

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MAURITIUS PORTS AUTHORITY – CRANES

(No. B/1116) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure & External Communications whether, in regard to the purchase of new cranes in the port, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Ports Authority, information as to where matters stand.

Reply: I wish to inform the House that the Mauritius Ports Authority has not acquired any cranes recently, neither does it intend to do so.

However, I am informed that the Cargo Handling Corporation Ltd. (CHCL) has, as part of its strategy to cater for the development of container traffic in the port and the modernization of yard operations, initiated action for the procurement of four additional Rubber Tyred Gantry cranes (RTG's).

The approval of the Central Procurement Board was obtained on 15 May 2008 for the award of the tender to Messrs Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. Ltd. at the sum of USD 5,750,000 (VAT inclusive), which submitted the lowest bid.

The European Investment Bank, the funding agency, gave its clearance on 08 May 2008.

I am further informed that the contract agreement for the supply of the equipment was signed on 11 July 2008.

The manufacturing works are ongoing at the site of the contractor, and the four RTG's are expected to be delivered in June 2009 as per the contract.

HAJJ ORGANISERS – BOND & REGISTRATION FEES

(No. B/1124) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Arts and Culture whether, in regard to the Hajj, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Islamic Cultural Centre, information as to if changes have been brought to the regulations in relation to the organisation thereof, indicating if the bond and registration fees payable by the organisers have been increased and, if so, by how much.

Reply: I am informed by the Islamic Cultural Centre that no change has been brought to the regulations for Hajj 2008.

For Hajj 2007, the minimum number of pilgrims was 50 per organiser.

The Saudi Authorities have requested that this number be increased to 200 in order that organisers may provide better accommodation to their pilgrims and to improve the level of transport.

The Islamic Cultural Centre subsequently requested the Saudi Authorities to bring the minimum level for Mauritius to 150 for practical reasons, such as air trips of capacity of around 300 passengers each. The Saudi Authorities have agreed to that request.

Consequently, as the Islamic Cultural Centre Board is empowered under Section 3 and 6 of the Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund (Pilgrimage) Regulations 2001, to issue permits to organisers on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, the Board decided to increase the security bond proportionately from Rs250,000 to Rs750,000 per organiser and to increase the licence fees from Rs5,000 to Rs10,000.

NHDC – RESIDENCE LES CORSAIRES, MON CHOISY
- MR O. M. – ALLOCATION

(No. B/1128) **Mr M. Allet (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the NHDC units, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company, information as to if one Mr O.M. has been allocated with one unit and, if so, indicate –

(a) where, and

(b) when.

Reply: I am informed by the NHDC Ltd that one Mr O. M. who met and satisfied all eligibility criteria in respect of the Mon Choisy NHDC Housing Estate, was allocated a housing unit at Residence Les Corsaires, Mon Choisy on 30 May, 2006.

May I emphasize that I am in no way responsible for such allocations which are solely within the purview of the NHDC.

QUARTIER MILITAIRE - HANDRAILS

(No. A/17) **Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware of the several representations made by the village councillors and the *force vives* of Quartier Militaire in relation to the insecurity of the road users, including the schoolchildren and the factory workers in the region from the Srimati Indira Gandhi State Secondary School to the Saint Martin Dam, Quartier Militaire, and if so, will he state if he will consider constructing footpaths along the roads and provide handrails thereat.

Reply: The Srimati Indira Gandhi State Secondary School is located on the Quartier Militaire Road (B6) in the village of Quartier Militaire. The section of the road from the school to the Saint Martin Dam is within a speed limit of 50 km/h and the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) has provided for the following –

- (i) footpaths on the frontage of the school, near the junction B6/A7 (Moka/Camp de Masque/Flacq Road) and opposite the Moka/Flacq District Council, and
- (ii) one pedestrian crossing in front of the school and another one near the textile factory, some 200 m. away.

Although no representations have been made to the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit (TMRSU) or the Road Development Authority (RDA) by the village councillors or the *forces vives* of Quartier Militaire regarding the insecurity of road users in the region, the upgrading of the Quartier Militaire Road (B6) is one of the priority projects of the RDA.

The upgrading project, which will be implemented in two phases, includes the construction of footpaths and handrails along all residential zones in the village of Quartier Militaire. Phase I comprises upgrading works between Wooton and Belle Rive for which budgetary provision has been made in this financial year. Phase 2, which will be implemented in the next financial year, will involve upgrading works from Belle Rive to Quartier Militaire.

The construction of a bus lay-by for the safety of children attending the Srimati Indira Gandhi State Secondary School will also be considered by the RDA.

VUILLEMIN, QUARTIER MILITAIRE AND ST. JULIEN

D'HOTMAN - CREMATION GROUNDS

(No. A/18) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Local Government whether he will state if the cremation grounds at Vuillemin, Quartier Militaire, and that of St Julien d'Hotman will be upgraded and, if so, indicate –

- (a) when, and
- (b) the costs thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Moka/Flacq District Council that the construction of shelters over the existing pyres at the cremation grounds of Vuillemin, Quartier Militaire and St. Julien d'Hotman will start on 12 August 2008. Further upgrading works such as reinstatement of access, provision of water supply will be undertaken on completion of the shelters.

With regard to part (b) of the question, I am informed that the cost of construction of these shelters is Rs449,998.

L'AVENIR, ST. PIERRE – FOOTBALL GROUND - LIGHTING

(No. A/19) Mr S. Dayal (Second Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka) asked the Minister of Local Government whether he will state if the football ground at l'Avenir, St. Pierre, will be provided with lighting and, if so, indicate the cost thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Moka/Flacq District Council that the football ground at L'Avenir, St. Pierre will be provided with lighting facilities.

I am also informed that the cost of the project will be approximately Rs800,000 and the procurement exercise has reached the evaluation stage.

ESPACE L'AMITIÉ, CITÉ MARTIAL – ELECTRIC CABLES

(No. A/20) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government whether he is aware of the presence of electrical cables lying on the ground at Espace L'Amitié, Cité Martial, thereby representing hazards 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 Municipal Council of Port Louis that an electrical pole standing on the edge of Espace L'Amitié, bordering Canal Bathurst Street, Cité Martial with cable running into the ground is not a live one and thus does not represent any hazard to members of the public. Nevertheless, necessary arrangements had already been made with the Central Electricity Board for the displacement of the electric pole.