



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

FIFTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SECOND SESSION

FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2013

CONTENTS

MOTION

BILL (*Public*)

ADJOURNMENT

Members

THE CABINET**(Formed by Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam)**

Dr. the Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, GCSK, FRCP	Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues
Dr. the Hon. Ahmed Rashid Beebeejaun, GCSK, FRCP	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
Hon. Charles Gaëtan Xavier-Luc Duval, GCSK	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development
Hon. Anil Kumar Bachoo, GOSK	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping
Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, GOSK	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Dr. the Hon. Abu Twalib Kasenally, GOSK, FRCS	Minister of Housing and Lands
Hon. Mrs Sheilabai Bappoo, GOSK	Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions
Dr. the Hon. Vasant Kumar Bunwaree	Minister of Education and Human Resources
Hon. Satya Veyash Faugoo	Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security, Attorney General
Hon. Devanand Virahsawmy, GOSK	Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development
Dr. the Hon. Rajeshwar Jeetah	Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology
Hon. Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum	Minister of Information and Communication Technology
Hon. Louis Joseph Von-Mally, GOSK	Minister of Fisheries
Hon. Satyaprakash Ritoo	Minister of Youth and Sports
Hon. Louis Hervé Aimée	Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands
Hon. Mookhesswur Choonee	Minister of Arts and Culture
Hon. Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed	Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment

Hon. John Michaël Tzoun Sao Yeung Sik Yuen	Minister of Tourism and Leisure
Hon. Lormus Bundhoo	Minister of Health and Quality of Life
Hon. Sayyad Abd-Al-Cader Sayed-Hossen	Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hon. Surendra Dayal	Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment
Hon. Jangbahadoorsing Iswurdeo Mola	Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives
Roopchand Seetaram	
Hon. Mrs Maria Francesca Mireille Martin	Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
Hon. Sutyadeo Moutia	Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

<i>Mr Speaker</i>	Peeroo, Hon. Abdool Razack M.A., SC, GOSK
<i>Deputy Speaker</i>	Peetumber, Hon. Maneswar
<i>Deputy Chairperson of Committees</i>	Deerpalsing, Hon. Ms Kumaree Rajeshree
<i>Clerk of the National Assembly</i>	Dowlutta, Mr R. Ranjit
<i>Deputy Clerk</i>	Lotun, Mrs B. Safeena
<i>Clerk Assistant</i>	Ramchurn, Ms Urmeelah Devi
<i>Clerk Assistant</i>	Gopall, Mr Navin (Temporary Transfer to RRA)
<i>Hansard Editor</i>	Jankee, Mrs Chitra
<i>Senior Library Officer</i>	Pallen, Mr Noël
<i>Serjeant-at-Arms</i>	Munroop, Mr Kishore

MAURITIUS

Fifth National Assembly

SECOND SESSION

Debate No. 35 of 2013

Sitting of 29 November 2013

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis,

At 3.30 p.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

MOTION**SUSPENSION OF S.O. 10 (2)**

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10.

The Deputy Prime Minister rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BILL**THE APPROPRIATION (2014) BILL**

(NO. XXIII OF 2013)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Mr Speaker in the Chair)

Consideration of the Appropriation (2014) Bill (No. XXIII of 2013) was resumed.

Ministry of Youth and Sports – Programme Code 681: Policy and Management for Youth and Sports was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, I would like, first of all, in view of the fact that the sum is being voted for the Ministry of Youth and Sports, for the hon. Minister to apportion for me and for the House, the sum which goes to youth and the sum which goes to sports, the percentage.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo! We are going to take three questions at one go!

Mr Jhugroo: On page 474, item 22180 *Overseas Travel (Mission and Capacity Building)*, can the hon. Minister circulate a list of all those who have benefitted from this amount?

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Chairperson, on page 474, item 21110 *Personal Emoluments*, can the hon. Minister inform the House whether there has been mission from the personnel of the Ministry, specialists from the Ministry to meet the *Comité International Olympique* in view of the preparation of the Sports Bill as mentioned by the Minister, if I am mistaken, and whether the green light of the CIO has been obtained, and if this letter from the CIO can be tabled before the House?

The Chairperson: Yes, three questions!

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding the overseas missions, I have the list here which I can table. Insofar as the CIO (*Comité International Olympique*) is concerned, no officials from my Ministry

have been there. I have got a document from the CIO, whereby consultations were held regarding the new Sports Bill and they are agreeable for that and I can table it.

Regarding the youth activities and sports activities, it is one-third for the youths and two- third percentage for the sports.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am referring to page 470, *Programme 681: Policy and Management for Youth and Sports* –

- *Major Services - Provision of an operational framework to upgrade the level of sports and to empower the Youth.*

May I ask the hon. Minister whether there has been any framework that has been formulated or action plan to empower the youth under this Programme?

The Chairperson: This question is linked to which item of expenditure?

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, under the Major Services to be provided with the money we are voting under this Programme...

The Chairperson: No! My question is: the question is related to which specific item of expenditure?

Mrs Labelle: Policy and Management for Youth, Mr Chairperson. It is with regard to the services to be provided under this Programme.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Well, I don't want to hear any comment. I am having a word with hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: The services to be provided with the amount funded under this Programme.

The Chairperson: Alright! Second question, hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: On page 479, I'll take it under the position of Minister. Since the hon. Minister has circulated a new Sports Bill, I would like to know whether - having regard to the expenditure we are voting - the Bill is going to be presented to the House this year or will the funds for next year be used to allow for extensive consultations before this Bill is debated?

Mr Chairperson: No, this question is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

I have decided that this question is not admissible! Hon. Bhagwan! Yes, you will have time to reformulate it!

Mr Bhagwan: On page 474, *item 21110 Personal Emoluments*, can I ask the hon. Minister on policy. The hon. Minister is asking us to vote a sum and he is telling us there is need for provision for a

framework for better management of Sports Federations to achieve governance. Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether his office has approached the Office of the Public Governance, the MAB, to conduct an enquiry? There is now a new office which has replaced the Management Audit Bureau. Here, we are talking about achieving good governance because Government funds the Federation. Can the hon. Minister inform the House for the coming year, whether the office of good governance will be asked to commission a study and set up guidelines for the use of public funds by the Sports Federations?

The Chairperson: Under which item of public expenditure?

Mr Bhagwan: Personal Emolument, Sir.

The Chairperson: Your question is not in the nature of an expenditure. It is a general question, better come with a PQ. You will have more details. The hon. Minister may undertake to provide you with all the details with regard to your question.

Mr Bhagwan: Can I appeal to you?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Let me listen to the hon. Member, please!

Mr Bhagwan: We have a very efficient Speaker. I don't want murmurs from all these people there! Who are they! We know the hon. Minister and we know Mr Speaker.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Well, I don't want any disturbance!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: Who are you?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Address the Chair!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: *Ferme to la bouche, transfuge!*

(Interruptions)

Tansfuge, ferme to la bouche! Ferme to la bouche, transfuge!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I say order, now! Hon. Bhagwan, address the Chair! I want complete silence! Hon. Hossen! Hon. Bhagwan, address the Chair!

Mr Bhagwan: On page 479, we have a vote for the Minister. Under this particular Programme Code *Policy and Management*, the hon. Minister is asking us to vote millions of rupees for his Ministry, and he is telling us that there is need to achieve better good governance. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether he will commission the Office of Good Governance, which falls under the Prime Minister's

Office, to conduct an enquiry, or he will give guidelines to sport federations for the betterment of the use of public funds?

The Chairperson: Now, I allow your question. Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again on page 474, item 21110 *Personal Emoluments* where I can see an increase in the amount earmarked for 2014, that is, Rs18,770,000. When I look at page 479, on the establishment, the number of employees has gone down, from 28 to 24. May we have some justification as to why the amount of emoluments has gone up, whereas the number of employees has gone down?

The Chairperson: You may answer, hon. Minister. Three questions have already been put.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding the framework, where we have our Youth Empowerment Programme, it is a long list, and we also have the criteria about how we deal in the youth centres regarding our programme. We have 25 youth centres, 300 youth clubs and organisations. All this is being done in collaboration with the youths in the region regarding the framework. We have guidelines for Federations. Each Federation has got guidelines set by the Ministry, whereby we give them the money to function regarding the activities and functioning for the whole year.

The Federations are autonomous. So, once we give them the money, after having taken into consideration the relevant activities, we give free autonomy to the Federation, because we always have problems regarding autonomy of Federations. So, that is why we give leeway to the Federations to function, provided that they are according to the guidelines set by the Ministry.

Regarding the increase, in fact, it is due to the payment of increments and implementation of Errors, Omissions and Anomalies Committee Report 2013, and also for allowances under the Service to Mauritius Programme.

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 474, item 22180 *Overseas Travel (Mission and Capacity Building)*, I find that Rs1 m. is being voted this year, and goes down for the next year. I am wondering, Mr Chairperson, why this figure, which should be repetitive, is now going down. Are you trying to save on travelling?

Mr Obeegadoo: Under Programme Code 681, on page 474, item 21 *Compensation of Employees*, last year we voted sums for the preparation of a Sports Bill. The Bill has been prepared and has even been circulated. My question under this item is whether the funds provided for next year will include further consultation with stakeholders on this Bill, or whether the intention is now, this year, to bring it before the House, and have it debated.

Mr Ritoo: The Sports Bill will be presented this year, Mr Chairperson. Regarding overseas mission, there is a decrease, because there is a better control and monitoring in participation in overseas missions, in view of the prevailing difficult global economic situation.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, on page 470 I note that this Programme is about ensuring effective leadership, direction, efficient functioning of the sports sector and the Ministry itself. When I consider page 469, I find everywhere a lack of awareness, poor participation, and low involvement. So, I take it that the Minister, for next year, using the funds that are being requested from us, will launch a powerful new communication initiative. So, I am looking at the expenses...

The Chairperson: I am still waiting for your question.

Mr Obeegadoo: I want to know, under Programme 681, whether it is under items *Fees*, whether it is under item *Publications and Stationery* that the Minister is providing for a new communication strategy, PR personnel, to make sure that those problems are addressed - lack of awareness, lack of participation, and low involvement - so that next year, we don't find the same constraints.

The Chairperson: Is it a question?

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes. Whether, with the funds for next year, the problem is being addressed, and how?

The Chairperson: If you say it is a question, let us hear the answer.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, in fact, through the different activities like *info-jeunes* project, through the website, through the e-café programme - and we have now already five PCs in every youth centre; we have 25 youth centres with internet facilities. We are trying to do our PR and get the maximum youths involved in all the activities that are being launched.

Ministry of Youth and Sports – Programme Code 681: Policy and Management for Youth and Sports (Rs22,927,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Youth and Sports – Programme Code 682: Promotion and Development of Sports was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Under Programme 682, Sub-Programme 68201 - *High Level Sports*, item **28 Other Expense**, sub-item 28211056 *Other Current Transfers - Football Clubs* where the sum which was used in 2013, Rs16,800,000, goes straight up to Rs27,000,000 for the next year. I would like the hon. Minister to explain that increase in the sum, in view of all kinds of changes which have been proposed in the sector.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 475, sub-item 2203003 - *Rental of Vehicles*. Can we have some more information about how this amount of Rs3.7 m. has been paid for year 2013?

The Chairperson: Hon Lesjongard!

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, I refer the hon. Minister to page 475, item 26313094 *Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports*. There is an increase of just Rs500,000 next year, and years onwards. Can I know from the hon. Minister how many beneficiaries are being sponsored by that Trust Fund? Can I know whether there is some sort of strategic planning for the years to come with regard to that Trust Fund?

The Chairperson: Third question hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, on page 475, under item 22900099 *Miscellaneous Expenses* where every year an amount of Rs4 m. is budgeted. May we know what these Miscellaneous Expenses are, and also have the details with regard to the Rs4 m?

The Chairperson: Before the Minister can answer the questions, I would appeal to Members from both sides of the House to avoid private conversation, because it disturbs both the Minister who has to answer and the one hon. Member who has to put his question. So, I want some order as from now; otherwise, I will have to apply Standing Order 48. Don't compel me to apply it, otherwise some will have to go home a bit early. I know some are tired.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports, in fact, it is a programme of *conciliation excellence sportive et performance au niveau académique*. We have targeted 450. Actually, we have 370 for this year through *Pole Espoir, Pole Jeunes, et Pole Maurice* who do their *Sport Etude Programme*. Next year, we will be having 450 in this programme. So, it concerns mainly athletics, swimming, boxing ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Assirvaden, if you want to talk privately, you can ask your friend to go outside. I have just made a point: no private conversation in the House. Yes, Minister!

Mr Ritoo: So, it concerns sportsmen and women, mainly from athletics, swimming, boxing, badminton, weightlifting and judo and they are given this facility. That's why you have an increase as we intend to target more and more youths.

Regarding the miscellaneous expenses, it is with regard to the payment of pocket money for athletes who participate in different competitions abroad; it varies from 10 dollars to 24 dollars for the athletes and for the officials it is 20 dollars to 70 dollars in all the competitions that we participate abroad.

Regarding the transport, I think there was a question from hon. Jhugroo. With regard to the rental of buses, when there are major sports competitions like *Jeux de l'Avenir*, *Jeux de l'Espoir* and other games that we have, so we rent buses and vans.

Mr François: I refer to page 476, item 31113406 *Construction of Sports Infrastructure (d) Camp du Roi Stadium*. May I ask the hon. Minister whether tender exercise has been launched and closed for the star stadium?

Mrs Navarre-Marie: On page 475, item 22120 *Fees*. Last year, a sum of Rs2.4 m. was earmarked in the Budget. We are invited to vote a sum of Rs3,625 m. for next year, an increase of more than Rs1 m. I would like to know to whom these fees are being paid and the purpose thereof?

Mr Baloomoody: On page 475, item 28212 *Transfers to Households*. This year, a sum of Rs4.5 m. is earmarked and which was supposed to go to Allowances to High Level Athletes. Can the hon. Minister circulate a list of the high level athletes who have benefitted from that fund?

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding Camp du Roi Stadium, the project consists of removing the existing synthetic track and laying of a new synthetic surface. It will cost Rs24 m. The works will be completed in six months. Bids were launched and evaluated. However, there is a challenge from one bidder. Mr Chairperson, regarding the list of the high level athletes, I will circulate it.

Regarding the fees, the increase is mainly due to our participation in international games as compared to 2013 where we had only the *Francophonie* Games. Next year, in 2014, we will be having the Commonwealth Games...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Sorefan, I have said no private conversation in this House!

Mr Ritoo: We will be having the Commonwealth Games, the Youth African Games, the CJSOI and the Youth Olympic Games. So, that's the increase concerning the participation fees of the Mauritian delegation.

Mr Bhagwan: On page 475, item 28211056 *Other Current Transfers – Football Clubs*. We are being asked to vote a sum of Rs27 m. Can the hon. Minister give us an apportionment of how the sum of

Rs27 m. would be spent and whether it is linked with the new proposal of the Minister which has been made in the Budget Speech and which, I would say, raised a lot of controversies, whether the Minister has finalised the way this grant would be given, and whether the Rs27 m. will be sufficient for the *relance du football* on the regional side?

Mrs Labelle: I am on page 476, *Sub-Programme 68202: Sports for all*. Mr Chairperson, when we look at the *Major Service* and last year we have voted the sum Rs278 m. and the *Priority Objective* was promotion of sports for all students, youth, women and the general public. It is the same for next year too. May I ask the hon. Minister what sports activities have been organised for women and does his Ministry have a calendar of sports activities for women for the coming year?

Mr Jugnauth: On page 476, item 31113006 *Construction of Sports Infrastructure*. In the presentation of the 2010 Budget, it was voted the project for multi-sports complex at St. Pierre. I do not see that project in the list. I see 'Others'. Does it fall under 'Others', if not, why doesn't it appear anywhere?

The Chairperson: Yes, three questions have already been put.

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding the finance of football, we finance actually the eight clubs in the First Division, the eight clubs in the Second Division, the ten teams in the first league – première league - and the ten teams that will be in the semi-professional league. So, these are provisions...

(Interruptions)

Rs1 m. each...

The Chairperson: No! This is not allowed. Questions from a sitting position will not be allowed!

(Interruptions)

Mr Ritoo: I can give a breakdown.

The Chairperson: If the hon. Member will circulate the information that will help us to save time for other questions to come.

Mr Ritoo: Regarding activities for ladies, in fact, the *sport de masse* is for everybody. So, we have got the *Jeux de l'Avenir*, *Jeux de l'Espoir*, where the boys and girls participate; we have the *Jeux Inter-Universitaires*, *Jeux de l'Avenir*, Mauritius Saturday Football League for Boys and Girls; we have the FIFA Grassroots Project for the 7/8 years; we have the Minor Soccer, Football for Health, Beach

Soccer, Foot *Salle*. There is also the National Handy Sports Games which will be coming this year. We have sports for Life, the Inter-College Games and all these with regard to the promotion of sports. We have also the *Commission Nationale du Sports Féminin* which promotes swimming for the ladies particularly in all our swimming pools. So, these are the *sports de masse* programme which is already in the Ministry's Programme.

Regarding St. Pierre, the land has been identified, but then we will go to the PCC to get the final clearance.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 476, item 31113006 *Construction of Sports Infrastructure*. Can I ask the hon. Minister, based on what criteria does he decides that sports infrastructure is required in a certain locality?

Mr Obeegadoo: On page 475, item 26 *Grants*. The Minister has talked a lot lately about the lack of success of regionalisation and regional sports. So, I would like to know under these Grants, let us say for 2013 or for 2014, what are the funds that are provided for local authorities to support specific regional sports initiatives?

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, on the *Football Clubs and Grants* we have Rs16 m. today and we are going to have Rs27 m. for next year. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the clubs, as they stand today, which still qualify for the...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Do you have anything to say, hon. Ameer Meea?

(Interruptions)

Yes, but you have already put a question. I am giving an opportunity to those who have not had so far the chance to put a single question!

(Interruptions)

Look, either you abide by my ruling or you know what I am going to do!

(Interruptions)

There are others who have not got the chance to put any question at all!

(Interruptions)

I have to balance and do justice to everybody! Yes! Do not disturb! Hon. Bodha!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, my question is whether the clubs as they are today and which are receiving a grant, would still qualify...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Members should not try to mumble!

Mr Bodha: ...would still qualify...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I warn them!

Mr Bodha: ...for a grant next year because we are going to have a supplementary Rs11 m. May we know whether these clubs will still qualify together with the new clubs that the hon. Minister proposes to fund as presented in the Budget Speech?

The Chairperson: Yes, third question, hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, at page 475, under the last item 28217 *Expense Not Elsewhere Specified*, can we have some details as to the nature of the expenses that go under that vote item, if we could have a list of expenses that have been incurred during the year 2013?

The Chairperson: Three questions, yes!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Chairperson, I did not get any answer to my question on *Fees*.

The Chairperson: Yes, the hon. Member will have the chance to put her question again!

(Interruptions)

Yes, but she will have to repeat the question so that the Minister may know!

(Interruptions)

But I will give you one minute more, do not worry about it!

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, I informed the hon. lady....

The Chairperson: Did you answer?

Mr Ritoo: Yes, I informed the hon. lady that the *Fees* increase is for the participation fees in additional games!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No question from a sitting position!

Mr Ritoo: Fees paid to whom? When you participate in any game, there is a committee which organises competitions like the *Commission de la Jeunesse et des Sports de l'Océan Indien (CJSOI)* games, the Youth Olympic games and the African Youth Olympics.

(Interruptions)

Regarding the...

(Interruptions)

...*Expenses Not Elsewhere Specified*, this is a provision made for the payment of insurance premiums in favour of the participants in each sports event.

Regarding the Local Authorities, they already get funds from the Ministry of Local Government and they already help part of the regional teams.

Regarding the question raised by hon. Bodha, it is about the regional teams. The regional teams have already given us lots of good players. They will continue benefitting from the money that we give each year to the regional teams. On top of that, we will be having the semi professional clubs.

Mr Nagalingum: Mr Chairperson, on page 476, Programme Code 682, item 31113406 *Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure (g) Others*, my question is: how much of the voted provision of Rs13.5 m. has been spent and for which project?

Secondly, why is the provision being drastically reduced from Rs13.5 m. to Rs5 m. for year 2014?

The Chairperson: Second question, hon. Gungah!

Mr Gungah: Mr Chairperson, on page 476, on the same item 31113406 *Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure*, can the hon. Minister give us more details about '*Others*', that is, what are the other sports infrastructure that will be upgraded?

The Chairperson: I may allow a third question, but we are left with 3 minutes! Hon. Jhugroo! Be brief!

Mr Jhugroo: Very short! On page 476, item 31113406, (e) *Upgrading works at Harry Latour Stadium*, can the hon. Minister inform the House what is the scope of work to be carried out there and the timeframe, when it will start and finish?

The Chairperson: Yes, 3 minutes to go, but I will give one more minute to compensate for the time lost.

(Interruptions)

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding the question on 'Others', actually we are coming with a project regarding all the unutilised land pertaining to the State which can accommodate basic small football grounds, I mean, 4 to 4, 4 against 4, 5 against 5. So, they will be identified and cleared in various regions of Mauritius around the island which can be used by youngsters and inhabitants of the region to practise sports such as *pétanque*, jogging and football in order to inculcate a sporting culture among the people. So, we will have to clear all such lands which pertain to the State.

Regarding the *Harry Latour Stadium*, the project consists of constructing stands to accommodate 2,000 to 2,500 spectators. It will cost Rs10 m. So, the Stadium, in fact, was previously equipped with stands only and now we are proceeding with Rs2 m. for 2014 and in 2015, we have earmarked Rs8 m. so that Rs10 m. will be utilised for the stands at the *Harry Latour Stadium*.

The Chairperson: Yes, one minute left! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, can I take the hon. Minister on page 475 on item *Personal Emoluments* regarding the Rs23 m. we are voting? I find at page 480 on the *Position Titles*, there is no provision made for a *Sports Medical Officer*. May we know why? The *Sports Medical Officer* is an important post!

The Chairperson: Yes, Minister, please answer!

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we are looking for and we even wrote to the Ministry of Health for our Anti-Doping Unit to, at least, have a Medical Officer to take charge, but, for the time being, we have not received any Medical Officer to take charge of the Medical Unit. We hope, in due course, maybe, we will get one.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Can I ask the hon. Minister on a general vote of *Grants*, what is the position concerning the preparation of the Mauritian teams for the Indian Ocean Islands Games which are coming? What amount has been earmarked discipline-wise? Can the Minister inform the nation of the number of sports disciplines which have been approved for participation of the Mauritian teams?

The Chairperson: You have missed the words 'nation, country and the House'!

(Interruptions)

Yes, answer, hon. Minister!

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, I think I answered in one of the Parliamentary Questions recently that we are looking for funds to the Club Maurice and also we have budgeted Rs85 m. which is required for the participation of Mauritius, including the participation cost and the preparation of all athletes for the 2015 Indian Ocean Island Games what will be held in Reunion Island and we have got 14 sports disciplines that will be in the Programme.

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Ministry of Youth and Sports – Programme Code 682: Promotion and Development of Sports (Rs436,622,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: It is too late!

(Interruptions)

No general question! It is the Committee of Supply! Next!

Programme Code 683: Youth Services was called.

The Chairperson: We will take down the names of those who want to put questions and then we will start counting the time, Okay?

(Interruptions)

Yes, we will take down the names and then we will start!

(Interruptions)

Now, count the time! We start with the first one on the list! Hon. Nagalingum!

Mr Nagalingum: On page 477, Programme Code 683, item 26313068 *National Youth Council*, can we know the names of the Chairman and the members of the Council?

The Chairperson: Question No. 2, hon. Gungah!

Mr Gungah: Mr Chairperson, under item 31112407 *Upgrading of Youth Centres at (a) Anse La Raie*, may I ask the Minister when the project will start and when it will be completed, and who is the contractor?

The Chairperson: Too many questions at the same time! I allow one question! Hon. Dr. S. Boolell!

Dr. S. Boolell: On item 26313068 *National Youth Council*, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to give us a breakdown of how money has been spent - that sum of Rs1,600,000 - and whether there is still a Chairman to that National Youth Council?

The Chairperson: The hon. Member has asked for a breakdown. Do you have the breakdown, hon. Minister?

Mr Ritoo: In fact, it is actually, the Assistant Director of the Youth Affairs of my Ministry who is Acting Chairman of the National Youth Council together with other eight members. I can give the hon. Member the list of the members and also, the list of the all the activities held by the National Youth Council with expenses.

Now, for the Anse La Raie Training Centre, we are going to provide two new dormitories, with roof. The work will be starting very soon and will be completed by the coming year 2014.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 477, under item 22030 *Rent*, there is an amount of Rs2.5 m. that has been budgeted. May we know which building is being rented, where it is found and also, the floor space area and for what purpose?

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 477, under item 31112407 *(b) Bel Ombre Residential Youth Camp*, can I ask the hon. Minister what is the scope of the work to be carried out next year and for how long, or whether the residential camp will be closed?

The Chairperson: Third question, hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Chairperson, on page 478, item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*, we are invited to vote a sum of Rs3.4 m. I would like to have the details thereof.

The Chairperson: Yes, three questions already!

Mr Ritoo: Regarding the renting of buildings, well, we have a building at the National Pension Fund, we have the Youth Secretariat in Rose Hill, also the Triolet Youth Centre which is rented in Triolet and, of course, we have the Black River District Council which has rented a place for the Bambous Youth Centre. So, we have got these three buildings that are being rented actually.

Regarding, the Bel Ombre Youth Residential Centre, in fact, this is a centre which is a bit modern because it is going to provide outdoor camping facilities for youths and it will be equipped with open shelters, camping spaces with cooking corners and basic toilet facilities. So, it will accommodate sporting facilities like *pétanque*, beach volley and beach foot. It will be constructed next year.

Goods and services - this is provision made for payment of uniform allowances, accommodation and passage costs, sports equipment, hospitality and ceremony.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lesjongard!

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, with regard to item 31112007 *Construction of Youth Centres*, you will recall we witnessed very intensive and aggressive debates among MPs from Constituency No. 4 regarding the Youth Centre at Cité La Cure. I don't find Cité La Cure Youth Centre on the list. Does that mean, hon. Minister, that we won't have a youth centre at Cité La Cure also next year?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: On the same item, can I ask the hon. Minister about a youth centre in my Constituency, whether there is any hope for the coming years for us to have the Mont Roches Youth Centre - I won't say it is like a *boite allumette*. The hon. Minister is not to be blamed. I can say this. But, can the hon. Minister, at least, have a survey to see whether repairs can be done, activities can be organised as there is an urgent need to revamp this Mont Roches Youth Centre?

The Chairperson: Well, two questions have been put from hon. Members with no links to an item of expenditure.

(Interruptions)

But, since they are constituency related, I am flexible.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 477, item 22060 *Maintenance*, can I know from the hon. Minister, maintenance of what and paid to whom?

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding the question raised by hon. Lesjongard, in fact, in Programme 2014 we are going to have four new youth centres; one is the Malherbe Youth Centre, second is the Black River Youth Centre, third is the Cité La Cure Youth Centre and fourth is the Montagne Longue Youth Centre. For the Cité La Cure Youth Centre, the location has already been identified and procedures for land transfer for the Ministry is actually being processed. Meanwhile, all the youth activities are being organised at the Cité La Cure Community Centre which has been put at our disposal in collaboration with the *Forces Vives* of the region. And also, we would be having the Montagne Longue Youth Centre. So, there will be four youth centres next year.

Regarding Mont Roches, in fact, the hon. Member knows that I have always attended to the additional equipments and renovation works. Well, it is already ongoing. Maintenance is for the plant and equipment.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under Programme 683, shall I take it on *Personal Emoluments*, can I ask about one of the major services...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Indicate the page and item.

Mr Baloomoody: At page 470, under Programme 683: Youth Services, can I ask the hon. Minister about one of the Major Services which is awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS and Drugs. May I know from the hon. Minister on this Budget, on this programme and sub-programme, what is the amount earmarked for this specific objective?

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, on page 478, Sub-Programme 68302, last item 28217 *Expense Not Elsewhere Specified*, true it is, we found that on different Programmes, but can the hon. Minister, at least, give us some details about expenses that are being incurred under this fund?

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, in fact, regarding the Expenses Not Elsewhere Specified, we make payment for insurance premiums regarding all the youth activities. You know, all the youths come to participate in the activities organised; so, we pay for the insurance premium. SICOM is being paid.

Regarding the HIV/AIDS and global fund programme, well, this is carried out by the resource person. It concerns mainly the young people in schools, youth centres, youth clubs and also other youth-related organisations. We do it in collaboration with the National AIDS Secretariat of the Prime Minister's Office. They are given some sort of extra items and we have earmarked Rs1.3 m. for that.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, at page 470, under Programme 683, I see something very interesting, a Citizenship Education Programme to be carried out with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. Now, I want to know from the hon. Minister - since the last time we had a Citizenship Education Programme in education, it was chucked in the dustbin in 2005 - where in his Budget is he providing for this Programme? Is it the sum of Rs60,000 for Expense Not Elsewhere Specified under item 28217, but that's only Rs60,000. What money is the hon. Minister providing for that Programme? What would it consist of and how will it be delivered?

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Mr Chairperson, at page 477, I would like to come again on the item 31112407, *Bel Ombre Residential Youth Camp, qui a été un effet d'annonce pendant deux ans*, voted for Rs1 m. I would like to know the status of the project, if land has been earmarked, if construction started, the contract awarded and everything?

The Chairperson: Third question, hon. Nagalingum!

Mr Nagalingum: On page 477, item 28211 *Transfer to Non-Profit Institutions* where a provision of Rs275,000 is earmarked for 2013 and which has been reduced to Rs150,000. Can we know why? Can we know the names of the non-profit institutions concerned?

Mr Bhagwan: On page 478, Programme 683, under *item Goods and Services*, about Rs8 m. On page 470, *Major Services, Online Communication Platform for youth*, we also, as MPs, visit regularly the different Youth Centres. Can the hon. Minister inform us whether - within these votes - there has been an assessment of all the Youth Centres with regard to the IT equipment? Not the old ones, 10 years back, but the new ones. What type of equipment? Whether they are online, intercommunicated within the Ministry and the Youth Centres to enable activities on a regular basis and also the time of opening and accessibility to all these equipment?

The Chairperson: Too many questions in one!

Mr Ritoo: Mr Chairperson, regarding Bel Ombre, the land has already been vested in favour of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the drawings are being finalised. Regarding the Citizenship Training Programme, in fact, this regards the youth for character building on human values, women and children rights. It is done in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

The Chairperson: I say no question from a sitting position!

Mr Ritoo: It regards the development of skills through positive opportunities and activities to become responsible citizens and to develop a certain sense of patriotism. Regarding the item *Transfer to Non-Profit Institution*, in fact, I should say that the decrease represents a mishap of figures. In due course, my Ministry will seek the financial clearance for reallocation. It regards the Scouts Girls Guide which hon. Nagalingum just asked me.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 477, item 26313068 *National Youth Council* - I see at page 470, the *Priority Objective* is to equip young people, including students in colleges and youth at risk with appropriate skills and knowledge to become responsible citizens. Can I ask the hon. Minister how many youths at risks have been taken care of and where? Whether in colleges, in schools or elsewhere?

Mr Jhugroo: On pages 477 and 478, item 22090 *Security*, can I know from the hon. Minister who is doing the security services, since when and whether tender procedures have been followed?

Mr Ritoo: Regarding the youth through the National Youth Council, in fact we target all the youth island-wide through our 25 Youth Centres and we go even in the schools where the youths are getting difficulties to integrate. So, we target normally all the youths. The second question was?

The Chairperson: Please repeat your question!

Mr Jhugroo: Yes, hon. Minister on pages 477 and 478, Item 22090 *Security*, can I know who is doing the service, since when and whether tender procedures have been followed?

Mr Ritoo: Yes, all the procedures have been followed. They are the Rapid Security Services Limited and RSL Security Limited and their contracts are due to expire on 31 March 2015.

Programme Code 683: Youth Services (Rs81,651,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands - Programme Code 461: Policy and Management of Local Government was called.

Mr Nagalingum: On page 492, *Programme 461, Policy and Management of Local Government, item 22180 Overseas Travel (Mission and Capacity Building)*. My question is: can the hon. Minister inform us of the missions and capacity building which have been attended by him or his officers for 2013 and whether any of his officers had formed part of any delegations of Municipalities, District Councils or AUA/ADC going overseas during the year?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 491, I take it under *Personal Emoluments*. I will ask the hon. Minister whether he is supposed to provide and enhance facilities on beaches. Can the hon. Minister say who decides on the structures to be put on beaches? Is it the hon. Minister who decides or the Beach Authority that decides?

The Chairperson: The question deals with administration. Yes, three questions. Hon. Minister, three questions at a go!

Mr Aimée: Overseas mission: for payment of air fares, subsistence allowance, etc. on overseas mission and capacity building. The provision has been brought down to MOFED. Beach Authority is governed by a Board which decides on the enhancement.

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes, Mr Chairperson! Under the *programme 461*, on page 491, we recently voted the Local Government Act, one of the rare positive features of which was the acknowledgment of the role of the Association of Urban Authorities (AUA).

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo, I appeal to you, if you are going to make comments.

Mr Obeegadoo: No, the question is, where on page 491 under item 21 or 22 is provision made for facilitation of the work of the AUA as envisaged by the new Local Government Act?

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 492, item 26312 regarding *Current Grant to Local Authorities*, can the hon. Minister inform the House what criteria have been used in each case to increase the current grant for all local authorities?

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 491, item *Personal Emoluments* has been increased by almost Rs6 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister why such an increase?

Mr Aimée: For *Personal Emoluments*, this item englobes basic salary, allowance, end-of-the year bonus and cash in lieu of sick leave, an extra allowance to Adviser, and Service to Mauritius (STM).

Basic GIA has been allocated; an incremental amount provided on the preceding years provision, to arrive at the current year provision for 2014. MOFED has also ensured that any deficit occurred in 2013 is absorbed in the provision for the fiscal year 2014. As from fiscal year 2015, a grant-in-aid formula devised by the IMF, which is still under consideration, will be used for a fair and equitable allocation of grant-in-aid.

Mr Nagalingum: Mr Chairperson, page 491, Programme Code 461, *Policy and Management of Local Government*, item 22030 – *Rent*, I see a provision of Rs2.8 m. for 2014. Can we know these rental premises in terms of surface areas and rental values?

Mr Baloomoody: Programme Code 461, *Policy and Management of Local Government*, the first item, *Compensation of Employees*.

The Chairperson: Can you indicate the page and the item.

Mr Baloomoody: Page 491; it is only on one page.

The Chairperson: That will help the hon. Minister!

Mr Baloomoody: I want to save some minutes by not repeating the page; all of us repeating the page. It is only on one page.

The Chairperson: But, if you create confusion, we will never finish!

Mr Baloomoody: There is no confusion! The Programme is only on one page.

The Chairperson: Proceed! Let us not waste time!

(Interruptions)

Mr Baloomoody: One of the major services under this Programme is formulation and implementation of appropriate policies for local government, solid waste management and beach management. May I know, under this Programme, what proportion of that money, Rs45,351,000, which we are called upon to vote, goes to management of beaches? A very simple question!

Mr Bhagwan: Programme Code 461, page 491, *Personal Emoluments*, and I will come back to page 486, *Priority Objectives*. The hon. Minister is not listening, Mr Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Put your question!

Mr Bhagwan: And then I won't have a reply!

The Chairperson: Put your question!

Mr Bhagwan: There might be a special Adviser next to him!

The Chairperson: No comment! Just put the question.

Mr Bhagwan: One of the priority objectives of the Ministry is to ensure an efficient solid waste and fire services. Can the Minister inform the House whether there is actually a solid waste management plan which is in force, whether, with this sum, there would be an updating of a plan, and if he can circulate to the House the existing plan and the one under preparation?

Mr Aimée: First of all, management of beaches goes to Programme 463 and not 461. On the opposite; wrongly read.

(Interruptions)

Mr Baloomoody: The Minister thinks that I am wrong. It is written in his budget, on page 461. The hon. Minister has wrongly prepared his budget!

(Interruptions)

Mr Aimée: No, I am sorry!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I don't think making noise will help clear the situation. If there is some confusion, we are here to listen and clear everything. So, where is the confusion?

Mr Aimée: May I tell you, Mr Chairperson?

The Chairperson: Yes!

Mr Aimée: The management of beaches goes under Programme 463.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Under *Personnal Emoluments*, the first item, whilst giving the breakdown of the figure, the hon. Minister stated that there is an amount for advisers. Can I ask the hon. Minister how many advisers he have, as well as their salaries and facilities, and also on which matter the advisers advise him?

Mr Aimée: I will circulate.

The Chairperson: Hon. Nagalingum!

Mr Nagalingum: On page 493, under Programme Code 461, sub-item 26323204 *Local Development Fund, (d) Other Projects*, there is a provision of 185 m. for 2014. Can we know how and by whom these projects will be decided upon? Is there not an overlapping with the NDU?

The Chairperson: Hon. Li Kwong Wing!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Under the same Programme, the Budget mentions the setting up of a special platform for online processing of all applications for building permits to be channelled through his Ministry. May I know what sum has been provided in this Budget for the software and this platform, and how many staff will be scheduled for this new platform?

The Chairperson: There are already three questions. Hon. Minister, I have to make an observation with regard to a question put by hon. Ameer Meea. You may circulate the answers, because it is not in the nature of the question that is related to expenditure. But you may circulate all the information asked for by the hon. Member. Okay!

Mr Aimée: There is a question of rent, Mr Chairperson. This is rent of office at Renganaden Seeneevassen building for the Minister's office and secretariat, rent and service charge, paid total rate, rent of office space at Bahemia building Port Louis.

(Interruptions)

Solid waste is under Programme 462. I am sorry!

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, you should not answer question asked by those who are in a sitting position! And address the Chair! Hon. Soodhun!

Mr Obeegadoo: On a point of clarification, Mr Chairperson. May I?

The Chairperson: If time permitting. Hon. Soodhun!

Mr Soodhun: Programme Code 461, page 492, item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*.

The Chairperson: Why are Members laughing?

(Interruptions)

Mr Soodhun: Under Programme 461, page 492, item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*. There is a considerable increase. I would like to have some details from the hon. Minister.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan, do you have a question?

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: I will come to my question, Mr Chairperson. When I asked a question on *Personnel Emoluments*, the hon. Minister replied it was on the other page. My question is on policy. What is the policy for solid waste? He asked me to go to the next page!

The Chairperson: No! Policy related to solid waste is not a proper question, hon. Bhagwan.

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: It is written in the Budget!

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Can I, at least, ask the hon. Minister, on the item *Compensation of Employees, Personal Emoluments*, how much of the Rs40,470,000 - which we are called upon to pay - goes to his Advisers?

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Minister, do you have the details?

Mr Aimée: I do not have the details. I will circulate the information. Regarding item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*, it is for payment of uniforms, allowance to employee falling under the *Programme 461*, as recommended by PRB 2013. Revised entertainment allowance payable to Minister has also been provided under the item *Improving Effectiveness through Benchmarking and Capacity Building*.

The Chairperson: Time permits me to allow hon. Obeegadoo to clarify. Hon. Member, what is it that you want to be clarified?

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, I just wanted to know why is it that each time you asked for three questions, we get two answers. My question invariably goes unanswered. I had a question on the AUA, same Programme...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please! Repeat your question!

Mr Obeegadoo: But then, you will have to allow us for more time.

The Chairperson: We still have time. You may proceed!

(Interruptions)

I have said no private conversation. And you are from the front bench! Hon. Baloomoody! You also, Minister of Education! Give the good example!

Mr Obeegadoo: I asked the Minister, having regard to what is written on page 461, *Support and Coordination to Local Authorities*, and the provision...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Some Members are making comments! You are disturbing the hon. Minister! He has to listen and understand the question, and answer.

Mr Obeegadoo: And he is already confused! I was asking where in *Programme 461*, on page 491, is the provision for the Association of Urban Authorities (AUA)? What sums are provided for the AUA for its work?

Mr Aimée: The Programme?

The Chairperson: Yes! There is a question from hon. Lesjondard.

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, on page 492, item 22120007 *Fees to Local Authorities for Training of Planners (Business Facilitation)*...

(Interruptions)

I am sorry!

Mr Aimée: Ce n'est pas dans ce programme-là !

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister! So, please, answer the question of hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Aimée: The hon. Member has not given me the Programme, Mr Chairperson.

(Interruptions)

I asked him.

Mr Obeegadoo: Does the hon. Minister insist? The Minister will be glad to note that ever since we have started examining his Ministry's Budget, we have been on the one and only *Programme: 461 Policy and Management of Local Government*.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, if I may be of any help! Programme 461 starts from page 491- in the middle and it goes to page 492, just a little at the top.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, this is on Programme 462. I am sorry!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: You say the question of hon. Obeegadoo deals with Programme 462? May I know what is the question, hon. Obeegadoo?

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes. On page 486, I refer to Programme 461: Policy and Management of Local Government; the second bullet, *Major Services*, as defined on page 486. Maybe, the Minister might choose to look at page 486 and he will understand why my hon. colleague referred to the Beach Authority and Beach Management. Hon. Bhagwan referred to Solid Waste Management, because all these issues are raised as major services under Programme 461.

Mr Aimée: I will circulate.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, no! There is some ambiguity.

(Interruptions)

Possibly the question of hon. Obeegadoo may be reconsidered when we deal with *item 463 Solid and Hazardous Waste and Beach Management*.

(Interruptions)

I will come with your question! Yes!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, my question is very specific.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I want some silence! Give me the page and the item number, please!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: On page 491, item *21110 Personal Emoluments*. There is a new project under the management of the Ministry for processing and clearing all the applications for building permit. So, I am asking the Minister whether he is having more staff scheduled for this function under this item of *Personal Emoluments*, and also whether there is any acquisition of software and IT equipment to do this online processing of all building permits throughout the island?

The Chairperson: So, your question is centered on personnel for the project in question?

Mr Li Kwong Wing: The personnel and the IT capacity.

Mr Aimée: There is extra allowance; provision is made for three advisers on information matters, advisers on local authority.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, I would suggest that you circulate the answer.

Mr Aimée: Yes.

Mr Bhagwan: I consider that we have been progressing smoothly. Can I make a request to the Chairperson? The Minister is being misguided by his colleague Minister there, who is the Minister of Arts and Culture, and not the Minister of Local Government. This is why we are having problems.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan! Time is up! So, I cannot consider your observation.

(Interruptions)

Silence! I am putting the question.

Programme Code 461: Policy and Management of Local Government (Rs52,716,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Yes, I am thinking about the time. It is 17.00 hrs sharp. I think it is a proper time to break

At 5.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 5.46 p.m. with Mr Speaker in the Chair.

Programme Code 462: Facilitation to Local Authorities was called.

Mr Nagalingum: Mr Chairperson, on page 493, under item 26314001 PRB Local Authorities, the PRB impact has not yet been finalised by the Ministry of Finance and yet the sum of Rs140 m. has been earmarked. Is the Minister aware that this sum represents only half the amount for all Local Authorities? My question is: when will additional funds be given to Local Authorities to manage the situation?

Mr Gungah: On page 492, item 26 Grants, sub- items 26312011 and 26312012. A sum of Rs229,459 was granted to the Pamplermouses and Rivière du Rempart District Council. I wanted to know from the Minister how much was allocated to the Pamplermouses District Council and Rivière du Rempart District Council after the splitting up of the District Council.

Mr Lesjongard: On page 492, under item 22120007 Fees to Local Authorities for Training of Planners (Business Facilitation), we know that the Business Facilitation Act was voted in this House in 2006. Do we understand that during all those years no training was given to those planners and that it is only next year that training will be given to planners posted within Local Authorities?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, for the first item, provision is already included under item Grant for Local Authorities for 2014. A question was put on the *Grant-in-Aid*, it includes provision for refuse collection in housing estates and coastal villages for maintenance of traffic centres and cleaning of motorways, for control of rodent, payment of oracle licence.

(Interruptions)

This is the answer!

(Interruptions)

Now, grant to...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, if hon. Members are going to make noise, the hon. Minister will be disturbed!

(Interruptions)

Mr Aimée: Grant to Rivière du Rempart...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Let us be fair to the hon. Minister!

Mr Aimée: Grant to Rivière du Rempart is Rs125,315,000.

(Interruptions)

Sorry!

(Interruptions)

For Pamplemousses, it is Rs146,586,000.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, it is okay, I am listening to you!

(Interruptions)

There is a question from hon. Lesjongard!

Mr Aimée: Which one it was?

(Interruptions)

Mr Aimée: As regards the *Fees*, Rs11,000,000 will be used for the recruitment of 25 new trainee planners who will undergo training at the Ministry of Housing and Lands and also formal training at the University of Mauritius. This exercise is being conducted in the context of Business Facilitation to further improve the ease of doing business.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: The question has been just asked.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

Dr. Sorefan: Mr Chairperson, on page 492, item 26, sub-item 26312, may we know from the hon. Minister what grant-in-aid formula has been used for 2013 and the new grant-in-aid formula that is in progress for the years 2015 and 2016?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: It is at page 492, item 26 - *Grants*. Is it correct, hon. Member?

Dr. Sorefan: Yes.

Mr Aimée: The grant-in-aid formula is still the previous one that exists for quite a long time. The new one would come and it is being prepared actually. It's almost ready and it is in collaboration with the IMF and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Chairperson, on page 493, item 26323204 *Local Development Fund*, we are being asked to vote Rs365 m. for the (a) *Acquisition of compactor lorries*, (b) *Contribution towards Plaza Renovation – Phase 2*, and we have contribution for other projects amounting to Rs185 m. I thank the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Can the hon. Minister inform the House what would be the apportionment of this Rs185 m. as far as the local authorities are concerned and whether it is contemplated to buy, apart from compactor lorries, street lighting lorries? The hon. Minister will remember I draw his attention on the urgent need for our area District Council of Black River to have street lighting lorries. So I would like to know whether, in the other projects, Rs185 m., funds will be provided for the purchase street lighting lorries?

Mr Aimée: The first one is Local Development Fund for acquisition of compactor lorries, for renovation of Plaza - phase 2, part financing of the reconstruction of the forum fair and for the development of projects in Local Authorities. The other project is for the construction of multi complex village hall, market fair, sport amenities, children playground, roads and drains. Project proposals have been received from 12 local Authorities and same would be considered under the Local Development Fund. There is a provision somewhere where we have Rs185 m. where they would be able to buy the lighting lorries or any other vehicle and equipment.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, I did not quite understand the hon. Minister about the formula that the IMF will devise for the new allocation for grant. But, can I ask him what is the rationale behind the grant allocation for Curepipe and Vacoas/Phoenix, whereby it has been increased by 57% for Vacoas/Phoenix and Curepipe, 45%, compared to Port Louis, 19%? What is the rationale behind that?

The Chairperson: The hon. Member wants to know the reason for the increase.

Mr Aimée: This is a policy that exists for quite a long time, Mr Chairperson, I mean for the last 25 years it is like that. It is the same formula. Today, we are preparing a formula. At my Ministry, it is already finished, but now it is with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, in collaboration with the FMI, to go through it and give us the green light as to whether it is correct or not.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: On page 492, Mr Chairperson, at the bottom of the page, item *26312015 District Council of Grand Port* and item *26312016 District Council of Savanne respectively*. In this case also, a block vote of Rs235,390,000 has been earmarked for these two District Councils for the year 2013. Can the hon. Minister give a breakdown in terms of how much of that block vote had been used by each of the two District Councils mentioned respectively?

Mr Aimée: Black River District Council or Grand Port and Savanne?

The Chairperson: Yes. You have two District Councils.

Mr Aimée: Rs235 m. for both Grand Port and Savanne and it is Rs121,191,000 and you have Rs3 m. that have been refunded from the billboard fee and admission charge, Rs3,150,000.

(Interruptions)

I am talking about Savanne!

Mr Ganoo: How much for Grand Port and how much for Savanne?

Mr Aimée: I told you already, it is Rs115,545,976 for Savanne and for Grand Port it is Rs190,844,024.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 493, Programme 462, item 31122802, being given that there is a provision of Rs17 m. for IT equipment for Local Authorities, can the hon. Minister inform the House for which Local Authority this is meant?

Mr Aimée: I hope I have heard very well, Mr Chairperson. If it is for item 31121, amount provided for the purchase of compactor lorries for Local Authorities to enable them to offer a more regular scavenging service, an amount of Rs100 m. is actually provided in the Budget 2013, Budget and contract has already been signed with the supplier but these vehicles will only be delivered early next year. Hence, the contract amount of Rs85 m. has been provided in the Budget 2014.

The Chairperson: Hon. Nagalingum!

Mr Nagalingum: Mr Chairperson, on page 497, Programme 462, item 02 00 94 - *Secretary, Unified Local Government Service Board (New)*, the post is vacant. My question is who is currently assigned duty for the Board, second, who is the Chairman of the Board and is there a clash of overlapping of responsibilities between the Board and the Local Government Service Commission?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, the Local Government Service Commission does not fall under my Ministry.

(Interruptions)

Unified Local Government Service Board! Yes, it is my PS who is the Chairman. And the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Housing and Lands, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, I mean all these Permanent Secretaries sit on that Board. The Secretary is someone from my Ministry who is getting only an allowance to act as Secretary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 492, item 26312015 *District Council of Grand Port*, I can see here a sum of Rs155,869,000 has been earmarked for 2014. May we know what is the total Budget for that District Council for the year 2014 and taking into consideration other revenues to be collected by that District Council, whether there will be a deficit, and if so, by how much would that be?

Mr Aimée: I have already answered to that question for Grand Port. I think hon. Ganoo asked that. It is Rs149,380,000.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, my question concerned the year 2014. The hon. Minister answered with regard to 2013 to hon. Ganoo.

Mr Aimée: First of all, I have to give an explanation to you, Mr Chairperson. From the Ministry of Finance we get a grant for the Ministry of Local Government. From there every Local Authority would submit their Budget provision and then with my approval, they will get the money, not immediately. But still in the Budget, you have the sum clearly written for each Local Authority.

The Chairperson: You are left with four minutes. Hon. Jugnauth!

Mr Jugnauth: On page 492, last item, *New District Councils*; I am referring to this year. I presume that this amount has been spent because of the creation of new District Councils. May I know, for each of the new District Councils, what amount has been spent and what are the criteria to apportion this sum to the respective new District Councils?

Mr Aimée: First of all, on that item the sum of Rs107 m. was meant for the splitting of the three District Councils. This money has already been spent. Today, according to the provision that the Ministry of Finance has put here, they are still working on the Budget. As I said lately, they will send it to me for approval. We have not reached that level to get a final one.

The Chairperson: Your question is about apportionment to the different District Councils!

Mr Aimée: I have got the list!

The Chairperson: It is about the apportionment for that sum for the new District Councils. You may circulate the information!

Mr Aimée: I can answer, Mr Chairperson!

The Chairperson: You will circulate!

Mr Aimée: Okay, I will circulate.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 493, *item 26323204 (d) Other projects*, can the hon. Minister give us some details about the other projects which will be financed under this Programme?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, I have already answered that question for the construction of multipurpose complex, village halls, market fairs, sports amenities, children playground, roads and drains. The provision of this fund is meant for these projects, but still we are awaiting that once the Budget will approve all Local Authorities will send us the lists. It will depend on the councils themselves.

Mr Nagalingum: I come to the same question, Mr Chairperson, on page 493, item 31121801 *Acquisition of Compactor and Tipper Lorries*. Can I know for which Local Authority will this equipment be acquired, whether for all the Local Authorities or only some on request?

The Chairperson: Time is over! But, hon. Minister, you may answer this question!

Mr Aimée: I will circulate the answer. It is a long list!

The Chairperson: Time is over!

Programme Code 462: Facilitation to Local Authorities (Rs3,079,043,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 463: Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste and Beach Management was called.

Mr Obeegadoo: I would like to know, Mr Chairperson, how you are proceeding because yesterday you made a statement which we all appreciated, which was that you gave the chance under each Programme for each person who wanted to put a question to put one question. When that list is done, then you give a chance for a second question.

The Chairperson: Yes!

Mr Obeegadoo: What I am witnessing now is that some get no chance at all. Others get two or even three.

The Chairperson: Time permitting!

Mr Obeegadoo: No.

The Chairperson: Time permitting! We have 20 minutes.

Mr Obeegadoo: I am not questioning, I want to understand. Then how is it that yesterday...

The Chairperson: The list is at your disposal you can come and check!

Mr Obeegadoo: Some get none at all, some get three.

The Chairperson: Do you want me to circulate the list!

Mr Obeegadoo: No.

(Interruptions)

No, I want fairness!

The Chairperson: We are not going to waste time. It is 18.08 hrs. Hon. Bhagwan, put your question!

Mr Bhagwan: Yes.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Bhagwan. Your name is there! Everybody will get a fair chance!

Mr Bhagwan: Programme 463, on page 493, *item 22070 Cleaning Services*. Can the hon. Minister table a list of all the public beaches where cleaning services are offered and also the operation of transfer stations? How many transfer stations are operational and rehabilitation of the transfer stations of St Martin which has moved to somewhere else? What about the old transfer station site which was to be rehabilitated? When?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 494, *item 26313003 Beach Authority* where there is a provision of Rs18.9 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this provision includes expenditure for the setting up of ugly structures on public beaches which are eyesores?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, I have to circulate this. There is no way. It is too long. If you want me to read, it's okay!

The Chairperson: No, circulate so that others may put questions! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Aimée: The second question was about the structures on the beach from hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee. What I can say is that since 2002, we had the Beach Authority Act. I would say it is a pity because I have got to manage the Beach Authority, but I am not allowed as it was in the press, sublet. Since 2002, you had people who were licensed to work on the beach. So, the Beach Authority Bill is almost ready now with the collaboration of my colleague, hon. Minister of Housing and Lands. I hope we will be able to change certain parts of this law to know if it is Government who will take care of the Beach Authority and have almost the same structure on the beach or perhaps to liaise directly with those who are licensed there. Now they have got a license where they can't operate clearly. I say that because they are selling food. The hawkers can't sit and prepare food and give to people. Sometimes they want some cold drinks or hot meals. There must be a sort of structure to cater for these people.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: I have not asked my question. Now, I will ask my question.

The Chairperson: I think he has a point.

Mr Baloomoody: On page 494, *Grant to Extra Budgetary - Beach Authority*, we are being asked to give Rs22 m. for current expenditure, and Rs4 m. for capital expenditure. I am sure the hon. Minister must have a breakdown before budgeting those expenses in his budget. So, can he circulate a breakdown of how this money will be used by the Beach Authority?

Mr Aimée: Staff cost; 55 employees, of which 22 are general workers. Cost of utilities, rent and other expenses for running of vehicles.

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo! You may have your chance.

Mr Obeegadoo: I wanted, in the public interest, to rise on the previous item. I was denied the floor at least on three opportunities.

The Chairperson: You have a chance now! You are denying a chance to yourself!

(Interruptions)

Your chance is coming! Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: On page 494, - I would like the attention of the Minister – sub-item 26313003 - *Beach Authority*. We are being asked to vote nearly Rs30 m. Mr Chairperson, this is public money, and I am sure the Minister must have taken cognizance of all the cases of corruption, mismanagement arising at the Beach Authority, where we are being asked to vote nearly Rs30 m. Will the Minister, in the public interest, in the interest of the people of Mauritius, taxpayers, recommend to the Prime Minister the immediate suspension of the Director General - whose salary is in that - for mismanagement, corruption?

(Interruptions)

Mr Soodhun: *Bandit sa!*

The Chairperson: Please withdraw the word. He is not here, and you should not....

(Interruptions)

I am the Chairperson! You withdraw!

Mr Soodhun: I withdraw, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Bhagwan: I have not finished, Mr Chairperson. To order an enquiry, and pending an enquiry, the Minister can recommend his Permanent Secretary to lead that Authority.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, I don't think I have to answer to that question. People are making allegations here and there, but nobody proved the allegations.

(Interruptions)

Nobody can prove the allegations. *Si c'est à travers un coup de tête qu'on met quelqu'un dehors, sans lui donner la chance de se justifier, je m'excuse, ce n'est pas moi !*

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo! Silence, hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Bhagwan, no provocation! Yes, hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: On page 493, Programme Code 463, sub-item 22070001. Being given there is a provision of Rs100 m. every year for the cleaning of public beaches, can we know which companies are involved in the cleaning of these beaches, and whether tender procedures have been followed? And, if so, can we know when was the last tender launched, and which companies are concerned?

Mr Aimée: The finance there is meant for Choisy, La Cuvette, Pereybere, Grand' Baie, Trou aux Biches, Belle Mare, Palmar, Blue Bay, La Cambuse, La Preneuse, Flic en Flac and Tamarin. Lot I has been allocated to Maxi Clean for the sum of Rs1,488,451. The new contract has been awarded as from 16 November 2013. The second one - in fact, two of them – to Maxi Clean for Rs673,780, and the other one is Rs460,575. For La Preneuse, Securiclean...

The Chairperson: If you have a long list, you may circulate, hon. Minister.

Mr Aimée: No, it's finished!

The Chairperson: Circulate!

Mr Aimée: For la Preneuse, Securiclean to the tune of Rs1,200,650.

The Chairperson: Hon. Nagalingum!

Mr Nagalingum: On page 493, item 22060 *Maintenance*. I find that the amount has nearly doubled. If the Minister can circulate all the details.

Mr Aimée: The post-closure component of Mare Chicose contract started in 2013. Hence, in 2013, six-month provision was made amounting to Rs24 m. In 2014, the full provision...

The Chairperson: You may circulate hon. Minister.

Mr Aimée: It's finished! The full provision is being made to meet expenditure on post-closure management.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Chairperson, I come back on Beach Authority at page 494, sub-item 26313003. The Minister himself has made mention of that in a previous answer about the hawkers who have erected illegal structures on public beaches. After the controversy which the hawkers at Flic en Flac provoked, the fury which that caused on the part of the inhabitants of Flic en Flac, has the Ministry made a survey and audit of how many hawkers have erected illegal structures along our beaches, including that of Flic en Flac? The Minister has informed us that a new law is coming soon. But can he tell us also what is the position with regard to hawkers at Flic en Flac who have erected illegal structures?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, there were only one or two squatters. I am happy that the Ministry of Housing and Lands has taken care of that very quickly. But, still, as I say, there is a licence delivered to the other hawkers...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No question from a sitting position! Simply answer the original question.

(Interruptions)

Don't interrupt the Minister. Please, answer!

(Interruptions)

Mr Aimée: As the hon. Member knows; he has been in Parliament for the last 30 years...

The Chairperson: No, let me decide! You should not put question.

Mr Aimée: But then, everybody in this House knows that this practice is there for the last 25 years, as I mentioned before, that is, they are not mobile. I inherited these structures, and they are there for the last 20 years, the last 10 years!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Do you have a question hon. Soodhun?

Mr Soodhun: On page 493, item 22070001 *Public Beaches*, where there is a provision of Rs100 m. May we know from the hon. Minister how the sum of Rs100 m. has been distributed?

Mr Aimée: I will circulate the information, Mr Chairperson. I am waiting for the answer.

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 494, item 26323003 *Beach Authority*. May I know from the hon. Minister when the permits and licences for the construction and operation of a restaurant on the beach of Trou aux Biches - operated by Pandit Sungkur - has been delivered? May we also know what revenue the Beach Authority is expecting from this restaurant?

The Chairperson: Under which item, please?

Mr Aimée: There is no item.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Beach Authority, yes.

Mr Aimée: This particular construction at Trou aux Biches for the licences and clearances, it has never been to my Ministry. It was straight to the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

(Interruptions)

So, this question should be put to the Ministry of Housing and Lands!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

Dr. Sorefan: On page 494, item 31113009 *Construction of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities/Stations at Mare Chicose*, etc. Recently, we had fire at Mare Chicose and La Chaumière. May we know from the hon. Minister what security measures have been taken to really safeguard those sites and to protect the inhabitants and what sum has been allocated for security purposes?

The Chairperson: It is a good Parliamentary Question!

(Interruptions)

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, here also, it is a long answer. Would you want me to circulate it?

The Chairperson: Yes, circulate! Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: Merci, M. le président. Donc, à la page 494, sous l'item 26313 *Current Grant to Extra Budgetary Units*. Est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre le montant des revenus récoltés pour la location des transats ?

The Chairperson: We have two minutes left, hon. Minister!

Mr Aimée: On this item, provision is made for the Beach Authority to cover its administration and operation costs. The Authority has been entrusted the responsibility of nine additional beaches. I will circulate the list concerning the details of the Beach Authority's estimates.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Bhagwan!

(Interruptions)

You have a question already? The hon. Minister will circulate.

Mr Ramano: Non, ce n'est pas cela. Le ministre n'a pas circulé. Le ministre est complètement à côté du sujet. J'ai parlé de la location des transats.

Mr Aimée: As I said, the list will be compiled and will be circulated.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody, it is good we save time for hon. Bhagwan to put questions.

Mr Bhagwan: On page 494, 31113009 - *Construction of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities/Stations*. Earlier on, I asked a question about the Solid Waste Master Plan and the Minister referred me to this particular item. Can I ask him whether all the solid waste facilities have been commissioned and, especially, with the *Hazardous Waste Facility at La Chaumière*, to give a status of this facility where construction...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't disturb hon. Bhagwan, please!

Mr Bhagwan: I would like to know whether it is operational. I am not talking about a hazardous Minister, but *Hazardous Waste Facility at La Chaumière*.

Mr Aimée: There was a study carried out with the BADEA and it is ready now. The land has been earmarked at La Chaumière and early this year we will probably start it also with the African Institute.

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Programme Code 463: Solid and Hazardous Waste and Beach Management (Rs870,829,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 464: Fire Fighting and Rescue and Fire Prevention was called.

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 495, item 21111 - *Other Staff Costs*. Can the hon. Minister give us the details thereof, and also, under item 21110 - *Personal Emoluments* where there has been a drastic increase in the *Personal Emoluments*?

Mr Aimée: Provision has been made for travelling expenses of Rs15,900,000 which consists of refund of bus fare, travelling allowance and other travelling expenses to staff, increase due to refund of bus fare from 12 days to 15 days per month to the staff of the Fire Cadre. Provision has also been made for overtime: Rs575,000. Staff Welfare: Rs40,000.

Mr Nagalingum: I have two questions. On the same page 495, item 22060 *Maintenance*. Can we have all the details regarding that increase in 2014, also under item 22090 *Security*, where there is an increase as well? Can we have details as to who is the contractor and if tender has been made?

Mr Aimée: Provision required for the maintenance of minor repairs to all fire stations: Rs200,000. Rescue hydraulic tools, lift at the Head Office, generator and other equipment: Rs3.2 m.; maintenance and repairs of vehicles, Rs13 m. Based on the normal trend of the expenditure for repairs to be effected on 10 ladder lorries GM4574, costing approximately Rs4.5 m; for repairs and maintenance of computers. The other items, like payment of security service at the Head Office and Fire Prevention Section. The contract has been awarded to Rapid Security Service for a period of one year.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 495, item 31112024 *Construction of Fire Stations (a) Tamarin Fire Station*. A provision of Rs15 m. was made for 2013 and for 2014 I see a provision of Rs5 m. As far as I know - although I was not invited to the function - this fire station has already been inaugurated. So, can the hon. Minister explain why, and what will be done to...

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee! Put the question, because time is running out.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: I am putting the question. Can I ask the Minister why this provision of Rs5 m. again for next year?

The Chairperson: That's a good question!

Mr Aimée: Provision is made for the payment of retention money in the year 2014 and provision for the preliminary works to start in 2014.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

(Interruptions)

Mr Baloomoody: Can I ask the...

(Interruptions)

Can I take the...

(Interruptions)

Can I...

The Chairperson: Yes, if the hon. Members keep on talking, time is running! I will wait until they are quiet! There will be no extra time!

(Interruptions)

Mr Baloomoody: Can I ask the hon. Minister on item *Acquisition of Fire Fighting and Rescue Equipment*.

Mr Aimée: Which page?

Mr Baloomoody: On page 495, item 31122803. Although it is called the Fire Fighting and Rescue Fire Prevention, the hon. Minister will agree with me that now with the flash floods the Fire Services have to diversify in other sectors normally to remove water. Not later than yesterday, I was informed by the Coromandel Fire Station, that there were no sufficient pumps...

The Chairperson: Put the question!

Mr Baloomoody: ...to remove water at Richelieu. Can I ask the hon. Minister if he could give us a breakdown with regard to the Rs50 m. we are supposed to vote for the *Acquisition of Fire Fighting and Rescue Equipment*? If he could give us a breakdown to see whether there is sufficient equipment when we have flash floods?

Mr Aimée: This amount is meant to buy –

- 3 semi burn fire fighting vehicles for the sum of Rs12 m.;
- 35 breathing apparatuses;
- spare cylinders and carrying cases Rs3,725,000;
- for communication link ...

(Interruptions)

Do you want me to reply, Madam, or not?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mr Aimée: The sum is meant also for -

- Communication link: Rs850,000;
- Floating pumps - as just mentioned by the hon. Member: Rs300,000;
- Portable pumps: Rs1,700,000, and
- Personnel protective equipment, helmets, fire tunics, leggings, gloves, fire boots, etc.: Rs1,425,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Gungah!

Mr Gungah: Mr Chairperson, I have two questions.

The Chairperson: No, one question!

(Interruptions)

One question!

Mr Gungah: Yes. On Programme 464, item *22160 Overseas Training*, there is a sum of Rs700,000 earmarked for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016. May we know from the Minister who will attend these training and what type of training will these be?

Mr Aimée: The sum is made available for the training of our officers abroad and the provision is being made as follows –

- Tuition fee : Rs450,000;
- Lodging : Rs90,000;
- Subsistence allowance : Rs72,000, and
- Air tickets : Rs88,000

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 495 and still under item *22160 Overseas Training*. May I ask the hon. Minister the number of officers who will be trained under this programme and whether there is a list of set criteria for the selection of officers who will go on overseas training?

Mr Aimée: I do not have it in the details, Mr Chairperson, but I must make mention that we also have other friendly countries that fund part of the training costs. But, as for the criteria, I am the Minister

and I am not really aware on what criteria they select the staff to do that. This is under the responsibility of the Chief Fire Officer.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: On the same issue as put by my colleague hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee, at page 495, item 31112024 *Construction of Fire Stations (a) Tamarin Fire Station*, I would like to ask the Minister whether the Fire Station is operational and, if so, what justifies the preliminary amount earmarked for the year 2014?

Mr Aimée: The Fire Station at Tamarin is already completed.

(Interruptions)

Yes.

(Interruptions)

I think...

The Chairperson: No question from a sitting position! Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: On page 495, item 31122 *Other Machinery and Equipment*, Rs53.3 m.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, the Minister is not listening! This is our problem!

Mr Aimée: I am listening!

Mr Bhagwan: *To adjoint ki pé fer la? Adjoint!* Can I ask ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I may have heard something unparliamentary!

Mr Bhagwan: No, Sir, I have said nothing unparliamentary! What?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Time is over!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: His helper! His colleague helper!

(Interruptions)

Mr Choonee: On a point of personal explanation, how can I become a helper here! I am the Minister of Arts and Culture, Sir.

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: Oh! Hon. Minister! Now...

(Interruptions)

Aster ki tonn penser to minis!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: *Aster ki to koner to minis!*

(Interruptions)

Aster ki to koner to minis!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Silence! You are...

(Interruptions)

You have raised a point of personal explanation!

(Interruptions)

Let me deal with hon. Bhagwan!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Bhagwan!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Chairperson...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I will not give extra time! Hon. Bhagwan, withdraw the word!

Mr Bhagwan: What word?

The Chairperson: ‘Helper’! Have you been addressing the hon....

Mr Bhagwan: No, I have not been addressing him as helper!

The Chairperson: Have you used ...

Mr Bhagwan: No ...

The Chairperson: Listen to my question!

Mr Bhagwan: No, what I have said...

The Chairperson: Listen to my question!

Mr Bhagwan: Yes.

The Chairperson: Have you used the word ‘helper’ with regard to the hon. Minister of Arts and Culture?

Mr Bhagwan: No, I withdraw the word ‘helper’...

The Chairperson: Right!

Mr Bhagwan: ...and say that he is giving a helping hand!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Put your question!

(Interruptions)

The Bhagwan: He is giving a helping hand!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: That is good English.

Mr Bhagwan: At La Tour Koenig Fire Station...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Put the question, time is running!

Mr Bhagwan: Can I ask the Minister about this *Other Machinery and Equipment*? My colleague, hon. Baloomoody, just said that. Sir, we are having a lot of rain since the last two days. We pay our homage to the firefighters ...

The Chairperson: Put the question, please!

Mr Bhagwan: Can the Minister inform the House whether for these types of flash floods additional pumps are being earmarked and other new equipments to cater for public problems in cases of such types of *inondations*?

Mr Aimée: I have already answered that question, Mr Chairperson!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: On page 495, item *22120 Fees*, can the hon. Minister explain to the House why there has been a rise from Rs450,000 to Rs750,000 for next year and to whom these fees are being paid?

Mr Aimée: The fees are payable to the Chairman and Members attending the Board Meeting of DTC, Bid Evaluation Committee, etc. It is provision also for payment of courses and examination fees, and payment of fees to resource persons.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, à la page 495, sous l'item *Construction of Fire Stations*, est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre...

Mr Aimée: Which item number, please?

Mr Ramano: Item *31112024*. Est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre si la délocalisation de la *fire station* de Quatre Bornes est à l'ordre du jour, vu le problème de trafic et le problème de sécurité dans le centre ville de Quatre Bornes?

Mr Aimée: Not for next year, probably in 2015. For next year, we have only one new fire station that will be built at Rose Belle. But we are still thinking to remove...

(Interruptions)

Yes.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

Dr. Sorefan: On page 495, item 31, sub-item *31112024 Construction of Fire Stations, (a) Tamarin Fire Station*. This station was proudly inaugurated and completed last month. I don't see any staffing for Senior Station Officer, Station Officer; provision has only been made for 100 Firefighters. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this station will be controlled by remote control?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: This question is not allowed. That's not a proper question! I don't like this kind of question, hon. Dr. Sorefan! Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 495, item ...

The Chairperson: This is sarcastic! I don't like that!

Mr Seeruttun: Item *31112024 Construction of Fire Stations, (c) New Rose Belle Fire Station*, I can see that an amount of Rs10 m. has been earmarked for 2014, Rs70 m. for 2015 and Rs20 m. for 2016. May we know if the land has already been identified, where will that be, and when will construction start?

The Chairperson: One question at a time.

Mr Seeruttun: With regard to the fire station, when will the work start and when does the hon. Minister anticipate to complete that fire station at Rose Belle?

Mr Aimée: The land is in Rose Belle. I don't know the exact location, but it is there. It has already been vested to my Ministry and the provision is only to start, that is, the consultant fee and so on. But once it starts next year, in 2014, it will not finish in the same financial year. It will be carried forward to 2015.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lesjongard! Short question!

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, I will get back to that Tamarin Fire Station. The hon. Minister, in a reply earlier, stated that out of that amount of Rs5 m. there was money for retention and for preliminary studies. Can we know from the hon. Minister, out of the Rs5 m., what amount is meant for preliminary studies and what amount as retention money?

Mr Aimée: The preliminary studies are not for Tamarin. Tamarin is already completed. The preliminary studies are for Rose Belle, Goodlands and Montagne Blanche, not this one.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 495, item *22120 Fees*. I think I heard the hon. Minister say that a percentage of that sum was for exam fees. Can we get some details about those exam fees? Which exam fees, whose exam fees?

Mr Aimée: Provision is made also for payment of courses and exam fees. I mean, the staff will follow courses and they will have exams which they will have to pay. That is the fee.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 495, item *31112424 Upgrading of Fire Stations*. Can the hon. Minister give us the names of the fire stations or circulate the list of the fire stations which will be upgraded during 2014?

Mr Aimée: In fact, this amount is not meant only for upgrading, it is also provision required for motorised roller shutters at Coromandel, for the workshop at Mahebourg, Curepipe, St. Aubin Fire Station and construction of toilet block at Coromandel Fire Station.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jugnauth!

Mr Jugnauth: On page 499, with regard to human resources, item *07 28 56 Firefighter* where we are asked to vote for the recruitment of 100 additional Firefighters, but that will be conditional to further discussions with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for disbursement. So, may I know what are the conditions that have been imposed by the Ministry ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I have said no private conversation!

Mr Jugnauth: ... of Finance and Economic Development in order to allow for the recruitment of those 100 firefighters?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, since my appointment as Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands responsible for the Fire Department, we have got three batches of firefighters that have been recruited. So, there is no condition with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for the

recruitment of these 100 additional firefighters. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development is prepared to pay for the cost of recruiting these firefighters.

The Chairperson: Yes. We have only one minute left!

Mr Jugnauth: But, the hon. Minister is saying that there are no conditions, there are. If he looks at the note, this is conditional. So, I would like to know what are the conditions. It's not like any other ordinary item.

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, I was kind enough to answer that question. This is policy matter.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands - Programme Code 464: Fire Fighting and Rescue and Fire Prevention (Rs411,070,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands - Programme Code 465: Outer Islands Development was called.

Mr Nagalingum: On page 496, item 26323070 *Outer Islands Development Corporation*, may we know how much is dedicated for education project, as the hon. Minister claimed that the Catholic Church has done nothing for education there?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, I am prepared to answer to the financial exercise that exists in the Budget, but not to something that dated back.

(Interruptions)

The purpose of this item is to fund the execution of infrastructural projects and development of economic activities in Agalega and outer islands. The main projects are the upgrading of a sea and air transportation and other infrastructural means, the purchase of vehicles and equipments and minor development projects in Agalega. The list is long. I will table it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, as you are aware, Agalega forms part of my constituency. So, can I ask the hon. Minister under the item OI DC, Rs150 m.; year after year there is an amount of Rs150 m. which is budgeted, but nothing is done. I have been there early this year with hon. Mohamed.

Can I ask the hon. Minister whether tender has been issued for the construction of the jetty and the airstrip, because when we went there, the hon. Minister was there some one month back? Also, can I ask him whether he has already begged for pardon with regard to what he has said to *Père* Labour in relation to the Church?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea, when you put a question, you have to be fair.

(Interruptions)

Being unfair, in fact, amounts to unfairness to yourself! Hon. Minister!

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, we are starting next year with the airstrip and the jetty. As I mentioned in one of the PQs here in this Parliament, it is a line of credit between G2G, that is, the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius. The provision that has been made for these two specific projects is Rs750 m. This is the line of credit and should not be in the Budget.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, being given that, since 2005, we are hearing the same song every year, can the hon. Minister inform the House ...

The Chairperson: Do you want to hear the same song? Be fair in your question!

Mr Jhugroo: Yes. What amount has been earmarked in the Budget of 2014 for the upgrading of the airstrip and what amount has been earmarked for the port development?

Mr Aimée: I just replied to that question, but still I will reply again. I said it is a line of credit between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of India. A sum of Rs750 m. has been earmarked for that and I think we are still having discussions to see the specifications, whether it will suit them. That is why probably my colleague, the hon. Minister of Finance, has not put it in the Budget, but it is there.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 496, item 26313002 *Agalega Island Council*. For this current year, a sum of Rs300,000 was voted and may I know from the hon. Minister, the composition of this Council and the number of meetings held during 2013 and the venue of these meetings?

Mr Aimée: It is a long reply. I was the Chairman of the Agalega Island Council as well as the OI DC. According to law, Mr Chairperson, every month there should be a meeting of the Agalega Island Council...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No question from a sitting position is allowed!

Mr Aimée: ... which afterwards report to the O IDC. I will circulate.

(Interruptions)

Mr François: I refer to ...

Mr Aimée: Once monthly, I told you!

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 496, *item 26313070 Current Grant to O IDC*. May I ask the hon. Minister whether payments for hiring the aircraft Dornier on emergency request from Agalega are being done under this item vote and the cost per trip?

Mr Aimée: This amount is meant for financial acquisition to meet the running and administrative cost of the Corporation, salaries of personnel, Agalega staff, chartered of vessel, port and steward charge, fuel and also, chartering the Dornier plane in case of emergency. From memory, it is about Rs300,000 for one flight.

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, I refer to *item 26323 Capital Grant to Extra Budgetary Units*. For this year, we budgeted last year's Capital Grant Rs144,800,000. Can I ask the hon. Minister if he can give us a breakdown of how much has been spent out of the money and for what purpose under capital grant which was given for this year?

Mr Aimée: The purpose is to fund the execution of infrastructural project.

(Interruptions)

The breakdown!

Mr Baloomoody: How much has been spent and for what purpose in the sum which was provided for this year. I am not talking about the next year.

Mr Aimée: I will circulate, Mr Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Mr Uteem!

Mr Uteem. Mr Chairperson, I refer to item 26313 *Current Grant to Extra-Budgetary Units*. May I know from the hon. Minister, for 2014, how much money has been set aside for the chartering of ships and how many trips are expected to be done in 2014 to Agalega?

Mr Aimée: This year, it is about four trips. Next year, about four trips. It is almost the same every year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

(Interruptions)

I have said no private conversation!

Mr Bhagwan: On page 496, item 26313070 *Outer Island Development Corporation*, Rs98 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister, since he assumed duty – because when we talked about the Outer Islands, it is not only Agalega, we have St Brandon as well – when was his last visit to St Brandon, whether he has received representations from fishermen working at St Brandon regarding the difficulties they had with regard to the jetty and so on? May we know what actions he has initiated in this provision? Whether he can tell us what amount has been earmarked for the rehabilitation of the fountain at St Brandon to allow boats to get in and also when his next visit is to be scheduled? We are nearly in 2014; the hon. Minister won't be Minister very soon. So, can the hon. Minister, at least, pay a visit to St Brandon very soon?

Mr Aimée: I know the hon. Member can predict the future but, anyway, to have access to St Brandon...

The Chairperson: You may wish the Minister to answer!

Mr Aimée: Access to St Brandon, Mr Chairperson, is a bit difficult.

(Interruptions)

Yes, it is difficult. Yes, I have been too. You must have a place on the fishing vessel to go there. What I can say, for my part, my officers go regularly from OIDC there and also the NCG because they have got a location there. I take this opportunity to inform the hon. Members that they are constructing actually a helipad for the Dhruv probably to go there, the twin engine helicopter.

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Chairperson, on page 496, item 26313002 *Agalega Island Council* where a sum of Rs300,000 was voted last year. The same estimates are provided for next year, 2015 and 2016, in spite of the rate of inflation, the cost of living. May we know why the sum is remaining

constant? Is it because no money has been spent? Can we have details on the amount of money spent during this year?

Mr Aimée: This provision is made for payment of fees to the Chairperson and Members of the Board. The cost of transportation and lodging for members going to Agalega is taken care of by the O IDC very frequently.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lesjongard!

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, I will get back to that Agalega Island Council, sub-item 26313002. We are talking of the welfare of the people of Agalega, and the Minister owes us an answer. Maybe, he will request his officers to give him the answer. We have asked him on how many occasions during 2013 the Agalega Island Council has sat, because we are talking also of amount being paid to the Chairman of that Council. We know what the law states, but we want to know how many times, in 2013, that Council has met.

Mr Aimée: I don't have the exact amount.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: There is a question from hon. Lesjongard.

Mr Aimée: Normally, they have one meeting every month. It happens sometimes that they have one meeting every two months, and they even have meetings in Agalega.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister, when you answer, address the Chair! Address the Chair!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Members, no adverse comment against any officer of the Ministry concerned. I would not tolerate that, because they have no voice in this Assembly to defend themselves. Let us be fair, and try to practice the elementary principles of fairness. Yes, hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 496, item...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: There is a question from hon. Seeruttun, and the hon. Minister is answering.

Mr Aimée: For 2013, the Council met almost on a quarterly basis in Mauritius, but they have also meetings in Agalega when the ship goes there.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 496, item 26313070 *Outer Islands Development Corporation*. May we know from the hon. Minister what is the population of Agalega and the population of St. Brandon?

The Chairperson: This has nothing to do with expenses! Hon. Nagalingum, please!

(Interruptions)

No, not allowed! There is no population census here!

Mr Nagalingum: Under the item *Agalega Island Council*, I would insist, if the hon. Minister could give us the list of meetings that have been held, the deliberations, and what decision has been taken each time that they met.

Mr Aimée: I have already answered that. I will also invite hon. Members, if they want to go on the website of my Ministry, they will get all the information.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, earlier on, the hon. Minister mentioned about a sum of Rs750 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this sum is in the Budget? He also mentioned about a line of credit from India. Can he make the difference between what sum is the line of credit and the sum of Rs750 m.; whether it is in the Budget of the Government of Mauritius?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, as I mentioned before, it is a line of credit. There are still discussions. We don't even know. At a certain time, the Government can say no. I made mention that Rs750 m. are earmarked for that. That is, in the first discussion for that, but now we never know!

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, the Chair is not there! It is here!

(Interruptions)

Yes, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on the same item, may I know from the hon. Minister whether tender will be launched next year for these two things? The hon. Minister talked about the financing, but is he going to launch tender for the airstrip and rehabilitation of the jetty?

Mr Aimée: Mr Chairperson, we are still in the preliminary phase of that project. There is no bill of quantity. There are no surveys that are already in hand at my Ministry. In fact, we are waiting for all this, and there are further discussions early next year ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't interrupt the hon. Minister. Hon. Lesjongard, I would not tolerate interruption! Yes, hon. Minister, proceed.

Mr Aimée: What I can say is that we had a survey carried out by GIBBS and partners five or six years ago. This is there. But with regard to the negotiation between the Government of Mauritius and there, the specifications might change. We don't know! How can we pre-empt to say what amount of money is meant separately for the airstrip or the jetty? It is premature!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands – Programme Code 465: Outer Islands Development (Rs248,300,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: I have this to say: if no particular item is to be found or identified in the expenditure, the Minister should not venture to drag extraneous matters into discussion when it should not be. Let us limit ourselves to the different items of expenditure. The thing is that when you drag extraneous matters into your answer, I cannot prevent any hon. Member from putting a supplementary question thereon, or asking for information on it! Now, Ministry of Arts and Culture!

Ministry of Arts and Culture - Programme Code 621: Policy and Management for Arts and Culture was called.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Mr Chairperson, under Programme Code 621, la politique culturelle et l'engagement du ministre et de son ministère sur l'implémentation des projets, des mesures qui envisagent à développer l'industrie culturelle et à assurer une bonne politique culturelle.

A la page 507, item 21110 *Personal Emoluments*, qui, entre 2013 et 2015, continuent d'accroître. En effet, en 2013, il y a une somme de R 22,273,000 qui passe à R 22,830,000 en 2014 ; en 2015, R 25,330,000, et R 27,604,000 en 2016.

The Chairperson: Oublions les chiffres pour 2015 et 2016. Parlons sur ceux de 2014 !

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Permettez-moi de me référer à la page 512. Cette augmentation se résume au recrutement de trois nouveaux employés. Je voudrais demander au ministre une explication et une liste des salaires pour ces employés. Ma question s'applique aussi à l'item 21111 *Other Staff Costs*. Je voudrais une explication précise de ce que le ministre appelle *Other Staff Costs*, et une liste détaillée de ces dépenses des fonds publics. Je voudrais aussi savoir pourquoi, avec tous ces coûts, le ministère n'applique pas l'effort d'implémenter les droits des auteurs, le papier blanc et le plan d'action.

The Chairperson: L'honorable Mme Radegonde-Haines, avec tout le respect que je vous dois, je me demande qui aurait pu répondre à votre question s'il était à la place du ministre.

Question should be specific on a particular item.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: At page 507, item 21110 *Personal Emoluments*. En 2013, il y a R 22,273 millions ; en 2014, il y a R 22,830 millions. Je voudrais avoir une explication précise à ce sujet. Je voudrais savoir pourquoi il n'y a toujours pas l'effort d'implémenter les droits des auteurs, le papier blanc et le plan d'action ?

The Chairperson: Pour éclaircir la question, ce que j'ai compris est ceci : pourquoi cette augmentation ?

Mr Choonee: *M. le président, c'est vrai qu'il y a une augmentation et la justification est comme telle : the amount includes salary of Minister, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, seven advisers to the Minister and other staff. The increase is due to the adjustment of salaries, allowances with the implementation of the PRB and EOAC Report 2013. Provision is also made for the payment of salaries of three confidential secretaries attached to the Minister, Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary and four advisers. I have the names of the advisers and the salary scale, should I?*

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister can circulate the information.

Mr Choonee: I'll circulate the information. So, that's it, Mr Chairperson.

Mrs Ribot: On page 508, item 22180 *Overseas Travel (Missions and Capacity Building)*. Could we have a breakdown of the overseas travel?

Mr Choonee: Regarding a breakdown of overseas travel, well, we don't have many missions at the Ministry of Arts and Culture. It is only Rs600,000 voted last year for 2013; it was for two missions, one to India and one to China.

Mr Uteem: Can I take the hon. Minister to page 505, *Outcome Indicator, Programme 621: Policy and Management for Arts and Culture?* Under the second *Service Standards (Indicators), % of relevant budget measures implemented according to published timetable*, only 25%, and now it is targeted to reach 100%. Being given that there is only two new staff being recruited, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there has been specific amount earmarked to improve the delivery of budgetary measures in this Budget?

Mr Choonee: We have already started preliminary works, Mr Chairperson, and after PRB, I believe all my Officers are more productive.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 508, regarding item 22120 *Fees*. There was a provision of Rs1.3 m. for the year 2013. Can the hon. Minister give us details as to whom this was paid and the person concerned?

Mr Choonee: The decrease in fees, I believe.

The Chairperson: It appears that the sum has been reduced by Rs600,000.

Mr Choonee: That's it! It is because we have a Board of Stage Play which is no more sitting as regularly as it used to. So, they have lesser sittings and the fact that there is a decrease, there is a reduction in the fees.

Mr Jhugroo: How was this amount of Rs1.3 spent for year 2013?

The Chairperson: Will the hon. Minister circulate?

Mr Choonee: Yes, I will circulate the information.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on the same item 22120 *Fees*. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any amount which is going to be paid in connection with the preparation of the White Paper or other legislation in that Fees?

(Interruptions)

Mr Choonee: The amount to be paid for?

Mr Uteem: Whether there is any amount budgeted in the *Fees* item in relation to the preparation of the White Paper?

Mr Choonee: No, it does not fall under this item, Mr Chairperson.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Same question as hon. Uteem,...

The Chairperson: But no repetition, however!

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Non. Je voudrais tout simplement savoir pourquoi il n'y a pas d'effort d'implémenter les droits des auteurs, le papier blanc et le plan d'action ?

The Chairperson: This is something quite different.

Mr Choonee: This is a Parliamentary Question.

The Chairperson: The hon. Member should come with a Parliamentary Question. Therefore, if there is no further question, I will put the question then.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, if you have nobody else to ask, then I will exercise my right.

The Chairperson: You are welcome, hon. Obeegadoo.

Mr Obeegadoo: On page 507, under item 21 *Compensation of Employees*, will the hon. Minister indicate whether on the basis of funds budgeted for 2014, there is a particular date when the White Paper, finalised, will be presented to the public? Because I note there is a timeframe on a certain page where it says 'April for implementation'. So, my question is on the basis of the funds, when is it going to be made public, firstly? Secondly, there has been a lot of talk last year of a Copyright Bill. So, do these funds provide for the finalisation and introduction before the House of a new Copyright Bill?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, provision has been made for both the Copyright Bill to come into Parliament in the first week of December and the White Paper in mid-December.

Mr Obeegadoo: There is nobody else?

The Chairperson: You are welcome.

Mr Obeegadoo: On the very same item 21, the money is budgeted for next year. Now that the Mauritian Creole language has acquired, – shall I say, a semi-official status, with its introduction in schools of the Republic – may I know whether the funds we are voting for next year, will allow for a policy document from the Ministry concerning the use of Creole language across the site, including public administration?

The Chairperson: This is a matter for a PQ and a policy matter, but the hon. Minister may still answer if he so wishes.

Mr Choonee: I am in a position to answer, but I think it is more fit to be a PQ. However, at our end...

(Interruptions)

Don't laugh, hon. Bodha! It is a serious matter!

The Chairperson: Address the Chair! What is happening? Hon. Minister of Arts of Culture!

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, at the Ministry of Arts and Culture, we have the Creole-Speaking Union. The Creole-Speaking Union has been set up, the Board is functional now and the Board is working on how we promote the language at cultural, social, economic levels. The Ministry of Education has its own agenda, but we do promote Creole together.

Mr Obeegadoo: I refer to page 512 with the post on the Establishment. I would like to know, with regard to this issue of policy making and languages, whether the Minister have any technical staff or adviser with the required qualifications to work on the issue of the Mauritian Creole language and its role in society?

Mr Choonee: I could not follow the question, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Obeegadoo: I was referring to the Establishment post for 2014, on page 512, and I was asking whether the Minister has the benefit of having a technical staff member or adviser with the required qualifications on this issue of Mauritian Creole language?

Mr Choonee: I believe it is a policy matter, Mr Chairperson.

(Interruptions)

Mr Obeegadoo: It is expenditure!

(Interruptions)

Mr Choonee: *Ki page, ki item?*

Mr Obeegadoo: Expenditure, I can quote the figures of Rs25.4 m. in the Estimates of 2014 under this Programme. We have a number of posts on page 512. I put it to the Minister earlier, now that the State of Mauritius has recognised the importance and the role of the Creole language, whether on that Establishment for next year, he does have however an advisor or somebody from the technical staff who is qualified, having regard to Mauritian Creole language, and, if so, who?

The Chairperson: Yes, the question is quite simple!

Mr Choonee: But, Sir, I have set up the Creole Speaking Union with the...

The Chairperson: No, do you...

(Interruptions)

Mr Choonee: ...Chairperson and the members, they will do it!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Do you have...

(Interruptions)

Listen! If I have understood the question properly, I speak under the guidance of hon. Obeegadoo - is there a qualified officer in the Creole language in the Ministry?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, there is nobody who is qualified.

The Chairperson: Right!

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, I have one last question on this very same issue under *Compensation of Employees*. Do we have a project budgeted for, for the use of Creole language in public administration in 2014? Do you have the funds there for this project? Is it included somewhere?

The Chairperson: Yes.

(Interruptions)

Mr Choonee: Which project we are talking of, Mr Chairperson? I cannot understand which project we are talking of! There is nowhere, no item is mentioned, no page number. I just cannot understand!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, please, no comment! No comment!

(Interruptions)

I do not want to hear any comment! Allow the hon. Member to put his question!

(Interruptions)

Mr Obeegadoo: The programme is about policy and management...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: ...and for Arts and Culture...

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo, address the Chair!

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes. The funds are there on page 507. But, there are no details! There are no details as you will note, Mr Chairperson, under this Programme on what the projects of the Ministry are. So, I am entitled to ask, and if the Minister will understand the nature of my question, being given the new status ascribed to the Mauritian Creole language, whether the sums budgeted for and which we are asked to approve, include a specific project. It is just factual. I am not debating policy, whether the funds include the specific project having regard to the use of Mauritian Creole within public administration? This is not Speaking Union's business, this is the Ministry's business.

Mr Choonee: I will again come back to the Creole Speaking Union, but, I believe, whatever the hon. Member is enquiring about is a policy matter.

The Chairperson: Right! Yes, hon. Lesjongard! We are left with 4 minutes!

Mr Lesjongard: On *Rental of Facilities for Events* at page 508, item 22030005...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Yes? We are still on Programme 621! Alright!

(Interruptions)

Ministry of Arts and Culture – Programme Code 621: Policy and Management for Arts and Culture (Rs28,135,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: Now we come to Programme 622!

Ministry of Arts and Culture – Programme Code 622: Promotion for Arts and Culture was called.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: All the hon. Members will get a chance.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Under Programme 622, page 508, item 22130001 *Studies and preliminary project preparation of which Study on the Setting up of a Culture House* where Rs2 m. were earmarked

for 2013. Can we know from the hon. Minister, who carried out the study, whether a report has been submitted and, can we be apprised of the recommendations because there is only Rs100,000...

The Chairperson: No, hon. Member, put your question and leave the 'because'! Put your question!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: There is...

The Chairperson: The hon. Member has put three questions, okay?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Yes. But it is linked to the Rs100,000 for 2014.

The Chairperson: Okay! Yes!

Mr Choonee: Mr Speaker, Sir, first, Rs50,000 was the amount to be used by the *Conservatoire de Musique François Mitterrand* under the study for how to mount a symphonic orchestra through the training of students. The other Rs100,000 is a project being partly financed by the Chinese Authorities and the feasibility presently being undertaken.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Bhagwan! No question?

Mr Bhagwan: No, Sir.

(Interruptions)

I was asking; Government is in minority! I just ...

The Chairperson: No, but this is not a question!

Mr Bhagwan: No, Sir, I was just counting my votes ...

(Interruptions)

I was coming with a motion because they are in minority.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't worry about Government!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: On page 509...

(Interruptions)

Galouper, galouper, transfuge!

(Interruptions)

I will not be unfair to them at this stage.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan, we are wasting time!

Mr Bhagwan: No, I will not be unfair!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Because there are so many hon. Members who wish to put questions!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: On page 509, item 26313106 *Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust...*

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Member, proceed!

Mr Bhagwan: Year in year out we are being asked to vote Rs600,000. Can the Minister at least inform the population where we are with this Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust which is, according to me, the most important one? We have all these cultural centres, which is okay, but, it is urgent to this Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust to be operational with the staff and how much has been spent for 2013 as far as the staffing is concerned and what is the forecast apart from this Rs660,000 for the coming year and whether there is a Chairperson, who are the Members of the Board and what has been the performance of this Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust?

(Interruptions)

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, we believe in the Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust, but I repeat the same reply every year. Last time, I replied to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that we are not in a position to make the Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust operational now. Why? It is because we have received representations from certain sections of the Mauritian population who believe that they are from Northern India. The fact that we have a Tamil Cultural Centre Trust for those who come from Tamil Nadu, a Cultural Centre Trust for those who come from Andhra Pradesh, a Cultural Centre Trust for those who come from Mumbai, a Cultural Centre Trust for Islamic Culture and Nelson Mandela Culture for

African and Creole Culture, there have been representations, Government is considering seriously of having one more cultural centre trust which will complete the cycle and it is only then that we will have the Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust made operational.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Ribot!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Mrs Ribot! Please! Keep cool! Keep cool! Everything has been going on fine!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Mrs Ribot! Please, let us listen to the...

Mrs Ribot: Mauritian culture *pena!*

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs...

Mrs Ribot: Yes, please...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Do not interrupt the hon. Member!

(Interruptions)

Mrs Ribot: I would like to ask ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo!

Mrs Ribot: I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he could explain to us how it is that *Promotion of Arts and Culture* is going to get 15 additional funded positions next year and yet, the Budget is going down by Rs600,000?

Mr Choonee: Which item?

Mrs Ribot: Item 21110. Plus 15 funded positions and minus Rs600,000.

Mr Choonee: Quelle page?

Mrs Ribot: Page 508.

The Chairperson: In the meantime, can we take another question?

Mr Choonee: I can take it, Mr Chairperson. As regards the payment of salaries to staff, the decrease is due to the fact that we have had a reduction in post of HEO, an increase in funding position of Projectionist and Technical Light and Sound Officer. So, the HEO had a bigger salary, the technician has a lower salary; that is the reason for a decrease.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I don't think I have got an answer!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No private conversation.

Mr Uteem: On page 509, item 26313100 *Islamic Cultural Centre for Hadjj Organisation*, I see that for next year also there is a Budget of Rs1.3 m. that we are asked to vote. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is still the ICC which will be organising Hadjj next year?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, as it is now, the dossier of Hadjj is still with ICC and if Government comes up with a new organisation, that would be a policy matter to look into Hadjj matters.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lesjongard!

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Chairperson, on page 508, item 22030005 *Rental of Facilities for Events*, can we know from the hon. Minister what are those facilities, the name of those facilities, the capacity of those facilities and whether tendering process was carried out?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, concerning the renting of facilities, they are marquees, podiums, mobile toilets and insurance cover for activities and national events, and we, of course, follow tender procedures for that.

The Chairperson: Well, hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 509, item 26313106 *Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust*. Since the Government does not intend to promote the Mauritian Culture right now, can we know

from the hon. Minister the sum that was voted in 2013, how much money has been spent from this Rs600,000 and the sum we are called upon to vote for 2014 will serve for which purpose?

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Chairperson, on page 508, item 22900923 *International Film Festival*, last year a sum of Rs3 m. was voted and for next year, Rs10 m. is being earmarked and there is nothing to be seen on whether there will be a local film festival. Is it found under other item? The question is we have International Film Festival, a Budget for this, but no local film festival.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, we have both of them. For the International Film Festival the sum voted is Rs10 m. Next year, we are supposed to have the International Film Festival scheduled in September 2014. As far as the local film festival is concerned, it comes under the Mauritius Film Development Corporation.

The other question raised by hon. Mrs Labelle concerning the Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust, the Board was revoked in July 2005, provision was made for the payment of salaries of two employees formerly recruited by the Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust, one Driver, one Typist/Clerk. Now, they are posted at the Head Office of the Ministry. A holistic approach will be taken in respect of all Cultural Centres and Speaking Unions in the light of the white paper on culture.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Bodha!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, I refer to page 509. Je me réfère au dernier item, (f) *Troupe Culturelle Nationale* où il est prévu un budget de R 5 millions. Est-ce que je peux demander au ministre combien d'artistes sont concernés ? Comment les artistes seront recrutés, quelles sont les activités culturelles concernées par cette troupe nationale, et est-ce qu'il y a un calendrier de représentations une fois que la troupe aurait été lancée?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I am very happy that the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development thought of allotting Rs5 m. for the *Troupe Culturelle Nationale*. It is the first time ever after so many years that we are thinking in terms of a *Troupe Culturelle Nationale*. This proposal has come now. We are working on it, we have set up a Committee and we will try to see the best way forward for the *Troupe Culturelle Nationale*.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, we have just learned from the hon. Minister that with regard to the Mauritian Culture, they are not going ahead to have a Mauritius Cultural Centre. So, can I ask the hon. Minister how is it that - I refer him to page 503 - in the same programme Promotion Arts and Culture; he said that we are going to promote Mauritian culture among foreigners. If in Mauritius itself we are not in a position to promote Mauritian culture, how is it that he says in his programme - we are going to promote Mauritian culture among foreigners? So, can I ask him what...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Alright! The hon. Member has made his point.

(Interruptions)

Hon. Bhagwan!

(Interruptions)

Answer, if you wish!

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, there is no point in our not going ahead with the Mauritian Cultural Centre. There is a White Paper coming up, it's all explicit; Mauritian Cultural Centre will be made operational.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, à la page 509, sous l'item 28, est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre la raison pour laquelle de toutes les activités et les cérémonies culturelles ou socioculturelles, le *Festival Kreol* qui a une particularité culturelle certaine n'est pas sous l'égide de son ministère, mais de celui du tourisme? Y-a-t-il une raison culturelle, ethnique, et est-ce qu'on a honte de vivre sa créolité?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, this is an activity that is organised jointly by both Ministries.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, on page 509, item 26313102 *Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund*, we are asked to vote an amount of Rs7 m., can I ask the hon. Minister when a Director would be recruited, the salary that is being budgeted and is it being pocketed and by whom?

The Chairperson: No! Listen! When you put a question, don't make allegations. Limit yourself to the item! Hon. Minister!

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, we have a Board already and we have an Acting Director - I can even name him, if need be - he is doing the job of the Director.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: On page 508, item 22030001 *Rental of Building*, there was a provision of Rs8.5 m. for the year 2013. Can we have some details regarding this rent, to whom it was paid, whether tender procedures has been done and when was the last tender exercise carried out?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, rental of building: Rs8 m. Renganaden Seeneevassen Building: Rs456,400, owner of the National Pension Fund, *nous avons* Baden Powell Court at Port Louis, Rs123,000 monthly, Vacoas Popular Music Purpose Cooperative Society where are located the stores of the Ministry, Rs20,000 monthly, *Centre de formation Artistique à Goodlands*, Rs22,000 *par mois*, DBM Building à Goodlands.

The Chairperson: Yes, I am left with four minutes. Hon. Dr. Sorefan!

Dr. Sorefan: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. On page 509, item 28212014 *Financial Assistance to Artists*, may we know from the hon. Minister this has gone up to 50%, Rs10 m. to Rs15 m., whether he is prepared to circulate a list of those artists who have benefitted from this Rs10 m. for the year 2013?

The Chairperson: Yes, are you prepared to circulate!

Mr Choonee: Immediately, Mr Chairperson.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Mr Chairperson, on page 508, Programme 622 item 22900923 *International Film Festival*, I would like the hon. Minister to give a list of films and film producers who participated in this year festival and a detailed breakdown of expenses incurred this year.

Mr Choonee: I will circulate the list, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Bhagwan: My last question before dinner, on page 509, *Financial Assistance to Artists (a) Schemes for concerts*, we see that a sum of Rs5 m. was earmarked for 2013 and Rs5 m. for the coming financial year. Can the hon. Minister inform us of the schemes concerning the artists for concerts, the artists who have benefited from this scheme and if he can circulate later on. I believe the scheme is for rent. For which concert this scheme was applied and who benefited from this scheme?

Mr Choonee: The Scheme for concert, Mr Chairperson, is meant to partly financed the performances of one Bollywood and one non-Bollywood group from overseas to give performance at an

affordable rate compared to the higher rates charged by the commercial groups for this year. The other sum of Rs5 m. was used at the National Day held at Anjalay Stadium and I will circulate the list.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 508, item 22130001, I am still waiting for a reply from the hon. Minister on the question of study on the setting up of a Culture House. I asked the hon. Minister who carried out the study, whether a report has been submitted and can we be apprised of the recommendations?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, it is again a very ambitious project to have a culture House. It is being worked out with the Embassy of China. The Government of China is giving us a helping hand. It will be a very ambitious project and consultations have started already. The feasibility is on.

The Chairperson: Time is over.

Programme 622: Promotion of Arts and Culture (Rs272,850,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme 623: Preservation and Promotion of Heritage was called.

Mr Baloomoody: Can I ask the hon. Minister with regard to the *Major Services – Collection and preservation of historical/cultural objects*, under the item *Personal Emoluments*, whether there is a special squad at his Ministry for which we are budgeting for this objective? It is supposed to be an important objective; *Collection and preservation of historical/cultural objects*.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, we have at the Ministry, a Department called the MMC (Mauritius Museum Council) and also the National Heritage Fund; they both do the work.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 511, item 31132401 *e-Government Projects: Digitalisation of Archives*, may I know from the hon. Minister who was awarded the contract, what was the total contract amount and when will the work be completed?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I don't have the name in front of me, however the contract was awarded in June 2009 to DCDM Ltd.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 511 and under item 28220003 *Matching Grant Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Historical and Cultural Heritage Sites and Structures*. Out of the sum of Rs5 m. which was voted last year, may we know which historical and cultural heritage sites and structures have been rehabilitated and does the hon. Minister has a list of the sites for 2014?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I have the list. I can read them or should I circulate?

The Chairperson: Circulate it!

Mr Choonee: I will circulate.

Mr Soodhun: Mr Chairperson, on page 510, item 26323001 *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*, the budget has been decreased to Rs2,350,000. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the projects have been completed or whether there are remaining projects. Also, I would also like to know why there has been a considerable decrease.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, the project is related to the Aapravasi Ghat is the BRIC project *Beekrumsing Ramlallah* Interpretation Centre. We are ready with the project. We are opening in March next year.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I have a serious problem with the *Personal Emoluments*. I would like to ask the hon. Minister how is it that the only additional post for that Programme is that of a Deputy Director, all the other posts have remained the same and yet the Budget is going down by Rs500,000?

The Chairperson: Can we have another question in the meantime?

Mr Choonee: Yes, we can.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, à la page 511, sous l'*item 31*, puis-je savoir de l'honorable ministre si la délocalisation des archives nationales des zones industrielles à Coromandel fait partie des priorités du Gouvernement? Est-ce que je peux savoir quel est le calendrier prévu à cet effet et le budget prévu dans les années à venir?

Mr Choonee: M. le président, pour les archives nationales, notre Bibliothèque Nationale, et automatiquement le *Culture House*, on a un projet très ambitieux, comme je viens de le mentionner. Le gouvernement mauricien a voté R 100 millions ; le gouvernement chinois nous a promis R 650 millions. Alors, les R 750 millions c'est pour deux ans ; ça ne peut pas se faire du jour au lendemain.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 510, sub-item 26313059 *National Heritage Fund*, some Rs8 m. were provided for in the year 2013. There was the question of a high-ranking officer having been paid *per diem* allowance in excess of what she was due. May we know whether action has been taken to recover that money, and if so, how much has been recovered?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, we have got the advice from DPP. I can't comment on such issues.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, same page, same item number, can the hon. Minister state whether the post of Director of the National Heritage Fund is a full-time job, and if so, have there been complaints that the Director is very often out of her office, and does whatever she wants there?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I don't think I should answer this question. But the Director's post is a full-time post, and the Director is always there. We have a Board that controls everything. Everything is running smooth there.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 510, sub-item 26313030 *Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund*. Can I know from the Minister which projects he has in the pipeline for 2014, please?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, with regard to immediate projects in the pipeline for 2014, we have at least two. I understand the hon. Member is from the constituency, and she knows very well. We have a Slave Route Monument there. So, we have had, at least, nine stones there. There are two which have to be fixed, one by the Senegalese sculptor, and one by the French sculptor. That will complete the cycle. Over and above that, we have a project at Trou Chenille. Government is thinking, upon the advice given by the Truth and Justice Commission, to have a slave monument. But we have not decided where the site would be. Government is contemplating to look into that.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: At page 510, same issue as hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee, 26313030 - *Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund*. May I have from the Minister a list of projects completed and activities organised in year 2013, and same for 2014 that will be organised or planned?

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister can circulate it. Hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mr Choonee: I got it. I can circulate it.

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I have not got a reply to my question. How is it that a Deputy Director is going to be appointed next year? All the other employees are going to remain the same, the same funded positions, and yet the budget is going down by Rs500,000.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, provision for PE is to cater for the salaries and allowances payable to the staff of the Archives Department, which includes one post of Deputy Director. 26 other posts are funded. These are the Archivist, Chief Archives Officer, Record Manager, Conservator, Archives Officer, Finance Officer, Management Officer, Management Support Officers, Office Care Attendant and General workers. The overall decrease of Rs409,000 on PE represents the figures for extra remuneration and salary compensation, which have been excluded under the Budget 2014.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 510, sub-item 26323030, *Capital Grant to Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund*. May we know from the hon. Minister the amount of money spent for capital grant, which projects have been carried out - we see that there is a sum of Rs6 m. which is budgeted for the three coming years - and for next year, what work will be carried out, out of this sum of money?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, the list is as follows. International Slave Route Monument Rs850,000; Biodiversity Conservation: Rs300,000, Trails: Rs300,000; New Office Block for the Trust Fund: Rs1,625,000; Gallery: Rs300,000; Monitoring LED and CLM Research:Rs825,000; Archaeological Works: Rs100,000; Education Project: Rs 250,000: Abain Group: Rs250000; Purchase of electric bus for transport of visitors: Rs800,000; Early fees for consultants Rs225,000, and the Capital item purchase: Rs175,000.

(Interruptions)

Mr Li Kwong Wing: On page 509, item 28 *Other Expense*, item 28211 *Current Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*. Also under item 28211026 *Socio-Cultural Organisations*, an amount of Rs1.2 m. was given last year, and this year an additional provision of Rs1.2 m. is made. So, can we know how this amount was distributed this year, and what are the criteria that will be used to allocate this among the different socio-cultural organisations? Is there a committee that screens and makes a due diligence exercise of these socio-cultural organisations?

The Chairperson: Criteria is a matter of policy, but distribution is to be explained. How do you explain?

Mr Choonee: This sum has already been voted. However, the quantum, which usually ranges between Rs1,500 and Rs20,000, depends on the level of the event, number of artists involved, and requirements of sound and light systems. For year 2013, some 150 socio-cultural organisations benefited from this.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: At page 510, under item 2632001 *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*, I would like to know what justifies the Rs35 m. earmarked for the year 2013. What works were carried out there?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I said it earlier. It is for the BRIC Project, which is being undertaken by the *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, I would like to go back to the first question I asked on page 511, last item, 31132401 - *e-Government Projects: Digitisation of Archives*. The hon. Minister didn't answer my question. Can he indicate to the House the total cost of that project, which started in 2009, and when is the scheduled date of completion?

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, Rs7.5 m. have been allocated together for the cost of the second phase of the Electronic Archives System at the National Archives. The first phase has been completed in June 2013; some 530,000 pages have been uploaded. The second phase will be implemented in 2014. The hon. Member wants to know how long that will take. If we go on at this pace, it will take many years, Mr

Chairperson. However, there are new technologies now, bulk scanning and bulk digitalisation – we call it that way – that will, of course, help us getting the papers, the documents saved for the future earlier.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, may I refer the hon. Minister to page 510, item 26313059 - *National Heritage Trust Fund*, with regard to the issue concerning the Director and Disciplinary Proceedings which were to be initiated. In a Parliamentary Question dated 22 October 2012, the Minister stated, I quote -

“The DPP gave his advice. Now, we have got the final advice and the Board will definitely take the action deemed necessary.”

Can I know what action has been taken now after the advice of the DPP has been obtained against the Director?

The Chairperson: Wait a minute! I want some explanation from the hon. Member. To what extent is this relevant to any item of expenditure?

(Interruptions)

Well, this is my question.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, we are called upon to vote for a Trust Fund headed by the Director. There are serious shortcomings suspected on the Director, and here, as Members of this House, we should know whether, before approving such an important project, what happened to the person in charge of that Fund, and what measures are being taken. Can we can be enlightened?

The Chairperson: Yes, but I want to ask the hon. Member a question. Do you make a difference between the person in charge of the Fund and how the Fund has been spent?

Mr Roopun: In fact, Mr Chairperson, ...

The Chairperson: This is a proper question for a Parliamentary Question.

Mr Roopun: No, no! Because, a question was put!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I disallow the question, but if the Minister wishes to answer, he is free.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, you are right on your observation.

The Chairperson: I know I am right! Yes, hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Let us listen to relevant questions!

Mrs Labelle: Chairperson, I am on page 510. I am coming back to this item 26313059 - *National Heritage Fund*. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the amount spent out of the Rs8 m. - which we voted for 2013 - includes misappropriation by the Director?

The Chairperson: So, it is a question of how the amount has been spent and whether the Fund has been misappropriated? This is rather precise.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I believe the Board will give us an explanation.

The Chairperson: So, we are still left with one minute.

Mrs Radegonde-Haines: Mr Chairperson, at page 510, item 26323001 *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*. I would like to have from the hon. Minister a detailed breakdown of expenses incurred this year, not only from the *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*, but also for *Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund*, and the *National Heritage Trust Fund*, since we are voting for the preservation and promotion of our heritage.

Mr Choonee: Mr Chairperson, I will circulate.

Programme Code 623: Preservation and Promotion of Heritage (Rs120,915,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: Just for the information of hon. Members, I would like to say that on this particular Code 623, 19 questions have been put with 19 answers in 20 minutes. This is an achievement. Thank you very much. It is time to break for one hour and fifteen minutes.

At 8.06 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 9.30 p.m. with Mr Speaker in the Chair.

Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment – Programme Code 541: Policy and Management for Labour and Employment was called.

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, can I take the hon. Minister to page 526 on the item *Minister*? I am still on Programme Code 541: *Policy and Management for Labour and Employment*. I thank the Minister for giving us at page 516 the *Major Achievements for 2013*. May I know from the hon. Minister

how many foreign workers have been deported because the employers had not fulfilled their part of contract of employment? Is it on *Major Achievements*?

Mr Mohamed: I would be grateful if I have another question, I will get the exact figures. But, in the meantime, may I say that it is basically being done in accordance with the law.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Chairperson, I would also stick to *Strategic Note of Ministry, Major Achievements for 2013*. We can see from this note that 1,233 inspections and 859 enquiries have been carried out covering 63,000 workers in various sections. May I ask the hon. Minister, who is a good performer, why is it that only 1,233 inspections have been carried out? We know that the ILO Convention No. 81 on Labour Inspection provides that all places of work should be visited and in our case, it is only 1,233 inspections have been carried out and only 63,000 workers work in these various sectors. So, the question is: is this really a major achievement? I am sorry; I have to put this question.

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, coming back to the question that was put to me by hon. Baloomoody, I have the list. The first company is - it is not long, I can give it - Amatus Textiles, 5 expatriates from Bangladesh repatriated; Bentley Textiles, 5 and 29; and then, Berkeley Clothing, two. Therefore, those are the total number of people who have been repatriated and all those people have been repatriated in accordance with the law. One thing else I would like to add to this is that it has been done in the past and the rule of law has to be adhered to by everyone, be it Mauritian or foreigners.

Now, with regard to the question put by hon. Ganoo, let me clarify that it is totally true that the ILO says that there should be inspections, at least, once a year in each and every enterprises. There are 90,000 enterprises in Mauritius. It has never been feasibly possible for any Government to be able to ensure that every single enterprise is visited and every single worker is touched. That would not be practical. However, I am pleased to clarify that as at October 2013, 1,584 inspections and 1,109 enquiries have been carried and a total amount of Rs3.79 m. was recovered in favour of 77,865 workers. Therefore, let me basically say there have also been inspections in relation to 11,340 complaints and all those complaints have been attended to and I must say that I am very proud of my staff doing a fantastic job.

The Chairperson: Yes. Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 522, item 22030 *Rent*, may I know from the hon. Minister the amount budgeted for 2014 in respect of the parking for the car of the Minister, indicating if it is to be used exclusively by the Minister?

Mr Mohamed: From time to time!

Mr Ganoo: I come back to the strategic note, Mr Chairperson. Again on another issue, the Conciliation and Mediation Commission, the hon. Minister states that 146 out of 238 reported disputes have been disposed of by this Commission, which means that 92 cases are still pending. We know that his Commission has a delay fixed in law to finalise all cases. Now, can the hon. Minister explain why, therefore, in spite of the delay provided for by law, 92 cases are still pending?

Mr Mohamed: Actually, the figures, Mr Chairperson, are even better than the ones quoted by hon. Ganoo. In fact, as at 31 October 2013, 173 out of 250 disputes were disposed of. I am just updating the facts.

(Interruptions)

Of course, my note is to clarify what you were not aware of. I have to help out.

The Chairperson: I think there is something to clarify. Since mention is being made of the Conciliation and Mediation Commission - you correct me if I am wrong - you are talking of 146 out of 238 reported disputes disposed of by the Conciliation and Mediation Commission. Therefore, if you go to page 526, you will see that it falls under Programme 542 and we are dealing with 541. You can reserve this question for the next Programme.

Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 523, item 22180 *Overseas Travel (Mission and Capacity Building)*, there is a substantial twofold increase in the Budget. May I know from the hon. Minister, first of all, how much of the 2013 Budget has been utilised and the reason for the increase in the Budget for 2014?

The Chairperson: Can we take another question in the meantime?

Mr Mohamed: Yes, we can take another question in the meantime.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: On page 516, on major achievements again, on the item Minister, third bullet, 9,329 complaints were registered at the Labour Office, out of which 7,992 were disposed. May I know from the hon. Minister how many of these complainants are foreigners who need to be compensated before they leave the country?

Mr Mohamed: Concerning the number of foreigners who have been compensated before leaving the country and the list, I just gave the figures and I can circulate the list as far as the compensation they obtained is concerned. Some of them have been compensated because we ensure that every single person is compensated according to the law before they are to leave the country. Otherwise, we would be failing in our duty.

Now, as far as the other question is concerned, hon. Uteem referred me to page 523 and the page he referred to is the missions of 2013. There have been missions in 2013 to several countries, including Geneva. The first one is the mission to the UAE. And for that mission, there was a Conference on Labour Mobility and Sustainable Development. The second conference was to Geneva and, maybe, Mr Chairperson, I have to inform the hon. Member that when we go to Geneva to the ILO Conference, it is a tripartite mission, and, therefore, the Government has to foot the cost for everyone in the tripartite delegation. There was another mission to Mozambique and the air ticket and subsistence allowance was taken for. However, there was additional for the *per diem* that was paid by Government. It was also with regard to labour issues and MIDSAs organised by the IOM. There was a mission to Canada and the United States of America to the United Nations and the Canada was to visit all Mauritians who are at the moment working in enterprises ranging from Saskatchewan, the province, to other provinces of Canada.

There was a mission to Italy also, funded by the European Union and subsistence allowance was added, a top-up, and this was with regard to the number of Mauritians, 30 already, who have been to Italy and another 70 who will be going very soon and that's it really.

(Interruptions)

Because, initially at the time when provisions were made, it was not known exactly where one would be going. So, when finally we had to go, we made adjustments and that is how we worked.

The Chairperson: Hon. Li Kwong Wing!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, still under Programme 541: *Policy and Management for Labour and Employment*. The main outcome for that Programme is to achieve full employment of all Mauritian labour. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the number of foreign workers employed in Mauritius and what is the amount of remittances made abroad?

Mr Mohamed: Concerning the amount of remittances made abroad, I have not got the figures. However, as far as the issue of full labour is concerned, may I ask the hon. Member to what particular item he is referring to in the Programme 541, if he could give us the item code?

Mr Li Kwong Wing: On page 520, it is said that the outcome is to achieve full employment of Mauritian labour and is expected to achieve a percentage of workforce in employment on 92%. That's the target that we want to achieve, but how many foreign workers you are employing and whether, this is not going to affect the target that you want to achieve?

Mr Mohamed: In simple answer, first of all, there are 39,000 foreign workers working in Mauritius. I humbly believe that the presence of foreign workers in relation to the issue which is the concern of the hon. Member is totally disconnected and, therefore, there is no need of even answering that. It would also tantamount to a debate on policy matter which I don't want to get into.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Li Kwong Wing, no question from a sitting position and no argument! No private conversation!
Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 523, item 22100 *Publication and Stationery*, I can see that the amount for 2014 has gone up. Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether his Ministry intends to come up with publications that will be new for that year, which justifies that increase in the amount provided for?

Mr Mohamed: The amount provided for in Publications is Rs715,000. The revised figure for this year, 2013, as at December would be Rs737,000. So, there is no increase.

The Chairperson: Are you on page 523, item 22100 *Publication and Stationery, Estimates for 2013 Rs397,000* and for 2014, *Rs490,000*? The next Programme is 543. We are dealing with 541.

Mr Mohamed: Could we have another question in the meantime?

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: I refer to page 520, Programme 541: Policy and Management for Labour and Employment, under *Outcome: Full employment in a safe and productive workplace*. The question I want to ask the hon. Minister is that he has given the figures of the laid-off workers on a few occasions in this House. Can the hon. Minister give us the figure for the total workers who have been laid off, those who opted for a job placement and how many workers were effectively offered a job and the number of those who opted for training? How many of them received the training and those who opted for a business? Has the hon. Minister got the figures?

The Chairperson: There are some difficulties with the question of the hon. Member. First of all, we don't know to which item of expenditure it is linked with and, secondly, the very nature of the question is proper for a PQ so that the hon. Minister may provide full detailed information required. With regard to the question of the hon. Member, if it is so agreeable to the hon. Member and the hon. Minister, full information be disclosed by circulation.

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, with regard to the other question that was put by hon. Seeruttun, there has been an increase in prices. There are more activities since recently there are legislations which have been put around and explained further to more workers and more staff will be concerned.

Mr Baloomoody: On page 523, item 22100 *Publication and Stationery*, can I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether provision is made

The Chairperson: Did you say 'Prime Minister'?

Mr Baloomoody: The hon. Minister! You know I have been used to ask questions to the hon. Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, withdraw the word 'Prime'!

Mr Baloomoody: Yes. It is the hon. Minister whether provision is made in this section for publication to have translation version of our Labour Law so that foreign workers who come to Mauritius are aware of the rights while in employment in Mauritius?

Mr Mohamed: Actually it seems the hon. Member and myself are on the same wavelength that we have to do something like that and that is precisely what we are doing. We have not only interpreters, but we have the translation issues that are being worked upon.

Mr Obeegadoo: Now you have no choice but to see me, so I will put a question!

The Chairperson: I would like hon. Obeegadoo to refrain from making any remark! You have the right to put question. Your question is welcome and your remark is not.

(Interruptions)

I have said your question is welcome and your remark is not! Just go straight to the question!

Mr Obeegadoo: That's what I have been doing. I had the experience I had. Will the hon. Minister...

The Chairperson: You know, you will never understand!

Mr Obeegadoo: I am sorry!

The Chairperson: Go on! Put your question!

Mr Obeegadoo: You want me to put a question!

The Chairperson: I have no more to say. But I don't like you making remarks, unwarranted ones!

(Interruptions)

Next question!

I don't want any hon. Member to applaud! I don't like this kind of attitude!

(Interruptions)

Programme 541: Policy and Management for Labour and Employment (Rs68,742,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No comment on my right!

Point of order! Which hon. Minister?

Mr Soodhun: I made a request to you, Mr Chairperson, that he withdraws the word 'bouffon'.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Minister Jeetah, have you uttered this unparliamentary word? If you did, you withdraw!

Dr. Jeetah: Yes, Mr Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Okay, withdraw the word!

Dr. Jeetah: I did utter the word towards hon. Obeegadoo, and I withdraw.

The Chairperson: Let us proceed now!

Programme Code 542 - Labour and Employment Relations Management was called.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 524, *sub programme 54202 Occupational Safety and Health*, and when I relate to page 520, *Percentage of companies complying with Labour Legislation*, I can see a target of 40%. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether inspections are being made in regard to cleaning...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I want some silence on this side, on my right!

Mrs Labelle: I will start again. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether inspections have been made in regard to cleaning companies. Even here, at Parliament, we see that no safety is being regulated for cleaning workers? There are cleaning companies.

The Chairperson: I am waiting for your question!

Mrs Labelle: My question is whether this target of inspection that I can see on page 520, *Percentage of companies complying with Labour Legislation*; whether this 40% target includes cleaning companies?

Mr Mohamed: Yes, it also includes cleaning enterprises. Just to clarify, Mr Chairperson, there are actually approximately 8,500 enterprises with more than five employees, and the figure more than five employees is of utmost importance, as far as the law is concerned. Apart from inspections of workplaces, there are sensitisation programmes, including radio, TV and phone media being used to increase number of enterprises compliance to the Labour legislation. Let me also clarify with regard to the percentage there. This is how it works at the level of the Ministry. We receive complaints, and based on the complaints that we receive inspections are carried out. Very often, *cela s'avère être vrai*. Precisely, the complaints are that there are certain violations of the law, and we find out that there is a percentage - which the hon. Member just referred to - of those complaints, when inspected, - I am trying to clarify - are found not to be in line with the provisions of the law. And we are doing everything we can for inspection as well. Let me also say that, at the level of occupational safety and health, we have been very lucky enough and very grateful to the hon. Minister of Finance, who has given us additional sums of money to recruit staff. Thereby, we are changing our way of work now, where we will have round-the-clock squads for inspections in various industries. That has not been possible in the long-time, and previous Ministers of Labour have always asked for more staff. I must say that I have been very lucky, and the Republic of Mauritius is lucky that we managed to get more staff for such inspections.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Chairperson, Programme Code 542, on page 523, sub-item 26210098 *Contribution to International Labour Organisation*. Mr Chairperson, I link my point to what has been mentioned in the Strategic Note. The Employment Relations Act 2013 and the Employment Rights (Amendment) Act 2013 have been proclaimed. As we know, the hon. Minister, in fact, roped in the ILO whilst bringing this piece of legislation, because the ILO contributed to the drafting of these two Acts. Can I ask the hon. Minister why is it that the section on shift work has not been proclaimed yet, and when does he propose to proclaim this particular section, that is, section 8 of the Employment Rights Act, dealing with shift work? The hon. Minister must know that a 20% allowance for shift work has been provided for, and we know that most of the employers are deliberately flouting the law and not even paying a 10% allowance.

The Chairperson: Very lengthy question, hon. Ganoo!

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, I am happy to note that the Opposition, through the former Leader of the Opposition, approves the measures that I brought in the amendments to the legislation, as far as shift work is concerned, at least. And I thank him for his approval. True it is that the particular section as regards shift work has not been proclaimed as yet. We have received representations from various quarters on the amendments relating to shift work and night work. According to the Mauritius Employers Federation (MEF), this amendment, if proclaimed, has serious consequences for many sectors of the economy, and according to them, it is a real danger for existing jobs. MEXA, as well as the Association of security professionals and other hospitals and clinics, textile companies, food and seafood industries, have also said that it would seriously jeopardize their industry for existing jobs. In view of these apprehensions, I have asked that an impact study be carried out. The impact study is over, and I think that it would be better for me not to use such a forum to give details of the study right now; but I am all for the shift work being proclaimed, and night work. That is why I brought it, and this is what I intend to do.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, on page 523, the first item, *Personal Emoluments*, there has been a decrease of about Rs11 m. How can the hon. Minister reconcile the fact that, in the number of employees, there has been an increase, on page 526, from 166 funded positions to 181 positions, and the amount that has been budgeted has decreased?

The Chairperson: Okay!

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, I can assure the hon. Member, I am not a slave driver. There is a logical explanation. It is a good question. The reduction in provision is due to transfer of officers of the General Services to Programme 541. That is the explanation. It is just a transfer of the officers of the General Services to programme 541.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, my question is on the same line with that of my colleague. I am referring to page 524, item 21110 *Personal Emoluments*. It is the same situation. The budget has been reduced by about Rs5 m., and yet there are seven additional Occupational Safety and Health Officers.

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, reduction in provision is due to transfer of officers once again of the General Services to Programme 541.

The Chairperson: Hon. Li Kwong Wing!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, on page 524, item 21 of Sub-programme 54202, *Compensation of Employees*, where Rs32 m. is reduced to Rs28 m. It's the same item. If you look at page 527, the same Sub-programme, *Occupational Health and Safety*, there has been an increase of only seven members of staff. Yet, the hon. Minister just told us that he is now having a lot of night squads going to do all inspections. In the Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance also said that he is going to give 15 additional staff. Yet, only seven additional staff is being provided not only in 2014, but also in 2015 and 2016. So, there will be only seven additional staff, when the budget is provided for 15 additional staff. So, is not the gratitude of the Minister to the Ministry of Finance just now totally misplaced when the budget has been cut?

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, the answer is very simple. My information is that the 15 is for the Ministry. The Ministry has several departments, and as far as Occupational Safety and Health is concerned, that's seven, and eight goes to the Labour Department. That's also very important for inspections, as you will surely agree and, therefore, when you say seven and eight, that's equal to 15. Eight is with regard to the Labour Office. That is the other Programme that the hon. Member didn't question me on.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, may I take the hon. Minister to page 520, Programme 542, *Outcome Indicators, Fatality Rate of Occupational Accident*. May I know from the hon. Minister the actual number of fatal accidents for 2013, and the number of companies involved? Why is it that, in 2014, we are targeting 2.48 rate, which is much higher than zero, and much higher than in 2012?

Mr Mohamed: In actual fact, that is a very fair question, and I thank the hon. Member for that. Mr Chairperson, there have been 16 fatalities as at 30 November 2013. We hope that there will be no more. The highest that we have had has even gone as far as 24, 25 fatalities per year. As far as the equation is concerned, you will realise that, every year, there are more and more people in employment. So, as far as the fatality rate is concerned, I think one accident is one too many; we will all agree on that. But, we must say that it is still too high as far as my personal liking is concerned, and all of us.

However, as far as the 16 fatal accidents are concerned, the fatality rate is of 2.9 and it is going to be within almost the same range of 2011, but much, much lower than the ones in the beginning of 2000, 2001, 2002, etc., where the fatality rate was above the figure of 4. But I can assure you that everything we are doing we will try to do our best to ensure that the fatality rate goes down. We are, I must say, at the same fatality rate level - even though I said one is too many - we are right now equal to Singapore - even though you, hon. gentlemen, are not very happy with Singapore, but they are still an example to follow.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 523, under the *Sub-Programme 54201: Employment Relations*, on item 22030 *Rent*, where a sum of Rs14 m. has been earmarked for 2013 and under *Sub-Programme 54202*, on item 22030 *Rent*, another sum of R7 m. for 2013, which adds up to Rs21 m. for rent just under that programme. Mr Chairman, if you add up for the whole Ministry, it goes nearly up to Rs40 m. of rent earmarked for the year 2013. May we have a list of all the buildings rented by the Ministry? Where are they located, their surface area and the amount paid per metre square?

Mr Mohamed: With regard to the rent, provision is required for payment of rental at Victoria House and Regional Labour Offices. Provision has also been made to cater for increases and rentals on renewal of lease contracts during 2014. Let me just also say that three Regional offices, namely Bel Air, Chemin Grenier and Petite Rivière Labour Offices will close in 2014.

Mr Baloomoody: On the same item, Occupational Health and Safety, can I ask the hon. Minister whether his Inspector visits the premises rented to the PME, especially by the DBM, where there is no standard of safety...

The Chairperson: Which page and which item?

Mr Baloomoody: At page 521, under *Sub-Programme 54202: Occupational Safety and Health, SSI: Number of workplaces inspected*. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether his Officers have had the opportunity to go to La Tour Koenig, the PME Enterprise given by the DBM, whether there has been any inspection at the Court where our Court House is, with regard to the lift, the fire exit? Because, very often, there are bombs alert and we all have to rush only on the one staircase on sixth storey. So, can I ask

the hon. Minister whether there have been visits to these places, especially, I am talking about the small place given to the PME by the Development Bank of Mauritius, where there is no safety at all?

Mr Mohamed: In fact, Mr Chairperson, I can confirm that Government buildings - because initially the hon. Member has started talking about Government buildings - are visited and inspected by the Ministry of Civil Affairs. However, I must also state that with regard to the BPML buildings, including SME buildings, they are inspected by Officers of my Ministry, and very regularly.

As regards the Port and the crane issues where there have been some deaths in the recent past - very sad - I must admit that there are inspections going on. In spite of inspections, there are regularly negligence on the part of parties concerned, there are risk assessments carried out but, at this moment, we are in negotiations with the ILO, the Department pertaining to maritime issues for ratification of that particular convention and we are waiting for matters to be finalised by the relevant Ministry, the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Unit, Land Transport and Shipping to finalise matters pertaining to that Convention and that will give additional help to ensure that there is more and more safety and health issues kept into check in the Port area.

Mr Bhagwan: On page 523, item 26313013 *EPZ Labour Welfare Fund*. Can we know who the Board members are and who is chairing that Fund? We were always accustomed to the distribution of furniture and kitchen equipment to workers. So, can the hon. Minister tell the House whether the mission of the *EPZ Labour Welfare Fund* has been reviewed, and if he can give details?

Mr Mohamed: As far as the *EPZ Labour Welfare Fund* is concerned, the Chairperson of that Fund is still the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry and the representatives of Government, the Ministry of Finance, as usual, - you know that before I did - the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Women's Rights, and then you have the representatives of employers, Mrs Danielle Wong, Mrs Priya Chingen, Mr Radha Gounden, Mr Rohit Sultany. Then you have representatives of workers, Mr Désiré Hildary, Mr Jean-François Alexis, Mr Bijay Somai and Mrs Magaret Savrimootoo.

As far as the objective of that Fund is concerned, all of us really appreciate the work it does for all the workers in that particular sector and their children. It has not changed; on the contrary, things have got on better, they are covering more workers. Now, with the recent changes in legislation, that would encompass workers of all manufacturing sectors. It has not been proclaimed as yet, because we are trying to fine-tune everything before we start and we should be doing so very soon.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, with your permission, I am coming back on the Programme.

The Chairperson: We are left with two minutes.

Mrs Labelle: On Programme 45202 regarding the decrease in the compensation of employees, the hon. Minister has stated that there is a transfer of general worker. But, when we look at page 527, for the year 2013, there was no general worker under this Programme. So, when we talk about the transfer of general worker which is the reason for the decrease, I fail to understand, because there was no general worker in 2013, and the emoluments were Rs32 m. Now with the increase of employees, it has become to Rs28 m. So, does the Minister have any reason for this?

Mr Mohamed: I think the reason is the same.

The Chairperson: If I am not mistaken, your question is based on 2013. We are dealing with 2014.

Mrs Labelle: Yes, Mr Chairperson, we were asking why the compensation of employees has come from Rs32 m. to Rs28 m.?

The Chairperson: If the hon. Minister wishes to answer he may do so.

Mr Mohamed: I thank the hon. Member for this question. Maybe it gives me an opportunity to clarify. It is not general worker and I apologise if this is the impression I gave, but that was never my intention. I will clarify. I am sure I said that, reduction in provisions is due to the transfer of Officers of the General Services to Programme 541, and they are not general workers.

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Programme Code 542: Labour and Employment Relations Management (Rs127,092,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 543: Registration of Associations and Trade Unions was called.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Chairperson, on this Programme, the Minister has not answered on the Conciliation Commission, but I will just ask one question regarding this registration of Association and Trade Unions. I go to page 527, Programme 543: Registration of Associations and Trade, item 188088 *Registrar of Associations.*

Sir, the question I will ask the hon. Minister is that if he could indicate to the House whether the Registrar of Associations, the incumbent, is still working on contract and are there any reasons why the senior most has not yet been appointed and when will the contract of the incumbent expire, and will it be renewed again after expiry?

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, there was an issue with regard to the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation. With your permission, should I answer that at this stage?

The Chairperson: You may answer the question!

Mr Mohamed: This question. Approval was conveyed by the Commission for the continued employment of the person occupying the post of Registrar of Associations for a period of one year as from 13 September 2012. The services of the latter are still being required by this Ministry. I will just try to explain. He has long experience at the level of Registrar of Associations, as we all will realise, and, at the moment, we were all in the midst of preparing and finalising new law pertaining to the Registry of Associations and his experience and his ability are very useful and I believe that it would be in the advantage of one and all that his expertise be put to the service of the nation.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 524, the last item 31132 – *Intangible Fixed Assets*, I can see that a sum of nearly Rs8.5 m. has been provided for the *Computerisation of Registry of Associations*. Out of that, Rs3.5 m. were already provided for 2013. May we have some details as to the status of that project for the computerisation of that Registry of Associations and who is the supplier of that project?

The Chairperson: Have I heard properly, did the hon. Member say Rs8 m.?

(Interruptions)

Mr Seeruttun: Over the three years.

Mr Mohamed: Rs3.5 m.

The Chairperson: No, but...

Mr Seeruttun: Over the three years, a sum of Rs8.5 m. has been provided.

The Chairperson: It would be a bit confusing. We should not deal with 2015! I allow the hon. Member for 2013 and 2014.

Mr Mohamed: Yes. To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service delivery at the Ministry at this particular Department, it is imperative, as you will all agree, to computerise its activities. It could not be realised in 2013 as the platform being offered by the GOC was not compatible with the specifications. Necessary action has now been taken to relaunch the tender. So, I guess this is the information I have and hopefully the platform is now alright and it does not cause any problem.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am referring to Programme Code 543, item 21110 *Personal Emoluments*. Once again, it is the same situation. The number of funded positions for 2014 remains the same, 23 and the Budget has been decreased by Rs6 m.

The Chairperson: Yes.

Mrs Ribot: On the same line, I wanted to ask the hon. Minister since on page 521 the *Percentage of Associations complying with legislation* for 2014, the target is 40% only, can we have an idea of the number of associations so that we may know the number that is not complying with legislation?

Mr Mohamed: With regard to that particular question, Mr Chairperson, the number of organisations that are registered as at 2013 is 9,669 and for trade unions, it is 363. It is the same issue I had talked about in another programme. Whenever we have inspections those are the percentages we come to with regard to non-compliance. And, in answer to the query of the hon. Member, Mr Chairperson, once again, the same explanation is what I am being afforded, that officers of the general services have been transferred to Programme 541.

Since this has been an issue which I totally understand, fair enough, is in the minds of hon. Members, I undertake to have a full brief communicated to the Members.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, can I take the hon. Minister to the Registrar of Associations at page 521, *Percentage of Associations complying with legislation*? The hon. Minister has given us the number of weeks it takes for an application for registration to be finalised, to be in process. Can I ask the hon. Minister how long does it take for a dispute because one of the main problems is that there has been an increase in the associations and in trade unions, but we have not been given a target for settling of disputes and we see that the staff has not increased. So, can I ask the hon. Minister what provision has been made to, at least, settle disputes in associations and trade unions as early as possible?

Mr Mohamed: Very often, disputes are due to the fact that the secretaries of the associations themselves take two to three weeks to submit back corrected documents handed over to them with instructions. So, I totally understand the worry of the hon. Member, but it does not arise.

Mr Ganoo: From the figures of the hon. Minister, only 1,522 associations have been inspected. This means the percentage is quite low.

Mr Mohamed: Which page is the hon. Member referring to?

Mr Ganoo: The figure I just cited is in the Strategic Note of Ministry on page 516 where it is said that *1,522 inspections have been carried out by the Office of the Registrar of Associations to ensure compliance with legislation*. The hon. Minister just gave us the figures of associations registered and this figure seems to indicate that percentage-wise the figure is quite low. In view also, Mr Chairperson, when we look at page 521, *the Percentage of Associations complying with legislation*, for 2012, it is only 30% and the target is 40% for 2014 and by 2016, in three years' time, the target would be, hopefully, 50%. The question that I am asking the Minister is, - I would have thought that the Minister is a more ambitious person - is he satisfied with this target?

Mr Mohamed: Just to come back, with your permission, Mr Chairperson, the issue of disputes the trade unions have, I am sure that we will all realise that disputes that trade unions may have, are settled at the level of the Conciliation Division of the Ministry or the CCM.

As far as the Association is concerned, if all people take their responsibility, I am quite happy with the effort that the staffs are putting in their work.

As far as the issue of percentages referred to by hon. Ganoo, 30% in 2012, and 2014 being 40%, once again, just to explain those figures, they are at inspection stage. Whenever there are inspections, this is what is discovered. May be what we have to do is to clarify what exactly is meant by the percentages and that, I believe, since it has not been clarified well in this book that you have in front of you, that is why I understand the reasoning behind the question, but, in actual fact, it is quite normal that when you go for inspections, this is what we are discovering. It does not mean that 40% of all associations of Mauritius are not complying.

Mr Uteem: I refer to page 521, the same item of *Percentage of Associations complying with legislation*, 30% in 2012. Under the Registration of Associations Act, the Registrar of Associations has the power to suspend or even write-off associations. So, may I know in the year 2013, how many of the non-compliant associations have been struck off?

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, I will get that information and circulate it to the hon. Member.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, allow me to refer back to my previous question. From the reply I got from the hon. Minister, he stated that that project had to be re-launched. I presume that someone who was responsible for that project did a mess in the choice of the platform, that's what the hon. Minister said. May we know the person who is responsible for that project and whether he has been taken to task?

Mr Mohamed: I am informed that the issue of the platform has been sorted out and that is why - as I have explained earlier on - the tenders could not be launched. They will have to be launched, I said just now. So, obviously it has not been done as I am speaking here right now. Now, the CIB would be responsible for the project.

Mr Jugnauth: On page 527, with regard to human resources, Registrar of Associations and Trade. I heard the hon. Minister saying that the expertise of the actual Registrar is needed. May I know when his contract will come to an end and whether the Ministry intends to renew his contract again or is not there any other person who is able to assume the responsibility of Registrar?

Mr Mohamed: The Ministry will keep him close as long as we require his abilities and experience.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. François!

Mr François: I refer to page 524, item 31132 *Computerisation of Registry of Associations*. Just from what I experienced, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this computerisation project will also deal with payment facilities after completion of all registration formalities within the same building to avoid public from travelling a long way to Ken Lee. I am not quite sure what is the building, but there is a long way. We have to do all formalities there and then travel to pay at Ken Lee. I would like to know whether this computerisation will look after that.

Mr Mohamed: The whole purpose of computerisation is to offer facilities to the members of the public and, yes, it would include that as well.

Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment - Programme Code 543: Registration of Associations and Trade Unions (Rs18,176,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 544: Employment Facilitation was called.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Chairperson, I come to a question I asked earlier on. I am on page 521, Programme 544, *S1: placement of jobseekers including laid-off workers seeking employment*. Can I ask the hon. Minister - I reiterate my question - how many of these workers who had been laid off had opted for job placement and how many were offered, in fact, a job and the number of those who asked for training and the number who received that training and those who opted for business and how many opened a new business? Can I ask the hon. Minister also, since this will be my last question for the night, Mr Chairperson ...

The Chairperson: The question, number two.

Mr Ganoo: Yes. If the hon. Member can tell us what has happened to the national minimum wage?

The Chairperson: This is a matter of policy.

Mr Mohamed: Now, with regard to the issue of laid-off workers, as at October 2013, a total of 2,651 joined the workfare programme. 2,221 of them opted for job placement, 190 opted for training and re-skilling, 240 opted to start a small business. Now, with regard to the 369 redeployed workers by economic sector, I have the details which I can circulate.

With regard to the national minimum wage, this is a matter being dealt with at the level of the National Tripartite Forum and we are happy that the ILO will be sending experts in order to help us and, as we all agree, it's a question of whether it is a job killer or it is not. There are various views, but we are hearing and waiting for experts from the ILO in order to enlighten all of us.

The Chairperson: Hon. Soodhun!

Mr Soodhun: Mr Chairperson, on page 518, Programme 544: Employment Facilitation, can the hon. Minister inform the House if there are any new area of scarcity and, if yes, which area, for the issue of the work permit for the foreign workers?

Mr Mohamed: With regard to foreign workers, there are certain areas of scarcity already. But there are not scarcity due to lack of workers, there are scarcity due to the fact that the conditions of employment in certain sectors are not attractive enough to the local talents and this is precisely what we are doing and this is precisely why I have referred more than 18 remuneration orders to the National Remuneration Board in order to ensure that there is more attractiveness regarding salaries and working conditions for Mauritians to go to those sectors.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 521, under item *SSI - Number of jobseekers/unemployed effectively placed*; may I know from the hon. Minister what criteria are used for placement and is it the first come, first served, or there are other criteria?

Mr Mohamed: There is, according to my information, and all past Ministers of Labour are aware of that - I see some of them in the Opposition, I see hon. Soodhun here - there is a computer that generates the names and I believe some of the criteria are, in fact, registration. But, most importantly, there are also

the issue of the area people live in, depending on the requirements and the other issue is the qualifications. But, there are various criteria that are sorted out by computer generated material.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 521, item *SS1: Number of jobseekers/unemployed effectively placed*. For 2013, there was a target of 1,200. I would like to know whether this target has been reached, but most importantly, the number of applicants - we have the number of successful applications, if I can say so, but what about the number of applications received at the level of the Ministry?

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, up to October 2013, there are 1,540 jobseekers out of which 799 males and 741 females were placed. The details of their placement are available here. Some of them were placed through the Employment Information Centres. We had laid-off workers who were placed as well: 231 males; 138 females; 369 in total and other means of placement. But, all other details are here and I will circulate it to the hon. Member.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bodha!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, the number of people who were laid off in year 2013 and the information given to us was that about 2,000 had been given some supports. May I ask the hon. Minister why has no support been given to the others?

Mr Mohamed: According to the figures that I have communicated here, a great majority of people who have been laid off have been given support. And I must say that according to the system we have at the level of the Ministry, all those who come to knock at the door of the Ministry are going to be given the support and that is provided for by law.

As far as the job losses are concerned, I must say that ever since we have come up with the Employment Rights Act and the Employment Relations Act - the new laws - I am happy to say that the trend is on the decrease. I was right; therefore, to come up with the provisions of the law pertaining to curtailing the abuses done by certain employers and it is working. So, there is a reduction and the trend is quite interesting, as we speak now, and I hope it continues.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, under Programme 544: Employment Facilitation, can I take the hon. Minister to page 518, Priority Objective: match demand and supply on the employment market.

Can I ask the hon. Minister, on *Personal Emolument* whether provision has been made for vacancies in the public sector, not in the private sector because we know the MBC, the private radio do have a programme where they inform members of the public with regard to the vacancy in the private sector, whether provision is made for the members of public to know vacancies in the public sector? It should not be limited to only Ministers or PPS, but members of the public should know about vacancies, whether provision is made for that?

Mr Mohamed: The good news is that all vacancies in the public sector are available online and we are aware of that. As far as the private sector is concerned, there is a project – as we are speaking – which is implemented at the level of my Ministry and is being funded by the European Union. It is the first time that we are going to have a platform that is dynamic and interactive where all Mauritians, everyone who has access to that platform will be able to post job requirements, what jobs they are looking for. Job employers will be able to place vacancies and we will then be able to know exactly, every member of public will know in real time what exactly the job vacancies are, be it local.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: On page 525, item 31132401 *Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure*, I can see that the sum of Rs7.5 m. was earmarked for 2013, but more than Rs8 m. for next year. May we know what is the status of that project as at to date and who is providing that service?

Mr Mohamed: That is also a very interesting project, Mr Chairperson. I have the details of the project here. The e-Work Permit Project being referred by the hon. Member was a project that is being finalised and is going to be launched early next year and the tender for work permit launched on 09 February 2013 and awarded to Storm Edge Ltd on 03 September 2013 for core items at the cost of Rs12,700,000 and selected optional item at the cost of Rs700,000. The contract was signed with the supplier on 27 September 2013. The supplier has a period of 10 months to deliver, namely up to July 2014, but has been requested to deliver the system before May 2014 and I am informed that he has agreed.

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, may I ask the hon. Minister how many permits have been granted for recruiting agents for foreign workers? If the number has been reduced, if so why?

Mr Mohamed: I have the figures as far as the number of work permits for recruiting agents are concerned. I must say that in the past, there were no permits that were being issued for recruiting agents in bringing workers to Mauritius. It was always being done illegally.

As far as the 35 licence holders are concerned, nine hold licences to recruit Mauritian workers for the local market and abroad and non citizens. Nine hold licences to recruit Mauritian workers for Mauritius. Nine hold licences to recruit Mauritian workers for employment abroad. Two hold licences to recruit non citizens for the local market. Five hold licences to recruit Mauritians, workers for the local and abroad. One holds a licence to recruit Mauritian workers for employment and non-citizens and one holds a licence to recruit Mauritians workers to employment abroad and non-citizens for employment in Mauritius. I can circulate that.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 518, Programme 544: *Employment Facilitation*, under *Priority Objective – Match demand and supply on the employment market*. When I look at the Budget Estimates of last year, there was a service indicator stating provision of a skilled pool of human resource to match industry needs and I can't find the service indicator in our Budget Estimates. Now, there was a target for 2013 under this service indicator and I can't find it in our estimates of 2014. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what has happened to this service indicator that was provided for 2013.

Mr Mohamed: As far as the issue of employment is concerned, it is being tackled by the Youth Employment Programme that is being *géré* by the Ministry of Finance and, as far as the Ministry of Labour and Employment is concerned, we have a new programme that we have submitted to the Ministry of Finance and we are in discussions for them to finance it which will be called "The Jobs 30 plus". It will be all those that are not concerned by the Youth Employment Programme and those are on 30 years old.

Mr Ganoo: I come on the last page and the last item on this page: the Work Permit System. Can I ask the hon. Minister if he has recently put a ban on workers of a particular country to have access to Mauritius? Can the hon. Minister tell us why is it that only the percentage - with relation to work permit – which is being finalised is made available? Does the hon. Minister have the figures for year 2012 and 2013? The number of foreign workers who have been granted work permits does interest us!

Mr Mohamed: Even though I am not trying to be nasty, it is a PQ, but, I will with your permission, Mr Chairperson, try to enlighten the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

I am dreaming for a PNQ actually!

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister was saying that...

Mr Mohamed: I was referred as 'Prime' earlier on.

(Interruptions)

In actual fact, there is no ban on any workers from any particular country. That is not been in habit of the Republic of Mauritius and we do not do that. That would be discriminatory.

The Chairperson: I would give a chance to hon. Ameer Meea to put a question!

Mr Mohamed: Fair enough. As far as the other details are concerned, I will circulate them.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, the hon. Minister just stated that there are 35 companies acting as recruitment agencies and he also stated that there are only two companies which can recruit foreigners to come to Mauritius. Can the hon. Minister give the names of these two recruitment agencies?

Mr Mohamed: I will welcome a PQ.

The Chairperson: I am sorry to say that this is not a proper question. Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson. On page 521, ...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Why do you argue, hon. Ameer Meea!

(Interruptions)

I have decided the question is irrelevant. Carry on, hon. Uteem! I want to hear hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: On page 521, *Programme 544: Employment Facilitation*, under *Outcome Indicator*, there is a targeted unemployment rate of 8% for 2014, may I know whether this is the figure worked out by the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations or is that the figure communicated to it by the Ministry of Finance?

Mr Mohamed: That is the figure communicated by Government.

The Chairperson: Okay, there are no more questions.

Programme Code 544: Employment Facilitation (Rs79,790,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Ministry of Tourism and Leisure - Programme 341: Policy and Management for Tourism and Leisure was called.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, je me réfère à la page 546, sous *Programme 341 : Policy and Management for Tourism and Leisure*. Mention est faite d'une légère hausse des arrivées touristiques, alors que les revenus sont à la baisse ; 0.9%. Doit-on interpréter cela comme un changement de stratégie tournée vers le bas de gamme ?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Not at all, Mr Chairperson. In fact, we are diversifying a lot, and as you all know, we are working a lot on the Asian market and the emerging markets. Normally, the Asians come to Mauritius for a minimum of four nights, while the tradition markets come to Mauritius for a minimum of seven nights.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 546, under item *22130 Studies and surveys* where some Rs1.5 m. is provided for in the 2013 Estimates. May we know what are the studies and surveys that have been carried out? Could we have some details as to that, and any report could be submitted as well?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, it was a provision made for financing a feasibility study for implementing a Blue Flag Programme in Mauritius. This amount was financed, in fact, by the AFD through the Ministry of Finance, and the contract was awarded to Clams Ltd for an amount of Rs690,000, VAT inclusive.

Mr Seeruttun: M. le président, toujours sous le même titre *22130 Studies and surveys*. En 2010, il y a eu l'institution de *l'Economic Intelligence Unit*. Est-ce que je peux savoir du ministre s'il y a une certaine discordance en ce qui concerne la politique au niveau du ministère ? Est-ce que *l'Economic Intelligence Unit* existe toujours ? Est ce que cela a été dissout, et pour quelle raison ?

The Chairperson: This is a matter policy. Hon. Bodha!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, on *Studies and surveys*, may I ask the hon. Minister...

The Chairperson: The page and item, please!

Mr Bodha: The same page, item *22130 Studies and surveys*. May I ask the hon. Minister whether there is any funding for a Master Plan to reengineer the industry, given the challenges of today, and to create the proper synergy with the stakeholders of the industry, the more so with Air Mauritius and the hotel industry?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it was announced in the Budget that we will have a joint committee with the stakeholders, and on top of that we are preparing the Mauritius Tourism 2020.

Mr Roopun: With regard to policy and management for the tourism industry, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any programme is envisaged to enhance a feeling of security among tourists, in the light of the sad events which occurred last year and this year.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, since last year, we have approved in Cabinet a security plan for the hotel industry.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, sous l'item 2110 *Personal Emoluments*, je vois qu'il y a une progression de R 15,500,000 à R 17,500,000. Est-ce qu'on pourrait avoir de plus amples renseignements de la part du ministre?

The Chairperson: This is a proper question.

Mr Yeung SikYuen: Mr Chairperson, I can see that there is a provision for payment of salaries, increments, allowances, and bonus to staff.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, still on the issue of policy of the tourism industry, we have had recently certain programmes which have been aired, and which give a rather negative image of Mauritius. Has the hon. Minister considered any communication exercise to enhance the Mauritian destination, and to enhance the image of Mauritius?

Mr Yeung SikYuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, it is a policy matter, but I am glad to answer the question. We have a press trip right now in Mauritius.

Mr Chairperson, we have taken corrective measures. Right now, we have a press trip in Mauritius. We have more than 50 international press in Mauritius. So, they will cover Mauritius, and we will have very good visibility on the destination.

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, in view of the fact that the image of Mauritius has taken a battering on the international scene, with mainstream television in England and France tarnishing the image...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Silence!

Mr Bodha: Have you seen the programmes?

The Chairperson: I would suggest...

Mr Bodha: I said that the image of Mauritius...

The Chairperson: No, this is not a proper forum to make an opinion. But put the question.

Mr Bodha: I said that the image has taken a battering.

The Chairperson: According to the hon. Member!

Mr Bodha: According to me and on the French television this is the main market for Mauritius, and in the UK. I am asking what action the Minister has taken on mainstream television, to be able to focus on our main markets, to be able to salvage the image of Mauritius.

The Chairperson: It is a policy matter.

(Interruptions)

I said that this is a policy matter. But if the hon. Minister wishes to answer, I will not mind.

(Interruptions)

Any other question? Hon. Obeegadoo? If there is no question, I put the vote.

(Interruptions)

Mr Obeegadoo: I rise under the very same item, *Studies and surveys*, at the bottom of page 546. The Minister is aware of the grave concern within public opinion that, following the major economic recession in Europe, despite the political instability in the Maldives, despite the aftermath of the war in Sri Lanka, these two countries are doing much better than we are, having regard to tourist arrivals. So, will he tell us whether, in terms of the budget we are being asked to approve for 2014, some serious study of this phenomenon is envisaged, to help us redirect our tourism strategy, as appropriate, to rise to the challenges of tomorrow?

Mr Yeung SikYuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, the growth rate is low right now, because the Government, between 2000 and 2005, was just sleeping and snoring.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson, can I reply?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I say, silence!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister!

(Interruptions)

Silence, now!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Mrs Labelle, I am the Chairperson!

(Interruptions)

Thank you very much, if you want to listen to me. Hon. Minister, you may answer....

(Interruptions)

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I am answering.

The Chairperson: Let me finish! Don't try to reply and interrupt me! When a proper question has been put to you, you have to answer the question without trying to insult any Member of this august Assembly. If you want now to proceed and answer, you are free to do so.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, Mr Chairperson. In fact, if we look at the figures, especially the percentage in terms of market share in the emerging market and the new markets - let us look, for example, for 2012, it was 14.7% and for 2000, it was just 5%, and for 2013 we will be around 16%. So, we are working very hard on emerging and new markets.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't interrupt the hon. Minister!

Mr Obeegadoo: A question has not been answered, time permitting, I will put it again. I am asking, having regard to recent figures - everybody is aware these last few days - showing that, despite the problem in the Maldives and Sri Lanka, these two markets are doing much better than we are in attracting Western tourists in particular, they were looking at tourists' arrival in general. So, I am just asking, very seriously, whether in terms of our Budget for studies and surveys, either for 2013 or forthcoming for 2014, we are envisaging a timely analysis of this phenomenon so that we may take whatever measures are appropriate to correct our strategy and be more proactive as time goes by.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: In fact, we are revisiting our strategy and we have done a lot since last year. Again, for example, if you are comparing for Maldives, they are very good on the Chinese market, they are doing almost 300,000 of Chinese in 10 months, as for Mauritius we are only 30,000, it is because we have just started our efforts recently.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't interrupt!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister of Health!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, the growth rate which is being mentioned is 3%.

The Chairperson: Tell us which page and which item so that we can follow you.

Mr Bodha: On page 546, *Programme: 341 Policy and Management for Tourism and Leisure*, item *Studies and surveys*. Mr Chairperson, the increase which is being forecast is 3% on arrivals. The increase which has been forecast in tourism receipts is 8%. May I ask the hon. Minister how he can tally these two figures that we have a growth rate of 3% in arrivals and a growth rate of 8% in receipt? May I ask him how these two figures tally?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it is expected that they spend more.

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, we are speaking about an industry which is one billion euros. Over the last years, my friends have mentioned it, growth has been very slow in arrivals and in receipt. He has mentioned two figures: 3% of arrivals in increase and 8% of increase in receipt. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this is feasible and whether this is realistic as regard to the forecast?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, Mr Chairperson, it is possible.

The Chairperson: What is possible?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: To reach the target.

The Chairperson: No, I have not understood your answer.

(Interruptions)

What is the answer?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: It is possible to reach the target.

(Interruptions)

Bizin faire zeffort!

The Chairperson: This is what the Minister said. You must be happy with what he said.

Mr Roopun: Can I ask the hon. Minister how he proposes to increase the income derived to 8%?

The Chairperson: This is a matter of policy.

Mr Baloomoody: On page 546, item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*. Can the hon. Minister say whether a survey has been carried out to find out with regard to our actual hotel, especially the 5-Star and the 4-Star hotels, whether they are prepared to accommodate tourism from India and China, being given that they have a different culture from those that we used to have in Mauritius?

The Chairperson: You mean to say whether any study has been carried out in that aspect?

Mr Baloomoody: Yes, especially in the five top hotels.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, they are ready, they are doing it. Last month or two months ago, there was a workshop for all the stakeholders for them to adapt to this market.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether a study has been conducted on the same issue, as to whether the '*Maurice c'est un plaisir*' is defunct and has been a total flop?

The Chairperson: Whether any study has been carried out?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Study for what?

(Interruptions)

Dr. S. Boolell: To assess whether the slogan '*Maurice c'est un plaisir*' is no longer a pleasure!

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it is not on the Budget.

The Chairperson: The question is based on *22130 Studies and surveys*.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: No study was made.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, I refer to the reply of the hon. Minister on the increase in the receipt of 8% that is going to be realised in 2014. May I know what is on average the amount per tourist that is going to be as revenue for the year 2014?

The Chairperson: There has been no study and no survey according to the Minister.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will circulate the answer.

Mr Bodha: I am still on the same item. As regard to China, may I ask the hon. Minister whether an office has been opened specifically to survey the potential of this market and the characteristics of this market to be able to grow in numbers?

The Chairperson: That's a good question.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: It is the PR who represents Mauritius in China.

Mr Uteem: Still on the same item *22130 Studies and Surveys*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any studies and surveys have been carried out to determine whether we have enough flights to accommodate all the tourists that we are targeting?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: In fact, there is a study which is being carried out for the price of air ticket right now, and then after that, there will be some development coming.

The Chairperson: Two minutes! Yes, hon. Bodha!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, again as regards the Studies and Surveys, one of the contentions of the industry has been the all-inclusive package. May I ask the hon. Minister whether any study has been done on the all-inclusive package and whether the impact of the all-inclusive package has been assessed?

The Chairperson: That is, flights and hotels?

Mr Bodha: Yes. And what is being done to see to it that there is a better trickling down of the tourism receipts through the whole country?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, it is a good question, but no studies are being carried out on that. I am setting up a committee to work on the matter.

The Chairperson: You are left with one minute! Hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: Can I ask the hon. Minister whether a study has been conducted with regard to tourists from Reunion Island? As we know, the amount of tourists coming from Reunion Island is very substantial. Has any study been conducted with the possibility of lowering the price of ticket from Mauritius-Reunion which is one of the highest in the world? I am sure the Minister will agree with me.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, in fact, we do collaborate a lot; we do a lot of twin destination between the two countries.

The Chairperson: Okay! Yes, one minute!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: Mr Chairperson, on the same issue, *Study and Surveys*, can the Minister inform us whether a consumer satisfaction survey has been carried out to determine whether Air Mauritius is not the biggest ...

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Mr Li Kwong Wing: ...stumbling block for the development of our tourism industry?

The Chairperson: Yes. Hon. Minister!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister, you cannot sit down and then...

(Interruptions)

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Baloomoody was disturbing me.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, withdraw the word!

(Interruptions)

Ce n'est pas bon! Withdraw the word!

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I withdraw.

Mr Li Kwong Wing: I am asking the Minister whether he is going to undertake a survey to determine whether the consumer dissatisfaction with Air Mauritius is not the biggest stumbling block for increasing tourist arrivals to Mauritius.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Well, I just said there is a survey coming. Let us wait for the result.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Let us be fair to the Minister. He is not responsible for Air Mauritius! The hon. Member is an Economist, he should know! Okay, time is up!

Programme Code 341: Policy and Management for Tourism and Leisure (Rs40,224,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: The Deputy Speaker will take the Chair!

At this stage the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

Programme Code 342: Sustainable Tourism Industry was called.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, à la page 547, sous l'item 31113016 *Construction of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure*, est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre le sort qui a été réservé pour les *tourist villages* et le coût ?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, this amount is divided among the Tourism Signage Programme, Heritage Trail, Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure and Zoning of Lagoons.

The Chairperson: Hon. Roopun!

(Interruptions)

No conversation, please! Hon. Roopun!

Mr Roopun: On page 548, ...

(Interruptions)

Is the Minister with us, Chairperson?

(Interruptions)

On page 548...

(Interruptions)

...under item 26313089 *Current Grant (i) Tourism Authority*, there is an amount of Rs35 m. which has been projected for 2013 and now it is Rs40 m. Can we know the reason for that increase?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, provision was made to meet administrative and operational expenses of the Tourism Authority. The increase in provision was to meet the PRB salaries and allowances.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, on Programme 342, page 542, among the *Major Services*, I can read: *Reinforcing safety and security of tourists at sea*. But, Mr Chairperson, can the hon. Minister enlighten us as to whether we do have the appropriate personnel under this Programme to provide this major service or whether he has any particular item under this Programme which will provide the service of safety and security of tourists at sea?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, the hon. Member is referring to the zoning of lagoons at sea.

(Interruptions)

Bann différents zones!

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, in fact, I wanted to ask a question on the *Zoning of Lagoons*, item 31113431...

The Chairperson: On which page is that, hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 547.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Kindly allow the hon. Member to set her question so that the Minister can follow!

(Interruptions)

Mrs Hanoomanjee: The Minister just mentioned that it falls...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody, please!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Following a question asked by hon. Mrs Labelle, the Minister just mentioned that it falls under zoning of lagoons. Can the Minister say how this sum of Rs7.6 m. has been spent in 2013 and what he proposes to do for 2014?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, there was a big project in the hon. Member's constituency which is at Flic en Flac. There were three swimming zones which were done in Flic en Flac and we have done a lot of repairs around Mauritius. Finally, we have asked a consultant to work on a master plan for the rest of Mauritius, for the different zones of Mauritius.

Mrs Ribot: I am referring to page 548, item 26 *Grants*, where there is a decrease of grants. But my question is mainly on item 26313089, the second part, where the Budget for the *Cleaning and Embellishment Programme* has drastically been reduced. I would like to know whether we consider our country clean and embellished enough.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Well, Mr Chairperson, in fact, there are many different authorities which are cleaning Mauritius and the provision made to meet expenses for the Embellishment Programme is, in fact, okay for this year 2014 and the decrease in provision is based on the actual trend of expenditure.

Mr Ramano: Sous le code 26313089 concernant la *Tourism Authority*, le poste du directeur a été *advertised*, est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre quel est le montant consacré dans le budget pour le salaire et le *package* total qui est prévu en ce qui concerne le poste du directeur à la *Tourism Authority* ?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, the Director is paid as per the provision of the PRB Report 2013.

Mr Seeruttun: On page 548, item 26313089 *Grant - Tourism Authority*, we are being asked to vote a sum of Rs40 m. for the year 2014, will the Minister inform the House whether a permit has been granted to a restaurant to be in operation on the beach of Trou Aux Biches and how much money are we expecting to derive from that operation there?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, I do not think that this person has applied so far, I am not too sure.

Mr Roopun: Still on the same item of *Tourism Authority*, where we have been called upon to...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon Bodha, allow the hon. Member to put his question!

Mr Roopun:...vote a Budget of Rs5 m. in excess of what was provided last year. Can the hon. Minister state how many cases of irregularities have been referred to the Police by the Tourism Authority up till now?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: How many?

Mr Roopun: Irregularities at the Tourism Authority have been referred to the Police?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, I can see that there are 6 cases which are under investigation at the ICAC and three cases by the Police.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle!

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 548 and I am referring to item 26313089, sub paragraph (i) *Tourism Authority*. We are asked to vote a sum of Rs40 m. for the Tourism Authority. May I ask the hon. Minister whether there is an established procedure for recruitment at the Tourism Authority? We know that one post of Director has been advertised, but regarding the other positions at this authority whether there is an established procedure for recruitment.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we always follow procedures and for 90% of the posts, we normally advertise; except for the manual workers, we contact the NEF for the people who are not working so that we can do interview with them.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, toujours sous l'item 26313089, en ce qui concerne le (ii) *Cleaning and Embellishment Programme*, est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre, à travers vous bien sûr, le nombre d'employés qui sont toujours à la *Tourism Authority*, qui sont des *manual workers* ? Et aussi est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre si ces personnes travaillent toujours *on a month to month basis* ou bien ils ont été attachés en ce qui concerne l'*establishment* de l'organisation?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, they are on contract. We have 60 manual workers, one Manager, five Supervisors, and five Drivers.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am referring to item 26313089, (i) *Tourism Authority*. We are asked to vote a Budget of Rs40 m. and I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether we could have a breakdown of the position titles and the funded positions in that authority?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I don't mind to circulate the detail.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. S. Boolell!

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, considering that tourism is one of the major pillars of the economy - the sub-programme is Improvement and Diversification of Tourism Product - could the hon. Minister explain why his Budget has been consistently decreasing for the next Budget year and eventually, is it that because the hon. Minister of Finance and Economic Development does not appreciate the work that is done at tourism?

(Interruptions)

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, I have already answered this question. I said that the decrease in provision is based on the actual trend of expenditure.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again, on that item of Tourism Authority where we are being asked to vote for Rs40 m., may we know for the year 2013 how many pleasure craft permits have been granted during that year?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: It's an appropriate question for a PQ.

(Interruptions)

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, I don't mind answering the question. It's 123 for private and 92 for commercial. It's 215, in fact.

The Chairperson: Hon. Roopun!

Mr Roopun: Let me go back to the number of cases referred to by the hon. Minister. Six cases are referred to the ICAC and three to the Police.

The Chairperson: Which page is the hon. Member referring to?

Mr Roopun: Still on the Tourism Authority and I wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether the persons involved are still in office or whether they have been suspended?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Well, Mr Chairperson, I don't see whether there is any staff involved, it is more or less on the several operators who have applied. I don't mind to table the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, may I take the hon. Minister to page 544, Sub-Programme 34202 Tourism Authority – SS1: Percentage of establishments fully complying? May I know from the hon. Minister the number of non-compliant establishments which have found their licences revoked by the Tourism Authority?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, according to the figures that I have, I can see that there are 18 suspensions by the licencing Committee of the Tourism Authority.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again, on the item *Tourism Authority*, would the hon. Minister inform the House how many inspections were carried out during 2013 in the restaurants and whether any licences have been withdrawn following those inspections?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Well, Mr Chairperson, I know that they have done around 2,000 visits to different stakeholders, in fact, in 2013.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, may I ask the hon. Minister a question on the same programme at page 547, Improvement and Diversification of Tourism Product. I see on the same issue, with regard to security, 71% of the hotel establishments satisfy the criteria with regard to security. Can I know from the hon. Minister what is the target for this year and whether there is, in the Budget, a specific item to ensure security in our hotels, especially after the Michaela Harte affair?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we have set up a Committee which will be...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: I am on page 547, bottom of the page, item *31113016 Construction of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure*, part (a) and part (b)...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: There is a point of order. Please, resume your seat hon. Obeegadoo. Let me listen to the hon. Member who has got a point of order!

Mr Uteem: I heard the hon. Minister say, from a sitting position, an unparliamentary language and I will invite you to ask him to withdraw the unparliamentary word.

The Chairperson: First of all, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he has utilised any unparliamentary language to start with. If he has done so, I will kindly request him to withdraw the unparliamentary word.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I withdraw!

Mr Mohamed: On a point of order, could hon. Baloomoody also withdraw his unparliamentary word?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please resume your seat, hon. Obeegadoo! The hon. Minister has also got a point of order there.

Mr Baloomoody: I withdraw!

The Chairperson: Thank you very much for the gentlemanly attitude!

(Interruptions)

Some order, please! Let us listen to hon. Obeegadoo who has got a question to ask! Hon. Sayed-Hossen!

Mr Obeegadoo: The bottom of page 547, item 31113016 *Construction of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure*. I would like, first of all, to ask the hon. Minister to explain to the layperson I am, what Tourism Signage - if my pronunciation is correct - is, and how we would have spent, if we have spent the Rs3 m. budgeted for 2013 with an additional Rs3 m. budgeted for 2014? And linked to that, there is the Heritage Trail where we budgeted Rs1 m. last year and yet, when I look at page 544, the indicators, one notes that under 2012 there is no percentage, but we are supposed to have 20% heritage trail developed. So, maybe, he can explain what that means also and how the Rs1 m. will be spent?

The Chairperson: Just a minute, hon. Minister! The question is welcome. The only thing I deplore is the initial remark that was redundant.

Mr Obeegadoo: I made no initial remark. I said the layperson I am, does not know what signage is.

The Chairperson: That remark was redundant. Please, hon. Minister answer the question, now!

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, let me tell the hon. Member the definition of the signage. In fact, the objective is both to inform the population and visitors of the country to the different tourist attractions and services in Mauritius. In fact, we have done Route No. 7 in 2013. The amount of the project was Rs1.3 m. The amount disbursed so far is Rs1.1 m. The project is almost finished. It will be finished by the end of December and we will start route No. 8 as from next year. Route No. 8 will be for Albion, Sebastopol, Kewal Nagar, Bel Air, Grand Rivière Sud Est, Trois Boutiques, Pont Naturel, Moka, Bois Chéri, St Pierre, La Laura and La Nicolière. Concerning *Heritage Trail*, there is an amount of Rs1 m. for 2013. The amount disbursed is Rs245,000 and the project is due to complete next year, probably in three to four months.

Mr Chairperson: I have got time enough for one more question and I will invite hon. Mrs Labelle to set the question.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on Programme of 342 and I am looking at page 542...

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Labelle, short question!

Mrs Labelle: *The Major Services: Licensing and monitoring of tourist enterprises and pleasure crafts.* My question is how many pleasure crafts licences have been issued during 2013?

The Chairperson: Thank you for being short!

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, I have already answered this question. It is 215 and I would like also to answer the question of hon. Seeruttun. There are seven restaurants which were suspended.

Programme Code 342: Sustainable Tourism Industry (Rs83,967,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 343: Destination Promotion was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, sous l'item 26313, avant d'approuver ce montant...

The Chairperson: Which page are you referring to?

Mr Ramano: A la page 548, sous l'item 26313, est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre quel est le montant de la perte en ce qui concerne la loterie de la MTPA?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it was not a loss, in fact, it was a campaign and let me go into details. The amount paid for the prizes was Rs9,166,669 and the amount received from the sale of tickets was Rs8,188,300. We had to add Rs978,369.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: On page 548, item 26313047, can the hon. Minister explain to the House how many officers have travelled abroad and in which countries?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Just two, Mr Chairperson, in London.

Mr Bodha: Item MTPA Promotion of the Destination. At one point in time the brand for the promotion of Mauritius was '*Maurice c'est un plaisir*'.

The Chairperson: You are referring to which item, please!

Mr Bodha: Item 26313047, at one point in time the brand under which the promotion was done was '*Maurice c'est un plaisir*'. Then, there was a change and it became '*Divine Ile Maurice*'. May I ask the hon. Minister on what brand today Mauritius is being promoted in the world?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: "Maurice c'est un plaisir".

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, on page 548, item 26313047 *Current Grant MTPA*, we have been asked to vote for Rs390 m. for this year and next year as well. May we know who is the new Chairperson of the MTPA?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: My Permanent Secretary is acting as Chairperson.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am looking at the amount that we are called upon to vote, that is, Rs390 m. for the country promotion. I go to page 545, the *Service Standards (Indicators) SS1: Number of fairs, workshops* and so on. The number of fairs has increased compared to what was stated in the Budget Estimates of 2013. I would like to ask the hon. Minister how is it that with the same amount of money his Ministry is proposed to have increased activities and also whether - for example, the 23 fairs, that were scheduled for 2013 - this number has been attained? How many fairs the hon. Minister has been able to organise and what has happened to the promotion in Japan and Korea which was stated for, in 2013, as the service standard indicators?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, everything is going very well. It is a proposed plan. Normally, we come every year with a proposed plan and if need be we do adjust during the year. We do reallocation of funds within the authority. In terms of Japan, I can say that we are having a growth, in fact.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I was asking the number of fairs, workshops and so on which were held, whether the figure of 23 which was mentioned in the Budget Estimates of 2013 has been attained?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will table the number of fairs, Mr Chairperson. For 2013, I can see that so far there are 39 fairs, road shows and workshops altogether.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre, pour l'audition 2013 du Festival Créole, le montant exact du budget et le pourcentage de contribution des différents sponsors?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: The project is ongoing right now and it is a project which is being organised jointly with the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the Budget is around Rs10 m. to Rs11 m.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, in view of the sub-programme 34301 *Country Promotion*, it is the current grant of the MTPA which is massively Rs390 m. Could the hon. Minister kindly inform the House of the companies, institutions and agencies which have benefited from this sum, the quantum and what were the procedures adopted for the choice of these companies and institutions?

The Chairperson: I am sure it is a very long list which the hon. Minister can circulate.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: In fact, Mr Chairperson, there is a Board which considers requests from any operators or stakeholders. They go through the Board, and then they decide. There are Permanent Secretaries and stakeholders who sit on this Board, and they do decide. I don't mind to circulate the list.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again on page 548, item *Emerging Markets*, I can see that some Rs50 m. has been provided for all the years here mentioned. May we know what are the emerging markets that have been targeted, and for each of those emerging markets how much funds are being allocated to promote Mauritius?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we do target mainly three emerging markets: first, China, second, India, and third, Russia. I will table the different financial details.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 548, item 26313, with regard to the organisation of the lottery during the campaign, can we know the number of lotteries which were sold, the number of lotteries which were unsold, and whether this was beyond the projection?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, I have just answered this question. The cost was Rs9,166,669, and they have received Rs8,188,300.

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, may I take you to page 545, *Destination Promotion*, where the tourism receipts for 2012 is Rs44.4 billion, and for 2014 the targeted amount is Rs47.9 billion. That is where I got the figure of 8%. It is Rs3.5 billion over Rs44.4 billion. May I ask the Minister on which markets he expects to have this increase of 8% of receipts?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we are working very hard, especially on the Middle East market for 2014.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, the same item, page 545, percentage of market share...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, kindly listen to the question!

Mr Obeegadoo: I think hon. Bodha was referring to the same matter. It is the percentage market share.

(Interruptions)

This is different; on page 545...

The Chairperson: Hon. Bodha, allow the hon. Member to ask his question!

Mr Obeegadoo: On page 545, *Percentage market share in emerging and new markets*, may I know where we have reached, what percentage we have reached as at date for 2013?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Already 16%.

Mr Roopun: I refer to the lottery organised by the MTPA. I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of tickets which have been sold, and by how much it was below projection.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, I need a calculator to calculate this, but I will circulate it afterwards.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Some silence, please! Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: M. le président, toujours en ce qui concerne le budget...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Allow the hon. Member to ask his question!

Mr Ramano: Merci, M. le président. Toujours en ce qui concerne le budget de la MTPA, est-ce que je pourrais savoir le montant exact de la compensation qui a été payée à Monsieur Robert Desvaux, qui a été appelé à *'lève paké aller'* ?

The Chairperson: Which item is the hon. Member referring to?

Mr Ramano: Toujours en ce qui concerne le budget de la MTPA, M. le président, le code 26313.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: There is no amount paid.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again I come back to that famous lottery organised by the MTPA. Given that the number of tickets sold...

The Chairperson: Do not repeat the same questions.

Mr Seeruttun: It is not the same question. Given that the number of tickets sold was way beyond the amount issued...

The Chairperson: This is the same question asked by another hon. Member!

Mr Seeruttun: I have not finished yet.

The Chairperson: I will see the nature of the question, and then I will decide whether to allow it or not.

Mr Seeruttun: My question is whether, after the event, any study was carried out to know why it was a flop.

The Chairperson: That is a different question.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: It was not an event; it was a campaign that we have organised last year. In fact, we have invested almost Rs1 m.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 545, MTPA, *Campaigns in traditional, emerging and new markets*. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any provision is made for marketing trip in southern and eastern African countries?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Ramano: Toujours en ce qui concerne cette fameuse loterie de la MTPA, M. le président, est-ce que je pourrais savoir le nombre de fois que le tirage a été renvoyé, et aussi - selon les dires du ministre, le tirage a été un succès - s'il compte renouveler l'expérience cette année-ci ?

The Chairperson: I disallow this question. I move on to hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Mr Chairperson, we are being asked to vote a sum of Rs390 m. for the MTPA. I am sure, before the hon. Minister put that in his budget, he must have been given an account, the current expenditure, the breakdown as to how they intend to spend that money, because it is taxpayers' money after all; your money, my money, our money! So, can I ask the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to

lay on the Table of the Assembly the detailed accounts submitted by the MTPA to his Ministry, for him to approve that budget, so that we can have a clear idea of how taxpayers' money is being spent by the MTPA?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I don't mind.

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister does not mind. Hon. Bodha!

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, in view of the fact that the budget has remained the same for 2013 and 2014, that is, Rs390 m., may I ask whether there has been a reduction in the budget of our main market in France?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: In fact, it was the same for 2013.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, can the hon. Minister inform the House when the next carnival will take place? Can we know where, and if the famous Brazilians will be back in the country?

The Chairperson: I disallow this question. Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, in an earlier reply, the hon. Minister stated that his Ministry is revisiting the strategy to boost the incoming of tourists from the traditional markets. May we know what new campaigns are being contemplated, to ensure that this brings in more tourists to Mauritius?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Which market?

Mr Seeruttun: With regard to promotion, you mentioned earlier on...

The Chairperson: Don't address the Minister! Address the Chair!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, the hon. Minister mentioned earlier on that the new strategy to bring in tourists to Mauritius is being revisited. I would like to know what are the new campaigns that are going to be organised to meet that new strategy.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, the traditional markets are very important for Mauritius. So, first of all, we have to consolidate the traditional markets, because we have many markets like France, UK, Germany and Switzerland which are very important. So, we have to consolidate these markets. Secondly, we are working very hard on the regional markets such as South Africa, Reunion, Australia. We will also start to work harder to go on the African market. Third, we have the emerging markets; the three great markets, namely China, India, and Russia. Fourth, there are some new markets that we have to start working, like the GCC countries, the CIS countries, the Scandinavian countries, Korea, and Japan.

Mr Uteem: Bouncing on what the hon. Minister has just stated about our traditional market, has the MTPA carried out any study to find out whether the fact that Air Mauritius no longer flies directly to

some of our traditional markets like Italy and Germany, has that resulted in any reduction in the number of tourists from these traditional markets?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: In fact, yes, Mr Chairperson, but we have to work with the ingredients that we have. This is why we have diversified a lot in new markets.

The Chairperson: You have got time for a last question and that last question will come from hon. Ramano.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, en ce qui concerne la promotion du concept les îles Vanilles, est-ce qu'on pourrait savoir du ministre si une étude a été effectuée quant aux parts de bénéfices pour Maurice en comparaison aux autres îles de l'Océan Indien ?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: In fact, Mr Chairperson, it is a win win situation for all the islands around the Indian Ocean. For example, if we do package together with Reunion Island, we can, for example, work on the French market. These French who will go to Reunion Island can then come to Mauritius and, on our side, we can work on the Chinese market or Indian market, and then these people can go to Reunion Island thereafter.

The Chairperson: Time is up!

Programme Code 343: Destination Promotion (Rs390,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 344: Promotion of Leisure was called.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, à la page 548, sous l'item 22030 *Rent*, est-ce que je pourrais avoir des explications du ministre, bien sûr, en ce qui concerne les locaux qui sont loués, le prix auquel c'est alloué, parce qu'il y a quand même une somme de R 2,250,000 qui est prévue à cet effet.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, there is a provision for payment of rent to Jolima Ltd which is at Victoria House. The amount is Rs700,000. We have rental of vehicles, rental of equipment and rental of facilities for events.

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, on page 542, Programme 344: Promotion of Leisure, under *Major Service, Organisation and promotion of leisure activities/events*. Could the hon. Minister give us a list of activities and events which his Ministry is organising for next year?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, Mr Chairperson, I have a list with me; it is a long list so I will table it.

Mrs Ribot: On page 548, item 21110 - *Personal Emoluments*. Again, the same problem, the number of funded positions for 2014 remains the same and the Budget is going down by Rs1.8 m. So, can the hon. Minister justify that decrease in the Budget?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, the decrease in provision is due to non-recruitment of staff as the scheme of service is being revised.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 548, item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*. Can the hon. Minister say whether this item include the diversification of leisure activities and what he is doing to diversify leisure activities for tourists?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, this amount is the provision made for payment of medals, prizes, payment for artists, leisure activities organised and sponsored by the Ministry.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, toujours à la page 548, sous l'item 22030 *Rent*. Je compte faire mention aussi en ce qui concerne les membres du personnel qui sont affectés à ce département. M. le président, une somme de R 2,250,000 est prévue sous l'item *Rent* et je vois que, en termes de personnel, il y a seulement quatre personnes – cinq, incluant le chauffeur. Je ne crois pas que le chauffeur est concerné directement avec les locaux. Est-ce que le ministre peut nous expliquer le pourquoi de la location d'un local à R 2,250,000 pour loger que quatre membres du personnel pour le *leisure* ?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it is not Rs2 m., it is Rs700,000 for the building. I did give the breakdown recently. But, let me give you the breakdown again –

Rental of building	- Rs700,000
Rental of vehicles	- Rs200,000
Rental of equipment	- Rs150,000
Rental of facilities for events	- Rs1.2 m.

Mr Roopun: I asked for a list of events to be organised next year. May I ask the hon. Minister to give us a list of events which have been organised this year?

The Chairperson: You are referring to which item, hon. Roopun?

Mr Roopun: Again, I am referring to page 542, *Major Service*.

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, it is a very long list of 43 items. I will table it.

The Chairperson: The hon. Minister will circulate the information. Hon. Seeruttun!

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again, on page 548, on item 21 *Compensation of Employees*. Hon. Mrs Ribot just asked that question and, in his reply, the hon. Minister said that because there is no recruitment that is why the amount budgeted for 2014 has gone down. But when I look at page 550, the number of employees as at the end of December, in both years, has remained the same. So, how does he

reconcile the fact that these employees are still in post in those two years, and yet, their salaries have gone down drastically?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, there was a provision last year to recruit employees, but the scheme of service is being revised right now.

Mr Obeegadoo: I refer to page 548, the last item *22900 Other Goods and Services*. I wanted to know from the hon. Minister how much...

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo, kindly address the Chair!

Mr Obeegadoo: I am sorry!

The Chairperson: Kindly address the Chair!

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes. I am addressing the Chair.

The Chairperson: You are looking on the other side.

Mr Obeegadoo: Or do you want me to look at the Chair?

The Chairperson: Of course!

Mr Obeegadoo: I would like the Minister to indicate to the House how much the recent concert held at *Cité Atlee* cost, including the dance performance '*tousse sali mama*', by the Minister himself?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, the Family Fun Day at *Résidence Atlee* cost around Rs595,000 and the second one which was at Joachim was not funded by the Ministry.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, again on item...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On item *22900 Other Goods and Services*, can I ask the Minister whether any study has been carried out on the need for leisure for Mauritians?

(Interruptions)

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: A need of study?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Can I repeat?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Yes, please!

The Chairperson: Please do!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*, can I ask the Minister whether any study has been carried out on the need for leisure for Mauritians?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: No, Mr Chairperson, there is no study which has been carried out.

The Chairperson: Yes. Hon. Jhugroo!

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, in the context of *Promotion of Leisure*, I want to know when activities like festival 'Anou Ale La Mer', 'Anou Ale Cinema', 'Anou Ale Batte Bus'...

(Interruptions)

...will be reorganised again?

(Interruptions)

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, there is a long list of 43 items. I will table it.

The Chairperson: Yes. Hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am coming back to...

(Interruptions)

.... page 548, item 21110. I would like to ask the question again to the Minister. As reply...

(Interruptions)

Excuse me, Mr Chairperson, as reply we had that there was a difference between 2013 and 2014 in the *Personal Emoluments* because they had intended to recruit some employees but they did not. So, must we understand that there was an over budgeting of funds in that department last year?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Mr Chairperson, in fact, in 2013, provision was made to recruit one Senior Leisure Officer and one Leisure Officer. As I have said, the scheme of service is being revised right now.

Mr Seeruttun: Mr Chairperson, again on that same item, the fact that...

The Chairperson: Same item?

Mr Seeruttun: On the same item.

The Chairperson: Which same item?

Mr Seeruttun: On item *Personal Emoluments*. From the reply of the hon. Minister, he said that they intended to recruit some new staff in 2013 but they did not. I presume that, that amount of Rs3,827,000, as estimated for 2013, has not been spent. May we know now how much is the actual amount spent under that item for 2013?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will table the details. I do not have it at hand.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, really we are a bit confused by the answer of the Minister. He has just mentioned that they intend to recruit a Senior Events Officer, but the position of Senior Events Officer was not a funded position for 2013. It was not in the Budget Estimates for 2013.

(Interruptions)

It was not! I am reading the Budget Estimates for 2013; it is in front of me. It was not in this position. More so, Mr Chairperson, when we look at the Budget Estimates, mention is made that by December 2013, there were 5 persons in post and the funded position for 2014 is still 5 positions. We fail to understand, bearing in mind that the funded position by December 2013 was 5 and funded position for 2014 was 5, how come that the sum for *Personal Emoluments* is being decreased by more than 50% from Rs3.3 m. to Rs1.5m.? If the Minister does not have a clear explanation, maybe he can say he will look for further information but he should not throw any argument...

The Chairperson: There is no need for any remark! I allow the hon. Minister to answer. If he does not have the information ...

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will enquire.

The Chairperson: He can enquire and circulate.

Mr Ramano: M. le président, est-ce que je pourrais savoir du ministre le nombre et le coût des activités organisées dans les différentes circonscriptions, plus particulièrement, la circonscription No. 17 ?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Seeruttun!

(Interruptions)

It is okay? If there is no more question then we...

(Interruptions)

Hon. Jhugroo!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Jhugroo, put a question which necessitates an answer!

Mr Jhugroo: I always put pertinent questions.

The Chairperson: Please, go ahead!

Mr Jhugroo: But I do not get the necessary answers!

(Interruptions)

In the context of the *Promotion of Leisure*, can the hon. Minister inform the House how many activities have been organised in Constituency No. 17? There is no need to table. Can we know the amount which has been spent?

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: Well, I will have to calculate it, but in terms of...

(Interruptions)

In terms of amount, I will have to calculate it. I need a calculator.

The Chairperson: The Minister has just reacted to this question!

Mr Yeung Sik Yuen: But in terms of number, it is only 3 or 4 maximum.

(Interruptions)

Programme Code 344: Promotion and Leisure (Rs8,309,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

At this stage Mr Speaker took the Chair.

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life – Programme Code 581: Health Policy and Management was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: I refer to page 552, *Major Achievements* for 2013, under *Trends in Vital Health Indicators*, in relation to *Health Policy and Management, Programme 581* on page 563. I note that *life expectancy at birth has increased from 67.4 years for male and 74.6 years for female in 2000 to 70.2*

years for male and 77.3 years for female in 2012. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether we could have what is known as the disability life years which affect both sexes in Mauritius so that we may have an accurate picture of what is the actual quality of life expectancy in Mauritius.

Then, I refer again – if nobody is coming in – is it three questions or...

The Chairperson: We will take one by one if the hon. Member so wishes.

Dr. S. Boolell: I thought maybe it helps the others coming in.

The Chairperson: Two questions? Okay? Hon. Minister? Two?

(Interruptions)

Stand up, please, I am talking to you! How do you wish to go? Three questions at a go?

Mr Bundhoo: Five by five.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No!

(Interruptions)

I decide on three! It is reasonable.

Dr. S. Boolell: Again on Programme Code 581: Health Policy and Management, under item 27210008 *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*, there is the sum of Rs45 m. being earmarked. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this sum paid to each patient is a one-off payment and whether patients can be entitled to more than one payment in view of the fact that some diseases have to be taken care of more than once.

I would also like to refer to the *Studies and Preliminary Project Preparation*, item 2213000, where the estimate for this year has been Rs11,125,000 and is knowing an extreme increase, fourfold to Rs53,300,000 for the next year. I would like to have some clarifications as to why this sum has been increased though I see a list of surveys and reports which are expected?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, with regard to the second question as to whether the amount allocated can be used a few times, yes, it can, provided it does not increase the allocated ceiling of Rs500,000. As from the year 2014, on a selected protocol that is going to be established and approved by Cabinet, it would be increased to Rs800,000. Let me give a simple example. If somebody has to undergo

a surgical operation overseas and if he has utilised, let's say, Rs240,000, therefore, the remaining balance is Rs260,000 and if the Board sits and says again that this person needs to go overseas for further treatment, then this amount will be allocated.

Thirdly, with regard to the survey, it is a survey which is pertaining to the Institute of Women's Health, the Paediatric Hospital, the Mid Way Home, the National Health Laboratory Services, Reconstruction of Radiotherapy Department, Extension of the New Cardiac Centre, the Health Records Archives, the New Warehouse, La Tour Koenig, Agalega Community and it goes on like this.

The Chairperson: You are just repeating all the items under 22130001. Yes, hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 564, item 22130001 *Studies and Preliminary Project Preparation*, can I ask the hon. Minister why for Bharati Eye Hospital, there is no provision for 2014, where there is really a need for provision whereas money by millions is being invested for new blocks in Flacq Hospital where there is no need and where is the equilibrium?

My second question relates to item 27210008 *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*. Can the hon. Minister say why the income of patients aged 18 and over, who are considered to be independent of their parents, are not given the amount that is required for them to be treated overseas? What is the reason for that?

And, my third question relates to item 22130001 (a) *Institute of Women's Health*. Can he say who carried out the feasibility study, whether report has been given and whether he can give us the gist of the report?

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*, the criteria set is Rs50,000 of income, in whatever ward it is, and the whole approval is being given by the Social Security Office. Now, as to whether this will be reviewed, I would probably bring a paper in Cabinet with regard to the Rs800,000 and there and then, we would decide accordingly.

Now, with regard to the Institute of Women's Health, the University of London, in collaboration with one of the Consultants appointed by the Government of Mauritius, the contract of an amount of Rs8 m. has been awarded on 28 August 2013 to Strategic Networking Partners & Consulting Ltd. Partial payment of 50% of the contract value is expected to be made this year. Payment of the remaining 50% will be effected in 2014.

The Chairperson: With regard to the S. Bharati Eye Hospital?

Mr Bundhoo: As far as I remember, with regard to the Bharati Eye Hospital where recently we had a visit of professors from overseas, we are looking at it. Only a week ago, we had a full-fledged visit there whereby, we have appointed as Project Manager, Mr Soobrah, who is looking at the A. G. Jeetoo Hospital. We are reorganising our thoughts with regard to the Bharati Eye Hospital, but I can assure the hon. Member that we are going to do something with regard to the Bharati Eye Hospital and we have agreed to discuss it with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to make funds available accordingly.

The Chairperson: Hon. François!

Mr François: Mr Chairperson, I come back again to item 27210008 *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*. I would like to ask the hon. Minister - I am sure he is aware - whether his Ministry has received any request for additional payment over and above the Rs500,000 to a hospital abroad as a result of additional diagnostics and treatment required for a patient, and whether such special requests will be entertained by his Ministry in 2013?

Mr Bundhoo: Yes, Mr Chairperson, we have received this request from a gentleman from Rodrigues - if I am not mistaken - who has gone to India and whereby the expenses have exceeded the amount of money. I am sure it will be considered by the appropriate Committee, but I cannot, at the moment, tell the hon. Member what's going to be the outcome.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Dr. Sorefan!

Dr. Sorefan: I would come to the same item 27210008 *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*. Can the hon. Minister provide us with, not the name, but with information as to how many cases have been sent abroad this year and how many cases where surgery has been attempted in Mauritius, but for some unknown reasons, they have been sent abroad to be operated? That's my first question.

My second question is with regard to item 26313037 *Current Grant - Mauritius Institute of Health*. I am quite agreeable to this, but I am surprised to see that there is no grant to the Dental and Nursing Association.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, with regard to the number of persons who have been sent overseas, it's 188 and the amount spent up to October 2013 is Rs41 m.

Now, with regard to attempted surgeries done in Mauritius and whether we have done any in Mauritius and then, sent them overseas, unfortunately, I am not in a position to tell the hon. Member that,

because as far as I understand it is only when the patient is inoperable in Mauritius that the case is forwarded to a Board and then, agreed upon. I am not aware if this exists, but still I can enquire about that.

(Interruptions)

The grant, I have said Rs41 m. is spent.

(Interruptions)

No. It appears on different items. We have made provision for both items.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am referring to item 22130001, part (c) the *Midway Home*, we are asked to vote for Rs8 m., could we have some details about the midway home from the hon. Minister as well as item 28211 *Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*. Could we have a list of those non-profit institutions that benefit from grants? Finally, under item 28210007 *Other Current Transfers*, savings, culture campaign and this is the very first time that I hear this. Can I have some clarifications from the hon. Minister?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, with regard to the midway homes, we have already invited several expressions of interest. The schedule with regard to the establishment of midway home is ongoing. With non-profit institutions, it is grant that is normally given to several institutions. The technical and evaluation of proposal for the pre-selected consultants to carry out the feasibility study has been completed. With regard to the midway home, the Ministry will proceed with the evaluation of the financial aspects of the proposal before the contract would be awarded and they are expected to be early January 2014.

Mr Jhugroo: Mr Chairperson, on page 564, item 22130001 *Studies and Preliminary Project Preparation*. I see that there is a provision of Rs4 m. for next year regarding the Multi-Storey Victoria Hospital, can we have some details regarding this new project at Victoria Hospital. My second item is 22200 *Overseas Travel (Treatment and Incoming Medical Teams)*, there was a provision of Rs17 m. for this year. Can we have some details regarding the number of team who came here and other details, if possible?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, the list of the visiting team would be submitted. I will circulate it, but it is to do with those people who we do normally at the Bharati Eye Hospital with Professor

Tabatabay, for small kids for super speciality at the Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital and also with specialised hospital at SSRNH for very difficult cases with regard to the heart. We have four or five teams which come to Mauritius regularly and these are for those teams that come to Jeetoo Hospital, Port Louis.

With regard to the Victoria multi-storey building, it is to do with the present building that is presently unoccupied and where we are going to look at it. The consultancy has already been carried out.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 564, item 22130001, (c) *Midway home*, can the hon. Minister give us some explanations on that midway home. Will he say whether that Midway home relates to patients who have stayed in Brown Sequard Hospital for a very, very long time? Sometimes it is more than 10 years, 20 years that they have been in Brown Sequard Hospital. They are no longer patients as they have nobody to care for them. Is this the project that we are talking about?

Dr. S. Boolell: I would like to ask the hon. Minister, Mr Chairperson, at page 564, on item 28 *Other Expense*, item 28211 *Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions* to almost Rs4. May I have some details about these transfers and these institutions?

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to the issues raised by hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee, the aim of setting up the Midway Home is to rehabilitate and reintegrate long stay psychiatric patients as you have rightly put it, those who have been in the Central Psychiatric Hospital for many years with the ultimate goals of resettling them within their family. I think it is an issue raised by hon. Dr. S. Boolell during his speech on the Budget.

Dr. Sorefan: I have two questions, if you allow me, Mr Chairperson.

Mr Bundhoo: In fact, this is exactly what hon. Dr. Sorefan wanted earlier. The transfers for non-profit institutions are: Dental Council, Rs700,000, Human Service Trust: Rs1,245,000, Medical Council: Rs1.3 m., Nursing Council: Rs460,000. That is what it is. It is under different items.

Dr. Sorefan: I have two questions, if you allow me. The first one regarding page 564, sub item...

The Chairperson: One question and then we will take the second one.

Dr. Sorefan: Under item 22200 *Overseas Travel (Treatment & Incoming Medical Teams)*, may we know from the hon. Minister how many incoming medical team came to Mauritius and in which department they were operating, and whether their degree was recognised by the Medical Council.

Mr Obeegadoo: Under this Programme which is concerned with the Policy and Management, I refer to page 557, if I may have the hon. Minister's attention; the second bullet refers to the infamous assessment of medical graduates after completion of pre-registration training. After the disastrous, first assessment, which was just held, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Budget for next year provides for a review of that examination both content-wise and, in terms of the timing, content wise in terms of the syllabus if there is a syllabus, of course, and the organisations of these exams which have been strongly objected to by the candidates. Secondly, the timing; there has been a lot of debate whether it should be the pre-clinical training or afterwards as happened last time and, secondly, I would wish to ask whether the Budget for next year will provide for support for these doctors who have to re-sit in terms of facilities to update their preparations?

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to the team of foreign doctors as asked by my good friend, hon. Dr. Sorefan, it was Professor Tabatabay from the University of Geneva. It was Dr S. Morea from Bradford UK. It was Dr. Atul Bhaskar and Dr. Sawant from India. It was Professor Yellon and team from the University College London. It was Professor Quinodoz, Dr. Esaki from Hug Geneva team and there is also Dr. Erouth and Dr M. Bambarch from Hug Geneva, Dr. Bruce Edwards from France, Dr. Vishwas Mehta, Dr. Ramalingam ENT Surgeon, Dr. C. Banker and Dr. C. Kurosowa, Cancer Specialist and ...

The Chairperson: Do you have a long list?

Mr Bundhoo: No, he has put me the question.

The Chairperson: I know, but do you have a long list?

Mr Bundhoo: Not really.

The Chairperson: Circulate it!

Mr Bundhoo: Dr. Ali Khan, Dr. R. Veerapen and Dr. Noordally, David Khayat, Bipin Batra and Anurag Agarwal, Dr. Bhaskar,

The Chairperson: Circulate!

Mr Bundhoo: But the hon. Member asked me the question!

The Chairperson: If it is a long list, you may circulate it!

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, with due respect to you. The hon. Member did not ask me if I could circulate.

The Chairperson: I ask you to circulate!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bundhoo: If you ask me, yes, hon. Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Time is over! I could have stopped you, but I said better circulate it because information is very important.

Mr Bundhoo: It will be circulated, Mr Chairperson.

Ministry of Health and Quality of Life - Programme Code 581: Health Policy and Management (Rs470,321,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 582: Curative Services was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Under Sub-programme 58201, *Hospital Services and High-Tech Medicine*, item 22140001 *Medicine, Drugs and Vaccines*, we are being called upon to vote a sum of Rs550 m. for 2014. I would like to know if the hon. Minister could provide the House with what safeguards we have concerning the quality of the medication which we are now buying and inflicting on our patients.

Mr Baloomoody: On the same item, can I ask the hon. Minister whether, for patients undergoing renal dialysis, we have earmarked any sum for the provision of tablets called EPO, under the item medicine and drugs?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 565, item 22140002 *C.T. Scan and MRI Fees and Materials*. Can the hon. Minister say where these services are being provided now - both CT scan and MRI - and what is he doing for repairs to frequent breakdowns?

My second question relates to page 566, item 26313095 *Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care*. Can the hon. Minister say whether those funds, which have been provided for 2014, include also funds for the Cancer Agency, which was in the Budget Speech?

My third question relates to item 3112003 *Construction/Extension of Hospitals, of which: (c) Main Operation Theatre and Wards - Victoria hospital*. Can he give us the progress of the works, and can he say why, already, there are two Operating Theatres not being used in Dr. Jeetoo Hospital, and he is going ahead with the construction of other Operating Theatres?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, with regard to the issues raised by hon. Dr. Satish Boolell, very briefly, I would say there is a quality assurance and control of pharmaceutical products that has been set

up by the Government and its Divisions in July 2007. Prior to the position of the Quality Control Laboratory, samples are sent for analysis to WHO recognised laboratory in South Africa. The tests are now being performed by Government and its divisions. Random sampling is carried out on the drugs received at the Central Supplies Division. For example, 86 samples have been sent for analysis to the Government Analysis Division during the year 2013. There is a methodology, whereby the samples of the drugs are being tested before they are given to patients once they enter Mauritius, after having been given a contract to do so.

With regard to EPO, EPO injections are presently being provided specifically to those patients who have potential kidney donors, but as a general rule, we would be supplying EPO to all the patients, and the bidding documents are ready. There have been a few hiccups, I must admit, on this one. Once it is being addressed, it will be administered to all patients as early as January 2014, to the tune of the almost Rs40 m.

As regards the issue raised by hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee concerning the additional sum of Rs10 m., the initial sum has been topped up with regard to the specialised fund at SSRN for the Cancer Agency.

As regards the Dr. Jeetoo Hospital, four Operating Theatres are in use, and - I think the hon. Member is right – one or two are not in not yet in use, because we are waiting for the commissioning of a couple of apparatus.

With regard to Victoria Hospital, the last time I went there was a month ago, with the Chinese Ambassador. I must tell you that it is a bit difficult for me to say what is the percentage of work that is being carried out, because at the moment, from what I could understand, the building and other things are here, but the projection is the hospital, the projection is with equipment, and everything done. It will be up and running. *Comme on dit en français, je pèse mes mots.* It will be up and running by March 2015. The building would be by next year, April, if I am not mistaken.

The Chairperson: I think there is a misunderstanding. It will be one question per hon. Member. I want to clear this misunderstanding. The one I find on my list is hon. Roopun!

Mr Roopun: Mr Chairperson, can I ask the hon. Minister, on page 565, item *fees*, to give us an explanation why this considerable increase in the fees, and what this Rs20 m. represents? The amount was Rs7.4 m., and it has risen now to Rs20.2 m.

The Chairperson: We take three questions, but one per hon. Member. I invite hon. Nagalingum to put his question.

Mr Nagalingum: Mr Chairperson, on page 565, item 22140007 *Renal Dialysis – Consumables and Fees*, I see that there is a sum of Rs100 m. Can we have a breakdown, the amount paid to private institutions and private clinics?

The Chairperson: Third question, hon. Mrs Labelle.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 566, under the item 31112403 *Upgrading of Hospitals*, and I am referring to Victoria Hospital. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the upgrading work will include separate wards for renal dialysis patients, because actually it is together.

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to the fees, it has to do with fees for training, inspection and audit fees, and fees to Chairman, members of Boards and different committees under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Quality of life, and also to the Bid Evaluation Committee and Mental Health Board. The increase is because the money payable to all the different committees, I have just mentioned, including the Bid Evaluation Committee. Previously the Bid Committee used to sit during office hours. But, now, I have given instructions; it is general policy that officers for the Bid Evaluation Committee have to sit after 1600 hours, so as not to be an embarrassment to office work.

With regard to patients to private clinics, I think the question was raised by hon. Nagalingum. I think I have circulated that in a PQ in the House, if I am not mistaken. This was asked by hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee only a couple of months ago. But, still, I am going to do that. It is Oram Trust for the year 2012 up till November 2013, Rs8.5 m. or more; City Clinic, Rs2 m.; Medisave, none; National Dialysis Centre, Rs1.4 m.; Chisty Shifa, Rs3.2 m; Grand Bay Medical Centre, Rs1.8 m.; Apollo Bramwell, Rs1.5 m., and then Nephron Ltd, Rs2.5 m. for dialysis.

With regard to Victoria hospital, it is under the Government to Government agreement, Economic and Technical Cooperation. I am afraid I have no recollection if it includes new block for dialysis; that is, separate wards altogether. Yes, the hon. Member is right.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 565, under item 22140 *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*, also on page 567 under 22140003 *Dental Materials and Equipment*, nearly the same amount of Rs1.8 m. is budgeted. I note on page 573 that there are only six specialists and five dental surgeons. So, may I know from the hon. Minister in year 2013, how many root canal treatments have been effected and how many extractions carried out?

(Interruptions)

It is a very important aspect, because people are not given root canal treatment and their teeth are being extracted instead.

The Chairperson: The Minister may circulate. Hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: On page 565, one and same question for two items 22070 *Cleaning Services* and 22090 *Security*. Will the Minister give us the name of the service providers?

Mr Bundhoo: For cleaning services, it varies from one hospital to the other, but for security it is RSL. With regard to the question raised by hon. Uteem, I do appreciate it is very important, but you would also appreciate I don't have it offhand, but I can have it circulated.

With regard to the question raised by hon. Mrs Labelle and hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie, the information is as follows -

Dr. Jeetoo Hospital	- Very Clean Services;
Brown Sequard	- Shine Ltd.;
Bharati Eyes Hospital	- Hygiene Plus;
Poudre d'Or	- Mauriclean
Flacq Hospital	- Mauriclean;
Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital	- Shine Ltd.;
Souillac Hospital	- Hygiene Plus;
Mahebourg Hospital	- Hygiene Plus, and

The one I like the best, for Victoria Hospital - Tidy and Clean Ltd.

With regard to Dental Services, - you would like this hon. Uteem - I could not imagine I have this offhand, but it is for 2012.

The Chairperson: You may circulate.

Mr Bundhoo: No, it is so simple. I can do it.

Total attendance : 32,000

No. of teeth extracted : 90,888

No. of fillings inserted: 134,364

(Interruptions)

We have got root canal treatment. Surgical operation - I better circulate, I think I am going to take the time of the House.

The Chairperson: This is what I told the hon. Minister, otherwise I would have given extra time to Members. Hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, the question was too deep-rooted.

The Chairperson: Hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: I will put again the question which the Minister did not answer earlier. On page 573, item 09 69 88 *Pre-Registration House Officers*, where we are called upon to approve 375 positions. So, I am asking the question again. If you are going to invest in *Pre-Registration House Officers*, what will be the assessment exams for these personnel once they have completed their Pre-Registration? What will be the exams? When will the exams be held? What facilities will be given to those Health Officers who have to resit?

Mr Bundhoo: Exams are being conducted twice yearly.

The Chairperson: Any question?

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson. I am referring to page 565, item 22140002 *C.T Scan and MRI Fees and Materials*. Can I know from the hon. Minister the number of patients who have been sent to private clinics for C.T Scan and MRI during the year, 2013? May we know how much has been paid to those private clinics and can we have a list? I am referring to C.T Scan and MRI, not to dialysis and the list of clinics.

Mr Jhugroo: On page 565, item 22140001 *Medicine, Drugs and Vaccines*. There was a sum of Rs485 m. which was earmarked for this year 2013. Can the hon. Minister inform the House, out of this sum how much has been spent on purchase of vaccines? Can he inform the House who are the suppliers of these vaccines? Can we also know the amount of vaccines expired every year in hospitals?

The Chairperson: Let us take another question from hon. Dr. Sorefan and then the Minister may answer.

Dr. Sorefan: I will refer to same question regarding item 22140002 *C.T Scan and MRI Fees and Materials*. As the amount is increasing to Rs10 m., may we know from the hon. Minister – I take it that these fees go to the private enterprise – whether he is forecasting that these C.T. Scan and MRI machine equipment cannot be repaired - those who are already broken down - or he is forecasting that there will be more machines out of order?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, questions were raised by hon. Mrs Ribot with regard to C.T. Scan sent to clinics. The number of C.T. Scan sent from Jeetoo Hospital to City Clinic is 2,055; two for Fortis Darné; 75 from Flacq were sent to City Clinic; nine which was in relation to Victoria Hospital catchment area were sent to Fortis Darné, three to City Clinic and two to Apollo Bramwell.

With regard to the question raised by hon. Obeegadoo, the exams will be conducted twice yearly, in March and in October.

With regard to what other provisions for the coaching up of those students who are unsuccessful, I am sure the Medical Council will take care of that with the collaboration of all the students who have failed.

The Chairperson: Short questions, please!

Mr Uteem: Yes. On page 566, item 31 *Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets*. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any provision has been made in the Budget for the construction of a central incineration to incinerate all the waste from all hospitals?

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to the issue raised by hon. Uteem, I spoke extensively on this issue when I was delivering my speech on the Budget and I did explain that a provision of Rs4 m. was earmarked for this. I also explained that hon. Hossen came to see me. He accompanied me to the hospital and we agreed on the basic principle that it is no longer conducive and acceptable to have incineration in the hospital premises, be it Victoria Hospital, Flacq Hospital or Jeetoo Hospital. During my last visit in Reunion Island, we agreed that we have to set up a committee chaired by Mr Sobrah to see what is the best way to have one centralised incinerators which is environmentally-friendly.

With regard to the amount spent on vaccines immunoglobulin, for 2012 it was Rs22.2 m.; for 2013, it is Rs22.7 m. The estimated cost for 2014 is Rs30 m. With regard to the number of vaccines expired, unfortunately, I do not have the information at the moment.

I have replied on the following –

- Examinations;
- Dental Council;
- Medical Board;
- Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital, and
- C.T. Scan.

I have done so. Thank you.

The Chairperson: One last question, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: May I take the hon. Minister to page 565, item 22060 *maintenance*. There has been increase, of course. I have looked at the position titles. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether there is a dedicated team to maintain the machines for dialysis because my information is that this is one of the main problems of this section?

Mr Bundhoo: We do have a team for maintenance of dialysis. I must also admit that some machines are quite old and we have a plan for the renewal of the machines.

The Chairperson: Yes. Time is up!

Programme Code 582: Curative Services (Rs7,590,841,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 583: Primary Health Care and Public Health was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Under sub-programme 58302 - *Public Health Service*, I note under item 28211 – *Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*, where eight or nine organisations get help from the Ministry of Health. What are the criteria ...

Mr Bundhoo: Which page?

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 568. What are the criteria for non-profit organisations to be eligible for financial help from the Ministry of Health?

Mrs Ribot: On page 567, under item 31112005 *Construction of Community Health Centres*, can we have the number and the location of those Community Health Centres?

The Chairperson: Third question, hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On page 567, item 22140001 *Medicine, Drugs and Vaccines*, can the hon. Minister say what he is doing for a rational management of the stores so that medicines, drugs which are bought are used and do not reach their expiry dates? Mr Chairperson, can I have two other questions?

The Chairperson: Only one question! Three questions have already been put.

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to the one for NGO, there are normally criteria whereby we allocate assistance to NGOs. From time to time, we do listen or examine applications from whatever the NGOs are with regard to the health services and subject to availability of fund; we are always prepared and willing to support these NGOs.

I have already replied to the question asked by hon. Dr. S. Boolell.

With your permission, Mr Chairperson, can I ask hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee to repeat her question for me?

The Chairperson: Yes.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: I refer to item *22140001 Medicine, Drugs and Vaccines*. I asked the hon. Minister what he is doing so that there is a rational management of stores so that medicines and drugs which are bought are used and they do not reach their expiry dates.

Mr Bundhoo: I can assure the hon. Member. I did ask the question, myself. But, as much as I understand, the percentage of medication that has expired in our hospital does not exceed 1.5%, whereas the normal acceptable rate by the WHO in other countries is almost 3.5%. Nonetheless, medicines being medicines, medication being medication, we try our level best to have what we call the zero stock, but in medication, you cannot have such a policy. At the same time, it is our responsibility to minimise wastage as much as possible, including expiry dates.

Mrs Labelle: I am at page 568, under item *31112006 Construction of Mediclinics*. There is the Floreal Mediclinic on this list. May I ask the hon. Minister whether he has a scheduled completion date for this Mediclinic since there is only Rs4 m. budgeted for next year? It would not be completed next year. So, can I have the scheduled completion date for this Mediclinic at Floreal?

Mr Bundhoo: I can assure the hon. Member, despite what is written in the Budget allocations, that once the plan is approved by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and gone through the Project Plan Committee, necessary funds would be made available. This also applies for Stanley and, maybe, we might even consider a new one for the village of Bel Air.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Chairperson, on page 568, under item *28211 Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*, when I look at page 554, where it is said that there is a *rising incidence of NCDs due to*

ageing population, how can the hon. Minister explain that an NGO like the Alzheimer Association gets only a grant of Rs500,000, whereas other NGOs are getting large amounts of money?

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, I can assure the hon. Member that the Alzheimer Association - I still speak under the correction of hon. Mrs Bappoo - if I am not mistaken, some of the funds might be coming from hon. Mrs Bappoo.

(Interruptions)

But, as I have explained ...

(Interruptions)

It is okay. If she says no, it is not a big problem. I said: if I am not mistaken, I speak under the correction of hon. Mrs Bappoo, she is my elder, if she says no, it is no. I am very glad. I said that I am speaking under her correction.

(Interruptions)

As I have said to hon. Dr. S. Boolell earlier, these are allocations, but these allocations can always be reviewed subject to the availability of funds. I can assure hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee, only this morning or yesterday, hon. Mrs Bappoo, had an extensive consultation with experts who are here from India with regard to ageing population. I am sure that she would be in a better position to advise me next time for the Budget.

The Chairperson: Just one observation! Questions have to be factual and answers equally. Yes, hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: Mr Chairperson, I am just repeating my question concerning the construction of Community Health Centres since I did not get the reply. I am also asking, therefore, about the upgrading of the Community Health Centres, those that are being upgraded and those that are being built.

Mr Bundhoo: The list will be circulated.

Mrs Ribot: Thank you.

Programme Code 583: Primary Health Care and Public Health (Rs964,291,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Programme Code 584: Treatment and Prevention of HIV and AIDS was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: May I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to page 569, under item 22900925

...

The Chairperson: Which page?

Dr. S. Boolell: On page 569, under item 22900925 *Rehabilitation Programme for Alcoholics and Drug Addicts by NATReSA* and further down under item 26313051 *NATReSA*, where an amount of Rs22.5 m. is earmarked and it is going to be increased next year. I would like to know whether we have a National Drug Policy - because we are going to give the money - and whether NATReSA is equipped enough to deal with that money and organise the programmes.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On the same item 22900915, can I ask the hon. Minister whether for 2013, the amount of *Rs21,000,000* which was earmarked for *NATReSA* has effectively been transferred to *NATReSA* or is it still with his Ministry till now?

Mr Bundhoo: In fact, it is not with by Ministry, it was under RIE previously. It is no longer, for 2014, under RIE which is Finance, it is now being transferred and the new strategic document has gone through Cabinet, it has been made public.

Now, with regard to the National Drug Control Master Plan, we had the support of Dr. Yasmine Pithawalla, a Consultant who was here by the UNODC and is helping us to finalise the New Drug Master Plan for the coming years.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 569, item 22140 *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount budgeted for the acquisition of medical supply for the treatment of hepatitis C co-infection for HIV infected patients?

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Can I ask the hon. Minister to confirm what he just said, that it is now that the *Rs21,000,000* is being transferred to *NATReSA*, when we are reaching the end of the financial year?

Mr Chairperson: This is a statement, hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee!

Mrs Hanoomanjee: The hon. Minister just said that the money is being transferred now; I just want him to confirm.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, under Programme 584, at page 558, among the *Major Services* there is, *Rehabilitation of Substance Abusers*. May I ask the hon. Minister whether he is reviewing the way Methadone is being distributed under this programme?

Mr Chairperson: Wait a minute! We will take the two questions left, there is one from hon. Bodha.

Mr Bodha: On the methadone issue, may I ask the hon. Minister how many patients are under the methadone treatment and how many others are under this treatment in the prisons?

The Chairperson: We shall take another question from hon. Uteem.

Mr Uteem: Under item 26, *Grants*, answering to a PQ sometimes back, the hon. Minister mentioned that there were a number of vacancies not filled in NATReSA, can we have an update about how many positions have now been filled and how many are still unfilled?

Mr Bundhoo: With regard to the questions asked by hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee, let me say what I said earlier. Last year, it was Rs21,000,000. I said that it was under RIE for the coming year 2014; the sum of Rs21,000,000 is still and again being reallocated from the Ministry of Finance through my Ministry to NATReSA. The only difference is that now it is no longer under RIE. For the issues raised by hon Mrs Labelle; yes, we have set up a High Level Committee and recruited one Consultant, namely, Dr. Jhugroo, to review our whole system and mechanism for methadone distribution. And the issue for Hepatitis C by hon. Uteem, we are awaiting the WHO recommendation guidelines which will be issued in 2014 with regard to Hepatitis C.

With regard to the vacancies at NATReSA, the process is on for the recruitment and filling of the vacancies and we expect to fill vacancies in 2014 for Psychologist, Programme Officer, Assistant Programme Officer, Field Workers and others.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Chairperson, at page 569, Programme 584, I wanted to know from the hon. Minister the two most likely target groups for the spread of HIV Aids of prison inmates and prostitutes. I would like to know under this budget we are voting for next year, whether there are any dedicated staffs that will be given the task of addressing these two target groups or any dedicated programme which would allow for timely screening of inmates and prostitutes for remedial treatment to be provided.

Mr Bundhoo: This is already on both in the male and female prisons. Let me say that prison inmates obtain all facilities in terms of drugs; HIV tests investigations and methadone substitute therapy similar to the common citizens. The question, I think, he specifically asked, around 225 inmates out of about 522 HIV positive inmates are on Anti-Retroviral Therapy and HIV test is propose to all prison inmates at entry when they come in prison for the first time. As the hon. Member is aware, we cannot make it compulsory. The test is voluntary, but in principal all of them undertake same. The methadone

substitution therapy was introduced in December 2011 for male inmates of the Beau Bassin Prison. As at 20 November 2013, 220 inmates have already been induced on methadone within the prison. If I am not mistaken, I was the one who launched it.

Mr Obeegadoo: The hon. Minister mentioned entry, I think as important is exit. That such test takes place at the time these inmates exit the prisons. Whether you want to make it voluntary, but with persuasive influence as you do at the time of entry so everyone is screened. And also, I mentioned the second category of prostitutes and did not get an answer.

Mr Bundhoo: I do remember the hon. Member did raise this issue with me sometimes earlier during question time and I did transmit and make request for my Unit to liaise with the prisons and especially with the Commissioner to make sure that this is being done again on a voluntary basis. I have to be honest with the hon. Member, I must ensure whether this has been done or not, but I can always verify that.

Mr Uteem: On page 569, under item 22900 *Other Goods and Services* and item 22900915, *Multi sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS Programme*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any amount has been budgeted for the holding of meetings of the National Aids Committee, if that Committee still exists and when was the last time that this Committee met.

Mr Bundhoo: The National Aids Committee was met under my Chairmanship, in fact, three to four weeks ago and specially prior to the *colloque* of the CIO.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am once again looking at the *Major Services*, as stated under page 558, under programme 584. The first major service - *Further decentralisation of HIV and AIDS facilities, including Harm Reduction Strategies*, but when I go to page 583, under the funded positions, there is *Harm Reduction Coordinator*, but for this post, I see there is no intention to fill the post of Harm Reduction Coordinator even up to 2016. So can the hon. Minister enlighten us about how his Ministry will go by the Harm Reduction Strategies and also we are talking about ...

The Chairperson: No! One question is enough, other Members are waiting. One question!

Mr Bundhoo: I think I have just explained that we have just recruited the Consultant, Dr. Jhugroo, on a contract basis to assist us in exactly what you have just asked us to do.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, may I ask the hon. Minister, in relation to NATReSA functions and the aids to NATReSA, whether any studies are being done, to ascertain whether methadone can actually be replaced by an alternative?

Mr Bundhoo: I have replied to this question again in this House – I cannot remember the technical term – but we are still looking at it. We have sought the expertise from overseas countries and we are opened to it.

Mr Baloomoody: Just to follow-up on the question raised by my learned friend, hon. Uteem, with regard to the HIV/AIDS National Committee. I am sure you are aware, Mr Chairperson, that at the SADC Forum, we are supposed to have a National Aids Committee, which is a multi sectorial committee to be presided by the hon. Prime Minister. Can I know from the hon. Minister when was the last time that committee sat on under the chairmanship of the hon. Prime Minister, not under the Ministry of Health. It is not only a health issue, it a national issue and a multi-sectorial issue.

Mr Bundhoo: I can assure the hon. Member that all the stakeholders that would have sit on a National Aids Committee under the Prime Ministership was with me, at the Ministry of Health, with an agenda prescribed and informed to the Prime Minister’s Office. As to when was the last time it met under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister’s Office, I do not have the information with me.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: I am referring to page 583 of the Budget Speech where much emphasis has been put on diabetes. How can the hon. Minister explain that still there is no provision for any specialised nurse in the diabetes care?

Mr Bundhoo: In fact, I must say something with regard to some of the positions funded here. It would be re-arranged. The hon. Member is very much aware that when she was Minister herself - at the moment there are almost 60, if I am not mistaken – people undergo treatment with regard to specialised Diabetes Training at the MOH. This post will be re-arranged subsequently with the Ministry of Finance.

Mr Uteem: On same page 569, under item 22900 *Other Goods and Services*. May I know from the hon. Minister what amount has been budgeted for the Needle Exchange Programme and whether any survey has been carried out to see how effective the programme has been, so far?

Mr Bundhoo: The survey that has been carried out has shown that it has been successful so far and by virtue of the fact that the number of people, especially with people injecting drugs with needle, have gone down substantially. What is the sum allocated to that? I do not have it on me, it can be provided or I can circulate the information.

The Chairperson: No further questions!

Programme Code 584: Treatment and Prevention of HIV and AIDS (Rs99,333,000) was called and agreed to.

Programme Code 585: Promoting Quality of Life and Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was called.

Dr. S. Boolell: Mr Chairperson, I seek your indulgence, we are dealing with the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, under this item, which is promoting the quality of life. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the percentage of his Budget which is allocated to quality of life?

Mr Bundhoo: It is very simple; we have to put the figure on Rs8.8 m.

The Chairperson: Next question! Yes, hon. Obeegadoo!

Mr Obeegadoo: At page 570, I would like to consider item 22130007 *NCD related studies and surveys*. At page 553, the Major Achievements mentioned two very important items. Firstly, there is a Salt Reduction Strategy that has been elaborated for Mauritius and which assumed great importance concerning the new WHO recommended salt intakes standards and the fact that even in our bread in Mauritius, there is so much salt included. The second item is the National Nutrition Survey that has been undertaken. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister that now we have those, how he is proposing to use the funds that we are providing for 2014, first to disseminate, communicate and implement the Salt Reduction Strategy and, on the other hand, can he tell us when the National Nutrition Survey would be completed and what will it lead to in 2014?

Mr Bundhoo: In fact, with regard to the National Nutrition Survey, the next one is scheduled in March/May 2014.

With regard to the Salt-Intake Study, both have been made public for Mauritius and for Rodrigues. The strategic documentation has been presented to Cabinet and is presently under implementation. I am prepared to circulate a copy of both.

Dr. Sorefan: Mr Chairperson, I refer to Programme 585: Promoting Quality of Life and Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Disease. To my great surprise, under item 22900903 *Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign*, the sum has gone down by Rs5 m., whereas the NCD Related Studies and Surveys have gone up by Rs4 m. which is not compatible according to me. We have to spend more on the campaign ...

The Chairperson: Hon. Member, put your question! Whether to spend it or not, it is the hon. Minister's concern. What is your question? You have put it, let the hon. Minister answer.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, as I have explained earlier, these are estimated figures and provision for increase will be made as and when required by the Ministry.

Mr Roopun: I take the hon. Minister to page 570, under *Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign*. There has been a sum of Rs15 m. spent this year. Can I know out of this sum, how much has been spent on anti-alcohol campaign?

Mr Bundhoo: The anti-alcohol campaign is normally concentrated or carried upon by the NATReSA.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: On this programme code, promoting quality of life and prevention and control of NCDs, much emphasis is being laid on the control of NCDs. Can the hon. Minister explain as to why the total amount which has been earmarked for 2014 has decreased considerably, compared to the amount which was earmarked for 2013?

Mr Bundhoo: With due respect to the hon. Member, I just replied to the same question raised by hon. Dr. Sorefan. As I have said earlier, funds would be made available as and when required.

Mrs Labelle: Mr Chairperson, I am on page 562 and I am looking at the service standard (indicators) under SS2: Smoking Cessation Clinics. Will the hon. Minister inform us where are these Cessation Clinics found - because we always talk about these clinics - and whether there has been an evaluation of the rate of success for the number of people attending these clinics?

Mr Bundhoo: The closest to the hon. Member is at Victoria Hospital. I cannot tell you offhand what is the success, but I can surely communicate it to you. I can assure the hon. Member that the closest one is at the Victoria Hospital.

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, on page 570, under item 22120, may we have an indication of what the sum of Rs24 m. for fees has been used for in 2013?

The Chairperson: In the meantime let us have another question. Yes, hon. Mrs Navarre-Marie!

Mrs Navarre-Marie: Mr Chairperson, on page 570, item 22010 *Cost of Utilities*. Last year a sum of Rs30,000 was voted, and this year, the sum has a substantial increase, increasing to Rs630,000. May we have some details on that?

Mr Bundhoo: I will table the information. With regard to Fees for training, it is to do with Diabetes Management System, Diabetes Register, Food Services, National ...

(Interruptions)

No, I am getting it wrong. It is fees for training; fees for Consultant Health Literacy Programme which has been paid by the WHO.

Now, with regard to the fees for utilities, it is for electricity and water charges and wastewater charges.

Mr Obeegadoo: I want also to raise the issue of NCD related studies and surveys. Can I ask the hon. Minister - given the explosion of cancer friction in Mauritius - whether for next year, he has planned a survey of the evolving patterns of cancer as it affects Mauritius, since we know that this pattern varies across the world and may lead us to develop appropriate and preventive strategies, in terms, of lifestyle and nutrition?

Mr Bundhoo: In fact, this is one of the tasks of the National Cancer Agency. I have to say one thing to hon. Obeegadoo, this is precisely what my good friend, hon. Mrs Hanoomanjee, did when she went to Geneva when she was Minister. And subsequently, the expert did come to Mauritius a couple of weeks ago and he had a couple of workshops and the findings of this gentleman were quite widely disseminated. I am prepared to lay a copy on the Table of the National Assembly or give it to any hon. Members who have shown interest to that. The part of the assignment that the hon. Member has just asked me would be taken care by the National Cancer Agency.

Mr Jugnauth: Mr Chairperson, on page 570, under *Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign*, I presumed that the two priorities for the Ministry are anti-smoking and anti-alcohol. Now, at page 562, I see that the outcome indicators have been given with regard to the number of people attending clinics and so on.

But, on the other hand, may we know whether there has been a decrease in the number of people giving up smoking with regard to last year and to this year, and secondly, with regard to consumption of alcohol, whether there has been any similar decrease.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Chairperson, firstly, I have to correct the perception which hon. Jugnauth just made. The awareness and sensitisation campaign is more to do with the Ministry, NCD and everything else, whereas for cigarettes and alcohol, it is being done mostly by NATReSA. With regard to the decrease, as far as I can remember, it has been reduced from 2009 by almost 300 million sticks

(Interruptions)

The number of cigarette sticks has been reduced by almost 300 million over the last three years. It is per head and for alcohol it has been reduced from 4.0% to 3.8% and cigarettes by 300 million sticks. We have

been commended for our advertisement on cigarettes and our model of advertisement has been used by several countries. We have also won the second best price for Africa on this part of the world for our advertising campaign with regard to cigarettes.

Programme Code 585: Promoting Quality of Life and Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (Rs89,614,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(Interruptions)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Dr. A.

Boolell): Mr Chairperson, I beg to move that we do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Question put and agreed to.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister of Health, I see that you are in good health.

(Interruptions)

Everybody is in good health, they are all laughing.

On the Assembly resuming with Mr Speaker in the Chair, Mr Speaker reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Dr. A.

Boolell): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Tuesday 03 December 2013 at 11.30 a.m.

Mrs Bappoo rose and seconded.

Mr Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

At 1.38 a.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 03 December 2013 at 11.30 a.m.