



**SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY**

**DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

**FIRST SESSION**

**TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2019**

**CONTENTS**

**MOTION**

**BILL (*Public*)**

**COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

**ADJOURNMENT**

## THE CABINET

**(Formed by Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth)**

Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth	Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development
Hon. Ivan Leslie Collendavelloo, GCSK, SC	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities
Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC	Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister for Rodrigues
Hon. Mrs Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare
Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden	Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Nandcoomar Bodha, GCSK	Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun	Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research
Hon. Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, SC	Minister of Tourism
Dr. the Hon. Mohammad Anwar Husnoo	Minister of Health and Quality of Life
Hon. Prithvirajsing Roopun	Minister of Arts and Culture
Hon. Marie Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain Sinatambou	Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development
Hon. Mahen Kumar Seeruttun	Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security
Hon. Ashit Kumar Gungah	Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection
Hon. Maneesh Gobin	Attorney General, Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms
Hon. Jean Christophe Stephan Toussaint	Minister of Youth and Sports

Hon. Soomilduth Bholah	Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives
Hon. Marie Roland Alain Wong Yen Cheong, MSK	Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment
Hon. Premdut Koonjoo	Minister of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping
Hon. Soodesh Satkam Callichurn	Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training
Hon. Purmanund Jhugroo	Minister of Housing and Lands
Hon. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon	Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
Hon. Dharmendar Sesungkur	Minister of Financial Services and Good Governance

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**MAURITIUS**

**Sixth National Assembly**

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**FIRST SESSION**

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**Debate No. 18 of 2019**

**Sitting of 25 June 2019**

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis at 10.30 a.m.

**The National Anthem was played**

*(Madam Speaker in the Chair)*

**MOTION****SUSPENSION OF S. O. 10(2)**

**The Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I move that all the business on today's Order Paper be exempted from the provisions of paragraph (2) of Standing Order 10.

**Mr Hurreeram rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

**PUBLIC BILL****THE APPROPRIATION (2019-2020) BILL 2019**

**(NO. X OF 2019)**

(10.33 a.m.)

**COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY**

*(Madam Speaker in the Chair)*

*Vote 4-1 - Minister Mentor's Office, Ministry of Defence And Rodrigues was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have five minutes for two pages. Page 98. Hon. Rutnah.

*(Interruptions)*

He is not here. Hon. Baloomoody.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.984 - *Other Goods and Services - Expenses icw National Drug Secretariat*, may we know from the hon. Minister Mentor who is running that Secretariat and the composition of that National Drug Secretariat – Rs3.5 m.?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision increased considerably due to –

- (a) the organisation of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, conference in Mauritius in September 2019 – Rs2.7 m., and
- (b) setting up of the National Drug Secretariat under this Ministry – Rs3.5 m. Provision made for payment for -
  - (a) uniform, allowance to staff of the procurement cadre, office auxiliaries and drivers;

- (b) catering for meetings and official functions organised by the Ministry;
- (c) hospitality and ceremonies, dinners, lunches hosted in connection with visits of official guests and important personalities;
- (d) conferences, seminars and workshops organised by the Ministry, and
- (e) miscellaneous expenses, incidentals and other office expenses.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Last line, item 26313.024 – *Chagossian Welfare Fund*, can we know the composition of the Board of the Welfare Fund? Who chairs the Board?

**The Chairperson:** If there is a long list, the list can be circulated.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Yes, it is a long list, I will table it.

**The Chairperson:** Yes. Hon. Quirin.

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to the National Drug Secretariat, can we know who will chair this Committee and can we also know the mode of operation of the Secretariat?

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin, mode of operation, I don't think he can reply but who chairs the Secretariat is okay. Who chairs it, but the mode of operation, the question is not acceptable.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** It is the Permanent Secretary.

*Vote 4-1 - Minister Mentor's Office, Ministry of Defence And Rodrigues (Rs55,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10.38 a.m.)

*Vote 4-2 Continental Shelf and Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration was called*

**The Chairperson:** We have two pages, five minutes. Page 99 no question. Page 100, hon. Ms Sewocksingh.

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Under the Capital Expenditure *item 31122.828 Acquisition of Survey Equipment*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor give us some information about this item?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for purchase of –

- (a) equipment for the upgrading of e-platform;

- (b) equipment for survey, and
- (c) Geographical Position System (GPS) real time climatic and for A0 size maps.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same page, *item 22900 - Other Goods and Services*, can we have some details about this item for R1 m.?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for payment of –

- (a) uniform allowance;
- (b) catering services;
- (c) hospitality and ceremonial;
- (d) miscellaneous expenses;
- (e) conferences, seminars and workshops.

A decrease in provision is due to actual trend of expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Madam Chairperson, with respect to *item 22130 – Studies and Surveys*, would the hon. Minister Mentor be kind enough to tell us what are the studies and surveys that have been carried out?

**The Chairperson:** Studies and surveys – if the list is long, there also you can table it.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, I'll get a copy, I'll table it.

*Vote 4-2 Continental Shelf and Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (Rs33,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10.42 a.m.)

*Vote 4-3 Rodrigues was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have two pages, 10 minutes. Page 102, hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 22120-Fees of which Study on Professional Training Needs in Rodrigues - AFD Financed*, Rs1 m. budgeted for this year and no budget for next year. May we know what are the training?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision required for –

- (a) payment of training needs for the officers of the Rodrigues division, and
- (b) payment of consultancy fees.

A contract agreement has been signed between RRA and *Académie de La Réunion* for a study in connection with technical and professional training in Rodrigues. Decrease in provision is due to actual trend of expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 102, item 25110.011.012 - *Special Rodrigues Holiday Package, Subsidy on Airfare from Rodrigues*, there is a reduction in the amount earmarked for the next coming financial year and the present financial year, from Rs69 m. to Rs62 m. Can we know the reason for this reduction?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, provision made for Rodrigues Special Holiday Package which was introduced on 01 August 2009 as a temporarily Stimulus Package with a view to boosting the tourism sector in Rodrigues. This has helped more Mauritians to go to Rodrigues as tourists. A decrease in provision is based on actual trend of expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 22900 - *GCCA - Climate Smart Agriculture - EU Financed* to the tune of Rs10 m., can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor enlighten the House as to how this project is being financed, by EU of course, but who are the beneficiaries and whether there has been implementation of this project?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** *Global Climate Change Alliance, Climate Smart Agriculture.* The project is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal with a view to increasing resilience to climate change of small holders in Rodrigues, thus contributing to environmental sustainable livelihoods by reducing agricultural land, degradation through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices by the small holders.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 26311.001 - *Grants - Rodrigues Regional Assembly*, may I know if the cable MARS Project is included in the grant and how much is it?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** For Cable Project, I do not have details. Well, I will table the information.

*Vote 4-3 Rodrigues (Rs3,913,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10.47 a.m.)

*Vote 4-4 Reform Institutions and Rehabilitation was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have two pages, 10 minutes. Hon. Baloomoody on page 103.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you. Item 21110.001 (18) - *Assistant Superintendent, Rehabilitation Youth Centre*, I found that no provision is being made for that post, may we know why?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** No provision made as presently there is no qualified candidate.

**The Chairperson:** Page 104, hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson! Item 21110.004-*Allowances*, can we know to whom these allowances are being paid and for what purpose?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision required for payment of acting responsibility, rent, night duty and clothing allowances to eligible officers. Decrease in provision is due to actual trend of expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** Page 105, hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 31111.404-*Upgrading of Rehabilitation Youth Centres*, may we know which youth centres are being upgraded and to whom the contract has been allocated?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for –

- (a) waterproofing and ancillary work at RYC Girls;
- (b) painting of building RYC Boys;
- (c) construction of toilet bloc RYC Boys;
- (d) upgrading of electrical installation and installation of AC – RYC Boys and Girls, and

- (e) construction of small homes.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** The last item in that page 31112.401- *Non-Residential Buildings - Upgrading of Probation Offices*, we budgeted Rs4 m. last year, may we know how many has been spent for the probation offices, and which office we are identified for next year?

**The Chairperson:** We take another question.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, I will table it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120-Fees, Rs2.9 m. was budgeted for 2018/2019, can we know to whom the fees have been paid?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for payment of –

- (a) fees to chairperson and members of Boards and Committees. There is a Central Probation Committee, District Probation Committee, Rehabilitation Youth Centre Board of visitors;
- (b) fees for training;
- (c) fees to consultants with the creation of two posts of psychologist on the establishment, the number of psychologists on sessional basis has been reduced;
- (d) fees in connection with parole Board;
- (e) fees for Community Service Work is payable to Community Service Supervisors at the rate of Rs150 per hour. Decrease in provision is based on trend of expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31111.404- *Upgrading of Rehabilitation Youth Centres*, the hon. Minister replied about the project earmarked for Rs5.5 m. I am more interested to know about that Rs2.9 m., what has been done with the Rs2.9 m. last year, how much has been spent?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, this has already been answered.

*Vote 4-4 Reform Institutions and Rehabilitation (Rs101,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10.52 p.m.)

*Vote 4-5 Police Service was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 106, no question. Page 107, hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 21110 (2) – *Deputy Commissioner of Police*, can we know whether the four posts which are on the Establishment have been filled?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Decrease in provision as there is one vacancy to be filled and provision made for six months only.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Madam Speaker, with respect to *Police Medical Officer*, I was told...

**The Chairperson:** Which item?

**Dr. Boolell:** Sorry, item 21110 – *Police Medical Officer*...

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Which page?

**Dr. Boolell:** Sorry, page 107, I said the item. My apologies. Let me come back again, item 21110 (8) *Police Medical Officer*, I would like to know whether the number would increase or would stay same as spelt out in the Budget, whether it will go up eventually or it will stay same?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Increase in provision is due to the payment of increments.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Page 107, item (11) *Superintendent of Police*. The post funded is the same Rs24 m., whereas there has been a decrease from Rs17.7 m. to Rs16.5 m. What is the reason for this decrease?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Decrease in provision as there are five vacancies to be filled and provision made for six months only.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Same page, Madam Chairperson, (28) *Assistant Superintendent of Police Band*. I can see that the Budget has doubled from Rs150,000 to Rs309,000 and again, provision will be doubled next year. So, may we know why?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Increase in provision to meet the salary of one Assistant Superintendent of Police Band for six months.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110 (4) – *Deputy Director General National Security Service*, there is one post. We budgeted Rs258,000 last year, Rs258,000 for this year. Why is it Rs1,032 m. for the year after? What is that increase? The increase is five times. Why for?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** I am told the post will be filled. There is no post right now.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** On the same page, page 107, can we know how many Police Officers are serving the Police Force currently?

**The Chairperson:** Which item? Which line?

**Mr Ramful:** Item 21110, same page.

**The Chairperson:** Which item?

**Mr Ramful:** How many Police Officers are serving the Police Force?

**The Chairperson:** No, the question does not arise. Page 108! No question! Page 109, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item 22060.005 – *Maintenance of which IT Equipment*. Can we know the name of the contractor?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, provision made for payment of maintenance, agreement for the passport personalisation system, turnkey solution for immigration and border control and other equipment for the Passport and Immigration Office, purchase of spares for digital radio communications and CCTV street surveillance system in Port Louis, Grand' Baie, Flic-en-Flac and Quatre Bornes and the maintenance and repairs of photocopiers and generators and other equipment, decrease in provision is based on actual trend of expenditure.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22030.007 – *Rental of Lines for CCTV and other Security Network*. May we know from whom we are renting these lines and why there is a tendency to decrease the Budget in the coming years?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Decrease in provision is due to the coming into operation of the Safe City Project and gradual phasing out of the existing CCTV System. Well, rental of lines for CCTV and other security network systems from Mauritius Telecom, MCML/CEB in connection with closed television CCTV and digital communications system.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 22030.007 – *Rental of Lines for CCTV and other Security Network...*

**The Chairperson:** The question has been asked...

**Mr Henry:** No, a sum of Rs85 m. has been voted last year. May we know how much has been disbursed and to whom, please?

**The Chairperson:** Breakdown of the Rs85,000, how the money has been used.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, I don't have it with me. I will provide it when I will get it, please. I will circulate when I'll get it, I don't have it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 – *Fees*, an amount of Rs6.4 m. was budgeted for 2018/2019, but for 2019/2020, the amount has increased to Rs16.6 m. Can we know the reason for such a huge increase?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Increase in provision is due to items centralised under this sub head and payment of course run by the University of Mauritius for Police Officers.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful! Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 22140 – *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*, may we know who is the supplier of same?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** To whom, I don't have it.

**The Chairperson:** *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*, you don't have it. Okay!

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** The list will be tabled.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Under item 22900.012 *Passports*, we are being asked to vote Rs21 m. Can we have an idea as to how many passports are actually in circulation, whether there has been any forecast of this, I know it's difficult, can we have an idea of the actual number of passports in circulation?

**The Chairperson:** I don't think you will have...

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** I think the hon. Member should come with a PQ on that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** On the same item, Madam Chairperson, 22900.012 *Passports*, I think the House should be enlightened as to the number of passports that have been issued personally by the Commissioner of Police.

**The Chairperson:** Well, this question has already been asked, hon. Dr. Boolell. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under item 22900.001 *Uniforms*, Rs60 m. was budgeted last year, Rs60 m. this year and the Police Officers are still complaining that they have not received their uniform. May I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor how much has been spent in that Rs60 m. and when was the last time they were issued with a complete set of uniform?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, I don't have it.

**The Chairperson:** We have another question from hon. Ameer Meea in the meantime?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** I will table the one that was put.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Coming back to the question of passport of hon. Dr. Boolell, I think what hon. Dr. Boolell meant was how many passports were issued under the intervention of the Commissioner of Police.

**The Chairperson:** No, for that question, if you come with a parliamentary question, you will get the reply. Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, under item 22900.973 *Expenses i.c.w. Safe City Project*, may we know the operating cost for the Safe City Project, the yearly operating cost out of the sums being voted?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provisions made to pay Mauritius Telecom for installation of 4,000 intelligent video surveillance cameras, 300 intelligent traffic surveillance cameras, 4500 trunking smart handsets, 350 vehicle-mounted radios and 150 static radios and emergency response management system and command and control centres as per lease agreement with Mauritius Telecom. Increase in provision is due to payment of the above.

**Mr A. Duval:** It was the operating cost associated with this running of the Safe City. The operating cost.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, I'm tabling it.

**The Chairperson:** Page 110, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Under item *21110.001 (6) Chief Inspector of Police*, the budget allocated was Rs40 m. last year and now it has been reduced to Rs36 m., downfall of salary?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Decrease in provision is due to the fact that there are 25 vacant posts of Chief Inspector of Police and provision made for six months only.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea! Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Under item *31121.801 Acquisition of Vehicles*, I see that last year we voted Rs100 m. for acquisition of vehicles. May we know how much has been spent and which vehicles we are talking about?

**The Chairperson:** Item *31121.801 Acquisition of Vehicles*.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for the procurement of vehicles in FY 2019/2020. Item is now centralised under vote 04501 and 04505. Total provision for Financial Year 2019/2020 is Rs103 m. A decrease in provision as 155 new vehicles will be procured in Financial Year 2019/2020 compared to 229 vehicles in Financial Year 2018/2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Capital Expenditure item *31112.049 Construction of Mauritius Disciplined Forces Academy*, may I know if a contract has already been awarded and where is the site?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for the payment of consultancy fee in connection with the construction of the Mauritius Disciplined Forces Academy. Contract was signed on 11 April 2019 with the National Buildings Construction Corporation India Limited.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, if I may ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor, this is not the operation cost; this is the project cost for the purchase and implementation. I am asking for the operation, the monthly cost of operating the Safe City Project.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, I don't have it, when I'll get it, I'll table it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes, if I may come back...

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Please, one minute. I just got the information. It is USD8.7 m. per year, operation and maintenance cost.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Baloomoody:** If I may come back, I have not asked my question.

**The Chairperson:** You haven't asked your question yet?

**Mr Baloomoody:** No, the hon. Minister told me to wait, because he just received the answer.

Now, with regard to the Academy, has the site been identified, the Police Academy?

**The Chairperson:** Which item?

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 31112.049 *Construction of Mauritius Disciplined Forces Academy*. We know we have signed a contract, but has a site been identified for that Academy?

*(Interruptions)*

Côte d'Or?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Yes, it's at Côte d'Or.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson, item *31122.802 Acquisition of IT Equipment*, Rs15 m. was budgeted in 2018/2019. Can we have a breakdown of this amount and also the name of the supplier, please?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, it is provision made for purchase of personal computers, computer server, network tools, storage device, printers with network card, laptops and LCD projectors, mobile kit for video acquisition. Insofar as the supplier is concerned, I'll table it.

**The Chairperson:** Page 111, hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, Madam Chairperson, item *22100 Publications and Stationery*, can we have a breakdown of this amount as well as the name of the supplier?

**The Chairperson:** Item *22100 Publications and Stationery*.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for purchase of tonners, papers for printers, fax machines and photocopiers to meet requirement. Now, as for the supplier, I don't have the name here.

**The Chairperson:** In the meantime, we take hon. Baloomoody, page 111.

**Mr Baloomoody:** On page 111, if I may refer the hon. Minister to item *21110.001 (16) Police Constable*, and now we are talking about crime control and investigation. Why are we budgeting for less Police Constable? Last year, we funded for 5,207 and this year we are funding only for 5,007? 200 Police Constables less.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Decrease in provision is due to the fact that there are 112 vacant posts of Police Sergeant and provision is made for six months only.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** For the Police Sergeant, there has been a substantial decrease in the amount funded by Rs27 m. and we know that maybe that there are some posts that are vacant, that is the answer that is being given. But why is it that all these posts are not being filled? *Item 21110.001(12) – Basic salary - Police Sergeant*.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** The posts have not been filled because exam will be carried out next year.

**The Chairperson:** Page 112, hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On page 112, *item 31112.012(j) - Construction of Police Stations - Cité La Cure/ Vallée des Prêtres Police Station*, I know that recently the Prime Minister made a public statement for the construction of a Police Station at Vallée des Prêtres and nothing has been funded this year. May we know the reason why?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** I understand that we are waiting for the vesting of land.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** *Item 31122.999 - Acquisition of Other Machinery and Equipment*, we voted for some Rs29m. last year, may we have a breakdown and may we know which equipment we are talking about?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for the purchase of photocopying machines, fax machines, air conditioners, passports, printers and for procurement of hardware and software for storage of data, etc.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31112.012 (h) - Construction of Police Stations - L'Escalier Police Station*, may I know why there is no provision for this year's Budget?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, the answer is the same, vesting of land. We are waiting for that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I will refer the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor to *item 31112.014 Construction of Regional Detention Centres – Piton*, which has a project value of Rs75m. Can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor apprise us as to whom the contract has been allocated please?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Evaluation has just been completed; awaiting approval of Central Procurement Board. Contract will be awarded in financial year 2019/20.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31122.999 - Acquisition of Other Machinery and Equipment*, may we have the breakdown of the machinery and equipment being purchased?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** We have already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Minister Mentor just replied to this. Yes. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On *item 31112.012 (g) - Construction of Police Stations - Bain des Dames Police Station* may I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether for the Bain des Dames Police Station land has been identified?

**The Chairperson:** Bain des Dames, (g).

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, in that case also, we are waiting for the vesting of land.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Construction of Police Station again, there is no mention for Barkly Police Station which is going to be removed as per Metro Express project.

**The Chairperson:** Page 113, hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 113, *Item 31113.043(b) - Driving License and Test Centre – Flacq*, can we know the progress of the project?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** New project to be jointly financed by Road Development Authority and the Police Department to centralise services provided by the Traffic Branch, thus improving service delivery. The project value is Rs21m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 22060.004 – Maintenance - Vehicles and Motorcycles*, can we have the names of the agencies to whom the contract has been awarded and the amount paid to each for 2018/19?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, the list will be tabled.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** *Item 31132.401 - e-Government Projects*, the project value is Rs65m. May we know where are we with this project?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** It is a new project. Provision made for implementation of an integrated Driving License Information Management System at Traffic Branch Headquarters, which comprise development of a cumulative road traffic offences management system, implementation of a new audio-visual test system and a new practical test system.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Under the same item, has the contract already been allocated?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Not yet.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Page 114, no question. Page 115, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Capital Expenditure, *Item 31122.805 - Other Machinery and Equipment - Acquisition of Security Equipment*, can we know the type of security equipment?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for acquisition of additional drug detection equipment and surveillance vehicles. Increase in provision is due to the sophisticated nature of this equipment.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes, Madam Chairperson. Page 115, *Item 21110.001 (1) to (15) – Basic Salary - Woman Police Sergeant – Police Corporal – Woman Police Corporal – Police Constable – Woman Police Constable – Police Attendant/ Senior Police Attendant*, so the total number of officers at *Sub-Head 4-505: Combatting Drugs*, it remains to 450. It was 450 last year, 450 this year. Can I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether all the posts are filled?

**The Chairperson:** Page 115. 450 posts, whether all the posts are filled.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well 430 out of 450.

**The Chairperson:** Page 116, no question. Page 117, hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** *Item 31113.023(a) - Construction of Training Grounds/Structures - Gallery Range – Midlands*, may we know the progress of this project?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for Gallery Range – Midlands, tender already launched and additional work due to start in September 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Under item 22060.004 – *Maintenance of which Vehicles and Motorcycles*, a budget of Rs10 m. has been earmarked. Can we know if it is in-house or contract out? And if so, the name of the contractor.

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** The increase in provision is due to purchase of new vehicles.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Maintenance of vehicles and motorcycles, whether in-house or contract out?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, for maintenance, it is contracted out.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Which page?

**The Chairperson:** Page 117.

**Mr Baloomoody:** *Item 31112.036 - Construction of SMF Buildings*, may we know where matters stand with regard to that building and the site of this SMF building?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for final stage of work, construction of Laundry House, Regimental Medical Unit, a new gymnasium and allied facilities. Decrease in provision is due to completion of project in financial year 2019/20.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you, very much, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31113.436 – Perimeter Lighting at Gymkhana Track and Playground*, has a project value of Rs3,500,000.

Now, we know that Gymkhana is very popular and there is no budget for the 2018/19 Estimates. I would like to know where matters stand with respect to perimeter lighting at gymkhana track and playground?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Still at survey stage.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 31122.805 - *Acquisition of Security Equipment*, where an amount of Rs10 m. is being earmarked, may we know which security equipment we are talking?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for other security equipment and equipment for *maintien d'ordre*.

**The Chairperson:** Page 118, no question. Page 119, hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 119, under item 22060 – *Maintenance*, there is an excess of Rs59 m. Does that mean that ships and aircrafts are in very bad conditions or out of order?

**The Chairperson:** Item 22060 – *Maintenance of which helicopter?*

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, provision is made for maintenance of plant and equipment, helicopters, ships and aircrafts for National Coast Guard.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under page 119, item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, may we know who are the beneficiaries for these allowances of Rs122 m.?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for the following allowances –

- Ration;
- Diving;
- Public holiday;
- Rent;
- Risk;
- Special duty;
- Trade pay;
- Technician pay;

- Responsibility disturbance;
- Seagoing, and
- Night duty.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22020 - *Fuel and Oil*, Rs67 m. was budgeted last year. May we know how many surveillance flights, search and rescue flights and operations were made in terms of hours?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** What took place last year concerns the budget of last year. I think members should come with PQs to get information.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Under item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, there is a budget of Rs50 m. May we have a breakdown, please?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for payment of extra assistance to 16 Indian Expatriates –

- 2 Commandants;
- 2 Deputy Commandants;
- 8 Lieutenant Commanders;
- 2 Wing Commanders;
- 1 Group Captain;
- 1 Captain on deputation to serve in the Mauritius Police Force.

**The Chairperson:** Page 120, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.001 - *Other Goods and Services of which Uniforms*, there has been a huge increase in the sum. Can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor state why?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, provision is made for supply of uniforms. Increase is due to procurement of newly designed uniforms.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Madam Chairperson, with respect to Capital Expenditure, item 31113.312 - *Integrated Development Project for the NCG (Trident Project)*, Rs2,900,000,000

identified. This is the project value, if we can be enlightened as to the relevance and importance of the Trident Project?

**The Chairperson:** Relevance and importance relate to policy matters. Ask questions on provision which is being made.

**Dr. Boolell:** Rs150 m. have already been disbursed and it has a project value of almost Rs3 billion. So, if the details can be circulated, that is what I asked?

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31121.404 - *Upgrading of Aircrafts*, we are being asked to vote Rs203 m. Can we have some details about which type of aircrafts are being upgraded and what is the actual fleet of the Mauritius Police Force with regard to aircrafts?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for upgrading of Dornier Aircraft.

**The Chairperson:** I would ask hon. Members to ask only one question at a time. Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 31121.803 - *Acquisition of Patrol Vessels - Heavy Duty Boat*, may we know about the specifications of this project?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for the acquisition of one heavy duty patrol boat. Order has already been placed and same will be received in October 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Item 31122.812 - *Acquisition of Nautical Equipment*, may we have details of the nautical equipment?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for acquisition of nautical equipment, and the increase in provision is due to acquisition of outboard motor and inflatable crafts.

*Vote 4-5 Police Service (Rs8,860,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(11:30 a.m.)

*Vote 4-6 Prison Service was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have four pages and 15 minutes. Page 121, Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 21110.001 - (2 & 3) *Deputy Commissioner of Prisons and Assistant Commissioner of Prisons*, may I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether all the posts are filled? We are supposed to have 4 Deputy Commissioners and 6 Assistant Commissioners of Prisons?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Post Deputy Commissioner of Prisons –

- number of established post – 4;
- Funded position 4;
- number in post – 4;
- Vacancies nil.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody, page 122!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes, thank you. Item 21110.001(32) - *Prisons Medical and Health Officer/Senior Prisons Medical and Health Officer*, we funded for two posts last year and this year we are not funding any. So, may we know what is happening to the medical section of the prison?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Post to be filled shortly by the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and to be seconded to Mauritius Prison Service.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** The question has been asked and has been replied.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Madam Chairperson, at (44) there is an amount of Rs24 m.

**The Chairperson:** *Superintendent of Prisons.*

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Yes. Why is there a decrease, whereas instead of 52, there are 53 officers?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, decrease in provision is due to adjustment as per salary drawn by the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons in post.

**The Chairperson:** Page 123, hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to .005 – *Extra Assistance*, there was an amount of Rs850,000 last year, there is no provision for the years to come. Can he give details of the extra assistance?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, no provision is made for Financial Year 2019/20. Previously, provision was made for a consultant who resigned in January 2017 and the post is still vacant.

**The Chairperson:** Page 123, no question. Page 124, hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 22060.003 – *Maintenance - Plant and Equipment*, a sum of Rs24 m. has been earmarked for the budget this year, may we have a breakdown of what maintenance we are talking?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision is made for maintenance of -

- (a) buildings, all prisons;
- (b) plants and equipment in mechanical and industry workshops, bakery as per the maintenance agreement contract;
- (c) vehicles and motorcycles, 62 vehicles, including the official car of the Commissioner of Prisons;
- (d) IT equipment, comprising hardware and software, and ground renovation and fencing works.

Increase in provisions made to cater for maintenance of plant and equipment.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madame Chairperson. Page 124, 31112.411(a) – *Beau Bassin Prisons*, can we know for the coming financial year, whether provision has been made for the upgrading of the sewerage network at Beau Bassin Prison which is long overdue?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for the upgrading of Beau Bassin Prison, including the following –

- repair and replacement of sewerage pipeline;
- completion of catwalk;
- repairs and maintenance of building association yard;
- toilet bathroom;

- blocks, including electric and plumbing works;
- resurfacing of road at Prison Headquarters;
- construction of metal workshop and mechanical workshop, and
- renovation of Prison Quarters.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.005 - *Provision and Stores*, may we know the amount spent on food provisions, specifically, for fish provision and who is the provider?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** We will table the information, I don't have them.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 31132.401 - under Capital Expenditure – *e-Government Projects: Prison Management System*, can we have some details about this project, the status and the name of the contractor?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Provision made for the payment, 40% to National Informatics Centre Services, New Delhi, India, for development of four new modules for e-prison phase 2 and hence training thereon. Decrease in provision as MPS needs to effect the last part payment for the e-prison project phase 2 and hence on training for IT, MPS personnel at NIC/NICSI, New Delhi, India.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 28211.008 - *Discharged Persons' Aid Committee*, can I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor who is heading that Discharged Persons' Aid Committee and when was the last time it met?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** I don't have the name. Well, I will table a copy.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry! Please, be quick!

**Mr Henry:** Item 31112.411 - *Upgrading of Prisons (b) Other Prisons*, may we have the list and the work associated with this upgrading?

**Sir Anerood Jugnauth:** Well, it's a long answer, we'll circulate it.

*Vote 4-6 Prison Service (Rs830,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(11.39 p.m.)

*Vice-Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands, and Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare*

*Vote 5-1 Local Government and Outer Islands was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 125, no question. Page 126, no question. Page 127, no question. Page 128, hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we have a breakdown to whom this extra assistance is for?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Extra assistance caters for the salary and bonus for three advisers and one officer on contract.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 26313.070 - *Outer Islands Development Corporation*, there is an amount of Rs153 m. voted, may we have a breakdown as to which project you are talking about?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Yes, increase in provision is due to –

- (a) payment of annual increment and allowances;
- (b) filling of vacancies;
- (c) increase in the price of foodstuff and other commodities;
- (d) maintenance of vehicles;
- (e) increase in provisions for medical evacuation by flight.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 26323.070(a) – *Construction of Cold Room*, may we know whether the cold room is already on construction and what is the size of the cold room, please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Yes, fund of Rs4 m. provided for the construction of a cold room. The existing cold room in the north island - no, I don't have the size, but I do know that bidding exercise has started.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** At page 128, under *Item 26313.002 – Agalega Island Council*, may we know who are the members of that Island Council, and when was the last time they sat?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** From July 2018 to June 2019, they have met on six occasions. The composition of the Council is –

Mr Gino Alfred

- Members - Mr Norungee  
 - Mr Stephan Orange  
 - Mr Josian  
 - Mr Emmanuel Jasmin  
 - Mr Ricardo  
 - Mr Steeve Clarisse, and  
 - Mr Prayag.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** At page 128, under *Item 263123.070 – Outer Islands Development Corporation*. May we know the number of residents in Agalega that are catered for by the Outer Islands Development Corporation, including any workers?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** We have 344 people in Agalega. With regard to workers in Agalega, the workforce is as follows -

- The Mauritius Police Force
- The Mauritius Fire & Rescue Service
- The National Coast Guard
- The Education Officers, amongst others.

*(Interruptions)*

The total number? I can give you the breakdown. For example, for the Mauritius Police Force, you have eleven; Mauritius Fire & Rescue Service: 5; Special Mobile Force: 6; National Coastguard: 6; Ministry of Education: 5; Mauritius Telecom: 1; Ministry of Health: 6; Meteorological Services: 2.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan, no, not from a sitting position! I don't think Members can ask supplementary questions from a sitting position.

Hon. Bhagwan, yes!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Outer Island Development Corporation! Is there any specific development for St Brandon Island? Whether the hon. Minister can give us the number of persons working there under the different utilities in St Brandon?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** It does not fall under any item. So, if the hon. Member can come with a specific question.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 128, under *Item 26323.070 – Outer Islands Development Corporation (Agalega)*, with regard to all the projects that have been listed, may we know how they are to be tendered? Is it going to be international tender, or is the contractor present in Agalega going to do this job?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** No decision has been taken as to whether it will be international tender exercise. I do think it will be done inhouse.

**The Chairperson:** Page 129! Hon. Rughoobur! No? Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 26312 – Grant to Local Authorities*, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister tell us how the grant-in-aid is actually being calculated?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I have been informed that it varies from one Local Authority to the other, depending on the expenditure, as it has been during the past.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 128, under *item 2212- Fees*, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister state which fees, and who were the beneficiaries of the fees?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provision made for the payment of fees to Chairmen and members of Board and Committees and license fees for Oracle technical support.

**Ms Sewocksingh:** At page 129, under *Item 26312.002 - Municipal Council of Curepipe*, may we know from the Vice-Prime Minister why there has been an increase for 2019-2020 in the Budget Estimates, then it goes down to Rs301,000,000? May we know why, and if the hon. Vice-Prime Minister can circulate the breakdown of the grants for the specific item?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** As I have said, the grant-in-aid allocated to each of the 12 Local Authorities varies from one Local Authority to another as the calculation has been based on the actual expenditure of each Local Authority during one financial year, and also taking into consideration their specificities.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo! No? Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 26312 – Grant to Local Authorities*, there is an increase of Rs100 m. for this financial year. May we know, out of the grants given to the Local Authorities, what is being catered for the cleaning and maintenance of drains?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well, it does not fall under this specific item. I will look for the answer and I will circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Page 130! Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Under *Item 26322.030 (e) Market Fair (ix) Fond du Sac*, may we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister if the MoU for the acquisition of land has already been signed?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** For Fond du Sac, land has already been identified and will be transmitted to the Ministry of Housing and Lands for acquisition procedure.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 26322.030 (g) – Relocation of Barkly Sports Complex*, where an amount of Rs15,800,000 was budgeted, can we know the final cost of this project, please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** As per information given, the project has been completed and is operational.

**Mr Quirin:** The final cost?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The final cost is Rs15 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** At page 130, under *Item 26322.030 – Local Development Project, (d) (vi) Beau Bassin (including Market and Others)*, can we have some details with regard to ‘and Others’?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I don’t have the information. Let me check with the officers.

**The Chairperson:** In the meantime, can we take hon. Ramful?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Sorry! I have the information. There is a proposal to integrate Beau Bassin Police Station, Post Office, Taxi Stand within the project to be in line with the Metro Express project.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Ag page 130, under *Item 26322.030 (e) Market Fairs (iv) Mahebourg*, may we know the status of the project for Mahebourg Fair?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Bids are under evaluation at the level of the Central Procurement Board.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance! No? Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 130, under *item 26322.030 – Local Development Projects (b) District Council Head Offices (ii) Flacq District*, can we know the project status?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Bids are already evaluated at the level of the Central Procurement Board. Once approved, contract will be awarded.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. At pages 131-32, same *item 26322.030 –Local Development Projects (i) Ugrading of fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market in Port Louis*. The situation is deplorable.

**The Chairperson:** Which page? We are on page 130!

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Page 130, 131?

**Dr. Boolell:** It is part but it is on the same.

**The Chairperson:** When we move to 131, then you will ask your question. Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Item 26322.030(c) *Renovation of Plaza Theatre at Rose Hill*, the project value is Rs324m. May we know the name of the contractors for this project and whether today there is any cost overrun?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well, I understand that contract has already been awarded for consultancy services. So, it is Pixel Team.

**Mr A. Duval:** How much?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** How much? Rs11 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Already answered. Page 131, hon. Dr. Boolell, you had a question.

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to Item 26322.030(i) *Upgrading of Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market, Port Louis* which has a project value of Rs90m. Now, has the contract been awarded?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Contract for consultancy services has already been awarded to Visio Architecture Ltd to the tune of Rs6.6 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** At item 26322.030(h) (xiii) *Setting up of Incinerators - Riche Lieu*, may we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister...

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** We are still on page 131?

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes. Item 26322.030(h) (xiii) *Setting up of Incinerators - Riche Lieu*.

**The Chairperson:** (xiii) Riche Lieu.

**Mr Baloomoody:** (h) (xiii).

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Construction will be completed by end of June and installation of equipment before end of December 2019. 75% of work already completed as at mid of June 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 32145.102 - *Loan to Municipal Council of Curepipe i.c.w Renovation of the Town Hall*, may we know the name of the contractor, the date of completion of this project and the contract value?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Contract for the consultancy services was awarded in July 2016 to Desai and Associates Ltd. The estimated cost of the project has been revised to about Rs126 m. due to the constant degradation of the structure of the building. The draft bidding document has been submitted to the Central Procurement Board for vetting. So, the project will be financed to the tune of Rs55 m. under the Council's own funds and loan from the Government as it is a revenue generating project.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 131, Item 26322.030(h) (xii) *Setting up of Incinerators - Montagne Blanche*, can we know the project progress?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The construction is already completed and installation of the equipment is expected before December 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Concerning Item 26322.030(j) - *Construction and Upgrading of Amenities*, can the Vice-Prime Minister circulate the list? I will not be reluctant to the Minister immediately because Rs400 m...

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provision of Rs350 m. made for the construction and upgrading of roads, social halls, football grounds, children playground, among others, throughout the island and will be implemented by the local authorities. I will circulate the details.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, coming back to the Item 26322.030(i) - *Upgrading of Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market, Port Louis*, we have been informed that for consultancy services, the contract has been awarded. But this has been canvassed in the House several times. May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister when works are scheduled to start and be completed?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well, maybe I will have to get the answer from the officer because, as I have said, we are still at the consultancy stage and I am not in a position to say when it will be started and when it will be completed.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Next question! Hon. Quirin! Yes, hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Regarding Item 26322.030(h) (ix) *Setting up of Incinerators - La Marie*.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Which number?

**Mr Baboo:** Item 26322.030(h) (ix) *Setting up of Incinerators - La Marie*, may we know when the construction will be completed, please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Constructions will be completed by end of July and installation of the equipment before end of December this year. It seems that 82% of work has already completed as at mid-June 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 31113.442 *Upgrading of Street Lighting along Motorways*, can we know the name of the contractor responsible for the upgrading of the street lighting?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** CEB.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry! Hon. Adrien Duval! He is not there.

*Vote 5-1 Local Government and Outer Islands (Rs4,805,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(12.00 a.m.)

*Vote 5-2 Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service was called*

**The Chairperson:** We have got 4 minutes. Well, I will tell you how many minutes are left. No question on page 132? Hon. Dr. Boolell. Page 132 *non*? Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** When it come to the Police Officers, we say how many Woman Police Officer, Woman Police Constable, Woman Sergeant there are, why is it that when we come to firefighter, we do not say how many women there are? May I know from the 938, how many are women firefighters?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** 22.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo! Yes, hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can I take the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to Item 21110.001(8) *Firefighter* for both year ending 2019 and 2020. I see we have the same number of firefighters, that is 938, where the estimation for last year was Rs224,760 m., whereas for the current year, it has increased substantially to Rs231,530 m. May we know why for the same number of firefighters?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Increase in provision to cater for the annual increment and filling of 10 vacancies.

**The Chairperson:** Page 133, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.001(1) *Uniforms*, there is an amount of Rs20 m. budgeted, can I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to whom was the contract awarded?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Let me check with the officers present. They do not have the information, I will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Can we take another question? Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you Madam Chairperson. Item 22030-*Rent*, the rent has increased from Rs12,750 m. to Rs14,534 m. May we know what are the buildings that are being rented and the total surface area please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Increase in provision to cater for the –

- (a) relocation of the Head Office;
- (b) relocation of Fire Safety Division;
- (c) rental for parking slots;
- (d) rental of CCTV for Coromandel Fire Station;
- (e) rental for network and communication, and
- (f) rental of Quatre Bornes and Port Louis Fire Stations.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, if I may take the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to item 21110.004 in relation to *Allowances*. I see there is a constant of Rs53 m. on a yearly basis. May we know what sort of allowances are they?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provision to cater for payment of the following allowances to officers –

- (i) Rent Allowance;
- (ii) Bank of Firefighters Scheme;

- (iii) Night Duty Allowance;
- (iv) Meal Allowance;
- (v) Risk Allowance;
- (vi) Physical Training Instructors' Allowance;
- (vii) Maintenance Allowance; so on and so forth.

Well, there is a long list. If you want I will circulate the list.

**The Chairperson:** Circulate the list if it's long. Hon. Thierry Henry.

**Mr Henry:** Item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 53 millions qui a été votée, peut-on savoir dans ces R 53 millions, combien a été payé pour le *long service increment* s'il vous plaît ?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Is it the Lead Firefighters Allowance? So, 233 officers are eligible for the allowance, but I don't have the exact number, how much we have disbursed so far. I will circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Page 134. Hon. Rughoobur.

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. May I know from the hon. Minister, item 31121 .801 *Acquisition of Vehicles of which (a) Acquisition of Fire and Rescue Vehicles*, I see that there is an amount Rs192,780 m. that has been earmarked. May I know the mode of procurement and whether the Ministry is appointing a consultant to advise Government on this huge investment?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provision for the procurement of 20 Firefighting Vehicles under the Indian Line of Credit. Contract awarded to NewAge Fire Fighting Company Limited, India on 14 June 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell.

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect to item 31121.801(c) *Aerial Ladder Platform*, which has a project value of Rs35 m., this matter has to be treated with utmost urgency and I would like to know whether tenders have been launched and, if yes, when will the contract be awarded?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Let me inform the House that we have for the time three Turntable Ladders, one is in good running condition, two are under repairs and we are in the process of buying a third one. Contract has already been awarded to Mars Company. Delivery expectation is in April 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem.

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31122.803 *Acquisition of Fire Fighting and Rescue Equipment (a) High Volume Water Pumps*, there is a budgeted amount of Rs14 m. earmarked for next year. May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister how many water pumps are being purchased and if the contract has already been awarded?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Yes, we have for the time being one high volume water pump, but we are in the process of buying 13, so provisions made to cater for the acquisition of 13 flood trailer pumps under the Indian Line of Credit.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 134, item 31112.024 *Construction of Fire Stations of which (c) Montagne Blanche Fire Station*, can we know where matters stand?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provision for the construction of a new fire station at Montagne Blanche - let me see if I have more details - actions have been taken to clear the land by the Field Services Unit. So, land is being cleared to start the construction.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 31122.803 *(b) Protective and Other Rescue Equipment*, last year we budgeted nearly Rs51 m. May I know from the hon. Ministry how much has been spent on that protective equipment because there has been complaints received from the Fire Officers that they are not properly equipped in certain cases.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** A sum of Rs5,711 m. on personal protective equipment which consists of firefighting helmets, fire tunic, fire boots, gloves, goggles.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramano.

**Mr Ramano:** Merci, madame la présidente. Sous le titre 31112.024 *Construction of Fire Stations*, l'honorable ministre a annoncé l'acquisition d'un terrain à Sodnac pour

relocalisation du *Fire Station*, mais aucune somme n'est prévue pour la construction d'un *Fire Station*. Qu'est je peux savoir de l'honorable ministre ?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Is it Quatre Bornes?

**The Chairperson:** Quatre Bornes is not on the list. It does not appear on the list. It's a Parliamentary Question, because it's not on the list unless the Minister wants to reply.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well I have the information.

**The Chairperson:** If you have the information, you can provide the information then.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well, a site has been identified. It is Avenue Tulipes, Quatre Bornes, so needful is being done for the construction of the said Fire Station because this project has been announced since last year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes, thank you. Item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment* for Rs20 m., can we have more details on this please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provision is made for the procurement of one new Aerial Ladder Platform, also for the purchase of three Swift Water Rescue Vehicles, acquisition of a First Response Vehicles for Agaléga Island too.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah.

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Madam Chairperson, we can go back to item 31122.803 in relation to *Acquisition of Fire Fighting and Rescue Equipment*, can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, out of the number of High Volume Water Pumps and Protective and Other Rescue Equipment, how many of them are earmarked for Piton Fire Station which fall in my Constituency?

**The Chairperson:** That's another Parliamentary Question. I am sorry. Hon. Baboo.

**Mr Baboo:** Item 31121.801 (e) *Agalega First Response Vehicle*, may we how much First Response Vehicle we have actually and also, out of the Rs8 m. that has been earmarked for this year 2019/20, how much vehicles will be purchased?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Vehicles to be purchased are the following –

- (i) five Water Tenders;
- (ii) Aerial Ladder Platform one, this will be delivered in April 2020;

- (iii) Swift Water Rescue Vehicle bid will be launched by September 2019;
- (iv) Agaléga First Response Vehicle, one van and one pump available already, so bid will be launched in September 2019, and

As then as I have said we will buying,

- (v) High Volume Water Pumps - 13 Flood Pumps will be received in this Financial Year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 31122.403 - *Upgrading of Fire Fighting Equipment*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 20,500,000 qui a été votée. Peut-on savoir quels sont les équipements qui vont être upgrade?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well, I have only one line. The increase in the provisions to cater for the upgrading of Fire Fighting Equipment is to cater for a turntable ladder. It costs about Rs20 m.

*Vote 5-2 Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service (Rs905,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(12.13 p.m.)

*Vote 5-3 Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have 15 minutes, 8 pages. Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At Page 135, the last item 20100 – *Annual Allowance Minister*, I see there was a provision for Rs2.4 m. last year. Why there is no provision for the next financial year?

**The Chairperson:** There is no allowance. Please, if the hon. Minister wants to reply. Page 136, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 136, last item on the page, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to whom are these extra assistance paid?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provisions for the payment of five advisors: Ms Ragaven Georgina, Soyfoo Mohammed Javed, Ms Volbert Annabelle, Mr Narain and Saibally Nooreena.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah, page 136!

**Mr Rutnah:** Madam Chairperson, I see there is an item 21110 (17) - *Principal Internal Control Officer*. Why no provision has been earmarked for the next financial year?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The post has been replaced by Assistant Manager, Internal Control.

**The Chairperson:** Page 137, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under item 31121.801 - *Acquisition of Vehicles*, Rs2 m. was budgeted. Can I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister what vehicle is being acquired and for what purpose?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provisions for the acquisition of two vehicles 4x4 van due to increase in workload and one in replacement of an old one. Vehicles are extensively used for site visits and also to attend emergencies in connection with domestic violence and child abuse.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Madam Chairperson, on page 137, item 22030 – *rent*, may we know with whom we rent and why the provision is constant for the years to come?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Maybe there will be no variation in the rent. Provisions for payment of rent in respect of Newton Tower and C.S.K Building and also the rental of eleven parking slots at C.S.K Building and purchase of parking coupons also.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, may we know what studies and surveys have already been carried out and what are the forthcoming ones?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Studies and surveys -

- Provision for situation analysis on women and children Rs700,000
- Child sexual abuse Rs2 m., and
- We are contemplating of having a new study on commercial sexual exploitation of children which will cost about Rs400,000.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 22030 – *Rent*, may we know which building is this for?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I have already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Same item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, may we know who are those consultants?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The consultants. I do not have the answer.

**The Chairperson:** We will take another question from hon. Dr. Boolell in the mean time? No. It is okay.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** It has not yet been awarded.

**The Chairperson:** Page 138, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.014 - *Hospitality and Ceremonies (c) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Award*, there was an amount of Rs1 m. earmarked for gender equality and women's empowerment. May I know out of this Rs1 m., how much has been utilised during the last financial year?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The whole amount has been spent.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28211.051 - *Women's Associations*, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister table the list of all the women's associations together with the amount received by each for 2018-2019?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Yes. No problem, I will circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Joomaye!

**Dr. Joomaye:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same item, just one line below, item 28211.059 - *S.O.S Femmes*, can I know why there is no amount budgeted for this year?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Now, it is centralised under item Support to NGOs of Vote 25 -1 Centrally Managed Initiatives of Government.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, this year we are voting a much higher sum than previous years, Rs2.6 m. as opposed to Rs200,000. May we know what is different this year in terms of implementation?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Funds of Rs200,000 were used to meet the cost related to high level training programme on gender mainstreaming. Now, the increase in this amount will be used for the following –

- supporting the gender technical working groups for the private media, academia and civil society organisations;
- recognitions of performing line Ministries;
- organisation of the award competition;
- conduct of a capacity building programme, and
- holding of an event in connection with the World Press Freedom day.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.014 - *(d) Implementation of National Costed Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming*, may we know how this will be implemented as for three years consecutive Rs1.5 m. has been earmarked?

**The Chairperson:** *Implementation of National Costed Action Plan on Gender Mainstreaming.*

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Let me check if I have the information. There will be formulation of coastal action plan on gender mainstreaming for the public sector, establishment of four gender technical working groups, the consultant will have the task to identify priority gender actions, undertake gender analysis, undertake capacity building of

gender focal points, formulate a coasted action plan on gender mainstreaming for the public sector, develop standard guidelines for establishing and functioning of the four areas and also facilitate consultative meetings.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 22090 – *Security*, in fact, there will be an increase of Rs1 m. for the security services. May we know is it private security services, and who is the beneficiary of this contract?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Security services, provisions for the payment of security services at women empowerment centres and shelters, contractor Special Security Guard Ltd. Contract amount to Rs3 m., tender has been launched for period 01 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** It has already been answered, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armanca! Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Page 138, item 22900.014 - *(e) Implementation of National Gender Policy*, may the hon. Vice-Prime Minister let us know where are we with this project?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Yes, National Gender policy. I do know that we have retained the services of a consultant, I think from Kenya, Mrs Licheema. Consultations have already started with Ministries and other stakeholders. Some more steps remain before finalising the National Gender Policy.

**The Chairperson:** Page 139, hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 21110.001(2) - *Psychologist/Senior Psychologist*, funded for 14, are all the post occupied or is there any vacancy? There seems to be a shortage on the ground.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** 12 in post and two vacancies.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31111.010 - *Construction of Integrated Services Women Centre at Vacoas*, may we know the status of the construction, where have we reached and who is the contractor, please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** In the Financial Year 2018/2019, funds to the tune of Rs4 m. was provided in the budget for the Integrated Services Centre at Vacoas. The funds were not utilised as the Ministry of Public Infrastructure works on the design. The Integrated Support Services Centre will consist of many amenities. The preliminary design was submitted to the Ministry. The way forward for the implementation of this project will have to be addressed jointly with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the MPI in light of budgetary cost estimates submitted to MPI to the tune of Rs233 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we know this budgeted amount is for whom?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** With regard to extra assistance, it seems there is a decrease due to provision for only one psychiatric nurse in post on a contractual basis.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 21110.001(5) - *Principal Family Welfare and Protection Officer (New)*, may I know why this post has not been filled yet?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** New post created following PRB report scheme of service will be prescribed and funds will be allocated in due course.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. May I take the hon. Vice- Prime Minister to item 21110.001(7) - *Family Welfare and Protection Officer*. For the last financial year, I note that there were provisions made for 60 Officers whereas for the current financial year, there are 70 Officers. How these 10 vacancies already been filled, if not, when it is anticipated that they will be filled?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** So, it has not yet been filled, needful will be done.

**The Chairperson:** Page 140, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.912 - *Running Expenses of Shelters for Children*. I note that for the running expenses of shelters for children, an amount was earmarked for the last financial year Rs31 m. There is a drastic fall in the amount that has been earmarked for the new financial year. From Rs31 m., it falls to Rs21,500 m., a fall of almost Rs10 m. May I know why?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Why there is a fall, I don't know. I will check and circulate the information.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 31111.007 - *Model Shelter La Colombe*, for which we are being asked to vote Rs60 m. May I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister who is undertaking the design and the supervision for the construction of this building?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** A sum of Rs10 m. has been allocated for the construction of a model shelter. So, the design will be done by the MPI.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 28211.004 - *Charitable Institutions*, an amount of Rs24.6 m. was budgeted for 2018/19. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister table the list of all the institutions concerned as well as the amount received by each for 2018/19?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Yes, no issue, I will circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Can I refer the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to item 26313.053 - *National Children's Council*, there is a substantial increase in this budgetised item. Now if the hon. Vice-Prime Minister would inform the House as to who is the Chairman, and she would tell us, who are the members of this Council, and how this sum is spent? I don't want micro details, but an overall.

**The Chairperson:** One question at a time, please!

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provisions for funding the operating cost of the National Children's Council. The Chairperson is Mr Murtuza with a monthly fee of Rs12,000. The Members are as follows -

- Mrs D. Bootun
- Miss Sooraya Gareeboo
- Mr D. Dassaye
- Mr L. Ghoorah
- Mrs P. Veerabudren
- Mrs F. Theodore

- Miss V. Sibsurrun
- Mr K. Naidu
- Miss S. Adaken
- Mr K. Bhagan
- Mrs M. Latchmoodoo
- Mr R. Bheemul

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If we may return to page 140, under *Item 28211*, I see there are no provisions for next year and the years after. May we know why?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** It would be a centralised budget.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson, under *Item 31111.407 - (b) Upgrading of Shelter La Colombe - Pte aux Sables*, can we have an update of the progress of the work please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I have already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, that question has just been answered. Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** At page 140, under *Item 22900.912 - Running Expenses of Shelters for Children*, I see that the budgeted amount has actually decreased by Rs10 m., that is, from Rs31 m. to Rs21 m. May we know from the hon.Vice-Prime Minister the reason for this decrease and whether any provision is made to increase the number of carers at those Shelters, as recommended by the Ombudsperson for Children.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Increase in the number of carers has already been taken care of. In fact, we have had many meetings and I don't think that the issue of ratio is now a problem. It has already been addressed.

Provision of salary of carers has been transferred under the Vote of National Children's Council (NCC).

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under *Item 31111.407 (d) Refurbishment and electrical works - Shelter Oasis, GRNW*, may we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, out of the Rs2 m. which was budgeted last year, how much has been used and where matters stand with regard to the project?

**The Chairperson:** I will allow only one question now.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** In the Financial Year 2018/2019, funds to the tune of Rs2 m. were used for civil works which were completed in April 2019. Provision of Rs1 m. in this financial year is provided for electrical works and provision of laundry shed.

**The Chairperson:** Page 141! Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under *Item 22120 - Fees*, may we have a breakdown of the fees and to whom it is paid?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Fees for training to meet cost of proposed training of staff run by the Civil Service College Mauritius; fees to consultants, payment of remaining amount for consultancy services by the University of Mauritius for the Study on Family Wellbeing and for proposed consultancy for Perpetrators Rehabilitation Programme and also retainer fee to council.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Again under *Item 21110 (6) - Family Welfare and Protection Officer*, may we know whether all these 41 posts have been filled, as it seems there is a lack of Protection Officers?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Family Welfare and Protection Officer: funded 41. In post: 34. Vacant: 7.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** At page 141, under *Item 31112.428 - Upgrading of Creativity Centre at Mahebourg*, can we have the scope of the work, please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The provision is for the upgrading of Mahebourg Creativity Centre in terms of waterproofing, PVC openings, electrical works, fencing, and painting, amongst others.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 21110.001(2) - Psychologist/Senior Psychologist*, can I ask the hon. Minister whether Psychologists that are based at the Ministry are trained in their specific areas - for this case, it is gender-based violence and also in child protection?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** This is indeed an ongoing process. Every time we have the opportunities, the Psychologists are being trained because they have to take care of our children in the Shelters. So, regular training are being given to them.

**The Chairperson:** I will request hon. Members not to ask questions relating to policy and administration.

Page 142! Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Madam Chairperson, under *Item 22900.908 (b) - Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence*, may we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister how many victims have been provided assistance under this item and what is the amount paid to each victim?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I will circulate the information.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under *Item 22900.908 (c) - Gender-based Violence Observatory*. May we know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether this observatory has made any publication or what has been the Rs2.5 m. budgeted used for?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The Ministry has sought the assistance of the UNDP; they have identified a consultant to assist the Ministry in the setting up of the said observatory. Draft terms of reference has been worked out and the international consultant will be available in August this year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Under the same *Item 22900.919 - Special Collaborative Programme for Support to Families in Distress*, may we know why there is no provision in the 2019/2020 Estimates, please?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** The Special Collaborative Programme has been phased out.

*Vote 5-3 Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (Rs471,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(12.42 p.m.)

*Vote 5-4 Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have two pages and a total of five minutes. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On page 143, item *21110.004 Allowances*, Rs750,000, may we know who are the beneficiaries of these allowances?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Provisions for the payment in cash of the annual unutilised entitlement of sick leave up to the maximum of 16 days to eligible officers and to officers on secondment and refund of annual leave. This is the information I have.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Tarolah, page 144.

**Mr Tarolah:** 143?

**The Chairperson:** 144.

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 144, item *31112.439 Upgrading of Social Welfare Centres*, can we know whether Bel Air Social Welfare Centre is in the pipeline for reconstruction or any major renovation? Thank you.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** There is a project of pulling down the Social Welfare Centre of St Pierre for the construction of a new building; because this existing one is very old. And this fund will also be used for the upgrading of some community centres where refurbishment is needed.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Sorry, already asked.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under item *28221.022 Social Welfare Centres of which Digitisation of Social Welfare Centres*, Rs5 m. was funded for last year, may we know how much has been used in that Rs5 m.?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Rs3 m. Is this your question? Yes. Rs3 m. will be used for providing all 57 Social Welfare Centres with Internet facilities and also for the setting up of the information system connected via Jinx or VPN connection.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Under item 26323.085 - *Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund*, may we know why there is a decrease in the budget for the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I do not have the information. Let me check with the officers.

**The Chairperson:** Pending this, most probably we can take another question from hon. Thierry Henry.

**Mr Henry:** Sous l'item 26313.085 - *Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund*, je vois qu'il y a un budget de R 304 millions...

**The Chairperson:** The question has just been asked and she is looking for the reply.

**Mr Henry:** No, it is not the same. *On peut avoir plus de détails sur ce budget-là, s'il vous plaît.*

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Well, provisions for funding the operating cost of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, salaries of employees to meet cost of programmes and also the different activities that we organise across the island.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Under item 26313.085 - *Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund*, we are being asked to vote Rs304 m., can we know the composition of the Board managing the SILWF, who are the members and the Chairperson?

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I will circulate the details.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance! No? Hon. Quirin! Hon. Rughoobur! No? Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Under item 28211.022 - *Social Welfare Centres*, may we know how many social welfare centres we have in all in the country. I see Rs18m. is being earmarked for that.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** Social Welfare Centres, 57.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Concerning *Item 26323.085 Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund*, a budget of Rs10 m. is earmarked. Can we know if renovation of community centres is available and, if so, the list to be renovated.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** I have said in one of my previous replies that there are some Social Welfare Centres that have been identified which need to be renovated. Yes, do you have the details of the Social Welfare Centres that need renovation works? I will circulate the details.

*Vote 5-4 Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities (Rs376,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(12.48 p.m.)

*Vote 16-1 Ministry of Youth and Sports was called*

**The Chairperson:** We have 25 minutes for a total of 7 pages. Page 294, no question. Page 295, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under Item 21111.100 – *Overtime*, can I know from the hon. Minister why there is an amount of Rs7 m. budgeted for payment of overtime?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, this is to cater for all the overtime by the staff of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, for several types of jobs that they have to do after working hours.

**The Chairperson:** Page 296, hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Under item 22120 – *Fees*, can we have the breakdown of fees, please?

**Mr Toussaint:** This is for payment to Chairperson and members in respect of Departmental Tender and Bid Evaluation Committees.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22030 – *Rent*, an amount of Rs17.8 m. was budgeted for 2018/2019, can the hon. Minister table a breakdown of this amount?

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes, I will table because there are several items on it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval! No? Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Page 296, under item 21110.001(4) - *Basic Salary – Sports Officer*, there is a reduction in Sports Officer; may we know the reason for that?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, as announced in the Budget Speech, the Ministry will undergo major restructuring and all HR issues will be reviewed.

**The Chairperson:** Page 297, Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, Under item 26313.141 - *Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Ltd*, can we know what the provision for Rs25 m. is for and whether this is supposed to cover the full cost of the running of that company which runs the stadium at Côte d'Or?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, the Rs25 m. is a grant to Mauritius Multi-sports Infrastructure Ltd. This will cater for mostly payment to staff, Board members and utility bills. So, there is a long list, I can table it afterwards.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Can I ask the hon. Minister where is the maintenance cost of the stadium? This is for administrative expenses, where are the other expenses?

**Mr Toussaint:** I have only to cater for the administrative. I think that all costs pertaining to MMIL, were dealt with yesterday by the Ministry of Finance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, can we have a breakdown of this, Rs16.5 m.?

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes. This is payment of salary to advisor coaches on contract and coaching fees.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Leopold!

**Mr Leopold:** It's page 297, item 22900.939 - (c) *Organisation of IOIG 2019*, I just want to know out of the sum of Rs100 m. how many infrastructure have been constructed or renovated in Rodrigues prior to the Indian Ocean Island Games and where will the international athletes be accommodated in Rodrigues?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, this sum is for the organisation. It does not cater for the renovation of all the infrastructure and, as for the accommodation of athletes, it falls under COJI, it won't be here.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.008 - *Medals, Prizes and Rewards*, le ministre avait annoncé que R 50,000 de 'Cash Price' allait être donné par rapport à la médaille d'Or et ensuite il avait 'target' 100 médailles d'Or en minimum. Est-ce que cela forme partie de ces R 10 millions parce que là déjà les médailles d'Or vont faire R 5 million. En ajoutant les autres médailles, ça va encore augmenter; en plus du *cash price* pour les sports d'équipes. Sous quel item a été prévu ce montant?

**Mr Toussaint:** I think this can be answered through a PQ, my dear friend.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, we are asking the Minister whether he has provided enough for the *médailles d'Or* that he has announced, there is nothing wrong with the question.

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes. Madam Chairperson, Medals, Prices and Rewards was only Rs6.5 m. We brought it up to Rs10 m. and we will take care of all the medals in this sum.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 22900.939 - (b) *Le Comité Organisateur des Jeux des Iles (COJI) de l'Océan Indien*, can we know the composition of that committee? Who chairs the committee? Have any allowances been paid out of public funds to the Chairperson, the members of that COJI and how many times that Committee has met?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, the committee *Organisateur des Jeux des Iles (COJI)* is chaired by the President, myself. There are two Vice-Presidents; Mr Hao Thyn Voon and the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry, the CEO is Mr Jean-Pierre Sauzier and as for the allowances it is a long list, I will table it afterwards.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Can we know how much is paid to the President of that committee?

**Mr Toussaint:** I don't receive any sum for this, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 22900.953 - *Anti-Doping Activities*, there is a substantial increase from Rs800 m. to Rs1 billion in the Estimates 2019/20. Can we be apprised as to how this money is being used? Thank you.

**Mr Toussaint:** This is to cater for the Indian Ocean Island Games. There's a list of specific items that we will be using for the games. I can table the list.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 26313.094 - *Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports*, may we have the number of beneficiaries for last year and for this year?

**Mr Toussaint:** I don't have this information with me because it is a very long list, I will table it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.939 - *(a) Preparation of Athletes*, an amount of Rs60 m. was budgeted for 2018/19. Can the hon. Minister give us a breakdown of this amount, please?

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes, Madam Chairperson. This amount pertains to the preparation for athletes. So, I see there is a very long list for all the federations concerned. I will table it afterwards, yes.

*(Interruptions)*

No, I don't have it, I will table it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh! No. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Item 22900.944 - (g) *Sports in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Schools*, many of them actually around the island, Rs2m. May we know the details of this? What does it entail?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, this is for the organisation of sports activities in primary schools. The budget is to promote sports at primary, secondary and even tertiary levels. For instance, last year, we organised for the first time the Universiade, so an *inter-universités* competition.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.045 – *Grants - Mauritius Sports Council*, this year we are going to increase the contribution by Rs5 m. May we know who are the members of that Mauritius Sports Council and what allowance each member is being paid to?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Board is Mrs Sarah Rawat-Currimjee and there is the list of the members. I have it. So, it is a very long list, I will table it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry! No. Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Under the same item 26313.045 - *Mauritius Sports Council*, there is an amount of Rs30 m. which was earmarked. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount that has been allocated for the maintenance of sports infrastructure out of these Rs30 m.?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, the budget of the MSC is quite long, it is very difficult for me to find this specific matter. I will table the list, so the hon. Member can have the information.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.939 - (c) *Organisation of IOIG 2019*, may we know from the hon. Minister, out of Rs100 m. budgeted last year, how much was spent and if he can give us a breakdown of the expenses?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, we have budgeted an amount of Rs100 m. for COJI last year so there is a very long list of all that has been done. So, I will circulate the list afterwards.

**The Chairperson:** Page 298. Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Which page?

**The Chairperson:** 298!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Item 28212.015 - *Allowances to High Level Athletes*, can I have the details of the allowance to high level athletes and the list of beneficiaries?

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes, Madam Chairperson. Again we have a very long list for all our high level athletes. So, I will, of course, circulate it.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Can the hon. Minister circulate now instead of waiting for later. The hon. Minister is circulating many, many documents, but we haven't received anything yet. Can the hon. Minister do so?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, I have the details concerning the grant given to all the athletes, but I don't have with me now the names of all the athletes. No, I don't have it.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** The Minister has so many civil servants at the back. They don't have this? Okay.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28211.064 - *Sports Federations*, there is an amount of Rs67 m. budgeted for each financial year. Can we have, let say, for 2018/19, the amount for each sport federation?

**Mr Toussaint:** Very long list, I can circulate it, immediately.

*(Interruptions)*

*Kan mo ena mo doner.*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 31113.006 (b) - *Swimming Pools*, in previous budgets, this project has been announced and we can see that it is still on design stage, can we have an update of this project, please?

**Mr Toussaint:** For which one?

**The Chairperson:** Curepipe design.

**Mr Toussaint:** Because there is so many. Description of project, the project consists of construction of a 25-meter indoor swimming pool with amenities, toilets and so on, a stand

for 200 persons. Progress achieved in financial year 2018/2019, Subraconsult Ltd. was appointed on 29 April 2019 for the design, tender preparation and construction for a value of Rs2.4 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** *31113.006 (iv) - Rallye Circuit (Design)*, can you know where this circuit is supposed to be located?

**Mr Toussaint:** We will be looking for a plot of land with the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item *31113. 006(a) - Construction of Sports Infrastructure (i) Port Louis*, can I have details of this in terms of whereabouts and status of this project and what does it entail?

**Mr Toussaint:** For Port Louis, construction of Port Louis Multi-sports, contract awarded to Water Research Co. Ltd on 10 July 2018 for geotechnical and hydrological investigation. Mega Design Ltd was appointed as consultant for the design, tender, preparation and construction, supervision on 13 December 2018 for a sum of Rs5.2 m.. Location is Corner Harry Street and Mayor Street. Facilities for karate, all indoor items, all indoor games.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item *31113.406(f) – Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure (f) Others - Basic sports facilities around the island*, can the hon. Minister circulate the list?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, this is for the upgrading of all the different infrastructures as and when needed, that we have all around the island.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item *31113.406 - Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure (e) Harry Latour Stadium*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 4,750,000 qui a été votée. Peut-on savoir quels sont les travaux qui ont été entrepris là-bas, s'il vous plait ?

**Mr Toussaint:** Harry Latour Stadium - demolition of existing boundary wall and construction of a new one, - *Parski murail la p tomber la-bas* - upgrading of toilets, changing rooms, existing.

**The Chairperson:** Page 299, hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Item 22900.951(c) - *Youth Excellent Award*, can we have the details of the Youth Excellent Award?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, the Youth Excellent Award was organised for the last time in 2016, we are reviewing this whole project and will be coming with a new one.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we have a breakdown of as to whom these extra assistances are provided?

**Mr Toussaint:** This is for the salary for advisors and youth animators. I will give the list.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Leopold!

**Mr Leopold:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.951 - *Smart Youth Programmes*, is Rodrigues involved with all these youth programmes, and if yes, on which interval they are being done in Rodrigues?

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes, absolutely. I cannot give exact figures, but for example, for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, we have many youths from Rodrigues participating in the programme. For example, for the competition *Zeness Montrer to Talen*, we also had Rodriguans participating.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 22090 – *Security*, may we know what does this item cater for as there is an increase?

**Mr Toussaint:** Yes, Madam Chairperson. This is the expenditure for security services for all our infrastructure, youth centres, and sports infrastructure. So, again there is a very long list. I will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin, last question on this page!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.008 - *Medals, Prizes and Rewards*, can the hon. Minister give us the name of the supplier or suppliers, please?

**Mr Toussaint:** The supplier for our medals is Beryl Rose.

**The Chairperson:** Page 300, hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Madam Chairperson, item 22900.951(l) - *Youth Programme on Prevention of Addictive Behaviour*, does the hon. Minister think that is enough for this programme, Rs500,000 only for the whole year?

**Mr Toussaint:** That is a new programme that will start but I can say, Madam Chairperson, that all the items, all the activities that the Ministry of Youth and Sports is doing, we are tackling also this major problem of drug abuse.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Item 22900.951(h) - *National Youth Civic Service*, Madam Chairperson, can I ask the hon. Minister what does this National Youth Civic Service consist of and how many participants participated, obviously, last year?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Speaker, the National Youth Civic Service is a programme devised to train young people so as they become employable and to promote positive attitudes towards youth of the country. We started the programme in February 2019 because there was a lot of preparations before and it is on a phase-wise. We started from February to now, we had around 300 youths participating and they will be receiving their certificate on Thursday. We will continue just after the Island Games and we are targeting around 1,000 youths.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 31112.407 - *Upgrading of Youth Centres*, I have been made to understand that the Ministry has closed the Youth Centre of Mont Roches. Can we know from the Minister whether there is any hope for the reopening of that Youth Centre in the future?

**The Chairperson:** No, hon. Bhagwan, this is a PQ. You should come with a PQ. Hon. A. Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you. Item 22900.951(l) - *Youth Programme on Prevention of Addictive Behaviour*, Madam Chairperson, may I ask the hon. Minister, with Rs40,000 a month, what is it exactly that this programme consists of to prevent addiction to the youth?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chair, this is a new programme, the sum has just been budgeted and we will be working. As replied before, we have several programs where ...

*(Interruptions)*

I can reply please? We have several programmes where we cater for this drug problem. This is another one, an additional problem and we will deal with it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr X.L. Duval:** We want to know how this sum of Rs40,000 monthly is going to be spent for the next three years.

**Mr Toussaint:** This is about sensitisation programme and...

*(Interruptions)*

No, it is not a joke!

**The Chairperson:** Please! Allow the hon. Minister to reply!

**Mr Toussaint:** It is about sensitisation.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 300, under *Item 22900.951 (f) Moris nou zoli pei (Embellishment Competition)*, can we know why there is no provision made?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, as it has been said in the Budget Speech by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, this whole programme about cleanliness is being taken up in a broader picture.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 300, under *Item 28211.042 – Youth Clubs*, may we have a list of the youth clubs that have benefited from it, and what criterion is used to give the money?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, these are items given to different youth clubs upon demand. It is not a close list. So, all the youth clubs that we have all around the islands, upon demand, we cater for what they are asking.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 299, with regard to *Item 22900.951 (f) Zenes Montre to Talents*, an amount of Rs2.5 m. was budgeted for 2018-2019,

can the hon. Minister table a breakdown of this amount and to whom payment has been effected?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, I don't have the detailed figures with me, but I can say that this programme had a huge success last year and we had a tender for a service provider.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 300, under *Item 31112.407 – Upgrading of Youth Centres (a) Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre*, may we know the total project value of the upgrading and when it is expected to be completed and reopened?

**Mr Toussaint:** Anse La Raie Youth Training Centre, voted provision for Financial Year 2019-2020: Rs2 m. A contract for upgrading works awarded to Good Piece Co. Ltd. on 17 January 2019 for an amount Rs3.2 m. As at 15 June 2019, a total amount of Rs1.1 m. has already been paid and the works are completed.

**The Chairperson:** A last question! Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Madam Chairperson, under *Item 26313.068 – National Youth Council*, may I know the composition of this council? There was an amount of Rs1,870,000 earmarked, so may we know whether this amount has been fully utilised?

**Mr Toussaint:** Madam Chairperson, I will circulate the list of the Board members. Yes, the National Youth Council has made very good use of its budget.

*Vote 16-1 Ministry of Youth and Sports (Rs750,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

**The Chairperson:** I suspend the sitting for one hour.

*At 1.15 p.m., the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 2.25 p.m. with Madam Chairperson in the Chair.*

**The Chairperson:** Please, be seated! Hon. Members, we now take Vote 6-1.

*Vote 6-1 Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have 30 minutes for 7 pages. Hon. Ramful! Page 145! Hon. Ramful is not here, so we take hon. Baloomoody.

**Mr Baloomoody:** At page 145, under *Item 21110(4) - Chairperson, ICT Appeal Tribunal*, may I know from the hon. Minister how many cases have been lodged in the financial year, how many have been disposed and how many are pending?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** I will have to wait for the answer. I will come back to it in a moment.

**The Chairperson:** Page 146! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Madam Chairperson, under *Item 21110.005 –Extra Assistance*, can we have the details on this, please?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** It is provision for the payment of salaries and allowances to the following advisers: Mr Meetoo, Mr Sungeelee and Mr Hansley Jules. In 2010, provision was made for the hiring of services of one expert to assist the implementation of the e-Government projects, following the recruitment of additional resources by CIB, but same will no longer be required. With regard to the question put by hon. Baloomoody under *Item 21110(4) - Chairperson, ICT Appeal Tribunal*, I will table the information.

**The Chairperson:** Page 147! Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 26313.025 – Independent Broadcasting Authority*, can we know the present composition of the Board, their remuneration and the term of contract of the Chairperson?

**Mr Sawmynaden:**

- Chairperson - Mr Logendra Appaya.
- Members - Mr Dheerendra Kumar Dabee,
- Mr Mahmad Aleem Bocus,
- Mrs R. Ramrukheea,
- Mrs M. Mudaliar,
- Mr A. Pursunon, and
- Mrs U. Shewraj.

The Chairman gets fees, allowance and telephone bills of Rs68,200. Actually, all the other members get Rs24,167.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** With respect to *Item 26313.042 – Mauritius Research and Innovation Council*, with a budget of Rs50 m. for Estimates 2018/19, if we can have a breakdown as to the projects identified?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, the staff cost is Rs31.1 m. and for others it is Rs13.9 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Joomaye!

**Dr. Joomaye:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22120.034 – Membership Fees*, may I know membership to which organisation?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** As subscribed for the Gartner executive programme membership, this membership provides the Ministry with a vast array of research, papers, technology, scanning and comparison in various ICT fields, while other objectivity and independence in its recommendation. Members benefit from the convenience of the single source of knowledge and inside focus on ICT challenges in various fields.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 26313.054 – National Computer Board, of which (d) Training of Secondary Students in Coding*, can we know, last year, how many students were trained and this year how many are going to be trained, because there is a reduction?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Last year, 2,500 secondary students were initiated to coding. This year, it is going to continue on the same programme.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under *Item 22120.008 – Fees to Consultants (a) Cybersecurity*, may we know who are the Consultants?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, tender has been launched for consultancy services for the development of a business plan for setting up the regional capacity building centre for cybercrime.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed! Page 147!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can I refer the hon. Minister to *Item 22120.008 – Fees to Consultants*. May we have details for same?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** I already replied.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Under *Item 26313.054 (a) 3D Printing Service Centres*, why is it that this year the fees budgeted - Rs7 m. - is exceptionally high as compared to other years?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, additional provision is made for the setting up of a digital fabrication lab and a training lab.

**Madam Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Madame la présidente, under *Item 26313.054 – National Computer Board (a) 3D Printing Service Centres*, peut-on savoir combien de centres et d'imprimantes 3D on a?

**Mr Sawmynaden :** Actually, we have two centres now; one is in Coromandel and another one is in Port Louis.

We have three printers in each centre.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar! Page 148!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 148 under *Item 26323.042 – Mauritius Research and Innovation Council*, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Chairperson has been appointed, and if so, who is the incumbent?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** The Chairperson of the Mauritius Research Council at the moment is Dr. Michael Atchia but now we are waiting for the promulgation of the law, then we are going to appoint the new members.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 28215.011 - Innovative ICT related Schemes of which Porting of Parcel Identification Number (PIN) on Blockchain Technology*, may we have the details of the Porting, what is meant by Porting exactly? And on the project as a whole which is for Rs70 m.?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Issuing of the Parcel Identification Number assigned to a plot of land - no, he wants the meaning of Porting.

**The Chairperson:** Blockchain Technology. Can we take another question in the meantime?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** I will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes, Madam Chairperson, Item 31132.402 - *Upgrading of GOC*, last year we budgeted Rs45 m., may we know from that Rs45 m. budgeted for last year, how much has been used for that project?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Provision has been made for the –

- replacement of the core-high end networking under GOC – Rs20 m.;
- strengthening the electrical infrastructure of GOC – Rs8 m., and
- consolidating the backup environment – Rs11 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Going back to Item 28215.011 - *Innovative ICT related Schemes of which Porting of Parcel Identification Number (PIN) on Blockchain Technology*, does it make provision for legislation of Internet of Things?

**The Chairperson:** I think this is a PQ, hon. Jahangeer! Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 31132.402 - *Upgrading of GOC*, il y a un projet de R 140 millions et l'année dernière il y avait un montant de R 45 millions qui a été voté. Peut-on savoir où est-ce qu'on en est ? Le contracteur, s'il vous plaît.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, I have just answered to that question but who is the contractor who did the job? Okay, I will circulate that information.

**The Chairperson:** We move to the next page in the meantime. Page 149, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.401(b) - *e-Government Projects - Digital Communication Strategies*, there is an amount earmarked for Digital Communication Strategies, Rs15 m. May I know whether this Rs5 m. has been fully utilised for the outgoing financial year?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** You are talking about the Certification Authority, the e-Government projects?

**Mr Rughoobur:** Digital communication.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Digital Communication. The hired services of a communication agency to implement digital communication strategy, so e-Government projects, including other projects, Government portal and e-services.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Item 22030(b) - *Consolidating the resiliency and redundancy for the GINS infrastructure*, Rs30 m. for this year and the subsequent years. May I ask the hon. Minister about some details on this project?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** GINS Infrastructure - establishing backup lines for GINS so as to consolidate resiliency and redundancy of infrastructure. This project aims at setting up secondary backup network topology through a different service provider for identified sites so as to ensure availability of critical services within Government.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22060.005 – *Maintenance of which IT Equipment*, can we know to whom the contract has been awarded, please?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** I am giving the information. Actually the detail is –

- e-Document Management System – Rs1.2 m.;
- Info Highway – Rs18 m. ;
- Others – Rs0.3 m. ;
- Network SICOM Tower – Rs800,000, and
- Certification Authority - Rs5 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

**Mr Mohamed:** Madam Speaker, the same Item 22030(b) - *Consolidating the resiliency and redundancy for the GINS infrastructure*, the hon. Minister has told us about the use of the new network provider and he has also said about new services. So, what services would be provided through this infrastructure and which service provider? Has a service provider been identified and how?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Let me answer to the previous question. For the EDMS, it is Time Tech; for the info highway it is EDS and for the Certification Authority, it is the SCE.

**The Chairperson:** And then to the question asked by hon. Shakeel Mohamed, you may reply to only one question because I have said one question at a time.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, I have already replied, this is the same answer I am going to give.

**Mr Mohamed:** In fact, the question was what services?

**The Chairperson:** That's the second part of the question.

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, the services are for backup lines to ask to consolidate resiliency. The tender has been launched now.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, I have a question.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item *31132.401(a) - e-Government Projects of which (a) Certification Authority*, can we have the details of the Certification Authority? What is entailed by this and details of the expenditure of Rs15 m. this year?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** The Ministry intends to set up the Government Certification Authority at the Government Online Centre. The Certification Authority will operate within the National Public Key Infrastructure of Mauritius. The Government Certificate Authority will provide CA Services to key infrastructure of the Government including the Mauritius National Identity Scheme and the Government systems requiring a digital certificate and digital sign-in services for higher level of trust. The Mauritius Post will be operating as the registration authority for the new CA to be set up.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer! No? Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to rent, Item *22030*, may I ask the Minister to whom the rent is paid and who is the owner of the building?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Rental of building to SICOM Tower and one Stratton Court, La Poudrière Street, Port Louis.

**The Chairperson:** Page 150, no question. Page 151, hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Sorry, Madam Chairperson, I had asked for a question on page 150, can I?

**The Chairperson:** Page 151.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 31122.802(c) - *Acquisition of IT Equipment - Setting up of VOIP at CISD* for Rs4 m. May I have some details on this, please?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** The setting up of a Command and Control Centre at CISD has been completed. The current LAN of the CISD is more than 10 years old and uses old cabling which causes network issues. The setting up of the Command Control Centre needs a hyper convergent and advanced intercommunication facility to enable expert technical discussions among officers of specialised unit. The setting up of the Voice Over Internet Protocol and the revamping of the LAN will address both the network issues and intercommunication needs, full overhauling of the Local Area Network of the CISD including the replacement of existing trunking and CAT5 old cabling by high performance network infrastructure consisting of CAT6 and CAT7 cabling with high end PoE data switches, deployment of VOIP solution to replace all existing phone sets and operationalisation of the solution, including training.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to Item 31122.802(a) - *Acquisition of IT Equipment – IT Equipment*, may we have the name of the supplier of the IT equipment?

**The Chairperson:** In the meantime, we can take another question from hon. Baloomoody.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes. Item 22120 – *Fees (Rs1.5 m.)*, may we know who are the beneficiaries of the fees?

**Mr Sawmynaden:** Actually, provision is made for the payment of fees for training – Rs1.5 m and fees to Chairman and members of Board and Committees, Departmental Bid Committee, Bid Evaluation Committee – Rs50,000. For the previous question, tender is to be launched now.

*Vote 6-1 Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation (Rs820,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(2.43 p.m.)

*Vote 7-1 Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport, and Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have got twelve pages on this and the total time is 40 minutes. On page 153, no question. Page 154, hon. Adrien Duval.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.001 (1) *Permanent Secretary*, would the Minister ask his financial officer/Permanent Secretary why it is that there is an under spending of nearly Rs900 m. for his Ministry for last year? Under what project does that under spending come from?

**Mr Bodha:** Madam Chairperson, I think it should be a cumulative amount. We will see how we can give the details of this cumulative amount.

**The Chairperson:** Page 155, hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, peut-on savoir l'augmentation pour cette année ci et à qui sont ces *extra assistance*?

**Mr Bodha:** Extra Assistance, it is provision, Madam Chairperson, for the payment of two advisers in post. So, we have two advisers and I have the details of the two advisers.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** From Rs1.8 m. to Rs2.9 m.

**Mr Bodha:** I'll have the answer.

**The Chairperson:** Pending the answer, we take a question from hon. Quirin.

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22030.005 – *Rental of Facilities for Events*, can the hon. Minister give us the names of the suppliers and the amount paid to each for year 2018/19?

**Mr Bodha:** For the increase, Madam Chairperson, it is an increase in all benefits inclusive as follows: salary, bonus, compensation, travelling, phone allowance. This is for the tents. There are 30 service providers and the quantum of each of them.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26313.010 - *Construction Industry Development Board*, can the Minister inform us the composition of the Board, when it was set up, the number of times the Board has met?

**The Chairperson:** CIDB – composition of the Board, if you like you can circulate the composition.

**Mr Bodha:** I can give details of the Chairperson of the Board. The Chairperson is Mrs Nadia Daby Seesaram. The Executive Director is Mr Ram Bahadoor and the Board has a number of members and I can circulate the names of the members.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Sewocksingh.

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 – *Fees*, can we know what these fees include?

**Mr Bodha:** For the fees, there is a long list – fees to Chairperson and members of Board and Committees; fees to assessors, fees for training, fees to consultants. I can circulate the list of these fees.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 22900 – *Other Goods and Services*, this year, the figure seems higher than other years at Rs4,35 m. Can we know the reason why this is so?

**Mr Bodha:** Other goods and services – you have uniforms - the payment for cash allowance in lieu of uniforms, provisions and stores, purchase of Mauritian flags, *banderoles*, red carpet. You have miscellaneous expenses. Provision for replenishment of impress, purchase of pipes; for conferences, seminars and workshops and for gender mainstreaming.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar.

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 155, last item 31132.111 - *E-Document Management System*, can I know from the hon. Minister the nature of this item?

**Mr Bodha:** Okay. so, it is provision to set up the E-Document Management System at the level of headquarters in Moorgate House. Subsequently, after further consideration, it was proposed to have a common PVMS system to include our technical divisions and units, that is, the architect division, the civil engineering mechanical, quantity surveying and ESD which will be linked to the system at head office.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Shakeel Mohamed.

**Mr Mohamed:** With regard to item 22030.001 *Rent - Rental of Building*, can the hon. Minister give us a list? He can just table it.

**Mr Bodha:** Basically, we are at Jade House, Moorgate House and at the Pailles en Queue court.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 31122.802 – *acquisition of IT Equipment*, may we have for the last financial year details of the Rs500,000; the name of the suppliers?

**Mr Bodha:** It is plant and equipment for Head Office and Finance Section. I don't have the name of the supplier.

**Mr Baloomoody:** I thank the hon. Minister for having circulated the list with regard to item 22030.005 – *Rental of Facilities for Events*. We see for last year, we have already spent Rs15.2 m. and we have allocated only Rs12 m. Can he inform the House this extra Rs3 m. comes from which Budget? According to the list, we have spent Rs15 m., but we budgeted only Rs12 m.

**Mr Bodha:** As regards rental of tents and all these facilities for socio-cultural events, we have more demands than we can supply. So, often it happens that the budget is used up. So, we asked for an extension from the Ministry of Finance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo, page 156!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 21110.001(10) – *Engineer/Senior Engineer (Civil) Geotechnical Specialist*, can the hon. Minister tell us how many Senior Engineers we have?

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur, next question, pending this reply.

**Mr Rughoobur:** Page 156, item 21110.001(4) – *Principal Architect Personal*, I see that there is a decrease from 4 to 3. May I know why is it that instead of 4 there would be only 3 Principal Architects at the Ministry?

**Mr Bodha:** First of all, as regards Senior Engineers, from what I have been told, according to the PRB, now this category does not exist anymore. It is an evanescent grade.

As regards the Principal Architect, from 4 to 3, I think it should be another evanescent post.

**The Chairperson:** Page 158, hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 21110.001(84) – *Motor/Diesel Mechanic*, the number has dropped from 34 to 14, can we know why? The budget has not been reduced proportionately.

**Mr Bodha:** The grades are being amended to enable the recruitment of candidates who possess the appropriate qualification from the MITD and similar organisations because the recruitment was made through the apprenticeship section, now it would be done according to the grades as per MITD.

**Mr Rughoobur:** Madam Chairperson, page 158, item 21110.001(84) – *Motor/Diesel Mechanic*, I have noted that there is a substantial decrease from 34 to 14.

**The Chairperson:** The question has just been asked.

**Mr Bodha:** Scheme of service being amended.

**The Chairperson:** Page 159, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item 22060.001 – *Maintenance of which buildings*, an amount of Rs12 m. were earmarked, now it is Rs10,600. Can the hon. Minister elaborate?

**Mr Bodha:** There is a demolition of one school in Chitrakoot and this explains the decrease in the provision of Rs1.9 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, may we have some clarification about that?

**Mr Bodha:** It is provision for payment of free travelling of five Trainee Engineers and one Trainee Architect, salaries and travelling of one Architect on contract. The increase was also due to payment of travelling, levy and other national pension funds which have been included.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Item .004 – *Allowances*, can we know to whom these allowances are allocated, please?

**Mr Bodha:** It is provision to meet payment of responsibility, acting, *ad hoc* and car allowance in lieu of duty remission.

**The Chairperson:** Mr Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item 21111.100 – *Overtime*, an amount of Rs13,300,000 has been earmarked. May we know from the hon. Minister, these overtimes are for which grade of employees?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, it is provision for payment of overtime in office auxiliary's cadre, for opening, closing, general cleaning of offices, general workers acting as watchmen and drivers working extra hours beyond their normal working hours and for officers attending the contractors after working hours for repairs at the Emmanuel Anquetil Building.

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to 22060.001 – *Buildings*, Rs12 m. have been spent last year, may we have the name of the contractors and the amount paid to each contractor?

**Mr Bodha:** Contractor for cleaning services and liftman is Ideal Supplies & Services Ltd. The yearly contract amount is Rs2.5 m.

**The Chairperson:** If it is a long list, you can circulate it right now. Hon. Bhagwan, page 160!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 31410.407 – *Rehabilitation Works for landslide Management*, we have been asked to vote Rs7 m. Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether within this budget of Rs7 m. provision has been made for landslide at Morcellement Hermitage, Coromandel and where matters stand concerning this urgent problem?

**Mr Bodha:** From what I have here is rehabilitation works for landslide management at Chitrakoot, Phase II. For Hermitage, MPI has completed the design of the countermeasure works and has issued all necessary drawings on basis of which the Municipal Council has floated bids for implementation of the works. MPI will assist the Municipal Council for supervising the works and the countermeasure works will include the construction of retaining wall with a rock fence and construction of drains along with footbridges. The MPI will do the supervision.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Item 31122.829 – *Acquisition of Geotechnical Equipment* which has a project value of Rs35 m. I would like to know when was tender exercise launched and to whom has the contract been awarded?

**Mr Bodha:** Provision is required for the acquisition of the equipment for the proper setting up. In fact, we are setting up a Geotechnical Unit with the laboratory. From what I understand, the acquisition has not yet been made.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody, page 160!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 26313.079 – *Road Development Authority*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the sum allocated include works to be done at the Ring Road and where matters stand with regard to the Ring Road at Pailles?

**Mr Bodha:** This one, in fact, is not the capital budget. This provision is for the administrative cost of the RDA. It is this sum of Rs148 m. So, we will have the other projects a bit later.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Capital Expenditure, item 31112.433 - *Refurbishment of Emmanuel Anquetil Building*, may I know the total contract value and the name of the contractor?

**Mr Bodha:** So, the provision required for the installation of new fire doors, the contractor is ZEP Enterprise, the contract value is Rs1.78 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, with regard to item 31132.401 - *Computerisation project of Phoenix Technical Division*, may we know the service provider who has been awarded the contract of Rs38 m.?

**Mr Bodha:** Provision made for IT equipment, plotter and software equipment. So, the project value is Rs38 m. The contractor is Leal Communications and Informatics.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo! Next page 161, hon. Jhuboo!

**Mr Jhuboo:** Item 31113.003 - *(e) La Vigie-La Brasserie Link Road*, the contract is to the tune of almost Rs600 m. Can we know from the hon. Minister whether the contract has been awarded and the status of the project, please?

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, provision is being required for the payment of works to contractor, for consultancy, and the project value is Rs574 m. This is going to be done. Tenders for prequalification of contractors has been launched by the CPB and closing date is 21 August 2019. We have already made a survey of the land to be acquired between La Vigie and La Brasserie. The Ministry of Housing and Lands is working on the acquisition of those plots. Many of the plots are State land and then, we have launched the prequalification of contractors. In fact, this project was supposed to be financed by the Indian Line of Credit. We floated it at one point in time, but it didn't work out. So, now it's going to be funded by the Government. So, the prequalification of contractors is due at the end of August.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Merci. Item 31113.004 - *Construction and Upgrading of Bridges, (c) Joli Bois Bridge, Mare Tabac*, may we know the status and if the contract has been signed, and who is the contractor, please?

**Mr Bodha:** Joli Bois, the existing bridge is a stone structure. The project will consist of the reconstruction of the Joli Bois Bridge and the realignment of approximately 400 metres of the road in the vicinity of the existing bridge. Additionally, it will also involve the construction of culverts and drainage structures and the widening of the road where required. We have started the works. The expected completion is November 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bodha:** The contractor? If I can have the name of the contractor a bit later.

**The Chairperson:** We take another question in the meantime.

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, on page 161, item 31113.003 - *(b) De Caen flyover, Port Louis*, there was a project value of Rs377 m. May we know what has been the total cost of this project? The more so that cracks have appeared on parts of the flyover.

**Mr Bodha:** So, the project value was Rs377 m. and there is no variation. Now, as for the cracks, I have the details here. In fact, we have two cracks on the Jersey barrier. The crack is 5 millimetres. One is 12 millimetres, the other one is 5 millimetres. It's on the Jersey barrier. So, it's about 80 centimetres high. On the asphalt, we have two small cracks. One is 10 millimetres and the other one is 5 millimetres. We are monitoring closely the situation. From what I have been told, it is maybe due to what they call 'the differential settlement' and

we are monitoring the situation closely. Anyway, the road is still under the defects liability period of one year. So, I would like also to specify, as I really wanted to say so, that the cracks on the Jersey barrier is, one 5 millimetres and the other one is 12 millimetres and the crack on the asphalt is, one is 5 millimetres and the other one is 10 millimetres, but we are closely monitoring the situation. We have asked, in fact, the contractor to give us a report on a daily basis. The contractor was a consortium of Transinvest and General Construction.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Under the same item *31113.003 - Construction and Upgrading of Roads*, I can see a list of projects. It has been announced in the budget that there will be construction of a road linking airport city to Mahebourg. I don't see any provision in the budget.

**The Chairperson:** No. Hon. Ramful, can you come with a parliamentary question? Hon Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same item *31113.403 - (a) Roads and Bridges*, can the hon. Minister inform us the contractor or contractors, and can he table the list of all roads and bridges being taken care of?

**The Chairperson:** We take another question from hon. Shakeel Mohamed in the meantime.

**Mr Mohamed:** May I, Madam Chairperson?

**The Chairperson:** Yes.

**Mr Mohamed:** Thank you.

**Mr Bodha:** I'll answer the road and bridges. Well, the airport road is going to be built by AML. AML is going to take care of that. In fact, the RDA will help, but it is going to be a project which will be funded by the AML.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Shakeel Mohamed, ask you questions!

**Mr Mohamed:** On page 161, item *31113.003 - (b) De Caen flyover, Port Louis*, could the hon. Minister tell us, since the flyover was built, we will all recall, on part of the motorway which is reclaimed, was a geotechnical assessment and material also carried out within that price, or who was the contractor that carried out the geotechnical assessment and material testing? Was it within that price and, if so, was it subcontracted?

**Mr Bodha:** Which project?

**Mr Mohamed:** De Caen flyover, since it was built on part of the motorway which is reclaimed, was a geotechnical assessment and material testing carried out, by whom and what was the cost?

**Mr Bodha:** It was the design and build. So, all the cost was inclusive for the geotechnical survey, the testing, the design and the build.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 161, item *31113.003 - (l) B28 Road (Lot 3) Phase 1 - from Deux Frères to Beau Champ*, can we know the progress and if Phase II is going to start?

**Mr Bodha:** This is a new project and the provision is required for the payment of the contractor, the project value is Rs109 m., the expected start date is October 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, with regard to item *(c) Repair of embankment failure on Terre Rouge Verdun Road*, may we have the total amount invested in repair of Verdun Road today by his Ministry?

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, there are two repairs, one is for the fill and one is for the piles. So, as regards the fill, it was Rs283 m., exclusive of VAT and the piles were Rs134 m., exclusive of VAT. The total cost is Rs410 m. for the repair.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item *.003 Construction and Upgrading of Roads, (t) Quay D Flyover*, may I know if the contract has been awarded and to whom? Because I don't see any provision.

**Mr Bodha:** No, this is a new project, it is at the design stage. So, we are working on it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item *.003 (h)-Pointe aux Sables Road at Petit Verger*, out of the Rs70 m. which was budgeted last year, may I know how much has been spent and where matter stands?

**Mr Bodha:** So, Rs117 m. was budgeted. So far, we have spent Rs15 m. and the start date was February and the date of completion is expected to be in a year, so, February next year. What we have paid, in fact, does not reflect - I think the works, if I remember, one third has already been completed.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, you have one question? Be brief because we have already exceeded the time.

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Item (o) *Cap Malheureux Bypass*, can the hon. Minister table the study undertaken due to condition of this road as well as the environmental impact?

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, I have also explained that this bypass is one of the three elements. One is connection from La Croisette to the coastal road, the second one is the upgrading of Chemin Vingt Pieds and the third one is the Cap Malheureux Bypass. So, what would you like to know?

*(Interruptions)*

We have an EIA which has been done for this project. As regards the traffic, well, the idea was to decongest the coastal road which has got many curves. So, this has the three stages. As I mentioned, La Croisette to coastal road, every engineering of the Chemin Vingt Pieds and then, the straightening of the road from Cap Malheureux to St. François.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** No question from a sitting position! Page 162, no question! Page 163, hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 163, item .004 - *Allowances*, may I know who are the beneficiaries of these allowances, please?

**The Chairperson:** Yes, beneficiaries of the allowances!

**Mr Bodha:** To meet payment of responsibility, acting, *ad hoc* and car allowance in lieu of duty remission.

*Vote 7-1 Public Infrastructure (Rs3,952,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(3.17 p.m.)

*Vote 7-2 Land Transport was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 165. no question! Page 166, hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants*, the value has been decreased from Rs172 m. to Rs80 m., may we know who are these consultants, please, or can you table the list of the consultants?

**Mr Bodha:** I will do that.

**The Chairperson:** We take another question from hon. Henry in the meantime.

**Mr Henry:** *Item 22100 - Publications and Stationery*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 176,020,000 qui a été voté l'année dernière, peut-on avoir les détails, s'il vous plait ?

**The Chairperson:** Publications and Stationery.

**Mr Bodha:** Publications and Stationery, so, there are paper and material, printing and stationery, public notice, publication. So, it's fees for consultant, it's Singapore Corporation Enterprise for delivering, management and advisory services in connection with the Metro. In fact, it is for the assistance, for the second phase, once the construction is over for testing, handover, integrations of works and assisting Metro Express Ltd. (MEL) at physical meetings, monitoring, compliance and auditing of safety, quality, environmental competency and performance obligations, it's of the performance management of supervisor and contractor, including auditing of works. In fact, it's the supervisory role of Singapore Corporation Enterprise as regards the implementation of the Metro Express Project.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** It has already been answered.

**The Chairperson:** Page 168, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Concerning item 22060 - *Maintenance of which (b) Speed Camera*, I would like to know the number of Speed Camera being maintained and the name of the contractor?

**The Chairperson:** Maintenance of speed cameras.

**Mr Bodha:** We have 62 cameras. In fact, it's a company which provided the hardware, Proguard, which has a one-year contract started in August 2018, so it will be ending in August 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22060 - *maintenance of which (a) Traffic Lights*, can we know to whom the contract has been awarded?

**Mr Bodha:** The maintenance contract for one year has been awarded to Mrs Subani & Sons on 16 April 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** The question has already been answered.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to *Item 22030 – Rent*. Rent for this year will be Rs7.7 m., may we know to whom we are paying this money and why there is an increase?

**Mr Bodha:** We had an initial lease which was renewed in 2015 for an additional period. The lease was subsequently renewed on 2017. So, the lease was finally renewed on 31 May and there was an increase because it is for an 8-storey building warehouse and parking slots.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** If I may come back to the issue of traffic lights again, maintenance of traffic light, the hon. Minister just mentioned the name of Subani & Sons. Can we know from the hon. Minister whether this company works on a 24/7 basis? We just had a fatal accident recently because of the traffic lights; two persons lost their lives.

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, it should work on a 24/7 basis. There is a number on each traffic light that people can use to call and tell them that the system is not working. Now, the fact that there was this accident in Goodlands, an inquiry will be done; then, we will take the company to task. In fact, if the system does not work, you have three possibilities: either it is off, or it is on the flashing mode, or it works normally. In fact, we are making an inquiry. We will see to it that people can call them whenever there is any fault. In fact, there is a hotline which is 8001500. The question is not only having the hotline, it is also the response. So, we will look into the matter.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo! No question? Page 169, hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** *Item 22900.952 (a) - Implementation of National Road Safety - (a) Studies and Survey*, où un montant de R 21 millions a été voté l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails sur les *Studies and Surveys* et combien ont été dépensés?

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, it has a number of items. You have studies and surveys. We spent Rs20 m.; then you have the awareness and sensitisation campaign, the education campaign, the training campaign, the road safety observatory, the capacity building, and all this comes up to this sum.

**The Chairperson:** Page 169! Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 3113.018 (f) - Road Safety Programme - Treatment of Hazardous Roads*, where is earmarked an amount of Rs40 m. Can we know from the hon. Minister the amount that has been spent under this item?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, this is the provision made for the treatment of hazardous roads following the recommendations of the Road Safety Unit, which conducted by a Swedish Company, between La Vigie and Wooton, Yeman and in the districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart. I have an annex of the list of these hazardous roads...

**The Chairperson:** Which you may table?

**Mr Bodha:** ... and the schedule for payment for the works which have been carried out in Port Louis, lower Plaines Wilhems, upper Plaines Wilhems, rehabilitation works at Wooton, in Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart. I can circulate the document.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** *Item 31113.001(a) - Construction of Traffic Centres - Pointe aux Sables* where Rs31 m. was budgeted last year. May we know how much have been used from that Rs31 m. budgeted last year and the progress of work with regard to this?

**Mr Bodha:** Traffic Centre? It is completed. We just need a date to open it. You will be invited.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Please!

**Mr Quirin:** *Item 31113.018(e) - Road Safety Programme - Construction of bus laybys and shelters* where Rs20 m. was budgeted for 2018/2019. Can the hon. Minister give us a breakdown of this amount, stating where these laybys and shelters have been constructed?

**Mr Bodha:** So far, from what I have, they are in the District of Plaines Wilhems, lower and upper. We have also Districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart. I do not have the detail, I just have the sums here. In fact, I can circulate the reply.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** *Item 31122.999(a) Other Machinery and Equipment of which Traffic Lights* where last year Rs10 m. was earmarked. May we know how much have been used from these Rs10 m.? And also, for this year, how many traffic lights will be procured?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, from what I hear, it is provision for 5 junctions and 15 pelicans to be installed in priority areas across the island, including synchronisation of traffic at Place d'Armes, Immigration Square and Trou Fanfaron. Also, signalised pedestrian crossings have been procured under the tender exercise in Black River, Gros Cailloux, Belle Rive, Place d'Armes, Beau Bassin, Beaux Songes and one traffic light was also installed at Saint Esprit College in Black River. So, next year we will have 15 pelicans and 5 junctions.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31113.018 - Road Safety Programme - Construction of bus laybys and Shelters.* Can the hon. Minister inform the House how many bus shelters have been constructed or will be constructed in Constituency No.17? If you can give the details later on also.

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, we have constructed 195 smart bus shelters, but they have been sponsored. They are not under this Budget, but we have made a request now to have a number of bus shelters. We have also floated a new exercise to ask other sponsors to come forward to be able to provide those smart bus shelters. I will see to it that we have a number in Constituency No. 17. I would like to add, Madam Chairperson, that one of these smart bus shelters cost no less than Rs400,000.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** *Item 22900.952(d) - Implementation of National Road Safety - Training assistance.* Can we know who is the provider of such services?

**The Chairperson:** Implementation of National Road Safety - Training assistance!

**Mr Bodha:** Madam Chairperson, in fact, we trained 30 driving instructors and 20 Police Test Examiners will be trained for the next period of eight months. The Ministry is working with the Police Department and the MITD for imparting the training with the enlistment of international resource persons.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31113.001 - Construction of Traffic Centres*, where there are 3 projects of more than Rs150,000. Can the Minister circulate details of the contractors and details of the projects?

**Mr Bodha:** One is Pointe aux Sables, which has been completed. The contract was awarded to Transinvest. The one in Piton has been completed and is operational. It was awarded to Kisten Enterprise and the Ébène Bus Holding Area, the works have started and the contract has been implemented by Transinvest Construction.

**The Chairperson:** Page 170, Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes, thank you. Under item *21110.001 (1) - Road Transport Commissioner*, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he has the responsibility to regulate rail operations as well and if trade unionists have been consulted on this issue.

**Mr Bodha:** Madam Chairperson, we are coming with a new law. In fact, we will implement, we are working with the Attorney General's Office...

*(Interruptions)*

The Road Traffic Commissioner. So, we are coming with a new law which is going to be the National Transport Agency with two pillars, one for the road and one for the rail. In fact, the road pillar will remain as it is. So, we'll have a new pillar for the railway and then you'll have a Chief Commissioner who will, in fact, be in charge of the two and the law in fact has already been drafted. We are going to come to Parliament in the coming weeks and, in the meantime, we'll talk to the workers but I would like to reassure all the workers of the National Transport Authority as they are now that they will not be affected at all.

**The Chairperson:** Page 171, no question. Page 172, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Yes Madam Chairperson, concerning item 22120.038 - *Fees for Vehicle Examination*, I would like to know if the contractor is still the same or there has been new contractors involved.

**Mr Bodha:** For the Vehicle Examination Centres, they are the same. So, we have SGS, Eastern and Autocheck. They are the same.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, page 172, the last item – 31132.109 - *Computerisation of National Transport Authority*, recently there were the new number plates, personalised number plates and it was being sold online and after some time, it was being freeze. May we know what is the exact reason as to why this exercise has been freeze and also where matters stand?

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, there was a registration online and then we requested everybody to come to the National Transport Authority. What happened is you had some *courtiers* who came at 4 o'clock in the morning. So, what I have asked in fact is that now it would be registered online and payment online to make it easier.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 25500.002 - *Bus Modernisation Scheme*, may we know out of the Rs100 m. last year, how many bus companies have used that scheme and how much was disbursed?

**Mr Bodha:** Last year, there were subsidies to the tune of Rs53 m. So, with more or less, the subsidy is about Rs1 m. So, it meant that last year, there were 53 new buses on the road.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same item but coming to item 25500.001 - *Free Travel Scheme*, Rs1,256,000,000 last year and it is repeated every year. May I know from the hon. Minister how many bus owners have been disqualified under this scheme? As we know, there are some abuses.

**Mr Bodha:** There is a lot of abuse. In fact, because of the abuse, in some cases what we have done is that we have introduced CNT buses and we have divided the sum total of the subsidy. For example, if you have 8 buses, individual operators, who are not giving the satisfaction, we bring in 2 buses and we divide it in 10. But from the answer I have that none has been disqualified but I think that in one route there has been the disqualification, in the south. In fact to address this issue which has been with us for the last 14 years, in fact, because the free travel was introduced in 2006, we are coming with the cashless travel system where the NTA is going to pay as we go. That is we pay for the number of people who are going to actually travel. So, this is being floated now, we will come back with a cashless system.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Madam Chairperson...

**The Chairperson:** 172.

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item 31132.109 - *Computerisation of National Transport Authority*, I believe that it has been completed already but I wanted to know whether there has been provision for maintenance in the contract and who is the contractor.

**Mr Bodha:** In fact, we have been working with the Ministry of IT and State Informatics Ltd.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh! Hon Baboo! Okay

*Vote 7-2 Land Transport (Rs2,201,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(3.38 p.m.)

*Vote 7-3 Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have a total of 30 minutes for 7 pages. No question on page 173. Page 174, hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Sous l'item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, peut-on savoir à qui cette somme est allouée, s'il vous plaît?

**Mr Bodha:** It is provision for the payment of salaries of one advisor in post inclusive of *ad hoc* allowance, bonus, compensation, PRB travelling. Decrease is due to the termination of contract of two advisors in March and in June.

**The Chairperson:** Page 175, hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Page 175, item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, can the hon. Minister inform us to whom these allowances have been paid in 2018/19 and for what purpose?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, they are provisions to meet payment of responsibility acting, *ad hoc*, entertainment and Foreign Service Allowance, transfer grant, refund of school fees, car allowance in lieu of duty remission and subsistence allowance on posting of staffs on mission. I think we can have some details, if you require those details, you can have them.

**The Chairperson:** Page 176, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Yes, item 22900.014 - (a) *African Economic Platform*, may I know from the hon. Minister, briefly the objective and the amount that has been spent, whether the objective has been met for which this economic platform has been set?

**Mr Bodha:** It has been proposed that the second African Economic Platform in Mauritius be held in the last week of March 2020 or the first week of April 2020. It is provision for that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Page 176, item 22190 - *Overseas Travel - Staff posted in Embassies*, at a point in time, there was question of opening a Consulate in Jeddah. May I ask the hon. Minister where matters stand, please?

**Mr Bodha:** Madam Chairperson, *agrément* has been sought for one Minister Counsellor, who has already been, in fact, nominated, it's going to be Mr Naguib Somorou and to serve as *Consul Général* in Jeddah. This process can take about six months but we are seeing to it that we can expedite matters. We expect that the consulate premises will be identified in the meanwhile and to be ready by December. As you are aware, we have currently an Honorary Consulate Jeddah. We have a *Consul général*.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes, thank you. Item 22190 - *Overseas Travel - Staff posted in Embassies of which Diaspora related Events*, we have been asked to vote for Rs4 m. for the diaspora related events. May I ask the hon. Minister some details about this?

**Mr Bodha:** This is a project. Government adopted a national Migration and Development Policy engaging concerned Ministries, including our Ministry. An estimation was worked in consultation with other relevant sections. The idea is to have the trained officers based in Paris for Europe, Canberra for Australia. I think that there are three. The idea is to organise special events to engage with the diaspora so that they can interact with Mauritius. They can come forward to offer their skills and have a closer tie with the country.

**The Chairperson:** Page 177. Hon. Jahangeer. No. Hon. Boolell.

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.047 - *Construction of Chancery and Staff Residence (a) Addis Ababa (b) Madagascar*, can I ask the hon. Minister when were tender exercises launched? To whom have contracts been awarded and whether the projects will be implemented within scheduled time?

**Mr Bodha:** As regards Addis Ababa, provision is for the construction of Chancery and Staff Residence; the project value is 151. The project consultant is Moulougueta Afso Consultant. The start of the construction was in 2017 and progress works achieved 85% and we hope to have it completed soon. A sum of Rs28 m. has been spent. As regards Madagascar, provision for payment of the consultancy fee and for preparation of scope of works and designs for the construction of Chancery and Staff Residence in Madagascar. The project value is Rs65 m. So far, we are at the level of consultancy.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31121.801 - *Acquisition of Vehicles*, a provision of Rs26 m. was budgeted for 2018/19, can the hon. Minister give us a breakdown of this item, please?

**Mr Bodha:** So, we have provision for acquisition of vehicles for missions in Geneva, in Washington, in London, in New Delhi and at the Ministry.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 31122.402 - *(b) On-line Register for Diaspora*, for which we are being asked to vote Rs1.5 m. as part of a project that will cost Rs3 m. eventually. Can I ask the hon. Minister some basic details about this?

**Mr Bodha:** It's provision for purchase of relevant IT equipment, we will have a dedicated portal for the diaspora and the register will create a platform to gather information on our diaspora abroad in view of elaborating a comprehensive database which will help authorities get an idea on the competences and skills available at the level of nationals living abroad.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 31111.011 - *Construction of High Commissioner's Residence (New Delhi)*, can the Minister inform us where it is situated? Has land been purchased? Secondly, the total project value and the award of contract, has the work started? Who is the contractor/consultant?

**Mr Bodha:** New Delhi - so provision for consultancy fees and construction costs, there are some details here. It's a two-storey residence, ground plus one, about 650 metres square on a plot of land of 1,135 metres square at 5, Cordelia Marg, New Delhi. So, the bids have been re-launched, the closing date is the 19 of July. We believe that the selection of the consultant will be in September 2019; designs, drawings, estimates and permits March 2020 and the bids for construction will be launched in April 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** 177!

**Mr Fowdar:** No, I am on 179.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 31112.408 - (b) *Upgrading of Amenities and Services (New Delhi)* (c) *Upgrading of Security System (New Delhi)*, may we have an update of these projects?

**Mr Bodha:** I just gave the details.

**The Chairperson:** The Minister just replied.

**Mr Bodha:** Okay. So, the project consists of repair and upgrading works at the Mauritius High Commission and Staff Residence in New Delhi. The first stage of the project consists of the selection of a consultant for the design, preparation of works, bidding documents, supervision; for the repair. Okay, so the consultancy bid document has been

prepared in February. The Ministry is exporting other alternatives for implementing maybe a G to G option. We have received a list of state-owned public sector undertakings from India and the bidding exercise will be launched soon with a closing date, 19 of July 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Page 179. Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22900.965 - *SADC Trade - Related Facility Programme*, may we know from the Rs45 m. allocated last year, how much fund has been used from that?

**Mr Bodha:** There has been a decrease because the implementation has been slowed. There has been a poor response of bids launched for several projects. We have had some problems of procurement and so far we have spent Rs6.5 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 22120.008 - *(b) Implementation of National Intellectual Property Plan*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 10,500,000 qui a été votée l'année dernière, peut-on avoir les détails et qui sont les consultants?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, this was developed in 2009 with the assistance of the World Intellectual Property Organisation with a view to implement the main recommendations of the intellectual property plan and to facilitate the use of the world intellectual property to meet development goals and ensure policy points. I would like to thank my colleague, the Attorney General, because today itself, he has given the clear for the new Intellectual Property Bill. It will be introduced in Parliament very soon. So, we will have consultancy fees to be able to implement this system which I think is going to be very helpful together with this Innovation and Research Council.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Same item, Madam Chairperson. With respect to the fees paid to consultants, consultancy firms enlisted to conduct all these studies, can we have the name of the consultant or consultancy firm to which these fees have been paid?

**Mr Bodha:** I will do that. I will give you the details of the consultancy fees which have been paid for, in different cases. For example, the socio-economic impact assessment,

international exhaustion of trademark rights. This was the system from the European Union. The implementation for a National Intellectual Property Plan – this consultancy was paid, from what I see here, by Government. We will have some other consultancy trade remedies. We have made a request to the Ministry of Finance. For the consultancy for the studies and impact assessment trade agreements and trade related to China, the purpose is to identify the market access of Mauritian goods in China. Consultants will be appointed by the European Union and the project is going to be funded by the European Union.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 179, under *Item 22120.008 (c) – Trade Remedies Expert*, to which the hon. Minister has just stated that the approval of the Ministry of Finance has been sought, can I ask the hon. Minister what is the scope of work for the Trade Remedies Expert? What are they supposed to do?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, the procurement exercise was launched in May to procure a Trade Remedies Expert for one year to ensure full compliance of the legal framework of trade remedies in Mauritius with other multilateral, regional and bilateral commitments. So, this consultancy fee is expected to be around Rs10 m. and it will be launched soon.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar! A last question!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same page, same *Item 222120.008 (b) Implementation of National Intellectual Property Plan*. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposed date for the implementation?

**Mr Bodha:** Well, it will depend. First of all, we are going to introduce the Bill in the House, we will have the debates, and then we will have the Bill which will be enacted. Then, we will proceed with the project further.

*Vote 7-3 Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Rs1,290,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

*Vote 8-1 Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research was called.*

**The Chairperson:** There are 19 pages and 60 minutes.

Page 181! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 181, under *Item 21110.001 (1) – Permanent Secretary*, may we know whether the hon. Minister will ask the Permanent Secretary why it is that there is an under-spending of Rs700 m. for the last financial year? Under what project was therefore this under-spending done?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Chairperson, I will have to wait for the information.

**The Chairperson:** In the meantime, we take page 183 from hon. Rughoobur.

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22120 - (b) Fees icw Academy for Teachers*, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the status of the building that will be constructed?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, we have got Rs5 m. for the start-up of the Academy which will start working at the Polytechnics of Montagne Blanche and the building will be set up later in the Reduit to Côte d’Or corridor.

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same *Item 22120 (a) – Fees icw Training of Educators (Pre-Vocational)*, where Rs2 m. is earmarked. May we know where this training will take place and who will be the trainers?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The training will take place at the level of the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE). We want all of them to be given the possibility and the opportunity to upgrade the qualifications so that in the near future they will all be considered as educators.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Under *Item 21110.005 – Extra Assistance*, où une somme de R 6,500,000 a été votée, peut-on avoir les détails, et à qui cet argent est destiné ?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun :** This normally goes to advisers and other officers that are taken up by the Ministry for their expertise. So, for Extra Assistance, the sum earmarked goes for the remuneration of five advisers. It is also used for payment of leave and end of year bonus.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 183, under *Item 21110.004 – Allowances*, can we have a breakdown of the Rs10 m., please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Again, it is for the payment of acting, *ad hoc* and responsibility allowances etc. to staff.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22130 – Studies and Surveys (a) Nine Year Continuous Basic Education (NYCBE)*, may we know the status of this survey which has been ongoing for quite some time now, and for which last year we disbursed a sum of Rs10.5 m. and this year Rs5.1 m.?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We are referring here to the survey. In fact, it is under the RAS Agreement and the survey is being carried out. We are getting technical assistance and expert knowledge for survey with respect to the EDLP projects as well as early support programme. So, the survey is being done by the World Bank.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Madam Chairperson, at page 183, under *Item 22130 – Studies and Surveys (b) Evaluation of Early Support Program*, may we know for what purpose is this evaluation, please.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Chairperson, the Early Support Program is one that we have started at primary level, where we are providing remedial support to students having learning deficits. So, evaluation is being carried out by the World Bank to see the progress made in that field.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 183, under *Item 22070 - Cleaning Services*, where there is an increase in the budget. Can we know who has been awarded this contract and why there is an increase?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, we are here talking about the Cleaning Services, where we have the cleaning of office premises. This sum is earmarked to meet the payment in respect of cleaning of premises, toilets at the Central Supplies Division and at three Government quarters at Suffolk Close, Britannia Park and River Walk, Floreal.

The cleaning of offices is mainly for the Headquarters.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 183, with regard to *Item 22030 – Rent*, there is an amount of nearly Rs26 m. being paid. May we know to whom rent is being paid?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We have rental of building for renting of office space for the Head Office at the MITD House and for accommodation of Quality Assurance Offices at the NPF Building, Rose Hill. We had to move some of the offices because of the realignment of the Metro. So, the amount paid also goes for the Central Supplies Division, the rental of parking slots and the rental of facilities and for events.

So, as I have just said, the main amount goes to the MITD because we rent the spaces at the Head Office.

**The Chairperson:** Page 184! Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item *31112.002 Construction and Extension of Schools*, can the hon. Minister circulate the list of the schools where the construction and extension would be carried out?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I'll do that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item *26313.071 (c) – Grants to Private Pre-Primary Schools*, can the hon. Minister table a list of all the schools that have received grants for year 2018/19 including also the criteria used?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** It goes to pre-primary schools that are in deprived regions, in areas where students coming there come from vulnerable groups and it is normally in terms of infrastructure or pedagogical support that we provide to them. So, last year, it was about Rs50,000 per school; this year the amount has increased to Rs60,000 per school and it is for 125 schools.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Page 184, Capital Expenditure 31122 *Other machinery and Equipment*, can we have details about this item?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** It refers to acquisition of furniture, equipment and software for the MIE. The provision of Rs3.5 m. for year 2019/2020 will be used for the acquisition of software, including payment of licence fees, audiovisual equipment, for production of online curriculum material for primary and secondary levels, development of online curriculum material and production of materials for the Student Support Programme for Grades 7 to 9.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes, already replied. Thank you

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to 26313.071, I did not get the answer from the Minister. If she could just clarify how many students are benefitting from the Early Childhood Care Programme?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The Early Childhood Care Programme at this item number is meant for early childhood in terms of pre-primary schools, it is not the support programme. It is different.

*(Interruptions)*

The Early Childhood Care Programme refers to the ECCEA, the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority. It takes care of the quality assurance of all pre-primary units, private and public.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell! Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh :** I would like to have a clarification on item 26323.071 *Early Childhood Care and Education Authority*, for the year 2019/20, the budget allocated is Rs13,800 m. then for the other years' plan, it goes on to Rs2 m. May I have some clarification on same, please!

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We normally identify pre-primary schools which require additional support. So, every year we provide this one-off grant to a number of schools. Last year, we had given to about 125; this year another 125 and most probably the schools that are left do not come under the criteria to benefit from the support. The schools that get this support are normally pre-primary schools in identified pockets of poverty, claiming school fees of less than Rs1,000 per month.

**The Chairperson:** Page 185! Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under item *21110.001 (15) Management Support Officer*, we funded for 119 and we are funding again for 119. Do we have 119 on the list?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Sorry! Can you just repeat?

**Mr Baloomoody:** Number of Management Support Officer, we funded 119 last year and again 119 this year. Do we, in fact, have 119 officers? Are there any vacancies?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, we have filled up the vacancies this year. I don't think we have more and, if ever, we just get one vacancy because someone has gone on retirement, we normally replace him, it is an ongoing process.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Under item *31112.002 – Construction and Extension of Schools – Mount Ory GS (Pre-Primary Unit)*, may we know whether the construction has started and the name of the contractor, please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** For Mount Ory, I know that it is to be constructed. Let me just check! Okay, the construction of one block, consisting of two classrooms and toilet facilities and a playground and the project estimate is of about Rs9 m. The status, bids have been launched on 12 April and the closing date was on 14 May. It is at the evaluation stage.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Under the same item, Madam Chairperson, *31112.002 - Construction and Extension of Schools – Mount Ory GS (Pre-Primary Unit)*, is there any other pre-primary school that is being constructed by her Ministry or is this the only pre-primary school in Mount Ory?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** No, I think there is one more. Let me just check where it is. We have got one at Grand Baie Public Library.

**The Chairperson:** Page 186! Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Page 186, item 21110.001(30) – *Headmaster*, we can note that the funded post is 187 for both years, but there is a decrease in the budget.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Sorry!

**Mr Tarolah:** The decrease in the Estimated budget.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Most probably when some Headmasters retire, the new recruit gets less, so the salary would be lower.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Madam Chairperson, concerning item 21110.001(38) – *Mentor*, we had 14; now the number has been decreased by 8. Do we understand that it will decrease again and again and phase out?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** No, we have 6 vacancies which need to be filled.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under item 21110.001(38) – *Mentor*, we know the problem we are having in our primary schools now. Why have we reduced the number of Mentor from 14 to 8?

**The Chairperson:** The question has just been asked.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We haven't reduced. In fact, some of them have been promoted to other positions. So, we are going to fill the vacancies.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Last year, we funded for 14; this year we are funding only for 8 in the budget.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I repeat, Madam Chairperson. Some of them have been promoted. So, we need to fill up the vacancies.

**The Chairperson:** Page 187! Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Madam Chairperson, item 21110.005 *Extra Assistance*, can we have a breakdown about this Rs30 m.?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, the extra assistance goes to Project Manager, for our parent mediators and supply teachers for primary oriental languages, Arabic. So, once again, the extra assistance meets the payment of 7 parent mediators, supply teachers and a stipend to Chinese volunteers. Our Chinese volunteers are teachers of Mandarin from China.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21210 - *Social contributions*, can we know to whom these contributions are being allocated and what are the criteria, please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Social contributions normally refer to the contributions made to the National Savings Funds for all the officers.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Item 22030 *Rent*, I know the hon. Minister had replied earlier that for MITD Rs24 m. but can I ask the hon. Minister for which building is this for because there is a substantial increase this year from Rs21 m. to Rs24 m.? Which building is this for?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** MITD?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** No, item 22030 *Rent*.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, the rental, in fact, is due to the fact that we have to include the line for network services as well and the amount of Rs13 m. goes for the rental of line for network services.

*(Interruptions)*

Connectivity in primary schools. It is the rental for line for network.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance.

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, may we have some more details about fees.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Again allowances for payment of acting *ad hoc* and responsibility allowance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21111.100 – *Overtime*, may we know, last year, out of the Rs8 m., how much was spent on overtime please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** It appears that the whole amount was spent.

**The Chairperson:** Page 188. Hon. Baloomoody.

**Mr Baloomoody:** With regard to item 22120.025 - *Fees to Oriental Language Teachers*, is it for those who are on a permanent basis or those of the evening schools? How many teachers are on that list?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We have 1223 teachers and they have been catering for 35,029 students.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Can we have the breakdown?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I can circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, I can see a substantial amount Rs60 m., can we know the name of the contractor?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** For the cleaning services, we have an amount of Rs68 m. and this goes to yard cleaning - Mauri Facilities Management Company Limited, a subsidiary of Landscape Facilities. It also includes lawn mowing, truncating of trees, bushes and high water pressure cleaning.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Capital Expenditure – last item – 31112.402 - *Upgrading of Schools* Rs154 m., may I ask the hon. Minister if she can give a list of the schools that will be upgraded and also how is this being done? Is it being done in-house or contracted out, if so, may we have a list of the names of the contractor?

**The Chairperson:** Many questions in one question. I allow only one question.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I will circulate the list, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22060.001 *Maintenance of buildings*, I see there is an amount of Rs45 m. for the coming years. Often we have got problems with the adequacy of staff, may I know from the hon. Minister if this problem has been solved at the level of the department handling maintenance?

**The Chairperson:** I would request hon. Members not to ask questions regarding administration, but rather with regard to the provision of funds.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Chairperson, the amount here refers to the maintenance of buildings in connection with primary schools such as waterproofing and burglarproofing. For the NYCBE, we have for maintenance and servicing of plant and equipment, for the zonal directorates and schools. There is also maintenance of the IT equipment.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Under the same item, Madam Chairperson, that is, item 28211.060, may the hon. Minister inform the House how many schools in Constituency No. 17 have benefitted from this maintenance and how many will be benefiting?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, Madam Chairperson, the maintenance refers to all schools and we don't have the information per Constituency. We will circulate the list of schools.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Item 26313.034 - *Mauritius Examinations Syndicate*, as opposed to the years, the contribution has dropped down drastically to Rs56 m. compared to nearly a hundred million in other years. May we know why for this year?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** It is because the MES has got its own revenues through fees of other examinations other than SC and HSC and it also have certain gains from foreign exchange rates. So, they do have their own fund.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 28212.004 - *Primary School Supplementary Feeding Project*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R100 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière. Peut-on savoir combien a été déboursé de cette somme? Combien d'enfants ont bénéficié, s'il vous plaît?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, Madam Chairperson, we have spent during the year Rs30 m. for the loans, enhanced meals for ZEP schools – Rs58 m., hot meals to two pilot ZEP schools. We have not started it yet. The tenders have been relaunched recently.

*(Interruptions)*

For the loans, it covers all the schools in Mauritius, but for the ZEP schools, the enhanced meals, it is for 6,500 students.

**The Chairperson:** Page 189. Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item 31122.819 - *Acquisition of Equipment for Sankoré Project*, I see that the itemized budget for 2019/20 has been dropped substantially compared to 2018/19. Am I to understand that all schools are supplied with those equipment?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, since it has dropped, it means that reparations and replacements have already been effected last year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to 31122.823 - *Acquisition of Equipment for Early Digital Learning Programme*, will the Minister give details of the programme itself, the IT infrastructure that is associated with the distribution of tablets if there is any?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** First of all, Madam Chairperson, we have got the electrification works in all the primary schools in Grade IV as from next year; For Grades I, II and III, the works have already been effected. We have all the racks and chargers which are placed in the rooms. We have overhead projectors, screens, dongles. We have got 960 rack chargers, 480 projectors and projector screens and a number of other gadgets that are required.

*(Interruptions)*

In fact, all the resources and pedagogical materials had been uploaded in the tablet. But now, with the Primary School connectivity, they can take in information from any other site. I have been to schools where I have seen that this is being done in class. Teachers are getting information and other learning materials and using these in class because connectivity is there in primary schools.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** The same item 31122 – *Acquisition of Equipment*, can we know the name of the contractor?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The Early Digital Learning Programme is a programme which was done in collaboration with the Indian Government and it has been done through an agency of the Indian Government known as EdCIL. EdCIL had, in fact, identified along with the Ministry of Education, the supplier. If I am not mistaken, for that project EdCIL India was our consultant and the supplier was Kellton Tech Solutions Ltd.

**The Chairperson:** Page 191, hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** I just want to have some more information about item 22900.006 – *School Requisites*; an amount of Rs33 m. has been earmarked. Can we have more information about it?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The requisites refer to funds that would be used for printing of textbooks from Grade VII to Grade VIII, books for needy students, specialised equipment, materials, equipment and materials for specialised subjects such Chemistry, Biology etc. On a yearly basis, there are around 226 chemicals and around 452 items of equipment distributed to State Secondary Schools, stationery, teaching materials, toner, ink etc and then also materials required for cleaning.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Item .004 – *Allowances*, can we have the details for the Rs35 m. please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, the allowances, once again, refer to payment of acting, *ad hoc* and responsibility allowance, *ad hoc* allowances for Heads of departments in Secondary Schools.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Same page, item .005 – *Extra Assistance*, can we have some details about this?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Again, the extra assistance we are talking here about refers to payment to the supply teachers. Every year, the Ministry has recourse to, under delegated powers, the services of supply teachers secondary and these are normally degree holders or diploma holders. For 2019, there were 372 supply teachers that had been recruited, for 2020 we are expecting 350.

**The Chairperson:** Page 192, hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Item 31112.002 – *Construction and Extension of Schools (a) Gymnasium*, there is a total amount of more than Rs450 m. Can we know to whom contracts have been awarded for the construction of the six gymnasiums that are listed here?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I will find out and I will let the hon. Member have the information.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On page 192, item 26313.123 – *Mahatma Gandhi Institute*, we are asked to vote an amount of Rs545 m. and we do not have any details of this figure. Even if the hon. Minister does not have it, if she can circulate the main components of this figure?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** We have here provision for increments 2019, commitments for vacancies filled in 2017 -2018, 33 educators appointed as from January 2018, filling of vacancies and salary compensation for 2018 for the 12 months. Emoluments for employees on post, basic salaries, overtime, pension contribution etc, cost of running office, utilities, security, cleaning services, repairs and maintenance of building and other expenditure. I am circulating the list.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item 31112.002 – *Construction of Gymnasium SSS Goodlands*, there has been an amount of Rs63,500,000 earmarked for this project. May I know the status, please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Bidding documents are expected to be submitted by MPI by the end of June and the bid will be launched after vetting by the CPB in August 2019 and is expected to start in January 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same item, with regard to the gymnasium at Bell Village SSS, may we know where matters stand?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** For Bell Village SSS, the project estimate is Rs49 m.; the bidding documents will be received in February, 2020; bids would be launched in April, 2020 and the expected start date is September 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 31112.002 - *Gymnasium and Playfield, Vacoas SSS*, may we know when this gymnasium will be completed, please?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Again, in the case of Vacoas SSS, the bid will be launched in March, 2020 and is expected to start in July 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Page 193, hon. A. Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to item 26323.27 – *Regional Training Centre at Beau Vallon*, may we know, first of all, who is the contractor and when is it expected to be completed?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, we are going to have a consultant for that. I think we have already launched the bid. We have funds for the payment for consultancy fees and funds have increased as the contract for the design and build project is expected to be awarded in August, 2019.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** With regard to the same project, MITD at Beau Vallon, can we know exactly where it is going to be constructed, the exact location? Is it going to be on the football pitch of Beau Vallon?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, at Beau Vallon, we had a plot of land. There are two football pitches on there, half of the area is being used for MITD and MITD, in its project, also has a plan of having sport facilities within the compound.

*(Interruptions)*

In fact, all sport facilities in schools and in public buildings are being offered to people of the locality for use after school hours.

**The Chairperson:** Page 194, hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Item 26313.149 – *Special Education Needs (SEN) Authority*, may we have more details about the Director and the fees payable? Is there any Board, any Chairperson?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, the fees payable will be according to prescribed rates, that is, as proposed by PRB. The Chairperson is Mrs Oogarah.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 26313.149 – *Special Education Needs (SEN) Authority*, Rs10 m. has been earmarked for 2018/19, that is, last year, this year and in 2020. May we know why these amounts have been earmarked and also what is the function of this ‘Special Education Needs’?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Sorry, can I get the question again?

**Mr Baboo:** Item 26313.149 – *Special Education Needs (SEN)*, may we know what is this authority, what is its functions and also why such amount has been earmarked?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Well, first of all, the Special Education Needs Authority will be there as a regulatory body to regulate the whole sector of SEN Education, that is, Special Education Needs Schools and it will also monitor the usage of the fund disposed to these units.

**The Chairperson:** Page 195. Hon. Tarolah, first, and then, I will come to you, hon. Armance!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 195, items 31112.002 - *Construction & Extension of Schools* and 31112.402 - *Upgrading of Schools (a) Ferney SEN School*, can we have more details?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, for Ferney School, it has been completed.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Item 31122.821 - *Acquisition of Braille PC/Notebook*, I can see there is an amount of Rs5 m. budgeted, same for last year. Can I know, last year, who was the supplier of this notebook?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I know that the notebook was used for students having visual impairment. Now, a tender was launched in February 2019 and the closing date was 09 March 2019. So, there was no responsive bid, and this is for this year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28211.067 - *RCEA for Special Education Needs (SEN) Schools*, can the hon. Minister give us a breakdown about this item. How many children attend these schools, as we can see that there is an increase for the budget?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Now, we have a number of pupils present in SEN because you will have seen for this item it is for the schools run by the SEN units. So, we have eight schools and it involves 224 students.

**The Chairperson:** Page 196. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 28212.032 - *Scholarship Scheme to Students with Disabilities* for which we are being asked to vote Rs4.8 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister some details about this, who is eligible for this, and who were the beneficiaries last year?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, Madam Chairperson, we have 11 awardees for years 2016 to 2019 and for the academic year 2019/20, we have another five scholarships. Now, they are selected on the basis of their impairment. So, normally, we advertise, they apply and if it is seen that they are, in fact, eligible, they are given the scholarship.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 26 – *Grants – 26323.125 – Mauritius Institute of Education*, Rs12 m. last year, Rs18 m. for next year. May we have a breakdown of how this money was used?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, in the case of MIE, we find that the increase in provision is explained by the payment of salaries and related costs for additional staff recruited for the implementation of the reforms, for content development, training of staff, production of audio-visual materials, commitments of the MIE for 2019/20 as regards increase in benefits payable to retiring officers, increase in the cost of part timers, salary compensation, filling of vacancies, increment payable for the period of January to June 2020.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 28212.032 - *Scholarship Scheme to Students with Disabilities*, can the hon. Minister enlighten the House as to whether this sum – I know it is not substantial – will meet part payment of students who are offered places to study overseas?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, this would go to students who apply for the scheme.

*(Interruptions)*

That's policy.

**The Chairperson:** It's policy matter, hon. Dr. Boolell! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 28212, can the hon. Minister tell us, with regard to all the scholarship schemes, how many people have benefitted from the various scholarships last year?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I must say that all the scholarships that we offer are taken up by students. So, whether it is the laureate schemes or the additional scholarships, they are all taken up. I must say that, for students with disabilities, since we advertise, it will depend on the number of students who apply for it.

**The Chairperson:** Page 197. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** I find that the *Free Tertiary Education Scheme*, there is a note below.

**The Chairperson:** Which item?

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 26313.088(a)(vi) *Free tertiary Education Scheme*, Rs600 m. will be financed by the Lotto Fund. May we know from the hon. Minister whether now that we have *deux tirages de Loto par semaine*, are we going to have a fourth or a fifth one? Are we going to finance our tertiary education?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, I must say that it is not supported solely by the Lotto Fund, but by both the HRDC and the Lotto Fund.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On that same item *Free Tertiary Education Scheme*, I was under the impression that it will start from this academic year, but from what I see here it's for 2020/21. Can the hon. Minister shed some light on this?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** In fact, it was not funded earlier, but since January this year, this decision was taken and funds have been provided for the Free Tertiary Education.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 26313.088 - (b) *University of Mauritius*, there is no substantial increase for this financial year. With regard to the now Free University Programme, how is it that there is no increase?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The funding for the free education does not go to the University, it goes as payment of fees and it will be provided by Government as fees, it is not in the budget. This particular budget is for the running and the operational matter at the University.

**The Chairperson:** Page 198. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.088 - (d) *Université des Mascareignes o/w Smart and Sustainable Campus*, for which we are being requested to vote Rs10 m. this year. Can I ask the hon. Minister some basic details about this project?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** For the *Université des Mascareignes*, Madam Chairperson, they are looking for equipment and for 'La formation Professionnelle'. This pertains to equipment for teaching and research at the Faculty of Sustainable Development and Engineering of the UDM, especially for two courses, namely *Efficacité*, Masters in *Efficacité Énergies Renouvelable* and the bachelor's degree in *Traitements des Os* being run by that faculty.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. A very important institution is setup, Qualifications Authority. Can the hon. Minister enlighten the House on the composition of the Board?

**The Chairperson:** Which item no. is the hon. Member referring to?

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item .511- *Quality Assurance Authority*, the composition of the Board and whether the authority is now operational?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I must say that the Quality Assurance Department of the TEC is still operational. We have set up the Board of the Quality Assurance Authority and the Board is chaired by Dr. Bhikaji. I will circulate the list of the members.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26123.145- *Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd*, we see that this year Rs8 m. has been earmarked and for next year, there is no grant for the Polytechnics, may we know why?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Chairperson, Polytechnics Mauritius is funded through the HRDC and it is also receiving fees for the free tertiary education. So, they also get fees for non-subsidised courses.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 26323 .088 - *Tertiary Education Commission/Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs)*, now University of Mauritius has initiated two projects, (i) Climate Smart Agriculture Village (Belle Mare) (ii) Agripreneur Incubator & Agritech Park as in the Estimates 2018/2019. If we can be enlightened as to these two specific projects, where matters stand and who are the beneficiaries of these projects?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** So, University of Mauritius has got its Climate Smart Agriculture Village at Belle Mare. The Climate Smart Agriculture Village is a project to transform Belle Mare into a model climate smart agriculture village so that its farmers will be climate resilient and enjoy sustainable livelihoods. Food production is increased in an environmentally friendly manner and allowing lower levels of greenhouse gases to be emitted.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard item .143 - *Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd*, may we know who has been recruited, if any, as CEO and the composition of the Board of Directors?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** The CEO has been recruited as far back as in 2018, and it is Mr Matabudul who is the CEO of Polytechnics Mauritius. As far as the Board is concerned, I will circulate the list of Board members.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** With regard to the same item, Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd, can we have an idea as to how many students are there, in those Polytechnics, currently?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I have been informed that there should be around 1,200 students by the end of this year. There are 709 and the number is expected to rise by the end of this academic year. We are expecting to reach at least 1,500 next year and 2,000 in the years to come. We are expecting to have 2,000 by 2020. But, maybe we won't reach that fast, we expect it to be 1,500 and then 2,000.

*Vote 8-1 Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (Rs17,100,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(4.47 p.m.)

*Vote 9-1 Ministry of Tourism was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have three pages and a total of 10 minutes. Page 199, hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I will take it on the vote 20100 and also a general vote, we are being asked to vote an amount of Rs708 m. for the whole Ministry.

On this side of the House, on the Opposition side, we formally proposed, on behalf of the Opposition, that the total vote of Rs708 m. be reduced by Rs10. We consider that the Minister has failed in his responsibility to manage properly the Ministry and...

*(Interruptions)*

*Ki assizé ? Ki arrivé ? Ki pou assizé ? Mo prend l'ordre ar twa mwa ?*

*(Interruptions)*

I am making my point, Madam Chairperson!

*Mo pas prend l'ordre ar twa mwa!*

*(Interruptions)*

*Guet to case garde lors twa! Reste tranquille ar mwa!*

Madam Chairperson, I formally propose that on behalf of the Opposition, on this side of the House, that the total amount of Rs708 m. be reduced by Rs10 which, according to us, the Minister is not entitled to have such a salary, and the salary be reduced because of his performance as Minister of Tourism where he has brought that Ministry. I won't go into what has been said outside and inside the House and we have no intention to ask any further question apart from this reduction in the total vote of Rs708 m., be reduced by Rs10.

**The Chairperson:** If you say that the total vote includes the salary of the Minister, then this motion is not receivable.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Why Madam Chairperson?

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Because the salary of the Minister is statutory and does not fall within the province of this.

**Mr Bhagwan:** I am asking that the vote of Rs708 m. be reduced by Rs10, which according to us, is a motion of blame on the Minister.

**The Chairperson:** So, I will suspend the session then for half an hour. We will come later.

*At 4.50 p.m., the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 5.33 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Members, with reference to the Motion moved earlier by hon. Bhagwan to reduce by Rs10 the vote of expenditure of the Ministry of Tourism, with particular reference by the allowance of the Minister by reason of his performance, I stated that the Motion was not receivable. I maintain my ruling on the matter and draw your attention to Standing Order 73 (7) which provides that, I quote –

“(...) No motion for the reduction of any item provided by statute can be presented.”

*Vote 9-1 Ministry of Tourism resumed*

**The Chairperson:** We proceed! Page 199! Page 200, hon. Bhagwan! No question? Hon. Rughoobur, page 200!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.047 - *Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (b) (iii) - Promotion and Destination Support - Mauritius Joint*

*Promotion Campaign*, there is an amount of Rs150 m. that was earmarked for the last financial year, may I know from the hon. Minister what has been the participation of the private sector in this Joint Promotion Campaign?

**Mr Gayan:** Madam Chairperson, with regard to the participation of the private sector in promotional campaigns for the destination, they participate with us in the fairs, but the bulk of the expenditure is borne for the destination by the MPTA, but the private, they do their own promotion for their own specific product.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dayal!

**Mr Dayal:** Madam Chairperson, item 26313 – *Extra Budgetary Units*, could the hon. Minister elaborate on that?

**Mr Gayan:** Madam Chairperson, concerning the question being asked with regard to the emerging markets, I must say that the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance has announced in the Budget that Rs160 m. has been earmarked for re-dynamising the Chinese market and Kenya, and we are working on that. I must also say, Madam Speaker, that when the hon. Leader of the Opposition was the Minister of Tourism and when the Chinese market was picking up, he...

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Minister!

*(Interruptions)*

Please, do not engage in a debate! There are questions which have been asked, but, please, do not engage in a debate. Reply briefly to the question.

*(Interruptions)*

Order!

*(Interruptions)*

Order!

*(Interruptions)*

Now, hon. Thierry Henry, please! Briefly give your reply!

**Mr Gayan:** The wrong decisions that were taken in the past will not be taken again and we want China to become a very important market again for Mauritius.

**The Chairperson:** Page 201, no question!

*Vote 9-1 Ministry of Tourism (Rs708,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

*At this stage, the Deputy Speaker took the Chair.*

(5.37 p.m.)

*Vote 10-1 Ministry of Health and Quality of Life was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 205, hon. Abbas Mamode! Hon. Henry !

**Mr Henry:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, je vois qu’il y a un montant de R 10 millions qui a été voté cette année-ci, peut-on avoir les détails et à qui cette somme va être allouée ?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Can you give me the number again, please ?

**Mr Henry:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance* – il y a une somme de R 10 millions qui a été votée cette année-ci, peut-on savoir à qui cette somme va être allouée et les détails, s’il vous plait ?

**The Chairperson:** We are on page 205.

*(Interruptions)*

Order, please!

**Dr. Husnoo:** Payment of salaries to advisers on contract. Provision is also made for employment on a contract basis for two expatriates. That’s it. We will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful! Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, there is an amount of Rs8.1m. May we know what are these allowances, please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision made to meet payment of responsibility allowance; duty allowance, *ad hoc* allowance, non-practising medical allowance and book allowance for doctors, driver’s allowance, etc.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Page 205, item 21110.001(59) – *Basic Salary – Deputy Chief Hospital Administrator*, I note that there is no provision for this post for the next financial year. May we know whether this post has been abolished or otherwise there is no provision?

**Dr. Husnoo:** The post will not be filled for the time being as we are reorganising the service.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 206, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Yes, thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 27210.008 - *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*, it's Rs50 m. every year. May I know from the hon. Minister outgoing financial year, what is the amount that has been spent out of this Rs50 m.?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision for payment of medical course incurred at overseas hospitals by patients sent abroad, there were 331 cases for year 2017 and 360 for 2018 and the expenditure forecast is Rs55 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** In relation to item 22200 - *Overseas Travel - Treatment & Incoming Medical Teams*, can we have some details about this item, please, Rs17 m.? What team is it?

**The Chairperson:** Can you repeat the item number, hon. Ramful, please?

**Mr Ramful:** Item 22200 - *Overseas Travel - Treatment & Incoming Medical Teams*.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Increase in provision due to increase in the number of patients being sent abroad for medical treatment; consist of air ticket for overseas treatment and foreign visiting team who come to Mauritius to operate on our patients as well. Provision made for payment of air ticket to foreign team from abroad in different fields to intervene. There are different fields: cardiac, eyes, spine and all these, especially on complicated and complex medical problems. And, obviously, it is for hotel accommodation for foreign teams as well.

**The Chairperson:** Hon Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Mr Chairperson, with regard to *Item 27210.008 - Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*, may we know last year, how many patients have been sent abroad and how much of the budget for last year, Rs50 m., has been spent by his Ministry?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I just replied this question. Last year, we had 360 patients who were sent abroad and the expected forecast for 2018-2019 is Rs55 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** On the same *Item 27210.008 - Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*, do we have the figure country-wise for patients going to Europe, India etc.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Most of our patients go to India by the way.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. If I may take the hon. Minister to *Item 22030 – Rent*, can we know the beneficiaries of this rent and for how many buildings?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision made for payment of rental of buildings are as follows –

- Atchia Building
- Bacha Building;
- Vaccination Centre ...

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Minister, if it is a long list it is better to circulate. Time is over for page 206. We move to page 207. Hon Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** *Item 31132.401 – e-Health Project*. Can we know the status of this project, please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, the consultant has been working on the project. We are going to tender. The Expression of Interest was launched by Exim on 15 March 2019 with closing date on 30 April; further extensions are expected soon.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much. I take the hon. Minister to *Item 28211.014 – Medical Council*. Now, despite an itemised budget, is the hon. Minister aware that the Medical Council is not operating fully and whether a letter has been forwarded to him or to the Ministry to impress upon him to amend the Medical Council Act to make it more operational.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell, I think we are referring to items in the Budget to be voted today. You are making reference to a letter which has been sent to the...

**Dr. Boolell:** With all due respect, how can it function with the amount earmarked to fund the organisation if it is not functional? It is not policy! It has nothing to do with policy.

**The Chairperson:** Come with a Parliamentary Question, hon. Dr. Boolell! Hon. Rutnah, next!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I refer the hon. Minister to *Item 21110 (9) - Specialist/Senior Specialist*. Last year, there was a provision for 324 Specialist/Senior Specialist, whereas for this year I note that there is a provision for 344, meaning that there is an increase of 20 Specialists. Have they already been recruited or when are they anticipated to be recruited for this provision?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Soon! After the Budget, naturally we are going to start recruiting. We have to write to the PSC obviously to recruit these staff.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. On the same *Item 21110 (9) - Specialist/Senior Specialist*, for which there is an increase of 20 Specialists. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether Neurosurgeons have been recruited because there seems to be a lack of Neurosurgeons in Mauritius because, at times, in case of accidents, particularly head accidents, patients have to go overseas?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As I just mentioned, we do have Neurosurgeons in Mauritius. Obviously, from the additional specialists, we will have to see the priority list and we are going to cater for these patients, depending on the requirement.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 28212.007 - Savings Culture Campaign*, can the hon. Minister give us some details about same?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision is made for the issue of gift vouchers of Rs200 on the first and second birthday of children and they are undergoing medical check-up. The Cash Gift Coupon Scheme started in July 1997 by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to *Item 31132.401 - e-Health*, may we know, first of all, when the project began, the expected completion date and the percentage of completion we have reached, so far?

**The Chairperson:** I allowed three questions, but they are related to the same item. I don't know whether the hon. Minister has the answers with him.

**Dr. Husnoo:** I have just mentioned earlier that the Expression of Interest was launched by Exim India on 15 March 2019, with closing date on 30 April 2019. Further extensions are expected on EOI closing date as some issues were raised.

**The Chairperson:** I would appeal to hon. Members to refrain from putting more than one question on each item, please. Hon Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Page 215!

**The Chairperson:** We are on page 207. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At page 207, under *Item 21110 (1) - Director Clinical Services* and *(2) - Manager, Hospital Services respectively*, there seems to be no item of expenses for the next three financial years. Does it mean that the post will not be filled for the next three financial years?

**Dr. Husnoo:** For the Director and Manager, both posts will not be filled for the time being.

**The Chairperson:** We now move to page 208. Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 21110 (29) - Midwife Educator (New)*, it is a new post. Why is it that no budget has been allocated to same?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, the scheme of service needs to be worked out first.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Can I refer the hon. Minister to *Item 21110 (14) - Ayurvedic Medical Officer/Senior Ayurvedic Medical Officer*. Can we know why for the same number of medical officers in this area, as last year it was 9, this year it is 9, whereas the amount earmarked has increased substantially?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision is made for 8 officers in post and 3 months' salaries provided to fill one vacant post.

**The Chairperson:** Page 209! Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Under *Item 21110 (73) - Senior Medical Imaging Assistant (on shift) (New)*. We know that the post is new and vacant, but can we know till when it will be vacant or when it can be filled?

**Dr. Husnoo:** For this one as well, the scheme of service is being worked out.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At page 209, under *Item 21110 (46) - Nursing Officer* and *(47) Trainee Nurse* respectively, there seems to be a decrease in the number of Nursing Officers and same for Trainee Nurse, may I ask why this is so?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I mean full provision for 1,967 Nursing Officers actually in post and for filling of 136 vacancies. Decrease in provision is due to reduction in the number of funded posts from 2,153 to 2,103.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Can I refer the hon. Minister to item *21110.001(47) - Trainee Nurse*? Last year, we budgeted for 365 Trainee Nurse whereas for this current financial year, we are only budgeting for 174 Trainee Nurse which is less 91. May we know why such a drastic reduction in the recruitment of these Trainee Nurses?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As you are aware, the course for Trainee Nurses takes three years. So, the batch that has been trained, - now we are working to get - once they start now, they are going to be ready to start working as a trained staff in three years' time. So, it is according to our planning, that's why it is like that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item *21110.001(55) - Chief Midwife*, we can say that there is one midwife...

**The Chairperson:** 55, hon. Minister! Please!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** One midwife but the Estimates for 2019/2020 has increased compared to the previous budget, can we have some explanation?

**Dr. Husnoo:** This is for the full provision for one year made for the post because most likely last year she was just appointed for a few months and now the provision has been made for one year, that's why it's like that.

**The Chairperson:** Page 210, hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I am interested in item *21110.001(83) - Trainee Pharmacy Technician*. These Pharmacy Technicians do they train in-house in hospitals' pharmacies or do they get training elsewhere in some institutions?

**Dr. Husnoo:** They are trained in-house and secondly, we do send them sometimes to MIH for training.

**The Chairperson:** Page 211, hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much. With respect to item *21110.001(107) - Senior EEG Technician*, I would like to ask the Minister whether the Senior EEG Technician post has been filled?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Sorry, I beg your pardon. What's your question?

**Dr. Boolell:** Whether the post of Senior EEG Technician has been filled?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Nine months' salary is provided to fill one post, one candidate qualified for promotion.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item *21110.001(130) - Health Laboratory Auxilliary*, may we know what is Laboratory Auxilliary?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Sorry! Can you repeat your question, please?

**Mr Baboo:** Item *21110.001(130) - Health Laboratory Auxilliary*, the expenses from Rs16 m. to Rs12,608 m., it concerns about the Health Laboratory Auxilliary, may we know what is this Laboratory Auxilliary? What are these expenses?

**Dr. Husnoo:** What do you mean? Work? Salary, you mean, why it came down. Exactly, you have 89 for this year but full provision has been made for 79 officers in post,

provision for 5 additional posts provided under the item wages which is a different item; when they are temporary, they are classified under a different item, the item wage.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. On the same item 21110.001(130) - *Health Laboratory Auxilliary*, I see there is provision for 79 for the last financial year whereas for this financial year, there is provision for 84. However, I note for some reasons, the amount earmarked has been decreased instead of increasing. May we know why?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I just explained it actually because the full provision is for 79 whereas the 5 additional posts are under a different item, under the wage item, that's why it has decreased.

**The Chairperson:** Page 212, hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much. With respect to item 21110.001(138) *Catering Manager*, again I would like to ask the Minister when this post will be filled, not that I am being nasty but the catering services in hospitals are very poor?

**The Chairperson:** Don't make comments, just refer to the item and put your question, please!

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, the post will not be filled for the time being but I can assure the hon. Member, the catering service in the hospital is not that bad, it is improving.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. In relation to item 21110.001(145) - *Cook (on roster)*, for the same number of cooks, 142 for each year, why there is a substantial increase of more than Rs6 m. earmarked as compared to what was last year?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Again, full provision has been made for the 86 officers in post. When I mean full provision, it is for one full year because some time when they start, provision is made for three months, for one month, for six months but now full provision has been made for 86 officers and six months' salary is provided for 56 officers.

**The Chairperson:** Page 213, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Yes, thank you, Mr Chairperson. Concerning item 21110.001(165) - *Health Records Technician (New)*, which will cater, I suppose, for the IT department, no fund has been made available. Can the Minister state the reason?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Yes, but these are new posts and new grade, I mean, the Scheme of Service we have to work it out before we employ them.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Can I refer the hon. Minister to item 21110.001(170) - *Trainee Biomedical Engineer*? Why do we not have any provision for this post, is it because it has been abolished or what has happened?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I just mentioned that the post will not be filled for the time being.

**The Chairperson:** Page 214, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Yes, thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.001(199) - *Assistant Orthopaedic Technician (Podo Orthosis) (New)*, here also no budget, no fund has been made available.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Same problem; post will be advertised after prescription of the Scheme of Service. We have to work the Scheme of Service first.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah! We move to page 215. Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Page 215, Item 21110.001(225) - *Security Guard (on shift) (Personal)*, can the hon. Minister enlighten the House about the decrease in the number of funded posts whereas there is an increase in the Estimates compared to last year?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Yes, it is due to the increase in salary of these guards.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, may we know who are the beneficiaries and what does it consist?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Allowances, provision made to meet payment of responsibility allowances, duty allowances, extra duty allowances on-call allowance, non-practising medical allowance, bank nurse allowance, night duty allowance, night bonus allowance, books allowance, on-call allowance, public holidays allowance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 21110.013 Allowance icw Internship (Pre-Registration Training), Rs90 m. last year and we are going to have Rs90 m. for each of the coming years. May I know from the hon. Minister how many staff were involved for the last financial year?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision for payment of an all-inclusive allowance to 375 pre-registration doctors for the year 2018/2019 and it makes the same allowance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Yes, with respect to item 21111.002 - *Travelling and Transport*, there is an item as budget of Rs459,215,000 in the Estimates of 2018/2019. Can we have a breakdown and if the Minister can give us details with respect to this sum which is going to be voted?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Travelling and Transport! Provision for payment of PRB travelling, travel grant, mileage allowance, refund of bus fares, petrol allowance for officers of regional hospitals, Central Supplies Division, Transport Division and Orthopaedics Workshop. Provision is also made for refund of bus fares to student nurses, refund of travelling to preregistration doctors in accordance with the recommendations of the PRB Report.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At page 206, I am interested with *Item 21111.100 – Overtime*, where there is earmarked a colossal amount of Rs150 m. for last year and a similar amount for the current financial year. May we know who are the beneficiaries of this kind of overtime?

**Dr. Husnoo:** This provision is for payment of overtime to officers basically to run the 24-hour health service, pending the filling of vacancies, because it is a different grade from the general workers, attendants, nurses, and doctors across the board. That's why the huge sum.

**The Chairperson:** A last question on this page! Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** On the same page, .005 – *Extra Assistance*. Can we have some details about this item?

**Dr. Husnoo:** It is provision for payment to medical officers and retired nursing offices employed on sessional basis on contract and on a month to month basis.

**The Chairperson:** Page 216! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to *Item 26313.095 – Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care*, may we know, now, who is the CEO or Director, and what is the salary drawn by that person, including all allowances, please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** For the time being, we don't have a Director there, but we have somebody who is acting; he is a DPS working in the Ministry and is getting an acting allowance. I can't remember exactly, but I think it is about Rs30,000 extra.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr A. Duval:** Mr Chairperson,...

**The Chairperson:** No, you can't! You come later with another question.

**Mr A. Duval:** Just to clarify,....

**The Chairperson:** No! We have got so many names on the list, hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Mr Chairperson, regarding the funding that we are approving, how much goes to the Director when the post would be filled to the Director?

**The Chairperson:** The salary of the Director eventually when you appoint.

**Dr. Husnoo:** The actual salary when he is appointed?

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes.

**Dr. Husnoo:** I am sorry; I don't have the figure now. I think I have been told that the full salary is about Rs113,000.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Order, please!

**Mr Bhagwan:** I come on this famous - again, it reminds me of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care. We all remember what happened when the previous Minister, now Minister of Tourism, who was the Head of the Ministry – *petite copine there!*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan, I have said I have got a long list of hon. Members who want to intervene. Can you please be brief?

**Mr Bhagwan:** Yes, I am brief.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, thank you.

**Mr Bhagwan:** R 265 millions we are being asked to vote! Can the hon. Minister inform the House, the country and the nation, the taxpayers...

**The Chairperson:** They are listening to you. Don't worry!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Yes, we are all paid by taxpayers' money. May we know whether the Minister has put order in the house there, because, I can say, we are all proud of this Trust Fund for Specialised Care. We, Mauritians, must be proud of this Centre, but they must be given the opportunity to work and what additional means he is giving to that Centre to perform?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As you know very well, previously, we had only one Centre at SSRN Hospital. Now, we have two Centres, one at Victoria Hospital as well. Two weeks ago, we have taken four Cardiac Surgeons, 10 Cardiologists and 3 Specialist Anaesthetists. So, we are expanding and developing the service as well.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At page 216, under *Item 22060.003 – Plant and Equipment*, can the hon. Minister elaborate since a sum of Rs90,000,000 is earmarked?

**The Chairperson:** Elaborate on what?

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** I am sorry, on the equipment being maintained.

**The Chairperson:** Okay!

**Dr. Husnoo:** The provision is for the cost of -

- Maintenance contract of various medical equipment for regional hospitals and other equipment for the Central Health Lab and for the purchase of spare parts;
- Payment of 24/7 operations, inspections and maintenance of mechanical and plumbing installation service at Jeetoo Hospital; contract awarded to Manser Saxon Facilities for Rs14 m. ;
- Preventive maintenance and repair of medical gas system at New Jeetoo Hospital; contract awarded to Chemtech Ltd. for an amount of Rs6.7 m. for a period of three years, with effect from 01 January 2016.
- Operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant at the SSSRN Hospital; contract awarded to Sotravic Ltd. for an amount of Rs12.5 m. for a period of 36 months.

**The Chairperson:** We move now to page 217. Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 31122.801 – Acquisition of Medical Equipment*, where a considerable amount of Rs265 m. is voted during the financial year, and then Rs300 m. for the forthcoming financial year. May I know from the hon. Minister whether in the tender document, provision has been made for the maintenance once the equipment has been supplied? Is maintenance component forms part of the tender document?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Yes, we realise the problems that we faced before, because a lot of equipment, once they get broken, they cannot be repaired because sometimes of lack of trained staff to repair them, spare parts and all that. Nowadays, for most of the sophisticated equipment that we buy, we have a contract for maintenance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Mr Chairperson, thank you very much. At page 217, under *Item 31112.003 (b) New Flacq Teaching Hospital (Phase I)*, can the hon. Minister apprised us as to whom the contract has been allocated and where matters stand with respect to construction of this new Flacq Teaching Hospital?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, I am waiting to get the plan. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to issue the tender. We will send it to CPB for the tender and once the CPB

launches the tender, it is going to take, at least, two to three months and, hopefully, after that we will get somebody who is the contractor.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dayal!

**Mr Dayal:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At page 217, *Item 31112.003(b) New Flacq Teaching Hospital*, can the hon. Minister say when the project will be on, and a tentative completion date?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I have just explained. We are going to use the document soon. We have to send it to CPB and, hopefully, by September, we can get a contractor. It is going to take some 24 months for the project to materialise.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Members, if I specify the page number, you don't have to make reference to it when you put your questions so that we gain time.

Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to *Item 31112.403 (a) SSRN Hospital*, may we have the details of the upgrading works being done and also the name of the contractor?

**Dr. Husnoo:** The upgrading works at SSRN Hospital -

- Upgrading of electrical and mechanical work for Rs2 m.;
- Upgrading of the toilet;
- New Dialysis Unit at Long Mountain Community Hospital;
- Upgrading of minor and major operating theatres, and
- Other upgrading works.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Same page, same item 31112.003(c) New Cancer Centre. Can I know from the hon. Minister when construction work/renovation will be terminated, and when the Centre will be operational?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As you know, we have two parts there. We have the old hospital and about 85% of the work has been done. For the new hospital, I think, about 30 or 40% of the work is done. Hopefully, if everything is all right, by mid next year, it should be operational.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Under item 31112.003 (j) - *New Warehouse for Pharmaceutical products*, we see that a sum of Rs700 m. has been earmarked. Can the hon. Minister tell us whether the project has already been started and the name of the contractor, please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** No, actually, this project has not been started yet. We are working. Rs25 m. has been earmarked in this budget, but we are working on it for the plan and everything. This has not been started.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same issue, has a place been identified for that storage? We were informed at the Public Accounts Committee that it has to be in a specific place around the island. So, I would like to know whether a site has been identified.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Initially, we have planned to go to Côte d'Or, but now if the Eye Hospital from Moka is going to move to Réduit Triangle, we may get that space where we have about 7 acres of land. We may use that to build the warehouse there.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Under item 31112.403 (b) - *A. G. Jeetoo Hospital*, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether what has been announced quite some time now for a Neurosurgery Department and a Paediatric ICU by HSCC, the Consultant from India, whether this project is in the pipeline this year.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, as far as the Neurosurgery Department is concerned, before we were going to build it near the old hospital, but we find that we need extra space. That is why we did not build it inside the yard where the old building is, we are going to try to shift it to another place. So, that is why we are a bit late for that. So, that project is still on, but because of the fact that we have changed the place, it will take a bit of time.

As far as the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit is concerned, that, again, we are working on it. We are waiting for the plan and then we'll do the project because we don't have one Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in the whole of Mauritius. So, this project is very important and we are working on that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 31112.003 (b) - *New Flacq Teaching Hospital (Phase I)*, can the hon. Minister provide some details about the Saudi funds which were expected for that project?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As far as the funding is concerned, we have got the funding. We have got the land. We have got the funding. The funding is going to be provided by a Consortium of Saudi Fund, Koweit Fund and Banque Arabe de Développement. So, they are going to contribute, I think about Rs4 billion for the first phase of the hospital. So, the land is okay, the finance is all right, so, we are just working on the procedures.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** In regard to the item in relation to the new Cancer Centre. Can we know the name of the contractor, be it the old building and the new one?

**Dr. Husnoo:** For the new Cancer Centre, it is Swadeshi, India.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** We move to the next page which is page 218. Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I am interested in item number 21110.001 (7) - *Nursing Officer*. There is the same number of Nursing Officers for last financial year and this financial year, that is, 363, whereas for last financial year, the amount earmarked was Rs78,900,000; for the current year Rs102,122,000. May we know why this substantial increase, bearing in mind the same number of staff?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As I explained earlier, sometimes the staff start at the lower end of the salary; they get paid for only about six months; a few months is earmarked for the last budget, but now full provision has been made for the 363 officers in post. That's why we get the maximum.

**The Chairperson:** Page 219. Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Under item 21110.001 (51) *Nutritionist/Senior Nutritionist*, although the number of Nutritionists is maintained at 11 for both financial years, why do we see a decrease in the budget for the next financial year compared to last year?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Again, this provision was made for 11 officers in post. Decrease in provision is due to lower salary drawn by the incumbent.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 220. Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, a sum of Rs70 m. was earmarked for 2018/19 and the same amount for 2019/20. Can we know to whom these allowances have been paid for 2018/19 and for what purposes, please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision made to meet payment of responsibility allowance, duty allowance, extra duty allowance, non-practising medical allowance, bank nurses' allowance, book allowance, etc. to doctors, nurses and all the staff.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item 21111.100 – *Overtime*, out of the Rs30 m. overtime, may we know how much was spent for the last financial year?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, from what I have got here, Rs30 m. was earmarked but the expenditure forecast is Rs35 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. In relation to item number 21110.001 (61) – *Head, Health Engineering Services (New)*, it is a new post, as I understand it. When is this post anticipated to be filled?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Again, it is a new post. We are waiting for the Scheme of Service.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 221. Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 22120 – *Fees*, there is an amount which has been earmarked for the setting up of a Food Standards Agency (Consultancy). A consultant, I think, was appointed. May I know the status of this interesting project, please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** This has just been mentioned by the Prime Minister in the Budget. So, we are going to work on it. The Rs10 m. has been earmarked so that we can have a consultant to work on the project. It is a very important project, but we have to get the consultant to start working on it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22090 - *Security Services*, can we know to whom the contract has been awarded?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Which number, please?

**Mr Quirin:** 22090 – *Security Services*.

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision for security service to be provided by private firm at Mediclinic and Vector Biology Unit at Curepipe. Contract has been awarded to RSL Security Services Ltd on 22 October 2012, renewable yearly upon satisfactory performance for watchkeeping in Mediclinic, Area Health Centres and Community Health Centres. As from 01 July 2015, the contract is being renewed on a month to month basis. Provision also includes payment of extra duty allowance to Police Officers for providing security service overnight to reinforce safety of patients and staff at five Mediclinics.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Under item 22140 - *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*, can the hon. Minister circulate the list of suppliers?

**Dr. Husnoo:** The list of ...

**The Chairperson:** Can you circulate the list of suppliers?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Okay, I will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Already answered, Mr Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you. With regard to item 22140.005 - *Medical Disposables and Minor Equipment*, may we know the budget that was spent last year out of the Rs40 m.?

**Dr. Husnoo:** The whole budget was used last year from what I have been told, but I have got some figures somewhere. I can't find it, but I can circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 222. Hon. Lepoigneur.

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31112.006 (c) - *Construction of Mediclinics - Coromandel Mediclinic*, this was announced since 2015 by hon. Gayan. Can we know now if this project will see light and where? When will the construction start please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** If the hon. Member had looked at the paper yesterday or the day before, he would have seen the advertisement. It has already been tendered. It is at tender level.

*(Interruptions)*

Pardon.

**The Chairperson:** No question from a sitting position please. Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31122.804 - *Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*, can we know if the amount of Rs35 m. for 2018/19 has been fully spent, if so, can we know the name of the supplier please?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I think I will circulate. I have the information, but I have to look for this; I'll take time.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31112.006 (d) - *Construction of Mediclinics – Bel Air Mediclinic*, can the hon. Minister please give some details about the project?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Just like I mentioned for Coromandel as well, it has been advertised in the paper a couple of days ago.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode.

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item 31112.005(c) - *Construction of Community Health Centres - St Francois Xavier*, I see that there is an amount of Rs10 m. earmarked for the next financial year and the year after Rs25 m. I want to know where we are actually with this project and the amount to be paid to consultant?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, the consultant has been working on the plan. We are going to upload it for tender over the next two weeks or so. It is for both St. Francois Xavier and Roche Bois.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 21110.001(1) – *Head, Aids Unit*, may I know from the hon. Minister who is heading that Aids Unit and whether the Unit meets regularly because we remember under the previous Minister, this Unit was put to sleep? May we know whether the Aids Unit is active?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I can assure you it is very active. Actually, a lot of work is being done in the aids. Dr. Poonoosamy is heading the Unit.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar.

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31112.005(e) - *Construction of Community Health Centres*, can I ask the hon. Minister when will work start for Grand Bay Community Health Centre and is there any tentative completion date?

**Dr. Husnoo:** The document has been submitted to MPI to start working on the plan and all that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I see item 31121 in relation to transport equipment. Last year, an amount of Rs10 m. was voted. May we know what are these transport equipment on which Rs10 m. have been spent? Can the hon. Minister circulate the list?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I am going to circulate it later on.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to the *upgrading of Community Health Centres* – item 31112.405, can the hon. Minister provide the list of areas in question for last year?

**The Chairperson:** It is better to circulate if it is a long list, hon. Minister.

**Dr. Husnoo:** I think so.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 223. Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to the last item of this page 22140 - *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*. May we know who are the suppliers and what sort of equipment and drugs had been supplied.

**The Chairperson:** I think you have a long list hon. Minister

**Dr. Husnoo:** Basically, it is provision of medical disposables such as syringes, needles for the needle exchange program.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Just a clarification with regard to item 22120, an amount of Rs325 m. was spent in fees last year and this year, the same amount is provided. Can we know to whom these fees are paid to?

**Dr. Husnoo:** These are fees to meet training courses for midwife nurses, newly recruited doctors and paramedical staff. Professional and social workers on adherence and observance and psychological support and all health care workers on HIV/AIDS programme.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.001(9) - *Officer-in-Charge, Harm Reduction Section*, it is an itemized budget in the 2019/20 Estimates. I would like to know when this post will be advertised? I am sure the Minister will agree with me that there is an urgency to fill this post.

**Dr. Husnoo:** The scheme of service was prescribed on the 20 of March 2019, so the post is to be filled shortly.

**The Chairperson:** Page 224. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 22900.915 - *Multi sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS Programme*, Rs31,5 m. were earmarked for last year. Can I know out of this sum, how much has been used and who are the beneficiaries?

**Dr. Husnoo:** From what I have been told, the expenditure forecasted for last year was Rs21 m. Provision made for funding activities under global fund grant 2018/2020; and implementation of national action plan for HIV/AIDS 2017/2021; payment under Global Fund includes among others – for procurement of male and female condoms, rapid test kits, test kits, reagent for CD4 counts and viral reagents.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110 .001(11) - *Specialised Health Care Assistant*, I see last year there was provision for 13. For the current financial year, there is provision for 50. May we know whether these 37 new specialised health care assistants have been recruited or not, if not, when are they anticipated to be recruited?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I have been told that there is a full provision for 13 officers actually in post and six months provision made for 9 unfunded and 28 additional posts to be filled - establishment and financial clearance already obtained.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item 22900.982 - *Synthetic Drugs Prevention Programme*, Mr Chairperson, may we know how much was spent last year and how many people were touched by that programme last year, an estimation?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I don't know exactly how many people were touched, but I can circulate it.

*(Interruptions)*

I have been told the whole amount that was earmarked was spent last year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Mr Chairperson, with regard to the same item, can we have some details regarding this programme, the mode of operation, the seminars or meetings?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I have been told that as far as the synthetic drug is concerned, it is mainly at schools. It is mainly the young people that are involved. So, we try to go to schools, number one and we try to get those young guys who are not in schools as well. We have to get these young people as well. So, we tried to get them in school and out of school as well. Sometimes we go to the work place, sometimes we go to the community level. So, we do it at different levels as well.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item 21110 – *Senior Specialised Nurse for Diabetes*, we had 7 during the last financial year and we have none for the forthcoming years, any reason for that?

**Dr. Husnoo:** No provision has been made as the candidate does not reckon the five years' service to get promotion to come to that grade. They need five years' experience to come into that particular Grade. We do not have anybody yet.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22900.982 – *Synthetic Drugs Prevention Programme*, can the hon. Minister inform us under this programme how many people have been identified who are consuming synthetic drugs?

**Dr. Husnoo:** I have answered the question earlier.

**The Chairperson:** We move to the next page. Page 225, hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I will refer the hon. Minister to item 22120 – *Fees*. May we know who are the beneficiaries of these fees and for what services?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Fees for training - provision is made for payment in connection with the fees to instructors of Yoga, Aerobic, Tahiti, training of nursing officers regarding cervical cancer screening programme, training of staff. For studies and surveys, fees to consultant, provision is made for a consultant from WHO for the formulation of an Action Plan on health programme.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. A. Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to item, 28211.016, may I ask the hon. Minister why is it that we are stopping to fund NGOs for Anti-Smoking and Anti-alcohol Campaign? There is no future provision for that campaign.

**Dr. Husnoo:** This decrease is because provision is being centralised to support NGOs under Vote 25 – 1 – Centrally Managed Initiatives of Government.

**Mr Baboo:** Item 22130.007 – *NCD related studies and surveys*, can the hon. Minister tell us who is the consultant and why the same amount of Rs3 m. has been kept for three years consecutive?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Actually, it is not one survey, there are different surveys. For example, provision is made for conduct of studies and surveys as follows –

- Cervical cancer studies in Rodrigues;

- NCD and nutritional survey in Mauritius and in Rodrigues.

So, there are different surveys, not one survey.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22900.903 – *Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign*, can the hon. Minister briefly elaborate what it is about?

**Dr. Husnoo:** Provision is made to meet expenditure on campaign for the prevention of NCD, including new tobacco association clinics through MBC and private radio. The contract with MBC is Rs16 m. for one year. Miscellaneous expenses, provision for payment of miscellaneous expenses in connection with activities organised to mark world Health Day for Cancer, for Malaria, no tobacco, mental health, diabetes. Provision also includes purchase of books, utensils, cooking wares for cooking demonstration and all that.

**The Chairperson:** Last question for this vote, hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. Item 22900.903 – *Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign*, if the hon. Minister could apprise us as to the outcome of this awareness and sensitisation Campaign?

**Dr. Husnoo:** As far as NCD is concerned, if we take diabetes, for example, over the last years, the prevalence of diabetes seems to have plateau. That is number 1. The number of people who are smoking are decreasing now compared to the previous survey five years ago. So, we are getting results actually. It takes time. To change people's habit is not easy, but we are getting results, things are plateauing a bit now.

*Vote 10-1 Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (Rs13,100,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(6.37 p.m.)

*Vote 11-1 Ministry of Arts and Culture was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have a total of 25 minutes for 8 pages. Page 226, hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I am interested in item 21110 (2) -*Deputy Permanent Secretary*. There are provisions for two Deputy Permanent Secretaries. I see that the amount earmarked for this year has decreased. Have they taken some cut from their salary?

**Mr Roopun:** Mr Chairperson, the new incumbent in post is drawing lesser salary than the outgoing officer.

**The Chairperson:** Mr Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. According to last year, the Estimates were Rs538 m. and according to the revised Estimates, it is Rs428 m. May we know why these underspent of Rs110 m.?

**Mr Roopun:** I do not understand the question.

**The Chairperson:** Can the hon. Member refer the item number and then put his question again?

**Mr Baboo:** The total Estimates of last year were Rs538 m. and according to the revised Estimates, only Rs428 have been spent. There is an underspent of Rs110 m. May we know why this difference of Rs110 m.

**Mr Roopun:** I do not know where my friend came with this revised Estimate. Can he, please, refer to the page so that I can understand?

*(Interruptions)*

Let me just explain. I do not know if I understand fully the question of my friend. Last year, the total expenditure voted was Rs538 m., recurrent was Rs431,500,000 and capital was Rs106,500,000. For this year, what is being provided is Rs517 m., Rs424,900,000 for recurrent expenditure and capital Rs92,100,000.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 227, hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, il y a une somme R 1,750,000 qui demande à être votée. Peut-on savoir à qui cette somme allait être alouée?

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for payment of salary for three Advisors.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** May I refer the hon. Minister to item 12 – *Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer*. Why was there a need to recruit a fifth one when four of them were actually doing the job?

**Mr Roopun:** The increase in provision is to cater for one additional post of Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer against a vacant post of Procurement and Supply Officer,

Senior Procurement and Supply Officer. You are going to see in the line just preceding under item 11, there is no provision for a Procurement and Supply Officer.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item .004 – *Allowances*, may we know what are these allowances, that is, Rs4 m.

**The Chairperson:** I think the question has been put already on that item.

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for payment of Acting Responsibility, cash in lieu of duty remission and driver's allowances.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I would like to know about item 22060 – *Maintenance*, to which maintenance is this referred to? This is a recurrent sum of Rs285,000 each and every year.

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for the maintenance of buildings, vehicles, IT equipment and fixtures and fittings.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 228, hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Item 21110.001 - (14) *Secretary, Film Classification Board*, I see there is one earmarked for this financial year. May we know whether he or she has already been recruited?

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for the post as from July 2019, the post is going to be filled by promotion from the post of Assistant Secretary.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 21110.001 - (18) *Percussionist (Personal)*, may we know why no fund has been earmarked for the 2019-20 Budget?

**Mr Roopun:** I understand that this post is going to be evanescent.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 228, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21210 - *Social Contributions*, every year there is an amount of Rs1.2 m, Rs 1.3 m. May I know the beneficiaries and what are the criteria for the choice of these beneficiaries?

**Mr Roopun:** Could my friend repeat, please?

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item 21210 - *Social Contributions*, may I know the beneficiaries and the criteria for the choice of these beneficiaries, please? An amount of almost Rs1.2 m., Rs 1.3m. *chaque année*.

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for staff contribution to the National Savings Fund, increase in provision is to cater for increase in salary and for new officers joining the Ministry. I understand the rate of contribution is 2.5% on monthly salary up to a ceiling of Rs237.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 22030 – *Rent, .005 - Rental of Facilities for Events*. Je vois qu'il y une somme de R 7,200 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails et qui sont ces contracteurs-là, s'il vous plaît?

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for rental of marquees, podium, sound systems and other similar items for the organisation of events. And you wish to have the details regarding last year or this year?

**Mr Henry:** Last year.

**Mr Roopun:** This is being tabled.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. In respect to item 22120 – *Fees*, I see the amount has been increased from Rs4.4 m. to Rs5.3 m. May I know why and what about the fees, which fees is it about?

**Mr Roopun:** This represents provision for payment of fees to Chairman and members of Board, of Committees, fees to Assessors for drama festival, fees for training and consultancy fees.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22030.005 - *Rental of Facilities for Events*, may we have a breakdown of the facilities rented and the purpose, the events for which they were rented and the cost of each?

**Mr Roopun:** I just circulated the details.

**The Chairperson:** We move now to page 230, hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 26313.052 - *National Art Gallery*, can the hon. Minister inform the House whether there is a Board which is managing that institution? How many members do we have at the National Art Gallery?

**Mr Roopun:** Mr Chairperson, at the National Art Gallery, we have got various members. Unfortunately, I don't have the list of the members. The Chairperson is Mr Darmarajen Veerasamy, representative of the PMO Mr Aubeeluck, a representative of the Ministry of Finance Mrs Bhantooa, a representative of my Ministry Mrs Ramrukheea, a representative of...

**The Chairperson:** Can you table, please? If it is a long list.

**Mr Roopun:** Yes, it is a long list.

**The Chairperson:** Please! Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** *Item 28212 - Transfers to Households, .014 - Financial Assistance to Artists.* Je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 9.5 millions qui a été votée pour l'année dernière, peut-on avoir un *breakdown* comment cela a été distribué, à qui, s'il vous plaît ?

**Mr Roopun:** I have to circulate, Mr Chairperson. These are schemes for concerts, scheme for development and of performance arts, International Development Grant Scheme for performing artists, scheme for rental of hall for drama and other support to artists. It is quite a long list. I am going to circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Thank you. Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Yes, Mr Chairperson. Item 26323.052 - *National Art Gallery*, I can see that the amount was budgeted last year and there is no amount for this year nor the coming years. Has this been closed down or are you still going around with the National Art Gallery?

**Mr Roopun:** Last year, it was Rs6.6 m.; this year, it is R7.7 m. For Capital Expenditure, in fact, there were some purchases last year, and this year, there is no request for any purchase.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 26313.101 - *Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund*, we have seen that last year, the amount budgeted was R8.8 m. and for this year, it is Rs10,280 m. May we know why this increment? And, like the third year, it comes back to Rs8 m. again.

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, the increase in provision is to cater for pension of officers with the SICOM amounting to Rs1.3 m. and to meet increase in running cost.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22900.018 - *Hiring of Services for Events*, can we have some details about this, the list of the contractors whose services were retained?

**The Chairperson:** If you don't have the details, hon. Minister, you can circulate it.

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made to meet expenses to be incurred for payment of cachet to local and international artists for performing in different events organised by the Ministry, subsistence allowance to Mauritian artists when performing abroad.

**The Chairperson:** Which you will circulate, hon. Minister.

**Mr Roopun:** Yes, of course!

**The Chairperson:** Thank you. Page 231, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31122.999 - (c) *Equipment for Film Classification Board*, there is a sum of Rs5 m. May I know the mode of procurement and who is the supplier, please?

**Mr Roopun:** The Digital Cinema Package equipment has been newly acquired at the cost of Rs3.5 m. and it has been supplied Harmonies Time Technology Ltd. after a tender exercise.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry !

**Mr Henry:** Merci, M. le président. M. le président, est-ce que le ministre peut circuler les papiers qu'il a dit qu'il va circuler, on attend toujours. Et là je vais sur l'item 31112.417 (c) - *Non-Residential Buildings Espace Artistique at La Citadelle*. Je vois que l'année dernière on avait voté une somme de R 3 millions, peut-on savoir qu'est-ce qu'il en est de ce projet-là ? Combien a été dépensé.

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, Mr Chairperson, the renovation works of La Citadelle is being carried out by the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Arts and Culture will set up the Espace Artistique once the site is ready. Hence, there has been no disbursement during this financial year of the Rs3 m. earmarked and, next year, we have earmarked Rs200,000 just for

the setting up of the Espace Artistique, and all the expenses are being incurred by the Ministry of Tourism and the works, I understand, are ongoing.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem.

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you. Item 31112 .420 - *Upgrading of Theatres*, can we have a breakdown of which theatres we are talking about and what are the works being carried out?

**Mr Roopun:** An amount of Rs3 m. is being disbursed under this financial year for upgrading of Pointe Canon Open Air Theatre. For next financial year, provision is being made to cater for restoration works of the stage and minor works at the Serge Constantin Theatre at Vacoas.

**The Chairperson:** We'll have to move to the next page, hon. Members. I have said we have a time allocation for each page, so we are moving to page 232. Hon. Henry.

**Mr Henry:** Item 22900.922 - *Conferences/Seminars/Workshops*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 10,620,000 qui a été voté l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails ? Quels sont ces conférences, séminaires et *workshops* qui ont été faits et combien a été dépensé s'il vous plait?

**Mr Roopun:** Conferences/Seminars/Workshops, last year, Rs10,620 m. had been earmarked and this year only Rs800,000. This is for the holding of the UNESCO conference which took place last year and Rs10 m. was earmarked for the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin.

**Mr Quirin:** Yes, thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 26313.039- *Mauritius Museums Council*, an amount of Rs25.9 m. was budgeted for 2018/19, can we have a breakdown of this amount, please?

**Mr Roopun:** Provision is being made for the Mauritius Museums Council to meet its recurrent expenditure such as salaries, allowances, utilities and other running costs. Additional provision is to cater for increase in running costs. Estimate of expenditure is as follows –

- (i) compensation of employees Rs19.9 m., and
- (ii) goods and services including activities Rs6.6 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo, last question.

**Mr Baboo:** Item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*. We can see that last year there was Rs1 m. which was allocated. May we know what are these studies and surveys and who is the consultant?

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, implementation of the project is being deferred taking into consideration ongoing project at the level of the Ministry and this was for the implementation of 'Le Marronage' Museum. This has been put on hold for the time being.

**The Chairperson:** Page 233. Hon. Bhagwan.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 31112.101 - *Construction of New Building for the National Archives and National Library*, can we know where will be the new building and the implementation schedule?

**Mr Roopun:** The project consists of the construction of a complex of international standard to house the National Archives Department, the National Library and the project cost is estimated at Rs455 m. and it's phased over the next financial years. Provision of Rs50 m. is being made, for this year, for consultancy services and preliminary works; Rs150 m., Rs225 m., and Rs30 m. for coming years. The contract has been signed in April with NBCC India for the selection of a Project Management Consultant and the design of the building will be submitted shortly, I understand, to the Ministry. It will be at Réduit.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to the same item, National Archives and National Library, has a survey been made, an audit, for the damage done to books and archives because of the state that the building was in, and, if so, what percentage of these archives and books has been damaged?

**Mr Roopun:** It is not to my knowledge. I don't believe that any inventory has been made, Mr Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Yes, thank you. Item 26323.039- *Mauritius Museums Council*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, under this item of Museum, there is any amount being provided for the construction of the Slavery Museum?

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, amount for the construction of the Slavery Museum is under Appendix C at page 380 of the Budget under Lotto Fund.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Same item 26323.039- *Mauritius Museums Council*, may I know from the hon. Minister if the renovation works at the Port Louis Museum have been completed? Has it been commissioned and is it now open to the public?

**Mr Roopun:** Yes, the handing over has been effected. In fact, we are actually moving all the items which were stored in Mahebourg museum and they are coming back to Port Louis. It is a question of days before it is reopened.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Page 233, item 26323.039- *Mauritius Museums Council*, last year there was a grant of Rs15.7 m., can we have a breakdown of how this sum has been used for the last financial year.

**Mr Roopun:** I will have to circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, please circulate. Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. With respect to restoration and conservation of (a) and (b) Indentured Labourers Barracks...

**The Chairperson:** Which item are you referring to?

**Dr. Boolell:** Item 31112.417- *Restoration and Conservation (a) Indentured Labourers Barracks, Trianon (b) Batterie de L'Harmonie, Black River*, can the Minister apprise us as the work that has been carried out to restore these two sites?

**Mr Roopun:** In fact, so far as Labourers Barrack at Trianon is concerned, works have been completed and there are minor works which are still being done on the main building. Insofar as the *Batterie de l'Harmonie* is concerned, Rs2.3 m. was spent for the fencing of the site, and as announced during my speech, now we are launching an Expression of Interest to go under BOT to select anybody who wishes to be engaged in building and operating this place.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin, page 233!

**Mr Quirin:** The question has already been answered.

**The Chairperson:** Last question, hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 31112.101 - *Construction of New Building for the National Archives and National Library*, may we know where the construction has reached and where matters stand as previously some funds have been earmarked for this construction to be done at Reduit Triangle?

**Mr Roopun:** I have already answered the question from hon. Bhagwan.

*Vote 11-1 Ministry of Arts and Culture (Rs517, 000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

**Mr Henry:** Can the hon. Minister of Arts and Culture circulate all the papers that he said he will circulate?

**The Chairperson:** Yes, I think he is going to do that.

(7.04 p.m.)

*Vote 12-1 Social Security and National Solidarity was called.*

(Interruptions)

**The Chairperson:** We have 20 minutes for 6 pages. Page 235, hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On Social Protection, why the budget has reduced from...

**The Chairperson:** Which item are you referring to, please?

**Mr Ameer Meea:** I am referring to item 12-102 - *Social Protection*. The hon. Minister has got it? There has been a drastic reduction in the budget.

**Mr Sinatambou:** Well, as the hon. Member will see, as regards the recurrent expenditure, we have therefore about Rs17 m. less and on capital expenditure about Rs40 m. less. The reason for capital expenditure is because part of the project was for the building of 2 homes. And what has happened is that we are still in the process of getting the land. So, we know already that we will not be in a position to use funds if we allocate them at this stage.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 236, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At the end of the page, item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, Rs2.5 m. has been earmarked. Can we know who are the beneficiaries of these allowances, and if it is a Board, the Chairman of the Board?

**Mr Sinatambou:** The provision of allowances is made for the payment of extra duty, responsibility and *ad hoc* allowances to staff. The hon. Member will note that there is a reduced provision which is actually based on actual expenditure for the year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, two lines before the end, may I know from the hon. Minister who are the beneficiaries of these extra assistance?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Under the heading of extra assistance, provision is made for the payment of salaries of 4 Advisers –

- (i) On Information matters;
- (ii) On NGO matters;
- (iii) On Public Relation Matters, and

(iv) On Disability matters

*(Interruptions)*

Names! The advisor on Information matters is Mr Adaken; the Advisor on NGO matters is Mr Conhyea; the Advisor on Public Relation matters is Mr Chummun, and the Advisor on Disability matters is Mr Arekion.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Page 236, already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Page 237, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.001 – *Personal Emoluments*, I see that there is a unit, *Integration of Persons with Disabilities and Strengthening of the NGOs*. We are called upon to vote for, of course, the salaries of Head of Disability, Principal Disability Empowerment Officer. May I request the hon. Minister if there is any document that he can circulate on the achievement of this unit, the missions and objectives?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I undertake to do that, Mr Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On page 237, Item 21110.001(1) – *Basic Salary - Deputy Commissioner, Social Security*, funded position 1 for both years, but the salary compared to last year that was budgeted has been reduced by Rs45,000. What happened? Is it that the salary of the Deputy Commissioner has been ...

**The Chairperson:** Let the hon. Minister reply, please!

**Mr Sinatambou:** The hon. Member can rest assured that is not the case. The provision is made for the payment of salaries and increments but the decrease in the provision is due to the fact that the Deputy Commissioner had just been appointed. Therefore, he starts at the lower rung of the ladder compared to his predecessor.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem, on the same page!

**Mr Uteem:** Same page, item 21110.001(6) – *Basic Salary – Higher Social Security Officer*, can I know from the hon. Minister why has there been a reduction in the number of staff under that heading?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As the hon. Member will have noted, provision is made for the payment of salaries and increments for 78 funded posts of Higher Social Security Officers. Now, he will note that 8 posts are not being filled, that is because of the transfer of collection of the NPF Contribution from my Ministry to the MRA.

**The Chairperson:** Page 238, hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Last item, *item 22060 – Maintenance*, can we know this item refers to what maintenance work and the name of the contractor?

**Mr Sinatambou:** And what was the question, please?

**Mr Ramful:** It refers to maintenance of what and who are the contractors who have carried out the maintenance work?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Out of the figure of Rs20,800,000, Rs10.5 m. is for the maintenance of buildings, Rs300,000 for the maintenance of plant and equipment, Rs2 m. for the maintenance of IT equipment and Rs8 m. for the maintenance of grounds. Now as regards the actual beneficiaries of the contracts, I will circulate the list. It is quite long.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Page 239, Capital Expenditure...

**The Chairperson:** I said 238, hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** I wrote 239 there.

**The Chairperson:** But your name is for page 238 also. No? Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Page 238, item 22030 – *Rent*, Rs15,175,000, may we have the details of this amount and also to whom the rent has been paid?

**Mr Sinatambou:** The provision here is being made for rental of building which amounts to Rs14 m. for the Social Security House at Rose Hill, the Astor Court Office, local

offices, rental of parking slots, rental of facilities for events. I will circulate the details asked by the Member.

**The Chairperson:** Now page 239, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22120.001 – *Fees of which Fees for Medical Boards and Domiciliary Visits*. May I know from the hon. Minister the criteria for the choice of the doctors, medical officers involved in domiciliary visits? May I know what are the criteria and whether there has been any changes, recently?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I recalled having ...

**The Chairperson:** It's better to table.

**Mr Sinatambou:** I don't have them in mind now, but I recall having replied to a Parliament Question. So, I will circulate the criteria. What I know, however, is that there has been no change from established criteria.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson, item 26313.093 - *Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board*, we are made to understand that there is no centre, there is only one board. So, can the hon. Minister give a breakdown of the expenses and the Chairman of the Board?

**Mr Sinatambou:** In fact, I also replied to a Parliamentary Question on this issue. True it is, that there were two training centres in existence. They had had to close down because they were structurally unsafe. Now, subsequently we have launched tenders in order to regionalise the system and to have six centres in the different corners of the island. So, four of the tenders have been launched and received favourable responses. Two of them have not received responses. So, work is ongoing. The Chairman of the Board has been for substantial amount of time the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry until, I think, two month ago.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Mr Chairperson, item *Gifts to Centenarians*, can we know how many of the Centenarians...

**Mr Sinatambou:** What number, please?

**Mr Bhagwan:** Gifts to Centenarians.

**The Chairperson:** Can you mention the item number hon. Bhagwan, please?

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 28212.013 - *Gifts to Centenarians* - I thought he was very intelligent.

*(Interruptions)*

Can we know how many of these we have annually, our Centenarians? And secondly, whether it is proposed to buy, instead of these *médailles ordinaires*, to propose to buy gold medals to give to our future centenarians?

**The Chairperson:** You are making a proposal, hon. Bhagwan, you are supposed to ask questions.

**Mr Sinatambou:** The amount of money consists of the provision of a cash gift, one-off cash gift of Rs21,200 per centenarian and a gift in-kind such as microwave, steam cookers, etc. I could certainly consider gold medal, but we already have a budget of nearly Rs27 billion.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 22900.004 – *Catering*, can I know what this item stands for, and if the hon. Minister can provide us with a list of the suppliers of catering services if he has the list with him?

**Mr Sinatambou:** This amount of money caters for the payment of services for senior citizens attending the three recreation centres at Pointe aux Piments, Pointe aux Sables and Belle Mare.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jahangeer!

**Mr Jahangeer:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Capital Expenditure, item 28221.011 - *Charitable Institutions (CCTV Camera)*, may I know who benefited and who will benefit from the Charitable Institutions with regard to CCTV Camera?

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Order, please!

**Mr Sinatambou:** This is a provision for a camera project for charitable institutions. In fact, out of 27 charitable institutions, 22 of them have already implemented the CCTV camera project and they have accordingly benefited from the 100% grant payable by the Ministry.

**The Chairperson:** Last question on this page, hon. Aadil Ameer Meea!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Ameer Meea:** *Ene chance.* Mr Chairperson...

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Order, please!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Item 22120 - *Fees - .001 for Medical Boards and Domiciliary Visits*, I don't recall that the hon. Minister has said that he will give a list of the fees for medical boards and domiciliary visits, if we can have the list, the details of the current year expenditure.

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, I have no problem in circulating that list.

**The Chairperson:** Page 240, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Can't we trade off the page before? *Non.* Item 31111.002 - *Construction of Recreational Centre at Riambel*, may I know from the hon. Minister where matter stands? When is the anticipated completion date?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As you are aware, this particular project is on a turnkey basis and there has been some delay. The contractor who is Beijing Zhuzong Group Co Ltd has actually been delaying for quite some time and we are hoping that we will get them to finish the project before the end of this year. We hope so!

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes, thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item 31111.402 - *Upgrading of Recreational Centres*, can the hon. Minister provide the list of projects which are in the pipeline and that we are voting Rs10 m. for?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, they are eight items of contractors.

**The Chairperson:** I think it's better you circulate.

**Mr Sinatambou:** Okay I'll do that. There are eight of them.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Page 241?

**The Chairperson:** No, page 240!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Can we make some more detail about the upgrading of office...

**The Chairperson:** Which item are you referring to?

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 31112.401 - *Upgrading of Office Buildings - Social Security Offices*, may we know for the Rs4 m. provided last year, how much have been used and for which offices?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Provision is for the upgrading works at the Social Security Offices of Petit Rivière, Plaine des Papayes, Rivière de Anguilles and Grand Gaube. So, I can circulate the details as the hon. Member wants.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur! Hon Ms. Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Page 241.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, I don't know whether this question has been asked before.

**The Chairperson:** Can you refer to the item, please?

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, item 31111.002 - *Construction of Recreational Centre at Riambel*, there is a project value of Rs215 m. May we have the details of this project, when is it scheduled to be completed and operational?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, I have answered the question.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, can we have a breakdown of the allowances, please?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As I said earlier to a similar question, these are payments, allowances to staff, *ad hoc*, and so on. It's not to anyone outside, it's within the Ministry, *ad hoc* allowances and so on.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. With respect to item .403 *Upgrading of Disability Centre*. Can the Minister apprise us what upgrading work has been carried out...

**Mr Sinatambou:** Sorry, which item are you referring to, please?

**Dr. Boolell:** Sorry, .403, my apologies. Item 31111.403 - *Upgrading of Disability Centre - Extension of Foyer Trochetia*, Will the hon. Minister be kind enough, Mr Chairperson, to apprise us as to the upgrading work that has been carried out to make the disability centre more user-friendly?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I think I can give you. First of all, quite a lot has been done. For example, the upgrading works comprise the purchase of a kitchen hood, extension of two additional wings at the Foyer Trochetia. It's quite extensive, I propose to circulate it to the Member.

**The Chairperson:** Page 241! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 22120.001 - Fees for Medical Boards and Domiciliary Visits*, can the Minister give a breakdown and inform the House how selection is made concerning Doctors?

**Mr Sinatambou:** In fact, the House should know that no selection has been made since I became the Minister. So, all those who are actually working have been employed as from before I became the Minister of Social Security. What I can say is that the fees are being provided for payment to 64 Doctors who are all employed on a sessional basis for assessment of invalidity pension and...

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Member, I have said you don't put question from a sitting position!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Sinatambou:** I am answering the question That's not fair; I have no problem circulating the list of doctors.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, thank you. Hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under *Item 28212.022 - Contribution to NPF on behalf of Domestic Workers*, may I know from the hon. Minister how many domestic workers are concerned by this measure and what is the criteria used to select the domestic workers on whose behalf their NPF is being paid?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Provision is made for contribution by Government to the NPF in respect of households and agricultural workers drawing a salary of up to Rs3,000 per month. The idea is to bring those categories of employees and the formal sectors and to enable them to earn a contributory pension along with their basic retirement pension after retirement. For this financial year, there have been 72 employees who have been provided for.

*Vote 12-1: Social Security and National Solidarity (Rs26,927,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

*Vote 12-2 Environment and Sustainable Development was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have 12 pages and 30 minutes. Page 243! Hon Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Mr Chairperson, *Item 21110(1) - Permanent Secretary*. Will the hon. Minister obtain from the Finance Officer why it is that there is a sum of Rs150 m. underspent for the last financial year, on what project was the money not spent?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Okay, I will endeavour to ask him that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea! Page 244! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson, with regard to item 22030 – *Rent*, may we have the details of where that money is going?

**Mr Sinatambou:** The amount is provided to meet the cost of rental of office space, parking slots facilities. The rental is also for premises rented at Port Louis, ground floor, second, third, fourth and fifth floor, six to nine floors, twelve floor and a penthouse at Corner Line Barracks and St George Street, belonging to Capital Development, Ken Lee Tower which has been rented by the Ministry for more than a decade already.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Under *Item 22120.008 - Fees to Consultants - Environmental Management Strategy for Mauritius*, for which we are being requested to start off with Rs2 m. this year for a total project value of Rs20 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister what the study is all about? The Environmental Management Strategy for Mauritius, what is the exercise about?

**Mr Sinatambou:** With the advent of all those negative environmental phenomena, it is believed that it is time to look again at our environmental system, so we are thinking that we should review our national environment policy, come up with a national environmental strategy, devise a national environment action plan, and finally draw up an environmental investment program. This is something we used to do, but which haven't done, at least, during the ten years that you were in Government.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** The last *Item 28221.012 - Rainwater Harvesting Scheme*. Every year, there is an amount of Rs7 m. which is budgeted. May we have some more information on this Scheme?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, for the amount of Rs7 m. voted for this financial year, the information I have is that, as at 20 June, we had spent more than Rs5.5 m. and that the balance available of Rs1.425 m. will be paid out before the end of the financial year. So, the whole amount is going to be spent this year. It concerns about twenty different buildings which are going to benefit from this Rainwater Harvesting Scheme.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

*(Interruptions)*

Should I tell you the page now? You should follow! Hon. Uteem!

*(Interruptions)*

It's too late, hon. Abbas Mamode! Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under *Item 28221.012 - Rainwater Harvesting Scheme*, the hon. Minister you just mentioned that there would be twenty sites, so may we know or can you table the name of the twenty beneficiaries of that Rainwater Harvesting scheme?

**Mr Sinatambou:** In fact, it is more than 24 sites that I have; 5 social welfare centres, 12 community centres, 3 NGOs, 4 local authorities. I certainly can and will circulate the list.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Under *Item 26210.063 - UNEP Environment Fund*. Peut-on savoir si UNEP, d'après son enquête, vous a demandé combien de permis ont été donnés dans son dos ? UNEP, permis de *EIA licence*?

**Mr Sinatambou:** UNEP would never ask that.

**The Chairperson:** We move now to page 245. Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 21111.100 – Overtime*, may we know, out of the Rs700,000 for the last financial year, how much of that money has been spent on overtime?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I will check and let the hon. Member know.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea! Page 245!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Under *Item 21110.004 – Allowances*, there is an amount of Rs2 m. that is budgeted this year. May we have the details of this figure?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As I said in an earlier reply, the amount provided as allowances is for actingships, responsibility allowances, ad hoc allowances, sometimes cash in lieu of duty free and other social allowances, as approved by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** *Item 31132 Capital Investment for Environmental Impact Assessment Licensing Project*, Rs10 m. is the project value for which we are being asked to vote Rs1 m., can I ask the hon. Minister for more details about same?

**Mr Sinatambou:** This is part of the electronic platform, the e-licensing system, which is devised throughout the country. The idea is to ensure celerity in delivery and also to ensure full transparency in the way things operate.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Page 246! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to *Item 22120.008 (a) Climate Change Adaptation Programme*, whether the hon. Minister can say, firstly, if there is any report, will he produce it to the House and, secondly, has the programme been completed as there is no longer any provision in the future?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I will request the hon. Member, if he has a close look at the different vote items, one is for training, one is for consultancy and one is for miscellaneous expenses. So, what he just referred to is about the payment to consultants. Regarding consultants, I can say that the estimated consultancy fees of Rs4.2 m. is for the cost of adaptation works being undertaken at Mont Choisy. There is a second consultancy fee of Rs1.5 m. which is expected to be paid for the extension of the early warning system for storm surge - that's the detail I have.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 22120.008 - (a) Climate Change Adaptation Programme*. I believe this year the exercise is going to be completed. Rs6.1 m. is being voted. Can I ask the hon. Minister for the implementation details on this? What is the way forward on the implementation on this?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As I just replied to the previous question, the Rs6.1 m. of consultancy fees, Rs4.2 m. for the coastal adaptation works at Mont Choisy Beach, which comprised of the construction of an artificial reef using precast artificial units, the beach refurbishment, ground removal and planting of sand binding plants on the rehabilitated sand dunes. That's for the first consultancy fee. The second consultancy fee of Rs1.9 m. is for the extension of the early warning system for storm surge, which we have been implementing before, but, this time, to include a wave swell as well as an inundation component.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Mr Chairperson, with respect to *Item 31410.402 –Improvement /Upgrading/Rehabilitation of Beaches*. I know this item is not budgetised, so I take it for granted that funding will come from National Environment Fund, but if the hon. Minister will enlighten us as to how money is going to be spent in respect to these projects?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I don't have the full details. What I can say is that there are a considerable number of projects regarding *Item .402*. There is one for the rehabilitation of beaches, a coastal erosion study at Blue Bay. There are coastal erosion works from Flic en Flac to Tamarin with a voted proposal of Rs15 m. We have consultancy services for coastal protection landscaping and infrastructural works at 10 sites for an amount of Rs20 m. There are quite a substantial number of proposals. We also have proposed beach management plans for four public beaches, namely Mont Choisy, Belle Mare, Flic en Flac and La Prairie.

**The Chairperson:** Next page, 247! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to *Item 21110 (6) Scientific Officer (Environment)*, can the hon. Minister enlighten the House as to when recruitment procedure will be initiated and estimated date of recruitment of these two sites?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I could say soon. But I must reassure the hon. Member, it will be during the current financial year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea! Page 248! Hon. A. Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 31410.402 – Improvement/Upgrading/Rehabilitation/Rehabilitation of Public and Other Sites*. Will the hon. Minister give us a complete list of all the works under this item, undertaken for the last financial year? Will he circulate?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I don't have the list with me, but I will certainly circulate the list to the hon. Member.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under *Item 22060.011 - Rivers and Canals*. I see that there is a budget amount of Rs1 m. Is it that work is going to be carried out by the National Environment Fund?

**Mr Sinatambou:** The sum of Rs1 m. is just an indicator that we are going to keep it under maintenance, whereas under the NEF, it is going to be improvements. Just to make sure that it remains as a vote item.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. At page 248, under *Item 31122.804 - Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment for National Environment Laboratory*, for which we are being requested to vote for Rs6 m. for this acquisition, but I see every year this figure is constant over four years. Every year, we purchase Rs6 m. worth of equipment for the laboratory. Can we have some more details on this, please?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I don't have the specific details. What I can however say to the House is that this is a sort of incremental investment into apparatus to ensure that we can actually measure the environmental media, and ensure that we do our level best to equip this country so as to have a good environmental protection.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ameer Meea! Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under *Item 22060.011 – Maintenance of which Rivers/Canals*. I can see that the budget came down by 50%, whereas we are getting big problem at Camp Creole every year as the river is near the inhabitants. I, myself, made several requests during Adjournment Time. This river has never been maintained. May we know why the budget is coming down and still nothing has been done there?

**Mr Sinatambou:** The hon. Member will note that *Item 22060.001* is one thing, but that the major chunk of the money were going to be used for rivers and canals is under *Item 31410.002*. I can assure the House that tens of millions of rupees are actually used to do the needful regarding rivers and canals.

**The Chairperson:** Page 249! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item *31132.112 – Consumer Information System for Sustainable Consumption and Production*, may we know what is exactly this programme, and secondly, who is the contractor who is going to build this information system?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As the House may be aware, sustainable consumption and production is one of the sustainable development goals. Already Government is part of the programme of the United Nations called the Switch Africa Green Programme with a number of other countries and as part of the process of greening our economy and also ensuring sustainable consumption and production, we want to have a consumer information system so that people of our country can make sure that they improve our resource efficiency, decrease

our waste, increase opportunities for green businesses and green jobs and, in particular, be better informed and become responsible and smart consumers. Of course, this programme is going to be tendered out and it is only the best bidder who is going to win the tender.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Page 250! Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item *22070.001 Cleaning Services for Public Beaches*, can we know to whom the contracts have been awarded for financial year 2018/19?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, with great pleasure. There is quite a substantial number of tenderers. It is to be known that the public beaches are separated into lots and there are ...

**The Chairperson:** Can you circulate the answer. I think it is better, hon. Minister.

**Mr Sinatambou:** I will therefore circulate the answer.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Under the same item, *22070.003 - Operation of Landfill sites*, il y a une somme de R 225 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir les détails s'il vous plaît comment ça a été dépensé et combien ?

**The Chairperson:** That also, hon. Minister, if it is a long list, it is better that you circulate it.

**Mr Sinatambou:** No, it is quite a small one.

**The Chairperson:** Okay.

**Mr Sinatambou:** What I can see is that provision is here made to meet the payment of landfill operation and maintenance of Mare Chicose which is Rs189,700,000. Then, rental of about 50 acres of land and finally, discharge fees to Wastewater Management Authority.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** On the same item 22070.010 - *Operation and Export of Interim Hazardous Waste*, can we know from the hon. Minister where are these hazardous waste kept before they are exported?

**Mr Sinatambou:** There is, Mr Chairperson, an interim storage facility for hazardous waste, which is found at La Chaumière and they are stored there before being exported.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to the same item 22070.009 - *Collection and Export of e-waste*, may we know the weight of e-waste that was exported last financial year?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I don't have the tonnage. What I have is that there is a contract for the recycling of 46,800 units of e-waste generated by households and the tender was awarded to a company called BEM Enterprises.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On the same item 22070.004 – *Operation of Transfer Stations*, Rs230 m. each year. May we know who operates these transfer stations and also is there a tendering process to allocate the contract?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, I understand there are 5 transfer stations. Each and every transfer station is the subject of a competitive tender. So, if the hon. Member so wishes, I would circulate the list of the winning tenderers.

**The Chairperson:** Page 251, hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Under item 28222.021 *Compensation for the relocation of Inhabitants of Mare Chicose*, can we know where matters stand on that issue? I see that provision has been made again for this year.

**Mr Sinatambou:** I understand that in the context of the extension of the Mare Chicose Landfill, every location exercise involving mainly land swapping and payment of compensation to the owners of residential buildings living at the Mare Chicose Village was carried out. 38 residential land owners in the Mare Chicose Village were to be relocated to Marie Jeannie, Rose Belle. From these 38 owners, only one owner is yet to be compensated. Provision is made for relocation of the remaining one owner and this has been carried forward to year 2019/20.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item 26313.003 *Beach Authority*, may we know out of the Rs44 m. that was given to the Beach Authority last year, how much of that was spent on the protection of swimmers around public beaches?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I believe that the Rs44 m is about operational expenses.

*(Interruptions)*

Well, I have no idea. I will enquire.

*(Interruptions)*

I am not sure that if we look at the Beach Authority Act, that one of its functions would be to look - although I am sure it would be something nice...

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** No comment from a sitting position, hon. Adrien Duval!

Hon. Adil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On the same item 26313.003 *Beach Authority*, last year an amount of Rs30 m. was budgeted, but this year an amount of Rs13,500,000 is being budgeted. Why this reduction in the budget of Beach Authority?

**Mr Sinatambou:** In fact, it is not really a reduction, what has happened is that we had the implementation of the Beach Management Plans at Mont Choisy and the money is going to be added to the amount of Rs13,500,000 to bring it to Rs25.5 m. with a number of projects which are already contemplated.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Under item 22130 *Studies and Surveys*, we are being requested to vote a total of almost Rs3 m. for Waste Recycling and Resource Recovery Strategy and National Solid Waste Characterization Study. Can I ask the hon. Minister the status on this and the way forward in terms of implementation?

**Mr Sinatambou:** The National Solid Waste Management Strategy, as the hon. Member may be aware, is actually also co-financed by the *Agence Française de*

*Développement.* Phase I is about the study itself, it is already over and we are therefore coming up with our draft strategy with the emphasis on resource recovery. At the moment, we are busy working on Phase II which is about the feasibility study to be effected with regard to selected options identified in the first Phase.

**The Chairperson:** Last question, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** I would like to come back to the question of compensation for relocation of inhabitants of Mare Chicose under item 28222.021 - *Compensation for the relocation of Inhabitants of Mare Chicose* where an amount of Rs3.4 m. has been budgeted for this year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this amount is being disputed by the last remaining inhabitants of Mare Chicose that have to be relocated.

**Mr Sinatambou:** My understanding is that there is no disagreement on quantum and so on. My understanding is that, it is an old-aged person who seems to be reluctant to be displaced from the place.

**The Chairperson:** Page 252. Hon. Dr. Joomaye!

**Dr. Joomaye:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22120 - *Fees of which Community Disaster Response Programme (b) Consultancy*, an amount of Rs2 m. budgeted, I would like to know if the consultant has been selected and, if yes, may I know his name?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I'm sorry I was looking at something else. Can you give me the vote item and the question again, please?

**Dr. Joomaye:** Item 22120-*Fees* sub-item (b) *Consultancy*, an amount of Rs2 m. budgeted, I would like to know if the consultant has been selected and, if yes, may I know his name, please.

**Mr Sinatambou:** Yes, in fact, pending remedial and corrective steps concerning disaster reduction, we have come up with a Community Disaster Response Programme where 40 threatened flood prone sites have been identified and we are now carrying out a programme where we train Community Disaster Response Teams to evacuate people and to help people whenever there is any danger looming. So, part of the money is going to be for the training of those 40 teams of Community Disaster Responders then other consultancy fees will be for a Disaster Risk Reduction Community Sensitisation in collaboration with what is known as the PIROI - Plateforme d'Intervention Régionale de l'Océan Indien, and there

would also be a training on Sendai Indicators with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Same item, may we know under *(a) Training*, there is Rs3 m., how many people, are we estimating, are going to go through training for this financial year?

**Mr Sinatambou:** In fact, we are expecting four Community Disaster Response Teams consisting of, at least, 20 to 25 people per team. So, there are 1,000 people who we hope, we will be able to train and the training is a three-day training course.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under the same item *22120-Fees of which Community Disaster Response Programme (b) Consultancy*. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the consultant has already been appointed or there is a process of appointing him?

**Mr Sinatambou:** No. In fact, it says consultancy but it's going to be done by our resource persons in the National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre. Then when we come, however, to consultancies which the United Nations and with PIROI, there, of course, is going to be tenders.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 253. Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item *28222.025- Compensation for the Relocation of Inhabitants (Landslide)*. May I know about the families of Quatre Sœurs who have been affected recently by landslide? Have they all been relocated or is there any dispute?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Now, my understanding is that we have 11 families who have been compensated except for the heirs to two out of those 11 families.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody.

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same issue, can I know whether those who were affected by the landslide at La Butte, not yesterday, but a few months before have had any compensation?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Well, that is not in my budget.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** On the same issue, if the Minister could apprise us as to whether this sum that is earmarked in the Estimates 2018/19 is specifically for those who live at Quatre Sœurs and Deux Frères?

**Mr Sinatambou:** As a matter of fact, it is for affected families from three sites: Quatre Sœurs, Chitrakoot, and Vallée Pitot.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem.!

**Mr Uteem:** On the same item 28222.025- *Compensation for the Relocation of Inhabitants (Landslide)*, the hon. Minister has just mentioned, Vallée Pitot. May I know from the hon. Minister how many families are concerned by the budgetary measure in Vallée Pitot?

**The Chairperson:** Do you have the figures, hon. Minister?

**Mr Sinatambou:** Let me just check. My understanding is that a total of 19 families have been identified by the Minister of Public Infrastructure and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Aadil Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, on the same issue, can I ask the hon. Minister, in relation to Chitrakoot, what is the current state of affairs? How many families has already been relocated or will be relocated?

**Mr Sinatambou:** In Chitrakoot, a first assessment carried out revealed that there were 14 families who had to be relocated and, subsequently, another survey was carried out and it revealed that an additional 11 households need to be relocated.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes, Mr Chairperson, with regard to item 31132.105 *National Multi-Hazard Emergency Alert System*, is the system fully operational now and, secondly, is there no associated cost in the future? May we know, therefore, if it has been put under another vote item?

**The Chairperson:** That's a three in one question.

**Mr Sinatambou:** In fact, the budget for those two items, both the Equipment for National Emergency Operations at .999 and the National Multi-Hazard Emergency Alert System at .105 are going to come from the budget of the National Environment Fund.

*Vote 12-2 Environment and Sustainable Development (Rs1,163,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(8.00 p.m.)

*Vote 12-3 Meteorological Services was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 254. Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.001 (1) Director, can the Minister confirm whether the Director is in permanent establishment, permanent position or is he still Ag. Director and, if so, who is incumbent?

**Mr Sinatambou:** It's one Mr Goolaup who is the Director and he is indeed on a permanent and pensionable establishment. We should thank him because he is going to retire, I think, in two months.

**The Chairperson:** We move to page 255. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Page 255, item 21110.004-Allowances, Rs4.3 m.-Rs4.4 m., may we know who are the beneficiaries of these allowances?

**Mr Sinatambou:** This amount caters, Mr Chairperson, for the payment of disturbance allowance to those officers who are posted to outer islands for a tour of service to Agaléga and St. Brandon at the rate of 60% of their gross salary and if it is to Rodrigues at the rate of 25%. It also caters for payment of responsibility allowance, ad-hoc allowance, internet and cash card to Director and car allowances to Deputy Directors, Divisional Meteorologists and two Human Resource responsible persons.

**The Chairperson:** Page 256, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** I am following off from the question I asked previously, under item 22120 – Fees. This time, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the consultancy contract has been launched to appoint the consultant to carry out these trainings?

**Mr Sinatambou:** My understanding is that this project is financed by Japan with a part contribution by Mauritius, but the consultant is already appointed and is from Japan, not done from Mauritius.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to item 31122.817 - *Acquisition of Doppler Weather Radar*, is the Doppler radar now fully functioning?

**Mr Sinatambou:** I think I can see it is, although I must say that there has been a request for additional staffing because a number of the senior meteorologists have had to be shared between the Vacoas Head Office and the Trou aux Cerfs Radar Station.

*Vote 12-3 Meteorological Services (Rs145,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

**The Chairperson:** I suspend the sitting for one hour.

*At 8.03 p.m., the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 9.10 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

*Vote 13-1 Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have got 18 pages and 30 minutes. Page 259, hon. Ms. Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 – *Fees*, can the hon. Minister give us some information about this item, please?

**Mr Seeruttun:** It is with regard to fees to Chairman and members of Boards and Committees, including Bid Evaluation Committees, Departmental Tender Committees, Land Conversion Committees, National Park and Management Committees.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Yes, item 22030 – *Rent*, can the Minister inform us where and who is the owner?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Rent includes rental of buildings, service charges and also parking slots. The buildings that are being rented are –

- The NPF Building;
- The Blendax House;
- The Sterling House, and
- Garden Tower as well with regard to parking.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same page, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we know who are the beneficiaries of this?

**Mr Seeruttun:** It is with regard to the two Advisors for whom salaries are being paid. The names are Mr Ramkorrun and Mr Chooneea.

**The Chairperson:** Page 260, hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. I am going to refer to page 260, item 28212.030 - *Payment to Planters - Sugar Cane Sustainability Fund*, the budgetised item is Rs540 m. It is with respect to payment to planters and this will come from the Sugar Cane Sustainability Fund. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this Fund will be replenished and, if yes, from where it is going to come?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, this is to cater for the Rs25,000 that we have awarded to all planters producing up to 60 tonnes of sugar accrued to them.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** On the same item *Payment to Planters - Sugar Cane Sustainability Fund*, the amount budgeted is Rs540 m. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this amount is sufficient to pay all the planters their Rs25,000 compensation or what is the total aggregate amount that is payable to the planters under the scheme?

**Mr Seeruttun:** As far as I can recall, the total amount will be around Rs750 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys - Study of the Sugar Cane Sector*, there is a sum of Rs14 m.

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Chairperson, as you are aware, we have requested the World Bank to carry out a complete study of the sugar cane sector so this amount is to cater for that particular study.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28213.021 - *Study on use of Artificial Intelligence to improve Productivity and Farmers' Income*, we can see that there is a budget of Rs10 m. that has been earmarked for this year. Can we have some details about this?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, it is a new technology that has been proposed by one promoter from India and we have agreed to conduct on a pilot level this study making use of satellite technologies to analyse and to come up with solutions for the small growers of the sugar industry.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** On the same item *Sugar Cane Sustainability Fund*, the hon. Prime Minister said that the global amount will be Rs750 m. and only Rs540 m. has been budgeted so will the difference be paid by CEB?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Yes, Madam Speaker. To the PNQ that I replied on that particular issue, I gave a breakdown of where the fund is going to come from, partly from CEB as well.

**The Chairperson:** Page 261. Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28225.001 - *Transfers to Private Enterprises - Accompanying Measures for Sugar Sector (Derocking)*, we can see that the project value is Rs3,800 billion., and for the year 2018, Rs135 m. have already been earmarked. Can we know what has been done?

**Mr Seeruttun:** This is the project for the rehabilitation of sugar cane fields and this project has been for some years now. As you can see, Rs3.8 billion was earmarked for that particular project and each year a certain extent of land is being rehabilitated under that particular project.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.028 - *Northern Plain Irrigation Project*, there is an amount of Rs30,200 m. that was earmarked, it should be for the

replacement of those defective equipment, *Replacement of Hydraulic Control*. May I know from the hon. Minister, the status of this project, please?

**Mr Seeruttun:** So, we are providing funds to replace those equipment that are being used by the Irrigation Authority to allow for irrigation purposes in the northern fields

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 28225.001 - *Accompanying Measures for Sugar Sector (Derocking)*, out of the project value of Rs3.8 billion, may we know so far how much has been spent, and last year, how much of the Rs135 m. was spent?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, for the year 2018/19, the Rs135 m. has been earmarked for the rehabilitation of those fields and 258 hectares of land were earmarked to carry out the works for that particular year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same item 28225.014 - *Accompanying Measures to restore Abandoned Cane Lands*, last year, we budgeted Rs50 m. May I know how many hectares of land have come back to sugar cane plantation on this project.

**Mr Seeruttun:** Again, if the hon. Member is asking for last year, he means 2018/19, the year which is ending in June. 320 hectares of land have been rehabilitated for that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Yes, Madam Chairperson, on the same item 28225.014 - *Accompanying Measures to restore Abandoned Cane Lands*, I know the hon. Minister has informed the House as to the number of acres of land that have been rehabilitated. Will he be able to tell us as to the number of acres of land, especially prime land that have been encroached upon or released for other or non-sugar sector projects?

**Mr Seeruttun:** There is land that was in an abandoned state but used to be under cane land cultivation, it has been brought back to sugar cane.

**Dr. Boolell:** What is the acreage of prime agricultural land that has been encroached upon or released for non-sugar cane projects?

**Mr Seeruttun:** This amount is to bring back under sugar cane lands that were in an abandoned state. So, that's what I mentioned for the year 2018/19, 320 hectares have been brought back under sugar cane.

**The Chairperson:** Page 262, no question! Page 263, no question! Page 264. Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 25210.022 - *Crop Loss Compensation Scheme*, there is an amount budgeted of Rs15 m. May we know from the hon. Minister what is the scheme about?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, this is a new insurance scheme that we have introduced this year and the amount of Rs15 m. is the seed capital that we have injected in that particular scheme to kick off that scheme to, at least, cover small planters who suffer losses in case of climatic catastrophes.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 21110.001(110) – *General Worker*, I can see there 305 posts. Have all the posts been filled?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Which item number, please?

**Mr Ramful:** On page 264, item 21110.001(110) – *General Worker*. May I know also if they are on contract or permanent establishment?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, if they are on that particular vote, they must be on permanent establishment.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Page 264, item 25201.011 - *Crop Producers (Compost)*, I have noted that there is a drastic fall from Rs50 m. to Rs5 m. will the hon. Minister enlighten the House as to the reason for it?

**Mr Seeruttun:** The reason for the reduction in the amount is the fact that there is only one enterprise that supplies compost which is actually under receivership and that is why there is a drop in the amount.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 25210.021- *Development of Household Micro Gardens*, il y a un montant de R 5 millions qui a été voté l'année dernière. Peut-on savoir combien de personnes ont bénéficié et quel est le montant alloué ?

**Mr Seeruttun:** It is a new scheme that was introduced last year whereby a grant of Rs10,000 is being offered to all those householders who are eligible under that particular scheme. We have received 204 applications and three of them were rejected. So, the rest are being assessed for disbursement.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item 22060- *Maintenance*, can we have more details and name of contractors if the case is?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, maintenance with regard to normal maintenance of offices, buildings and also with regard to plant and equipment, including photocopying machines, air conditioners, lawn mowers, vehicles as well and also IT equipment.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 25210.017- *Scheme to Encourage Use of Bio Fertilizers*, can we know why is there a substantial reduction for this financial year. Can the Minister also say how much was spent on the total budget of the last financial year?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, in terms of reduction, the fact that this amount has been transferred to a different vote and also it is a demand-driven scheme. So, it depends on the amount of demand we have to cater for that particular scheme.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item 25210.012 - *Seed Purchase Scheme (Potato, Onion and Garlic)*, the budget item is Rs5 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister to inform us as to the number of beneficiaries and whether the seeds are certified and, if so, by whom?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, this is the scheme which is under the AMB and as far as I know, it is a revolving fund, whereby an advance is given to those who produce those products and then when they deliver the seeds to the AMB, the amount that has been given is refunded.

**Dr. Boolell:** Who certifies?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Certification of the seeds is carried out, I think, the Seed Committee and the Potato Committee. It is the body that certifies the quality.

**The Chairperson:** Page 265, hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28215.003 - *Sheltered Farming*, we can see that there is a budget of Rs55 m. allocated for this year. Can the hon. Minister give us some details as to how this money is going to be spent for this year?

**Mr Seeruttun:** We have been promoting Sheltered Farms across the island and we have identified a number of sites where we intend to set up those farms. So, this is one scheme that we are trying to set up to mitigate the effect of climate change, and the sites that we have identified are Melrose, Plaine Magnien, Solitude, Beau Climat and Caroline.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under item 26323.019 (f) - *Promotion of Macadamia Nut*, the project value is Rs20 m. over the next four years. Can I know from the hon. Minister how many entrepreneurs, how many planters have shown an interest to your Ministry to undertake the plantation of macadamia nuts?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Chairperson, we have introduced this new crop some time back and we have created a nursery at Réduit at the level of the FAREI to produce the plantlets. I can see that we have already procured 30,000 seeds and we have already a number of interested parties who are interested to go into that venture. I am told that the corporate sector also has now earmarked some 100 hectares of land for that particular crop.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Fowdar!

**Mr Fowdar:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.084 - *Small Farmers Welfare Fund*, can I know the composition of the Board and the Chairman?

**Mr Seeruttun:** The Chairman of the Small Farmers Welfare Fund is Mr Bundhoo. As for the members, if I have the list, I will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.019 - (d) *Support for Training/Entrepreneurship Skills*, may I know from the hon. Minister, out of the amount earmarked Rs20 m., what has been the amount spent on this particular project?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Under this scheme, the FAREI offers training to a number of potential entrepreneurs over the financial year. If I have the amount spent, I can provide it, otherwise I'll communicate to you afterwards.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item no. 31112.057 - *Construction of Mauritius Biotechnology Institute*, the item as budget is Rs20 m. Can I ask the Minister whether land has been identified, whether there is a tender exercise on and, if so, will he inform us whether a contract has been awarded?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Yes, in fact, Madam Chairperson, we have already carried out a study to re-actualise the project that was initiated in the past and we have received a report from the consultant. Land has been identified in Réduit and now we are going to work out the architectural plan so that we can kickstart soon.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry! Page 265 !

**Mr Henry:** Item 28215.008 - *Accompanying Measures - Non Sugar Activities (Bee Keeping/Tea)*, il y a une somme de R 9.5 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière, peut-on savoir combien de bénéficiaires ont utilisé ce *scheme*, s'il vous plaît ?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, this is a scheme that has been set up to boost the bee keeping activity. It includes training, providing equipment and making use of new technologies. There are 358 bee keepers who have received bee keeping kits and we have also created four bee reserve zones at different areas in La Ferme, Petit Sable, Le Morne and Le Dauguet.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item 28215.003 - *Sheltered Farming*, can we know so far the number of beneficiaries under that scheme?

**Mr Seeruttun:** I know through memory about 120 beneficiaries, for the last years, who benefitted under that scheme.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *item 28215.008 - Accompanying Measures - Non Sugar Activities (Bee Keeping/Tea)*, can the Minister tell us, with regard to the people who have been benefitting from that scheme, if they are up and running? Could he give us an estimation of the size now of the bee keeping industry in Mauritius in terms of what it produces?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Yes, Madam Chairperson. In fact, if we look at the production level, what it used to be in 2014 was about 15tonnes. It has gone up to 25tonnes the year ending, last December. So, it is progressing and we are confident that with what we are giving as support, it is going to go up even more in the near future.

**The Chairperson:** Page 266. Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31112.022 – Construction of a National Wholesale Market*, can we have an idea of the work in progress of this project at Rs450 m.?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Yes, Madam Chairperson. The project started late last year and is supposed to be completed by the end of this year, that is, in December.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** *Item 31112.051 - Construction of a Fruit Fly Rearing Facility*, what is this Fruit Fly Rearing Facility we are budgeting Rs50 m. for?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, as you may be aware, we are affected by fruit flies which cause much damage to our crops and we have put in place this facility to produce what we call ‘sterile flies’ that could be released in the nature to combat those flies that are affecting the crops. We are going to produce up to 15 million per week that we are going to release in the nature to combat the problem of fruit flies.

**The Chairperson:** Page 267. Hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31112.022 – Construction of a National Wholesale Market...*

**Mr Seeruttun:** Which page?

**Mr Tarolah:** 266.

**The Chairperson:** We are on 267 hon. Tarolah!

**Mr Tarolah:** No.

**The Chairperson:** We are already on 267, then hon. Uteem! Yes, 268 hon. Uteem.

**Mr Uteem:** On *item 28215.009 - Accompanying Measures for the Livestock Sector*, may I know from the hon. Minister what does this item relate to and how many people have benefitted from this scheme last year?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, there are a number of measures that have been put in place to support the livestock sector, and this amount is to cater for those schemes that are for that sector.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** *Item 25210.015 - Incentives for Milk Production*, can the Minister tell us what are these incentives please?

**Mr Seeruttun:** In fact, the scheme is to encourage breeders to keep their cattle up to the age when it starts to produce milk. So they need to keep the cattle instead of slaughtering them.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** It is already answered.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** *Item 22900.017 - Other Goods and Services – Control of Animal Pests*, on voit qu'il y a une somme de Rs12 millions qui a été votée l'année dernière, peut-on savoir combien a été déboursé et comment l'argent a été distribué?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, control of animal pests, these are measures that are on-going to combat the pests being undertaken by the Entomology Department, I presume, and they are on-going. How much has been spent so far - I need to get confirmation for that.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Dvual!

**Mr A. Duval:** *Item 26313.110 - Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare (MSAW)*, can we know, Madam Chairperson, last year, how many stray dogs in the stray dogs' campaign have been captured and dealt with?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, there is already a campaign undertaken by the MSAW to sterilise dogs and I am told that for the period up to May 2019, that is, for the financial year 2018/2019, 2,827 dogs and 1,492 cats were sterilised by the MSAW. I must say that there is

also a pilot project being undertaken by an international NGO in the region of Flacq which is also combatting this problem of stray dogs.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Dr. Boolell!

**Dr. Boolell:** Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. *Item 22120.008 - Fees to Consultants (Strategic Plan Implementation/ National Livestock Bio Security Plan)*, will the Minister inform us the name of the consultant whose services have been enlisted to prepare the Strategic Plan Implementation/National Livestock Bio Security Plan and the fees so far paid to the consultant?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Madam Chairperson, if I am not mistaken, it is the FAO consultants that have been enlisted to carry out that exercise for us.

**The Chairperson:** Page 269. Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 31112.452 - Upgrading of Veterinary Hospital*, we can say that the project value is Rs9 m. and there was a sum of Rs3m. already earmarked for the previous Budget and for this year, there is only Rs1m. May we know where are we with this project?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, as you can see, Madam Chairperson, the project is of Rs9m. and we have already embarked to upgrade those hospitals. We are halfway down the road, so it should be completed in this financial year 2019/20.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** *Item 31113.041 - Establishment of Livestock Zones*, can we know where those zones would be located?

**Mr Seeruttun:** It is already under construction at Melrose.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *item 31113.032(b) - Setting up of Quarantine Facilities – Monkey*, does the Minister know how many monkeys are exported and hence go through the quarantine facility every year? For the last financial year, what is the amount of monkeys exported?

**Mr Seeruttun:** This has nothing to do with this particular vote, Madam Chairperson. The fact is that the monkey population is growing in Mauritius and we need to address the

problem. That is why, at the level of the Ministry, we are taking some measures to control the monkey population.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. *Item 28225.007(c) - Capital Transfers (Livestock) - Goat/Sheep Farm Scheme*, the project value is Rs13m. but why is it that in the Estimates there is only Rs1m. for last year, Rs1m. for the coming year? Is the scheme not working or is there a problem?

**Mr Seeruttun:** No, Madam Chairperson, the project is almost complete now. It is at Salazie. So, this amount which is now earmarked is to complete the works that are left to be done.

**The Chairperson:** Page 271, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** On page 271, item *31113.014 - Landscaping Works - Motorway/Public Roads*, may I know from the hon. Minister where are these works to be carried out?

**Mr Seeruttun:** If you have been travelling down, south to the airport, and from the airport up to the Phoenix roundabout, you will see that we have planted, in the central verge of the motorway, plants and you will see the effect sometimes in the future.

**The Chairperson:** Page 272, hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Item *21110 (49) – General Worker*, I can see that there are 317 posts. Can we have, not the names, but the number of those recruited constituency wise?

**Mr Seeruttun:** I do not have it, unfortunately.

**The Chairperson:** Page 273, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item *31112.055 - Construction of Field Research Station (Combo)*, may we know where matters stand as far as construction of that station is concerned?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Which page?

**Mr Uteem:** Page 273, item *31112.055*.

**The Chairperson:** *Construction of Field Research Station (Combo)*.

**Mr Seeruttun:** This is a research station that we have built in the region of Black River - Combo.

*(Interruptions)*

Where matters stand! I believe that the work is starting.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31113.014 - *Landscaping Works within Black River National Park/Bras D'Eau National Park/Public Gardens*. It is a good initiative, this Bras D'eau National Park, the creation of a public garden. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is a composition of the Board managing this whole garden that is being created? Is there a Board or how is it being managed, the structure?

**Mr Seeruttun:** In fact, it is being done by the National Parks and Conservation Service which is a department of the Ministry.

**The Chairperson:** Page 274, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 31410.401 - *(b) Pink Pigeon release sites at Black River & Petrin*, may I know from the hon. Minister how many pink pigeons are in captivity for them to be released?

**Mr Seeruttun:** Well, if the hon. Member asked for the number, I would not have the number with me now. I am told that 400 are in captivity.

*Vote 13-1 Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Rs3,285,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(09.46 p.m.)

*Vote 14-1 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have got 8 pages, 25 minutes. Page 276, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may I know from the hon. Minister the name to whom the extra assistance are being provided to?

**Mr Gungah:** Provision made for the payment of salaries and allowances to three Advisors and one officer on temporary transfer to my Ministry from MPI. It is on Annex 1. Mr Kinsley Andy Li Kong Ling, Advisor in information matters; Mr Ganeshwar Ramdhonee, Advisor in industrial matters, Mr Tirgarajen Bodah Yeagadoo, Advisor on public relation matters and one officer in temporary transfer, Mr Jaunky, Traffic Census Officer from Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport who has been assigned duties on matters relating to industries and industrial zones at the industrial division.

**The Chairperson:** Page 278, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 26313.011 - *Fashion and Design Institute*, may I know from the hon. Minister the reason for the increase from Rs20 m. to Rs26 m.?

**Mr Gungah:** The actual grant for recurrent expenditure for Fashion and Design Institute is Rs24.1 m. It is because additional staff have been recruited and provisions have accordingly been made to cater for administrative and operating expenses of the institute which also include, now, the Jewellery Unit.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** I am grateful, Madam Chairperson. I see there is an item 22030 – *Rent*, the amount is colossal, Rs12,325,000 and for the next financial year, it increased a little bit. Can we know who are the beneficiaries of these kinds of rent and for which building we pay these kinds of rent?

**Mr Gungah:** Rs12,685,000 has been catered for rental of building at Air Mauritius Centre, Ken Lee Tower, rental of parking slots and rental of facilities for events. Well, I have got a list of buildings which the Ministry occupies, I can circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 26313.011 - *Fashion and Design Institute*, may we know who is running that institute? Can we have a breakdown of those who are benefiting from the sum mentioned here, Rs26 m.

**Mr Gungah:** It is the actual grant for recurrent expenditure for Fashion and Design Institute.

**Mr Baloomoody:** My question is simple, who is running that institute?

**Mr Gungah:** There is an officer in charge.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Yes, what is his name?

**Mr Gungah:** Ms Luchoo.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody, please. Calm down. Page 279, hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.011 - *Fashion and Design Institute*, can the hon. Minister tell us why for 2019/20, the amount which has been earmarked is Rs23.9 m. compared to Rs8.8 m.? There is a huge increase, can we know why?

**Mr Gungah:** Yes, Madam Chairperson, provision has been made for the following

—

- Rs18.2 m. for acquisition of new training equipment for jewellery courses;
- Rs700,000 – upgrading of existing infrastructure, and
- Rs5 m. – Software and Hardware.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Item 22120 – *Fees*, may we have the breakdown for the fees that were paid last year? Can we know to whom it has been paid?

**The Chairperson:** We are on page 279!

**Mr A. Duval:** If I may ask then, Madam Speaker, with regard to item 31122 - *Other Machinery and Equipment*, may we have the details of the expenses made last year?

**Mr Gungah:** This amount is provided for the payment of 10% of project value of Rs1,673,575. after successful operational acceptance testing in respect of the computerisation of MAURITAS - accreditation management system and retention money of Rs167,357.57.

**The Chairperson:** Page 280, no question. Page 281. Hon. Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Chair. There is an item 22120 – *Fees*, can the hon. Minister give us some details?

**Mr Gungah:** So, it is Rs100,000 for members of the Departmental Bid Committee and Bid Evaluation Committee; Rs150,000 for training of officers and Rs25,000 subscription to professional bodies.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, may we have the name of the service provider?

**Mr Gungah:** Well, we have Alpha Cleaning Company Ltd, Mauriclean Ltd and Best Super Clean Ltd, Alpha Hygiene Company Ltd.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Quirin!

**Mr Quirin:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Item 31122.804 - *Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*, there is an amount of Rs9 m. earmarked for 2018/19, can we know the name of the supplier please?

**Mr Gungah:** It's earmarked, so it's not yet supplied. But what I can say is that the equipment...

*(Interruptions)*

Okay. Standard masses that have been imported I presume, which have cost Rs294,000, marking tools - I have got a list but I don't have the supplier and there have been different suppliers after tendering exercise.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under item 21110.001(1) - *Head, Consumer Affairs Unit*, if I can take it here, may I know from the hon. Minister the number of fines and contraventions taken by the Ministry of Consumer Protection against people who breached the law?

**Mr Gungah:** The number of control checks that have been done at trade premises - 7,315, number of checks at bakeries - 173, complaints - we have got a list, I can circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Thierry Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Item 31122.804 - *Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 9 m. qui a été votée l'année dernière, peut-on avoir les détails de quels sont ces équipements?

**The Chairperson:** Page 282. Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** No, I have already asked at page 281.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval! No question?

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 22900 - *Other Goods and Services*, may we have the details of this item?

**Mr Gungah:** Yes. These are protective clothing and equipment for consumer officers which amount to Rs200,000 and uniform allowance for eligible officers and it also includes the activities in context of World Consumer's Rights Day and miscellaneous expenses and all.

*Vote 14-1: Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection (Rs307,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(9.57 p.m.)

*Vote 15-1 Office of The Solicitor-General was called.*

**The Chairperson:** We have got 10 pages and we have got 20 minutes. Page 284. Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to item 21110.001(17) - *Legislative and Litigation Counsel*, there are five legislative and litigation counsel who were working perfectly well, why do we need items (13), (14), (15) and (16) to complement these five workers?

**Mr Gobin:** In fact, Madam Speaker, the Legislative and Litigation Counsel have not yet been recruited but we are also anticipating that, in the years to come, they will be promoted to higher posts, that's why.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 21110.001(17) - *Legislative and Litigation Counsel*, there is reduction in the budgeted amount by half, may I know the reason for the reduction?

**Mr Gobin:** Provision is made for only six months, the scheme of service is being finalised and then later on, we will see. It takes some time.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody! Hon. Ramful! Page 285. Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can I take the hon. Minister to item 21110.001(40) *Management Support Officer*, we see that there are 17 MSOs earmarked for this financial year and similar number for last financial year but we see that there is a reduction by Rs200,000 for the same number of staff, have they taken a cut in their salary?

**Mr Gobin:** No, not at all. During a transfer exercise, officers drawing higher salaries have been replaced by officers drawing a lower salary, that's why.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we have the details about who are the advisors?

**Mr Gobin:** Yes, these are three of my advisors, public relation officers. So, we have Mrs Luchmun, Mr Muniah and Mr Dinnah.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody! Page 286. Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item 26313.029 - *Law Reform Commission*, what is its composition and may I know the latest report? When was it issued?

**Mr Gobin:** It has been tabled fairly recently. I am talking from memory. Composition - I can circulate it later on, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Yes. Item 28216.012 - *Contribution for Operation of Mauritius International Arbitration Centre Limited*, may I know from the hon. Attorney General the number of cases that were lodged last year before MIAC, the number pending and resolved?

**Mr Gobin:** Unfortunately, Madam Chairperson, I don't have that information. I will have to ask for it and then later on, I will circulate it, upon legal advice obtained whether I can.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Chair. Item 22120.032 - *Fees for Legal Outsourcing*, may we know, out of the Rs100 m. for last year, how much was spent and will the Minister give full details, circulate the names of all the service providers and the amount received?

**Mr Gobin:** I have expenditure for the last year under this item. I will have to add it up, Madam Chairperson, and to also seek legal advice as to whether I can disclose certain information pertaining to legal advisers. And then, later on, depending on legal advice, I will circulate.

*Vote 15-1 Office of the Solicitor-General (Rs340,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10.03 p.m.)

*Vote 15-2 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 287! Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to *Item 21110.001(16) - Chief Legal Support Officer (New)*. It is a new post. May we know whether this post has already been advertised, and if not, when is it anticipated to advertise and recruitment to take place?

**Mr Gobin:** Not yet, Madam Chairperson. The scheme of service is being finalised and this explains why no funding has been provided at this stage.

**The Chairperson:** Page 288! Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** The last *Item 22900.922 - Conferences/Seminars/Workshops*, may I know from the hon. Attorney General, the Rs2.2 m. that is budgeted for, it is for which conference? Is there any conference that has been identified yet?

**Mr Gobin:** These are seminars, workshops and conferences to be organised locally.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am interested in *Item 22120 – Fees*. There is earmarked for this year Rs5.7 m., for last year Rs5.6 m. May I know whether in this item it is included the legal fees for Counsel in the case of DPP against hon. Pravind Jugnauth at Privy Council?

**The Chairperson:** No, no! This is not on, hon. Rutnah.

Page 289! Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under *Item 31122.802 (a) - Online Project for provision of brief to Counsels*, may we have more details about this project?

**Mr Gobin:** This project is about the setting up of an online Government portal to receive and process applications for brief electronically instead of requiring the applicants to call at the Office of the DPP personally. Provision of Rs2 m. is made for this project.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur! Yes, hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Same *Item 31122.802(b) - Certificate of Character Online Services*, may we know how will that system operate?

**Mr Gobin:** This is a similar project for an online platform for application of Certificate of Character. Of course, this will be done in collaboration with the Police Department where it is envisaged that applicants will be required to send their applications and effect payment online, and then, later on, collect their certificates at their respective Police District Headquarters.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** The same *Item 31122.802(b) - Certificate of Character Online Services*, can we know the expected date of completion of the Certificate of Character Online Services?

**Mr Gobin:** That would depend on the computer wizards, Madam Chairperson. I cannot say at this stage.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rutnah!

**Mr Rutnah:** Let me take the hon. Minister to *Item 31122.802 - Acquisition of IT Equipment*, may I know who is the beneficiary of this contract?

**Mr Gobin:** Unfortunately, Madam Chairperson, I do not have that information at this stage. But this concerns office equipment like laptop, computer etc., and it is by tender always.

*Vote 15-2 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Rs160,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10:07 p.m.)

*Vote 15-3 Office of the Parliamentary Counsel was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 290! Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** We know that the workload at the Parliament is increasing...

**The Chairperson:** Which item?

**Mr Baloomoody:** *Item 21110 - Personal Emoluments*. In fact, we had 16 staff, now we are downgrading it to only 13 staff for the Parliament. Last year, we funded for 16 staff

and this year we are only refunding for 13 staff, doing away with the Legal Assistant cadre, Chief Legal Assistant, Legal Assistant. So, may we know why?

**Mr Gobin:** I reassure the House that the officers are still working. They are in the rank of Registrar, Legal Assistant Cadre, Chief Legal Assistant and Legal Assistant. They have been transferred to the Office of the Solicitor General instead of the Parliamentary Counsel.

*Vote 15-3 Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (Rs18,200,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10:08 p.m.)

*Vote 15-4 Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 291! Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I see that there is a new post for a Human Rights Officer. May we know the role of the Human Rights Officer, especially now that we have a Human Rights Commission?

**Mr Gobin:** The scheme of service is being finalised in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms. But the intention is to cover for all the human rights obligations, reporting to regional and international bodies as well as locally in Mauritius.

**The Chairperson:** Page 292! Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Page 292, *Item 21110.005 – Extra Assistance*, may we know who are the beneficiaries of the extra assistance?

**Mr Gobin:** This is a provision for my advisers. I have none in that Ministry.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 31132 - Development of Human Rights Portal and Website*, may we know the total project cost and the expected date of completion?

**Mr Gobin:** An amount of Rs2 m. has been provided under vote *Item 31132 - Development of Human Rights Portal and Website*. The overall project estimate for hardware, software licence consultant, IT specialists etc. would be about Rs4.5m. The appointment of a consultant will be by September of this year and appointment of the contractor will be by the beginning of next year. The expected date will be four months for the development of the website.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** *Item 22900.979 - Expenses icw National Humanitarian Law Committee*, may we have some more details about that Committee? Who is chairing that Committee, when was the last time it sat and whether there is any report of that Committee?

**Mr Gobin:** This Committee: IHL (International Humanitarian Law) for workshops in partnership with Red Cross and to hold exhibitions in schools and colleges, including Rodrigues. Of course, Mauritius is a party to a number of conventions and treaties, referred commonly to as the IHL instruments. The Mauritius National Humanitarian Law Committee is established under the aegis of the Ministry and is composed of the following –

- The Chairperson is the responsible officer of the Ministry;
- The representative of the Commissioner of Police;
- The representative of the Solicitor General;
- The representative of FS, etc.

They are basically public officers from different relevant institutions.

**The Chairperson:** Page 293, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under item *21110.001(1) - Director (New)*, there is provision of a new post, Director.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Jhugroo, please, can you lower your voice?

**Mr Uteem:** Director of Institutional Reform, so may I know from the hon. Attorney General because no amount is budgeted, what will this Director do?

**Mr Gobin:** No amount is budgeted at this stage because the PRB, in its report 2016, recommended that the post of Director General OPSG be abolished upon the retirement of the

previous job holder with a view to optimising resources and the existing scheme of service be reviewed and Government is therefore in the process of revamping this office and the new scheme of service is being worked upon.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chair. Item 21110.001 (3) - *Financial and Governance Analyst*, there is an increase from 10 to 12, may I know from the hon. Minister the reason for this increase from 10 to 12 analysts?

**Mr Gobin:** I suppose it is related to the workload. There are, in fact, 16 posts on the establishment and provision has been made for two additional posts.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Ramful!

**Mr Ramful:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22120 – *Fees*, can we have some details about this?

**Mr Gobin:** So, this provision concerns –

- fees to Chairperson and members of the Boards and Committees: Rs100,000;
- fees for training: Rs250,000;
- fees to consultants: Rs4 m.;
- refund of subscription fees to professional bodies: Rs175,000,

totalling Rs4,525 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** On the same item, can we know why for the next year that fees come down drastically from Rs4,525,000 to only Rs525,000?

**Mr Gobin:** Yes, because the project right now is for revamping of this OPSG, so that's why provision has been made for a consultant, if need be. After the project, there will not be any need for such an amount.

**The Chairperson:** Last question!

**Mr A. Duval:** Under the same item, Madam Chairperson 22120 – *Fees* can he circulate the list of the beneficiaries, board members who are paid following up from his previous answer, the board members who are paid from this item 'fees\?

**Mr Gobin:** Not at this stage, Madam Chairperson, I will have to come back and circulate it at a later stage.

*Vote 15-4: Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms (Rs55,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

(10.16 p.m.)

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that you do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

**Mr Roopun rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

*On the Assembly resuming with Madam Speaker in the Chair, Madam Speaker reported accordingly.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Wednesday 26 June 2019, at 10.30 a.m.

**Mr Roopun rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Madam Speaker:** The House stands adjourned.

Hon. Uteem!

#### MATTERS RAISED

##### **STREET LIGHTING SYSTEM – MALFUNCTIONING – ROAD ACCIDENTS**

**Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central):** Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an issue which is addressed to the hon. Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport.

This morning, Madam Speaker, I went to a very moving funeral, one person from my Constituency passed away, he was a good Police Officer, he had a road accident and it is reported that the reason for the road accident was the malfunctioning of the street lighting system, *le feu de circulation* and it's not the first time.

Earlier this year, in my Constituency, at the junction of Labourdonnais and Volcy Pougnet, La Rue Madame Streets, again another accident occurred; again blaming was on the

malfunctioning of *le feu de signalisation*. Again, because of Metro Express, when we go to Rose Hill, coming from Ébène, at night, the *feu de signalisation* is yellow on both sides. So, again, there is confusion as to which car has priority if there is yellow flashing both ways.

So, I would urge the hon. Minister and whoever is going to report to him, whether an audit can be done about all these *feux de signalisation* in Mauritius to find out which one is functioning, which one is not functioning and at least have a coordination to prevent the occurrence of road accidents, especially when both are on yellow and the drivers don't know who has priority.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** First of all, I wish to express my considerable sympathy with regard to the Police Officer who died in this accident. Of course, the Police enquiry will ensue and responsibilities will be focused on whoever, but as part of the general issue of malfunctioning or non-functioning of traffic lights because there are two issues. The one at Labourdonnais was where the two lights were showing green. So, that's a malfunctioning where there is evidently an issue of responsibility but for the flashing amber lights, I am sure you remember the Highway Code. The flashing amber light means you need to stop.

*(Interruptions)*

Oh yes, but that is the Highway Code, both stop and then the one who is first on the junction has priority. That is what it should be. That is for the flashing amber lights. We have three situations where the lights don't function. There is an electric fault, breakdown. It is the same as the flashing amber lights. I am not going to give a course on Highway Code but then the question of the malfunction like the Labourdonnais incident where both are green, then, of course, there is a grave issue, I don't know about the facts of that policeman.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Baloomoody!

#### **OLD-AGE PENSION - PROTOCOL**

**Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West):** I would like to raise an issue to address the hon. Minister of Social Security. I have a constituent who was 60 in January and up to today, he has not received his old age pension, and every time he has been to the Social Security Office. Can I ask the hon. Minister at least to have a protocol so that people know exactly how long after they have been 60, they will receive their old age pension and whatever document they have to bring because some do receive it early, some do

receive it after six months, some don't even receive it. So, can I ask the hon. Minister to have at least a protocol to confirm to each and every person so that they know when they will receive their old age pension?

**The Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity, and Environment and Sustainable Development (Mr E. Sinatambou):** Let me take this opportunity to inform the House that there is a protocol. So, I do feel sorry for this constituent of the hon. Member, but there must be some reason. Very often, I mean, the protocol does state what are the documents, how it happens, what is the procedure, we have it an internal process.

So, this is an exception but I will look into the matter. If the hon. Member would kindly give me the name of his constituent, I will certainly look into the matter and see how to solve the problem but I would like first to reassure the House that there is a protocol and I'll do my level best to ensure that it is respected.

*At 10.21 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Wednesday 26 June 2019, at 10.30 a.m.*