

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION & SEX DISCRIMINATION DIVISION - MEMBERS

(No. 1B/275 Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications whether, in regard to the National Human Rights Commission and the Sex Discrimination Division thereof, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commission, information, in each case, as to -

- (a) the names of the members, and
- (b) their respective date of appointment.

(Vide reply to PQ No. 1B/266)

RELIGIOUS BODIES – SUBSIDIES - BENEFICIARIES

(No. 1B/276) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications whether, in regard to subsidies to religious bodies, he will give a list of the beneficiaries, indicating the yearly amount of grants in each case.

(Vide reply to PQ No. 1B/267)

SCHOOLS – STATE SCHOLARSHIP

(No.1B/308) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology whether, in regard to the existing State Scholarship for higher studies, he will state if Government proposes to bring changes thereto and, if so, will he give the details thereof.

Reply (The Minister of Education and Human Resources): As already announced in the Government Programme 2010-2015, Government intends to bring changes to the existing State Scholarship Scheme for higher studies in order to ensure greater equity and inclusiveness in the system. It is also envisaged to explore the possibility of awarding scholarships to a larger number of meritorious students.

In this context, my Ministry is setting up a Task Force to analyse the various possibilities and come up with recommendations for implementation.

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS – SUBSIDY SCHEME

(No.1B/309) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he will state if Government proposes to extend the existing subsidy scheme for Pre-Primary Schooling to the 3-4 aged group and, if so, when.

Reply: In line with the measures announced in the Government Programme 2010-2015, the existing grant scheme applicable to children aged 4+ will be extended to cover the 3 year olds.

It is proposed to implement this measure as from 1 January 2011.

PORT LOUIS – INDUSTRIAL STATE LAND LEASES

(No.1B/310) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to Industrial State Land leases in the region of Port Louis, he will state if the terms and conditions of the lease have been revised to reflect the actual market value and, if not, why not and, if so, give, in each case –

- (a) the names of the companies and extent of land leased, and
- (b) the yearly rental.

Reply: I understand that the hon. Member is referring to the Industrial Site Leases within the City Centre.

The State Lands Act as amended by the Finance (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts 2008 and 2009 provides for an offer, to enter into a new 60-year lease, to be made to existing Industrial/Commercial Lessees over State land situated within the City Centre.

Subsequently, the Valuation Department has been requested to assess the rental value of each property.

The Valuation Department has completed the exercise in respect of rental assessed assuming the land to be with vacant possession. This implies that the effective rental to be charged would be lower as the lessees would be offered a new lease after the surrender of the existing lease. The Valuation Department is currently assessing the effective rental for each property.

In regard to part (a) of the question, a list of the 26 lessees with information on the extent of land leased is being placed in the Library.

In regard to part (b), the information will be communicated once the exercise regarding the assessment is completed.

**BALACLAVA - WHITE WATER CONSULTING SERVICES LTD –
LAND LEASE**

(No. 1B/311) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to State Lands in Balaclava, he will state if White Water Consulting Services 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 terms and conditions of the lease, indicating
 - (i) the extent thereof;
 - (ii) the annual rental value
 - (iii) the purpose of the lease, giving details of the project, and
- (d) the amount of taxes and levy paid to Government.

Reply: I would like to refer to PQ Nos. 1B/166 and 1B/265 to which no reply could be given due to the fact that either the Question Time was over or the hon. Member was absent at the relevant time. Both questions refer to the same subject of lease of State land at Balaclava, in respect of which the hon. Member has himself made a statement to the Police last year.

I am informed that 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 White Water Consulting Services 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.

MORCELLEMENT ST JEAN AND SODNAC – TRAFFIC CONGESTION

(No. 1B/312) 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, in regard to alleviating traffic congestion in the regions of *Morcellement St Jean* and *Sodnac*, he will state if Government proposes to –

- (a) widen Tulipes Avenue, and
- (b) create an access road from Hillcrest Avenue to the Motorway and, if so, indicate the timeframe.

Reply: Following representations made by hon. Ms Deerpalsingh, I am pleased to announce that works order has already been issued and land already acquired through negotiations.

HOSPITALS – CAESARIAN OPERATIONS – IN-ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE

(No. 1A/22) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether she will state if an additional fee is being paid to doctors who perform caesarian operations at night.

Reply: Since hospital services are provided round the clock, doctors operating at Specialist level are on call on a roster basis after normal working hours against payment of an on-call allowance. When they are required to attend hospitals, they are paid, in addition, an in-attendance allowance at the approved rate as recommended in the 2008 PRB Report.

Accordingly, Specialists/Senior Specialists or Consultants-in-Charge in the fields of obstetrics & gynaecology are being paid the abovementioned allowance when they attend hospital at night to perform Caesarian operations.

SIR GAËTAN DUVAL STADIUM – SYNTHETIC TRACK

(No. 1A/23) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the synthetic track at the Sir Gaëtan Duval Stadium in Rose Hill, he will state -

- (a) the brand name of the track, indicating the number of lanes;

- (b) the name of the contractor who was awarded the contract and the cost of installation, and
- (c) if his Ministry has received any complaint from the Athletic Federations in connection with the quality thereof.

Reply: The Sir Gaetan Duval Stadium is vested with the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin Rose Hill. The project Tartan (synthetic) track at the stadium is being implemented by that Council and financed by the Local Infrastructure Fund.

I am informed that -

- (a) the brand name of the track is synthetic surface Conipur M and the number of lanes is six;
- (b) the name of the Contractor is COLAS (Maurice) Ltée, formerly known as A.J. Maurel Construction Ltée. The contract has been awarded for the sum of Rs 32,958,635.45 inclusive of VAT;
- (c) the Ministry of Youth and Sports has not received any complaint from the Athletic Federations regarding the quality. However, we have received some recommendations from the Mauritius Athletics Association regarding adjustments to be made in order to comply to IAAF norms.

I am further informed that these recommendations are under consideration at the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and I propose to request my colleague the Hon. Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands to follow up on the matter.

BEAU BASSIN/PETITE RIVIERE – BARE LANDS

(No. 1A/24) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether he is aware of the inconvenience caused by bare lands to the inhabitants of Beau Bassin/Petite Rivière and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, information as to if any remedial actions have been taken since January 2010 to-date.

Reply: I am informed by the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill that taking into account the inconvenience and danger caused by bare lands, a survey was conducted and has revealed that there was a total of 600 plots of land left abandoned by their respective owners within the Council area.

I am informed that the Council has initiated the following measures from January 2010 to date in order to address the nuisance -

- (i) 256 request notices have already been served on known owners to clean their lands;
- (ii) 37 owners who have failed to comply with the notices have been contravened and prosecuted;
- (iii) 215 bare lands have already been cleared, trimmed and carted away, and
- (iv) the cleaning work is ongoing.

SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM STREET –

PONT DE PARIS - TENDER

(No. 1A/25) Mr A. Ameer Meea (First Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Pont de Paris at Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Street, Port Louis, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to –

- (a) whether tender procedures have been carried out thereinto, indicating;
 - (i) the names of the bidders and the bids, and
 - (ii) the name of the successful bidder, and
- (b) a breakdown of the expenses incurred.

Reply: I am informed that the project is being implemented by my Ministry and after its completion it will be handed over to the Municipal Council of Port Louis. With regard to Part (a) (i) my Ministry invited bids on 16 January 2009 through Open Advertised Bidding and the closing date was on or before 13.30 hrs (local time) on Wednesday 18 February 2009.

The Bidders and their respective bid amounts:

SN	Bidder	Bid Amount (Rs)
1	Pad & Co Ltd	35,579,058.52
2	Keep Clean Ltd	35,151,177.40
3	J. Annauth Construction Ltd	23,738,950.00

As regards to part (a) (ii), the successful bidder was J. Annauth Construction Ltd, for the corrected sum of Rs 23,744,125.00 inclusive of VAT and a contingency sum of Rs 1,000,000.00.

As regards to part (b), the breakdown of expenses incurred as at 13 July 2010 is as follows -

SN.	Item	Amount (Rs)
1.	Contractor's claims (Part Payments effected out of contractual value of Rs 23,744,125.00)	10,516,680.65
2.	Central Electricity Board (Full Payment for displacement of poles)	57,700.00
3.	Allowance to Consultant (Part Payment of allowance out of a total estimate of Rs 368,025.00) (Staff of Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport & Shipping – Public Infrastructure Division)	30,750.00
	Total	10,605,130.65

MONT ROCHES, COROMANDEL & BELLE ETOILE - WATER SUPPLY

(No. 1A/26) **Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to the water supply in the regions of Mont Roches, Coromandel and Belle Etoile, he will state if he is aware of the irregularity and quality thereof 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 the region of Mont Roches is supplied with water from Roches Brunes and Stanley service reservoirs, Coromandel and Belle Etoile from Meldrum and Rose Hill service reservoirs, which are fed from Herchenroder, Trianon and St Jean boreholes.

The quality of the water from these boreholes is monitored by the CWA Laboratory and complies with the World Health Organisation Standards for potable water.

I am further informed that CWA registered 21 complaints of water supply problems in Roche Brunes and Mont Roches during the period January to June 2010. The water supply is disrupted due to damaged water network during the on-going sewerage works in the region which also resulted in infiltration of muddy water. After completing the repair works and prior to restoring the water supply, CWA carries out flushing of the affected parts of the network.

I also wish to inform the House that some 10 km of CWA pipes are being replaced during the implementation of the sewerage project to improve reliability of supply in Roches Brunes and Mont Roches.

I am also informed that prior to the commissioning of the Meldrum reservoir on 20 April 2010, the regions of Coromandel and Belle Etoile were supplied on a 24-hour basis from Herchenroder pumping station. Following the commissioning of the Meldrum reservoir, the hours of supply in Coromandel and Belle Etoile have been reviewed in order to fill the Meldrum reservoir. The hours of supply are presently as follows -

4.00 a.m to 9.00 a.m

4.00 p.m to 9.00 p.m

BRUSSELS & GENEVA - TRADE COUNSELLERS

(No. 1A/27) **Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade whether, in regard to the Trade Counsellors posted in our Missions in Brussels and Geneva, he will-

- (a) give their terms and conditions of service, and
- (b) state whether they have submitted any report on the impact of the Euro crisis on our trade with the European Union.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, the two Economic and Trade Advisers posted in our Missions in Brussels and Geneva draw a monthly salary of Rs80,000 and are entitled to the payment of allowances and other benefits in accordance with the PRB Report 2008.

As regards part (b) of the question, the Economic and Trade Advisers posted in Missions abroad report to the Head of Mission who in turn report to the Ministry on a regular basis, either in writing or orally depending on the importance of the issue. Regarding the Euro zone crisis, our Missions have drawn the attention of the Ministry on the magnitude thereof and the possible impact on exports, on the tourism sector and development aid given that Mauritius is a Eurocentric economy.

A Technical Committee has also been set up at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development to study and monitor the Euro crisis, fully assess its impact on our economy and to recommend appropriate policy responses.

NHDC FLATS - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

(No. 1A/28) Mr R. Uteem (Second Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the NHDC flats, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company, for each of the years from 2005 to-date, information as to-

- (a) the number, constituencywise of -
 - (i) applications received therefor;
 - (ii) allocated, and
- (b) the eligibility criteria.

Reply: The information requested for is annexed. However, records are kept on a district-wise basis. The eligibility criteria are inter alia-

- (i) applicants should not be owner of a house or of a residential plot of land;
- (ii) applicants should be able to make a deposit of at least 10% of the selling price, and
- (iii) applicants should have the repayment capacity to service the mortgage debt for the purchase of a house. The monthly repayment should not exceed 25% of household income.

BLACK RIVER – FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL GROUNDS - FEE

(No. 1A/29) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to lighting facilities at the football and volleyball grounds in the Black River area, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Black River District Council, information as to whether sports clubs in certain regions of the area are requested to pay a fee to their respective Village Council for the use thereof.

Reply: I am informed by the Black River District Council that a nominal fee of Rs200 per match is payable by sports club for the use of lighting facilities on football grounds to partly meet the minimum electricity charge claimed by the Central Electricity Board which amounts to Rs2,908 per month and also for overtime payable to the attendant.

**CHARLES TELFAIR PRIMARY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL –
PLAYGROUND - UPGRADING**

(No. 1A/30) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he is aware that the playground at the Charles Telfair Primary Government School at Chemin Grenier is in a poor condition and, if so, will he state if Government proposes to upgrade same in the interest of the pupils.

Reply: With regard to the playground at Charles Telfair Government School situated at Chemin Grenier, I am informed that upgrading works, water proofing the resurfacing of the tarmac, upgrading the blockwall and replacing the chain link fencing around the whole school including the football playground, are included in the list of priority projects to be implemented during 2010 and that funds have been already earmarked for this purpose.

Bidding Documents are being prepared at the level of my Ministry and works are expected to start in October 2010 and to be completed in January 2011

BEL OMBRE – PUBLIC TOILETS

(No. 1A/31) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Tourism and Leisure whether in regard to the public toilets in Bel Ombre, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Tourism Authority, information as to when they will be handed over.

Reply: I am informed that the toilets on the public beach at Bel Ombre have been constructed by the Beach Authority and that the Tourism Authority was not involved in the project.

I am further informed that the works have already been completed and the toilet blocks have been opened to the public on 12 July 2010.

NAVIN SOONARANE GYMNASIUM – POLITICAL MEETINGS

(No. 1A/32) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)

asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Navin Soonarane gymnasium at Ebène, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes, information as to whether it is its policy to put same at the disposal of political parties for the organisation of political meetings and hosting of receptions.

Reply: I am informed by the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes that it is not its policy to put the Navin Soonarane gymnasium at Ebène at the disposal of political parties for the organisation of political meetings and hosting of receptions.

However, during the last electoral campaign, special authorisation was given for political gatherings/meetings for any applicant whether it was from the Government or the opposition.