacement thereof and (b) trees found at its junction between the Royal Road, opposite the Government House, are overgrown, thus hindering clear capture by the CCTV Surveillance System and street lighting and, if so, indicate if remedial measures will be taken?

A/32 The Honourable First Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre D'or (**Mr Gungah**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security:-

Whether, in regard to stray dogs, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, information as to the number of vehicles available for the capture thereof, indicating the (a) number thereof captured, since 2011 to date and (b) if additional measures will be taken for the capturing thereof in public places and on the beaches?

A/33 The Honourable First Member for Vacoas and Floreal (**Mr Bodha**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether he is aware of traffic problems occurring at the junction of the John Kennedy Road, at the level of the Reunion Government School, in Vacoas, and if so, will he state the measures that will be taken, if any, in relation thereto?

A/34 The Honourable Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Quirin**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports:-

Whether, in regard to the National Sports Federations, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain and table copy of the Auditor's Report for financial year 2012, in relation to each one of them?

A/35 The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (**Mr Seeruttun**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resources:-

Whether, in regard to the part time courses for Diploma in Civil Engineering and Diploma in Mechanical Engineering respectively, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, information as to if the results of the examinations conducted on 5 December 2012 have been proclaimed and, if not, why not, indicating when same will be proclaimed?

A/36 The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (**Mr Seeruttun**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade:-

Whether, in regard to the Ambassadors, the High Commissioners and the Economic and Trade Advisers, he will state the new salaries and allowances they are drawing and the other fringe benefits to which they are entitled, following the publication of the Pay Research Bureau Report 2013?

A/37 The Honourable First Member for Port Louis Maritime and

Port Louis East (**Mr Ameer Meea**)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether he is aware of vehicle speeding, at the level of the Zam Zam Mosque along the Ail Doré Street, in Port Louis, and if so, will he state if consideration will be given for the setting up of a road hump thereat?

A/38 The Honourable First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (**Mr Ameer Meea**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities:-

Whether, in regard to the Impasse Felix Barbe at Cocoterie Road, in Roche Bois, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Waste Water Management Authority, information as to if consideration will be given for the provision of sewerage system connection to the inhabitants thereof and, if so, when and, if not, why not?

A/39 The Honourable Second Member for Stanley and Rose Hill (**Mr Nagalingum**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed relocation of the Port Louis Fire Station and of the Head Office of the Government Fire Services, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Fire Services, information as to where matters stand?

A/40 The Honourable Second Member for Stanley and Rose Hill (**Mr Nagalingum**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands:-

Whether, in regard to the proposed construction of

new fire stations in Montagne Blanche, Goodlands and Rose Belle, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Government Fire Services, information as to where matters stand?

A/41 The Honourable Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal
(Mrs Labelle)

To ask the Honourable Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping:-

Whether, in regard to a petition sent by the inhabitants of Morcellement Pousson, at La Marie, in Vacoas and the site visit effected by officers of the Road Development Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to the recommendations thereof, indicating the actions taken, if any, to alleviate traffic management and road safety problems thereat?

A/42 The Honourable Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal
(Mrs Labelle)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security:-

Whether he is aware that non-certified potato seeds are being planted and, if so, will he state the estimated quantity thereof, indicating if Government proposes to take measures to ensure that only certified potato seeds are cultivated?