



SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

(UNREVISED)

FIRST SESSION

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019

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MAURITIUS

Sixth National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

Debate No. 19 of 2019

Sitting of 26 June 2019

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis at 10.30 a.m.

The National Anthem was played

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

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

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

Mr Sinatambou rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

PUBLIC BILL**THE APPROPRIATION (2019-2020) BILL 2019**

(NO. X OF 2019)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

Consideration of the Appropriation (2019-2020) Bill 2019 (No. X of 2019) was resumed.

(10.33 a.m.)

Vote 17-1 – Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives was called.

The Chairperson: We have got six pages and a total time of 15 minutes. Page 302, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22030 – *Rent*, it appears that this figure of Rs7.9 m. which is increased to Rs8.1 m. is quite high, 3% of recurrent. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any alternative he has considered for reducing this?

Mr Bholah: For the time being, Madam Chairperson, there is no possibility because we have maintained the same buildings and offices as it used to be last year.

Mr Uteem: Under item 22900.14 – *Hospitality and Ceremonies*, may we have a breakdown of what is being catered for in the coming years?

Mr Bholah: For Hospitality and Ceremonies, we have funds provided to meet SME Excellence Award Rs1.5 m. and then we have for hosting of workshops Rs275,000.

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item .005 – *Extra Assistance*, can we have some details? I can see the budget has been reduced, may we know why?

Mr Bholah: In fact, there was one senior Advisor who has resigned and the new recruit is working on a lower salary.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No question from a sitting position, please!

Mr Bholah: I will circulate.

The Chairperson: Page 303, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.015 – *SME Registration Unit, Registrar*, this is a new post. May I know the incumbent? There is no provision for it while I see that there is a considerable increase in allowances, will these allowances be used to pay the incumbent?

Mr Bholah: I see two different questions. The scheme of service for the Registrar is being finalised. That is why there is no provision for the time being.

(Interruptions)

No, there is a Manager for the time being, an ex-employee of SMEDA.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Page 303, item 21110, I see that there is a number of people under the SME Registration Unit which is referred to as ex-SMEDA. Can I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any new position to be filled by ex-SMEDA people in the coming year?

Mr Bholah: In fact, the Senior Extension Officer and the Extension Officer, both have retired now and we will not fill these posts.

The Chairperson: Page 304, hon. Jhuboo!

Mr Jhuboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.147 – *Implementation of the SME Master Plan*, can we have some information on this provision, please?

Mr Bholah: The hon. Member means for the year 2019 -2020. I have a long list; I can circulate that, the different schemes that we will run for the next year.

Mr Rughoobur: Under the same item 26313.147 – *Implementation of the SME Master Plan*, there was an amount of Rs30 m. that was earmarked for 2018 -2019. May I know what is the amount that has been utilised out of these Rs30 m.?

Mr Bholah: In fact, an amount of Rs22.5 has already been committed out of which disbursement to the tune of Rs5.1 has been made and the difference will be made after June this year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26313.147 – *SME Mauritius Ltd*, the operating budget last year was Rs60 m. and we are now budgeting Rs45 m. May I know from the Rs60 m. how much was spent and why are we reducing the budget now to Rs45 m.?

Mr Bholah: In fact, the start-up funds initially granted to SME Mauritius are still accruing to this account because the full amount has not been utilised and it will be carried forward, and I will provide the amount actually spent.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the same item, may we have the composition of the Board of Directors of SME Mauritius Ltd. as well as the Director and the salary drawn by the Director?

Mr Bholah: You mean the Director or the CEO?

(Interruptions)

Well, for the Board of Directors, I can circulate. For the terms and conditions, you mean of the CEO, this also I will circulate.

The Chairperson: Page 305, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the last item 26313.061 - *National Cooperative College (NCC)*, may I know from the hon. Minister if this National Cooperative College is now fully operational and, if so, how many students have been enrolled on that college?

Mr Bholah: In fact, the college is fully operational and I am pleased to inform that the college will now issue diploma courses as well from next year. Well, how many students, I don't have for the time being, but I can find and provide the answer later.

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21210 - *Social Contributions*, I can see the amount has been increased this year. May we know why and what has been spent out of the budget of last year?

Mr Bholah: Which item, please?

Mr Armance: 21210.

Mr Bholah: *Social Contributions*, yes. Provision for payment of contributions to the National Savings Fund for all employees at the rate of 2.5% monthly salary. Increase caters for yearly increment related to basic salary and for additional staff.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 26313.061 - *National Cooperative College (NCC)*, may we know who is heading up that initiative, since when it has been up and running, and what is the target for this year?

Mr Bholah: Many questions in a simple question. Well, the Director is Mr Seechurn. He was previously the Director of NICE which has now been converted into a college. NICE was National Institute for Cooperative Entrepreneurship, it is being run as from last year. What is the target, I can just circulate after, that is objectives of the college.

The Chairperson: I will remind hon. Members that they have to ask one question at a time. Page 306, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. 31112.430 - *Renovation/Upgrading of Maison des Pêcheurs*, may I know from the hon. Minister this relates to *Maison des Pêcheurs* at Cap Malheureux, and whether there is any particular person or company that has been chosen for the running of this *Maison des Pêcheurs*?

The Chairperson: No, you can't ask question particularly on Cap Malheureux. You can ask questions globally.

Mr Bholah: Well, in fact, there are two questions. It does not relate to Cap Malheureux. It relates to Tamarin. And secondly, it rests with my Ministry.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.442 - *Upgrading of Building (NCC) – (b) Cooperative Seafood Proceeding Unit*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether tender has been launched for the completion, at which stage are we?

Mr Bholah: No, tender has not yet been launched. When the Budget is voted, then we will launch the tender and we will go through the appropriate procedures for that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28225.013 - *Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme*, no amount has been budgeted. May we know whether the project has been set away?

Mr Bholah: No, in fact, we have encouraged cooperative societies to register as SMEs now and the application will be challenged through SME Mauritius.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jahangeer!

Mr Jahangeer: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It has already been answered.

The Chairperson: Okay! Hon. Lepoigneur!

Mr Lepoigneur: It has already been answered.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just one clarification with regard to 28225.016 - *Ornamental Fish Farm Scheme*, we see that there is Rs500,000 for this year and then, no budget provision. May we have details of the scheme and for the provision?

Mr Bholah: In fact, this is a budgetary measure announced by the hon. Prime Minister in his Budget Speech. We have been training people to undertake business in ornamental fishing and 20 cooperative societies will be earmarked and each of them will receive Rs25,000 as a grant in order to launch this business.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.442 - *Upgrading of Building - (a) (NCC)*, last year we have voted Rs1.5 m. May we know for where matter stands with regard to that NCC?

Mr Bholah: Well, this is completed for the Cooperative College. The Cooperative College had to be renovated. The total amount spent is Rs19.1 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28225.013 - *Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme*, can the hon. Minister enlighten the House about the beneficiaries of the scheme?

Mr Bholah: Well, these are different cooperative societies which will apply under this scheme.

Vote 17-1 Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Rs244,600,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(10.47 a.m.)

Vote 18-1 Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment was called.

The Chairperson: We have got a total of 3 pages for 20 minutes. Page 307, hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to the item 21110 - (1) *Permanent Secretary*, will the hon. Minister ask the Permanent Secretary, the Finance Officer, why is it that there is an under spending of \Rs80 m. for last year, on which project have we not spent that money?

The Chairperson: No, that vote item is for the Permanent Secretary. We cannot ask the Permanent Secretary why he or she did not take action on such and such...

(Interruptions)

Right! No, I am really sorry! Page 308, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 – *Fees*, I can see that the fees have been increased this year. May we know why and what fees have been paid last year out of the amount of Rs1.975 m.?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: There is an increase of Rs300,000 for fees on UNDP Consultant. The provision of Rs2,275 m. for the following –

- fees for Chairpersons and members of Boards;
- fees for Committees, namely: Department Bids Committee, Bid Evaluation, Committee and *Ad Hoc* Committee: Rs200,000;
- fees for training of staff and Ministries: Rs75,000, and
- For an amount of Rs2 m. to meet costs for (a) the posting of UN Officer by the Ministry of UNDP for a period of one year which is Rs1 m., and

- Costs of salaries of experts to be recruited for capacity building of officers.
- For case management and compliance of social contract, it is Rs1 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, can the hon. Minister elaborate on this, please?

The Chairperson: *Studies and Surveys*.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The Ministry is proposing to commission a study on poverty related matters in collaboration with local universities, research institutions. The aim of the studies is to explore the willingness among the SRM beneficiaries to move out of absolute poverty and the challenges they might face for the sustainable development. The SRM household is presently supported through a variety of empowerment programmes for the welfare of the family and its members. The study will analyse as to whether the households will be able to sustain their living without any empowerment support.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lepoigneur!

Mr Lepoigneur: Can the Minister gives us the details 21110.005-*Extra Assistance* please. Can he table it please?

The Chairperson: Item 21110.005-*Extra Assistance*.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provision is made for the payment of salaries to one advisor on information matters and two advisors to the hon. Minister and the sum is Rs1,400,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to 22060-*Maintenance*, we see that last year there was an additional million spent, may we know on what and who was the service provider?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Rs900,000 is for maintenance of building due to completion of renovation works and the decrease is Rs100,000 for IT equipment following partial completion of enhancement social integration management information system. Provision of Rs1,340 m. is for year 2019/20 and there are different items, if the hon. Member wants I can circulate.

The Chairperson: You can circulate.

Mr A. Duval: This is not the question. The question is on what have we spent it exactly and who was the service provider?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The building where we are is in Air Mauritius building and the service provider is MEDCOR. Thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Regarding item 22130- *Studies and Surveys*, I see there is a recurrent sum of Rs500,000 each and every year. May we know for last year which studies and surveys were done by the Ministry and how much was spent.

The Chairperson: You have just replied to this question?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The provision is to update the SRM map and to conduct and commission studies and surveys on poverty related issues, and the sum that we have disbursed for which I don't have the information with me, but I can table it or circulate. Thank you.

The Chairperson: Page 309. Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.135 (a)-*Social Housing for Vulnerable Groups (i) Construction of Social Housing Units*, can we know for last year Rs80 m. was budgeted. How much of these Rs80 m. has been spent, and can we know how many houses have been constructed and delivered?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: As at date, for the National Empowerment Foundation, we have the construction of 40 housing units of 50 square metres across the island and we spent Rs40 m., and payment of Rs40 m. effected to NHDC for the provision of 69, that is, in a breakdown of 33 and 36 housing units to be allocated to those who don't have land - SRM beneficiaries.

(Interruptions)

Up to now, I don't have the exact number but I have the total to what will be delivered, but as soon as I get the information, I will circulate it.

(Interruptions)

The hon. Member can wait. Thank you. 34 houses have been...

(Interruptions)

and from a sitting position, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: You don't have to draw my attention, hon. Minister, I know what I have to do. Hon. Leopold!

Mr Leopold: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 309, item 26313.135 (d) *Other Programmes*, just want to ask the hon. Minister why there is such a substantive decrease for the coming financial year?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The reasons for the decrease of an amount of Rs5.8 m. are as follows –

- (i) the SRM project mobile technology has been completed, the project cost Rs3 m. and funds of Rs1 m. provided in financial year 2018/19 have been reduced to Rs200,000 in financial year 2019/20 to meet operation costs and these are costs for SMS messages to be sent to SRM beneficiaries, and
- (ii) there is a provision under the special scheme Start Kit for Unemployed has decreased from Rs15 m. to Rs10 m. for financial year 2019/20. In addition, three courses have also been organised by the Ministry of Agro Industry, National Cooperative College for the SRM beneficiaries.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: The item 26313.135 (a)-*Operating costs*, Rs132 m. for the National Empowerment Foundation. May we have a breakdown of the operation costs?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: There is a provision of funds to meet operation costs, corporative services/NEF Rs120 m. and corporative services for Rodrigues is Rs15 m. - it's a long list.

The Chairperson: You can circulate the list please. Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.135(a)(ii) *National Empowerment Foundation - Upgrading of Existing Houses*, there was a budget of Rs10 m. last year and this year it has been decrease by 50%, Rs5 m. only have been budgeted. Can we know the list of last year projects, the regions where houses have been upgraded?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Again it's a list all around the island. It's a long list, I can circulate it.

The Chairperson: You circulate it, hon. Minister. Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to the same item , item 26323.135(a)(ii) *Upgrading of Existing Houses*. Why is it that there is a cut in the spending by half of the budget for the three coming years?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: SRM has signed a contract for two years and we have extended it for another two years and then it would be vanishing because with the Government we have goal to that. There will be no SRM because we are going to empower the people, so we won't need funds anymore.

Mr A. Duval: Madam Chairperson, this is not SRM, it's about the construction of houses under the item. It's about upgrading of the existing houses. We didn't ask about the Social Register of Mauritius.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The decrease from Rs10 m. to Rs5 m. under this item is due to the fact that the beneficiaries will be directed to apply for housing support under the roof slab grant scheme and building material grant scheme available at the Ministry of Housing for the year 2019/20; 19 houses have been upgraded.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jahangeer!

Mr Jahangeer: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 27210.014 (b) *Educational Support*. May we know why the child allowance is in the decrease trend?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: For financial year 2018/19, an amount of Rs104,047,107 have been paid as child allowance. There has been a decrease of Rs15 m. from Rs135 m. to Rs120 m. for financial year 2019/20 based on actual expenditure trend and, of course, we do budget higher. It depends on the number of children that attend school that we paid it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lepoigneur!

Mr Lepoigneur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same Item 26323.135(a)(i) - *National Empowerment Foundation - Social Housing for Vulnerable Groups - Construction of Social Housing Units*, the hon. Minister just announced, for construction of social housing, that 34 houses have been built. Can he table the list of the beneficiaries, please?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I will table it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jhuboo!

Mr Jhuboo: Where hon. Lepoigneur left, Madam Chairperson, concerning the provision for Rs200 m. for the next three years.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please no comments from a sitting position!

Mr Jhuboo: Can I know from the hon. Minister the number of houses that will be constructed in Constituency No. 14, please?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I just answered a question like this.

The Chairperson: You did not get the question. Can you repeat the question, hon. Jhuboo?

Mr Jhuboo: Where hon. Lepoigneur left, concerning the construction of social housing units, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of houses that will be constructed in Constituency No. 14, please?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I do not have the exact figures that will be constructed in Constituency No. 14 because we go by district. We can calculate it and give the hon. Member.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 27210.014(b) (ii)- *Poverty and Empowerment (Marshall Plan Against Poverty) – Educational Support of which child allowance*, I can see that the budget is being reduced each and every year. May we know why? And out of the budget of Rs135 m. for last year, what amount has been disbursed?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Madam Chairperson, I just answered that question.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you. I asked a question about the operating cost which is Rs132 m. and I asked for communication. I found that I have been communicated with only operating costs for Mauritius, Rs25.5 m. and operating costs for Rodrigues, Rs3.9 m., a total of Rs29.4 m. My question is why are we budgeting Rs132 m.? May we have details of that Rs132 m. not only Rs29.4 m.?

The Chairperson: Can you reply, hon. Minister?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I do not have the answer with me here, but I can give the hon. Member.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Under Item 26323.135(a)(i) - *National Empowerment Foundation - Social Housing for Vulnerable Groups - Construction of Social Housing Units*, the hon. Minister has said that he would circulate the list of 34 houses and there were 34 houses completed. Yet, from the list that he has circulated, there are 23 houses. May we know if it is 23 houses that he has constructed or he has not given us the complete list? It is either one or the other.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I believe there must be a few houses missing on the list then.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please wait hon. Minister! I just want to say that if on the list that has been submitted by the hon. Minister there are names, I would not accept that list. There are names of beneficiaries?

(Interruptions)

No names! Okay!

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Even if they want the names, we can circulate.

The Chairperson: No, hon. Minister! I have given a ruling. I have said that if there are names on the list, I will not accept that the list be tabled. Did you have a reply to give, hon. Minister?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I do not have the names.

Mr A. Duval: Under the Item 28212.019 - *Transfers to Households - DCP for Socio Economic Empowerment*, Rs15 m. was budgeted last year. Out of this Rs15m. can we know how much was spent and how many families were parented under the programme and why is it that the programme will have no more funding in the future?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: There is a decrease from Rs15.1m. to Rs12m. as DCP programme will phase out in October 2019. The decrease is in respect of provision of salaries for the staff attached for the programme and the provision made is payment of 20% of remaining balance of rent of DCP projects. This amount is funded by the European Union, Rs10 m.

Secondly, the staff cost of the programme include salaries, allowances, gratuity, passage benefits and cash in lieu of leave. Officers are employed on a contractual basis. This represents Government of Mauritius contribution according to financing agreement of Rs3 m. Under phase 3 of the DCP, grants have been awarded to 20 projects in Mauritius for a total amount of Rs46,075,351.53 and for 11 projects in Rodrigues for a total amount of Rs21,081,744. The total amount awarded to NGOs is Rs67,157,095. Salaries paid to staff employed on contractual basis under the DCP are as follows. There is one Programme Coordinator which draws Rs1m. I can circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah, last question on this page.

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 27210.014(b) (iii) - *Poverty and Empowerment (Marshall Plan Against Poverty) – Educational Support of which School Materials*. There is an increase of Rs25 m. for financial year 2019/2020. Can the hon. Minister enlighten the House about the increase?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The increase of Rs25 m. is to meet the cost of one additional set of uniform and one additional pair of shoes to some 19, 000 students. Presently the students are provided with 2 sets of uniform, 1 pair of shoes and 1 pair of stationaries. In view of climate change, flash floods, it is proposed to provide students with an additional pair of uniform and 1 additional pair of shoes because we have realised that there are lots of absences because the parents were making representation that they do not have uniform, it is wet. So as a caring Government, we have provided extra allowances for this and thanks to the Prime Minister.

Vote 18-1 Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment (Rs761, 000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(11.08 a.m.)

Vote 19-1 Ocean Economy, Marine Resources and Shipping was called.

The Chairperson: We have got a total of six pages for 20 minutes. Page 312, hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, there is an amount of Rs5.8 m. budgeted for last year. Can we know what this item is about?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, the difference is due to the fact that salaries and allowances proposed were reviewed. Provision made for payment of salaries and allowances, that is, bonus, travelling, passage, and so on.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please do not interrupt him!

Mr Koonjoo: You understand it then.

The Chairperson: Hon. Thierry Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we have the details of what this money is budgeted for, to whom it is paid?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, I will circulate the answer.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same page, item 21110 (39) - *Head, Ocean Economy Unit*, can I ask the hon. Minister why is there not a provision for the next four year for one Head of Ocean Economy Unit?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Mind your language!

(Interruptions)

Don't make comments, please!

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, it's a long reply, I'll circulate it.

The Chairperson: Okay! Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: No question. It was been answered.

The Chairperson: Okay! Page 313, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes Madam Chairperson, thank you. Concerning item 22030 – *Rent*, which building the rent means for and the name of the owner?

The Chairperson: 22030 – *Rent*.

Mr Koonjoo: Provisions are made for the payment of rent for ground and for floor at the LIC Building.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes, thank you. Item 22900.970 - *Management of Coastal Zones (UNDP/GEF Funded)*, Rs46 m. for this year, quite a substantial amount of money voted for the next few years as well. Can I ask the hon. Minister what has been the outcome last year and what is the plan going forward?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, project funded by the UNDP/GEF from grant of Rs165 m. to be spent in five years from 2015 to 2021. The provisions of the Rs46 m. for 2019 to 2020 are as follows –

- payment to international consultants;
- purchase of equipment for enforcement and monitoring of the marine protected area, and last
- acquisition of IT equipment, amongst others.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.040 - *Mauritius Oceanography Institute*, last year, we budgeted Rs61,500,000. May we know out of the Rs61.5 m., how many have been spent? And can we have a detail breakdown?

Mr Koonjoo: Rs55 m. The provisions for the MOI, recruitment expenses Rs43 m., of out which Rs1 m. is for coral farming. Last year, MOI received Rs43 m., out of which Rs3 m. was for coral farming. Additional Rs2 m. for recruitment of expenditure is due to cost related to maintenance of MOI building and for payment of increment to staff.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same item 26313.040 but with respect to the *Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)/Africa Support Programme (AU Funded)*, can we have an outcome of the programme and what coastal States of the continent are participating in the programme?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, an initial budget of Rs18.5 m. was earmarked by the African Union Commission for the project for the year 2017-2018. However, after readjustment of the fund by the African Union Commission, the contract was signed with the MOI in October 2018 for a total amount of *Euro* 1.2 m. instead of 1.4 billion. The first instalment out of these three, that is, about 418,943 has been received in June 2019. As regards the others, it's a long answer. Chairperson, I'll circulate it.

The Chairperson: You can circulate it.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, hon. Dr. Boolell, please. Resume...

(Interruptions)

One part of the question has not been replied, but you are circulating, it is fair. Okay! Hon. Thierry Henry!

Mr Henry: Already replied, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120.008 - *of which .008 Fees to Consultants (EU Funded)*, there was Rs3.2 m. for last year's budget. May we know how this amount has been spent and why is it that there is Rs5.6 m. budgeted this year? It is a huge increase.

Mr Koonjoo: Fees include one - this is shorter - the increase is due to the revised term of reference with respect to the consultancy services. Here you are, *C'est tout*.

The Chairperson: Page 314, hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: No question, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110 (7) - *Registrar of Ships (New)*, it's a new position. I think under him a lot of officers are supposed to work as well, Shipping Officers, Naval Architects, Trainee Certification Officer. Why is it that nothing is going to happen this year and for the next three years as well because no provision has been made for these - I believe important positions?

The Chairperson: Yes, we can see no provision have been made.

Mr Koonjoo: Which item?

The Chairperson: Item 21110 (7) - *Registrar of Ships (New)*. No provision has been made.

Mr Koonjoo: Scheme of service is under process, not yet ready.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: No question, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: No question! Page 315, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22090.007 - *Maritime Communications Services*, can the hon. Minister elaborate and the successful tenderers, please?

Mr Koonjoo: Difference is due to increase in contract price in the new agreement. Provisions made for the payment of services to be provided by Mauritius Telecom in connection with the Global Maritime Distress Safety System, that is, GMDSS Services.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28213.010 - *Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd - (Chartering of M/V Black Rhino)*. May we know why it is that we are paying an aggregate of Rs225 m. in three years to charter the M/V Black Rhino? What is, therefore, the total amount spent since the M/V Black Rhino has been first chartered to date?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No comments, please!

(Interruptions)

Please, no provocation and no comments.

Mr Koonjoo: It will be circulated.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 315, under *Item 31122.999(b) - Ship Biofouling (Hull Cleaning)*, for which capital expenditure has been and will be Rs27 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister why is it that we are spending so much money on a vessel that we are apparently chartering, that is, a Black Rhino - for which he said he knows it well?

Mr Koonjoo: In view of the translating of the IMOs guidelines to a realistic approach to minimise the risk of invasive aquatic species through ships befouling, the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping has signed an agreement in September 2016 with the Mauritius Oceanography Institute, that is, MOI, for the implementation of ships bio-fouling project.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Regarding item 22900.977 - *Expenses icw Search and Rescue (SAR) Operations*, where Rs800,000 has been earmarked last year and this year also. From that sum, may we know how many rescues have been performed and how many were successful and how many were unsuccessful, please?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, I will circulate the answer.

The Chairperson: One last question on this page! Hon Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 25210.002 - Ferry Boat Operators*. Can the hon. Minister provide to the House the place where the facilities are available and the name of the operator, please?

Mr Koonjoo: It is in Grand River South East. A ferry boat service is provided at Grand River South East. The contract of one year for the provision of ferry boat services across Grand River South East was awarded to Mr Manohar Ramdutt on 25 April 2018 for a monthly contract price of Rs38,700. The contract has been renewed for a further period of one year as from 01 May 2018 to 30 April 2020 on the same conditions.

The Chairperson: Page 316! Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 21110.005 -Extra Assistance*, can we have some details regarding same?

Mr Koonjoo: The increase is due to the full provision made for payment of salary, special allowances and the end of year bonus. We have four different bodies, for example, the NMTA, the Head of the Engineering Department, trainees and also for lecturers.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Now let me come to that extra assistance. We all know that the extra assistance is for advisers. There is an item for allowance and each time this Minister has tried to evade the question by replying to allowance instead of extra assistance. Can he please tell us who are benefitting from this Rs6 m. and Rs7 m. next year? There are advisers. We all know that extra assistance is for advisers. Come clean!

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, provision for extra assistance is for the following –

(1) Payment of salary of Rs62,950 monthly to the Senior Adviser of Shipping matters.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No comments from a sitting position, please!

Mr Baloomoody: Can we have the name of the adviser.

Mr Koonjoo: I am telling you the name.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: You should allow the Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

Please, calm down hon. Baloomoody! Hon. Hurreeram!

Mr Koonjoo: I will circulate the answer.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Order, please! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: The same page item 21110.001(8) - *Trainee Petty Officer (New)*. It is a new position, I know what is petty, I know what is officer but petty officer, I have never heard of. Can you, please, enlighten the House about what is a Petty Officer?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, the Petty Officer is a pettish officer.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22120 – Fees*, 1.3 m., may we know for what are these fees, please?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No?

Vote 19-1: Ocean Economy, Marine Resources and Shipping (Rs360,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(11.29 a.m.)

Vote 19-2 Fisheries was called.

The Chairperson: We have 15 minutes for 5 pages. Page 317! Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: With regard to *Item 21110.001(9) - Senior Fisheries Protection Officer*, may we know when he will...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody! Let me draw your attention to the fact that work should be done in an orderly way. You cannot from a sitting position interrupt hon. Members or the hon. Minister.

Mr Baloomoody: The Minister just gave the document for the adviser, but the civil servants took back the document and they are not circulating and I want to know why.

The Chairperson: But then, hon. Baloomoody, you stand up and you have a point of order. Not from a sitting position, then you try to obstruct the work of the House.

Mr Baloomoody: On a point of order, can I be communicated the document with regard to the adviser to the Minister?

(Interruptions)

Mr A. Duval: Madam Chairperson, under *Item 21110 (9) – Senior Fisheries Protection Officer...*

The Chairperson: Can I interrupt the hon. Member, because I can hear a mobile phone ringing.

(Interruptions)

Please! I would ask everybody to switch off their phones.

Mr A. Duval: Madam Chairperson, with regard to the Senior Fisheries Protection Officer, we know there are three posts to be filled this year. May we know when the hon. Minister plans on filling them, please?

Mr Koonjoo: As soon as possible.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under *Item 21110(4) Scientific Officer/Senior Scientific Officer Fisheries*). Out of these 28 posts funded, may we know whether all have been filled?

Mr Koonjoo: Provision under this item is for payment of salary to 23 officers and for payment of 8 months' salary for 5 vacancies pending recruitment.

The Chairperson: Page 318! Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under *Item .005 – Extra Assistance*, where there is a huge increase again. May we have some details with regard to names and fringe benefits, please?

Mr Koonjoo: I will circulate the information.

Mr Armance: Can the hon. Minister give us the reason why the budget has increased?

Mr Koonjoo: The increase in provision is for the payment of salary of one new Senior Adviser in Fisheries Development and for contractual officers as follows: Second-Hand Fishing (Limited); 2 posts of Fishing Boat Inspector (Engineering) and Fishing Boat Inspector (Nautical) respectively, and one post of Skipper.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: With regard to *Item (10) – Fisheries Protection Officer*, where there are 138 officers. May we know the number of contraventions taken for by these officers for the whole of last year?

The Chairperson: You are asking about the number of contraventions taken for last year, but the item here relates to the post of Fisheries Protection Officer. So, I don't think the hon. Minister should reply to this.

Page 319! Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22120.007 – Fees for Training*. An amount of Rs3 m. was funded by the EU. May I know from the hon. Minister, out of this Rs3 m. how much has been utilised during the outgoing financial year?

Mr Koonjoo: Only part of the sum has been used for training, that is, Rs,1000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22120.024 – Fees icw Capacity Building Programme* of which Sea Cucumber Project is funded by Australia. If the hon. Minister can apprise us with respect to capacity building, because we have been told that one MP with a beautiful cheek has had the cheek to apply for this sea farming cucumber?

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell, I won't allow you. Withdraw what you said and please resume your seat! I don't think this is acceptable.

Dr. Boolell: Madam Chairperson, I have not mentioned the name of anybody, I have simply said...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, no! Hon. Dr. Boolell, please! You should understand, hon. Dr. Boolell, you said an MP. I won't accept this! Please, withdraw!

Dr. Boolell: Madam Chairperson, what is wrong with somebody with a beautiful cheek...

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell, please!

Dr. Boolell: ...to apply for a....

The Chairperson: Please, resume your seat, hon. Dr. Boolell, otherwise I would be on my feet! Please, resume your seat! I have said that this is unacceptable. It is unethical. Please, withdraw what you said!

Dr. Boolell: Madam Chairperson, since you are so nice to me and you have asked me to withdraw, I withdraw.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Okay! At least, I can be of some use.

Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22900.903 – Awareness Campaign (Conservation and Protection of Marine Environment and Biodiversity)*. I would like to know from the Minister who benefitted from this campaign?

Mr Koonjoo: It is provision for the payment of printing of pamphlets and posters for sensitisation campaign.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 319, under *Item 28212.016 – Compensation to heirs of Fishermen icw Accidental Death at Sea*. May we know, out of the meagre sum of Rs400,000, how much have been paid and what is the quantum given to each family following accidental death at sea?

Mr Koonjoo: You like me too much! So many questions!

(Interruptions)

An amount of Rs200,000 is paid ...

(Interruptions)

Can you repeat that for me?

The Chairperson: No comments from a sitting position!

(Interruptions)

Mr Koonjoo: Can you repeat that for me?

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, please! Address the Chair!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister! I am addressing myself to you, hon. Minister!

Mr Koonjoo: I am sorry.

The Chairperson: We are waiting for the reply to come from the officers. Hon. Minister, please, don't engage in any conversation with the hon. Members on this side of the House.

I am warning hon. Members on this side of the House as well not to interrupt the hon. Minister.

Mr Baloomoody: Madam Chairperson, on a point of order, I have not received an answer. We are talking about a serious issue, about seamen who have accidental death at sea. I want to know how much they are being compensated. This is a serious issue.

The Chairperson: We have got the question, hon. Baloomoody. He has not replied yet. You don't have the information?

(Interruptions)

Please! Hon. Baloomoody!

(Interruptions)

Mr Koonjoo: What happened?

The Chairperson: No, hon. Minister! Address yourself to the Chair. You don't have to see what is happening on this side. I will take care of that.

(Interruptions)

If you don't have the reply, you can still circulate it. Do you have the reply?

Mr Koonjoo: I was giving the reply. Two persons are asking the same question.

The Chairperson: Give the reply?

Mr Koonjoo: The answer is that no payment has been made so far.

The Chairperson: Okay. That's it! Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under item 26313.018 - *Fishermen Welfare Fund*, can we know the composition of the fund, the composition, the Chairman and the members.

Mr Koonjoo: It is a long list, Madam Chairperson. I will circulate the answer.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.030 *Safety and Security Equipment for Fishers*, there is only a sum of Rs1 m. for the safety and security equipment...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Wait! Please resume your seat! Yes, from a sitting position, I believe you are addressing yourself to the Chair, hon. Quirin.

Mr Quirin: I have been waiting for so long. That's the second question from hon. Adrien Duval.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin, it is not up to you to tell me what I have to do. You are usurping the prerogatives of the Chair and I will not allow you to do that. I am giving you a first warning.

Mr A. Duval: This is not the first question on this page. Let it be clear!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: It is not up to hon. Members to decide to whom I give the floor.

(Interruptions)

Please! If you....

(Interruptions)

What did you say?

(Interruptions)

What did you say? If you continue, you will be ordered out. Do you want to be ordered out?

(Interruptions)

Right! Okay. Last warning to you!

Mr A. Duval: *Safety and Security Equipment for Fishers*, there is only a meagre sum of Rs1 m. May we know what has been distributed in terms of safety and security equipment last year and to how many fishers?

Mr Koonjoo: It is provision for the life jackets for the fishermen and almost all of the fishermen have received their life jackets.

Mr A. Duval: How many?

Mr Koonjoo: 1,924.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 22120.024 - *Sea Cucumber Project (Funded by Australia)*, may we know whether the survey has started or it will be started and the name of the consultant, please?

Mr Koonjoo: It is a bit lengthy, but I'll spell it out.

The Chairperson: If it is lengthy, you can circulate it. Circulate it right now. Table it!

Mr Koonjoo: I'll circulate that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Thierry Henry! Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.030 - *Safety and Security Equipment for Fishers*, can we have some details regarding this item, including the name of the supplier, please?

Mr Koonjoo: I will circulate the answer, for the supplier.

The Chairperson: Page 320. Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.410 *Upgrading of Fisheries Posts*, I would like to ask the Minister how many fisheries posts have been upgraded and where?

Mr Koonjoo: Waterproofing works at Riambel; Baie du Cap and Bambous Virieux Fisheries Posts. Second, burglar-proofing at Trou aux Biches Fisheries Post.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jahangeer!

Mr Jahangeer: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, already answered.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.032 - *Construction of Marine Park Centre - Blue Bay*, can we know if the construction works have already started, if so, can we have the name of the contractor?

Mr Koonjoo: The Construction Access Path Building Plan Committee approved the project on 21 May 2019. Access pathway required for safe and secure access to the offices of the Blue Bay Marine Park, especially during field work. I will circulate the rest.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: On page 320, Madam Chairperson, with respect to item number 28225.008 (a) *Purchase of Canotte* and (b) *Purchase of Semi-Industrial Fishing Boat*, would the Minister be kind enough to apprise us as to the number of fishermen who have regrouped and expressed interest to acquire semi-industrial fishing boats?

Mr Koonjoo: 4 semi-industrial.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh : Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31121.803 - *Acquisition of Patrol Vessels*, can the hon. Minister give the specifications and the name of the supplier?

Mr Koonjoo: Purchase of one outboard motor OBM 60HP for one special boat at 0.5 m. acquisition of 1 fibreglass patrol boat with OBM 25 HP at .5 m. As far as the supplier is concerned, I will circulate the name.

The Chairperson: Hon. Thierry Henry!

Mr Henry: Merci, Madame la présidente. Sous l'item 31121.999 – *Acquisition of other Transport Equipment (Multi-Purpose Support Vessel-Fisheries)*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 23,500,000 qui a été votée l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails de combien a été déboursé et quels sont ces transports qui ont été achetés ?

Mr Koonjoo: I'll better circulate.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Regarding item 31122.999 (c) *Restoration of Coral Reef - Adaptation Fund*, we have seen that a big sum of Rs116 m. is the project value, but no fund has been earmarked for this year. May we know...

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo, we are on page 321.

Mr Baboo: Okay. Item 22120.028 - *Fees for Laboratory Test* which was Rs3,5 m. last year and Rs2,5 m. this year. May we know what are these fees and what test is being carried out at the laboratory please?

Mr Koonjoo: These are fees paid to three laboratories for testing of fish samples, water analysis, etc. The contract split among three suppliers through tender procedures. One, Quantic Lab one year contract awarded on 13.07.1918 for a total amount Rs493,305., SGS Limited one year contract awarded on 13.07.1918 for a total amount of Rs583,755. , next, Mauritius Standard Bureau, one year contract awarded on 13.07.1918 for a total amount of Rs412,185.

Vote 19-2 Fisheries (Rs334,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(11.53 a.m.)

Vote 20-1 Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training was called.

The Chairperson: Page 322, no question. Page 323, hon. Baloomoody.

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, at page 323, may we have details about the beneficiary of this extra assistance allowance?

Mr Callichurn: The services are for five advisors who are enlisted in my Ministry. The names are Baichoo, Bundoo, Frivet, Ramchurrun, Caramben Mariapen.

The Chairperson: The question relates to the number. If you don't want to give the names, you can. But if the question relates to the names, then you may give their names. Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Madam Chairperson, under item 21 *Compensation of Employees*, I take it under this figure. May I know from the hon. Minister the number of complaints received by his Ministry for last year?

The Chairperson: With regard to which item?

Mr Uteem: We can take it under the Permanent Secretary.

The Chairperson: No. I am sorry we cannot take it under the vote of the Permanent Secretary.

Mr Uteem: How many complaints he has had to deal with?

The Chairperson: No. It does not fall within this line of the Budget.

Mr Uteem: The Permanent Secretary is not responsible for cases dealt in this Ministry.

The Chairperson: Please resume your seat. It does not fall within this line of the Budget. You can ask that question some other time.

Mr Uteem: Under the Employment Rights Act, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry...

The Chairperson: I am really sorry. Hon. Uteem. I did not give you the floor. I have given my ruling on that matter. You may come with a parliamentary question. I am sure with pleasure the hon. Minister will reply. Hon. Thierry Henry! No. Page 324. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. Item 22900.967 – *National Wage Consultative Council*, may we have the composition of the Council please? May we have the names and designation of the persons sitting on that Council?

Mr Callichurn: I will circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Perraud.

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, can the Minister give us full details about this programme?

Mr Callichurn: Madam Chairperson, in the context of the setting up of the National Steering Committee on Gender Streaming, Mauritius has been made to conduct gender analysis of services offered and to formulate policy responses. An amount of Rs200,000 has been disbursed for the current year. Functions which have been organised so far is the International Woman's Day and a workshop which will be held in June 2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Item 22900.967 – *National Wage Consultative Council*, may I know from the hon. Minister the number of times the Council has met last year?

The Chairperson: Can we take another question? Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001 *Basic Salary, sub item (1) Chairperson, National Remuneration Board*, may we have details of his salary and all his benefits please?

The Chairperson: National Remuneration Board – the name of the Chairperson and details of his salary.

Mr Callichurn: The name of the Chairperson is Mr Boopendra Gungah. His appointment was done by PSC. As regards to his salary, he draws a flat salary of Rs110,000. monthly

The Chairperson: Page 325. Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item *21110.001 President, Commission for Conciliation and Mediation*, can I ask the hon. Minister to inform us as to the number of cases that have been referred to the Conciliation and Mediation Commission?

The Chairperson: You are waiting for the reply, we take another question. Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item *21110(16) – Director, Occupational Safety and Health*, may I know from the hon. Minister, for last year the number of complaints handled by the Operational Safety and Health Director?

Mr Callichurn: The total number of complaints received from July 2018 to May 2019 stands at 248; inspections: 4427 and Prohibition Orders issued: 33.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I may refer to Item *21110(21) – Post of Occupational, Safety and Health Officer*, I can see that the amount is increased by 3. Since the hon. Minister was complaining, during the PNQ, that he did not have enough officers for visits, why is it that he has not taken the opportunity to have more officers within this budget?

Mr Callichurn: We should be happy that it has been increased by 3. But we are concentrating our efforts together with other Ministries to perform the duty as provided by the law.

As regards the previous question, Madam Chairperson, I am informed that the total number of meetings held by the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation is 102 for the year 2018 and for the year 2019 it is 110.

The Chairperson: Page 326, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Item 26313 – *Extra Budgetary Units*, can I ask the hon. Minister to table the list of members for the Manufacturing Sector Workers Welfare Fund and the Trade Union Trust Fund for which last year we spent Rs8 m. in total, and can we have the details of how we spent this amount of money?

Mr Callichurn: I will certainly do so.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 31122.802 – *Digital Court Recording*, may I know how much has been spent last year on that project and who is the contractor, please?

Mr Callichurn: The Digital Court Recording system was installed and commissioned at the Board of Commission in 2005. The cost for maintaining same has been increased from Rs276,000 from the first year to Rs344,000 14 years after. The contract was awarded on 10 June 2019 to State Informatics Ltd and an amount of Rs3,439,544.78 was disbursed for the supply, installation and commissioning of the Digital Recording System. So far, 20% of the contract amount has been paid.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank You, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132 - *Computerisation of the Occupational Safety and Health Division*, there is an amount Rs3,600,000 for the current financial year, Can we have a brief about the project, whether a consultant has been appointed and what is the status to date?

Mr Callichurn: Tender will be launched in due course. 30% of the project value is expected to be disbursed in financial 2019/2020. The total project value is Rs12 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 326, item 22900.974 – *Decent Work Country Programme (Second Generation)*, can we have more information about this, please?

Mr Callichurn: Madam Chairperson, the First Generation of Decent Work Country Programme for Mauritius was completed in December 2015. My Ministry has now embarked on the formulation of Decent Work Country Programme (Second Generation). Being given that one of the criteria for ILO to approve the document is the commitment of Mauritius regarding funding of activities to be implemented, only an amount of Rs1.5 m. has been provided in this budget as the total cost of implementation of the programme has not yet been finalised.

The Chairperson: Page 327, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 31132.401 – *Computerisation of Registry of Associations*, may I know from the hon. Minister where matters stand as the budgeted amount last year was Rs600,000 and this year it is Rs600,000 as well?

Mr Callichurn: Provision has been made to cater for the enhancement to the existing system including new modules to generate statistical and monthly reports and annual return. This will improve the system by overcoming operational constraints and generating additional statistical and management support. Work will be completed next year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Item 22900 – *Other Goods and Services*, can the hon. Minister give us an update and details about this item?

Mr Callichurn: It is for provision for payment of cash in lieu of uniforms to 28 inspectors of the Registry of Associations in accordance with MCSAR Circular.

The Chairperson: Page 328, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, last year there was Rs720,000 and this year there is nothing. May I know from the hon. Minister who was the beneficiary last year and why we have no provision for this year?

Mr Callichurn: Provision for payment of a monthly allowance of Rs60,000 to Roland Dubois Consultant was made as he was still in post in March 2018. However, his contract has expired since 17 April, 2018 and has not been renewed which explained that.

The Chairperson: Page 329, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28212.028 – *Employability, Enhancement Programme* for which last year we have spent Rs255 m. on the Youth Employment Programme, Women Back to Work Programme and Trainee Engineer Scheme. May I ask the hon. Minister to table full details of how this sum of Rs255 m. was spent last year?

Mr Callichurn: I will circulate.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.104 – *Upgrading of Labour Market Information System (LMIS)*, there is an amount of Rs2 m. that has been

earmarked, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this sum has already been utilised and how will this be beneficial in terms of getting the right figures for the rate of unemployment?

Mr Callichurn: Madam Chairperson, provision has been made for the integration of the two IT platforms of the employment service, namely the Mauritius Jobs.mu and the Labour Market Information System. Due to the complex procurement procedures, the matter has been referred to the Procurement Office for advice.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.003 – *Passage Costs (Repatriation of Expatriates)*, may we know, out of the Rs1.5 m. budgeted last year, how much has been used?

Mr Callichurn: Provision made to cover the cost for repatriation of foreign workers in case of closure of enterprises for economic reason. 28 expatriates of Future Textiles and 16 expatriates of other companies for a total sum of Rs834,616.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.401 – *Modernization of Work Permit System*, can we know more about this project?

Mr Callichurn: Well, the answer is quite lengthy; if you want me, I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28212.028 - (a) *Youth Employment Programme*, may I know from the hon. Minister how many verifications have been carried out by his Ministry to ascertain that the Youth Employment Programme Scheme is properly being paid to the beneficiaries?

Mr Callichurn: How many sensitisation campaigns?

Mr Uteem: No, how many inquiries, how many inspections have been carried by his officers to ascertain that the amount is correctly being paid? Because there are cases reported in the Press about the diversion of funds.

Mr Callichurn: From February 2015 till date, eight cases have been referred to the Police for investigation. On 28 August 2018, upon a request from ICAC, six cases, out of

eight cases, referred to Police were handed to them for further investigation and appropriate actions are being taken. I will table the list of the company involved in the frauds.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jahangeer!

Mr Jahangeer: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under same item, the Training Engineer Scheme, may I know how many fresh graduates are employed under this scheme?

Mr Callichurn: As initially in the Budget Programme 2016-17, 200 trainee engineers were placed in the public sector, then we received representation to increase that figure. Since its launching, more than 700 applicants in different spheres of engineering have registered at my Ministry. So far, the number of placement from 2016 to April 2019 stood at 435 and an amount of Rs61.3 m. has been disbursed as at 15 June 2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful, last question!

Mr Ramful: On the same item, may we know how many persons are currently being employed under the Youth Employment Programme and the Woman Back-to-work Programme?

Mr Callichurn: Madam Chairperson, under item Woman Back-to-work Programme, I can say that out of the 931 women who have completed their one year placement, 496 women representing 53% have got a permanent job in the private enterprises whereas the Youth Employment Programme, youth registered since the inception of the programme is 31,166 who are registered and number of youth placed in companies 22,221. The employment rate under the YEP is 84%.

The Chairperson: Last question, hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Just a clarification, with regard to 22900.003 - *Passage Costs (Repatriation of Expatriates)*. Given that employers undertake to cover the cost of repatriation, are these amounts being voted, claimed back from the employers and, if so, how much has been successfully claimed last year?

Mr Callichurn: The employers have the responsibility to repatriate workers in case of closure, but sometime due to financial constraint, they cannot do it and the Government has to foot the Bill. I understand that the PIO does retain a certain amount of money after four years in employment. If an employer has someone who has worked four years, so they retain a certain amount to be used for repatriation in case there is any problem.

Vote 20-1 Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training (Rs647,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(12.15 p.m.)

Vote 21-1 Ministry of Housing and Lands was called.

Madam Speaker: Page 330, no question. Page 331, hon. Ramful.

Mr Ramful: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item .005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we know the name of the advisers and how much do they get?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, I have got a senior adviser, her name is Mrs Khila Kumari Rupa Parboteeah, a monthly salary of Rs74,350. We have got one Public Relation matters Adviser who gets Rs21,475 and an additional monthly allowance of Rs5,545, her name is Mrs Umawtee Boojhawan. I have got one adviser on Information Matters, a monthly salary of Rs59,700, her name is Mrs Luxmi-Devi Tiwari-Meetoo. And, we have got one adviser on Land Matters at a monthly salary of Rs77,175, his name is Mr François Philippe Ramchurn, a former Chief Surveyor of the Ministry.

The Chairperson: Thierry Henry! No! Hon. Uteem! Yes, page 332, hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22060 – *Maintenance*, can the hon. Minister explain to us, as the amount for 2019-20 has increased considerably, can he explain to us the reason and to what the maintenance relates?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, this increase is for additional fund required to cater for partitioning and cabling works for proposed additional office space which is R1.8 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31130.401 - *Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure*, there is no amount budgeted for this year. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the project has been completed and is operational?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, upgrades to be made to the revenue system, have been integrated in the digital State land register. Therefore, no provision is required for the forthcoming financial year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900 - *Other Goods and Services*, may we have some details, please?

Mr Jhugroo: So, it is for –

- (i) provision of uniforms, protective items and the payment of uniform allowance to eligible employees as per circular issued by the Minister of Civil Service Affairs and Administrative Reforms;
- (ii) catering - to meet cost of catering services in connection with seminars, workshops, training and campaigns organised by the Ministry;
- (iii) provision and stores. Provision is to cater for refreshment during official meetings, and
- (iv) hospitality and ceremonies to cater for petty expenses in connection with foreign visitors on official mission in Mauritius.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Under item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, can the Minister tell us how his sum is being spent?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, an allocation of Rs200,000 is to promote sensitisation and awareness programme and implement activities on gender mainstreaming, how it is done.

(Interruptions)

I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Page 333, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes, thank you. Under item 28222.015 - *Transfer of Title deeds of ex-CHA Houses*, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether all of the 19,000 owners or so have got their title deeds and if not what is the balance left to be granted their title deed for Rs2,000 which they are supposed to purchase the deeds for?

The Chairperson: Transfer of Title deeds of ex-CHA Houses. We'll take another question in the meantime. Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes, Madam Chairperson. On item ...

The Chairperson: Please!

Mr Jhugroo: So, there have been 13,493 applications and 13,631 Letters of Intent for the purchase of land have been issued and 64 applications are under process. To date, 11,348

applicants have already finalised title deeds at the notary, and are, therefore, full-fledged owners of their plots of land. The remaining 2,297 applicants have not finalised their title deeds.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea, please proceed!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes, Item number 28222.017- *Construction of Social Housing Units*, every year there is a budget of more than a billion rupees. May I know for the current year, there was an amount of Rs1,266 m. that was budgeted. How much was spent and how many units have been constructed for the current year?

Mr Jhugroo: Out of the Rs1.3 billion which was earmarked in Budget 2018/2019, an amount of Rs1.12 billion has been spent during that financial year. So, since the 2015 to financial year 2018/2019, the construction of 1,979 housing units have been completed, out of which 1,449 have been allocated. Some 3,230 housing units are under construction and are expected to be completed by December 2020. Out of these, 950 housing units are being constructed under the grant obtained from the Government of India, and line of credit. And also we have got bid documents for works which are under preparation for some additional 1,100 housing units, out of these...

Mr Ameer Meea: I want to know out of the sum that was budgeted how many units were constructed. It's a simple question.

Mr Jhugroo: I will circulate the information later; I don't have it with me.

The Chairperson: Yes. I would ask hon. Ministers also not to provide more information than is required.

Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28222.013 - *Rehabilitation of Infrastructure of NHDC Housing Estates*. I would advise the Minister to table because I know it is a long list of rehabilitation around the island.

Mr Jhugroo: I will do needful, Madam Chairperson, to table it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Under item 28222.012- *Casting of Roof Slab Grant Scheme*, can the hon. Minister enlighten the House about the increase in the estimate of this year?

Mr Jhugroo: For financial year 2018/2019, Rs100 m. were provided, out of which some Rs120 m. has been disbursed to assist 1,496 families in the construction of the housing units. Likewise, in this Budget year 2019/2020 a provision of Rs125 m. has been made in order to motivate self-construction among low and middle-income categories.

The Chairperson: Hon. Thierry Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 28212.023 - *Syndics for Maintenance of NHDC Housing Estates*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 16 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails comment cette somme a été déboursée ?

The Chairperson: *Syndics for Maintenance of NHDC Housing Estates*. If the list is long hon. Minister, you may please circulate it.

Mr Jhugroo: I can circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem?

Mr Uteem: Under item 25110.004 subsidy to *National Housing Development Company Ltd - Housing Loan*, may I know from the budget amount of Rs21 m. of last year, how much has been given as subsidy and how many persons were concerned by this subsidy?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, the provision is required to cater for foreign exchange loss and interest, differential on loans taken by the NHDC Ltd. from financial institutions which is borne by the Government. The reduction in provision is based on the actual expenditure as provided by MOFED.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Mr Armance: I just have a point of order.

The Chairperson: We have a point of order.

Mr Armance: On the document that the Minister just circulated about the *Syndics for Maintenance of NHDC Housing Estates*, the question was about the details of the expenses, he provided only the total amount spent, not the details. We need the details. Can he table the details of each and every housing estate in Mauritius?

Mr Jhugroo: Being given that it is a long list, needful will be done to circulate it in detail.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 25110.004 - *National Housing Development Company Ltd - Housing Loans*, will the Minister apprise the House as to whether the housing loan which is being extended to NHDC is enough to enable it to cover its cost overrun or whether there is any specific purpose to this housing loan? Thank you very much.

The Chairperson: I'll take another question from hon. Adrien Duval in the meantime.

Mr A. Duval: Madam Chairperson, with regard to item 25110.004 - *National Housing Development Company Ltd - Housing Loans*, may we know last year, the total amount disbursed in terms of housing loans and the number of beneficiaries of housing loans by the NHDC?

The Chairperson: I'll take a third question in the meantime?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, I will ask the hon. Member to come with a PQ so that I can give all the information required.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, you can't do that. The question has been asked, you should get the reply and circulate it. That is acceptable.

Mr Jhugroo: I will do needful to get it circulated.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you Madam Chairperson. *Item 31113.037 - Off-site Infrastructure Works for Social Housing* budgeted Rs15m. last year, may I know from the hon. Minister how many have been used out of Rs15m, and if he can circulate the list of the off-site infrastructure works?

Mr Jhugroo: So, during the financial year 2018/19, an amount of Rs10.5m. has been disbursed to CEB and CWA for off-site infrastructure works for various NHDC housing projects across the island. So, I will circulate the list of the sites.

The Chairperson: Yes. Hon. Armance.

Mr Armance: Same item, Madam Chairperson, I am more interested to know about the Rs30m. that is now budgeted. Can we know the earmarked projects? Can I have a list of these?

Mr Jhugroo: So, the sum earmarked, Rs30m, is for off-site infrastructure works by CEB, CWA, and others. These works comprise –

- (i) laying of pipe from CWA main to site;
- (ii) extending CEB distribution network to supply electricity to site;
- (iii) transfer of high tension poles to site;
- (iv) enlargement of access road to development sites, and
- (v) provision of street lighting to local authorities.

The Chairperson: Page 334. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes, thank you. Item 21110.001(14) – *Basic Salary - Secretary, National Planning and Development Commission (New)*, for which we have been catering for the last few years and there does not seem to be anything happening this year and in the foreseeable future, can I ask...

Mr Jhugroo: Can the hon. Member repeat the page and item number please?

The Chairperson: Page 334.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Page 334, *Item 21110.001(14) – Basic Salary - Secretary, National Planning and Development Commission (New)*, for which we talked about it last year as well. May we have the status of this?

Mr Jhugroo: It is a new post, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Page 335. Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes. Item 22060.013 – *LAVIMS*, there is Rs42m. which is budgeted almost every year, can I ask the hon. Minister if the system is fully operational and also this maintenance cost, to whom it is paid?

Mr Jhugroo: So, the maintenance agreement, which is renewed on a yearly basis, is paid to Airbus Defence and Space Limited.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please! Not from a sitting position! Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: On the same page, item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, may I know the name of the legal advisors and their remuneration?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, with regard to extra assistance, it is for the remuneration of officers on contract. There are three Indian Navy Officers attached to the

Hydrography Unit: 1 Commander and 2 Petty Officer Survey Recorder, Instructors on deputation to this Ministry and a provision of Rs2m. has also been made for the payment of fees on a sessional basis to legal advisors of the new legal unit to be set up at the Ministry. The modalities will be worked in consultation with the Attorney General's Office.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 335, item 26313.091 - *Town and Country Planning Board*, can we have the composition of the Board for the Town and Country Planning Board?

The Chairperson: The composition of Town and Country Planning Board, hon. Minister, this also you may circulate.

Mr Jhugroo: Yes, I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Item 28211.070 - *Professional Land Surveyors Council*, the law was passed in 2014. So may I know from the hon. Minister if this Professional Land Surveyors Council has now been properly constituted and how many meetings have they held to date?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, following an election held on 08 June 2018, a newly constituted Professional Land Surveyors Council was set up in operation and meetings are being held at least once every month, up to how we have got 12 meetings. So, there are different committees which have been set up under the Council to look into different aspects of the functioning of the Council and for the composition, I will circulate because it is a bit long.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 22900.986 - *Expenses icw Land Research and Monitoring Unit*, the Minister can apprise us as to the expenses in connection with the Land Research and Monitoring Unit, where matters stand on this particular item which, of course, created a lot of expectations?

The Chairperson: Land Research and Monitoring Unit! We take another question from hon. Baboo in the meantime.

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson...

The Chairperson: You are ready?

Mr Jhugroo: This is a new item. An amount of Rs50m. has been earmarked to operate the Land Research and Monitoring Unit under the aegis of my Ministry, and in this context of the implementation of the recommendations made in the Report of the Truth and Justice Commission. So, the modalities will be worked out in consultation with MOFED and Attorney General's Office.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo.

Mr Baboo: Item 22130.003(b) - *Land Use Planning and Management - Consolidation of Planning Policy Guideline I*, we have seen that last year, there were Rs1m. that were earmarked. Can we know the status of the policy guideline and how much of the funds have been used also?

Mr Jhugroo: So, a consolidated version was prepared and finalised in year 2017, but my Ministry has been requested to look anew into issues such as height of tall buildings, flooding issues and buffer zone requirements with respect to stone crushers. As soon as these are finalised, the PPG1 will be issued.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22130.003(d) - *Land Use Planning and Management - New Planning and Development Bill 2019*, we are making provision of Rs700,000 for the drafting of this Bill, should it not be the Attorney General's Office who will draft the Bill? Are we contracting out for the drafting of this Bill and, if so, why?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, a draft Planning Bill has been prepared and consultations with relevant stakeholders are being carried out. Following consultations, the draft Bill will be updated and working sessions will be held with the State Law Office for the final draft, prior to approval being sought for its introduction in the National Assembly. Provision is being made for the organisation of workshop in the context of the finalisation of this Bill.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval, last question!

Mr A. Duval: With regard to item 22130.003 - *of which (a) Review of National Land Development Strategy*, will the hon. Minister apprise Parliament of any report made so far in connection with the review and if so, will he table the report?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, the exercise to review the NDS started in 2014 but till now there has been no successful bidder. So, a multidisciplinary team having expertise in numerous sectors –

- Land Use;
- Transport;
- Agriculture;
- Economy, and
- Infrastructure

is required to carry out such assignment.

The Chairperson: Page 336, hon. Thierry Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 31132.101 - (b) *Digital State Land Register*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 24 million qui a été votée l'année dernière, peut-on avoir les détails comment cet argent a été dépensé, s'il vous plait?

Mr Jhugroo: The State Land Register solution will be an integrated system which will encompass the document management, archives, lease, rental, land acquisition and State land, processing system...

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, how the money has been disbursed only.

Mr Jhugroo: How much has been disbursed?

The Chairperson: Yes, that is the only question.

Mr Jhugroo: Rs2.3 m.

The Chairperson: And the details of it, can you circulate it?

Mr Jhugroo: It will be circulated.

The Chairperson: Okay! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, item 31410.801 - *Acquisition of Land*, for which we budgeted last year, half a billion rupees and for which half a billion rupees is also being voted for this year. Can I ask the hon. Minister to table the list of all the plots of land that were acquired last year and planned to be acquired this year? For what project and for what purpose?

Mr Jhugroo: Yes, Madam Chairperson, I will table the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.101 - (c) *Hardware Replacement*, may I know if the tender has been awarded for this Hardware Replacement, the supplier and the status of the project to date?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, an invitation for proposals for consultancy services for revamping of the LAVIMS on 05 October 2018. Following an evaluation of bids exercise, the contract was awarded to PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited for a contract value of Rs6,302,000. For the proper implementation of the project, a first steering committee under the chairmanship of the Deputy Permanent Secretary was held on 08 April 2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31132.101 - (b) *Digital State Land Register*, may I know from the hon. Minister once this project is completed, will public have access to these registers or is it only to be used internally by the Ministry?

The Chairperson: Digital State Land Register, whether it will be public or restricted to the Ministry?

Mr Jhugroo: From the information that has been provided to me, Madam Chairperson, it is for internal use.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 28222.016 - *Transfer of Title deeds of land/houses*, can we have some details about this item, namely the places and the number of titles that have been transferred and the number of titles that are left to be transferred?

Mr Jhugroo: As per the Letter of Intent regarding sale of State land to building site lessees, the registration duty payable on registration of the deed of sale of the State Land is borne by the Government, that is, a stamp duty of Rs1,700 and a registration duty of Rs300. The purchase price of sale is Rs2,000. Upon registration of the deed, the Notary submits his claim for the sum of Rs2,000. So, the number of State land sold during 2018-2019 –

- building site leases - 465;
- Ex-CHA sites - 238;

Number of State land remaining to be sold -

- building site leases - 2,947, and

- Ex-CHA sites – 5,836

Needful is being done.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Under the same item 28222.016 - *Transfer of Title deeds of land/houses*, may we know who is the Notary who is effecting the transfer of Title deeds for last year?

Mr Jhugroo: So, it is the owner who decides of the Notary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.101 - *(c) Hardware Replacement*, Rs10 m. was budgeted for 2018/19. Can we have some details regarding this item?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, for the Rs10 m. I have already answered, but I will give for the year 2018-2019. So, it was Rs1.3 m. being 20% of the contract value which is Rs6,302,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.801 - *Acquisition of Software*, last year we budgeted Rs300,000 and this year we are budgeting Rs7.3 m. May we know who is the contractor and whether the contract has been awarded?

Mr Jhugroo: Madam Chairperson, provision is made for the acquisition of free management system software. The benefits of free management are multi-fold namely –

- to control cost;
- productivity;
- fuel management, and
- compliance

It will enable the Ministry to better manage its fleet of 28 vehicles.

(Interruptions)

Supplier!

The Chairperson: That was the question!

Mr Jhugroo: So, this is a new item. The objective is to ensure better coordination of activities as I mentioned earlier. So, procurement exercise will be initiated after approval of this budget.

The Chairperson: Last question, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Already answered!

Vote 21-1 Ministry of Housing and Lands (Rs2,445,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

(12.50 p.m.)

Vote 22-1 Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms was called.

The Chairperson: Page 337, no question. Page 338, Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we have the name of his advisers and the amount paid to them for last year?

Mr Boissézon: The name of the advisers presently are Ms M. Ramyad and Mr F. Baungalea. Actual salary for Ms Ramyad Rs59,700 plus a compensation of Rs760. Salary of Mr Baungalea Rs27,850 plus a compensation of Rs885.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Yes Item 21111.100 – *Overtime*, Rs1 m. last year. May we know how much has been spent for last year on overtime?

Mr Boissézon: The actual expenditure is Rs772,239.79.

The Chairperson: Hon. Lepoigneur!

Mr Lepoigneur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, can the Minister table the details of allowances?

(Interruptions)

Mr Boissézon: Okay, you've asked to table.

The Chairperson: Page 339, hon. Thierry Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 31132.401 - *Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure (Integrated Human Resource Management Information System)*, je vois qu'il y a une

somme de R 50 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière, peut-on avoir les détails comment cette somme a été dépensée?

Mr Boissézon: Yes, in fact, Rs16.9 m. to Oracle for technical support services, Rs21 m. to State Informatics Ltd for maintenance and handholding services, Rs1.2 m. for other expenses, such as overtime, training fees and other expenses.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Madam Chairperson, with regard to the same item, this project was supposed to be completed as far back as 2013. We are still now voting millions of rupees to complete it. Has any sanction been taken from the contractor to date?

Mr Boissézon: In fact, Madam Speaker, we have seen the contract which has been signed in 2013 and, unfortunately, we cannot do anything against the supplier Oracle and the programmer who is preparing the programme. The way the contract has been made, it's very difficult, and we don't want to have another episode of Betamax.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: On item 31112 .058 – *Construction of Civil Service College*, may I know from the hon. Minister where are matters? Has tender been launched yet?

Mr Boissézon: In fact, tenders have not been launched already. We have earmarked the sum of Rs40 m. for consultancy services, advance payment for construction, but the tenders will be launched as soon as we have the site plan of a new plot of land that we have received.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, Rs200,000 were allocated last year. May we know from the hon. Minister how the sum of Rs200,000 has been spent for the last financial year?

Mr Boissézon: Yes, in fact, Madam Speaker, we had contracted with the University of Mauritius to have the survey about gender issues pertaining to the Public Service. The survey has been done and we are awaiting the report to implement the information and suggestions made in the report.

Mr Baloomoody: Can you circulate that survey?

The Chairperson: No, please! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes, thank you. Item 31112.058 - *Construction of Civil Service College*, can I ask the hon. Minister which department or whether this is being contracted out for the design of this college, the building of it and where will it be located?

Mr Boissézon: As far as location is concerned, it will be at Réduit, but as I said previously, we shall initiate tenders, tenders will be launched as soon as possible.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.401 - *Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure (Integrated Human Resource Management Information System)*, last year there was Rs50 m. which was earmarked, can we know out of this Rs50 m. how much has been used?

Mr Boissézon: I have just answered that question, Madam Speaker, but I will repeat it. Rs16.9 m. to Oracle for technical support services, Rs21 m. to State Informatics Ltd for maintenance and handholding, Rs1.2 m. for other expenses, such as overtime, training fees and other expenses.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22030 – *Rent*, an amount of Rs30.6 m. was budgeted for 2018/19, can the hon. Minister table a detailed breakdown of this amount, please?

Mr Boissézon: I am tabling.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval, not here! Hon. Mrs Perraud! Okay, next page 340, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.950 - *Improvement of Counter Services*, may I know from the hon. Minister how many counter services do we have and how have these been improved?

Mr Boissézon: Yes, I have a long list of counters and I am submitting it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, can we know what studies and survey have been carried out and what are the forthcoming ones?

Mr Boissézon: Studies and Surveys are carried out on a need basis. For the time being, it is only a budget and we have made provision for that amount, but we don't have any specified survey in the pipeline.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Under *Item 22120 – Fees* for which we are being requested to vote Rs2.1 m. Last year, it was Rs2.8 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister to table the detail of all the fees that were paid for the sum of Rs2.8 m. that was budgeted last year?

Mr Boissézon: Fees for Assessors: Rs300,000; Fees for Training: Rs1,400,000 and also fees for Consultants. As far as the Assessors are concerned, the sum is paid to Mauritius Standard Bureau for the assessment of the implementation of ISO 9001. As far as Consultants are concerned, provision is made for consultancy project to develop on accountability framework in the public service by benchmarking with international best practice.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'*Item 22900 - Other Goods and Services, Improvement of counter services*, où une somme de R 4.8 millions a été votée l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails comment cet argent a été dépensé ?

Mr Boissézon: I am tabling the information.

The Chairperson: Page 341! Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Under *Item 22120.039 – Continuous Professional Development for Civil Servants*. Can we have more information about this item, please?

Mr Boissézon: In fact, this provision is meant for the continuous capacity and capability development of employees across the Civil Service, as well as payment of fees to resource persons to conduct inhouse training programmes.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22120.39 – Continuous Professional Development for Civil Servants*, where an amount of Rs80 m. was budgeted for 2018-2019. Can the hon. Minister give us all the details regarding this item?

Mr Boissézon: As I said just before, we have provided Rs20 m. for training. In fact, 4,366 public officers have been trained in the Civil Service College. I can table the name of the Civil Servants that have been trained.

Madam Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Under same item, can the hon. Minister give us an idea about the amount that has been spent out of the Rs18 m. earmarked for the outgoing financial year?

Mr Boissézon: A very good question! In fact, we have used all the amount that was budgeted because we spent Rs20,730,000 to train our employees.

The Chairperson: Page 342! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: At page 342, under *Item 26313.075 Public Officers' Welfare Council*. Can the hon. Minister circulate the list of members of the Public Officers' Welfare Council?

Mr Boissézon: I will circulate.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under *Item 21110 (4) Safety and Health Officer/Senior Safety and Health Officer*. Last year, there were 35 being funded, and this year it is 37. May we know, out of these 37, how many posts have been completed?

Mr Boissézon: Two additional posts have been created to reinforce the unit. In fact, Health and Safety Officers cover all the Departments/Ministries of the public service.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 26313.075 – Public Officers' Welfare Council*. If the hon. Minister could apprise us as to the composition of the Council and the activities carried out by the Council to improve the welfare of public officers?

Mr Boissézon: In fact, I am tabling the composition of the POWC Board. The Chairman is Mr P. Jhugroo. I have a list of the main activities organised by the Council. As you are aware, the main item is the famous *kermesse* which is an annual event known to all Mauritians. We have excursions, stay at hotels, sport activities and so on. I am tabling everything.

The Chairperson: Page 343! Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Under *Item 22900.943 – Enhancement of Work Environment in the Civil Service*, où une somme de R 8 millions a été votée l’année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails de ces dépenses, s’il vous plaît ?

Mr Boissézon: It is a long list. I am submitting it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Chairperson. Under *Item 22900.934 Enhancement of Work Environment in the Civil Service* where Rs8 m. was budgeted last year. May I know how much was spent out of the Rs8 m. and what was it used for?

Mr Boissézon: As at 12 June 2019, a sum of Rs6.92 m. has been disbursed for 83 projects.

Vote 22-1 Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (Rs636,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 23-1 Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance was called.

The Chairperson: We have got four pages and ten minutes. Page 344? No question! Page 345? Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Madam Chairperson, the last item on the page *26313.016 Grants to Financial Reporting Council*, can I know from the hon. Minister whether this Financial Reporting Council has received any complaint, has investigated and taken any sanction against any accountant as required by law?

Mr Sesungkur: I know there have been several complaints. From memory, I know that one accountant has been sanctioned. So, as regards disciplinary matters, three cases were referred to the Enforcement Panel and subsequently, sanctions were issued in those cases.

The Chairperson: Hon. Fowdar!

Mr Fowdar: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, on the last item on page 345, can I know from the hon. Minister whether there is a Director at the FRC and whether audits have been carried out on public interest entities and State-owned entities by the FRC?

Mr Sesungkur: Madam Chairperson, I understand that FRC has conducted two selection exercises to fill the post of CEO, but, unfortunately, no qualified and suitable candidate has been found. They are continuing this exercise and they plan to look for the right talent, the right candidate at international level.

With regard to public entities, there have been several public entities which have been audited by the FRC.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 - *Fees* for which we are being requested to vote Rs7.05 m., can I ask the hon. Minister what is this for?

Mr Sesungkur: The fees of Rs6.7 m. cover fees for IMF Consultants. There are also fees for consultants in the context of the mutual evaluation report of the ESAAMLG and fund administration and fund management for the Financial Services Sector, Consultants for assisting the Ministry and creating awareness on robotics and artificial intelligence.

The Chairperson: Page 346, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 26313.140 - *Integrity Reporting Services Agency*, Rs30,000,000 were funded for last year. Can I know how much has been used?

Mr Sesungkur: In fact, the full amount has been spent, Madam Chairperson. That is why the budget has been increased this year because it is intended that more staff will be recruited following the changes in the law to increase the purview of the Integrity Reporting Services Agency from Rs10 m. to Rs2.5 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Item 26323.64 - *National Productivity and Competitiveness Council*, can we have more details about this, please?

Mr Sesungkur: Sorry, I didn't gather, can you repeat the question?

The Chairperson: No. Hon. Leopold!

Mr Leopold: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. It is a question of general nature. I just want to know whether the hon. Minister has a budget for good governance.

The Chairperson: No, I am sorry, questions of general nature, we cannot accept. Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item number 21110 with respect to *Personal Emoluments* and the vacancies which are yet to be filled, there is no provision, no funding for those vacancies. So, when are they going to be filled?

Mr Sesungkur: I understand that currently those staff they are employed on contract basis. That is why now provision has been made in the Budget so that we can fill those posts on a substantive basis.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Madam Chairperson, under item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, Rs7 m. are budgeted for this item. So, may I know the names of the advisors and the amount they receive?

Mr Sesungkur: This amount has been budgeted for technical staff. They include foreign consultants also.

The Chairperson: Hon. Jahangeer!

Mr Jahangeer: Page 346 item 26313.064 - *National Productivity and Competitiveness Council*, may I know why the NPCC has requested Rs5 m. from MOFED?

Mr Sesungkur: Madam Chairperson, Rs5 m. have been provided as the NPCC expects assistance from the World Bank for some advisory services and this is reimbursable advisory services. So, we need to go to the Ministry of Finance.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we know who are the advisors of the Minister and their emoluments?

Mr Sesungkur: Madam Chairperson, I have currently two advisors, one in AMLCFT matters, Mrs Yotsna Lalji-Venkatasamy and my Press Attaché, Mrs Sanjana Bhagmal-Cadervaloo.

The Chairperson: Page 347, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 26210.036 - *Contribution to Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering*, may I know from the hon. Minister according to ESAAMLG as at date, out of the 40 recommendations, how many are we not compliant?

Mr Sesungkur: Madam Chairperson, I made a statement on this to the House.

The Chairperson: Yes. I think this is rather a Parliamentary Question than a question which concerns the provisions in the budget.

Vote 23-1 Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance (Rs250,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

ESTIMATES 2019-2020 & INDICATIVE ESTIMATES 2020-2021 AND 2021-2022

AND

THE APPROPRIATION (2019-2020) BILL 2019

(NO. X OF 2019)

The Schedule was agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 were called and agreed to.

The title and enacting clause were agreed to.

The Bill was agreed to.

On the Assembly resuming with Madam Speaker in the Chair, Madam Speaker reported accordingly.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

CONCILIATION & MEDIATION COMMISSION - SITTINGS

The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training (Mr S. Callichurn): Madam Speaker, may I ask your permission to raise a point of personal explanation?

Madam Speaker: Yes.

Mr Callichurn: Madam Speaker, to a question put to me either by hon. Baloomoody or by hon. Uteem - I can't quite recall - in regard to the number of sittings held by the Commission for Conciliation and Mediation, actually I gave a figure.

The figure refers to the number of informal meetings which is not the right figure. Actually, there is another table where there is a number of formal meetings as well, the figure is there. I am tabling the correct figures.

Madam Chairperson: Hon. Members, I have to report to the House that the Estimates 2019-2020 & Indicative Estimates 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 and the Appropriation (2019-2020) Bill 2019 (No. X of 2019) have passed the Committee of Supply without amendment.

On the Assembly resuming with Madam Speaker in the Chair, Madam Speaker reported accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister: Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 28 June 2019 at 3.00 p.m.

Mr Roopun rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

MATTERS RAISED

Madam Speaker: Hon. Uteem!

NAZARETH, TRANQUEBAR - GARDEN - LIGHTING

Mr Uteem: I would like to raise a matter which concerns the Vice-Prime Minister, the Ministry of Local Government and especially the Municipal Council of Port Louis. It relates to a garden in Tranquebar in a place called Nazareth. This is the place which is used regularly by children and their parents. Unfortunately, there is no lighting at that place and now, with winter season, darkness comes in very early and because of the lack of the presence of a lighting, there are all types of people and it is very unsecure.

So, I'll urge the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to see to it that the appropriate lighting are installed there.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo): Yes, Madam Speaker, we will look into it.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Baloomoody!

POINTE AUX SABLES - RESIDENTIAL AREA - STORE

Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West): My question is addressed to the hon. Minister of Local Government.

There is at Pointe aux Sables in the residential area near the sugar industry a huge store being built there. It is in a residential area.

Following the incident which took place at La Tour Koenig where there was a break of gas and everything, so people are worried about what this store is for. We hear information that it will be for the storage of gas; we don't know what product will be stored there.

So, can I ask the hon. Minister to liaise with the Municipal Council of Port Louis to ensure that no inflammable products are stored in that big building which is being constructed now at Pointe aux Sables.

Thank you.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo): Yes, Madam Speaker. Is it being constructed by the Municipal Council of Port Louis?

Mr V. Baloomoody: Permit has been given by the Municipal Council of Port Louis, I think so.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: I will look into it.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Ameer Meea.

EID AL-ADHA FESTIVAL – PRICE FIXING COMMITTEE

Mr A. Ameer Meea (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East): Madam Speaker, the issue I am raising today is in relation to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection.

What happens every year is that with the coming of the Eid Al-Adha Festival, there is a committee at his Ministry which sits for the price that will be fixed for the Festival. This year, there has not been any meeting up to now and there are various stakeholders in it: the importers, the resellers, the consumers. So, I would ask the hon. Minister if he can look into the matter and communicate to the public.

Thank you.

The Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Mr M. Seeruttun): Madam Speaker, on behalf of my colleague, I will convey the message to him, but I know that, usually, well before the Eid Al-Adha Festival, we do meet and look at that price issue.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Lepoigneur.

MORCELLEMENT LA CONFIANCE - HUMPS - INSTALLATION

Mr G. Lepoigneur (Fifth Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière): Merci, Madame la présidente. Ma requête s'adresse au ministre de l'infrastructure publique, l'honorable Bodha.

C'est une requête de la part des habitants de morcellement La Confiance où il y a des voitures qui roulent à vive allure, ce qui est un danger pour la région surtout depuis que la route a été asphaltée. D'ailleurs, les habitants remercient le ministre pour cela. Serait-il possible maintenant de mettre des ralentisseurs. Je dépose la demande pour que le ministre voit les gens qui ont signé la pétition.

The Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Mr N. Bodha): Je vais m'en occuper, Madame la présidente. Merci.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Mrs Sewocksingh!

WOOTON - FOOTBALL PITCH

Ms M. Sewocksingh (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands): Madam Speaker, I would like to address the matter to the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government. It concerns a football pitch in my Constituency in the area called Wooton.

Madam Speaker, this football pitch is in a very bad state. I would request the hon. Minister if she can look into the matter. The fencing is broken; the turf is not well maintained. The inhabitants have complained.

So, I'll request the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to kindly look into the matter.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo): Madam Speaker, I will look into it.

Madam Speaker: Hon. Henry!

Mr T. Henry (Fourth Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien): Merci, Madame la présidente. Ma requête va vers le *Minister of Housing & Lands* concernant les habitants de la Cité Balance à Plaine Magnien qui ont eu plusieurs réunions avec le ministère concerné en ce qu'il s'agit de la présence de l'amiante dans leurs maisons. Ils sont vraiment très inquiets et cherchent des solutions. Ils attendent que le ministère fasse le nécessaire pour l'amiante et en ce qui concerne aussi leur titre de propriété pour leurs maisons. Merci.

The Minister of Housing and Lands (Mr P. Jhugroo): Madam Speaker, with regard to asbestos, the needful is being done on behalf of the Government and with regard to Cité Langlois and Cité Balance, my colleague and I are very aware of this and we are dealing with this issue, and needful will be done.

At 1.27 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 28 June 2019 at 3.00 p.m.