

Debate No. 24 of 11.07.06

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**CHILDREN - GLUE SNIFFING – SURVEY**

(No. B/946) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to glue sniffing by children, he will state if a survey has been carried out thereon and, if so, indicate the areas of the country which are the most affected.

(Vide reply to PQ B/937)

DEMOCRATISATION OF THE ECONOMY - COMMISSION – VICE CHAIRPERSON – ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS

(No. B/947) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether in regard to the Committee for the Democratisation of the Economy, he will state the allowances and other benefits provided to the Vice Chairperson and the other members of the Committee.

Reply: The Deputy Chairperson has a dual function. In addition to her responsibilities at the Commission, she is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Government Programme 2005-2010. She is paid a total fee of Rs15,000 monthly.

As per conditions attached to her functions, she is also entitled to a chauffeur driven car. However, she has not availed herself of this facility.

MAYORS, CHAIRMEN OF DISTRICT COUNCILS, ETC. – MONTHLY ALLOWANCES

(No. B/948) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether in regard to the 3.5 percent cut in the monthly allowances of the members of the House, he will state if Government intends to extend same to the Mayors, Chairmen of District Councils, Chairpersons and members of public and parastatal bodies and other political nominees, such as Advisers to Ministers and, if not, why not.

Reply: In the face of an adverse economic situation, members of the Government, in a spirit of solidarity, have consented to a 3.5% cut in their monthly allowances.

All Members of the National Assembly have been requested to follow suit on a voluntary basis.

The fees payable to Mayors, Chairpersons of District Councils are prescribed and various representations have in fact been made to increase the fees payable to them.

As regards Chairpersons, Chief Executives of Public Companies, I am advising that the 3.5% cut be applicable to them.

As regards Advisers, although their conditions of employment are governed by a legally contractual agreement, paragraph 10.64 of the PRB Report states that the salary of contract officers should be determined on the basis of negotiations having regard to the officers' qualifications and experience. However, as I had already indicated in my reply to PQ B/543 on 23 May last, they have all taken a pay cut from the very beginning.

PUBLIC OFFICERS – DUTY FREE CAR FACILITIES

(No. B/949) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will state the category of public officers benefiting from duty free car facilities who will henceforth not be allowed to make use of Government vehicles.

Reply: According to the PRB Report 2003, the following categories of Public Officers benefit from duty-free car facilities –

- (a) 100% duty remission
 - (i) Officers drawing a monthly salary of Rs28,000 and above;
 - (ii) Professionals, such as Medical & Health Officers, State Counsel and Engineers although they draw a monthly salary of less than Rs28,000.

- (b) 70% duty remission
 - (i) Officers in some 200 grades classified in the PRB Report 2003 who perform field duties;
 - (ii) Officers aged 53 and above who reckon 22 years service and drawing salary of Rs21,600 and above are eligible for duty free facilities only once in their career.

The existing regulations already provide that such officers should not make use of Government vehicles as they are also entitled to either a travelling allowance or a travel grant.

As indicated in the budget speech, Government will ensure that no beneficiaries of duty free facilities also make use of Government vehicles, except in very exceptional circumstances.

**GRANDE MONTAGNE, RODRIGUES - SPEVILLE, MR
JACQUELIN – ELECTROCUTION**

(No. B/950) Mr J. R. Spéville (Second Member for Rodrigues) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether in regard to one Mr Jacquelin Spéville who, on or about 18 September 2005, died by electrocution at Grande Montagne, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if a police inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, where matters stand.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 18 September 2005, at about 1100 hours, one Mr Joseph Jacquelin Spéville, aged 29, stonemason, residing at Grande Montagne, Rodrigues, was accidentally electrocuted with a high tension CEB power line whilst working on the roof of his brother-in-law's house. He was immediately conveyed to Mont Lubin Health Centre where he was certified dead by the Medical and Health Officer in post.

On 20 September 2005, a post mortem examination was carried out by the Chief Police Medical Officer who certified the cause of death of late Mr Spéville to be "shock due to electrocution".

I am also informed that the Police inquiry has been completed and on 26 June 2006, the Police has forwarded its report to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice to hold a Judicial Enquiry into the cause of death of late Mr Spéville before the District Court of Rodrigues.