

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

VEHICLES REGISTRATION PLATES - TENDER

(No. 1B/261) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the project for the replacement of existing vehicles registration plates by yellow ones, he will state –

- (a) if any tender has been launched for the supply thereof, indicating the date, and
- (b) if it has been awarded and, if so, the name of the successful bidder and details of the contract.

Reply: I am informed by the National Transport Authority that, to date, no tender has been launched for the supply of the replacement of the existing vehicles registration plates by yellow ones.

DISABLED PERSONS – WHEELCHAIRS – ALLOCATION

(No. 1B/262) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether she will state the number of disabled persons who have applied for the allocation of wheelchairs since last year and who are still on the waiting list and say -

- (a) when the last order for wheelchairs was made;
- (b) the number received to-date, and
- (c) whether any tender has been launched for the supply thereof and, if so, when.

Reply: I wish to inform the House that 2,705 persons have applied for a wheelchair at my Ministry from January 2009 to date. 2,184 of these persons have already been provided with a wheelchair and the remaining 521 persons are now on the waiting list.

With regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question, the last order for wheelchairs was placed on 5 October 2009 for 875 wheelchairs (775 adult and 100 junior) and the wheelchairs were received on 24 December 2009.

As for part (c) of the question, new tenders were launched on 26 February 2010 for 2000 wheelchairs (1700 adults and 300 Junior).

The consignment was due for delivery on 18 June 2010 but due to some shipment problem it will arrive around mid July 2010. This will enable my Ministry to meet all the requests till December 2010.

PORT LOUIS MUNICIPAL THEATRE - RENOVATION WORKS

(No. 1B/263) Mr R. Issack (Fourth Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Port Louis Municipal Theatre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to -

- (a) if the renovation works thereof have started and, if not, why not, and
- (b) the expected date of its re-opening.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, I am informed that renovation works to the Port Louis Municipal Theatre have not started due to the fact that the consultants have not yet been selected by the Central Procurement Board.

I wish to inform the House that bids for Consultancy Services for preparation of bidding documents for the project were launched in February 2010 by the Central Procurement Board and the closing date was 25 May 2010. A Bid Evaluation exercise of the Consultancy is presently being carried out by the Central Procurement Board. The renovation works are estimated to cost around Rs350 m. and a matching grant of Rs50 m. is already available to start the project. The remaining sum requested to undertake the project is actively being looked into with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

As far as part (b) of the question is concerned, it is difficult at this stage to indicate when the Theatre will be re-opened to the public.

INDUSTRIAL LEASE AGREEMENT

(No. 1B/264) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the State Lands, he will state if Article 18 of the Industrial Lease Agreement for the lease thereof has been amended and, if so, why and, if not, whether Government intends to amend it.

Reply: Initially Article 18 provided for an Industrial Site Lease to be automatically cancelled “*de plein droit*” in case of change in ownership or shareholding structure of a Company which may impact on the control of the Company.

While this provision served its purpose in discouraging developers from speculation over State lands, it has also acted as a hindrance for genuine promoters wishing to bring substantial Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for implementation of projects. In many cases injection of FDI from renowned companies would *de facto* necessitate a change in the shareholding structure and control of the beneficiary company.

In this context, it has been decided to amend Article 18 to provide for the Industrial Site lessees to seek approval for any change in ultimate beneficial ownership or any change in beneficial ownership or shareholding, that may impact on the control or management, at least 15 days before such change.

The application is then scrutinised by a Technical Committee comprising inter alia, representatives of the Prime Minister’s Office, of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and of my Ministry.

In addition, following representations made by various stakeholders, including Associations des Hôteliers et Restaurateurs – Ile Maurice (AHRIM), in March 2010, Government decided that proposals for cases of industrial site leases for which the Projects have already been developed and have been operational for at least one year, will be allowed to change the shareholding structure in the normal course of business.

The above conditions are also included in letters of reservation and letters of intent, so that lessees do not have recourse to a change in shareholding structure prior to the signature of the Lease Agreement.

BALACLAVA - KOHINOOR INVESTMENT HOLDINGS LTD – LAND LEASE

(No. 1B/265) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to State Lands in Balaclava, he will state if Kohinoor Investment Holdings Ltd has been granted a lease of a plot of land thereat and, if so, state -

- (a) when the reservation letter was granted;
- (b) the letter of intent was issued;
- (c) the extent thereof, indicating the annual rental value;
- (d) the terms and conditions, indicating the purpose of the lease;
- (e) the amount of taxes and levy paid to Government;
- (f) the nature of the project, and
- (g) if the lease has been transferred.

Reply: I am informed that, following a statement made to the Police last year by the hon. Member himself, the Police has been conducting an enquiry on a number of leases allocated on State land including the lease of State land at Balaclava to Kohinoor Investment Holdings Ltd.

As the Police enquiry is on, it would neither be in order nor proper to make any further statement on this matter at this stage.

SUGARCANE – BURNING – CODE OF PROCEDURES

(No. 1A/2) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the burning of sugarcane fields during the crop season, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association, information as to –

- (a) whether a Protocol in relation thereto has been discussed and agreed to and
- (b) if it is proposed to stop the practice in line with the Maurice Ile Durable project.

Reply: I am informed by the Mauritius Sugar Authority that the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association has an established code of procedures for burning of sugarcane during the crop season. All sugar estates have adopted the code which determines the timing and site of burning, the preventive measures and the required notifications and authorisation.

As regards part (b) of the question, this issue was raised at Government level and consultations are on-going at the level of my Ministry with the Mauritius Sugar Authority, the Mauritius Sugar Producers Association, the Farmers Service Corporation, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, the Cane Planters and Millers Arbitration and Control Board and the Police.

MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS – STAFF – OVERSEAS MISSION

(No. 1A/3) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether he will give a list of the staff of his Ministry who have proceeded on overseas mission since 01 January 2009 to-date, indicating in each case the –

- (a) purpose
- (b) duration and
- (c) the per diem allowances.

Reply: The information relating to Parliamentary Question No. 1A/3 is being compiled and will be tabled in the National Assembly shortly.

GOODS (FROZEN) – NET QUANTITY

(No. 1A/4) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to packed frozen foods, he will state the measures being taken to prevent overweight of the ice content therein, indicating if there are any regulations to control any abusive practice in relation thereto and, if not, the measures he proposes to take.

Reply: The Legal Metrology (Pre-Packed Commodities) of 2006 Regulations provide for the control of pre-packed goods as regards their labelling and accuracy of net quantities. Net quantity as defined in the Regulation refers to the quantity of pre-packed commodity contained in the package exclusive of the package or any material packed with such package. Ice content of frozen goods is not taken into account in the net quantity of the product as controlled by the Legal Metrology (Pre-packed Commodities) Regulations. Inspections and verifications are carried out by officers of Legal Metrology Services to look into net quantity of frozen foods and ensure that there are no abusive practices.

M1 ROAD - POINTE AUX SABLES & PETITE RIVIÈRE – BRIDGE

(No. 1A/5) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to traffic flow to and from Port-Louis, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Road Development Authority, information as to, if consideration will be given for the construction of a flyover or an interchange at the junctions of the M1 Road and

- (a) the road leading to Pointe Aux Sables, and
- (b) the road leading to Petite Rivière.

Reply: I am informed by the Road Development Authority that instead of a flyover or an interchange at the junction of A1 and the roads, leading to Pointe aux Sables and Petite Rivière, it is proposed to construct a major bridge between Belle Etoile and Soreze. This project forms part of the Road Decongestion Programme, and is expected to alleviate traffic congestion in the area.

CITÉ MARTIAL MARKET FAIR - TRAFFIC CONGESTION

(No. 1A/6) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if he is aware of the traffic congestion occurring at the Cité Martial Market Fair at Military Road, Port Louis and along roads in the vicinity during fairs and, if so, will he state the remedial measures that will be taken.

Reply: The TMRSU has informed that the Cité Martial Market Fair was constructed with a parking space for a number of vehicles. However, the demand for stalls exceeded the number for which provision was made and the Municipal Council of Port Louis authorised vendors to use the parking space to run their business. Hence, vehicles are being parked on the street which is, indeed, hindering the smooth flow of traffic.

Nonetheless, the TRMSU has put in place a number of traffic measures to combat the traffic congestion problem. These are -

- (i) parking and standing of vehicles are prohibited on both sides of the Military road, as from its junction with Sir Abdool Mohamed Street;
- (ii) delivery is allowed only a stretch of road of about 170m in front of the Market Fair, and
- (iii) Kleber and Indian Streets, adjacent to the Market Fair have been converted into one way roads to ensure a smoother traffic flow.

CUREPIPE ROAD TAXI STAND - PUBLIC TOILET

(No. 1A/7) Dr S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if consideration will be given for the putting up of public toilets at the Curepipe Road Taxi Stand for the convenience of the public.

Reply: I am informed by the Municipal Council of Curepipe that no decision has been taken for the time being for the construction of a public toilet at the Curepipe Road taxi stand.

However, they did exist in the area a public toilet, which was demolished with the realignment of the taxi stand. There is definitely a need to put up a public toilet in the area, but at a location to be suitably identified.

SCHOOL BUSES AND VANS (PRIVATE) - ACCIDENTS

(No. 1A/8) Mr D. Nagalingum (Second Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to private school buses and vans, he will, for the period 2005 to-date, state -

- (a) the number of registered vehicles, and
- (b) the number involved in road accidents, indicating the number of casualties

Reply: The Road Traffic Act does not specifically provide for the registration of private school buses and vans. However, the number of registered vehicles operating under a PSV (contract bus) licence for the conveyance of students is as follows –

2004: 634

2005: 691

2006: 699

2007: 713

2008: 722

2009: 780

2010: 780

The Commissioner of Police has informed that since year 2005 to date, seven, seven accidents involving private school buses/vans have been reported to the Police. Eleven children were injured and one died following those accidents.

A breakdown of cases is as follows –

Year	No. of accidents	No. of casualties
2005	2	1
2006	-	-
2007	2	9 injured + 1 fatal
2008	2	1 injured
2009	-	-
As at 04 July 2010	1	1 injured

PETITE RIVIÈRE - IRRIGATION CANAL - COVERING

(No. 1A/9) **Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the project for the covering of the irrigation canal at Petite Rivière from the Princess Margaret Street to the Nundloll Lane, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: I am informed that the irrigation canal crossing the residential area in Petite Rivière also known as the Nermont Branch of the Magenta Canal is maintained and used for distribution of irrigation water to planters by the La Ferme and Magenta Water Users Association. I understand that due to major way leave issues, the Ministry of Public Utilities had not been able to undertake the project. The National Development Unit is proposing to have consultations with all the stakeholders for the implementation of the project.

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT – WORKERS – LAID OFF

(No. 1A/10) **Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the Employment Rights Act, he will state the number of workers –

- (a) who have been laid off, and
- (b) whose contract has been terminated since the proclamation of the Act.

Reply: Under section 37(6) of the Employment Rights Act 2008, a written notice has to be given to the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment where an employer –

- (a) intends to reduce any number of workers or to close down his enterprise for reasons of an economic, technological, structural or similar nature, and
- (b) terminates the employment of a worker for any other reason.

On the basis of the notifications received, the number of workers whose employment has been terminated since the proclamation of the Employment Rights Act, are as follows –

Period	Termination of Employment - Economic Reasons	Termination of Employment – for other reasons	Total
Feb 2009 to June 2010	3509	900	4409

LES SALINES – PAS GEOMETRIQUES – ACCESS

(No. 1A/11) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Les Salines public beach in the village of Rivière Noire, he will state if he is aware that private land owners have blocked access thereto and, if so, will he state the remedial actions that will be taken.

Reply: As at date, there is no proclaimed public beach at *Pas Géométriques* Les Salines, Black River.

The access that is being referred to in the question is on private lands and, therefore, members of the public have to seek permission from the landowners.

In order to remedy to the situation, my Ministry has taken the following measures -

- (i) a plot of State land of an approximate extent of 5A61P has been earmarked at *Pas Géométriques* Les Salines and action has already been initiated to proclaim this site as a public beach, and
- (ii) a strip of land of an approximate extent of 2A33P has been acquired for the creation of an access from the Black River/Savanne Coast Road to the proposed site for a public beach.

CASE NOYALE – WATER SUPPLY

(No. 1A/12) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether he is aware that the inhabitants in the region of Case Noyale do not have an adequate water supply and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

Reply: I am informed by the CWA that Case Noyale is supplied from Bois Puant service reservoir of 2000 m³ capacity, which is fed from Yemen borehole, with a yield of 4, 000 m³ /day.

Due to low rainfall, there is currently a decrease in the yield of the Yemen borehole, which supplies the regions extending from La Preneuse to Le Morne including Case Noyale. The hours of supply are presently from 4.00 a.m. to 9.00 a.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

To address the water shortage in these regions, additional water resources will be transferred from La Marie Treatment Plant to Bois Puant service reservoir and some 20 km of pipeline will be constructed. It is expected to invite bids for the works in August 2010.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS – INSPECTORS

(No. 1A/13) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to Secondary Schools, he will –

- (a) give the number of inspectors in post for State Secondary Schools, and
- (b) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Private Secondary Schools Authority, information as to the number of inspectors for Private Secondary Schools.

Reply: In regard to part (a), the number of Inspectors in post for State Secondary schools

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- (i) Pedagogical Inspectors : 4
- (ii) Inspectors (Pre-Vocational) : 5

Three Pedagogical Inspectors are currently attached to the Quality Assurance and Inspection Division. Following the recommendations of the PRB Report 2008, a Quality Assurance and Inspection Division has been set up in the Ministry.

The structure of the Quality Assurance and Inspection Division is made up of -

- (i) a Director, Quality Assurance who is currently in post in an acting capacity;
- (ii) one Senior Quality Assurance Officer, and
- (iii) eight Quality Assurance Officers.

Procedures for prescribing the scheme of service of the grades of Director, Quality Assurance, Senior Quality Assurance Officer and Quality Assurance Officer have already been initiated. Once the schemes of service are prescribed, action will be initiated for recruitment.

In regard to part (b), there are no Inspectors as such at the Private Secondary Schools Authority (PSSA) since 2001. The Inspectorate Section at the PSSA has been restructured in a Supervisory Unit which is actually manned by -

- (i) 3 Principal Supervisors;
- (ii) 1 Principal Supervisor (Acting), and
- (iii) 9 Supervisors/Senior Supervisors.

PRIMARY EDUCATION – COMPLETION RATE

(No. 1A/14) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to Primary Education, he will give, in each case, for the last ten years

- (a) the Primary Completion Rate, and
- (b) the Net Enrolment ratio.

Reply: As regards part (a), the Primary Completion Rate for the last ten years is as follows –

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Completion	99	98	95	99	100	99	98	98	97	95

As for part (b), the Net Enrolment Ratio for the last ten years is as follows -

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NER	95	95	97	98	97	96	96	95	95	95

STCM LIMITED - SUPPLIERS

(No. 1A/15) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Industry and Commerce whether, in regard to STCM Limited, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the State Trading Corporation, information as to –

(a) the names of the suppliers and the value of commodities imported by the Company since its incorporation, and

(b) if any tender exercise was effected and, if not, why not.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, the name of the suppliers and value of commodities imported by STCM Ltd are as follows –

<u>Product</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>CIF Value USD</u>
UHT Milk	Gujarat Cooperative Milk Federation	117,984
Lima Beans	Tetra Fruits	41,342
Refined Salt	Ojas Exports Pvt Ltd	3,360
Lima Beans	Dalian Happy Fortune Trading	28,746
Yellow Split Peas	A1 Online Trading	54,775
Cloves	Adson Ltd	66,000
Lima Beans	Tantsaha Mihary Menabe	491,048
Milk Powder	Qingdao United Dairy	200,182
Black Eye Bean	Sarelacos Co. Ltd.	54,990
Lima Beans	NK Import Export Ltd	54,990
Basmati Rice	S&S Impex Ltd	11,613
Basmati Rice	Wali Co. Ltd	77,788
Total		1,202,818

The total value of commodities imported is USD 1,202.818/.

With regard to part (b) of the question, as per STCM Limited procedure, suppliers were requested to send their quotations before making purchases.

**ROBERT EDWARD HART AVENUE-OLLIER AVENUE, QUATRE BORNES –
ACCESS ROAD**

(No. 1A/17) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether consideration will be given to the opening of an access road for pedestrians or vehicles from Robert Edward Hart Avenue to Ollier Avenue in Quatre Bornes for the convenience of the inhabitants of Residence Beau Sejour and Robert Edward Hart Avenue.

Reply: The Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes has informed that the access road being referred to is a private road and the owners are not agreeable to declare it public.

PRE-HAJJ MISSION - MONEY SPENT

(No. 1A/18) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Arts and Culture whether, in regard to the forthcoming Hajj pilgrimage, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Islamic Cultural Centre, information as to –

- (a) the total amount of money spent on –
 - (i) air tickets;
 - (ii) per diem allowances in respect of each member of the pre-hajj mission;
- (b) the names of the organisers and officers who will be attending the training on the new transport system in Saudi Arabia, and
- (c) whether the Centre has requested the Saudi Authorities that the quota per organiser be restricted to a maximum of 200 pilgrims.

Reply: With regard to the forthcoming Hajj pilgrimage, I am advised as regards part (a), the money spent in respect of members of the pre-Hajj mission is as follows –

Member Pre-Hajj Mission	Air Ticket	Per diem
Dr F. Aumeer	Rs 41,674	Rs 27,125
Mr I. Jeeawoody	Rs 41,674	Rs 27,125
Mr R. Soobadar	Rs 22,158	Rs 63,444
Mr H. Beebeejaun	*	*

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All the costs were met by Air Mauritius as per its policy pertaining to duty travel of staff.

As regards part (b), the training on the new transportation system in Saudi Arabia has been postponed. The participants will be designated in due course.

The answer to part (c) of the question is no.