

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**  
**INDIAN NATIONALS – CONTRACT**

**(No. B/340) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the Indian nationals, he will state –

- (a) Government policy in relation to those having a contract of employment in Mauritius, and
- (b) the criteria used in considering any application from the Mauritian companies willing to recruit them.

**Reply: (The Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment):** I have to inform the House that the Government policy with regard to Indian nationals having a contract of employment in Mauritius is the same as for all expatriate workers. Applications for work permits in respect of Indian expatriates are duly considered by my Ministry and provided all conditions and requirements are fulfilled work permits are issued to allow Indian workers to be employed in the country. There are presently around 12,200 Indian workers holding valid work permits in Mauritius and these workers are employed in different sectors. In fact, the largest number of foreign workers in Mauritius is from India as compared to other countries.

With regard to part (b) of the question, the general criteria used when considering applications/requests for work permit in respect of foreign workers, including Indian workers, are as follows –

- (i) the company should hold all necessary licenses/certificates (for example the Certificate of Incorporation) Tourism Enterprise Licence for the tourism sector;
- (ii) there must be a scarcity of such skills/expertise on the local market;
- (iii) the number of local workers registered with the National Pension Scheme is also taken into consideration;
- (iv) the company should have orders/contracts in hand,
- (v) the companies should comply with all conditions regarding the employment of expatriate workers.

Moreover, for some applications, for example, those not falling within the quota granted to the company or for applications at managerial/technical levels, the advice and recommendations of relevant Ministries/Departments are sought.

### **RODRIGUES - LA FERME - PUBLIC GATHERING**

**(No. B/347) Mr A. Nancy (First Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if there was any public gathering at La Ferme, Rodrigues, on 14 April 2009 and, if so, the reasons therefor.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the “*Organisation du Peuple de Rodrigues*” (OPR), was given the authorization to organize a peaceful march on 14 April 2009 as from 16 00 hours at La Ferme.

On that day, the march started at La Ferme as scheduled and proceeded to Citron. It ended at 16 30 hours without any incident.

I am given to understand that the march was organized to protest against a problem of water supply in Rodrigues and the digging of a borehole at Citron on a private land.

### **RODRIGUAN POLICE OFFICERS – POSTING – SPECIAL MOBILE FORCE**

**(No B/353) Mr C. Leopold (Third Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the posting of the married Rodriguan Police Officers at the Special Mobile Force, in Rodrigues, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand.

**Reply:** I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made to Parliamentary Question No. B/1458 on 16 December 2008.

As I had indicated, arrangements are being made for married Rodriguan Police Officers serving in the Special Mobile Force in Mauritius to be posted in Rodrigues.

Also consideration is being given to the establishment of a Special Mobile Force Unit in Rodrigues to enable a maximum number of Rodriguan Officers to be posted in Rodrigues. However, there are practical problems involved. They are being addressed by the Commissioner of Police.

### **POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMME-BENEFICIARIES**

**(No. B/381) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Poverty Alleviation Programme, he will state the -

- (a) amount of money spent as at to date under the present budget, and
- (b) number of persons who have benefitted therefrom and in which localities, including\_in the Constituency No. 14, Savanne and Black River.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **GOVERNMENT/MSPA- METAYERS- AGREEMENT**

**(No. B/382) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security whether, in regard to the agreement entered into between Government and the Mauritius Sugar Planters Association in relation to the *metayers*, he will -

- (a) table copy of the agreement, and
- (b) state if a Technical Committee was set up for the implementation thereof and, if so, indicate the recommendations thereof.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **CWA-EMPLOYEES - INTERDICTION**

**(No. B/383) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière )** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the eleven employees of the Central Water Authority who were interdicted on 15 April 2009, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Central Water Authority that following reports of alleged cases of malpractices and irregularities at its Central

Stores at *Cité La Cure*, the Central Water Authority Board decided to commission a forensic review into the allegations.

Accordingly, the board decided on 03 March 2009 to enlist the services of a Forensic Accounting Expert to investigate into the allegations and to make recommendations for the enhancement of the CWA anti-fraud arrangements.

I am informed that the forensic review has revealed that over the last 10 years besides a number of cases of fraud and theft at the Central Stores at *Cité La Cure*, there has also been a systematic pattern of unreconciled stock balances, discrepancies in inventories, and missing store items which were ultimately written off. A number of CWA staff members posted at the Central Stores are suspected to have participated in these fraudulent activities and malpractices.

As a precautionary measure and to prevent any tampering with evidence, 11 officers were interdicted from the exercise of their functions with immediate effect on 14 April 2009. However, after consultations with its legal Adviser, CWA reinstated six out of the 11 officers on 22 April 2009.

Charges have been levelled against the five interdicted officers who will be heard by a Disciplinary Committee, which will make recommendations to the Central Water Authority.

### **SALE BY LEVY SOLIDARITY FUND - BENEFICIARIES**

**(No. B/384) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Sale by Levy Solidarity Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the

Fund, a breakdown of the sums disbursed as at to date, indicating in each case -

- (a) the names of the beneficiaries, and
- (b) the quantum thereof.

*(Vide reply to PNQ)*

### **EMPLOYED & UNEMPLOYED POPULATION - COMPUTATION**

**(No. B/385) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the present mode of computation of the employment and the unemployment figures, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Director of Statistics, information as to if it is proposed to review same, with a view to including persons between the age of 60 and 65 into the category of the active population, following the extension of the retirement age to 65.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Director of Statistics that the active, employed and unemployed population refers to those aged 16 years and above. The present mode of computing the figures therefore includes all persons between 60 to 64 years of age.

Thus, the extension of the retirement age to 65 having no effect on the computation, it is not proposed to review the present mode of such computation.

## **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - NATIONAL STRATEGY**

**(No. B/386) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Industry, Science and Research whether he will state if any national strategy for corporate social responsibility has been formulated at the level of his Ministry and, if so, indicate if any indicators have been defined to assess the CSR projects within enterprises.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH INSPECTORATE – VACANCIES**

**(No. B/387) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate, he will state the number of staff members serving thereat, indicating the number of vacancies that have not been filled, since 2005 to date.

**Reply:** The number of staff on the establishment of the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate is 60. Currently the following vacancies exist at the Inspectorate -

- (i) 19 vacancies in the grade of Occupational Safety and Health Officer/Senior Occupational Safety and Health Officer;
- (ii) 2 vacancies in the grade of Divisional Occupational Safety and Health Officer;

(iii) 1 vacancy in the grade of Head Specialist Support Services, and

(iv) 1 vacancy in the grade of Industrial Psychologist.

I have to inform the House that since 2005, a number of attempts have been made to fill the existing vacancies in the grade of Occupational Safety and Health Officer/Senior Occupational Safety and Health Officer.

The first attempt in 2005 to fill 20 existing vacancies resulted in the recruitment of 16 candidates only. In December 2005, PSC was invited to fill the 4 remaining vacancies and the 5 additional which had arisen following the promotion of 2 officers and the resignation of 3 others. However, due to budgetary constraints in 2006–2007, all the vacancies, which had by then increased to 13, could not be filled and PSC was invited to fill only 4 vacancies in the light of funds available. PSC submitted the names of 4 candidates to my Ministry in July 2007 for appointment. One declined the offer, one did not report for duty and two resigned after one month. The PSC informed my Ministry that there were no other suitable candidates for appointment. The post was advertised again in December 2007 as funds were available in the 2007-2008 budget for the filling of 7 vacancies. In April 2008, the PSC submitted the names of only 2 candidates and informed that there was no other suitable candidate. Out of the two, only one reported for duty at my Ministry.

I have no doubt that the Hon. Member is aware that there is a dearth of qualified candidates in the field of Occupational Safety and Health on the labour market. The Pay Research Bureau (PRB) was informed of the difficulty encountered by my Ministry to recruit and retain Occupational Safety and Health Officers. The PRB, in its 2008 Report, recommended the



payment of a retention allowance equivalent to 2 increments to all officers in post and as a means to attract also new entrants to the grade.

The schemes of service for all the grades in the Occupational Safety and Health Cadre are presently being reviewed to take on board the recommendations of the PRB regarding new appellation of the posts. The opportunity is also being taken to update the duties. A fresh recruitment exercise will be carried out as soon as the scheme of service for the post of Occupational Safety and Health Officer is prescribed.

As regards the two vacancies in the grade of Divisional Safety and Health Officer, which occurred respectively in December 2008 and January 2009, these will be filled once the new scheme of service is prescribed.

As to the vacancy in the grade of Head Specialist Support Services and that of Industrial Psychologist, I have to inform the Hon. Member as follows -

- (i) these posts were created in the context of the setting up of a Specialist Support Services Unit at the Occupational Safety and Health Inspectorate. The Specialist Support Services should, in principle, comprise also occupational disease specialists and industrial hygiene technicians who would be called upon to give specialist support in cases of accidents and wherever hazardous substances are used, and
- (ii) budgetary constraints have so far prevented the setting up of the Specialist Support Services Unit and the filling of the post of Head Specialist Support Services and that of Industrial Psychologist.

**PHOENIX / BEAU SONGES LINK ROAD -  
CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/388) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine**

**Magnien)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the project for the construction of the Phoenix-Beau Songes Link Road, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** The construction of the Phoenix-Beau Songes Link Road is presently at procurement stage. Tender Notices with closing date of 5 May 2009 were published in the local press on 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 respectively. The Central Procurement Board would thereafter carry out the evaluation exercise.

Works are expected to start in July 2009.

**LE BOUCHON - INTEGRATED RESORT SCHEME PROJECT**

**(No. B/389) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine**

**Magnien)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Integrated Resort Scheme project in Le Bouchon, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Board of Investment, information as to where matters stand.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Board of Investment that in April 2008, Le Bouchon Development Co Ltd submitted an application to the BOI for development of an IRS project at Le Bouchon. The promoters of the project are the Sugar Investment Trust Property Development Ltd, a subsidiary of

the Sugar Investment Trust Ltd and O&C Mauritius Ltd, a UK based consortium.

The project relates to the proposed development of 200 luxury villas, a health and fitness centre, a 5-star hotel of 125 keys, a beach club and spa over an extent of 143 *arpents* of freehold land belonging to Sugar Investment Trust Property Development Ltd and 20 *arpents* of *Pas Géométriques*.

A site visit was carried out on 08 May 2008 by the Board of Investment along with relevant Ministries and Authorities. The views obtained from those Ministries and Authorities suggest that there are no objections to the development of the IRS project.

However, according to the master plan of the project, the commercial and leisure components will be situated on the *Pas Géométriques* of Le Bouchon. The BOI has consequently asked the promoters to secure the portion of State land by obtaining a Letter of Reservation from the Ministry of Housing and Lands. The Ministry of Housing and Lands have already approved, in principle, to the lease of the 20 *arpents* of *Pas Géométriques*. Once a formal letter of Reservation of the lease is obtained, the Board of Investment will proceed with the issue of a Letter of Approval to Le Bouchon Development Co Ltd for the IRS project.

**PLAINE MAGNIEN – MARKET - CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. B/390) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a new market in Plaine Magnien, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply I made on 12 August 2008 to parliamentary question B/1107 on this issue.

I am informed that an amount of Rs 5m has been earmarked under the Local Infrastructure Fund for the construction of a new market at Plaine Magnien in financial year 2010.

I am also informed by the Ministry of Housing and Lands that an offer was made on 30 September 2008 to Mon Tresor Mon Desert S.E for the acquisition of a portion of its land of the extent of 3 *arpents* situated at Plaine Magnien for implementation of this project. Given that there has been no reply from the Company and the delay to accept the offer has lapsed, procedures have been initiated on 04 April 2009 by the Ministry of Housing and Lands for the compulsory acquisition of the land under the land Acquisition Act.

### **PORT LOUIS CITY CENTRE – INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL STATE LAND LEASES**

**(No. B/391) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the industrial and commercial State land leases in the Port Louis City Centre and its surroundings, he will state the number thereof, indicating in each case -

- a) the name of the lessees;
- b) the area of land occupied;

- c) the terms and conditions, including the annual rental value, and
- d) if the actual value reflects the market value and, if not, when will they be reviewed.

**Reply:** There are 28 industrial and commercial State land leases in the Port Louis City Centre while with regard to its surroundings and to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question, the requested information is being compiled. Once its compilation and verification has been undertaken, same will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

In regard to part (d) of the question, I wish to refer the hon. Member to my reply to PQ B/213 wherein I mentioned that the rental for industrial and commercial leases in the Port Louis City Centre is being reviewed in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Act 2008.

#### **PARIS - FIRST SECRETARY– RESIDENCE - RENOVATION**

**(No. B/392) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether, in regard to the residence of the First Secretary in Paris, he will state if refurbishment works have been carried out thereat and, if so, indicate -

- (a) the cost thereof, and
- (b) if the Mission was summoned to appear before the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris in relation thereto, and if so, the reasons therefore.

**Reply:** Refurbishment works in the Residence of the First Secretary on the 29<sup>th</sup> Floor of Tour Totem Quai de Grenelle, Paris was effected in April 2008 to the tune of €65,698.66. The work entailed replacement of ceramic tiles to its original condition in 1993 that is wall to wall carpet.

I am given to understand that the replacement of the wall to carpet by ceramic tiles in February 1993 was effected without prior approval of the syndic and apparently was not in accordance with Acoustic norms thus resulting in complaints from the owner of the apartment below that of the First Secretary, but no legal action was then undertaken.

However, a new owner to that apartment decided to initiate legal action and on 22 July 2005, Mission was summoned to appear before the Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris.

Mission reached an out of court settlement by entering into an agreement with the plaintiff on 29 December 2008 whereby the plaintiff<sup>1</sup> agreed not to pursue the matter further with the Tribunal to obtain financial compensation given that remedial action has already been taken to the satisfaction of the syndic.

### **MISSIONS OVERSEAS – DRIVERS – OVERTIME**

**(No. B/393) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether, in regard to the drivers in post in each of our Missions abroad, he will state the amount of overtime paid out to them for the year 2007-2008, indicating the reasons therefore.

**Reply:** I am advised that overtime paid to drivers of the Representational and Service cars attached to the 19 Missions and 2 Consulates amounted to Rs. 4,015,602.99 during financial year 2007/2008. According to information received from Missions, overtime was performed in connection with -

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- (i) High Commissioners/Ambassadors and officials attending meetings outside normal working hours;
- (ii) representational functions including receptions, dinners and banquet attended by High Commissioners/Ambassadors that often take place in the evening and some on public holidays;
- (iii) conveyance of official delegations to and from airport, and
- (iv) conveyance of officers performing consular duties after normal working hours.

### **ROYAL ROAD, CUREPIPE – UPGRADING**

**(No. B/394) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, he is aware of the bad state of the Royal Road in Curepipe, especially in front of the Kentucky Shop, and of the occurrence of numerous accidents thereat, and if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Road Development Authority, information as to if the Authority has received a request for the upgrading of the road, indicating if it will be acceded to.

**Reply:** The Phoenix–Plaisance Road (A10) over a length of 1.8 km starting from Ste. Therese Church in Curepipe to 16ème Mille was resurfaced in May 2007 and is reported to be in a good state.

The TMRSU has informed that from July 2005 to date, three minor cases of accidents were reported in the area.

The RDA intends to upgrade the roadside drain from the KFC outlet up to the traffic light near Ste. Therese Church. The main road near Royal College Curepipe over a length of 400 m will also be resurfaced early in the next financial year.

### **STC - BUTTER BEANS - IMPORTATION**

(No. B/395) Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE) asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the importation of butter beans, he will state the quantity thereof received in bad state for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008, indicating their respective monetary value.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that butter bean is not a controlled product and import thereof is made by several traders.

As regards butter beans imported by the State Trading Corporation, I am informed of the following:-

In 2006, no importation of butter bean was made.

In 2007, STC imported 663 metric tons as follows -

- 23 metric tons from Dalian Happy Four Tunes Trading Co. Ltd., China (September 2007);
- 40 metric tons from Tetra Fruits, Madagascar (October 2007);
- 600 metric tons from Tantsaha Mihary (TAMI) from Madagascar (November – December 2007).

There was no stock of butter beans in bad state, from the 23 metric tons imported from China and the 40 metric tons from Tetra Fruits, Madagascar.



STC received stock in bad state, only from the 600 metric tons of butter beans imported from TAMI. The 600 metric tons was received by STC in four consignments as follows:

- 100 Metric Tons on 12 November 2007
- 200 Metric Tons on 26 November 2007
- 280 Metric Tons on 10 December 2007
- 20 Metric Tons on 17 December 2007

The last consignment of 20 metric tons was found in bad state. This consignment was evaluated at EUR 13,062.60.

20% of the remaining 580 metric tons of butter beans were found to be of non-conformed grades, i.e. were of the grades PC3 and PC4 instead of PC1 and PC2 as provided in the contract. Consequently, STC rejected the non-conformed grades which represent 116 metric tons and evaluated at EUR 75,763.08.

STC has also claimed an additional EUR 16,174.32 to TAMI for expenses incurred regarding freight, warehousing, transport etc. On the whole a total of EUR 105,000 was claimed from TAMI and the latter has, in August 2008 officially agreed to refund the amount claimed.

In that respect, I am tabling the '*Proposition D'accord*' between STC and TAMI.

In 2008, there was no stock of butter beans in bad state, imported by STC.

**LE MORNE – SMALL PLEASURE CRAFTS – OPERATORS**

**(No. B/396) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether he is aware of the difficulties being faced by the small pleasure crafts operators operating at Le Morne, and, if so, will he state the reasons therefor, indicating the remedial measures that will be taken.

*(Withdrawn)*

**PARA STATAL AND GOVERNMENT OWNED COMPANIES –  
OFFICIAL CARS - POLICY**

**(No. B/397) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the para statal and Government owned companies, he will consider the advisability of issuing new policy guidelines in respect of –

- (a) the renewal of the official cars for the Chairpersons and the Chief Executives, and
- (b) the streamlining of expenses.

**Reply:** As the House is aware, the PRB Report 2008 has already made recommendations in respect of officers in the Public Service including those of the Parastatals and other Statutory Bodies, Local Authorities and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly regarding eligibility criteria and renewal of official/ chauffeur driven/ self-driven cars.

The renewal period for official cars is 5 years, except for Judges and officers of that level and above which is to be looked into by the High Powered Committee, as recommended by the PRB.

In so far as those organizations, which are not covered by the PRB, including government owned entities, where the Chairpersons and the Chief Executives are provided with official car facilities, they generally follow the guidelines set the PRB.

As far as part (b) of the question is concerned, I wish to inform the House, Government has embarked on a public enterprises reform programme. In this respect, Sector Working Groups have been established to drive the public enterprises reform programme under the leadership of the line Ministries for the selected public enterprises in the respective sectors. The main objectives of the sector working groups are to formulate a five year phased action plan for reforms for each selected public enterprise and propose a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and monitor their implementation.

Parallel to the work of the sector working groups, my Ministry is also working on the generic reforms which will impact on all parastatal bodies in respect of issues such as corporate governance, accountability, setting up of KPIs, and the development of a harmonised system of reporting by all public enterprises. The 14 critical parastatals which re-concerned by this programme have already developed a Cost Reduction Plan for the next 12 months that is being implemented. Some savings have already been achieved and some bodies.

In so far as Government owned organizations are concerned they are also required to establish their respective KPIs and adopt a strategy to reduce/eliminate wastages.

## **RODRIGUES – LOW COST HOUSES**

**(No. B/398) Mr C. Leopold (Third Member for Rodrigues)** asked the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the low income families living in Rodrigues, he will state if Government proposes to build low cost houses therefor, and, if so, indicate the –

- (a) number thereof, and
- (b) time frame and, if not, why not.

**Reply: (The Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues and Outer Islands)** I wish to inform the House that building of low cost houses for low-income families living in Rodrigues has always been the policy of this Government.

I am informed by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly that in line with this policy two (2) housing schemes for the low income and vulnerable segment of the population as follows:

- (i) Elderly Scheme whereby corrugated iron sheet, wooden poles and battens are allocated to the elderly (above 60 years old) and to families of the vulnerable group. 86 housing units have been allocated under the current financial year; and
- (ii) Low Cost (self help) housing scheme whereby construction materials (concrete blocks, aggregates, cement) are granted to low-income families for the construction of a concrete house on a self-help basis.

The House may wish to note that since August 2006 as at date, 163 families have benefited from the above scheme. However, for the coming financial year, this scheme shall not be continued due to financial constraints.

## **VUILLEMIN – DRAINS**

**(No. B/399) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether he will state if Government will consider re-opening/constructing drains –

- (a) opposite the Vuillemin Government School, and
- (b) in Cité Vuillemin.

**Reply:** I shall shortly request the Consultant of the National Development Unit, Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd to conduct a site visit at the Vuillemin Government School and Cité Vuillemin and to make appropriate recommendations.

## **AUDI ROAD, FERRARI ROAD, VAUXHALL ROAD, DAIRY ROAD AND TAFAZUL ROAD, ST PIERRE - RESURFACING**

**(No. B/400) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if Government will consider resurfacing the Audi Road, Ferrari Road, Vauxhall Road, Dairy Road and the Tafazul Road, at St Pierre.

**Reply:** I shall request NDU consultant Luxconsult (Mtius) Ltd to make site visit and submit its recommendation.

## **TERRE ROUGE-VERDUN HIGHWAY PROJECT – TENDER**

**(No.B/401) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Terre Rouge-Verdun Highway Project, he will state where matters stand, indicating if Government –

- (a) will consider a retendering exercise in relation thereto and, if not, why not, and
- (b) has taken cognizance of the estimated cost of the project submitted by the Road Development Authority.

**Reply:** Following instructions from the Supreme Court, the Central Procurement Board carried negotiations with Beijing Construction Engineering Group Co. Ltd, the lowest responsive bidder and recommended the Road Development Authority (RDA) to award the contract to Beijing Construction Engineering Co Ltd for the sum of Rs2,528,506,494.85 inclusive of VAT.

As the project was estimated at Rs2,074,724,000 by BCEOM, at its meeting held on Friday 17 April 2009, the RDA Board gave its approval for the Central Procurement Board to renegotiate the tender on the following conditions -

- (i) Beijing Construction Engineering Co. Ltd undertakes to implement the project for an amount NOT exceeding Rs2 billion, including VAT, and
- (ii) Should the lowest evaluation bidder decline the offer to implement the project for an amount of Rs2 billion (inclusive of VAT), the same terms and conditions

should be offered to the next bidder from among the remaining valid bidders. Retendering will be considered if none of the valid bidders accepts the offer of Rs 2billion.

### **HEALTH CARE ASSISTANTS – RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/402) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he will state if Health Care Assistants have recently been recruited and, if so, table a list thereof.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/369)*

### **HOSPITAL SERVANTS – RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/403) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he will state if Hospital Servants have recently been recruited and, if so, table a list thereof.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/369)*

### **HOSPITAL SERVANTS AND HOSPITAL MAIDS - RECRUITMENT**

**(No. B/404) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to Hospital Servants and Hospital Maids, he will state the names and

addresses of those recruited since January 2009 to date, indicating their respective posting.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/369)*

### **BERJAYA HOTEL – TAXI DRIVERS**

**(No. B/405) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the taxi drivers who were previously operating at the Berjaya Hotel, he will state if Government proposes to allow them to operate temporarily at the neighbouring hotels.

**Reply:** I am informed by the National Transport Authority that 20 taxis are licensed to operate from Berjaya Hotel, Le Morne. The Hotel closed down for renovation on 01 May 2007 and was expected to resume operation in early 2008. However, this has not been the case.

In line with its policy, when hotels are being renovated, the National Transport Authority authorized these taxis to operate temporarily from their residential address. In this connection, on 16 May 2007, the 20 taxi owners were accordingly informed. To date, only two of these taxi owners have varied their licences. The others informed the National Transport Authority, on 30 June 2007, that they would retain their authorized base of operation, that is, the Berjaya Hotel, as they were able to earn their living by conveying guests spending their holidays in nearby bungalows.

Government does not propose to allow them to operate temporarily in front of the neighbouring hotels because taxis have already been licensed to operate from these hotels.



**SIR ABDOOL RAZACK MOHAMED STREET, PORT LOUIS –  
PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

**(No. B/406) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed street, Port Louis, he will state if a study in relation thereto highlighted the need for pedestrian crossings to be put up along the said road and, if so, will he state the actions that will be taken, indicating when.

**Reply:** In reply to PQ A/22 in November last year, I informed the House of the situation along Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed street which is a classified road. It starts at the junction with Military Road and ends at Khadafi Square. It is about 900m long. The road is a very densely built-up one with a mix of commercial and residential buildings, but commercial buildings are predominant. There are footpaths on both sides of the road.

Pedestrian crossings have been set up at four positions on Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed street, at locations that have been purposely identified and where these road safety measures are safe for pedestrian and other road users. On certain sections of the road, pedestrian crossing cannot be set up because of the road geometry and other factors such as the presence of bus stops, which cannot be removed or relocated.

Recent site observations do not indicate that there is need for additional pedestrian crossings. However, the vehicular and pedestrian movement along this road will be continuously monitored. Should the need

arise, provision of additional pedestrian crossings will be envisaged or other appropriate measures will be implemented.

### **DESPEROUX STREET, CITÉ ROCHE BOIS - ROAD HUMPS**

**(No. B/407) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether he will state if he will consider the advisability of setting up road humps along the Desperoux street, Cité Roche Bois.

**Reply:** The House would recall that, on 25 July 2006, the then hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping made a declaration on the policy concerning the construction of humps. It was stated that, "amongst others", the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit, my Ministry carried out a survey before any recommendation is made for the installation of road humps. The TMRSU usually proposes other infrastructural measures to improve road safety and it is only, when it is inescapable that a road hump is installed.

As far as the setting up of road humps along Desperoux street, Cité Roche Bois, is concerned, from site surveys and observations, it has been found that it is not advisable to do so.

### **CITE OUVRIERE, BEAU BOIS - STREET LANTERN**

**(No. B/408) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, he will, for the benefit of the House,

obtain from the Moka/Flacq District Council, information as to if consideration will be given for the installation of a street lantern at Cité Ouvrière, Beau Bois, near the residence of Mr P.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Moka/Flacq District Council that since no electric pole and conductors are available near the residence of Mr. Peerbux, a street lantern cannot be installed. However, the Council has indicated that it is prepared to consider the possibility of providing a street lantern near the residence of Mr. Peerbux at Cité Ouvrière, Beau Bois.

### **NICOLAY ROAD, PORT LOUIS - BUS STOP AND PUBLIC TOILETS**

**(No. B/409) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he is aware of the bad state of the bus stop and public toilets at the Nicolay Road, Port Louis, in front of the Taxi Stand and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping that the bus stop sign post which has been removed illegally, has already been replaced.

As regards the public toilets, I am informed by the Municipality of Port Louis that they are properly maintained and cleaned by the Contractor ND Kleen Co Ltd to its satisfaction.