

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CONVICTS ABSCONDING – JULY 2005 TO 14.11.2006

(No. B/1359) Mr R. Bhagwan (First 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, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of persons who have been convicted to serve prison sentences since July 2005 to date and who are still absconding, indicating –

- (a) their names and addresses;
- (b) the date on which judgment was delivered in each case, and
- (c) the actions that have been taken to trace them back.

Reply: I am informed that there are 10 persons who are still absconding since July 2005 to date. These persons have been convicted before the Intermediate Court and gave notice of appeal. Their appeal have been either set aside or dismissed by the Supreme Court and they failed to surrender themselves before Court to serve the sentence imposed upon them. Subsequently, a warrant of arrest has been issued by Court and forwarded to the Police for execution.

I am, in this connection, tabling information pertaining to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

I am further informed that the following measures have been taken by the Commissioner of Police to trace them back -

- (i) the names of these persons have been included in the list of wanted persons, which has been circulated to all Police Stations and Branches of the Force for their early arrest. The Special Warrant Squad at Divisional Level is monitoring the matter;
- (ii) the Crime Intelligence Cell based at the Police Headquarters, has been tasked to collect all information about their possible whereabouts, and

- (iii) foot and mobile patrols at Station level as well as all adjunct of the Force such as CID, ADSU have been alerted and they are on the look-out for the absconded persons.

FERRY, MR CYRIL – RESIDENCE – DAMAGES

(No. B/1360) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to whether one Mr Cyril Ferry, a social worker has reported a case of damages caused to his house by a group of persons close to drug dealers and, if so, if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 10 September 2006, Mr Jean Noel Ferry, residing at Cité Ste Claire, Goodlands, and son of Mr Cyril Ferry, social worker, reported that on the same day at around 1725 hours, five residents of Cité Ste Claire entered his yard, armed with *sabres*, daggers and stones, and threatened to do bodily harm to him. They then picked up stones and flung them towards his house, as a result of which a pane of glass was broken. According to Police report, nobody was injured during this incident.

During the course of the inquiry, on 11 September 2006, the Police arrested the five persons who were involved in the incident. On 12 September 2006, they appeared before the Rivière du Rempart District Court and were provisionally charged for the offence of “damaging property by band”. They were released on bail on the same day.

So far, there is no indication that the five persons who were arrested are close to drug dealers. The Police inquiry is still in progress.

AGGRESSIONS - YEARS 2004, 2005 & 2006

(No. B/1361) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police information as

to the number of aggressions committed, for each of the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 to date, by –

- (a) groups of minors;
- (b) groups of adults, and
- (c) mixed groups of adults and minors.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the information is being compiled and will be laid in the Library of the National Assembly.

RODRIGUES – WARRANTS OF ARREST – 03 NOVEMBER 2006

(No. B/1362) Mr J. R. Speville (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 the issue of warrants of arrest in Rodrigues on or about Friday 03 November 2006, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the number thereof;
- (b) the number thereof which were executed, and
- (c) if a Commissioner of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly was one of the persons against whom a warrant of arrest was issued, indicating his name and the reasons therefor.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, according to records kept at the Rodrigues Police Headquarters and confirmed by the Prosecutor, Rodrigues, no warrant has been issued by the Rodrigues District Court from 01 November 2006 to date.

Consequently, parts (b) and (c) of the question do not arise.

POLICE MECHANICAL WORKSHOP – CLOSURE

(No. B/1363) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal) 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 Police Workshop, he

will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to –

- (a) the date it is proposed to be closed down, and
- (b) if any study has been carried out to ensure the cost effectiveness of the closure and, if so, when and by whom and, if not, why not.

Reply: It was announced in the 2006-2007 Budget Speech that the Police Mechanical Workshop will be closed and all repairs and maintenance works will be contracted out to registered private companies. However, as I have said in the past, the SMF Workshop will continue to operate, and will be responsible for the repairs and maintenance of specialised vehicles such as armoured vehicles, explosive ordinance disposal specialised vehicles, earth-moving engineering plants and all vehicles of make Land Rover of the Police Force.

The process to register private companies has already started, and thereafter tenders to contract out works will be called for. The workshop is scheduled to be closed by June 2007.

With regard to part (b) of the question, the decision to close the Police Mechanical Workshop is in line with Government's principle of reducing wastage, better utilisation of public funds and ensure efficient use of our scarce budgetary resources. This forms part of Government's commitment to optimise efficiency within the public sector and reducing administrative costs.

I would also like to inform the House that in the past the Director of Audit and the Management Audit Bureau have highlighted major weaknesses and constraints at Police Mechanical Workshop. The expenditure has increased significantly from Rs96.9 m. in financial year 2004/05 to Rs125.8 m. in 2005/06, representing a 30% increase.

RICHELIEU – DRUG TRAFFICKING – RECRUDESCENCE

(No. B/1364) Mrs S. Grenade (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer islands whether he is aware that there is a recrudescence

of drug trafficking in the vicinity of Richelieu especially at Avenue Winston Churchill and, if so, will he state the measures that will be taken, if any.

Reply: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that according to Police records there is no indication that the number of drugs related cases in the regions of Richelieu and Avenue Winston Churchill is on the rise. Statistics indicate that for the region of Richelieu, 17 cases were reported in 2005 and 14 cases from January to date. As regards Avenue Winston Churchill, only one case was reported in 2005 and none for the period January to date.

The Commissioner of Police has taken the following measures to avoid the occurrence of drug propagation in this region –

- (a) the local Police, ERS, DSU and other special tasked mobile teams are operating on a 24 hour basis to gather intelligence with a view to combat the drug problem;
- (b) there are frequent mobile patrols by the local Police, ERS and DSU in high risk areas;
- (c) the Police is holding regular meetings with member of the “*Force Vives*”;
- (d) Crime Prevention awareness campaigns are being organised by the Crime Prevention Unit, and
- (e) the Police is responding expeditiously to the requests and calls for assistance received from the public through the 999 (emergency call) at the Police Operations Room.

I am further informed that the NATReSA has been very active in Richelieu and has, in collaboration with the *Forces Vives* of the locality and the Richelieu Village Council, organised a series of sensitisation campaigns on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS.

***JUGE D’INSTRUCTION* – LEGAL EXPERTS – REPORT**

(No. B/1365) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River) 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 Government's proposals to set up the system of *Juge d'Instruction*, he will state if he has now received any report from the legal experts on the matter.

Reply: Following a request for technical assistance which I made to the *Garde des Sceaux* on the 10 January 2006, the French Government sent a team of experts comprising –

- (a) Mr Jean-Pierre Zanoto, *inspecteur des services judiciaires*;
- (b) Mr Samuel Lainé, *chef du bureau de l'entraide pénale internationale à la Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces*.

These experts were in Mauritius from the 25 June to 01 July 2006 and had working sessions with –

- (a) the Hon. Chief Justice and Judge P. Lam Shang Leen;
- (b) the Attorney General, the Solicitor General and the staff of the State Law Office;
- (c) the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- (d) the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission;
- (e) the Commissioner of Police;
- (f) the Bar Council;
- (g) the Director-General of ICAC, and
- (h) Mr Jean Claude Bibi (on behalf of the NGO Association Justice).

In a report submitted in September last, the experts have expressed the view that the introduction of the system of *judge d'instruction* would better control the Police in the investigatory phase. They have also proposed that the powers of the DPP be extended so as to confer on him a *droit de regard* on investigations made by the Police.

Alternatively, the experts have recommended the creation of an Independent Director of Investigations who would be a magistrate, discharging his functions independently of the Police force, and would have as primary function the supervision and control of Police investigations.

These recommendations are under consideration.

ATHLETES – CASH ALLOWANCE

(No. B/1386) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether he is aware that the monthly grants paid to Fernando Augustin, Arnaud Casquette, Fabrice Coiffic, Fabio Ramsamy, Daniella Stephen, Enrico Louis, Mélissa Vincent and O. Kowlessur have been decreased and, if so, will he state –

- (a) the percentage and the reasons thereof in each case;
- (b) if the reduction was recommended by their respective sports federations, and
- (c) if he has received representations from sports federations to review the matter and, if so, where matters stand.

Reply: As a matter fact, high level athletes are provided with a cash allowance to compensate them for their high performance in the various sports disciplines.

The quantum of allowance is calculated on the basis of certain criteria such as regularity in training sessions and attainment of a minimum performance which would enable them to obtain a monthly allowance ranging from Rs20,000 in level 1 to Rs6,000 in level 2, Rs3,000 in level 3 and between Rs500 to Rs2,000 in level 4.

The allowance is reviewed every three months and is calculated on the basis of the criteria established since the past five years and known to all sports federations as well as on the report of performance submitted by the respective sports federation.

Accordingly, the cash allowances to be paid to Fernando Augustin, Arnaud Casquette, Fabrice Coiffic, Fabio Ramsamy, Daniella Stephen, Enrico Louis, Mélissa Vincent and O. Kowlessur for the period October to December 2006 have been revised downwards on the basis of the performance report submitted by the sports federations in September 2006.

The allowance of Fernando Augustin was reduced from level 2 to level 3 in the 400-metre run as his performance was 46.57 seconds as against 46.19 seconds required for level 2.

Regarding the case of Arnaud Casquette, his allowance has been reduced from level 1 to level 3 as he has attained a performance of 7.74

metres in long jump as against the required minima of 8.11 metres for level 1 and 7.89 metres for level 2.

The allowance of Fabrice Coiffic was reduced to level 3 as he performed at 10.55 seconds in the 100-metre run whereas a performance of 10.39 seconds is required for level 2.

Fabio Ramsamy attained a performance of 64.13 metres javelin throw which is below the minimum required for level 4 which is 64.85 metres and has remained in level 4 but with a reduced allowance.

The performance of Daniella Stephen in 100-metre run is 12.42 seconds as against 11.87 seconds previously in level 4 resulting in a reduction of the allowance.

The performance of Enriro Louis which is 10.62 seconds for 100-metre run is below the performance of 10.56 seconds required for level 3. He has therefore been listed in level 4 with a reduced allowance.

Regarding O. Kowlessur, his allowance was reduced from level 2 to level 4 as he performed 21.53 seconds in 200-metre run whereas the minima for level 2 is 20.86 seconds and 21.21 seconds for level 3.

Mélissa Vincent has now been listed in level 3 in swimming with 783 points as she has not attained the required 800 points to be listed at level 2. The Swimming Federation has raised no objection to the new listing.

Regarding part (b) of the question, I would like to mention that the Athletic Federation has not contested the criteria for the grant of allowances but feel that the reductions have consequent bearing on the finances of the athletes and have accordingly recommended that the allowances be maintained at the same level as for the previous quarter although the performance of the athletes have been reduced.

Regarding part (c) of the question, following representations made by the Athletic Federation, a meeting was held on 08 November 2006 at my Ministry wherein the Federation agreed that it would submit its proposals for the review of the criteria regarding performance and payment of allowances to its athletes. The High Level Sports Unit Board of my Ministry would examine these proposals once received.

BPML – LAND LEASE – BENEFICIARIES

(No. B/1396) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to the plots of land which the Business Parks of Mauritius (Ltd) has given on lease, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the BPML information the names of the beneficiaries, indicating in each case the extent of the land leased.

Reply: With regard to land at the Ebène Cybercity, I am informed by the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd that as at today, out of 105 acres, 82.89 acres have been leased to 36 beneficiaries.

I am informed that out of the 36 beneficiaries, 17 had paid the initial one-off payment of Rs2 m. per acre for the Business Zone and 5 had paid the initial one-off payment of Rs1 m. per acre for the Knowledge Zone and the Cybercity Hotel project.

The total one-off payments received from the beneficiaries to date amounts to Rs168 m. whereas, astonishingly, the costs for infrastructural works incurred by the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd amount to Rs336.4 m. in other words, a loss of more than a 100%. Furthermore, the total rental receivable for the 105 acres at the rates initially decided by the Board was Rs19.4 m. yearly and this is well below the amount of interests paid yearly which amounts to Rs71.8 m. paid to date for the loans contracted for these infrastructural works.

This shortfall in revenue was the correct recipe, if you needed one, for the financial crisis of the Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd.

The icing on the cake was the lease of 8 acres of land for the Ebène Hyper Market without any one-off payment at Rs2.5 m. per acre thus foregoing some Rs20 m., and a reduced yearly rental of Rs1.4 m. instead of Rs1.6 m.

Furthermore, I am informed by Business Parks of Mauritius Ltd that as at today, all the 46 acres of land at Rose Belle Business Park are yet to be leased.

The list of the beneficiaries of lands at the Ebène Cybercity inclusive of the extent of land leased to each of them, is being tabled.