

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LAW AND ORDER

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr N. Bodha) (*By Private Notice*) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in relation to the law and order situation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand in regard to –

- (a) the case of jockey François Heroldt arrested by the MCIT on 25 November 2006;
- (b) the arrest of Sada Curpen with subutex in Trou aux Biches on 10 August 2006;
- (c) the inquiry into the case of illegal betting against bookmaker Joomun which started in July 2006;
- (d) the arrest of Manan Fakoo sentenced to prison in June 2005, and
- (e) the Police inquiry in the transfer of the sum of Rs150m by Hemant Bangaleea on 24 November 2006 in connection with a transaction of State land.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 25 November 2006, following a complaint made to the Police to the effect that the said François Heroldt was indebted to the complainant in the sum of Rs200,000 and was refusing to pay him.

Thereafter, the MCIT officers contacted Mr Heroldt and asked him to call at Grand Baie Police Station. Mr F. Heroldt called at Grand' Baie Police Station and acknowledged being indebted to the complainant. He agreed to refund the amount of Rs200,000 and the matter was therefore concluded to the satisfaction of both parties. Mr Heroldt was never arrested by the MCIT. Nevertheless, I am referring the matter to the Horse Racing Board for any further action.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that at 12.30 hours on 10 August 2006, the

personnel of ADSU arrested one Sada Curpen for possession of 3500 Subutex pills at Royal Road, Trou aux Biches. Provisional charges were lodged against him for “Possession of Dangerous Drugs” and for “Money Laundering”. He was in Police custody for nine days and was released on bail on 18 August 2006 after furnishing two sureties of Rs150,000 each and a recognition of Rs50,000.

An application was made for a Prohibition Order and the freezing of assets of Mr Curpen. Another application was made for a Judge’s Order to authorise the Police to have access to his bank deposit. The Police has forwarded the case of “Possession of Dangerous Drugs” to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice and the case of “Money Laundering” is still under inquiry.

As regards part (c) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, in virtue of a warrant, a search was carried out on 26 June 2006 at the residence of Mr Farook Joomun, a bookmaker of St. François Xavier Street, Plaine Verte. Ten floppy disks were seized as well as a booklet of receipts. On the same day, two persons were arrested. They were released on bail on 27 June 2006.

Mr Farook Joomun was arrested on 19 July 2006, and was bailed out on the same day.

The IT Unit of the Police was able to read eight out of the ten floppy disks seized. One of the floppy disks was not formatted while the data recorded on the other was damaged.

I should add, Mr Speaker, Sir, that there was a forensic expert from the UK who had visited Mauritius and the Police had consulted him. I am informed that the possibility of further forensic examination of the damaged floppy disk in the UK is being looked into.

As I said the inquiry is still underway. One bookmaker on the list contained in the floppy disks is sick and is unable to complete his statement.

Furthermore, there is also a list of names, mostly aliases and nicknames without addresses. Investigation is being carried out to trace them.

The file will be referred to the DPP for advice on completion of the inquiry.

As regards part (d) of the question, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that one Manan Fakoo was arrested on 20 March 1998. He was accused of the following offences –

- (i) possession of offensive weapon;
- (ii) giving instructions to commit a crime;
- (iii) assaulting an agent of civil authority causing effusion of blood, and
- (iv) assault.

He was released on bail on 26 March 1998. Judgment was delivered by Court on 20 September 2001 and he was sentenced to undergo 1 year imprisonment on counts 1 and 2, while he was sentenced to undergo three years penal servitude on count 3. He appealed against the judgement and the sentence was suspended pending determination of the appeal.

When his appeal was dismissed, a warrant to apprehend was issued against Manan Fakoo on 12 September 2006 and referred to Beau Bassin Police Station for execution. He is still absconding. Every possible effort is being made by the Police to arrest Mr Fakoo as soon as possible.

As regards part (e) of the question, my attention has been drawn to an article that appeared in the *Hebdo* of 03 to 09 December of this year, which refers to an alleged transfer by a Mauritian national of the sum of Rs150m from a Swiss Bank to a bank in the UK. I have already caused the matter to be referred to the ICAC for investigation.

Mr Bodha: I thank the hon. Prime Minister for the answers because the PNQ was quite long. Mr Speaker, Sir, my first question is regarding the first part of the question concerning the jockey François Heroldt. If it was a civil debt, why is it that the MCIT was involved in this matter?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I understand that it is common place in this country for aggrieved persons to contact directly the Police about whether it is an unpaid debt which could be connected also to embezzlement. That is what has happened. The person got in touch directly with them and they proceeded.

Mr Bodha: Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House at what time, Mr Heroldt left the Grand' Baie Police station?

The Prime Minister: I have to check with the Police, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Bodha: May I inform the House, Mr Speaker, Sir, that it was at 2 o'clock in the morning? May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is aware of a statement made by the Chief of the MCIT, Mr Prem Raddhoa, on Radio One on Wednesday the 29 November 2006 where he said that he does not find it illegal for him to have the jockey come to the Police station, have him stay there up to 2 o'clock in the morning because there was a complaint, but he also says that there was a case of swindling. So, I am asking the hon. Prime Minister who gives directives to Mr Prem Raddhoa and why is he involved in civil cases?

The Prime Minister: First of all, I have said, Mr Speaker, Sir, it is common place for aggrieved persons to go and report to somebody they might know or things like that. But I must say that Mr Raddhoa did not intervene in person. It was one of his officers who intervened. As to the fact that he stayed up to 2 o'clock, I cannot understand the pertinence of the point. If he was held up to 2 o'clock in the morning, that depends on what the Police is doing.

Mr Bodha: May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether the jockey was kept at the Police station until 2 o'clock in the morning until a friend of his went outside and came back with the money for the settlement? Why a civil debt is settled at a Police station at 2 o'clock in the morning?

The Prime Minister: I have to clarify the matter. I understand, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the said jockey was about to leave the country.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am laying on the Table of the Assembly a copy of the interview of the Chief of the MCIT, Mr Raddhoa, where he says –

“Si zotte fine faire ène settlement entre zotte où est le problème? Mo pas trouve nanier illégal là-dans.”

Then he continues –

“...alors si fine éna ène citoyen ki fine victime ène escroquerie.”

If he himself believes that it is a matter of swindling, he should have asked for a statement at the Police station. That is what I am asking the Prime Minister. Why did Mr Raddhoa treat that case in that particular manner? Is he aware that other cases of civil debts are being treated in the same manner by Mr Raddhoa and the MCIT, that is, calling the debtors to come at the Police station and putting pressure on them to be able to pay the debt? I am asking the Prime Minister why is he condoning the conduct of Mr Raddhoa?

Mr Speaker: I am sorry. We are dealing with one specific case. I have allowed the Leader of the Opposition some latitude, but I will not allow him to bring in other cases where similar things are happening, unless he comes with a substantive question.

The Prime Minister: May I remind the Leader of the Opposition that, in fact, I said in my answer that the said jockey acknowledged being indebted to the complainer. We should put it in the perspective that he was about to leave the country. I think that is why the gentleman complained to him and he was brought to the Police station. The matter has been concluded to the satisfaction of both parties.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope the Prime Minister is aware how people acknowledge certain truths in front of Mr Raddhoa. How is it that he acknowledged the debt at the Police station?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, it cannot be that everything that Mr Raddhoa does comes to be pointed as if he is the accused party. I do not believe that Mr Raddhoa is the accused party here. Every case that he looks at people talk about brutality and all those things. He must be able to do his work also.

Mr Cuttaree: Regarding the statement the Prime Minister made concerning Police getting involved in civil debt, can I ask him to verify this information, at least, from the lawyers in his party? This is not the case, because, in fact, when somebody goes to Police station to report a civil debt, even the declaration is not taken. If the Police is going to get involved in civil matters who is to handle the criminal matters?

The Prime Minister: I will certainly look into it. But I must put it in the context that the jockey was about to leave the country.

Mr Bodha: If there is a case of swindling, a possible criminal offence, and the person is about to leave the country, is it not the proper procedure for Mr Raddhoa to have a statement made and to have an objection to departure?

Mr Speaker: I think the proper question would be whether the complainant made a formal declaration to the Police for it to act on that declaration. That is important.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order, please!

Mr Cuttaree: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir. You asked the question as to whether a complaint was made. Are you asking the question to the Prime Minister?

Mr Speaker: No, I am just trying to reframe the question so that the Prime Minister can reply.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, this question is very simple. Why all this was done at a Police station at 2 o'clock in the morning by the MCIT? That is the question.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

The Prime Minister: First of all, as they would see themselves this was done at the Police station and not at the airport.

Mr Bodha: Concerning the second part of the question as regards Sada Curpen, may I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is aware that the Chief Investigating Officer in this case who has been following Mr Curpen for some time, said –

“Je vais démanteler un réseau.”

I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister, apart from Mr Sada Curpen, who are the people who have been arrested in the case and where has the Police reached in its investigation?

The Prime Minister: Again, Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot be held responsible for what the Police officer says, namely –

“Je vais démanteler un réseau.”

He had said it, not me! I cannot answer for him as to why he has said it.

(Interruptions)

In fact, I have answered two PQs on this subject. There were supplementary questions asked by other Members. I have given the different details. For example, on 10 August I said that Mr Curpen was arrested with 3500 Subutex pills and the case is still pending inquiry. As far as I understand, from what I have here, it was him who was arrested.

Mr Bodha: Is the hon. Prime Minister aware that 3500 Subutex pills means 150,000 doses. May I ask him whether there was any search on the premises of Mr Curpen and whether any paraphernalia or drug money was found?

The Prime Minister: This question was not referring directly to the search of premises. But my understanding - I think I answered that last time as well – is that his premises was searched and nothing was found there. To answer to the other question about how many people have been arrested for Subutex from the 27th ...

(Interruptions)

That is the one case.

Mr Bodha: Has only one person been arrested?

The Prime Minister: Yes, Mr Sada Curpen.

Mr Bodha: May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he was aware that the drug was delivered by somebody on a motorcycle on that day itself when Mr Sada Curpen was arrested? May I ask him whether that motorcyclist was arrested on that day as well?

The Prime Minister: As I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, Police inquiry is still on. I will have to wait for the Police inquiry.

Mr Bodha: May I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is aware that Mr Sada Curpen has left the country since his arrest?

The Prime Minister: He has left and come back to the country.

Mr Bodha: Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether there was any objection to departure against Mr Sada Curpen?

The Prime Minister: Again, this question has been answered in the past, Mr Speaker, Sir. First of all it is a bailable offence. I am told that over 90% of cases, if not 100%, where people who have been arrested and bailed and who have to go abroad, the Police will allow them if it feels satisfied that they will not abscond and will not stay abroad but it is normally with a restriction on the passport.

(Interruptions)

Yes, they go to the Magistrate. It is normally with a restriction on the passport and this is what has happened in that case.

Mr Bodha: My question is very simple. Was there an objection to departure? My second question: is the hon. Prime Minister aware that Subutex is a drug which is sold freely in France and here it is a prohibited drug? Because of the number of cases which have been mentioned, what does the hon. Prime Minister intend to do as far as the entry of Subutex is concerned in the country?

The Prime Minister: First of all, as I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, when people are bailed and they have to go abroad, the Police has no objection to it if it is satisfied that they are not going to abscond. The proof of the pudding is, in fact, that he came back.

Secondly, concerning Subutex being freely available in France, we are looking into it. I do not want to give details of what the Police is doing. But, in fact, we are following very carefully what is happening in France and Reunion Island.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Prime Minister aware that last week in this august Assembly the hon. Attorney General circulated forged photographs of Sada Curpen with a certain number of

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mr Bodha: They know they are forged ones.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Soodhun, let the Leader of the Opposition put his question and the Prime Minister answer. Order!

Mr Bodha: Was the hon. Prime Minister aware that such a manoeuvre was being done in this august Assembly last week?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

The Prime Minister: I am not aware if these photographs were circulated in the National Assembly and I have not seen these photographs. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition feels that forged photographs have been circulated he should make a formal complaint.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I come to the other part of the question...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, regarding part (b) of the question, in view of the fact that the Prime Minister has himself said that this is a very serious matter - 3,500 Subutex worth millions of rupees - can we know from

the hon. Prime Minister why Mr Curpen has not been charged of any drug trafficking offence? He has been charged of possession and no averment of drug trafficker has been made against him!

The Prime Minister: That is the advice that the DPP has given.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, let me come to the part of the question concerning Manan Fakoo. Can the hon. Prime Minister confirm that Mr Manan Fakoo should have been in prison as from July 2005?

The Prime Minister: I think I have said it, Mr Speaker, Sir. I will give the details again. Again I stressed the point that he was arrested on 20 March 1998. And then he was released on bail, the case came to Court, he made an appeal, and then, as I said, when his appeal was dismissed, a warrant to apprehend was issued against him on 12 September 2006. Since then he has been absconding and the Police are looking for him.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, my question is very simple. I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether, when the appeal was dismissed in July 2005, Mr Manan Fakoo should not have been sent to prison then. Why this has not been done? That is my question.

The Prime Minister: When his appeal was dismissed, a warrant was issued against him.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the Prime Minister to confirm – let me explain chronologically how things happened ...

(Interruptions)

Let him confirm, I am explaining to him!

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order!

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, can the Prime Minister confirm that the appeal was dismissed in July 2005, which means that Mr Manan Fakoo should have been in prison then? The problem is – that is why I am asking him to confirm – that the warrant of arrest dates back to September 2006 which means more than one year after. Why? That is my question to the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order, please!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, there has been a Court process I should say. First of all, the warrant to apprehend was issued against the abovenamed by the Intermediate Court. They had to go to Court to get the warrant and then a special squad was set up on 05.10.2006 to go and find him. And since then he has been absconding, as I said, and Police are still looking for him.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, my question is: whether the Prime Minister is aware that a hon. Minister of this House and the hon. Chief Whip met Mr Manan Fakoo on 10 February 2006 ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: No, I am sorry. I hope that the hon. Leader of the Opposition is not imputing any motive.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I want to explain and to make it clear that I have never in my life - I repeat, "never in my life" – met Mr Manan Fakoo and I insist that he withdraws his comment.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order, please! Order, I said! Let the question be put, I will have to see first, whether it is imputing any motive on Members of this House, and secondly, if any hon. Member is mentioned in the question, I will allow him to make a personal explanation.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, my question is very simple. I asked the Prime Minister whether he is aware that a Minister and the hon. Chief Whip met Mr Manan Fakoo on 10 February 2006. That's all.

The Prime Minister: First of all, I am not aware of this. Secondly, I have just heard the Chief Whip say that what the hon. Leader of the Opposition is saying is not true.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, can I request the hon. Leader of the Opposition, with your permission, to withdraw his comment?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! I will just invite the hon. Chief Whip to make a personal explanation if he has one to make. What the Leader of the Opposition said was not unparliamentary. If he has any explanation he can make it now.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, subsequent to the questions of the Leader of the Opposition, I would like to assure the House that not even on 10 February 2006, but up till now, I have never in my life met Mr Manan Fakoo.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order! I said order, please! Hon. Bhagwan, please!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether there was a special Squad set up by the Police to proceed with the arrest of Mr Fakoo and whether this Squad is still operational? Secondly, can the Prime Minister inform the House to which section of the Police Department this squad was attached?

The Prime Minister: As I said, a special squad was set up on 05 October 2006 under the charge of PS Pooleecootee of Western CID composed of DCPs Mr Nubee, Busguth and Dulloo.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, can the Prime Minister inform the House whether the photographs of Mr Fakoo have been published in all the Police Stations and even on the MBC TV, if not, why? And secondly, will the Prime Minister confirm to the House whether instructions have been

received *en haut lieu* at the Beau Bassin Police or to the respective section of the squad to stop the search of Mr Fakoo or to do a *molo molo*?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Order!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I assume that the Police are doing their work and they would have put photographs if the need has arisen. That is for the Police, I cannot actually go and see the day-to-day running of the Police. Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, I must say that I verified because that question was raised in Parliament and the Commissioner of Police has told me that this is totally unfounded.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not mentioning any name – being given I am an MP of the Constituency where Mr Fakoo resides - we all know the queues of personalities flowing at the house of Mr Fakoo, a well-known agent of the Social Alliance, this is a fact. Can the Prime Minister inform the House - now that so much time has elapsed since Mr Fakoo is still wanted - whether he will give instructions to Mr Raddhoa and the MCIT to look for Mr Fakoo?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I stressed at the beginning and I see the Leader of the Opposition has acknowledged it. The hon. Member is talking about an agent of the Social Alliance. In fact, Mr Fakoo, I say again, was arrested on 20 March 1998 when I was Prime Minister...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

The Prime Minister: I was Prime Minister, so, he cannot say that. Secondly, we have just heard in the National Assembly that attacks are being made against Mr Raddhoa, and now the hon. Member wants Mr Raddhoa to go and look for Mr Fakoo.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order! Hon. Bhagwan, order! Order, I said.

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, as regards my question about the Minister I am tabling a copy of a press article which appeared in l'Express relating to the matter.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Bodha: My last question, Mr Speaker, Sir, to the hon. Prime Minister, is the way that all these cases had been dealt with, is not he disturbed that an institution like the Police and other institutions are functioning the way they are functioning? Does he condone all that is happening? May I ask him whether it is not *justice à deux vitesses*?

Mr Speaker: I am sorry, the hon. Leader of the Opposition cannot use the word 'condone'. He can ask him whether he is happy or satisfied.

(Interruptions)

Order!

Mr Bodha: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he is happy the way the MCIT is operating, the way Mr Raddhoa is operating, whether in most of the cases there are people close to the *Alliance Sociale* and whether he is happy with that situation and whether that does not, to some extent, have a bearing on his integrity as Prime Minister and as the Prime Minister responsible for law and order?

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, first of all, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has made reference to a press article. As he already knows – and we all know - very often, I see this all the time, press articles are in the press, but it is not true. This morning, for example, Mr Speaker, Sir, ...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Chief Whip, I gave you an opportunity to explain. What you are doing is not in order!

Mr Bundhoo: I apologise, Mr Speaker, Sir.

The Prime Minister: We cannot rely on press articles. There are some people who deliberately put false news. For the information of the hon. Leader of the Opposition, this morning, I just rang the Editor-in-Chief, I think he is the Director of l'Express, Mr J. C. de l'Estrac, to complain about an article about Mr Boodhoo. This article says that I have promised to have a commission of inquiry. That is the last thing that I have said. There will be no new commission of inquiry.

(Interruptions)

And, Mr Speaker, Sir, do you know how this is done? One false news becomes the truth. Eventually, I will have to go and answer what I do not set up a commission of inquiry. I have said there will be no commission of inquiry. I am giving an example; I cannot rely on press articles, for so many false articles appear in the press. We cannot have power without responsibility and that is why we have to ensure that these things do not happen. It must be verified before it appears in the press. I have just heard the hon. Chief Whip saying that it is not the case. I have to believe him.

Concerning the second case, I have told the Commissioner of Police why it is taking so long to get Mr Fakoo. He is saying that he has put a special team, but he is absconding. I have long details here where he has been looking for him and what he has been doing; which people he has contacted; and I can give him details if he wants. But for the moment, he is still absconding. But I can assure him that he will not be absconding for ever. He said that several people have been interviewed; they know about his past movements. They are looking at places where he usually goes. They have had certain information, for example, that he has been at a friend's place and immediately the Police went there, but he was not there. A number of gaming houses have been under close watch. In fact, Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not want to give details of this because if Mr Fakoo listens to this, he will know where not to go.

Mr Speaker: Time is over.

(Interruptions)

Time is over, I am bound by the Standing Orders. Questions addressed to the hon. Prime Minister.

MR S. M. – PRIVATE VAN – LOSS

(No. B/1553) 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 the vehicle with the registration number 93 ZD 89 belonging to Mr S. M., President of the group of victims of sale by levy, has been stolen and damaged in the night of 23 November 2006 and, if so, where matters stand in regard to the Police inquiry.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 24 November 2006 at 07 40 hours, Mr S. M reported to the Abercrombie Police Station, a case of loss of his private van, make Nissan Caravan, and bearing Registration Number 93 ZB 89 which was parked along Seetulsing Road, Port-Louis, in front of his house. On 25 November 2006 at around 06 00 hours, the vehicle was found unattended at the Ste Croix Caltex Petrol Station by an attendant of that station. On the same day, the vehicle was identified by Mr S.M and it was found that the front offside door was forced open and the front offside pane was damaged.

The vehicle was thoroughly examined by the officers of the Scene of Crime Office. The Police had secured two gloves and some keys inside the vehicle. These exhibits have been forwarded to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination. The reports of the Scene of Crime Office and Forensic Science Laboratory are awaited.

So far, no arrests have been made. The Police enquiry is in progress.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - APPOINTMENT

(No. B/1554) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth 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 the Financial Secretary, he will state if he has been appointed by the Public Service Commission according to established procedures.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the reply is in the affirmative.

The Financial Secretary has been appointed by the Public Service Commission in terms of Section 89(4) of the Constitution.

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER - APPOINTMENT

(No. B/1555) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth 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 the Chief Medical Officer, he will state if he has been appointed by the Public Service Commission according to established procedures.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, again the reply is in the affirmative.

The Chief Medical Officer has been appointed by the Public Service Commission in terms of Section 89(4) of the Constitution.

VALTON, LONG MOUNTAIN – GUN SHOTS

(No. B/1556) 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 he is aware that, on 19 November 2006, about three rounds were fired from a rifle in the region of Montagne Longue in breach of several sections of the Firearms Act 2006 and whether the necessary actions were taken by the Police authorities and if not, why not.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that a case was reported at the Long Mountain Police Station on 19 November 2006 at around 2255 hours by one Mr N. P. residing at Valton, Long Mountain, alleging having heard three detonations at his place at about 1830 hours, 1915 hours and 2220 hours, respectively. Mr N. P. has further alleged having found one Mr K. P., his cousin living next door, at the rear of his balcony with a gun. But he did not actually see him firing. According to Mr N. P., nobody was injured and no damage was caused to his property.

Mr K. P. has denied the charge levelled against him.

Mr K. P. is the holder of a Firearm Licence and a Game Licence. As part of the Police inquiry, on 24 November 2006, the firearm was secured together with 42 cartridges and they were sent to the FSL for examination. The results of the exhibits are awaited. No empties or other arms and ammunitions were found at his place.

The Police inquiry is ongoing.

MARE D'ALBERT – ROAD ACCIDENT 15.11.06

(No. B/1557) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien) 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 if, on 15 November 2006 an accident involving several vehicles occurred at Mare d'Albert and if so –

- (i) the circumstances of the accident;
- (ii) the measures taken by the Police to enable traffic flow, and
- (iii) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and the outcome thereof.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that on 15 November 2006 at around 14 15 hours, the personnel of the Plaine Magnien Police Station attended to a case of road accident involving fourteen vehicles which occurred along the New Airport Road, Mare D'Albert.

According to the Police, the accident was caused as a result of poor visibility on the road. This was due to heavy smoke emanating from a fire which had broken out in the sugar cane fields found on both sides of the motorway.

As soon as the accident was reported, the following measures were taken -

- (i) Mahebourg Fire Brigade and SAMU were summoned;
- (ii) Police attended to the casualties;
- (iii) Officers from the Traffic Branch, Plaine Magnien Police Station, ERS, Divisional Support Unit, Police du Transport and CID, regulated traffic and managed the crowd on both sides of the road in order to prevent any further incidents, and

- (iv) The damaged vehicles were removed.

The Mahebourg Fire Services and the Mon Desert Mon Tresor Fire Fighting Team helped in subduing the fire.

As regards part (c) of the question, I am informed that several persons have been interviewed, but the cause of the outbreak of the fire is so far unknown. The Police enquiry is still underway.

(A) AGALEGA ISLAND COUNCIL – CHAIRPERSON – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT

(B) AGALEAN COMMUNITY - REPRESENTATIONS

(No. B/1558) 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 Agalega Island Council, information as to –

- (a) the name of its Chairperson, indicating the terms and conditions of his contract, and
- (b) whether any representation was made by the Agalean Community thereto in relation to the problems they are facing.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, as regards part (a) of the Question, the Chairperson of the Agalega Island Council is Mr Louis Hervé Aimée.

He is entitled to a monthly allowance of Rs7,800, as was decided by Government in March 2005.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as regards part (b), I am informed that the Agalega Island Council has not received any written representations from the Agalean Community. However, given that the Council is a forum where the members have the opportunity to express their views on various issues

relating to the Agalean Community, they have requested for improvements in their conditions of work, educational system, health services, telecommunications and telephone services.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to state that ever since this Government took office in July 2005, a series of measures have been taken to improve the living conditions of our countrymen in Agalega.

These measures include -

- (i) Conditions of employment in Agalega: Following extensive consultations with PRB and the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms, all the workers who were employed since 1976 on a contractual basis have been transferred to the permanent and pensionable establishment since 01 October 2006 and are being paid an additional allowance of Rs200 monthly until the next PRB review.

Moreover, two Agalean employees have been assigned duties as Assistant Resident Manager, that is, local people in Agalega.

Besides, measures are being taken to enhance the skills of workers in Agalega. In this context, five Agaleans have followed courses at AML on rescue, firefighting and safety in view of the fact that we are upgrading the airport there. Five Agaleans have received training for fishing off-lagoon at the Fishermen Training School. One Agalean has received training for pre-primary school and two for apiculture.

- (ii) As far as health is concerned, in addition to the medical personnel, that is currently based in Agalega, arrangements have been made for regular visits by specialists and dentists. Following representations made in November 2006 for X-ray and echography facilities, the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has been requested to look into the matter whether it is feasible or not.
- (iii) As far as education is concerned, representations have been made concerning additional facilities for education. The Ministry of Education and Scientific Research is looking into the advisability of providing schooling up to Form III in

Agalega. Training is also being given in IT skills for the 23 secondary school students currently studying in Mauritius.

A social worker has been recruited in June 2006 to monitor the progress of the Agalean students in Mauritius and to provide them with the necessary guidance during their stay here.

- (iv) As for the lease of land, the Ministry of Housing and Lands in consultation with the Ministry of Finance is finalising the modalities for the grant of lease to the present occupiers of land in Agalega.
- (v) With regard to Telecommunications, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation has carried out tests for the transmission of TV Channels 1 and 3 as well as radio channels. All these tests, I must say, have been positive. It is expected that the transmission would start next year following the installation of the necessary equipment.

As regards telephone services, the O IDC has already initiated discussions with Mauritius Telecoms for the setting up of a mobile network system on the Island.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I should say that my Government has always had at heart the development of Agalega. This is evidenced by the various projects that have been implemented on the Island, even during my first mandate as Prime Minister. For example, we had installed a satellite dish system which made it possible for them to receive TV programmes from Mauritius and worldwide.

I should also add that we have included the implementation of a scholarship scheme, the setting up of a handicraft unit, the construction of quarters, etc. Above all it was my Government that made it possible for residents of Agalega to vote in a general election.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, I won't enumerate the long list of things that we have done when we were in Government – it is in the Library. Mr Speaker, Sir, can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether his Office had received representation from one Mr Laval Soopramanien, who

was a member of the Agalega Island Council, on behalf of the Agalean Community, and whether this letter can be tabled in the Assembly?

The Prime Minister: I do not propose to make public personal communication sent to me - that I'll not do.

Mr Bhagwan: He is the representative of the Agalean Community.

The Prime Minister: As I said, all that they are saying are going to the Island Council and they are discussing it.

Mr Bhagwan: I have another supplementary, Sir. Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether he has taken cognizance of the observations made during the recent visit at Agalega by *le Vicaire général*, Mr Bizlall and other NGOs, concerning the situation at Agalega? Does he intend, in a very near future, to meet *le Vicaire général* and Mr Bizlall and the other NGOs in order to discuss with them about their observations on the precarious situations which the Agalean Community are suffering these days?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member said "suffering these days". I have just enumerated a lot of things that I have done during my first mandate and during this mandate. Can the hon. Member tell what they have done from 2000 and 2005? Nothing! Nothing has been done!

(Interruptions)

Tell me what has been done then!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

The Prime Minister: Tell me what has been done between 2000 and 2005 compared to what I have done! Tell me what has been done!

Mr Speaker, Sir, people must have *locus standi* to come and compare it. Every Tom, Dick and Harry will go and bring out something and I'll have to answer! No, Sir! No!

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

Miss Deerpalsing: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Prime Minister how much money has been spent on consultancy work with regard to Agalega during the previous regime?

The Prime Minister: There is another question coming up. All I know is that the previous Government decided to upgrade the Airport and they had found a consultant, Gibbs (Mtius) Ltd. If I am not mistaken, the project was around Rs10 m. and already some Rs3.4 or Rs3.9 m. have been paid to Gibbs (Mtius) Ltd.

(Interruptions)

This was done so that IBL can benefit. That is why it was done.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mr Bhagwan: The hon. Prime Minister has just stated that he won't believe every Tom, Dick and Harry. Is the hon. Prime Minister putting in doubt the seriousness of the observations of the *Vicaire général* and Mr Bizlall, who are not active politicians, who are patriots? Can the hon. Prime Minister state to the House that he does not believe what has been observed by the *Vicaire général*?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, even in Mauritius we have things to do. People are poor. I can't have a magic wand and do everything for everyone. But, what I am saying, he must have *locus standi*. There is a forum, there is an Advisory Council where you can talk to them. But, as I said, lots of things have been done and nothing has been done between 2000 and 2005.

(Interruptions)

Nothing has been done! Where were those people then?

Mr Speaker: A last question! Order!

Mr Bhagwan: Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether the Budget allocated to the Agalega Island Council has been reduced recently, if yes, why?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, the important thing is, as the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has said, we want to make sure that we have value for money. I have already given a list of the things that we did...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

The Prime Minister: I don't know what the Budget was between 2000 and 2005. But then, tell me what has been done!

Mr Speaker: A last question!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, Agalega is a territory of ours. Can the hon. Prime Minister inform the House and the nation when he intends to visit Agalega and the islands?

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I was in Agalega in 1998 and as soon as I get a chance I'll do so.

AGALEGA ISLANDS – DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

(No. B/1559) 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, in regard to the Agalega Islands, he will state if any negotiations are ongoing with a foreign State for development projects to be carried out thereat.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I shall reply to PQ. Nos. B/1559 and B/1560 at the same time, as they relate to the same issue.

At the very outset, Mr Speaker, Sir, I should like to make it abundantly clear to the House that Government has not and has never had the intention to hand over Agalega to any foreign country.

(Interruptions)

That is totally untrue!

(Applause)

Mr Speaker: I would invite hon. Members to listen to the answer of the hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister: With the coming into office of my Government...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order, please. Order, I said. A question was put to the hon. Prime Minister, so listen to the answer!

(Interruptions)

I am calling both sides of the House to order!

The Prime Minister: As I said, Mr Speaker, Sir, we never had the intention to hand over Agalega to any foreign country or whatsoever. With the coming into office of my Government - I think even before and I gave the details just now - it was realized that the precarious state of the infrastructure, in particular, the airstrip and the berthing facilities were seriously hampering the development of the Island.

The Agalega airstrip was constructed in 1986. In 1999, some rehabilitation works were carried out. Since then, the airstrip has been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent - I am informed - that it has become hazardous for planes to take off and land with the result that communication with Agalega has become erratic.

According to records, Mr Speaker, Sir, in March 2003, Gibbs (Mtius) Ltd. was appointed consultant for the upgrading of the airstrip to Agalega. In January 2004, the Consultant completed the design of the airstrip and had prepared tender documents which were approved by the Central Tender Board. As at to date, a part payment of Rs3.4 m. has been paid to Gibbs (Mtius) Ltd. The total cost, I am told, was Rs7.6 m. The tender exercise has now been withheld after part payment has been done.

Subsequently, the then Government decided to entrust to Airports of Mauritius the responsibility for the rehabilitation of the airstrip. However, no action whatsoever followed.

During my official visit to India last year, I made a request to the Indian authorities for financial and technical assistance for the development of Agalega. This matter was also raised during the visit of President Abdul Kalam in March this year.

The Indian authorities reacted positively to my request and sent a three-member delegation in October this year to carry out a technical audit of the existing facilities. The report of the Indian experts is awaited.

With regard to the port facilities, the Government of India has already carried out a hydrographic survey to determine the ideal location for berthing facilities. Mr Speaker, Sir, surprising as it may sound, never in the history of Agalega, nobody thought of doing a hydrographic survey to look where we can have the berthing facilities. Never done! It is the first time in the history of Mauritius that this has been done. This has been done, I must say, for free by the Indian Government. Absolutely free! I am told that the cost would have been between Rs40 m. and Rs100 m. In addition, the Government of India has expressed its willingness to work out a plan for the development of economic activities centred around the coconut cluster, agricultural diversification and fisheries.

I should also add that there was – and I did answer questions in Parliament - a project by Arcon estimated at around Rs10 billion. They have submitted their project to the BOI, and I understand that the company will soon submit a feasibility study of this project.

Mr Dowarkasing: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether he has discussed the possibility of a line of credit with regard to the developments he has mentioned?

The Prime Minister: As I said, the Indian Government has done a hydrographic survey for free.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Hon. Miss Deerpalsing, order!

The Prime Minister: They are looking at the upgrading of the airstrip. Again, this is being done by the Indian Government.

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether, with regard to works and development at Agalega, the authorities will also look into the presence of minerals in that area?

The Prime Minister: As I have already said, Mr Speaker, Sir, we are exploring all the other possibilities. We are re-looking at whatever is part of Mauritius.

AGALEGA - DEVELOPMENT

(No. B/1560) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) 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 if Government has decided to hand over the Islands of Agalega to a neighbouring country for development.

(Vide reply to PQ No. B/1559)

GOVERNMENT PRINTER - POST

(No. B/1561) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the post of Government Printer, he will state –

- (a) the academic and professional qualifications of
 - (i) the outgoing officer,
 - (ii) the officer who is currently assigned with the duties of the post, and

- (b) if it is proposed to amend the scheme of duties and qualifications requirements.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am tabling the information requested for in part (a) of the question.

As regards part (b), I am informed that, following the recommendations of an Ad Hoc Committee, set up to review schemes of service at the Printing Department, action has been initiated since December 2004 to amend the scheme of service for the post of Government Printer, prescribed in 1969.

The amendments in the proposed scheme of service have been the subject of extensive consultations by the Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms with the relevant unions of the Printing Department through two federations, namely Federation of Civil Service and other unions and the State Employees' Federation since January 2005.

I am further informed that the scheme of duties and qualifications are being amended to include relevant aptitude and skills, so as to reflect the actual requirements of the job. The proposed scheme of service has been referred by the Ministry of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms to the Public Service Commission for consideration and agreement by the Commission on 31 October 2006.

Mr Soodhun: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether the 2003 PRB Report will apply for the post of the Government printer?

The Prime Minister: I suppose that this will be taken into consideration when the PRB Report is done.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL – MINOR IN-PATIENTS – ALLEGED SEXUAL OFFENCES

(No. B/1562) **Mr L. Bundhoo (Second Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and 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 allegations of sexual offences on minor in-patients at the Queen Victoria

Hospital, Candos, have been reported and, if so, will he state if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto, indicating the outcome thereof.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, on 20 November 2006, two cases of alleged sexual offences on minor in-patients, having occurred at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Candos, on 19 November 2006, have been reported at the Quatre Bornes Police Station.

The Police have instituted enquiries in both cases which are still underway. On completion thereof, the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be sought.

In the meantime, the Child Development Unit of the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development, Family Welfare and Consumer Protection has arranged for psychological sessions with the two minors.

I am also informed that necessary actions are being taken by the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life for minors in adult wards to occupy beds found close to the Nurses Stations in order to ensure better supervision.

The Ministry of Health & Quality of Life is initiating a departmental enquiry with a view to situating responsibilities and will take action accordingly.

Mr Bundhoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Prime Minister said that minors will be placed close to the warden. Can I ask the hon. Prime Minister whether he will consider/recommend the possibility and upon availability of space, to have wards exclusively reserved for minors?

The Prime Minister: The problem precisely is availability of space. But, at the moment, we are trying to put them close to the nurses' station, so that they can have better supervision.

BANKS – CUSTOMERS - ASSAULTS

(No. B/1563) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and 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 reported cases of attack on people withdrawing money over the bank counter during the last year and the remedial measures being taken.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that no case of attack on persons withdrawing money over the bank counter has been reported during the last year.

The security aspect inside banks has to be arranged for by the management of the banks, themselves, who are required to report to the Bank of Mauritius any exceptional events, including assaults taking place within their premises.

The Bank of Mauritius has also confirmed that no report of any incidents in respect of any attack on bank customers at their respective counters over the last year has been received.

POLICE OFFICERS – CASES OF AGGRESSIONS

(No. B/1564) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and 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 cases of aggressions on police officers during their working hours for the past year and the measures being taken for their protection.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, during the year 2005, 68 cases of aggressions against Police Officers were reported whilst they were on duty. These offences are punishable, as the hon. Member knows, under the Criminal Code Act.

I am also informed that Police Officers are provided with appropriate protective equipment according to the nature of their duties. Officers of some units such as the Special Support Unit and the Special Mobile Force are provided with the following equipment –

Special Support Unit - shield, baton, gas mask, helmet

Special Mobile Force - shield, baton, gas mask, helmet, rifle.
Some officers also wear armoured vests.

The regular Police is armed with, what is called, a tonfa baton, whilst on patrol and carries a whistle to summon assistance in case of need. Some Police Officers are equipped with radio linked with their main control room. Under special circumstances, Police Officers may carry arms as per exigencies of their duties.

Furthermore, in the course of major operations, dealing in high scale search, the services of SSU and SMF are always enlisted. They are in the forefront to protect unarmed and less equipped Police Officers. In addition, the vehicles of the Police are equipped with wireless set linked with the main control room at Line Barracks for assistance in case of need.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the demands placed on the Police Force by the society have increased in recent years in view of the complex and rapidly evolving environment. We must, therefore, acknowledge that Police Officers at times work under very difficult conditions. All possible efforts are being made to equip the Police to enable it to carry out its functions in a most effective and safe manner.

Mr Ganoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Prime Minister aware of the recent and unprecedented case where a Police Officer was stabbed inside a Police Station by somebody? Can he give us some information about this particular case and where matters stand?

The Prime Minister: This was mentioned some time back. In fact, the Police inquiry is still ongoing.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that the Commissioner of Police should see to it that, at least, famous recidivists do not have easy access within the premises of Police Stations. We all have relatives and friends working in Police Stations. They are human beings. Can the hon. Prime Minister...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! I am on my feet. Please sit down! The question is being put under PQ No.B/1564, which talks about aggressions against Police Officers.

Mr Bhagwan: Hon. Cuttaree and I witnessed this. We were giving a statement, when some recidivists entered the Police Station freely, threatening the Police Officers. This is why I am asking the hon. Prime Minister whether action can be taken. All these famous recidivists cannot have easy access to Police Stations to threaten the Police Officers.

The Prime Minister: Can I ask the hon. Member whether a complaint has been made? Because, it's the first time I am hearing of this.

(Interruptions)

Has any complaint been made to the Police station there and then?

(Interruptions)

This is what he should have done.

Mr Speaker: The Police officer has to make a complaint first.

Mr Cuttaree: It's not the Police officer. I didn't make a complaint. I did not see the purpose of making a complaint, because I know who was behind all these instructions. A recidivist, four times...

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order! Order!

Mr Cuttaree: Four times on bail. I was assisting a client. He opened the door and came in front of me and he started insulting me; and the Police did nothing. Everyone was sitting and looking at the guy. There were 50 people outside and they all started shouting the name of a Minister as a slogan.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I must point out that this is not the first time that this is happening. We also complained of the same thing in the past. The hon. Member should make an official complaint, then we can follow up. How can I follow up if there is no official complaint?

Mr Speaker: If the hon. Member has been a victim of this situation, he can meet the Prime Minister and sort it out.

Mr Cuttaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not going to make any complaint, but I am raising this matter as a matter of general principle which is being raised by my friend here.

Mr Speaker: The Prime Minister has taken note of it. Next question!

ROSE HILL - REGULAR MOBILE AND FOOT PATROLS

(No. B/1565) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether he is aware that there is a lack of patrol effected in an organised manner and at regular intervals both during the day and at night in the centre of Rose Hill, especially in the vicinity of the commercial areas and the bus terminal and, if so, will he impress upon the Commissioner of Police the need for such patrols, especially in view of the forthcoming festive season.

The Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that there are regular mobile and foot patrols, effected in a very organised manner, both during day and at night, in the centre of Rose-Hill, especially in the vicinity of commercial areas and the bus terminal where there is a high concentration of people.

Accordingly, three Police officers are permanently engaged at the "Place Margéot" bus-stand supported by two Police Officers from Divisional Support Unit, that is, the Western Division.

Crackdown operations are also regularly carried out by special squads of the Western Division.

I am further informed that the following units provide regular patrol throughout the whole region and in the city centre –

- (i) The Emergency Response Service which provides mobile patrol and vigilance on a 24-hour basis at the centre of Rose-Hill, especially in the vicinity of commercial areas and bus terminals;
- (ii) ADSU has three Units and one special patrol team are detailed to cover the whole of Rose-Hill division during daytime and one Unit with one special patrol team covers the division at night, and
- (iii) The *Police du Transport*: this Unit covers the whole area of the Western division and perform duties to ensure the security of passengers, commuters and employees of transport. This unit is also supported by the Special Supporting Unit of the Police to provide security patrols and by the SMF which provide patrols from Curepipe to Rose-Hill.

With a view to providing enhanced security during the forthcoming festive season, a Special Policing Scheme has already been implemented since 27 November 2006 by the Police and increased number of patrols.

I am also informed that a main operation order from the Police Headquarters will be issued to all Divisional Commanders and Branch Officers entrusting clear-cut responsibilities to all officers concerned for the end of year festivities. There will also be reinforcement in commercial areas throughout the island, including Rose Hill.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am making a plea to the hon. Prime Minister. These days Rose Hill is becoming *intenable*, not only as a matter of security, but there is also a problem of prostitution. Everybody residing in Rose Hill – I too reside there - knows what is happening in Rose Hill, not only during daytime but also at night. I think it is time for the hon. Prime Minister to look seriously into that problem. It's a question of security of the inhabitants of Rose Hill. Will the hon. Prime Minister inform the House whether this has been brought to his attention, and what further action can be taken? Because certain people said publicly that they *pou nettoye* Rose Hill. The situation has gone worse and it is the same thing in Quatre Bornes. Can

the hon. Prime Minister inform the House what he intends to do and whether he contemplates talking to the Commissioner of Police for additional measures?

The Prime Minister: I've just mentioned that the Commissioner of Police is taking additional measures.

BEAU BASSIN/ROSE HILL POLICE STATIONS - CELLULAR PHONES – LARCENY

(No. B/1566) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill) 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 there is an increase in the number of cases of snatching of mobile phones reported at the Beau Bassin and Rose Hill Police Stations during the past year.

The Prime Minister: I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that 18 cases of larceny of cellular phones were reported at Beau Bassin Police Station in the year 2005. The number of cases reported at the same station was 15 for the period January to October 2006.

The number of cases of larceny of cellular phones reported at the Rose Hill Police Station during 2005 stood at 111. For period January to October 2006 the number of reported cases was 50.

I wish to inform the House, Mr Speaker, Sir, that the Police is taking a series of proactive policing measures to effectively combat larcenies in general.

I am also informed that the Police will provide special arrangements throughout the island for the safety and security of the public during the oncoming festive period.

Mr Speaker: Time is over. Questions addressed to hon. Ministers. May I inform the House that PQ Nos. B/1574, B/1583, B/1589 and B/1590 have been withdrawn.

