

No. 18 of 2018



SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

PARLIAMENTARY

DEBATES

(HANSARD)

FIRST SESSION

TUESDAY 26 JUNE 2018

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BILL (*Public*)

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(Formed by Hon. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth)

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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-Daareeawoo	Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands
Hon. Seetanah Lutchmeenaraidoo, GCSK	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
Hon. Yogida Sawmynaden	Minister of Technology, Communication and Innovation
Hon. Nandcoomar Bodha, GCSK	Minister of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport
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 Husnood	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
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Hon. Soomilduth Bholah	Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives

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Hon. Marie Cyril Eddy Boissézon	Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms
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Hon. Mrs Roubina Jadoo-Jaunbocus	Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare

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MAURITIUS

Sixth National Assembly

FIRST SESSION

Debate No. 18 of 2018

Sitting of Tuesday 26 June 2018

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Louis at 10.00 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 Gayan rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

(10.34 a.m.)

PUBLIC BILL

THE APPROPRIATION (2018-2019) BILL 2018

(NO. VII OF 2018)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Madam Speaker in the Chair)

Consideration of the Appropriation (2018-2019) Bill 2018 (No. VII of 2018) was resumed.

(10.35 a.m.)

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

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem, page 93!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No question on page 93, so page 94! Yes.

Mr Uteem: Page 94, item 26313.024 - *Chagosian Welfare Fund*, may I have from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor a breakdown of the fund allocated under this item?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision has been reduced as some projects such as upgrading and renovation works at Pointe aux Sables have been completed in 2017-2018. I didn't know there is a Pointe aux Sables there also.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22120 - *Fees*, may we know for what purpose are these fees and who are the beneficiaries of this item?

The Chairperson: 22120 - Fees.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision made for payment of fees in connection with Departmental Bid Committees, Bid Evaluation Committees and Due Diligence Committees.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance, next question!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under Capital Expenditure, item 31121.801 - *Acquisition of Vehicles*, may we know what has been acquired and to whom it has been allocated?

The Chairperson: Sorry, I missed it! Which item did you say?

Mr Armance: Item 31121.

The Chairperson: 31121.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No provision made as the vehicles have been purchased in the Financial Year 2017-2018.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, can we know to whom the contract has been awarded?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No provision required for cleaning as this is meant under the vote item of the PMO.

Vote 4-1 Minister Mentor's Office, Ministry of Defence and Rodrigues (Rs48,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

The Chairperson: Page 954, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22030 - *Rent*, we find that for the subsequent years there is a reduction in rent, may we know why?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Rental of office space of 4,456 sq. feet at Edmond House New Building for a monthly rate of Rs218,504.41, monthly lease Belmont Ltd. The decrease in provision is based on the contract value.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, il y a eu un *increase* de R 360,000 à R 555,000.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision for payment of extra duty, responsibility, ad hoc and duty allowances to eligible staff. Increase is due to a rise for the request for duty remission of allowance and also based on the actual trend of expenditure.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Page 96.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo, page 95 or 96! Page 96, hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: On page 96, Madam Chairperson, item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor inform the House and give details on these studies and surveys, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The amount of Rs9.5 m. in the 2018-2019 Estimates has been earmarked for the implementation of the following projects -

1. Maritime Boundaries Delimitation and Continental Shelf Joint Management area: Rs3,150,000;
2. Maritime Boundaries Delimitation and Continental Shelf Extended: Rs700,000;
3. Maritime Boundaries Delimitation and Continental Shelf EEZ: Rs1,100,000;
4. Elaboration of a Maritime Special Plan for Maritime zone administration and use: Rs2,050,000;
5. Regulation of underwater cultural heritage activities: Rs700,000;
6. Development of promotion of an offshore extractive industry hydrocarbon: Rs800,000;

7. Development of promotion of an offshore extractive industry minerals: Rs1 m.

The Chairperson: Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whenever your reply is long you can always circulate it as was done by the hon. Prime Minister.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Yes, I could have circulated that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan! No.

Vote 4-2 Continental Shelf and Maritime Zones Administration and Exploration (Rs34,300,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 4-3 Forensic Science Laboratory was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 21110.001(2) - *Deputy Director, Forensic Science Laboratory*, I can see that no provision is made for that item. May we know whether this post is being abolished?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Appointment is made from the grade of Chief Forensic Scientist. There is presently no Chief Forensic Scientist in post.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, there is an increase from Rs1.8 m. to Rs2.2 m. May I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor what does the allowances relate to?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision for payment of on-call allowance, ad hoc, duty remission, car allowance, risk and responsibility allowances to eligible officers. Based on the trend of expenditure, provision has been increased.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo, page 98!

Mr Ganoo: I wish to intervene, Madam Chairperson, on the last item at page 98, namely item 31122.804 - *Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*, with regard to the sum that has been budgeted. There is regularly a problem in our Courts of law; FSL reports are not ready and very often we are being told that the equipment of the FSL is outdated. May I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor, especially with the invasion of synthetic drugs, whether the laboratory equipment has been, in fact, purchased to solve this problem of new synthetic

drugs, and whether the FSL reports could be made available in Courts of law when they are needed?

The Chairperson: Can I remind hon. Members that their questions have to be brief and the replies also will be brief, and that they have to ask one question at a time, please.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, the Rs26.5 m. allocated is for drug analysis equipment.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: In relation to construction of Forensic Science Laboratory, can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor...

The Chairperson: Which item, hon. Ameer Meea?

Mr Ameer Meea: There is only one item, *31112.019 - Construction of the Forensic Science Laboratory*. There was an amount of Rs25 m. that was budgeted last year, and I suppose the project has already been completed. I would like to know whether it is already operational, because there is no amount budgeted this year. Can we have some more details on that?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, the construction of the Forensic Science Laboratory at La Vigie will be effected through a line of credit offered by the Government of India. The project is at tendering stage for consultancy services for its design.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance, last question on page 98!

Mr Armance: I want to come back on *item 31122.804 - Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*. I would like to find out what is the equipment for. Why has it been acquired?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision is required for the purchase of the undermentioned equipment for the upgrading of the Laboratory -

- (a) Next Generation Sequencing;
- (b) upgrade of a ABSciex-QTrap, 4.500.
- (c) upgrade of the QX HRMS;
- (d) Flying UPS;
- (e) Crime-lite ML2;
- (f) 5% retention money to be paid to Separation Scientific Company Ltd for the Laboratory Information Management System, LIMS project.

Vote 4-3 Forensic Science Laboratory (Rs108,500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 4-4 Rodrigues was called.

The Chairperson: Page 99, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 99, under item 22030 - *Rent*, I see that there is a decrease in rent. Last year, it was Rs212 m., and for this year and the following years, only Rs12 m. has been earmarked. So, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor just explain why?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The renting of building in relation to 'Maison de Rodrigues' in Mauritius is no longer required since the setting up in September 2017 of the Rodrigues Information and Support Desk on the 5th Floor at the NEF, Port Louis, by the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Environment.

The Chairperson: Page 100, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I congratulate the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for the good job and I welcome our friends here.

On item 26321.001 - *Rodrigues Regional Assembly*, page 100, we are being asked to vote Rs2.75 billion. Can I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor, within that budget, what amount has been earmarked for the new runway, where work has reached with regard to this very important project of the new runway or extension of the runway?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, I understand it is not in the budget. It is outside the budget.

The Chairperson: It is not within this item.

Mr Bhagwan: The project is going on.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The project is there, but it is not yet available.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under item 31113.313 - *Port Mathurin Port Development Project (Consultancy Services)*, I see there was amount of Rs10 m. budgeted last year. May I know whether this money has been spent and why there is no provision for the coming years?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The Mauritius Ports Authority had enlisted the services of the Consultant Royal HaskoningDHV to work on the Port Master Plan, which included Port Mathurin, Rodrigues and Mauritius Ports Authority. The RRA gave their comments on the draft Master Plan prepared by the Consultant. The document has been finalised, and no provision is made as the project has been completed.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On Capital Expenditure, Rodrigues Regional Assembly, item 26321.001 - *Rodrigues Regional Assembly*, Rs825 m. was budgeted last year. I recall that the RRA has acquired the Pointe Venus Hotel for Rs50 m., and this was severely criticised by the Director of Audit...

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea, I am sorry, just ask your question!

Mr Ameer Meea: My question is...

The Chairperson: Do not give explanations!

Mr Ameer Meea: I am not giving explanations...

The Chairperson: No! Just ask your question!

Mr Ameer Meea: I am just giving information for the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor to be able to reply to my question.

The Chairperson: No!

Mr Ameer Meea: My question is where matters stand with regard to this acquisition of Rs50 m. It was question of transforming it into a technopole and, up to now, it is in a derelict state. So, where do matters stand in relation to that?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Unfortunately, I do not have the information. Please come with a specific question at Question Time.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 3111.313 - *Port Mathurin Port Development Project (Consultancy Services)*. I would like to know the amount which has already been paid to the Consultant.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I do not have the information.

(Interruptions)

What has been paid has been paid!

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem, last question!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under 25110 - *Non-Financial Public Corporations*, there are two items, namely .011- *Special Rodrigues Holiday Package* and .012 - *Subsidy on Airfare from Rodrigues*. May I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor the number of persons concerned with the subsidy and the package? How many have benefited from this?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The Rodrigues Special Holiday package was introduced on 01 August 2009 as a temporary stimulus package with a view to boost the tourism sector in Rodrigues. This has also helped more Mauritians to go to Rodrigues as tourists.

Vote 4-4 Rodrigues (Rs3,699, 000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 4-5 Reform Institutions and Rehabilitation was called.

The Chairperson: Page 101, hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you. Under item 21110.001(7) – *Psychologist (Clinical and Social)*, I see that the Budget provides two psychologists. May we know whether those two psychologists will be posted in all the Institutional Reforms institutions, including RYC and CYC?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The newly recruited psychologist has joined the Ministry with initial salary.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon Ganoo! I have already given the floor to hon. Ganoo. Then you will intervene afterwards. Hon. Ganoo, first!

Mr Ganoo: On page 101, under item 2110.001(15) - *Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor explain to the House what are the functions of these Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, I do not have it. I will circulate it later.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you. I asked the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether those two psychologists will be posted in all Institutional Reforms, including RYC and CYS. This is what I asked.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I suppose so.

The Chairperson: Page 102, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22900.958 - *Running Expenses i.c.w. Small Homes*, may we have some more details about these small homes? How many there are?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: It is provision made to meet cost of running expenses of small home accommodation for inmates of RYC girls.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 22120 – *Fees*, may we know what are these fees for?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: They are fees for payment for Boards and Committees. I better circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 102, under item 21111 – *Other Staff Costs*, I see the same amount being budgeted for four financial years. Can we have some details regarding this amount for 2017/2018?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: It is provision for payment of PRB, travel grants, refund of bus fares to staff and overtime. It is provision for payment of overtime to office auxiliaries, drivers and other staff; provision to cater for welfare of staff.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same page, item 22060 – *Maintenance*, Rs2.495 m. for 2017/18; can we have a breakdown of this amount, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: On page 103, Madam Chairperson...

The Chairperson: We are on page 102!

Mr Ganoo: Page 103?

The Chairperson: Page 103, yes!

Mr Ganoo: Item 31111.404 - *Upgrading of Youth Rehabilitation Centres*, I would like to ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor if he can give a breakdown of the upgrading works carried in these centres and how much did they cost?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision made for –

- (i) upgrading of toilets, bathrooms, installation of water pumps, water tanks of larger capacity and replacement of defective extractor fans – Rs1.9 m., and
- (ii) major renovation works for RYC girls – Rs1m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same item, item 31112.401 - *Upgrading of Probation Offices*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor tell us which probation offices have been upgraded, more details about this item, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provisions made for –

- (i) one emergency staircase – Rs1 m.;
- (ii) construction of storeroom – Rs1 m.;
- (iii) upgrading of electrical network – Rs0.1 m.;
- (iv) heightening of wall with fencing and raise of wire at Probation Head Quarters, Beau Bassin – Rs0.5 m.;
- (v) purchase and installation of air conditioners – Rs0.5m., and
- (vi) upgrading of Boys' Hostel – Rs0.9 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Can I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor, under item 31111.404 - *Upgrading of Youth Rehabilitation Centres*, who won the contract for the renovation?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: In-house by prison.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under item 28211.049 - *Probation Home for Girls* and item 28211.050 - *Probation Home for Boys, respectively*. I see that an amount has been budgeted. May we know what is the amount for?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision made to meet running expenses of probation home for girls. Inmates plus house, parents, assistant house parents including rent, staff, cost and fees to members of the Managing Committee. Transport for the inmates, another office expenses as a result of which the cost has now increased. Probation Home for boys? Girls! All right!

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud, last question.

Mrs Perraud: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson, page 103 item 28211, I put it under *Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*, I haven't seen the budget allocated for NGOs and also for Centre Lotus. So, can you just inform the House about how much is allocated to the NGOs and to Centre Lotus?

The Chairperson: But it is not in the Budget.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The NGOs don't fall under these items, it is not there.

Vote 4-5 Reform Institutions and Rehabilitation (Rs106,600,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 4-6 Police Service was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea! Page 104!

Mr Ameer Meea: I will take it under page 108.

The Chairperson: Okay, no question. Page 105, hon. Ameer Meea, you said you have a question on page 105? No. Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Madam Chairperson, under item 21 - *Compensation of Employees*, may I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor the number of vacancies currently in the Police Force? He can circulate the information.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Item 21 - *Compensation of Employees*?

Mr Uteem: Yes, the number of vacancies, there are various posts starting from the Commissioner of Police to Band Constable. So, I would like to know the number of vacancies currently on these positions.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, to be circulated.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 21110.001(29) - *Bandmaster*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor tell us why there is no provision for this year?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No provision made for vacant post – 606 additional posts.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan, page 105.

Mr Bhagwan: Page 105, item 21110.001(1) - *Commissioner of Police*, can I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor...

The Chairperson: What is the question, please?

Mr Bhagwan: Who is looking at me?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan, please ask your question! Don't lose time!

Mr Bhagwan: Under item 21110.001(1) - *Commissioner of Police*, can I know how many Police Officers including all hierarchies are under the command of the Commissioner of Police and when will his contract, his term of office come to an end?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Term of office of the Commissioner?

(Interruptions)

This won't be in the Budget, when he is retired.

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: The total number of Police Officers. You can circulate. How many officers 2,000, 3,000, 5,000?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I have been told approximately 13,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, page 105, item 21110.001(6) - *Woman Assistant Commissioner of Police*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor let us know why this post is still vacant for the year 2018/2019 and if there is any intention to fill this post?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No, we don't have it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same page item 21110.001 – (9) *Police Medical Officer/Senior Police Medical Officer*, we see that there has been a reduction from 3 to 2 when, in fact, the number of Police Officers are increasing, may we know why we have reduced the number of Police Medical Officers?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision is made for 2 posts of Police Medical Officer/Senior Police Medical Officer; decrease is due to one officer promoted to post of Principal Police Medical Officer.

The Chairperson: Page 106, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: No, I have not finished with page 105.

The Chairperson: Page 106. You don't have questions. Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: No, page 107.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Page 106, on item 21110.001(44) - *Principal Procurement and Supply Officer*, there are 3 posts which are being funded same as last year but for the estimates the current year was Rs1.8 m. and the post remained the same, that is, only 3 officers, but the amount budgeted has drastically reduced to Rs900,000. May we know what is the reason for that?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The decrease is due to 6 months provision made for the filling of the two vacant posts.

The Chairperson: Page 107, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes, concerning item 22900.001 – *Uniforms*, I want to know the amount spent last year and if you can table the list of uniforms because now, 4 years back, there is a problem of shirt and trousers for riders and policemen.

The Chairperson: Item 22900.001 – *Uniforms*, at the bottom of the page.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, I see increase is due to criteria respecting Police uniforms have been reviewed.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Page 107, last line item 22900.973 - *Expenses i.c.w Safe City Project*, we are being asked to vote Rs460 m., can we have some details about where this project has reached and for what purpose we are being asked to vote Rs460 m.?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision is made for installation of 4,000 intelligence surveillance cameras, 4,500 tracking smart handsets, 500 tracking vehicles radios and an Emergency Response System.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo!

Mr Ganoo: Item 22030.007 - *Rental of Lines for CCTV and other Security Network Systems*, I would like to ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor regarding the sum of Rs98 m., can he give a breakdown of this sum?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I may take the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor to item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, it is the seventh item on page 107.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Page?

Mr Rutnah: It is seventh item on page 107. In relation to *Allowances*, I see that for the last financial year a provision of Rs150 m. was made whereas for this year, we see a

decrease in that provision to Rs135 m. and thereafter, for the two following years the figures remain constant. Can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor why this figure has been reduced to Rs135 m. now?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: You should be happy it is reduced!

(Interruptions)

Provision is made for payment of acting special allowance to VIPSU staff personnel; Special Medical Service Allowance; bodyguard, clothing, Commuted Allowance to VIPSU and Police Headquarters staff, detectives; extra duty; public holidays; rent responsibility; On-call Allowance to Police Medical Officers; risk trade pay, technical pay, responsibility under Disturbance Allowance; Public Holiday Allowance and Duty Allowance.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I want to come back on the Safe City Project...

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I understand the sum is based on actual trend, so we are going on the right trend.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Item 22900.973 - *Expenses i.c.w Safe City Project*, I would like to know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor about the 4,000 intelligent cameras, whether there have been any consultancy services for the implementation, and if he is planning to launch the tender for the acquisition of the cameras soon?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I have got the answer which is very simple. No consultancy services.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. Again, on the last line Safe City Project, we have been given to understand in Parliament that this project is being implemented by Mauritius Telecom through Huawei, a Chinese company. Can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister

Mentor how about confidentiality of information that these 4,000 cameras are going to harness? Are they going to be protected insofar because private entities are concerned here?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Please, come with a question at Question Time, you will get the answer!

The Chairperson: This relates to policy. We cannot accept this question.

(Interruptions)

Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: On item *Uniforms*...

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Which page?

Mr Baloomoody: Page 107. Under item 22900.001 - *Uniforms*, may I know whether provision has been made to increase the supply of cardigans, coats, *tricots* to the Police officers, because I understand they receive one every three years? One cardigan for three years!

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I understand it is already procured and issued.

(Interruptions)

It has been issued already, so no worries!

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: No, page 109.

The Chairperson: Okay, hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Yes. Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22060.004 - *Vehicles and Motocycles*, an amount of Rs21.5 m. was budgeted for 2017-2018. Can we know to whom the contracts were awarded and if we can have a breakdown of this amount, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The only information I have for the time being is provision for repairs and maintenance of vehicles.

The Chairperson: Page 108, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 108, item 31122.805, can we know which security equipment has been acquired and will be acquired? *Acquisition of Security Equipment*.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision made for the payment to suppliers regarding procurement of ammunitions, tear gas and procurement of arms for the Central Armoury SSU and NCG, ADSU and SMF made in last financial year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo, page 108!

Mr Ganoo: Page 108, item 31132.401 - *Intangible Fixed Assets e-Government Projects (a) Implementation of e-Business Plan for Traffic Branch*, can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether any consultant has been recruited for this e-Business Plan for Traffic Branch and the amount of the sum budgeted for this item?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Phase I of the project completed. Upon approval of Cabinet procedures for launching of tender would be initiated.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. My question pertains to *Sub-Head 4-602: Crime Control and Investigation* for which we are being requested to vote a Budget of Rs3.6 billion. Can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor the *bilan* on the CCID with respect to missing persons? There is a growing number of missing persons in the country not to be found. So, can I know as at date how many have not been found because even yesterday or day before yesterday...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: This question does not form part of the Budget. Hon. Osman Mahomed, I am sorry!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Adrien Duval!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: I cannot hear because of the noise!

(Interruptions)

Item 31122.805 - *Standard Equipment for Police as per International*, can we know how many Police Officers have been equipped to date and what kind of equipment are we talking about?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No provision made as all the equipment ordered in 2017-2018, such as expendable batons, handcuffs, torch lights, federal streamers, tactical belts, ballistic goggles, night vision goggles, first aid kit, alcometers, scene of crime tool kit, anti-riot kits have been received in the same financial year.

(Interruptions)

How many!

The Chairperson: Pending you look for that information, can we ask hon. Ameer Meea?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The figure that I have just been given is about 4,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes. Under *Sub-Head 4-602: Crime Control and Investigation*, there was a fraud of Rs30 m. and cash collection at Piton Station, may I know whether this sum has already been recovered, has already been recouped?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, this should be put as a PQ.

The Chairperson: Page 108. Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 31122.825 - *Standard Equipment for Police as per International*, I understand that the expandable batons were given to the Police Officers and they were retrieved one week after because they were defective. May we know how much has spent for the expandable batons?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I do not have that information.

The Chairperson: He does not have the information. Hon. Uteem, page 109!

Mr Uteem: Under item 22060.014 - *CCTV Cameras in Police Stations*, can I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor why the budget for maintenance is being reduced when we know that these CCTV cameras are not working at crucial times in Police cells?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Because of rental contract.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Item 22030.007 - *Rental of lines for CCTV and other Security Network*. Can we have a list of the breakdown?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Payment to Mauritius Telecom for the rental of fibre-optic and ADSL lines, *icw* Crime Occurrences Tracking System (COTS) at Eastern and Central Division, Southern Division, Northern Division and Port Louis Division.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Madam Chairperson, item 22060.004 - *Vehicles and Motorcycles*, can we know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether all the low saddle motorcycles bought from China, which we have been complaining here in Parliament over the years, have been replaced?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Motorcycles make Yamaha, model Virago, were procured in the year 2008, 2009 and 2012. 44 Virago motorcycles are actually allocated to the Traffic Branch and are used by police riders for mobile patrol and other traffic duties.

CP's Circular 22 dated 25 November 2011, police riders were requested to submit written complaints regarding inconveniences towards the use of these motorcycles. To date, no written complaints have been received.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please, do not interrupt!

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: 44 such motorcycles are presently in use.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Item 22060 - *Maintenance*. As the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor might know, there is infestation of bugs in Police cars and Stations. For example, ADSU of Grand'Baie, there are rats and pigeons in the roof. Whenever you go and assist a statement there, you will hear...

The Chairperson: No, ask your question! Do not make statements, I have said. I will not allow this.

Mr A. Duval: The question is whether this money, the millions that are voted, can be used primarily for the welfare of Officers with regard to bugs and rats and all these infestations.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, I understand debugging is done regularly by contractor.

The Chairperson: Page 110, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 31112.013 with regard to the *Construction of Police District Headquarters at Abercrombie*, the project value is Rs70 m., estimate nil, but contrary to the reply to PQ B/38 and B/757, where the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor assured the House....

The Chairperson: No, hon. Abbas Mamode, I am sorry, just ask your question in relation to this! We are losing too much time! I will not allow...

Mr Abbas Mamode: It is in relation.

The Chairperson: No, just ask your question. Do not make statement.

Mr Abbas Mamode: It is in relation, Madam Chairperson, because in two PQs the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor assured the House...

The Chairperson: We know all this, hon. Abbas Mamode. Please sit down, hon. Abbas Mamode. I will not allow any statement for the Committee of Supply or in relation to other PQs or what not. You ask your question directly. I said, right at the beginning, that questions have to be brief. Ask your question!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Je la pose autrement. Pourquoi aucune somme n'a été allouée pour la construction du *Police Headquarters* du Nord ?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The hon. Member should be happy. No money is being spent. Decrease is due to tender documents not yet finalised by Central Procurement Board.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under Capital Expenditure, item 31112.012 - *Construction of Police Stations (g) Bain des Dames Police Station*, there is a project value of Rs20 m., but,

unfortunately, this year, there is no provision so far made for the construction of this Police Station. May I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor the reasons why?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No provision is made because it is still at design stage. Baby is not born yet.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I may take the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor to item 31112.014. It is in relation to *Construction of Regional Detention Centres - Piton*. Can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor whether a site has been identified and when the project is likely to kick-off?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, tender document is currently under preparation at CPB for launching of bids. The site has already been identified.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud, next question!

Mrs Perraud: Page 110, item 22120 - *Fees*, there was a sum of Rs3 m. earmarked for last year. Can we know to whom this amount has been paid?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: This item has been centralised in Sub-Head 4-601: General.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea, next question!

Mr Ameer Meea: Madam Chairperson, I will come back to the Headquarters at Abercrombie. Rs70 m. was the project value and Rs5 m. for the current year was budgeted, and I wanted to know how much was spent out of this Rs5 m., doing what, and why also for subsequent years, nothing has been budgeted. This is the point that hon. Abbas Mamode wanted to make.

The Chairperson: Okay.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The decrease is due to tender documents not yet finalised by Central Procurement Board.

Mr Ameer Meea: The Rs5 m. spent?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: It has been done.

The Chairperson: Well, the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor can circulate the details for this later.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, I do not have the details. Apparently, the answer is that no funds were used last year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo! Page 111!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31121.043 - *Driving License and Test Centre - Les Casernes, Curepipe*, may we know why this huge increase from Rs7 m. to Rs11.3 m?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The increase is due to project scheduled to start in January 2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Under item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, can we have details of the provisions under this item?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision for eligible officers for commuted allowance, public holiday, rent, risk allowance, disturbance allowance, driver's allowance, corporal allowance and night duty allowance. The decrease is due to the fact that payment of extra duty is now met from funds collected from the private firms requisitioning these services.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 31121.043 - *Driving Licence and Test Centre - Les Casernes, Curepipe* where a sum of Rs7 m. is provided for this financial year and Rs11 m. for next year. May we have a breakdown of how much has been spent? Why such a huge sum is earmarked?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The breakdown will be circulated.

Mr Baloomoody: May we know how much has been spent from the Rs7 m. already?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Not yet spent!

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Regarding item 31122.999 - *Acquisition of Other Machinery and Equipment*, can we have a breakdown of the Rs8.6 m.? What does it comprise of exceptionally because it is such a high figure this year?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The increase is due to provision made for purchase of hand held speed detectors to enhance road safety.

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

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 22060.004 – *Vehicles and Motorcycles*, may we have the detailed breakdown? Perhaps the Rt. hon. Mentor Minister can circulate the cost of maintenance for each vehicle.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: These provisions are for repairs and maintenance.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea! Page 112!

Mr Ameer Meea: I have questions on page 115.

The Chairperson: Any more question on page 113? No! Yes, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: At page 115, under item 31122.805 - *Acquisition of Security Equipment* where an amount of Rs23 m. is budgeted for next year. May we know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor which equipment are we talking about and whether the tender has already been launched?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: The provision is for specialised equipment for ADSU to increase detection.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 113, Capital Expenditure, under item 31121.801 - *Acquisition of Vehicles*, where a sum of Rs15 m. was budgeted for 2017/18. May we know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor to whom the contract was awarded and the cost per vehicle, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I do not have this information.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ganoo! Hon. Mrs Perraud!

(Interruptions)

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, it will be circulated.

The Chairperson: Page 113! Hon. Mrs Perraud, you had a question?

Mrs Perraud: Under item *21110.004 - Allowances*, can we have details for the allowances paid, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: It is provision for eligible officers for acting, clothing, detective extra duty, public holiday, rent, responsibility, risk, trade pay, technician pay, responsibility and disturbance driver's allowance and night duty allowance.

The Chairperson: Page 114! No question? Page 115, hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 115, Capital Expenditure, item *31121.801 - Acquisition of Vehicles (12 Light Armoured Personnel Carriers)*. This is a project value of Rs510 m. for 12 Armoured Personnel Carriers and it seems to be very expensive vehicles. May we know, up to now, how many vehicles have already been acquired?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No contracts signed yet. Nothing has been purchased.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: With regard to item *31113 - Other Structures*. Can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor confirm that this is for the roof structure of the building to store the cars at the VIP Carpool Unit, in line with the recommendations of the Director of Audit, which has been dragging on for a number of years now?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Construction of security walls completed, construction of shelters for Plants and Vehicles are still at feasibility stage.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item *31111.401 - Upgrading of Quarters & Barrack* where, in fact, for last year Rs5.7 m. was budgeted. May we know how much has been spent from this budgeted sum and for which quarters?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: It is still at design stage.

The Chairperson: Page 116! Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 116, item 22 - *Goods and Services*, I see that there was a sum of Rs28 m. budgeted for last year, and then this year it is Rs9 m.; so can we have some information about this item, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Cost of utilities, electricity and gas, provision for payment of electricity, telephone and water charges.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem! Page 116.

Mr Uteem: Under item *31121.801 - Acquisition of Vehicles (6 Light Armoured Personnel Carriers)*, we have Rs28 m. for last year, zero for next year then Rs88 m. and Rs85 m. May I know from the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor what is the total cost of these 6 vehicles? Has tender been launched, has contract been awarded?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Proposal for the supply of LAPCs device weapons for SSU has been submitted for financial clearance to PMO and SLO. The contract for the 6 LAPCs will be on the same line as that of the 12 LAPCs or the SMF.

The Chairperson: Page 117, hon. Ameer Meea! No. Hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Mrs Perraud, page 117.

Mrs Perraud: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item *21110.005 - Extra Assistance*, there is a sum of Rs50 m. budgeted for this year and last year it was Rs38 m. Can we have some information about this item?

The Chairperson: Page 117.

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

- 2 Commanders;
- 2 Deputy Commanders;
- 8 Lieutenant Commanders;
- 2 Wing Commanders;
- 1 Group Captain, and
- 1 Captain.

Increase due to rise on the allowance paid to Indian personnel as approved by the Pay Commission in India.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Yes, with regard to item 22020.004 - *Fuel and Oil of which Ships*, there is a huge sum of money being claimed for fuel and oil. May we know with regard to the Ships based at the harbour, the Coast Guard Ships, the vessels, how many expeditions have they done outside the coastal waters for the last financial year?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, we will circulate this.

The Chairperson: Page 118, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Item 31113.312 - *Integrated Development Project for the NCG (Trident Project)*, the project value is Rs2.9 billion and we are being asked to vote Rs9 m. Can we have some details about this Trident Project and can we know for what purpose this sum of Rs9 m. is being earmarked for?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Supervision and consultancy services for Development of Marine and then site facilities for Project Trident for NCG will be completed in September 2018. Construction is scheduled to start in January 2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful, next question!

Mr Ramful: Under item 31112.025 - *Construction of NCG Posts*, can we have details as to where the posts will be constructed?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, I will circulate this.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Item 31121.803 - *Acquisition of Patrol Vessels*, can we have details of this item, the list and the use?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Decrease through overall of helicopters, upgrading of patrol ships, and acquisition of patrol ships having deferred to a later stage.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Yes, Madam Chairperson, thank you. Under item 31122.812 - *Acquisition of Nautical Equipment*, may we know from the sum of Rs10 m. of last year, how much was spent and what is this nautical equipment, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: All funds used.

Vote 4-6 Police Service (Rs8,485,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 4-7 Prison Service was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody, page 119.

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 21110.001 - (4) *Assistant Commissioner of Prisons (Trades)*, may we know why this post has not been filled?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Post does not appear in Estimates, MOFED already informed about the issue and the post is unfunded.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem! Hon. Mrs Perraud, page 120.

Mrs Perraud: Madam Chairperson, under item 21110.001(47) - *Prisons Psychologist*, I see that there is fund for another psychologist. Can I ask the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor to give us the total number of psychologists working in all the Reform Institutions?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, the answer is only one.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Same page, item 21110.001(48) - *Prisons Pharmacist*, we see that no provision has been made for a Prisons Pharmacist.

The Chairperson: Prisons Pharmacist.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Post created against abolition of post of Prisons Pharmacist, recruitment will be made by Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and incumbent will be posted to Mauritius Prison Service.

The Chairperson: Page 121, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under item 21110.001(62) - *Prisons Health Records Clerk (New)*, it is a new post but no amount has been budgeted.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: No provision is made as it is a new post and the Scheme of Service has to be prescribed.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, under items 21110.001(60) - *Prisons Dental Assistant* and 21110.001(61) - *Dental Assistant*, may I know what is the difference? One is Prisons Dental Assistant and the other one is Dental Assistant.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Well, this post is created against abolition of post of Prisons Dental Assistant. Request made to Ministry of Health and Quality of Life to create one post of Dental Assistant on its Establishment in Budget 2018-2019. Incumbent will thereafter be posted to the MPS.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 121, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we have some information for this item, please?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision made for payment of allowance for one Project Manager. Previously, provision was made for a consultant who resigned in January 2017 and the post is still vacant.

The Chairperson: Page 122, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28211.008 - *Discharged Persons Aid Committee*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor tell us who are the Members of the Committee and when was the last time it met?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I think we will better circulate this.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Yes, with regard to item 22900.005 - *Provision and Stores*, can the Rt. hon. Minister Mentor give a complete list of all the suppliers and the amount paid, especially for the fish supplies?

The Chairperson: If there is a long list you may circulate the answer!

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: I suppose it must be long, but the answer is very short.

(Interruptions)

Provision made for the purchase of foodstuffs and store items and for the replacement of kitchen utensils.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 28211- *Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions*, may we have a detailed list of the beneficiaries?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision is to meet payment of Subsistence Allowance to detainees on release. An amount of Rs60 is payable to them for each year of imprisonment. An average of 950 detainees are released per year. A Committee on Discharged Persons' Aid is responsible for determining the quantum of allowance payable to detainees.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: And for the other information connected with this, I will circulate it.

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 31122.805 - *Purchase of Security Equipment*, may I know what remedial action has been taken for the cameras that were not working and also, up to now what is the percentage of operational cameras in the prisons?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Since the CCTV not functioning, not cost-effective; contemplating to cease maintenance agreement of Rs4.3 m. annually due to end 31 December 2020. I see also Prison Officers attended a short course in CCTV in China. Maintenance will be carried out by Prison team under supervision of ESD engineers.

(Interruptions)

In respect of the cameras, I will circulate the information.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132.401 - *e-Government Projects*, as the project value is Rs34 m., so only the sum of Rs2.5 m. has been earmarked for this year. May we know whether this is a consultancy fee?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Provision made for the development of four new modules in Phase II of the Prison System and extension of the e-Prison System to the Rodrigues Prison.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Concerning item 31112.411 - *Upgrading of Prisons (a) Beau Bassin Prisons*, Rs4.8 m., Madam Chairperson, we have been promised for the past financial years the Sewerage Reticulation System at Beau Bassin Prison which has been causing a lot of environmental problems in the region of Mont Roches and

Barkly. Can we know for this financial year, whether this project of rebuilding the sewerage network in the Prison will be effected?

Sir Anerood Jugnauth: Yes. Upgrading of medical facilities for detainees and staff; upgrading of BBP mechanical, metal aluminium workshop and upgrading of Correctional Emergency Response, team barracks, including Prison Armoury and Dog Section.

Vote 4-7 Prison Service (Rs830,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

The Chairperson: Page 124, no question. Page 125, hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson! If I may take the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to item 21110.001 (42) in relation to *General Worker*. At page 125, in the first column, we see that there is a provision for 69 General workers and for this financial year, there is a provision, again, for 69 General Workers, whereas the Estimates for the last financial year was Rs11,300,000, but for the current financial year with the same number of General Workers, the provision is Rs7,830,000. May we know why?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, it seems that the decrease in provision is due to the following: provisions were overestimated last year by Rs3.4 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may we know what is the extra assistance for?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Extra Assistance caters for the salary and bonus for two advisers.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 21110.001 - *Basic Salary (19) - Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary*, there is a reduction from 11 posts to 7 posts. Can I know the reason why?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The decrease in provision is due to the fact that provision has been made for seven Office Auxiliary instead of 11.

The Chairperson: Page 126, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning Grants, item 26323.070 - *Outer Islands Development Corporation (Agalega) of which (a) Construction of Cold Room* in Agalega, who is the contractor?

(Interruptions)

Construction of different amenities. I would like to know the contractors.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, this is a new item. This is in the Budget. So, funds of Rs5 m. provided for the construction of the Cold Room.

(Interruptions)

This is a new item.

Mr Abbas Mamode: Will it be by tender?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Of course. I hope so, yes.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.070 - *Outer Islands Development Corporation*. Rs123.9 m. was budgeted last year. May we know how this money has been spent, and why is there a big provision of Rs142 m. this year, and the years to come?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, provision has been made to finance the recurrent expenditure of the O IDC such as salaries, allowances, transportation of foodstuff by sea, fuel and oil. Increase in provision is due to (a) payment of salaries and allowances; (b) increase in the price of foodstuff and other commodities, and also, maintenance of vehicles.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Coming to the same question of my friend hon. Abbas Mamode, what we want to know, Madam Chairperson, is whether these projects, all listed under Grants, Capital Expenditure, are going to be done in-house by public officers or they are going to be contracted out. We know prior works have to be done for all the technicians to settle there. So, what has been done so far to make provision for all the installation for all these projects to be carried out in a good environment?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: But procedures have not yet started. Maybe it is too early to decide. We will see in the future, what can be done.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 126, item 26313.070 - *Outer Islands Development Corporation*, Rs123.9 m for 2017-2018. Can we have a breakdown of this amount please?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Those are provisions to finance the recurrent expenditure of the O IDC such as salaries, allowances, transportation of foodstuff by sea, fuel and oil.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: On the same item 26313.070 - *Outer Islands Development Corporation*, may we know exactly how many personnel are stationed on Agalega? Because the amount budgeted for salaries is huge. May we know exactly what personnel, be it Police, or of your Ministry, Officials, Government workers, is on Agalega?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, officers posted on mission, five for Fire Services, Police Department...

Mr A. Duval: Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister circulate it?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Yes. So, I will circulate the document.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: In relation to *Outer Islands Development Corporation*, may I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister what is the cost of travel by ship for Agaleans coming to Mauritius and also for Mauritians, mainland Mauritius, travelling to Agalega? What is the cost of this travel?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Let me check with my officers if they have the answer or if he does not mind, maybe the hon. Member can come with a specific question, because I do not think...

(Interruptions)

The hon. Member needs it now? Okay, let the officers check then. So, Mauritian people, Rs20,000 and Agaleans, Rs8,000.

The Chairperson: Page 127, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22120 - *Fees*. In fact, there is a huge increase of nearly Rs1 m. with regard to fees for the coming year. May we know who the beneficiaries are?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Provisions have been made for the payment of, first, fees to the Chairman and members of Board and Committees, and second, fees for training also.

(Interruptions)

Mr Baloomoody: Which Board do you have there? The hon. Vice-Prime Minister said provision for Board members.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: We have Departmental Board Committees, Bid Evaluation Committee, Unified Local Government Service Board.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 127, item 21110.004 - *Allowances*. Can we have some information about the allowances, please?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: It is for the payment of allowances in terms of extra-duty allowance, responsibility, cash in lieu of duty free.

The Chairperson: Page 128, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Under Capital Expenditure, item 26322.030 - *Local Development Projects (g) Market Fairs (ii) Goodlands (including Traffic Centre)*. I see there is an amount of Rs276 m. for construction of Market Fair and Traffic Centre. May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister the status, whether the tenders have been launched and evaluated?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: I understand that the project is under evaluation.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under Capital Expenditure, item 26322.030 - *Local Development Projects*, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister table a list of all the projects constituency-wise?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Okay, at a later stage, I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Item 26322.030 - *Local Development Projects (g) Market Fairs (i) Bel Air*. Can we have the details of the project and the amount used out of the Rs20 m. budgeted last year?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The hon. Member needs what information?

(Interruptions)

What is the question precisely?

The Chairperson: The amount used.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: I understand that this project was to be financed under the Indian line of credit. However, bids received were not responsive. So, Government took the decision to implement the project through the National Budget. New bidding documents are being vetted by the Central Procurement Board and will be implemented shortly.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26322.030 - *Local Development Projects*. I cannot find it under any of the subheads. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister indicate the amount earmarked for renovation of the Theatre of Port Louis?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: It does not appear in this Budget. Let me check with the officers if they have the amount funded by the Council of Port Louis.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under the same item 26322.030 - *(g)(iv) Mahebourg*. For the market fair of Mahebourg, can we know what the status of the project is? I can see that a sum of Rs15 m. was budgeted last year, has this been spent?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, same as the previous answer! This project was to be financed under the Indian Line of Credit. As the bid was not responsive, Government took the decision to implement the project. In June 2018, the Draft bidding documents have been submitted to the Central Procurement Board for vetting. We are waiting for the reply.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26322.030 - *Local Development Projects*. From the long list, I see that there is no project at all for Constituency

No. 1. Can I know whether the Municipal Councillors or the Government has made any recommendation for projects under this item because it is very upsetting that there is no project at all for that Constituency?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, the question of the hon. Member does not relate to any particular item. This is another question. We have other projects.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: My question pertains to item 26322.030(f)(i) - *Plaine Verte (Idrice Goomany Centre)*, for which construction is expected to last three years. Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister what makeshift arrangement has been made for activities that were being held there in the meanwhile?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Provision of Rs5.6 m. has been provided in this Budget for the implementation of the project. The contract for the consultancy services was awarded to Pixel Creation Ltd for an amount of about Rs2 m. The inception Report has been received and is being studied by the Council.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin! Last question!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26312 - *Grant to Local Authorities*, can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister tell us what is the actual grant-in-aid formula, how is it calculated?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, it varies from one local authority to another as the calculation has been based on their actual expenditure during the last financial year.

The Chairperson: Page 129! Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Under item 32145.102 - *Loan to Municipal Council of Curepipe i.c.w Renovation of the Town Hall* where the project value is Rs145.128 m. We can see that it is only in 2019/20 that an amount of Rs60 m. is being budgeted and then for the coming year it is Rs20 m. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House if the renovation of this project will start in 2019? And where the difference in the amount will come from for the renovation of this Town Hall?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The project will be financed as follows; Rs55m under the Council's own fund and loan from the Government as it is a revenue generating project.

Contract for the consultancy services was awarded in July 2016 to Desai & Associates. So, the draft bidding document has been submitted to the Central Procurement Board for vetting. We are waiting for a reply.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: With regard to the *Upgrading of Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market*, may we know where matters stand?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Sorry! Which item?

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 26322.030(k) - *Upgrading of Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market, Port Louis*.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, this is a new project. It has just been announced in the Budget.

Madam Chairperson: Page 129! Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Item 26322.030(j)(xii) - *Montagne Blanche*, can we have details of the project?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, I understand that this is a Capital Project. Bids are being prepared for both civil works and supply installation testing and commissioning of the incinerators.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: Under item 26322.030(k) - *Upgrading of Fish, Meat and Poultry Section of the Central Market, Port Louis*. I heard the hon. Vice-Prime Minister saying that this is a new project altogether, but then again, I see that there is a project value of Rs90 m. So, could we find out how was this estimated? What does the project consist of? And who are the consultants who have estimated the project and when was it estimated?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, provision of Rs5 m. has been made for the consultancy services for the upgrading of this section.

(Interruptions)

Can you please wait? Do not pass remarks! You have put a question, you wait for my answer.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The hon. Member has asked his question, he should wait for the reply! Do not make comments, wait for the reply!

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Madam Chairperson, this is an estimate by the Council!

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Mohamed: Madam Chairperson, I wanted to know who estimated it? Not the Council! Who?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: By the Municipal Council!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Member, you have asked your question, you wait for the answer. Do not make comments in the meantime!

(Interruptions)

Please do not argue! Hon. Quirin!

(Interruptions)

Mr Quirin: At page 129, with regard to relocation of Barkly Sports Complex under the Local Development Projects, can we know when construction works are due to start, please?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Which item?

Mr Quirin: At page 129, under item 26322.030(i) - *Relocation of Barkly Sports Complex*, under the Local Development Projects.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The contract has been awarded to J. Dookun and Sons Ltd since May 2018. Works have already started and are expected to be completed in November this year. Full provision is provided in this particular Budget.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: Merci, Madame la présidente. Toujours sous l'item 26322.030(j) - *Setting up of Incinerators*, je voudrais savoir de l'honorable ministre en ce qui concerne l'incinérateur dans la ville de Quatre Bornes, est-ce qu'on parle de l'incinérateur existant ou bien est-ce un nouvel incinérateur?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Member, don't argue with me! We have exceeded the time limit! Don't argue!

(Interruptions)

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, I do not have this answer. Let me wait for...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea! You have just used a word and you said 'couyonade sa'. Withdraw that word, please!

Mr Ameer Meea: No, Madam, but...

The Chairperson: Withdraw that word!

Mr Ameer Meea: Madam Chairperson, I have been waiting for 15 minutes and I am not getting any time to put any questions!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't argue! Sit down! Let me give my ruling on this. I do not want to hear any comments, from this side of the House especially!

(Interruptions)

Now, if you are not satisfied, I will order you out! I will order you out if you do not remain silent!

(Interruptions)

Please, sit down! Please, sit down! Wait for my ruling! We had agreed between the Whips that we would allow only 15 minutes for this vote item and you know we have already

gone 24 minutes. I have already allowed excess time for this, so I think it is high time that we come back to the agreement that was reached between the Whips.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Yes, then I will pass on to the next.

(Interruptions)

Whoever is not satisfied...

(Interruptions)

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Madam Chairperson, allow me to answer to hon. Member Ramano.

The Chairperson: Yes.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: This is a new incinerator.

Mr Ramano: Can we know the site, please?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The site is at Avenue Berthaud.

Vote 5-1 Local Government and Outer Islands (Rs4,639,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

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

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 132...

The Chairperson: Page 130! Page 131, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, can I know the name of the contractor?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Silver Clean Ltd.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed, page 131?

Mr Mohamed: Sorry, it is for page 132.

The Chairperson: Okay, hon. Adrien Duval, page 131.

Mr A. Duval: Madam Chairperson, under item 22900.001 – *Uniforms*, the hon. Minister is well aware that with regard to uniform for firefighters, *ça laisse à désirer*. I am happy to see that there is an increase of Rs10 m. I hope it will be used to purchase boots and pants and all of this, firefighting equipment for our firefighters. Can the hon. Vice-Prime Minister confirm whether that is the case?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The increase in provision is to cater for additional uniforms for newly recruited staff and the supply of additional items of uniforms such as shirts, polo-shirts, shorts, etc.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22090 – *Security*, we find that last year we provided Rs624 m. and now it has gone down to only Rs400 m. May we know why?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The decrease is due to the lower price quoted by a new successful bidder. A good news!

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 22030 – *Rent*...

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Sorry, I cannot hear you, which item?

The Chairperson: Please! We cannot hear what the hon. Member is asking.

Mr Baboo: Under item 22030 – *Rent*, may we know which buildings are being rented and their total surface area?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I don't think I will be able to give you the floor, don't make comments I said.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: The head office, presently located in Meem Building at Deschartres Street, Port Louis. The Fire Safety Division, presently located at Bahemia

Building, Deschartres Street, Port Louis and the rental of 10 parking slots at head office, Meem Building, Deschartres Street, Port Louis.

(Interruptions)

If you want the surface area, you just give me some minutes, I will look for it.

(Interruptions)

Okay, I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: In the meantime, we take a question, from hon. Osman Mahomed, page 132.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Page 132, under item *31112. 024(b) - Relocation of Port-Louis Fire Station*, can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister where the new station is going to be constructed and what will become of the site that will be left over near NPF Building in Port Louis?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: With regard to the site which will be left over, we have not yet decided what we will do with it. But new provisions have been made for temporary relocation of Port Louis Fire Station at the Bulk Sugar Terminal premises. The preliminary design has been completed in February 2018 and bidding documents are under preparation by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: Yes, Madam Chairperson. We have heard in the news announcements that there would be a new objective of the Fire Services which would be to intervene, as in France, in cases where there are emergency accidents or pregnant women needing to be urgently taken to hospital. So, doing paramedical work as well, where is it at pages 132? I do not see any provision having been made for this added service of utmost importance for the fire services to give to the public.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, it is not under any of these items. Maybe you can come with a specific question and then I will give you an answer.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: I know that the Fire Station at Goodlands is a new project. May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister if she has the information as to whether the tender documents, the bid documents are almost ready? What is the status?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Funds provided for project preparation under Centrally Managed by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. I understand that land of an extent of 4,000 m² has been vested with Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service for the said construction. Final design has been approved and bidding documents are under preparation.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Page 132...

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Which page?

Mr Armance: Page 132, under item *31121.801 - Acquisition of Vehicles - (c) Aerial Ladder Platform*, I would like to know how many we have in good running condition and why there is a project value of Rs50 m. but there is no provision for this year, only Rs1 m. for next year and Rs30 m. for the previous year? Why are we not acquiring this platform this year only?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Yes, for the time being, we have 3 turntable ladders, one...

(Interruptions)

Can you please listen to my answer...

The Chairperson: Please, listen to the reply!

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: ...then you put your question.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Don't interrupt the hon. Vice-Prime Minister.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: For the time being, we have 3 turntable ladders. One is in order; 2 are under repairs and provision has been made in the budget for the buying of one more. So, if we repair the 2, then we will have 4 turntable ladders.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 132 item *31121.801 - Acquisition of Vehicles*, I find that Rs18 m. were budgeted for 2017/2018. Can we know how many vehicles have been acquired and the cost of each?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Twenty fire-fighting vehicles have been acquired.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: For relocation of the Port Louis Fire Station and Mahebourg Fire Station, can we know if a place has been identified? With regard to Mahebourg Fire Station, I can see the project value is Rs60 m., but then no budget has been provided for. Can I know the reason?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: You asked for Montagne Blanche also?

Mr Ramful: No, Port Louis and Mahebourg.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: For Port Louis, I have already answered, but for the relocation of Mahebourg Fire Station, funds have not been provided as land has not yet been identified. So, we are trying to locate an area.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramano!

Mr Ramano: Toujours sous l'item *31112.024(d) - Relocation of Quatre Bornes Fire Station*, aucun chiffre n'est prévu pour l'année 2018/2010. Est-ce que je dois comprendre que le projet n'a pas été finalisé parce qu'initialement il y avait un problème en ce qui concerne le site.

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Well, I understand that land of an extent of 7,400 m² at Avenue Tulip, Quatre Bornes has now been identified and is in process of being acquired by the Ministry of Housing and Lands following consultation with Metro Express Ltd regarding the setback to be observed from the metro line. So, the preliminary design is being prepared by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure based on the extent of the Land.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Item *31122.803 (b) protective and Other Rescue Equipment*, I am glad that our PNQs have not fallen on deaf ears. However, could the hon. Vice-Prime Minister please give us the details as to what kind of equipment are we purchasing for Rs50 m. and for

how many fire fighters? The list of equipment and the number of fire fighters who will be equipped!

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: Provision has been made for the procurement of two high volume water pumps. The first bidding exercise, I understand, was not responsive and we...

(Interruptions)

Increase in provision was made to cater for the purchase of additional items of protective and rescue equipment for all existing staff and new recruits. Protective equipment to be acquired as follows: fire hoses; multi-gas detector; chemical protective suits; personal floating devices; life jackets; self-contained breathing apparatus sets; thermal image, cameras.

The Chairperson: Last question, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31121 - *Transport Equipment*, may I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister as at to date our equipment, our vehicles, how high up they have the ladder to go up to? As regards high rise building how high up can our ladder climb to?

Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo: I think, it can reach 10 storeys, 32 metres high – there is one up to 52 metres high. This is what I have been told.

Vote 5-2 Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service (Rs669,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 6-1 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan, page 133!

Mr Bhagwan: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 133, I take it upon item - *Minister* - just a general vote. Can I know from the hon. Minister the number of advisers local and foreign actually attached to the Ministry and when they were recruited? Can we have some details on the total number of advisers attached? Apart from the local ones, can we know whether there are overseas advisers?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I won't mind giving the hon. Member the reply. Can he please give me the item number and the sub-item number?

Mr Bhagwan: It is a *Sub-Head: General*, item 20100 (1), I take it upon the vote *Minister*; it has been the practice here.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Well, I can reply to you under item 21110, page 134, sub-item .005 *Extra Assistance*. There is provision for payment of salaries and allowances to one senior adviser and two advisers.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Yes, page 134. Page 134, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Regarding item 21111.002 - *Travelling and Transport*, can we know who are the beneficiaries?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Yes. Payment of travelling such as petrol allowance, PRB travelling, travel grant and refund of bus fares to staff. Increase is due to certain officers eligible for travel grant due to promotion.

The Chairperson: Page 135, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001 (1) *Ambassador*, I find that there is a reduction in the number of Ambassador. We used to have 24, now we are going to have only 21. May we know which Chancery we have closed?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Can you give me the sub-item, please?

Mr Baloomoody: The Ambassador. Last year, we made provision for 24. This year we are making provision for only 21.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Page?

Mr Baloomoody: Page 135.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I will give you the reply which I have received just now. There are 24 posts; only 21 have been given by MOFED.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: Same issue to the item 21110.001(2) *Minister Counsellor/Deputy High Commissioner*, we were recently being informed that there are a few high level Minister Counsellors who have been posted in our High Commission in Australia and that is leading to a lot of objection for civil service. Could the hon. Minister tell us why are two high profile and high level Minister Counsellors posted in Australia? Is it to do with the proximity...

The Chairperson: No, we understand your question, hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: No, I will give the reply because it is fair that the hon. Member asked the question. I will tell the hon. Member one thing. We are having three Minister Counsellors in New York, not two. Depending on the amount of work that has to be done, we make provision for this. So, in view of the fact that we going for the Chagos issue, there will be three Minister Counsellors based in New York.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, the question was about Australia, not New York.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: The reply for Australia is that there is no Minister Counsellor in Australia.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Regarding item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, can we have the details and breakdown?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Allowances, the payment of responsibility, *ad hoc* and payment for foreign services allowances, cash in lieu of duty remittance on car to officers of Ministry and home based staff posted in Embassies, Economic Counsellors, FSA and entertainment allowance.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001(1) *Ambassador*, may I know from the hon. Minister, out of the 21 Ambassadors, how many are based in Mauritius?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: We need to wait for a reply from my officers. None, so far.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: On the same item, given that there has been a reduction in number of Ambassadors, is it not to the detriment of the service requiring Ambassadors travelling from one country to the other to fill in the post, again to the detriment of the service overseas?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I have not caught the hon. Member's question very well.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Given that the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development has approved only 21 Ambassadors instead of the optimum figure of 21, does not it decrease the level of the service of our Ambassadors, our offices, our representations overseas?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: We have written for the three non-funded posts to MOFED.

The Chairperson: Page 136, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 136, item 22900.014 (b), so there is a sum of Rs350,000 budgeted for Peace Ambassador. So, can we have some details about this, please? 22900.014 (b) *Peace Ambassador*.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Thank you for the question. This is the expenditure we had on our Peace Ambassador at UNESCO, and Rs350,000 is the amount that has been spent for that. We have provided for Rs4 m. for the African Economic Platform that we held in November, and we have provided for Rs5.65 m. for the 21st & 22nd Plenary Session of the Contact Group of Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. I am presently Chairman of the Contact Group and we are meeting in Nairobi next week, on the 11th, to report back, therefore, to the UN as to the state of affairs concerning piracy.

But the hon. Member's question was on the Peace Ambassador. That is Rs350,000 spent on that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Page 136, item 22190 - *Overseas Travel - Staff posted in Embassies*, there is a reduction of about Rs4 m., whilst certain of our Ambassadors are travelling like *pigeons voyageurs*. So, can we know why there is a reduction for our staff whilst those political appointees are travelling, a few...

The Chairperson: We have understood your question, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: I am just making a general remark, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Do not make remarks!

Mr Bhagwan: I will not be long as much as they travel.

The Chairperson: But you want to know what that Item is for.

Mr Bhagwan: Can the hon. Minister give us information about this reduction, while others are travelling?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: In fact, we have made a provision for Rs90 m. in 2017, which was not spent. This explains why the budget has been reduced to Rs15 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Leopold!

Mr Leopold: *Item 31 - Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets, Capital Expenditure, 31111.011 - Construction of Home Based Staff Residence - High Commissioner's Residence (New Delhi)*, there is a project value of Rs26.3 m. Does that also concern purchase of land and construction?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: That is construction of Home Based Staff Residence, High Commissioner's Residence in New Delhi. It concerns the provision for consultancy fees and an advance payment for construction of an official residence, the Mauritian High Commissioner, in India. Construction period will be extended over two years. In fact, we have received a plot of land from the Indian Government for this building.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: Could the hon. Minister provide us with the figure for the cost of rental of vehicles for VIPs, including President, Vice-President, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Members of Parliament, and former Presidents, former Vice-Presidents, by High Commissions and Embassies of Mauritius abroad, and having a breakdown of how much we have paid in terms of rental of vehicles, the dates, as well as the...

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Madam Chairperson, I need the Item No. and Sub Item No.

Mr Mohamed: Madam Chairperson, at page 136, I am looking at all the hospitality and ceremonies. They travelled, but I do not see any Item that covers the rental of vehicles, and that is why I am asking the hon. Minister - it's not here - therefore, if he could please give us a complete list of the number of vehicles that have been rented out, and the number of occasions - each occasion - for the former Presidents, Vice-Presidents, actual President and Vice-President, the Ministers, the Deputy Prime Minister. If he could circulate the list at another stage, I would be grateful.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: You will appreciate, as there is no reference to one specific Item, that I can only give this reply; that we do not have the information at hand, but we are going to compile it and have it circulated.

(Interruptions)

No, it is the same thing. In fact, the hon. Member's question does not refer to any specific Item. I am obliged to reply to him in a courteous way because I will compile...

The Chairperson: I think this should be the subject of a Parliamentary Question.

(Interruptions)

Next question!

(Interruptions)

I understand you do not have the information hon. Minister.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Because there is no Item. As long as there is no Item and Sub Item, I cannot invent the reply. That is fair. The hon. Member has been Minister also!

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 136, item 26210.059 - *COMESA Council*, we are contributing a sum of almost Rs40 m. annually. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there will be a high-level delegation for the COMESA Summit at the beginning July?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Our membership contribution to COMESA is Rs40 m., and that is imposed. We have to pay for it. Now, for the COMESA Summit, which is to be held in July, it is a Summit, therefore, the hon. Prime Minister is the one who technically will attend. If he cannot attend, normally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will attend.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Page 136, Madam Chairperson, item 22900.014 - *Hospitality and Ceremonies (b) Peace Ambassador*. May we know what is this Peace Ambassador? There was no budget last year and there is some budget this year.

The Chairperson: I am sorry, that question has already been asked. Next question, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My question pertains to item 22900.014 - *Hospitality and Ceremonies (c) 21st & 22nd Plenary Session of the Contact Group of Piracy off the Coast of Somalia*, wherein we are being requested to vote Rs5.65 m., an exceptional figure, - because no other years we are going to vote for this - to attend the Plenary Session of the Contact Group of Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. Can I ask the hon. Minister why such a high figure just to attend a Plenary Session?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Well, this is the first year that we are chairing the Contact Group, and I chair it. So, the whole organisation for this time is in Nairobi, it can be New

York also, and the item which is there normally should provide for the cost which is related to our attending, but organising also. As Chair, we have part of the cost to pay for. In this case, the United Nations Office in Nairobi has been put at our disposal as well as the logistics, and there must be cost associated with it, which is shared by us.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody! Page 136, last question!

Mr Baloomoody: Page 136, I see there is an item 22120 - *Fees*, and there has been an increase of Rs1 m. for the next financial year. Can we know why such a high increase?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: The Rs2.55 m. is meant to be fees for Chairman and members for DTC, BEC, that is, Rs200,000, training of staff Rs350,000, payment of fees to consultants, in this case it is Mrs Kelly Culver, Rs637,500. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is spearheading the National Public Sector Business Transformation Strategy in connection with the development of a digital platform for e-diplomacy and implementation of economic diplomacy.

The Chairperson: Page 137, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 137, under item 31112.408 - *Upgrading of Chanceries*. Can we have a breakdown of renovation works to the High Commission and High Commissioner's Residence, Canberra, Australia?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: The upgrading of chanceries cover move from Rs30 m. to Rs37 m.

- Other Chanceries & Home Based Staff Residence covers -
 - Paris – Rs5 m.;
 - Pretoria – Rs2.1 m., and
 - London – Rs2.9 m.
- Upgrading of amenities and services (Chancery New Delhi)...

(Interruptions)

But your question is more specific. Canberra? Canberra moved from Rs9 m. to Rs13 m. Two tenders have already been launched for renovation work at HC Residence & Chancery to deal with cracks and water leakages. The first tender was not responsive. For the second tender, the estimated cost exceeded by more than 50% the budget we had for.

Therefore, the Embassy, the Ministry also, proposed to hire a consultant to look into the matter.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: I was just referring to the same issue about the cracks and leaks that will be costing the taxpayers Rs13 m. or more. Could the hon. Minister table the quotation that has been received for cracks and leaks?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The tenders have been issued, you said?

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister, you just said that tenders have been issued.

Mr Mohamed: Can the hon. Minister table the quotation received for cracks and leaks and for the whole repair works?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I would hate to give the hon. Member a wrong reply.

(Interruptions)

No problem! Probably, the hon. Member should come with a PQ. It is a tender and confidential.

Mr Mohamed: Madam Chairperson, my question is very simple. It is taxpayers' money that we are going to vote here. I mean, it cannot be confidential - taking taxpayers' money to pay for cracks and leaks, and then to have the hon. Minister replying that he cannot tell how it has been spent on...

(Interruptions)

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Do not get heated, my friend, you have no cracks...

(Interruptions)

We don't have any cracks also here. So, the answer is: no tender has been awarded yet. And we are asking a consultant to look for it.

(Interruptions)

Mr Mohamed: The Minister said there is a quotation. Let us have the quotation! Simple! Why hide it? *Pourquoi cacher quelque chose d'aussi simple?*

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: You have been Minister in Government, stop your bluff! We are speaking of tenders, not of quotations. Now, no tender has been awarded yet. Stop shouting or I won't reply to the question!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan! He is not there! Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.047(a) - Addis Ababa...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Can we have some silence, please?

Mr Uteem: May I know from the hon. Minister where matters stand because I was there a few weeks ago and it does not seem to have been much progress.

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: You will be happy to know that this is the fastest moving project we have. The Chancery will be ready by the end of December, and it has moved very fast.

The Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 21110.001(6) - *Director, Industrial Property Office (New)*, does the Minister propose to have a Registrar of Intellectual Property Trademarks and Patents that can be accessible online like the Registrar of Companies, which is much needed now?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I agree with you. I agree that we have to move online as far as registration is concerned. The IP is becoming a very important sector for the whole economy also.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode! No question! Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: At page 137, under item 31121.801 - *Acquisition of Vehicles*. Can we have the full list of vehicles purchased?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: So, we are speaking about acquisition of vehicles. There is a provision for Rs26 m. for renewal of –

- (a) Representation of cars for missions, Washington, Berlin, Maputo, Moscow, Canberra, Bruxelles, Antananarivo and London, and
- (b) Purchase of four service cars for missions in Antananarivo, Moscow, New York and London.

Cars in missions are renewable every five years.

The Chairperson: Page 138! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. Under item 22120.008(b) - *Implementation of the National Intellectual Property Plan* for which we are being requested to vote a total amount Rs10.5 m. for the consultants. Can I know from the hon. Minister the name of the consultant and how was the contract secured and what does he have to do as duty for this project?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I will just confirm, the hon. Member is referring to item 22120.008(b) - *Implementation of the National Intellectual Property Plan*, is that so?

The Chairperson: Yes!

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: No consultant as yet.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 22900.965 - *SADC Trade - Related Facility Programme*, may we know why there is a big increment compared to last year, and the consecutive year the value is less?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: You are referring to item 22900.014 - *Hospitality and Ceremonies*?

Mr Baboo: .965!

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Item 22900.965? *SADC Trade - Related Facility Programme*; they are ongoing projects like e-commerce. I am not quite happy with the reply myself. Well, I will circulate it. It concerns a long list of projects.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22030 - *Rent*. We have an increase of nearly Rs2 m. for rent, may we know why?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: I see that there is an increase in rent. Provision for the rental of building –

- (i) Medine Mews – Rs4.1 m.;
- (ii) IPO – Rs1.8 m.;
- (iii) Parking slots – Rs125,000, and
- (iv) Service Charge – Rs204,000.

The Chairperson: Page 139! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31122.402 - *Upgrading of IT Equipment of which Modernisation of IP Office*, can we have some details on this project, please?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Acquisition of IT equipment software - Rs500,000 for ITD and IPO, modernisation of the IT system of the Industrial Property Office. In fact, the investment here is funded by EU which would be credited to the Government revenue and subsequently all expenditure will be met from this item, EU Financed Project Online.

Madam Chairperson: Hon. Adrien Duval!

Mr A. Duval: With regard to item 26210.054 - *World Trade Organisation*, can we know from the hon. Minister with regard to the World Trade Organisation, the number of missions undertaken and dealings with the World Trade Organisation and productive contributions to Mauritian economy, thanks to that association of that World Trade Organisation?

Mr Lutchmeenaraidoo: Well, you are aware as well as I do that the World Trade Organisation will need to be reviewed and corrected to redefine its own strategy. So, we are a member. So, we are participating. There are training courses, which we have sent our people also. There is one thing which is classified that the World Trade Organisation has the teething problems because the world has changed. New powers are coming in and in the past, it was mostly a western controlled organisation, now with China coming in, India; the rule of

the game has changed. So, this probably explains why WTO has got real teething problems to be credible worldwide.

Vote 6-1 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Rs1,395,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: I suspend the sitting for one hour.

At 1.07 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 2.10 p.m. with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

Vote 7-1 Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(4) - *Chairperson, ICT Appeal Tribunal*, may we know who is the Chairperson and how many appeals there have been for the last financial year?

Mr Sawmynaden: One minute I will get the answer as to who is the Chairperson. Mr Denis Vellien is the Chairperson of the ICT Appeal Tribunal and so far we have had 5 cases.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. The Capital Budget for the CIB – Central Informatics Bureau - last year was Rs201.5 m., but this year it has been reduced.

Mr Sawmynaden: Which page?

Mr Osman Mahomed: Page 140, first page. So, the Budget from *CIB - Sub-Head 7-102 - Central Informatics Bureau*, in the first table, top table, the budget last year was Rs201.5 m., this year we have been asked to vote for Rs56 m., for next year, it is going to be Rs48.8 m. and the subsequent year Rs20 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister the reason behind this drastic drop in budget provision and whether there is something wrong in that department or what is going on?

Mr Sawmynaden: GOC budget is with my Ministry now.

Mr Osman Mahomed: So, what does it entail?

Mr Sawmynaden: The budget is decentralised in Ministries and Departments. They are separate departments.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: I welcome you to the Chair and hope you will stay here till tonight. Page 140, item 21110.001(3) - *Assistant Permanent Secretary*, the number of funded position remained the same, that is, 4 for 2017/2018, but the amount that has been budgeted has decreased by Rs200,000. May we know what is the reason for that?

Mr Sawmynaden: What has happened is that Mr Seebaluck who was the Senior Deputy Permanent Secretary retired from the service. So, there is a new one who is in post; there is a new scheme with a new salary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Under item 21110(7) - *Principal Data Protection Officer (New)*, can we know why there is no fund for this post, please?

Mr Sawmynaden: The Scheme of Service will be finalised once the prescribed funds will be provided.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Are we on page 143?

The Chairperson: On page 140. Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: I want to come back on *Sub-Head 7-102 - Capital Expenditure*, the figures of last year is Rs200 m. and something. Can you confirm how much has been used and whether it is true that only 30% of your budget was used last year?

Mr Sawmynaden: It is mainly because some projects did not materialise during the course of this financial year.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: You have difficulty in obtaining the answer? You can circulate same later.

Mr Sawmynaden: It is 50% approximately.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Page 142!

The Chairperson: No, we are still at page 140. Page 141, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.001(12) - *Programme Manager, ITSU*, the number has remained the same, at 8, but the Estimates for this year is almost twice what was provided for last year. Is there any reason for this?

Mr Sawmynaden: Vacancy has been advertised; closing date was on 20 March 2018. Recruitment process is underway.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes. Item 21110.001(24) and 21110.001(27), it is the same question. Again, both posts are funded, that is, one is 4 in 2018/19, the same, and Management Support Officer 21 and 21. But when we look at the amount that has been budgeted, it has increased substantially. The first one from Rs 1.4 m. to Rs2 m.. And the second one, that is, Management Support Officer, there was 21 last year and 21 this year. It has increased by Rs1 m. from Rs3.6 m. to Rs4.7 m. Since the number has remained the same, why has it increased now?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, the increase caters from increment and confirmation of the MSOs in service, and for the Office Management Executive same applies.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 141, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we know if it is for payment of salaries to Advisers, if yes, can we have the list of advisers and their Scheme of Duties, please?

Mr Sawmynaden: Yes, actually, it is provision for salaries for advisers. Mr Sungeelee, Mr Meetoo appointed Senior Adviser and Mr Jules appointed in 2018, and one new expert to assist the implementation of the e-Government projects which has not been recruited yet.

The Chairperson: Page 142. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes, for item 22030, we see that the rent has seen a substantial increase of Rs2 m. Has there been a change in office, and may we know from where to where? Who is the owner of the new premises if ever this is the case?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, provision has been made for the rental of a new building at the Core Building for the rental to set up the Regional Capacity Building Centre for Cybercrime.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Item 26313.025 - *Independent Broadcasting Authority*, can we know from the hon. Minister who is the composition of the Board, the Chairperson and who is heading the IBA actually as Chief Executive?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, there is an Officer-in-Charge there. For the composition of the Board members, I will circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants (a) Cyber Security and (b) Digital Marketing Strategy*, both Rs6 m. May we have some more details about these two projects?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, Rs2 m. to carry out a feasibility study for the operation of the Cybercrime Capacity Building Centre based on the best international practice; Rs2 m. for the recruitment of a cyber-security expert to design and assist in the operation of the Cybercrime Capacity Building Centre. The expert will identify new training programmes for participants and will act as liaison with the regional countries for the specific training needs.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Item 26313.054 (a), page 142, can the hon. Minister please give the list of schools for coding in primary schools?

Mr Sawmynaden: I will circulate the list of all the schools because it is a very long list.

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

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 26313.025 - *Independent Broadcasting Authority*, may we have some details on any statistics of the IBA for the current year of the number of complaints that have been received and resolved, be it on the radio or the MBC/ TV?

Mr Sawmynaden: I am going to circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 26313.054 - *National Computer Board*. I see that there was a provision of Rs82 m. Well, this is the grant to the National Computer Board. Can I have a breakdown of the expenses for this sum of Rs82 m.? Can the hon. Minister confirm if there was a provision for payment of rent to the Core Building at Ebene, whether there was rent of any office space there and if provision was made for payment?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, as regards the Core Building, I have already answered because we made provision for the setting up of the Regional Capacity Building Centre. The decrease in the Estimates is mainly because the open data portal is completed and the 3D Printing Centre is already set up.

(Interruptions)

Okay, for this one I will see the list and circulate.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 22120.007 - *Fees for Training*. I would like to know who will run these trainings? Is it private or public?

Mr Sawmynaden: *Fees for Training*: local training of staff and payment of stipend to interns, Ministry, including ITSU and DPO. The Cyber Security Training and the Regional Cybercrime Capacity Building Centre will be conducting several trainings.

(Interruptions)

Who does the training? Well, it is the private and the Civil Service College.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: I will come back, Mr Chairperson, on IBA. Regarding Independent Broadcasting Authority, we have been informed by the hon. Minister rapidly that there is an Officer-in-Charge. Who is that person? May we know since when the post is vacant and whether there has been any procedure to fill the post? Whether out the Rs10.4 m. any amount has been paid during the past financial year or any amount which is being earmarked to be paid to Mrs C. Choomka on which there is a case which has gone to ICAC?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, she has already resigned from her post.

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: Any amount paid, I am asking?

Mr Sawmynaden: When she was in office!

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: Who is that person? Who is the Officer-in-Charge?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, Mr Ramphul, who is an employee there, is the Officer-in-Charge.

(Interruptions)

Mr Bhagwan: Any amount paid?

Mr Sawmynaden: I do not have this figure. I can circulate. But actually when she was in office, definitely she should have got her salary.

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

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 26210 - Contribution to International Organisations. There are four international organisations and we are asked to vote a budget for that. I just wanted to know what are the objectives of Mauritius contributing towards international organisations and also what type of collaboration do we get from these institutions. Do we get any help, anything from them?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, contribution to these international organisations allows Mauritius to benefit from capacity building best practices, harmonisation of policies, building up of common strategies to meet up challenges, aligning with international trends and standards, participation in international conference and workshop.

Actually, its main activities are elaboration of global telecommunication standards and directives, administration of the use of radio frequency spectrum, capacity building and guidance to Member countries.

Secondly, contribution to the CTO, effective means to help bridge the digital divide and achieve social and economic development by delivering to developing countries unique

knowledge, sharing programme in the use of ICT, and then capacity building and guidance to Member countries.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, on the same issue. It is very valuable information that the hon. Minister just gave us in terms of guidance, knowledge, capacity building. But can these organisations help Mauritius to democratise the MBC/TV? Can they give us a helping hand in order to make the MBC/TV fairer in terms of news and information, especially in the political field?

Mr Sawmynaden: First of all, the MBC does not fall under the aegis of my Ministry. Actually, the hon. Member should have put the question to the hon. Prime Minister yesterday.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Item 22900.904 - *Government Online Centre (GOC) - Operating Costs*. I can see this is a first item of expenditure this year. May I know whether it is a new service or it was budgeted otherwise last year?

Mr Sawmynaden: Formerly, it was made under Sub-Head 7-102: Central Informatics Bureau.

The Chairperson: Page 143, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 26323.042 - *Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (Ex MRC) of which: Research and Innovation Projects*, I would like to have a list of research and projects done by MRC, please.

Mr Sawmynaden: It is a very long list. Definitely, I will circulate.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 26323.054 - *National Computer Board (b) Anti Cyber Threat Monitoring System - CERT MU*. We can see that the budget allocated has increased by Rs10 m. Can we have more details about this item, please?

Mr Sawmynaden: The computer emergency response team of Mauritius is in the process of setting up the cyber-threat monitoring system, which will aid to better response, monitor, and coordinate cyber-threats at national level. The system will have the capability for early detection. So, provision is made for the procurement of software and equipment.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Let me come back to this Item Research and Innovation Projects. The hon. Minister just mentioned that he is going to circulate the list. The amount that was earmarked for the current year is Rs150 m. May I know what is the amount that has actually been spent under this?

Mr Sawmynaden: Out of the Rs156 m., actually Rs70 m. was earmarked for the MRC, while Rs80 m. was earmarked for the Ministry of Technology. Out of the Rs70 m., Rs32 m. was spent by the MRC, and an additional Rs42 m. was spent from the committed funding available in the MRC account.

The Chairperson: Page 144, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. With regard to the SchoolNet project, under item 22030.007 - *Rental of Lines for Network System*, we have had several questions here in Parliament on this project, for which we know that Rs45 m. have been paid to Data Communications Ltd, and for which the Director of Audit has been very, very highly critical on this project.

Mr Sawmynaden: What is the question?

Mr Osman Mahomed: Listen! DCL of Mr Ramalingum was paid Rs45 m. Now, are we going to continue with this project in this environment? Because so much money has already been wasted on this project.

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, with regard to this project, I have already replied to that in PQ B/332, if my memory does not prove me wrong, but the project is nearly completed. It is going to be to the advantage of the kids. It is not a question that this project is going to be for this company or for us. It is going to be for the youths, for the school, for the kids who are going to attend school, not only in Mauritius, but also in Rodrigues. This is why we have put lots of pressure to get this project going very fast.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Mr Chairperson, can I?

The question is that, without proper commissioning, money was paid to the contractor, and today we do not know what is the state of affairs on this project.

Mr Sawmynaden: If the hon. Member comes with a question, I will give him the state of affairs. We mentioned that the hardware has been completed. Connectivity is something completely different.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 144, item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*. There was a sum of Rs60 m. budgeted last year. Can we know to whom the contract was awarded and why, this year and the following years, there is no budget for this Item?

Mr Sawmynaden: No provision has been made this year, because the services now are being provided by the lessor, I mean SICOM Ltd is doing the cleaning themselves. I do not have the information regarding who did the cleaning last year. So, this year, there is no provision.

(Interruptions)

Okay, I will look for the information.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Just a follow-up question to what hon. Osman Mahomed stated in relation to SchoolNet II (Secondary Schools). To my knowledge, to my information, there are several schools where there is huge problem of connectivity, and the project of using tablets has not been fully implemented because there are problems of connectivity in schools. So, my question to the hon. Minister is: what is the percentage of success of this project in relation to secondary schools?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, tablets and connectivity are two completely different things. I think we should get it clear. For connectivity, most of the schools now are connected, but as you all know - we also get internet at the workplace - sometimes we do have connectivity problem. So, the project is on the way to be completed. We do have some teething problems that we will have to adjust. But, definitely, now that the project is completed, we can go to any other operator.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: On the same connectivity issue. Connectivity in primary schools, I think, is still ongoing. May we know where matters stand?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, out of 164 schools, only for 58 it is not yet completed.

The Chairperson: Page 145, hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. With regard to high speed connectivity in primary schools, I think it is different from the one of the previous page. Can we know how many schools are concerned by this item, as a huge amount of Rs60 m. is earmarked for 2017/18?

Mr Sawmynaden: There are 276 schools: 261 in Mauritius and 15 in Rodrigues.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Item 31132.410(d) - *Digital Communication strategies*, can we have some information about the strategies?

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, it is provision to hire the services of a communication agency to implement digital communication strategies for e-Government projects, among others, the Government Portal and the e-services.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. Item 31132.401(a) *School Net II (incl. Routers and Wifi)*, for which the project value is Rs71.5 m. Can we know who is the contractor for this project? I think, this is the last year that we are going to spend Rs9 m. out of Rs71.5 m. Can we know where the project stands? You have just mentioned that there are still teething problems in this connectivity in schools.

Mr Sawmynaden: Actually, the provision has been made for the final 10% of the contract value. The contract was awarded in 2015 to DLC contractor.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 31132(c) - *Certification Authority*, may the hon. Minister give us some more details about this item, please?

Mr Sawmynaden: It is the setting up of Certification Authority which will operate within the national public key infrastructure of Mauritius and provide digital signatures to individuals and for IT system. This will help to increase trust in online transactions.

The Chairperson: Page 146! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Concerning item 31122.802(ii) - *Setting up 'Command and Control Centre at CISD'*, can the hon. Minister elaborate and give more details?

Mr Sawmynaden: Provision made for the acquisition of software for the setting up of the Command and Control Centre is to provide tools and information that will allow the system network and database administrators to assess the performance level and the load of each equipment that make up the system and network infrastructure, and to be allotted for e-mail and SMS upon tolerance threshold being reached.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22120 – *Fees*. Last year, we provided Rs50,000; this year we are providing Rs1.5 m.. May we know why?

Mr Sawmynaden: Fees for training - Rs1.5 m. and fees to Chairman and Board Members of Committees; Committees; Departmental Bid Committee; Bid Evaluation Committee. The increase is due to the provision for fees for training which was centralised under the subhead 7101 - General of the Ministry in 2017/18 and has now been re-allocated to this subhead.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Under item 31122.802(ii) - *Setting up 'Command and Control Centre at CISD'* ...

Mr Sawmynaden: I have just replied to that.

Mr Osman Mahomed: My question is: who is implementing this project?

Mr Sawmynaden: CISD!

Vote 7-1 Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation (Rs 958,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 8-1 Public Infrastructure was called.

The Chairperson: Page 148! Page 149! Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Under item 2110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, can the hon. Minister give some details about this item?

Mr Bodha: It is provision for the payment of salaries and bonus to two advisers in post. One is Dr. Lallchand, who is the special adviser in economic matters and the other is Mr Daniel Simson, who is the PRO.

The Chairperson: Page 150! Hon. Armance! Hon. Baboo! Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: At page 150, under item 22030.005 - *Rental of Facilities for Events*, is there any established list of the events for which we are being asked to vote Rs12 m.? I would also ask the hon. Minister on item 26313.010 - *Construction Industry Development Board*, if he can circulate the list of who are the Chairperson and Members of the Board, Construction Industry Development Board?

Mr Bodha: That is a good question. In fact, it is provision for tent services, podiums and other facilities for major religious and socio-cultural events through contractors registered with the Ministry. I would like to say, Mr Chairperson, that in the past there was always a surplus and we had to come with an ESE, but for the last years we have come to terms with it and the Budget is strictly being abided to.

(Interruptions)

Chairperson? It is Mrs Daby Chitra!

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. In regard to what the Minister has just said, regarding item 22030.005 - *Rental of Facilities for Events*, can he please give us a list of all the religious festivals that will be benefiting from this item?

Mr Bodha: I will do so. Basically you have the bulk case for Mahashivaratree, Cavadee, Ganesh Chaturthi, Venkateswara, Père Laval and for Eid. I will submit the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Item 22120 – *Fees*, can we have the details and the list, please?

Mr Bodha: Well, there are fees to Chairperson and Members of Boards and Committees, fees to assessors and fees for training.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: At page 150, item 22030.001 – *Rental of Building* where there is an amount of Rs11 m. May we know the details and where buildings are being rented and at what price?

Mr Bodha: Yes, Mr Chairperson, we have Jade House, Moorgate House, 8th floor, we have also Moorgate House 4th, 9th and 10th floor and the Max City Building at the 7th floor. We have also the rental of parking slots and we have a rental of equipment as well.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Item 31132.111 – *E-Document Management System*, can the hon. Minister give us more details about this item?

Mr Bodha: It is the provision to develop software that will enable digitalisation of the Registry System and allow the Ministry to go paperless in line with Government Policy.

The Chairperson: Page 151, hon. Bhagwan! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under items 21110.001(5) *Architect/Senior Architect*, 21110.001(10) *Engineer/Senior Engineer (Civil)* and 21110.001(61) *Assistant Inspector of Works* wherein we are being requested to approve the recruitment, extra budgetary provision for 3 more Architects, 3 more Engineers and 3 more Assistant Inspector of Works. Can I ask the hon. Minister, given that not much of work is being done in the building sector, this is Public Infrastructure Division, same for the ENT Hospital and a few more projects, what is the plan for the Ministry, what is the plan for these people? It is good recruit, but what are they going to be busy with going forward, because most of the investments for this Ministry are on the road department these days. Not on the building side, we are not building schools; we are not building hospitals, not so much. Can I ask the plan going forward for this department?

Mr Bodha: We have about Rs600 m. of projects where we upgrade, we maintain all the Government assets.

The Chairperson: Page 154, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22030 – *Rent*, I find that we are increasing the rent by 5 times Rs50,000 to Rs250,000. May we know why?

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, it provides for the rental of vehicles, rental of equipment and increase due – provision is being made for rental of two photocopying machines.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 154, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*.

The Chairperson: Extra Assistance.

Mrs Perraud: May we have some details about extra assistance, please?

Mr Bodha: Provision for payment of fees to three Trainee Engineers, one Trainee Architect, salaries of one Architect on contract and one Geotechnical Adviser.

The Chairperson: Page 155, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Mr Chairperson, under item 31132.401 - *Intangible Fixed Assets - Computerisation project of Phoenix Technical Division*, may I have an update on the status, please?

Mr Bodha: It is the Computerisation project at Phoenix Technical Division. The provision is made for purchase of IT equipment, plotter and software for the Technical Division of Phoenix. Equipment and software presently in use at the Technical Division at Phoenix are either obsolete or too old. In order to provide quality service and to implement and complete Government projects in the prescribed time, it is important to replace the existing equipment and software over a period of three years.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under item 31112.401 - *Non-Residential Buildings - Upgrading of Office Buildings*, last year, there was a budget of Rs50 m. and this year Rs25 m. I would like to know how many have been spent last year and what is the provision for this year.

Mr Bodha: So, last year, extension of the Architect Office, this has been completed and this year, we have the construction of the building for the Quantity Surveyors. The first phase has been completed and we have a second phase.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Chairperson, at page 155, under item 31410.407 - *Rehabilitation works for Landslide Management*, can I know from the hon. Minister where matters stand concerning the problem of landslide at *Morcellement Hermitage*, Coromandel, where the Minister has gone on many occasions, what is being planned and are other works scheduled?

Also under item 31113.799 - *Asbestos Treatment Programme*, this is a very serious matter. I don't see any vote. We have seen recently that houses have asbestos, even the roof at Victoria Hospital has asbestos. I would like to know why there is no vote for Asbestos Treatment Programme.

Mr Bodha: Landslide Management, there are counter measures. Works at Chitrakoot, Vallée des Prêtres were designed by JICA. Phase I of the project was completed. Phase II of the project is being completed mid-July. The Ministry is also monitoring the extensor metres at Vallée Pitot and Quatre Soeurs.

(Interruptions)

For *Morcellement Hermitage* counter measures, works are being undertaken - I do not think you will like this answer - by the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose-Hill.

(Interruptions)

But I will see to it that the MPI does supervise these counter measures for *Morcellement Hermitage*.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Mr Chairperson, under item 31112.433 *Non-Residential Buildings - Refurbishment of Emmanuel Anquetil Building* an amount of Rs36 m. was earmarked for 2017/2018. Can we get some details regarding these refurbishment works and also the names of the contractors involved?

Mr Bodha: Let me, first of all, answer the asbestos issue. The item catered for Asbestos Treatment Programme for some Government buildings only. For remaining Government buildings, responsible Ministries and Departments have to include provision for removal of asbestos in their own respective budget. So, the programme is continuing, but the budget is not with us.

You mentioned the Emmanuel Anquetil Building. So, provision is being required for the installation of new fire doors at the Emmanuel Anquetil Building.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 155, item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, last year there was an amount of Rs30 m. and this year there is an amount of Rs10 m. May we have some details on these studies and surveys, what is being surveyed?

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, the provision this year required for undertaking studies on Leading Edge road specifications and standards for Mauritius, it is Rs10 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: If I may come back to that refurbishment on Emmanuel Anquetil Building, last year, we provided Rs36 m.; this year Rs45 m. and I heard the hon. Minister saying for a door *anti-feu*, Rs45 m. for a gate? Can you clarify this?

Mr Bodha: We have new fire doors but also replacement of transformers: Rs7.9 m.; supply of installation of a new generator: Rs10 m.; installation of fire detection and alarm: Rs3 m. So, these are the three major projects which explain why we have the Rs24 m.

Mr Ameer Meea: Mr Chairperson, on the same issue, since we are on Emmanuel Anquetil, every year substantial amounts are budgeted. Last year, Rs36 m. and this year, Rs45 m., and then the years after, Rs48 m. and Rs43 m. So, my point is, what is the project value of this refurbishment? This is being done on bits and pieces. How much this refurbishment for Emmanuel Anquetil will cost us? Is there a plan for this building? Because I know it is a very old building, but we cannot continue every year putting Rs50 m. in that.

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, this is a very old building dating back to the 80s. So, it is about 40 years old. But I think we should have a Master Plan and a calendar and we should know exactly how much it is going to cost. So, I do not know whether one of my officers could answer. Otherwise, we will submit this. I think that we should know exactly how much it is going to cost and how long it will take us to refurbish the building. The hon. Member is right.

I am given to understand something, but this makes the issue more complicated. The sum of Rs36 m., which was granted last year, has not been used due to the complexity of the

building. Now, we have a consultant who has been appointed, but definitely we need to know exactly the amount of money we need for the renovation and how long we will take to do that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Item 31113.799 - *Asbestos Treatment Programme*, I would like to know why there is no provision of fund for this year and the following years?

Mr Bodha: I answered.

Mrs Perraud: No, the hon. Minister did not answer.

Mr Bodha: I did. I said that the programme catered for some Government buildings only which fall under the responsibility of MPI, but for the remaining Government buildings responsible Ministries and Departments have to include the provision for the removal of asbestos in their own respective budget.

The Chairperson: Hon. Shakeel Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, I just wanted to get some clarifications because I am looking at page 155 and the Road Development Authority at the bottom of the page and I was wondering whether this is the only section of this particular document that concerns the RDA or could I be guided towards afterwards or earlier?

Mr Bodha: You have...

Mr Mohamed: I have a question pertaining to the positions of certain persons. I am quite sure the hon. Minister is trying to understand what I am getting at or understands what I am getting at. I am trying to know which item would be under the RDA because I cannot find anywhere else.

Mr Bodha: Item 26313.079 at the bottom of the page.

Mr Mohamed: Correct! So, my question would be with regard to the RDA, you will recall, Mr Chairperson, and I asked, through you, the hon. Minister about the two engineers who, at some stage, were suspended, and then following all procedures upon letter or otherwise, they were reinstated which they were very thankful for. According to my information, one of those engineers, if not both of them are entitled to substantive positions in terms of promotion. For instance, one of the engineers G. N. is entitled to a position which is basically of being No. 1 of the RDA now. Right now, he has not been put in that position.

On the contrary, he has been made to wait and wait and wait. So, why is it that it is the situation and why is it that he is not being put into the position that he deserves according to law?

Mr Bodha: They have been put in positions of actingship.

Mr Mohamed: Precisely, that is my question, Mr Chairperson. Why are they being made to act when, in fact, they can be in substantive positions? Is it because they were once upon a time suspended and, in fact, in spite of them having won their case, this is still not being digested by the RDA? I wanted to know.

Mr Bodha: We will have an overall restructuring in the months to come.

The Chairperson: Next page, 156! Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Will the hon. Minister clarify the item falling under 31113? Well, I just wanted an update on the Cap Malheureux Bypass project. What is the status to date?

The Chairperson: The letter (v)!

Mr Bodha: The construction of a road to link Chemin Vingt Pieds to Mont Choisy. So, the provision has been made. We have a few land issues. I have met all the owners and we are expecting to launch the project next month, in July.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Item 31113.003 - (s) *Enabling Works icw Metro*, Rs50 m., can we have some details about the sum of Rs50 m. which we are being asked to vote in connection with the Metro Express project?

Mr Bodha: The enabling works as regards the Metro is the interface Palmerstone. If the hon. Member can just have an overview, Palmerstone is where we have the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre. We have seven different directions. So, with the Metro, we are going to have a station there. We are going to upgrade completely this interface. So, we are taking the opportunity of the fact that the Metro is coming there and the station is going to be there to completely re-engineer this interface.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 3113.003 - (i) *Reconstruction of Jumbo Phoenix Roundabout and A1 M1 Bridge*, there is a project value of Rs4.5 billion and last year Rs1.2 billion was earmarked. I want to know where matter stands in relation to this

project. This has been announced since very long. Out of these Rs1.2 billion, how much has already been spent and when do we expect the completion of this project?

Mr Bodha: So, we are presently doing the soil tests and the geotechnical investigation. Works are supposed to be starting in about a month.

(Interruptions)

Completion is end of 2020.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31113.003 - *(m) Pointe aux Sables Road at Petit Verger*, may I know from the hon. Minister where matter stands now? There was request for the enlargement of the road, whether this has been taken into consideration and when this project will be completed?

Mr Bodha: In fact, we have two issues. One is, this project is being funded under the Exim Bank of India line of credit and we have the land issues. So, we are, in fact, considering the possibility of acquiring more lands. As soon as the land issues...

(Interruptions)

I have been told that we still have some land issues.

(Interruptions)

I have been told that there is the land acquisition issue. The budget is there. The tender exercise will be carried out soon, but we have to address this land issue.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning item 31113.003 - *(g) Ring Road (Phase I) remedial works*, no amount has been budgeted this year, meaning that all repairs have been done. Can the hon. Minister affirm that if this project is still on or has this project been abandoned?

Mr Bodha: The Ring Road Phase I has already been repaired. As regards the Ring Road Phase II, we are considering the different technical options and also the funding. We are at the level of studies to see whether, for example, for the tunnel we are going to have two lanes, two tunnels and the cost of it is going to be about between Rs4 billion and Rs5 billion.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: I will take item 31113.003 - *Construction and Upgrading of which Roads (f) Terre Rouge-Verdun Stabilisation works (h) Repair of embankment failure on Terre Rouge Verdun Road* together. It concerns the Terre Rouge-Verdun Road. I can see that there is no provision concerning the stabilisation works this coming financial year. Does that mean that the situation has been stabilised there? But we can see that at item (h) *Repair of embankment failure*, we are asked to vote a sum of Rs169 m. Can the hon. Minister differentiate for us, to clarify the situation?

Mr Bodha: Basically, it is the stretch between Valton and Ripailles. The first stretch of the stabilisation works, in fact, is the portion between Valton and Ripailles, which had not been implemented by the former Government. It is all that we have done on the left side. It is what we call the stretch on the left side. I do not know if you remember, we had three lanes coming from Ripailles to Valton, and because of the instability of the slope, the solution had been to use one of the lanes to go to Ripailles. Now, this has already been done; it is completed. The stretch between Valton and Ripailles has been completed. When it comes to the embankment failure, this is where the road collapsed.

The Chairperson: Page 157, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under items 31113.004 - *Construction and Upgrading of Bridges*, and .403 - *Maintenance and Rehabilitation*, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there has been any budget regarding the Grande Rivière Bridge, because I cannot find it in these two items.

Mr Bodha: Well, I have a long annex for roads and bridges, and the budget is Rs450 m. Maybe I can have a list of the annex.

(Interruptions)

So, I will provide it later.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Page 157, Mr Chairperson, item 31113.403 - *Maintenance and Rehabilitation (c) Road Marking & Signage*. The hon. Minister has promised us since years, even when he was in the Opposition, we all know about this issue of road marking, the quality of paint and also signage. There has been a considerable removal of signage, *des vols*.

Can the hon. Minister inform us whether this has been taken care in the forthcoming budget concerning the quality of paint and the issue of signage?

Mr Bodha: I have always thanked the hon. Member for his suggestions. I am going to thank him again. We have decided to have a pilot project, where we will use the state-of-the-art technology and state-of-the-art products. So, we will do that between Arsenal and Terre Rouge. We will also do it in the new projects. We did something in the access to the Airport, the new motorway, where we used what we call the diamond grade for signage. We are upgrading the system. Hopefully, we will be able to apply it elsewhere as well.

Mr Bhagwan: Road marking?

Mr Bodha: Same for road markings.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. *Item 31113.403 - Maintenance and Rehabilitation of (a) Roads and Bridges, (b) Footpaths, and (c) Road Marking & Signage.* There is an amount of Rs600 m. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in the list of Rs600 m., there are any projects for Constituency No. 3 in it? Also, on the same issue, as you are aware, road marking, there is a huge challenge under that programme, because all over the place, not only in Port Louis, but around the island, with time, the road marking fades, especially the yellow lines. Can I ask the hon. Minister if he is considering to increase the manpower or increase the resources there?

Mr Bodha: We have a budget for Port Louis for road marking, resurfacing, and handrails. We have also the budget per district. And as regards the increase in power, what I can say is that the capital is being given special attention, because of all that we are giving.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Mohamed: I am sorry, it is by inadvertence. My friend, hon. Osman Mahomed wanted to raise a question on page 156. I am sure the hon. Minister will not object if you just now give your permission and allow us to go to 156. There were still some slight points.

Mr Osman Mahomed: But I have raised my hand several times, and you did not see me.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, would you mind going back to answer to the questions? The hon. Minister is agreeable.

Mr Osman Mahomed: The question is as follows...

(Interruptions)

Because it is in the corner here, you do not see me.

We are being requested to vote - much of it has already been spent - Rs936 m. for the Terre Rouge-Verdun Stabilisation works, and Rs326 m. again for the Terre Rouge-Verdun Project, making it a total Rs1.262 billion to be paid out of Government funds for the repair works of the Terre Rouge-Verdun works.

Now, my question is as follows, and I have asked the hon. Minister again in the House. It is four years down the road and the consultants have failed this project. How much, out of this Rs1.2 billion, are we going to recoup from the consultant that have failed this project, and the contractors that have failed this project?

Mr Bodha: First of all, the Rs936 m. was re-engaged by the last Government. So, it is their project. We are concerned by the Rs326 m., and I have said that we will put up a case for damages.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Have we put the case?

Mr Bodha: We are working on it, because we...

Mr Osman Mahomed: Four years! What are you waiting for?

The Chairperson: Allow the hon. Minister to answer!

Mr Bodha: I did not accept to be put in a position where I will have to answer something what I have not done. The failure is not our doing.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo! Page 157.

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31113.403 - *Maintenance and Rehabilitation - (a) Roads and Bridges*. Can the hon. Minister table the list of roads and bridges that have maintenance and rehabilitation to be done, and also why this increment for three consecutive years are the same? There is no increment in that.

The Chairperson: On which item we are, hon. Baboo?

Mr Baboo: Item 31113.403 - *Maintenance and Rehabilitation*.

Mr Bodha: Well, it has always been like this. The budget for maintenance is Rs600 m. and for roads and bridges it is Rs450 m. It is up to us, with what we call a framework agreement, to see that we make the best use of this money.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under same item *31113.403 - Maintenance and Rehabilitation*, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount budgeted for lighting? Is it included in this Rs600 m. or is there a separate item?

Mr Bodha: In fact, this is a good question. Lighting, at the time of the project, the budget is with the RDA. But once it is being done, the budget is with the local authority for the maintenance. But you are well aware that we had a major problem with the motorway from Grand' Baie to Plaisance. So, what we did, in fact, is, we had a special budget to be able to re-engineer the whole thing, and the CEB was very helpful to do that. I think it cost about Rs30 m. So, what we are trying to do now is that the budget is with the local authority, but we are considering the possibility of having, under one authority, the lighting of all the roads, be they classified or not.

Vote 8-1 Public Infrastructure was called (Rs3,916,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 8-2 Land Transport was called.

The Chairperson: Page 160! Page 161! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning item *22120.008 - Fees to Consultants*, Rs172 m., can the Minister elaborate and give more details?

Mr Bodha: That provision is made to meet the cost of consultancy fees payable to Singapore Corporation Enterprise in connection with Metro Express and other related expenses. The Phase 3 involves a review of international examples and applications of travel demand measures; the identification key transport deficiencies and review of current travel demand; the development of the travel demand and to promote the ridership of the metro. We have also the drafting, finalisation and enactment of a Railway Act, which we do not have in Mauritius, and which is necessary for fare regulations safety accreditation, licensing arrangements for the future operator. It is also to review the existing legislation regarding

traffic rules, regulations in connection with rail vehicles, other vehicles and pedestrians. So, it is a review of the whole system with the advent of the rail.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: It is in relation to the same issue. May I know how was the Singapore Corporation chosen to do the consultancy work? Was it through tender procedures? How the decision was taken?

Mr Bodha: Well, Singapore Corporation Enterprise was chosen in 2012 and they have been there throughout the whole process and it is under a G-to-G agreement.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 22030 – *Rent*, may we know what the rent relates to?

Mr Bodha: It is the lease of Level 12 at Air Mauritius Centre and also the lease for three parking slots.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 161, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we have some information regarding same?

Mr Bodha: This will interest hon. Bhagwan. It is the salary of the Road Safety Coordinator, Mr Jean Daniel Raymond.

(Interruptions)

I say it would be of good interest to you.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Page 163! Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 22060(a) – *Traffic Lights* and item 22060(b) – *Speed Camera* respectively, where Rs20 m. and Rs25 m. respectively were earmarked for 2017/18. Can we have the number of traffic lights and speed cameras concerned as well as the names of the contractors, please?

Mr Bodha: It is to meet payment and maintenance and repairs of traffic lights - 304 traffic lights. The one-year contract was awarded to Mr Sobany & Sons in April 2018; it will expire in March 2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Concerning Speed Cameras, has there been a survey? Can we have the list so that we can make suggestions also? We have problems in our own constituency.

Mr Bodha: We have also the maintenance of 62 speed cameras and back office, including renewal of software. A one-year contract was awarded to ProGuard in July 2017 after exercise and it expires in August 2018. Bids were invited for the next maintenance contract and the closing date was 19 June. We have also 6 mobile cameras, which have been converted into fixed speed and installed at different sites. So far, we have received only one bid.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22060(c) – *Road Safety Observatory*, we are making a provision of Rs4 m. for the next coming three years. Can we have some more details about this observatory?

Mr Bodha: This provision is made for the final setting and maintenance of the Road Crash Data Management System set up to improve the Road Traffic Crash Data Collection and collect of data, the analysis and the dissemination. The contract has been awarded to SIL (State Informatics Limited) in October and is now at completion stage.

The Chairperson: Page 163! Hon. Uteem! Hon. Mrs Perraud! Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Item 31113.311 - *Implementation of National Road Safety Strategy* where an amount of Rs200 m. was earmarked. Can I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount that has been actually spent for the current year?

Mr Bodha: In fact, there is a change. This provision has now been made under another item, that is, item 31113.018 - *Road Safety Programme*. I can let the hon. Member have an idea what was actually spent. Usually, we spend all the money which is being given.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud! Page 164!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 22900.952(d) – *Education Programme*, I would like to know if this Education Programme has been carried out in primary schools, secondary schools and youth centres? Can the hon. Minister give us information about this programme, please?

Mr Bodha: This is a provision for training of teachers, and officers; development of pedagogical material for implementation of a continuum of Road Safety Education throughout the education cycle for a new generation of road users and road safety culture, in collaboration with my colleague, the Minister of Education. I have an Annex here, Annex B8. I have a list also. The objective is to teach the children from Grades 1 to 6, 7-8, 9-10 and Grade 10-11. The project is being led by us and we have already taken actions. They are –

- procurement of mobile tracks for ‘*l’Enfant Cycliste*’ component;
- training of resource persons on ‘*Enfant qui cycliste*’;
- Road Safety Education: 12 training sessions on Road Safety Education on *Enfant qui cycliste*;
- preparation of a pedagogical material, and
- an amount of Rs9 m. has been requested in the coming Budget for the training of *Animateur de Piste*, holistic teachers, deputy head teachers, school inspectors and the preparation of resources which will be undertaken for the assistance of this programme.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. If I may take the hon. Minister to item 31113 sub-heading *Other Structures, .001 - Construction of Traffic Centres (b) Piton*. Can the hon. Minister update my constituents as to the progress of work and when it is likely to be operational?

Mr Bodha: Well, works have started; we were there together to launch the works. We are supposed to end up in 6 months.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Chairperson, under item 31113.018(d) - *Traffic Calming Measures, c’est pou calmer trafic sa?* It is the first time I hear this. Can the Minister give us an explanation as to what Traffic Calming Measures means? Is this new for traffic lights?

Mr Bodha: No. In fact, it is another word for the humps. As you were aware, at one point in time, we were building humps at raised platforms. We were having them everywhere, but the policy was not to have them. So, now we are engineering new systems, that is, either we can use raised platforms, flat top raised pedestrian crossing, landscaping. So, we are having pilot projects.

(Interruptions)

Yes. We have one in Avenue John Kennedy in Vacoas near the kovil.

(Interruptions)

It was a request by hon. Baboo.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 31113.018(d) - *Traffic Calming Measures*, for which we are going to vote Rs45 m. over the next three years.

(Interruptions)

15 by 3, over three years, Rs45 m. So, can I ask the hon. Minister what are those calming measures because in the past, we have been given to understand that *dos d'âne* are no longer on because of the inconveniences. We are back to *dos d'âne* again?

Mr Bodha: I just answered that we are engineering different types so that where you have, for example, a slight slump and then you have a flat surface and then you come down again. We are going to try a few and as soon as we see that it is satisfactory, then we will be able to have them.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 31113.018 *Road Safety Programme - (b) Footpaths, drains and handrails*, there is a budgeted amount of Rs33 m. May I know from the hon. Minister what are the criteria, when is the drain done by his Ministry, when is it done by NDU, when is it done by the National Environment Fund, when is it done by the Local Authorities because it is the fourth time we are voting for construction of drains?

Mr Bodha: We do the footpaths, the drains and the handrails on the classified roads, that is, on the main roads. When this is done by the NDU, it is related to the other roads. It can also be done by the local authority, but I think that the best way to go about it is to have the coordinated effort. Sometimes, you can have a junction where the classified road meets a road which is under the responsibility of a local authority and then we don't know what to do. So, we have to coordinate it and we have been trying to coordinate it on a constituency level where you can have the works of the local authority, the works of the NDU and the works of the RDA.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under item 31122.999(c) - *Speed Cameras*, can we know the name of the contractor who is supplying those speed cameras and also with regard to Constituency No. 12, can we have a list of the places where those speed cameras will be installed?

Mr Bodha: It is a provision of procurement for 5 on-spot cameras on the following sites: along M1 at Pont Matar; along Palma Road at Cascavelle; M1 at la Vigie; at Flic en Flac, and in Mare d'Albert. Well, it would be a normal tender exercise.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. I come back to item 31113.018(b) - *Footpaths, drains and handrails*, can we know if the sites where the works are to be carried out or the handrails installed have already been identified or it is only an amount budgeted and the sites will be at a later stage?

Mr Bodha: I have a list. We have Beau Bassin. So, it is that of interest. Beau Bassin handrail along Pope Hennessy Street, Beau Bassin. So, I have a list.

Mr Quirin: Can you table it?

Mr Bodha: Yes.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 164, under item 22900.952(f) - *Training of driving instructors and test examiners*, there is an amount of Rs30 m. that has been budgeted. May we know how this will be done, who will give this training to driving instructors and also the details of the amount of Rs30 m.?

Mr Bodha: The idea, Mr Chairperson, is to train some 60 instructors who are already working as professionals for motorcars and 30 Police examiners. The level of driving experience in Mauritius, as we know, we really want to upgrade the system and last year the instructors were for motorcycle and Police examiners for the *moto-école*. This year it is going to be for the cars. As far as the courses are concerned, we will have an international tender.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under Capital Expenditure, item 31113.001 - *Construction of Traffic Centres (a) Pointe aux Sables*, I can see that there is a project value of Rs51 m. and the current year, we have been providing Rs40 m. for the project, but this year Rs31 m. which makes a total of Rs71 m. May I know whether the project value has been revised or we spent only Rs10 m. of what was allocated for this current year? Furthermore, can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the boundary walls of the traffic centre will be revised as per complaints received by inhabitants nearby?

Mr Bodha: What I have been told is that you will have the construction of the boarding and alighting, bus shelters, toilets, drains, absorption drains, 100 m of access road, construction of platform holding areas. The whole surface is going to be 14,500 m², the cost is Rs50 m. and you have Rs31 m. here which has been...

(Interruptions)

Yes. So, we expect the works to be completed by mid-February. Now, the TMRSU has carried out a survey exercise on the site about the limit of the extent. I think there was some encroachment period and I have said that we have four people, in fact, who have encroached on State land, but I have asked my officers to talk to them to see to it that we have an amicable settlement. From what I have been told it has been done.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Page 167 or page 166?

The Chairperson: Page 164! You have no question. Hon. Baloomoody. Page 165, hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 21110.001 - (2) *Deputy Road Transport Commissioner*, last year there were two posts that were funded, but this year there is only one. Can I know why this has been reduced to one?

Mr Bodha: We have only one funded post of Deputy because currently we have had assignment of duties to two officers. So, they are acting.

The Chairperson: Next page, 167. Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes. Item 25500.001 - *Public Transport Subsidies, Free Travel Scheme*. Mr Chairperson, this scheme has been severely criticised in the recent past by the Director of Audit. May I know whether there is any study that the Ministry is doing in order to try to revamp this scheme, which is costing Rs1.3 billion?

Mr Bodha: PricewaterhouseCoopers has had an extensive survey about the system. We have no accountability. We have no transparency. We are just paying. We do not know who is travelling. So, we are coming with a Cashless Ticketing System where it will be paid as you go. That is, we will pay the bus owners according to the number of trips they have made and also the number of passengers that they have carried. So, we believe that with the PricewaterhouseCoopers report, we should be able to have some reduction in the expenses.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under same item, can the hon. Minister give the number of bus operators who are benefitting from this scheme and the amount paid yearly?

Mr Bodha: Yes, we will give a list of all those who are benefitting from the scheme.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 167, item 22900.013, I know that the Ministry got a lot of problems with the supplier of bus pass. Can the hon. Minister update the House about the situation now, please?

Mr Bodha: We have an automatic renewal. It is a provision for the yearly issue of bus passes to 150,000 students, 15,000 disabled people. It costs about Rs20 and this has been awarded to a company called Ecostar for the amount of Rs3.7 m. as from 01 September last year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Page 167, *Capital Expenditure*, item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment of which Servers for Cashless Ticketing System*, can the hon. Minister give us more details about this item? Where are we with this project? We can see it is in the year 2018/19 that there is Rs20 m.

Mr Bodha: First of all, acquisition of IT equipment with servers for the Cashless Ticketing System. We have the renewal of the equipment for the servers and the consultancy tender document was floated on 28 April and closed on 11 June. So, we have six bids and now in compliance with the Public Procurement Act, we are in the Bid Evaluation Committee. It is expected that a report will emanate from the Bid Evaluation Committee by the end of the month, that is, on the days to come. The award of the contract will be on the third week of July. But I would like also to say that Singapore Corporation Enterprise, Mr Chairperson, has already worked on the cashless system for the rail and we will work together so that we have the same cashless system for the rail and for the bus.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Mr Chairperson, again on item 25500.001 - *Public Transport Subsidies, Free Travel Scheme*, has any consideration been given in the budgeted figures to the impact which Metro Express will have on the subsidy to the bus operators?

Mr Bodha: Well, we have done projections and the Singapore Corporation Enterprise is now, in fact, finalising to see what will be the real impact. We are working about 40% of ridership of the bus going on the Metro. But one thing is important and I would like to say it to the House, Mr Chairperson, is that the free travel scheme will apply to the Metro as well. It will apply to the elderly, to the students and to everybody. So, the free travel scheme will continue with the rail.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to item 22120.038 - *Fees for Vehicle Examination*, the Ministry was thinking of regionalising those private examination centres. Is this still on?

Mr Bodha: Mr Chairperson, in fact, we have done an examination of the system because today we have three, one in the East, one in Port Louis and one in Upper Plaine Wilhems. We have found out that some people take their vehicle systematically to one centre. We had also a few cases where they fail the test in one centre and on the same day, and yet they could have been able to. So, we have reviewed the whole thing. We are considering the possibility, in fact, of regionalising. In the past that was the way it was.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: My question has been answered. Thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance! Page 167! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 31122.411 – *Upgrading of CCTV*, may we know exactly what CCTV we are talking and who operates these CCTV?

Mr Bodha: It is very interesting. In fact, the idea is to monitor the private vehicle testing centres from the NTA. So, we have set up a CCTV system in the three centres and it is monitored in Port Louis.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. There was a provision made for Rs100 m. Actually, it is a provision that is made every year for *Bus Modernisation Scheme*. There was a request from the bus owners to look at the criteria. May I know, in the first instance, what amount has been spent out of the sum of Rs100 m. in this current year; whether the Ministry contemplates to review the criteria for eligibility?

Mr Bodha: Well, that scheme was introduced to encourage the renewal of the fleet. The Government then did something which, I think, is a good thing, they imposed the semi-low floor bus for better comfort of the passengers. The subsidy has been used by the companies, in fact, CNT, UBS, Triolet Bus Service, but it has not been a big success with the individual operators because the rate of renewal is very low. So, what we are trying to do now is, we are encouraging to see other types of buses, for example, the feeder buses. We want them to be electric buses. So, we are going to review the whole scheme. But for this one, the provision was for Rodrigues because there were a few buses, new buses and we have to provide them with the subsidy.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Already answered!

Vote 8-2 Land Transport (Rs2,335,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 9-1 Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 169, item 21110 - *Personal Emoluments*, can the hon. Minister circulate the Scheme of Duties for (10) - *Head, National Education Counselling Service*, (13) - *Principal Physical Education Organiser*, (16) - *Co-ordinator, Health and Anti-Drug*, and (17) - *Music Organiser*?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: This will be done.

Mrs Perraud: Thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: On the same page, item 21110.001(16) - *Co-ordinator, Health and Anti-Drug*. I am a bit surprised to see that - it is still one - we have reduced the budget for that item, from Rs350,000 to Rs120,000.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Under the above qualification, one officer was appointed and retired in November 2013, and the scheme of service has been amended for the recruitment of a qualified candidate. He has not been recruited yet.

The Chairperson: Page 170. Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you. Page 170, under item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, can we know to whom the allowances are being paid?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The allowances have been paid to the advisers of the Ministry, and their names are –

- (i) Mr Dansinghani, adviser on educational reforms.
- (ii) Mr Seeharry, adviser in information matters.
- (iii) Mr Authelsing, adviser on curriculum and innovative teaching.
- (iv) Mrs Dookhee, adviser on project coordination and monitoring.
- (v) Mr Munbodh, adviser on the organisation of the technical and vocational education and training sector.
- (vi) Mr Carlo de Souza, adviser on early support programme in lower secondary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*. Can the hon. Minister give us more details about this item, please?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The extra assistance goes to the advisers I have just mentioned. The salary compensation refers to salary compensation going to the officers and the extra assistance is, in fact, for the advisers I have just named.

The Chairperson: Page 171. Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Page 171, item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultant of which (b) National Strategy for Development of HR*. There is an amount of Rs7.46 m. earmarked, I think, for fees to consultant. A report was supposed to be prepared by a consultant. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this amount has been used, whether the report is ready, and if we can have a copy, please?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, we are referring to a number of studies, the first one being Study on Green Jobs, which was carried out by the AFD. The consultants will be required to carry out a needs assessment for training in green skills in both existing sectors and new emerging one, and they have to formulate a training for trainers programme. So, as soon as the work is done, we could give a report on the work that was carried out. We have already mentioned fees for the consultants in the project.

Now, the request for proposal for the National Strategy for Development of HR was launched by the HRDC in December 2016 and five consultants were shortlisted by the AFD, and the closing date for submission was 17 February 2017. The date of award was 07 September 2017. They are still working and it is expected to be completed by 31 October 2018.

The Chairperson Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: As both items deal with the Nine Year Continuous Education, if I make take them together. Item 22130 deals with *Studies and Surveys (a) Nine Year Continuous Basic Education (NYCBE)*. There is Rs10 m. this year, Rs10 m. next year, Rs10 m. the other year. May we know what are the studies and surveys? And further, item 26313.201 - *Current Grant icw Nine Year Continuous Basic*, Rs70 m. this year, Rs50 m. next year, Rs40 m. the year after. So, if we can have some details about the expenditure with regard to the survey and grants.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: As far as studies and surveys are concerned, the Ministry has started the implementation of the Nine Year Schooling Reform and there are some areas where expert knowledge and experience is required and, for these, technical assistance has

been sought from the World Bank under the Reimbursable Advisory Services. So, the priority areas for the study are: the design and evaluation of the Extended Curriculum Programme Grade VII to IX; the setting up of the Academy for teachers; the building of a Model for School Governance and Accountability, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Early Support Programmes.

Now, as far as the grant is concerned, we have already embarked on the reform. Rs70 m. were earmarked for last year's budget and it has been used. As we are proceeding with implementation, we require more funds, Rs50 m. for this current year.

Mr Baloomoody: For what purpose?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The implementation will require new textbooks, curriculum reform and also training of head teachers, heads of schools, educators and so on.

The Chairperson Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Last line on page 171, item 28211.042 - *Transfer Youth Club*. Can we know which youth club we are talking about and the transfer relates to what?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: When we talk about the youth club, we are referring to the grant to secondary schools, school UNESCO clubs. An average of Rs3,000 per club, and we have about 38 schools involved. So, it comes to around Rs210,000.

The Chairperson Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 22900.922 - *Conferences - World Hindi Conference 2018*. Can we know when this conference will take place and if the Prime Minister of India is being invited as Chief Guest?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, the conference will be held in August this year, and we are expecting the Minister for Foreign Affairs from India to be here, with a number of other Ministers.

The Chairperson Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultant of which (a) Study on Green Jobs*. We have been voting a sum for the last few years, and I see we are going to vote for this year and next year as well - final year. Can I

know what this study is all about and the outcome of all this study that has taken place over the years?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: So, the study, as I have just said, refers to a needs study, an assessment for the training in green skills and it is going to make recommendations for greening of existing programmes, adaptation of curricular, trainers' guide, training of trainers and upgrading of training facilities and provide support for the development of new training programmes based on priority needs validated by consultative meetings and reformulate the training for trainers programme.

The Chairperson: Page 172! Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 26323.071(a) - *Early Childhood Care and Education Authority*, can the hon. Minister give us more details about this item and also the breakdown of this amount?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: So, we are talking about the pre-primary and we are referring to the administrative cost of Rs32.900 m. The increase of Rs1.4 m, will be spent to recruit administrative staff, namely –

- Director;
- The Human Resource Management Officer;
- Coordinators;
- Assistant Coordinators;
- Receptionist;
- Management Support Officers, and
- Purchasing Supply Officer.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 172, item 26313.071 - *Early Childhood Care and Education Authority*, can the hon. Minister give us a breakdown for both the pre-primary schools, public and private, and also the list of the private primary schools which will benefit from the one-off grant?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: For the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority, I have just mentioned that the administrative cost is around Rs32.9 m. For the private pre-primary schools it is around Rs53 m. I will give the list of schools.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 172, item 31112.002 - *Construction and Extension of Schools*, may I ask the hon. Minister where matters stand in relation to the construction and renovation of the School Abdool Raman Abdool, which is found in Constituency No. 3? If my memory serves me right, it has been four years or five years now since this school is being constructed or renovated.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: This particular vote is for pre-primary and it does not refer to that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Coming to the pre-primary again, the grant which is given to the private pre-primary schools, may we know how this is done? Is it per school, per head, per children?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Per capita.

Mr Baloomoody: How much is it worth?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Rs200 per capita.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: With regard to item 31112.002 - *Construction and Extension of Schools* for which the project value is Rs848 m., can we have the list of schools that are going to be extended?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: There are two schools which are going to be constructed; one would be at Grand'Baie and the other one at Montagne Ory.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Item 31122 - *Other Machinery and Equipment*, there is a budgeted amount of Rs366 m. earmarked for the coming year, may we have some details about what equipment it relates to?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Funds will be used for the purchase of –

- furniture and equipment and software at the MIE (Mauritius Institute of Education);
- tools and equipment for MITD, for the prevocational Year-4;
- for the Ministry, basic sport equipment in primary schools;
- audio-visual equipment for the Open University of Mauritius;
- equipment at the MGI, and
- furniture & equipment, and software at the MES.

The Chairperson: Page 173! Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to the ultimate item at page 173, item 21110.001(30) - *Head Master*? I note that in the last financial year, for 187 Head Masters, there was a provision for Rs26.750 m. whereas for this financial year, for the same number of Head Masters, there is provision for Rs102.316 m. May I know why there is such a substantial increase in this item?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, some of the Head Masters were recruited last year and the Budget was for six months. Some of them retiring and others are coming in. Let me check! I find that provisions of funds were not allocated as the scheme of service was being amended, and following that, it is possible to get the funding now.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody! Hon. Mrs Perraud! Page 174! Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(33) - *Primary School Educator*, I see that there are 163 more than last year, and yet, the Budget has been downward. Can we know why?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: There is an increase in the number of funded post is from 2,611 to 2,774. The decrease in provision of funds from Rs825 m. to Rs784 m., the reason being that there are presently 235 vacancies in the grade and 242 posts will be filled in November/December 2018.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Under page 174, item 21110.001(37) - *Health and Physical Education Instructor*, I would like to know if in each school we have a Health and Physical Education Instructor?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: I see that there is only one vacancy. We don't have one in each school. It is an organised instructor, so there are groups of school; they are clustered.

The Chairperson: Page 175, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, may we know who are the contractors and why the increase?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Following Government's decision to do away with the contractors, Government took the decision to get the services from Landscape. We have found that there are 215 primary schools involved and the cleaning services have been increased from Rs30 m. to Rs60 m. because we are responsible for the cleaning of the primary schools and also for an additional monthly cleaning, which will involve pressure cleaning once a month. But then, when we took the cleaners last year, it was for 6 months only. Now, it is for the full year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Item 22060 – *Maintenance of which Buildings - Nine Year Continuous Basic Education*, so, Rs25 m. has been earmarked for every year. May we know the details?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, it is for the upliftment of the school environment to render the schools more appealing to the children. The amount of Rs25 m. was provided for the primary school in their estimates and they are now going to use to complete the refurbishing of classrooms in the primary. Initially, the works comprised, *inter alia*, the internal and external painting, replacement of naco by aluminium, provision of new white boards and they were undertaken in 8 schools last year. Now, we are going for another set of schools.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Item 22090 – *Security*, can the hon. Minister inform the House what this item caters for, security?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: It is for Security Services provided for both daytime and at night. So, we have contractors for primary and secondary, we have hi-tech security services and rapid security services. We have started providing security during daytime for some of the high risk area schools.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under items 21110.001(71) - *Head Master (Aided School)*; 21110.001(72) - *Deputy Head Master (Aided School)*; 21110.001(73) - *Teacher/Senior Teacher (Aided School)*, 21110.001(74) - *Mentor (Aided School)*, I see there was some budget last year, but going forward there is no budget. Can we know why?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: This refers to the Hindu Education Authority. Previously, the teachers and educators were paid through the Ministry. Now, they have a blocked grant sent to the Higher Hindu Education Authority, just as it is the case for the RCA.

The Chairperson: Next page, 176, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: With regard to the maintenance of toilets and classrooms under item 28211.060 – *RCEA Schools (Operation Grant) of which Maintenance of Toilets & Classrooms*, Rs10 m. is being provided. Can I know who is going to provide this service and it will be under the responsibility of the Head of the school or the private contractor if it is going to be contracted? There is a lot of problems there.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: For the RCEA schools, the increasing provision is based on the trend of expenditure and caters for the cost of recruitment and promotion, payment of increment to staff, adjustment in the rate and management grant and implementation of pedagogical project.

Sorry, I think, I have missed it. We are talking about RCEA schools. Your question was referring to?

Mr Baloomoody: Item 28211.060 – *RCEA Schools (Operation Grant) of which Maintenance of Toilets & Classrooms*.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Which page are we on?

Mr Baloomoody: Page 176.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Item 28211.060 – *RCEA Schools (Operation Grant) of which Maintenance of Toilets & Classrooms*. So, it is part of the grant being sent to CEDEC for maintenance. They are recruited by CEDEC itself.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 26313.034 - *Extra-Budgetary Units - Mauritius Examinations Syndicate*, may we have the details of the Extra-Budgetary Units given to Mauritius Examinations Syndicate?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: So, the *Extra-Budgetary Units* going to the MES is a recurrent grant Rs105,300 m. last year and this time, it is Rs96 m. So, the reduction is because they also get revenue from their dealings. They have their revenues. So, Government provides them with just what is left on what is required.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mohamed!

Mr Mohamed: Mr Chairperson, with regard to item 26 – *Capital Expenditure* on page 176, I see it concerns Non-Residential Buildings, Constructions and Extension of Schools. I will pick up from where my good friend, hon. Ameer Meea, had started which would be the Abdool Raman Government School in Constituency No. 3. This construction started as far back as 2014 and the project itself as far back as 2013. If I am not mistaken, Mr Chairperson, at the last Budget, there was mention from memory - the first Budget of this Government - that there would be continuation of this project because it cannot be left in limbo where students have to frequent that school and nothing is being done. So, my question is: please, could you make some provision for it?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, we have already provided for it and the tenders have been launched and the work is expected to start in October 2018. The first part will be completed on 08 September 2018 and then Phase II will start in October 2018.

Mr Mohamed: But my question is: why is it that - and I am not very good at those figures, but please help me out - I don't even see the name of the school there as to a new phase, which would be a great news, and I don't even see the name of the school there for completion?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: It has already been voted for in the last Budget. So, this is a new Budget for next year, it won't appear on that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under the same item *31112.002 - Construction and Extension of Schools*, I also don't see anything earmarked for Beauguard Government School in Constituency No. 2 which for the past 5/6 years has supposedly been renovated.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Beauguard Government School has already been transferred to the Ministry of Arts and Culture. The school, itself, is housed in a rented space. And it is a rented space, so, we cannot improve on that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea! Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. In respect of item *28212.004 - Primary School Supplementary Feeding Project*, can I be apprised as to whom the contract has been allocated? I am sure the Minister has had several complaints in respect of this project?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Yes, in fact, we have a list that had been circulated during a past PQ, but then it is true that there were complaints in two schools and we have stopped that person from supplying.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

Ms Sewocksingh: Under item *28211.001 - Hindu Education Authority Schools*, can the hon. Minister give us more information about this item as we can see that for this year and the coming years an amount of Rs21,465,000 has been earmarked?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Chairperson, I have just explained that previously the educators and other officers were paid through the Ministry of Education, now it goes into a block grant for this item.

The Chairperson: Page 177, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 177, item *21110.001(6) - Physical Education Organiser*, I see that there is ...

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: It goes on the other vote; we are still on vote 103.

Mrs Perraud: The Minister tells me that it is another vote.

The Chairperson: You are not pressing for the question?

Mrs Perraud: The Minister told me that the question will be on another vote.

The Chairperson: Right! Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes, Mr Chairperson. Item 31122.823 – *Acquisition of Equipment for Early Digital Learning Programme*, if I am not wrong, it concerns the Tablet Programme. It is a project of more than half a billion rupees. Rs350 m. was budgeted last year. May we know where matters stand in this project? There was a big problem with the supplier, if I am not wrong. I recall that in the Director's Audit Report, maybe in the recent this was criticised. And also, whether the project has already been started and what is the percentage of success?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, Mr Chairperson we are not talking about the same project. The Early Digital Learning is the project that is being done with the help of the Indian Government. We have already acquired all the tablets and they are in the primary schools. In fact, we have acquired 26,000 tablets last year, and this year they are in our schools. We are planning to purchase 12,500 tablets for next year for Grade III, primary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 31112.402 - *Upgrading of Schools, (a) Primary Schools Renewal Project, (b) Fire Certificate Compliance Phase I*, we are on page 177, at the top of the page. Can the hon. Minister please submit the list of all the schools which are in the renewal project? I will pick up from what hon. Shakeel Mohamed stated regarding Abdool Raman Government School. Is Emmanuel Anquetil Government School also in the list? Can the hon. Minister confirm, please?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, when we are talking about the school upgrading programme, the primary schools. I am going to table the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Under *Capital Expenditure*, page 177, item 31112.402 - *Upgrading of Schools*. Last year, I mentioned about the Doorgachurn Hurry Government School in Goodlands. I know that there was a problem with appointment of maintenance contractors MPI. Since the SCE and his team are here, I would urge the hon. Minister to give due

consideration, this year, to the upgrading of Doorgachurn Hurry Government School which is in a deplorable state.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: We will do it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to item 31112.402, it is in relation to (c) *Electricification Works in Primary Schools*? Can I ask the hon. Minister the number of primary schools that have been identified for electrification work in Piton-Rivière du Rempart, Constituency No. 7?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: All primary schools have undergone these works. Now, we are moving on for Grade III. They have been done for Grades I and II, in all the schools in Mauritius.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. In respect of item 31122.819, I would like to know where matter stands regarding the *Acquisition of Equipment for Sakoré Project* which, of course, was a valuable project to upskill pupils - because at one time I thought this project was going to be shelved - and to whom the contract has been allocated?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In 2018-2019 Budget, funds amounting to Rs12 m. will be used to replace 95 projectors, which are faulty and cannot be repaired. A new maintenance contract will be put in place with digital projectors which were put in place in 2014. The more recently acquired projectors are covered under maintenance contracts. May I get the information regarding the contractors for Sakoré Project? I will try to find out and give it to the hon. Member because we do not have the information right now.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to item 31122.823 – *Acquisition of Equipment for Early Digital Learning Programme*, can we know who is the contractor who has supplied those tablets?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, for the Early Digital Programme, the work has been done through the Government of India, the Indian Government Institution; EdCIL has launched the contract, the contract was evaluated and they decided on the contractor. The company providing us the tablets, it is an Indian company, it is called Kelton (India).

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 31122.823 – *Acquisition of Equipment for Early Digital Learning Programme*, like last year it has been earmarked Rs350 m., and we want to know how much fund has been spent from that amount?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Last year, the amount earmarked was Rs537 m. and we have used Rs350 m. out of it.

The Chairperson: Page 178, hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 178, item 21110.001 - (37) *School Superintendent...*

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Which number!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 21110.001 – (37) *School Superintendent*, the e-Register was introduced in order to curb absenteeism and truancy in the school, that is, through the sending of SMS. According to my information, School Superintendents are refusing, are reluctant to implement the e-Register. My question to the hon. Minister is: what is the percentage of schools that have already implemented this measure and vice-versa, what is the percentage of schools that have not implemented this measure?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: To my knowledge all schools are implementing the measure, but let me check and find out because I do not know whether they can say that they are not. I am informed that all schools have the e-Register functioning.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(26) – *Educator (Secondary)*, may I know from the hon. Minister the number of vacancies among Educators?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: We have 42 vacancies and they will be filled shortly.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Are we on page 179?

The Chairperson: Page 178. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: On the same question, in respect to educators there are 42 vacancies which will be filled, but the Ministry is recruiting 57 in all. Can we know the difference between the two? About 15 educators, which subject matter will they be from?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: I won't have the information regarding subject matter right here, but I find that there are 58 additional posts that have been funded, but right now there are 42 vacancies as well. This is the information that I have. But I find that there are funds also which have been provided for the recruitment of Educators to cater for subject, such as Food and Textiles Studies, Design and Technology at the regional schools.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 21110.001(28) - *Educational Psychologist*, I find there is only provision for 13. I hope that we have 13 and there is no vacancy!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: We have 18.

Mr Baloomoody: May I know how many schools are attached to one psychologist?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, we have 18 psychologists. Previously, the psychologists were working for both State and private schools. Now, the private schools are getting their own psychologists through the PSEA. So, these people will be working for the public schools. For primary education and secondary education, we have a total of 26 psychologists.

Mr Baloomoody: How many schools are attached with psychologists?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The psychologists, in fact, are based at the level of the Ministry and they are sent to schools on request.

The Chairperson: Page 179. Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, on voit qu'une somme a été votée pour ce budget avec une augmentation de plus de R 50 millions. Est-ce qu'on peut avoir les détails à qui cette somme va être déboursée?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, the Extra Assistance refers to Supply Teachers. Supply Teachers are normally taken whenever educators go on leave, as maternity leave or vacation leave. We have a number and it has been noted that the actual payment for this year was around Rs90 m., and so it has been estimated that next year, it should be around Rs105 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: On the same item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is under this item that we also compensate religious teachers, teachers teaching religious education in primary schools?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: No, I do not think so.

The Chairperson: Hon. Minister, you can table the answer at a later stage.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: No, it is not under this vote.

The Chairperson: Next page, 180, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you. Again, item 22090 - *Security*, from Rs18 m. to Rs20 m. I am sure it is a private provider. May we have the name of the private provider? But one important question I want to ask is once that security man is at the school, if he is a private provider, who is responsible for his behaviour? Does he take instructions from the head of the school? Because in many cases, we have people who are - I know cases - drunk, they are under the influence of alcohol, but they do not take orders from the head of the school. So, they keep staying in the yard.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: For the night security, we have Defence High Tech Security Services Ltd, and for daytime, it is Rapid Security Services. They are supposed to be under the control of the head of school. In fact, we did have certain cases and we have taken action against them.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to item 26313.034 in relation to the *Mauritius Examinations Syndicate*. I note that for the last financial year, there was provision for Rs157 m., whereas for this financial year that provision has decreased by Rs14 m., that is, Rs143 m. Is it as a result of good financial management practice and resources or is it for other reasons?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, the MES also gets revenue from other sources, operational sources. This is why we have reduced the amount given through the Government.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. In respect of item 26323.027 - *Mauritius Institute of Training and Development*, can I know from the hon. Minister whether policies are being revisited to ensure that the Institute is more responsive to the needs of our training and development, and whether the MITD has recruited a new director?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The MITD already has a director. The Director is Mr Joosery, and in fact, they have been working with the Singapore ITEs to review their curricular and reorganise the department.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, il y a une augmentation de R 14 millions. Est-ce qu'on peut avoir des explications, qui sont les contracteurs et où ils sont basés?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The cleaning services are being done through Landscape Mauritius, and the activities are carried out in the schoolyard. There is weekly cleaning as well.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 27210.013 - *S.C and H.S.C. Examination Fees*. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the criterion, whether there has been any change since last year, especially in terms of absence - attendance?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: No, Mr Chairperson, the criterion is the same. 90% attendance is required to be able to benefit from the scheme.

The Chairperson: Page 181. Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to item 31112.002 - *Construction and Extension of School, (g) R Prayag SSS*, which I understand is a new school.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the old building will be pulled down and a new building built from scratch?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: It will be done in phases so that we do not disrupt the work going on in the school. But a new building will be erected.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Page 181, item 31112.402 - *Upgrading of Schools, (a) Upgrading of Toilets*, Rs35 m. project value, and Rs15 m. have been earmarked for 2018/19. Can we have a list of the schools concerned by this project and eventually the names of the contractors?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, this is done through the MPI's district contractor. I can table the list of schools that have been upgraded.

The Chairperson: Next page, 183. Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 31122.821 - *Acquisition of Braille PC/Notebook for Visually Impaired Children*. May we know why last year Rs1 m. was allocated and this year it is Rs5 m.?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The hon. Member is asking why there is an increase in the amount. We are trying to provide portable and light weight equipment for the students so that they can benefit by working both at home and at school, and we are also providing multi-media connections. For the acquisition of braille, we have now 15 visually impaired students in the secondary schools. So, the amount has been increased.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Page 183, under item 28211.023 - *Special Education Needs Schools*, can we have a breakdown of the allocation, which school gets how much?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: For the 2017/18 Budget, it was around Rs97 m. For this year's Budget it is Rs123 m. going to Special Education Needs (SEN) schools ran by NGOs and Rs12,200,000 to the RCA SEN Schools. I will circulate the list of schools.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. In respect of item 31112.402 - *Upgrading of Schools*, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ferney School is fully operational to meet the needs of students or pupils with special educational needs.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: For the Ferney School, we know that it has started functioning as from June 2014 and students going there receive occupational therapy on referral and also free transport facilities. We carry out the winter and summer school

programmes over there. We have vision screening tests for the students regularly and workshops are carried out. So, I believe it is functioning.

The Chairperson: Page 184! Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Item 28212.020 - *Student Scholarship Schemes for Vulnerable Households* where a sum of Rs50 m. was budgeted for 2017/18 and here, I see only Rs40 m. for 2018/19. Can we know why the amount has decreased and how many students are concerned with this scheme?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: The Scholarship Scheme is for the vulnerable household. The objective is to provide support to a large number of children for vulnerable families and we normally go by the number of students who have applied and accordingly we provide the money for them. There is no limit; they have to come and those who are eligible are provided with this support. So, we have for years –

- 2014 – 175 beneficiaries;
- 2015 – 193 beneficiaries;
- 2016 – 65 beneficiaries, and
- 2017 – 57 beneficiaries.

So, there were fewer schemes.

The Chairperson: Page 185! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22130.001(b) - *Action Plan on Polytechnic* where there is the sum of Rs4.896 m, can we have some more details about that action plan?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: This is a project proposal which is under the 11th European Development Fund for support of Polytechnic Mauritius; the global objective being to assist the Republic of Mauritius, to strengthen its capacity in monitoring the functioning of the polytechnics. We have to come up with an action plan to ensure that the polytechnics function optimally.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Item 21110.006 - *Cash in lieu of leave*. This is a repeating item throughout the Estimates. I would like to know whether it is cash in lieu of overseas leave or any other type of leave?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: I believe it is when an officer reaches retirement age, he normally has some vacation leave. Instead of going on vacation leave some people choose to carry on working, so they are paid for that. I believe this is the cause.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem! Page 186!

Mr Uteem: Under item 26323.088 - *Tertiary Education Commission/Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs)*, may I know from the hon. Minister the increase from Rs100 m. to Rs127 m., what does that relate to?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, the Tertiary Education Commission is being reorganised so as to come up with the High Education Commission and the Quality Assurance Authority. The re-structuring will involve the setting up of the various committees and all, and most probably this is linked to that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful! Page 186!

Mr Ramful: Item 26313.143 - *Polytechnics Mauritius Ltd*, are we talking here about the new Polytechnics? How many of them are functioning?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Two of them have already started functioning; the third has had its launch yesterday, I think.

The Chairperson: Last question, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Item 26313.150 - *Higher Education Commission* and item 26313.151 - *Quality Assurance Authority respectively*. In the context of the reform of the Higher Tertiary Education, I see that there has been a provision of Rs5 m. May we know for this current year, in the setting up of the structure what is the status, please?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: In fact, it is being worked out. The planning and the reorganisation are being done at the level of my Ministry, but also at the level of the Tertiary Education Commission. We have this provision to start with Boards, etc. But then, as soon as this is set up, the vote that has gone for the Tertiary Education Commission will be taken to these two institutions.

Vote 9-1 Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (Rs17,237, 000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 10-1 Ministry of Tourism was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud! Page 187!

Mrs Perraud: Page 187, item 21110.001(10) – *Senior Leisure Events Officer* and item 21110.001(11) – *Leisure Events Officer respectively*, can we have the names and the scheme of duty, please?

Mr Gayan: I do not have the names. I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Can you compile same and circulate?

Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: On the same issue, the Leisure Events Organiser, it seems that is a new post. We are providing for one for the year 2018/19 and his salary will be Rs231,000, but then, next year it becomes Rs468,000. So, he will have an increase of 100%?

Mr Gayan: Well, the note I have here, Mr Chairperson, is that in view of the importance of Leisure Activities, the lower grades of Senior Leisure Events Officer and Leisure Events Officers have been filled. It is proposed to fill the other one and this is why provision is made for six months.

The Chairperson: Next page, 188, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l’item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, je vois qu’une somme de R 1 million a été votée. Peut-on avoir les détails, à qui cette somme va être déboursée?

Mr Gayan: Cette somme a été votée pour les salaires et le *end of year bonus* pour l’*Adviser on Information Matters*.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Yes, under item 26313.047 - *Extra Budgetary Units - Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority, (b) (ii) Emerging Markets*, may I know from Rs156 m. how much has been budgeted for roadshows in African Countries?

Mr Gayan: Well, when we are talking of Emerging Market, we are, in fact, targeting more the Asian market, especially China. But we also have ongoing activities with regard to

roadshows in South Africa which is one of the major markets. So, it is not an emerging market as far as we are concerned, it is a more traditional market.

Now that Kenya Airways has started direct services from Nairobi to Mauritius, we already have some activities in Kenya, we participate in the roadshows and the fairs in the African capitals.

But let me just, for the sake of information, give the list of countries that we consider to be emerging. We have India, China, Spain, Australia, but we also have, as the new countries, the Indian Ocean countries and other African countries. So, we are targeting Africa as well.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: On page 188, item 26313.047 - *Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority*, I can notice there is a reduction of Rs38 m. from budget allocated last year to this one and I can see that some sub-items indicate some reduction in the budget. Is there any specific reason? Can the hon. Minister please give us some more information?

Mr Gayan: There is, in fact, a decrease of Rs38 m. in the budget of the MTPA, but this is based on the actual trend of expenditure. And there will be some activities which we tried last year, which we would not be conducting this year. So, in fact, it has been based on the actual trend of expenditure and there will be more of promotional campaign in terms of digital platforms and other such modern techniques.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Under item 26313.089 - *Tourism Authority of which Improving Sustainable Tourism in Mauritius through Greening the value chain of Tour Operators (SUS - ISLAND)*, there was no budget last year and we can see Rs10 m. for the next coming years. Can we have more details about it?

Mr Gayan: Well, this is a project which is the “Switch Africa Green Project”, to improve sustainable tourism in Mauritius through greening the value chain of four operators and there has been a grant from the European Union. This is why this item is in the Budget, but the objective of the project is to promote sustainable tourism by demonstrating and scaling up its self-sustaining mechanism for improving sustainable added value along the

tourism value chain and improving awareness of the market for sustainable tourism products. So, effectively it is more a sort of inclusive sustainable tourism that this project will look into.

The Chairperson: Page 189, hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to Capital Expenditure, it was announced in the Budget that Mahebourg will be transformed into a Tourist Village. I see no provision made in the Budget for this. Does it not concern your Ministry?

Mr Gayan: The project of converting Mahebourg into a Tourist Village has been on the cards for a long time, but this is going to be a PPP - Public/Private Partnership project, but just to reassure the hon. Member, we are, in fact, thinking of having a wide consultative process in Mahebourg to see how we can involve everybody in this project because Mahebourg is very close to me as well.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Mr Chairperson. Can I ask the hon. Minister in respect of zoning of lagoons where matters stand and whether there would be additional funding also from the National Environmental Fund?

Mr Gayan: With regard to the zoning of lagoons, Mr Chairperson, this project consists of the maintenance, cleaning, repair and reinstatement of existing zoning systems through the lagoons, including swimming, snorkelling, buffer, speed limit, mooring and boat free zones, but this is an ongoing project and we are very concerned about safety at sea with regard to all activities at sea. So, with regard to the provision of Rs7 m., we will have cleaning, repair, reinstatement and maintenance of existing zoning systems. In fact, we launched a tender but I understand that bid was not successful, so a new bidding exercise has been launched for the maintenance, repairs, etc, of existing zone systems on 10 April 2018. It is at the evaluation stage and the work will carry on.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 31113.416 - *Upgrading of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure*, il y a une somme de R 7 millions qui a été votée. Peut-on avoir une liste de ces sites qui vont être aménagés ou rénovés?

Mr Gayan: There are works that have already started at La Citadelle, maintenance works are being conducted there. But with regard to other maintenance works, it is the MPI that carries out the work, but the Tourism Authority also has a Unit that looks after some urgent works.

(Interruptions)

Pour l'instant, c'est La Citadelle, but it is a big amount of money.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under the same item *31113.016 - Other Structures - Construction of Touristic and Leisure Infrastructure-Tourism Signage*, there is a sum of Rs5.5 m. allocated. Can the Minister elaborate?

Mr Gayan: From what I see, the project consists of the upgrading and maintenance of existing directional signs and information panels for routes Nos. 3 to 4 and installation of additional directional signs and information panels in the Chinese language. As you know, we are very keen in attracting Chinese tourists. So, we need to have signage also in Mandarin.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: It is already answered. Thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem! Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister on the same item, if I may say that in my constituency in Roches Noires, the ex-hon. Minister of Environment upgraded infrastructurally the caves that exist in Roches Noires and made it a tourist attraction. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether the caves of Roches Noires are also included in this item?

Mr Gayan: Well, not as far as this Ministry is concerned, but I understand that it is more my colleague, the Minister of Environment, who looks after that, but we can do it together.

Vote 10-1 Ministry of Tourism (Rs714,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Chairperson: I suspend the sitting for half an hour.

At 4.56 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 5.39 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.

Vote 11-1 Ministry of Health and Quality of Life was called.

The Chairperson: Page 190, no question. Page 191, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Concerning item 21110.001 (4) - *Director-General, Health Services*, whether there has been appointment of the Director-General, Health Services? Dr. Timol is doing the actingship.

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, the appointment has not been done yet, that is why we have only three months' salary which has been provided for the filling of this post.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell, page 191!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001(14) - *National Dialysis Coordinator*, knowing that there is an increase incidence in the number of people undergoing dialysis, I would like know from the hon. Minister why is it that there is provision only for one coordinator?

Dr. Husnoo: As you know, we have a number of people on dialysis, but this has been more or less fairly. As far as the Ministry is concerned, we have a number of dialysis machines. A lot of them are being treated privately. Now, we are going to put some, a lot, in fact, about 60 more dialysis machines and then we will consider that in the future.

The Chairperson: Page 192, hon. Baloomoody.

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001(33), in fact, this repeats itself. With regard to the Ex-NATReSA staff, everywhere we see accountant, executive officer. May we know why is it that you put in brackets ex-NATReSA? Do you intend to start the NATReSA again?

Dr. Husnoo: Because this job has been absorbed on the Establishment of the Ministry following the winding-up of the ex-NATReSA. I was in the NATReSA, but now these people instead of losing their jobs, they have been taken in the Ministry. That is why they are there.

The Chairperson: Page 193, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, il y a une augmentation dans le budget prévu pour cette année-ci. Peut-on savoir les noms des *advisers*?

Dr. Husnoo: Our payment of salary to adviser on contract and provision is made for employment on contract for two expatriates, quantity surveyor, etc, for the implementation of Project Implementation Unit. These are the paid persons apart from the advisers. These are the persons that we are taking because we have a number of projects coming in the Ministry of Health. We are developing a Project Implementation Unit in the Ministry of Health. So, we need to get architects, engineers and all that. So, it is basically to care for them.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: The last item, *Service to Mauritius Programme*...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: What is happening? Is there a problem with the mic? No!

(Interruptions)

Mr Ameer Meea: The last item, *Service to Mauritius Programme*, nothing is budgeted as from this year and onwards. May we know the reasons?

Dr. Husnoo: Because this has been absorbed by the Ministry of Finance. That is why.

The Chairperson: Page 194, hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 27210.008, the last item on the page, *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*; there is a lot of lack of information with regard to the eligibility criteria. Can the hon. Minister enlighten us on the eligibility criteria for those patients?

Dr. Husnoo: As far as the patient is concerned, the patient's salary must be less than Rs50,000 per month. That is number one. Secondly, he must have a disease which is inoperable in Mauritius in the sense that he will be referred by his treating doctor. Then, there is a committee. He has to be seen by a committee of three of doctors. Once the committee agrees that this patient won't be able to be operated in Mauritius, that he has to be

referred overseas, then, naturally we will consider the patient. But, as I mentioned, his salary must be less than Rs50,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same item, the amount budgeted was Rs38 m. during the current year. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount that has actually been spent under this item?

Dr. Husnoo: The cost of therapy to 150 patients inclusive of stay and ticket will amount to approximately Rs21,450,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Which page?

The Chairperson: 194.

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22120 - *Fees*, it has gone up from Rs5,800,000 to Rs8,300,000. May we know why?

Dr. Husnoo: Increase in provision consists of fees to Chairperson and Members of the Board and Committees. It is Rs7 m. And the provision of the fees for Chairperson and Members of the Board of Medical Disciplinary Tribunal, Nursing Disciplinary Tribunal, Pharmacy Board, Bid Evaluation, Departmental Bid Committee, Ethics Committee, Pharmacovigilance Committee. The expenditure for 2017-2018 is higher than for the year 2016-2017 due to the increase in rates payable to members on Tender Committee.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: I will take two in one. *Overseas Travel - Treatment & Incoming Medical Teams*, we are being asked to vote Rs17 m. Can the Minister later circulate...

Dr. Husnoo: Which item No.?

Mr Bhagwan: Item 22200 - *Overseas Travel - Treatment & Incoming Medical Teams*, page 194. We are being asked to vote Rs17 m...

(Interruptions)

Let me finish first, and then you give the treatment. Can the hon. Minister let us know from which countries are these medical teams - he can circulate later on, I am not insisting now - and in which field? Also with regard to item 27210.008 – *Assistance to Patients Inoperable in Mauritius*, we are all MPs and we know how many problems we face. Would the hon. Minister later on circulate to the Members of the House the criteria - we know there is Social Security - and the limits allowed to patients who can benefit from these facilities?

Dr. Husnoo: As far as the list is concerned, from which country, I am going to circulate it, and as far as the criteria as well is concerned, I am going to let the hon. Member have it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell, page 195!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Item 28211, *Transfers to Non-Profit Institutions .014 - Medical Council*. I have an issue to take up with Medical Council, the more so in respect of the time taken to process application of consultants who come to be fully registered. If the hon. Minister can impress upon the Medical Council to expedite.

Dr. Husnoo: The hon. Member is talking about the specialists, if I understand well. I know there was a problem. Before, there was only one team of three doctors on the Postgraduate Board. That is why I have increased it to two teams, in fact. I have done it. I know the problem and I have increased it to two teams.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 195, item *Capital Expenditure, 31122 - Other Machinery and Equipment .999 - Acquisition of Other Machinery and Equipment*. Can we know of which machinery and equipment we are talking, and can we have a list?

Dr. Husnoo: This provision is made for the acquisition of the heavy-duty photocopy machine, air conditioners and other office machinery. Provision is also made for one Doppler for the PIU, that is, the Project Implementation Unit.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31132, *Intangible Fixed Assets .401 - e-Health*. I know that henceforth the SIC Development Company will look after the project, but out of the Rs51 m. which was budgeted last year, how much has been used?

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, this project is going to be started this year.

Mr Baloomoody: Nothing has been used in the Rs51 m.

Dr. Husnoo: No, the project is going to be started this year. We have contacted the consultants, they are working on it, and we are starting this year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: On page 195, with regard to recruitment under item 21110 - *Personal Emoluments (9)*, recruitment of 10 additional *Specialist/Senior Specialist* from 314 to 324. Will those include Ophthalmologist for the proposed Cataract Centre at Dr. Jeetoo Hospital and also Neonatal Specialist for the Neonatal ICU, for which announcement has already been made and which is warranted at Dr. Jeetoo Hospital - these two departments?

Dr. Husnoo: Firstly, for the specialist, we have the specialist. What was missing, we did not have the equipment at Dr. Jeetoo Hospital. We did not have the laser treatment. So, we are buying that for the treatment. For Neonatal ICU as well, we have the paediatrician, but we did not have the equipment. So, we are trying to upgrade. The facilities there will be upgraded.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item No. 31112, *Non-Residential Buildings .401 - Upgrading of Office Buildings*, je vois qu'il y a une augmentation de R 1.5 millions cette année-ci. Peut-on savoir quel bâtiment est concerné par la rénovation?

Dr. Husnoo: The provision is to meet upgrading of toilets on the 5th and 10th floor at Emmanuel Anquetil Building.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode, page 196!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning Ayurvedic Healthcare Services, it is a new post...

Dr. Husnoo: Which item?

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 21110, *Personal Emoluments (14) - Head of Department/Director of Ayurvedic Healthcare Services*. No sum has been budgeted. Is it that Government is not going with the Ayurvedic Healthcare Services?

Dr. Husnoo: In fact, the Government is going on the Aayush Hospital. But, this year, we are going to start the construction of - hopefully - the Aayush Hospital. The post is a new post, which will be included next year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In relation to the same item, can I refer the hon. Minister to item 21110, *Personal Emoluments (15) - Ayurvedic Medical Officer/Senior Ayurvedic Medical Officer*.

(Interruptions)

Madam Chairperson, if I may continue. So, in relation to this item bracketed number 15, can I ask the hon. Minister, in the light of the announcement of the construction of Aayush Hospital, if there is going to be a proposition to increase the number of these medical officers from nine for the current financial year to more, given that we are now properly investing into Aayush Hospital?

Dr. Husnoo: Definitely, we are going to increase the staff - obviously. But we cannot increase the staff now when we do not have the facilities. We have to plan it in such a way that once the Hospital is coming, then, in parallel, we will increase the doctors.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 196, item 21110, *Personal Emoluments (30) - Midwife Educator (New)*. I do not see any budget allocated for this post. Can we know why, please?

Dr. Husnoo: It is because we are not planning to fill it now, this year. That is why. Maybe for the next year, we will fill it.

The Chairperson: Page 197, hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. If I may take the hon. Minister to the third item on this page, bracketed item 45, in relation to *Charge Nurse Psychiatric (Female)*. I note that for the last financial year, there were 14 and for the current financial year as well, the number is 14. However, in relation to the last financial year, a provision of Rs3,618,000

was made, whereas for the current year, for the same number of Charge Nurse Psychiatric (Female), the amount has almost doubled to Rs7,047,000.

Dr. Husnoo: Firstly, because we do not have the full complement of the psychiatric nurses last year, and secondly the increase is due to the full salary being paid to all the 14 of them now, this year; that's why.

The Chairperson: Page 198, hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Madam Chairperson, page 198, Physiotherapy Cadre. I take it under this item, and it concerns all the sub-items, especially with regard to Hydrotherapy Unit. We know what sufferings people are having, especially old persons having physiotherapy in the different hospitals. Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether, now that he is increasing the Senior Therapist Cadre - we all know that there is a course for Physiotherapist; there has been a course, but I don't know if it is still on at the University of Mauritius - he is satisfied that with this personnel, he is able to cater for the needs of the population, especially with regard to the Pool Attendant (Hydrotherapy Unit)? Can the Minister inform the House in which hospital we have these pools, whether it is intended to increase these pools and also review the whole unit in the interest of the people?

Dr. Husnoo: As far as the training of these physiotherapists is concerned, we are going to provide the training at MIH eventually. As far as the pool is concerned, we have one at Dr. Jeetoo Hospital. I think the one you are thinking of is Victoria Hospital, it is not working, but at Dr. Jeetoo Hospital it is working.

The Chairperson: Can I appeal to hon. Members not to make statements and to go straight to the questions, unless it is essential to make a statement so that the question becomes intelligible.

Mr Bhagwan: The Minister just replied that the one at Victoria Hospital is not working. I represent the people of my constituency who go there, that is why I am asking.

The Chairperson: No! It is not that. It is the statement that you make before asking the question, because it takes time.

Mr Bhagwan: I am not making a statement. I am stating a fact.

The Chairperson: Page 199! Page 200! Page 201! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning page 201, item 21110 .001(164) - *Health Records Technician (New)*, I see that no amount has been budgeted. I understand that this is the one who will operate computers, so how come that no budget has been earmarked, not only for this financial year, but beyond?

Dr. Husnoo: For two reasons. Firstly, if you see item 21110 .001(167) - *Health Records Clerk*, it has been increased from 187 to 197, by 10. So, we are increasing the number of staff working in the record. Secondly, the e-health is coming eventually so that's why there is a decrease.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody, you have a question?

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you. The hon. Minister just informed that it has been increased by 10, but we find that the amount allocated has, in fact, diminished from Rs41.299 m. to Rs41.289 m.

Dr. Husnoo: There were seven vacancies before and now we have 10 additional in post. When there are vacancies, the salary will be same, but when you increase it is going to be like that.

The Chairperson: Page 202! No question? Page 203! Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: I am grateful, Madam Chairperson. May I take the hon. Minister to item 21110.013 - *Allowance icw Internship (Pre-Registration Training)*? I note that for the last financial year, a provision of Rs90 m. was made and equally for this financial year for the same amount, and the next two financial years for the same amount of Rs90 m. Can I ask the hon. Minister why the figure is constant, whether we take the same amount of preregistration students or training, if I may put it this way, or is there a variation, and how the Budget is allocated on a capita basis or is it on a general quantum basis?

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, we have a maximum of 375 preregistrations. So you know, it lasts for one year and the second year also. Normally, we have a maximum of this. So, that is why the amount allocated is for the maximum.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, there is a huge amount of Rs750 m. Can we have some details about this?

Dr. Husnoo: Provision is made to meet payment of responsibility allowance, duty allowance, extra duty allowance, on-call allowance, non-practising medical allowance, bank nurse allowance, night duty allowance, night bonus allowance, allowance to doctors on-call, allowance to medical laboratory technician and public holiday allowance.

In April 2016, following consultations with the MHR Association, the shift system was implemented on a pilot basis and the Accident & Emergency Department in all five regions. The introduction of the shift system in all Units will result, in fact, in a reduction of the allowance in future because of the shift system.

The Chairperson: Page 204! Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Under item 22140.001 - *Medicine, Drugs and Vaccines*, there is an item of almost Rs1 billion for every year. May I ask the hon. Minister whether the stock management system has already been computerised, because we recall that, very often, we had the problem of expired drugs?

Dr. Husnoo: I know there is a major problem. I know we have it in the Audit Report as well. We have been criticised about the system. I appreciate that. But now we are trying to shift from the Central Store in Port Louis to somewhere else. We have got another place. Once we go there, we will put the IT system as well so that we will have a better stock management system. It is very important. But, there is no point in inputting it in the old building when we are shifting. In fact, that is going to be temporary until we build our new one at Côte d'Or.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22060.001 - *Buildings*, can the hon. Minister tell us, concerning the Budget of last year, Rs30 m., how much was spent and also the list of the building that has to be maintained for this year?

Dr. Husnoo: Last year, the forecast expenditure for 2017/18 was Rs30 m. Provision for the cost and maintenance of the building as regional hospital are same actually. We can circulate the list eventually.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. My question relates to item 22060.003 - *Plant and Equipment* where there is a provision of almost Rs75 m. current year and Rs90 m. every year. For this maintenance of equipment, I would like to know whether there is a specific contractor to whom this contract is awarded, and the name of the contractor, please?

Dr. Husnoo: It is provision for maintenance contract on various medical equipment for regional hospitals and in the Central Supply Divisions, Central Lab, etc. So, it is not just one contractor; it is different equipment, different lab; there are different kinds of people. Sometimes it is in-house; sometimes we have to outsource it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In respect of item 22140.007 - *Renal Dialysis - Consumables and Fees*, can I be apprised as to the supplier of consumables and to whom fees have been paid, please, in respect of renal dialysis?

Dr. Husnoo: These are mainly for the consumables. I am sorry I do not have the name of the supplier. But I can circulate it later if you wish.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Merci, Madame. Sous l'item 22104 - *Medical Supplies, Drugs and Equipment*, je voudrai savoir du ministre si le stockage des médicaments se fait toujours à Coromandel parce que mes amis du PAC et moi-même, on avait fait une visite là-bas à Coromandel et on a vu dans quel état on stockait ces médicaments, il y avait des traces de rats, le bâtiment coulait. Je voulais savoir si c'est toujours le cas?

Dr. Husnoo: I have just explained the situation earlier. We are moving to a new building at Castel. I know the problem. I have explained it to the House. *Il y a Coromandel, il y a même Port Louis, il y a le Tobacco Board. Il y a quatre places comme ça.* I have visited the place. So, we are trying to shift to another place *temporairement* for about one year or one year and a half until our new medical store is built at Côte d'Or. Because I am working on a different, on a good one at Côte d'Or. *Temporairement on va bouger d'ici, ensuite, eventually we will move.* I appreciate that but it is not easy to get such a large surface area, *environ 60,000 pieds carrés, croyez-moi, ce n'est pas évident* to get it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Bhagwan!

Mr Bhagwan: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26313.095 - *Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care*, we are being asked to vote a huge sum of Rs265 m. for this very Specialised Medical Care, which is the pride of the country. Can the hon. Minister tell the House who is chairing this Trust Fund? Has his attention has drawn to the interference in the management of this Specialised Medical Unit, the number of specialist doctors who have been recruited and what action he has taken to prevent the intervention of the Chairperson in the day-to-day management of the Board. We know what has happened in the Samputh case. We do not want to have another one.

Dr. Husnoo: First, I can assure you the Trust Fund is doing a good job both at SSRNH and at Victoria Hospital as well, because, as you know, we have just opened at Victoria Hospital. We have got some very good Cardiac Surgeons from overseas doing a wonderful job there.

As far as the Trust Fund is concerned, it is doing very well. As far as the Chairman is concerned, you know what I mean, I know that there are lots of things are being said about him, but I can assure you, the Chairman as well is doing a good job because he is the one who is spearheading all the works. So, to say that he is not doing the job, I do not think it is right.

(Interruptions)

If you want to do the job, you have some time, you have to do it.

The Chairperson: Page 205! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 31112.003 (d) (vi) *New Neurosurgery Unit at Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital*, there is no budgetary provision henceforth. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this Unit is fully functional and fully equipped to deliver services as required?

Dr. Husnoo: No, in fact, as you will see, there is a note f(2) there. We are going to build a New Neurosurgery Unit. This is going to be centrally managed initiative of the Government.

Mr Osman Mahomed: Can I know when construction will start?

Dr. Husnoo: Now, we are starting on the plan. I made a site visit only last week.

The Chairperson: I won't allow any question to anybody I have not given the floor. I am sorry. I will ask an hon. Member to take the floor. Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Concerning item 31112.003 (h) - *Refurbishment/Construction of 2 Wards at New OPD-Victoria Hospital*, no amount has been budgeted and in the condition patients go over there, the waiting room and all that. Unfortunately, no fund is available under this item.

Dr. Husnoo: Do you know what is happening? For Victoria Hospital, we are working on a Master Plan.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No crosstalking, please!

Dr. Husnoo: We are working on a Master Plan. We will wait for the Master Plan and then we will try to get the job done properly. That is what we are doing. Because it is mentioned, the Master Plan is down there.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: On the same item 31112.003 (d) (vi) *New Neurosurgery Unit at Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital* that hon. Osman Mahomed mentioned, I just wanted to have a clarification from the hon. Minister as to whether the New Neurosurgery Unit at the SSRN will be maintained in the long run, it would be there or it will be transferred to Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital?

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, the Neurosurgical service at SSRNH has already been transferred to Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 31112.403(f) - *Brown Sequard Hospital*, there was a provision of Rs5 m. last year and for the next financial year Rs15 m. Are we going to have a special wing for drug addicts at the Brown Sequard Hospital?

Dr. Husnoo: No, actually this is to refurbish the old hospital because many walls there are in a very poor state. That is why we are trying to put more money to refurbish the

hospital, because this is the hospital which has been neglected. So, it is to improve the present wards.

As far as treatment is concerned, I am setting two new wards, one at Long Mountain Hospital, one at Mahebourg Hospital. Long Mountain Hospital, for patients below 18 years of age; for Mahebourg Hospital above 18 years of age to treat drug addicts, especially the ones who take synthetic drugs.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 205, item 31112.003 (d) (i) - *New Hospital, Flacq*, can the Minister provide some details as to why only Rs10 m. have been earmarked for this financial year?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No comments, please!

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, for this one, we are negotiating. We have got a consortium which will help us to build the hospital at Flacq. Firstly, it is a consortium of Kuwait Fund, Saudi Fund and BADEA. So, I can assure you, BADEA has already signed it; Kuwait has signed the agreement; I am waiting for Saudi to come. I think they are going to come next week to sign it. Once all the three of them sign it, you will have the money for your hospital in Flacq.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes, under item 31112.003 - (a) *New ENT Hospital*, the project value is Rs932 m. Last year, an amount of Rs200 m. was budgeted and this year Rs500 m. May we know where matters stand in relation to this hospital?

Dr. Husnoo: It is a new ENT Hospital. It is doing very well. In fact, the construction is going very well. In March, I think we started. If everything goes all right, we have planned to open it in 15 months' time, but the way, so far, the construction is going, maybe we can do it even before 15 months' time, we can open it before 15 months' time. So, the work is going on very well.

The Chairperson: Page 206! Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Regarding item 31122.801 - *Acquisition of Medical Equipment*, can we have the list of the medical equipment that will be purchased and secondly, why the value is half compared to last year?

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, it is a provision made for acquisition of hi-tech medical equipment, anaesthetic machine and other medical equipment for all regional hospitals. I don't have the list, but I can let you have it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With respect to item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment*, there was a long plan for having a pilot project for the computerisation at Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital. Is this on and, if so, may we know when this will start?

Dr. Husnoo: It is a project that we are going to put it in the e-health because we are starting the e-health this year. We have got money, we are starting on the e-health system and as you know, for the e-health, we are starting with Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital first and then satellite primary care like Mediclinic and all that. So, we are going to start that this year, the e-health. Then, after that we are going to roll it out to all the District Hospitals.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud! No. Page 206! Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 206, in respect of item 31122.801 - *Acquisition of Medical Equipment*, if the Minister could apprise us as to from whom equipment has been purchased, we can have the name of the supplier and what type of equipment have been purchased and to where these equipment have been located?

Dr. Husnoo: I mentioned earlier when I answered on this item. I am going to circulate the list of equipment and the suppliers.

The Chairperson: Page 207, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(50) - *Senior Vector Biology and Control Laboratory Technician*, can we know why is this post still vacant, please?

Dr. Husnoo: As you see, we have other Vector Biology and Control Laboratory Technician and we have the principal one as well. There was no need to provide for this, to fill it; that is why we have not.

The Chairperson: Page 208, no question. Page 209, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*, may I know from the hon. Minister who was awarded the contract?

Dr. Husnoo: Give me the item number, please!

Mr Uteem: Item 22070 - *Cleaning Services*.

Dr. Husnoo: The increase in provision under item *Cleaning Services*; cleaning of office premises due to increase in contract price. This is number one. As I mentioned, for the office premises, there are so many different places; Communicable Disease Unit, Hyderkhan Mediclinic in Goodlands.

Mr Uteem: My question was: who won the contract?

Dr. Husnoo: Mauriclean Ltd. won the contract.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Madam Chairperson, page 209, I am interested in the last item under the heading *Other Expense* - item 28211 and thereafter all the sub-items starting from .003 up to 0.62. I note that in relation to all these items, the Estimates have been reduced by almost 50%. May I know the reason for this reduction in the Budget, in particular for *Breast Cancer Care*?

Dr. Husnoo: As you would see there is a note there: *f(1)*. The provision has been made up to December 2018, for six months only. Then, after that, this provision is going to be centrally managed eventually. Not as a Ministry, but centrally managed. So, this provision has been made just for six months only.

The Chairperson: Page 210, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes, concerning *Capital Expenditure*, items 31112.004 - *Non-Residential Buildings Construction of Area Health Centres* and 31112.005 - *Construction of Community Health Centres*, can the hon. Minister list out all the centres to be constructed?

Dr. Husnoo: For the Health Centres, provision has been made for the construction of new Tombeau Bay CHC, new Phoenix Health Centre. These are the ones. These are the Community Health Centres and then, the Area Health Centres are Petite Rivière *et* Bambous.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Same item, Madam Chairperson, the hon. Minister mentioned the Community Health Centres in Tombeau Bay, I think, and another region. But there was a Fund earmarked for Grand'Baie, as well. May I know from the hon. Minister if this amount...

The Chairperson: This is not in the Budget!

Dr. Husnoo: This is not included now in this Budget. We will have to take it...

The Chairperson: Ask question from which there is an item! Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On which page, Madam Chairperson!

The Chairperson: 210!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 210, item 31112.006 - *Construction of Mediclinics*. At a point in time, there was a mediclinic what we call '*dispensaire*' in my constituency - in the hon. Minister's as well - in the region St François Xavier, near Rue Goa. Then, it was transferred to La Rue St François. May I know whether there is a project of building a mediclinic there or not?

The Chairperson: It is not in this!

Dr. Husnoo: This is for mediclinics actually.

The Chairperson: It does not form part...

Dr. Husnoo: These mediclinics are different mediclinics. It is not for this area.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 210, item 31112.404, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if he can please give the list of Area Health Centres and Community Health Centres which will be upgraded, and I am much interested to know whether the Community Centre of Ste Croix is found in this list?

Dr. Husnoo: Actually, I don't have the list of Area and Community Health Centres to be upgraded, but we will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of *Recurrent Expenditure* 21, item *21110.001 (5)*, why is it that there is no provision of funding for the post of Project Coordinator (AIDS)?

Dr. Husnoo: The scheme of work of the service is being amended, that is why.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item *31112.006 - Construction of Mediclinic at Floreal*, it is shown that this year only Rs9 m. has been earmarked and there is no fund for next year. Can the hon. Minister tell us when this mediclinic will be operational?

Dr. Husnoo: Is the hon. Member talking about Floreal? Actually, for this one there were some extra works to be done, that is why it took a bit of time. So, hopefully, in about two to three months' time, it should be operational.

The Chairperson: Page 211, hon. Baloomoody.

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The *National AIDS Secretariat* - item *21110.001 (14)*, may I know from the hon. Minister when was the last time that the National AIDS Committee met?

The Chairperson: It is not in the Budget. It concerns the Secretariat. I don't know whether the hon. Minister wants to reply. But it is not in the budget.

(Interruptions)

Dr. Husnoo: I don't have the information.

(Interruptions)

The hon. Member asked me the date. I don't remember the date!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, but that is another question of administration!

(Interruptions)

No, but it is a question of administration which I said that we are not taking policy and administration. Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to the last item, *Synthetic Drugs Prevention Programme*, I know this has been announced in the Budget. Can we have some details how this Programme is going to be implemented?

Dr. Husnoo: Well, actually, as we know it is a major problem on synthetic drugs nowadays. I mean this is going to affect the youths, the young people at school, and those young people who do not go to school as well. That is number one. We are talking to people at the workplace and then the community as well. We are getting the help of the NGO who are working in that particular field as well. I have had meeting with them. We are trying to get them on board to have these sessions to help them.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.982 - *Synthetic Drugs Prevention Programme*, I think the hon. Minister just answered the question, but I wanted some more details about this programme.

Dr. Husnoo: As I mentioned, this is mainly the prevention one here, but a lot of works is being done. The point is that, as far as synthetic drug is concerned, we know the problem. It is increasing. We know the number of admission coming in the hospital in the last three years has been increasing from 200, 300, maybe this year it is going to be 500. So, we are aware of the problem. We are starting on the prevention side. We are looking at the curative side because when these patients come, they are very psychotic. So, we have to admit them as any patient to treat them. So, we have the prevention, we have the curative and then we have afterwards, after they have left hospital to psychosocial management. As I mentioned earlier, we are opening Long Mountain Hospital; we are opening Mahebourg Hospital for treatment as in-patient; not just out-patient only, in-patient, if needs be.

The Chairperson: Hon. Leopold! No! Hon. Uteem!

There is like Rs31 m. budgeted for the next three years.

Mr Uteem: Under item 22900.915 - *Multi Sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS Programme*, may we know to what this relates?

Dr. Husnoo: With regard to the Multi Sectoral Response to HIV/AIDS Programme, forecast expenditure for last year was Rs16.5 m. and provision for funding activity under Global Fund Grant and implementation of National Action Plan for HIV and AIDS. Payment under Global Fund includes, amongst others, procurement of male and female condoms, rapid test kits, ELISA test kits, CD4 machine, cylinder needles.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you. Page 211, item 22120 - *Fees*, there is a sum of Rs325,000. Can we know to who these fees are?

Dr. Husnoo: It is provision to meet training course for community midwives, nurses, newly recruited doctors and paramedical staff, professional and social workers on adherence and observation on psychosocial support, and all healthcare workers on HIV and AIDS programme.

The Chairperson: Page 211, hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 21110 *Personal Emoluments (5) - Nutritionist/Senior Nutritionist*, are five nutritionists sufficient for the whole of Mauritius? Because I believe we cater for the whole, including the Prison Services, hospitals. Is this sufficient? Can I also know what are the qualifications of these specialists?

Dr. Husnoo: I appreciate. Maybe we have to increase the number of nutritionists, but we can take that maybe in the next Budget. As for qualifications, they must have their degree in Nutrition Studies and Dietetics.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 21110.001 (12) - *Community Health Development Motivator*. May we know from the hon. Minister where these motivators are based and how do they work district-wise, region-wise?

Dr. Husnoo: No, they are based district-wise actually, in the Mediclinic in the district.

The Chairperson: Page 213, hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 28211, I can see that the budget for PILS has been curtailed to half this year.

The Chairperson: Is the hon. Member on page 213?

Mr Ramful: Page 213, item 28211, the budget for NGOs for Anti-Smoking and Anti-Alcohol Campaign has been reduced by half. May I know why?

Dr. Husnoo: It is centrally managed. It is written there. The provision is only for six months and after six months it is going to the Centrally Managed Fund.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Item 22900.903 - *Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign*. May I know the hon. Minister this relates to what? Awareness and Sensitisation Campaign about what?

Dr. Husnoo: Provision is made to meet the expenditure on campaign for prevention of NCDs, including tobacco cessation clinic, through the MBC and private radios.

Vote 11-1 Ministry of Health and Quality of Life (Rs12,260,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 12-1 Ministry of Arts and Culture was called.

The Chairperson: Page 214, no question. Page 215, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Merci, Madame la présidente. Sous l'item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, je vois qu'il y a une augmentation dans le budget pour cette année-ci. Peut-on savoir pour qui est cette somme et combien d'*advisers* le ministre a?

Mr Roopun: I have got three advisers, Madam Chairperson. Mr Arzam Khan, Mr Ramgoolam and Miss Hurry.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Madam Chairperson, regarding item 21111.002 - *Travelling and Transport*, may we know who are eligible for this scheme?

Mr Roopun: This is to meet payment of travelling allowances, travel grants, refund of bus fares, mileage allowance, etc.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Item No. 22120 - *Fees*, I see it has been reduced. Can we have some details?

Mr Roopun: Fees for members of Board of Committees, fees for Capacity Building, and fees for Departmental Bids Committees.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 215, item 21110.004 - *Allowances*. Can we know to whom those allowances are being paid?

Mr Roopun: It is for the payment in terms of acting and responsibility, cash-in-lieu of duty free, drivers' allowance.

The Chairperson: Page 216, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001 (32) - *Technician Light/Sound (on roster)*. We know that it is on a roster. The amount for last year was Rs1.4 m., this year it is earmarked Rs1.6 m. and next year Rs1.9 m. May we know why this increase, please, as the number of workers is still eight?

Mr Roopun: I believe because of increments that they regularly receive each year.

The Chairperson: Page 217, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 217, item 22130.001 - *Studies and Preliminary Project Preparation: (b) "Lakaz Artis" Project and (c) National Centre for Performing Arts Project*. Can we have some information about those projects, please?

Mr Roopun: In fact, Madam Chairperson, for the project of "*Lakaz Artis*", we had some difficulty to find out the appropriate venue for the building and, in the meantime, we are proceeding further with a construction at Côte d'Or, where we are going to have space there also for artists. This is being kept on hold for the time being.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Item 22120 - *Fees* with estimates of over Rs4 m. Can I have some details for what purpose these fees are?

Mr Roopun: As stated, these are fees for training, fees for consultants, and fees for part-time Project Manager for MPI providing support for monitoring and supervision of projects.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the issue of rent, item 22030 - *Rent*, Rs16.48 m. last year, Rs17.280 m. provided next year for building and facilities for events. May we have some more details? Under item 22030 - *Rent*, may we have some more detail?

Mr Roopun: Madam Chairperson, provisions made for the –

- rental of buildings;
- parking slots;
- vehicles;
- equipment, and
- facilities for events such as marquises, generators, giant screen podiums, sound system, etc.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon! Hon. Uteem! Page 217!

Mr Uteem: Under item 22130.001(a) - *Mauritius Symphony Orchestra*, may I know from the hon. Minister where matters stand in respect to the survey on this Mauritius Symphony Orchestra?

Mr Roopun: In fact, it is for the creation of Mauritius Symphony Orchestra with the aim of performing a wide range of repertoires, including contemporary music and also for the creation of a distinctive national tradition of international standards. And in that case, we have the ex-Secretary to Cabinet who is chairing a committee and to see how we are going to come up with such an orchestra.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22060 – *Maintenance*, on voit qu'il y a une augmentation dans le budget de cette année-ci, peut-on avoir les détails, s'il vous plaît?

Mr Roopun: This is due to the increase in activities of the Ministry, bringing about increase in the use of equipment and vehicles, hence an increase in the maintenance.

The Chairperson: Page 218! Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 28212.014(a) - *Scheme for Concerts*, may we know from that scheme how much have been spent last year?

Mr Roopun: I understand, it is Rs5 m.

(Interruptions)

No, I will circulate the information.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah! Page 218!

Mr Rutnah: Madam Chairperson, under item 28212.014(d) - *Scheme for rental of Hall for Drama*, may I know which hall is being rented for the purpose of drama and to which company?

Mr Roopun: In fact, Madam Chairperson, assistance is provided for artists who wish to rent venues such as MGI, IGCIG, J&J, etc. whenever they wish to perform and also to cover overtime for provision of Serge Constantin Theatre, free of rental cost whenever they wish.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In respect of grants, item 263232.009 - *Conservatoire de Musique François Mitterrand Trust* where Rs5 m. has been earmarked in the estimates of 2018/19. Now, the *Conservatoire* has been really neglected and I would like to know from the Minister, in respect of the amount earmarked, how much of it will be disbursed to finance the upgrading of the *Conservatoire*?

Mr Roopun: We have Rs5 m. earmarked. I must say that there was a fire lately at the *Conservatoire de Musique*. We are working on it so that it be centrally managed by the Ministry of Finance whenever we are ready with the feasibility study.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under item 28212.014(e) - *Other support to Artists*, there was Rs3 m. budgeted last year. It is now to Rs3.8 m. I just want to find out from the Minister how much money was spent out of the Rs3 m. last year, and if he can table a list, please?

Mr Roopun: I will table it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.102 - *Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund*, where an amount of Rs7.5 m. is earmarked. Can the hon. Minister table a copy of the internal audit on the finances of the ICC, which his Ministry has a copy of?

Mr Roopun: I cannot at this stage, Madam Chairperson, state whether I will table it. In fact, we are working on that actually.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Merci, Madame la présidente, sous l'item 28212.014 - *Financial Assistance to Artists*. Dans le budget de l'année dernière, le Premier ministre et ministre des Finances a annoncé qu'il allait mettre R 50 millions pour les artistes et cette année aussi on ne voit pas ces Rs50 millions. J'aimerais savoir du ministre où est-ce qu'on en est avec ce budget?

Mr Roopun: Madam Chairperson, this is being financed through the Loto Fund. A special amount is provided for, not under this item, but from the Loto Fund. This amount of Rs50 m. is still available to artists.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28211.026 - *Socio-Cultural Organisations*, Rs2 m. May we have a list of the socio-cultural organisations?

Mr Roopun: I will circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Page 219! Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Item 26313.044 - *Mauritius Society of Authors*, again, I draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that only the wages for that Society is over Rs15 m. and still the Government is giving...

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier! We are on page 219!

Mr Barbier: Page 218...

The Chairperson: You have a question on page 219?

Mr Barbier: No, I had a question on page 218.

The Chairperson: We have put page 219! Sorry! Well, I will allow you this question if you don't have on page 219.

Mr Barbier: May I know from the Minister whether he will consider increasing this grant, at least, to be able to meet the salary cost of the Society? Also, under item 28212.014(e) – *Other support to Artists*, can the Minister please give a few examples of which type of support it is about?

Mr Roopun: As regards the MASA, Madam Chairperson, we just had a new Board which has been set up there. Of course, the main objective of the new Board is to see how to curtail expenses so that more funds be made available for the artists. In regard to 'Other support to Artists', I am going to circulate the information.

The Chairperson: Page 219! Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31122.999(c) - *Equipment for Film Classification Board* where the amount has been doubled up to Rs5 m. this year. Can we have a list of the equipment?

Mr Roopun: Acquisition of machinery and equipment for Film Classification Board. I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 219, item 31122.999 - *Acquisition of Other Machinery and Equipment (a) - Equipment for Centre de Formation Artistique*, can the Minister enlighten the House about the decrease in the budget from Rs500,000 to Rs150,000 this year?

Mr Roopun: Under Acquisition of Other Machinery and Equipment, you have, under (a), Rs500,000; Public Address System; Equipment for Film Classification Board. These are listed there.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, you don't have the information?

(Interruptions)

Mr Roopun: No, I cannot say. Equipments that were needed have already been purchased and there is no request for fund.

The Chairperson: Page 220, hon. Armance! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Page 220 item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys (a) Intercontinental Slavery Museum*, I see that no amount has been budgeted to carry out the survey. Does the Ministry really intend to have the Intercontinental Slavery Museum?

Mr Roopun: Yes. In fact, Madam Chairperson, formalities have already been started for the study and the survey. An Expression of Interest has already been launched. We are actually considering the various Expressions of Interest which have been received and this is presently under consideration by the Bid Evaluation Committee.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.099 *Miscellaneous Expenses - Conservation and Preservation of Records*, could the hon. Minister give us some details about the conservation and preservation of records?

Mr Roopun: This is being effected at the level of the archives for the digitalisation of the records.

The Chairperson: Page 221, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26323.062 - *National Library*, there is a huge increase in the budget, may we know why?

Mr Roopun: Provision is being made for the digitalisation of 30,000 pages at the National Library and also to proceed with the Media-Tech which has just been inaugurated a few days ago.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of grants under item 26313.030 - *Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund*, can we have a breakdown in respect of the increase in the Estimates for the year 2018/2019, as to how this fund is going to be spent?

Mr Roopun: It is a long list, Madam Chairperson. I am going to circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rutnah!

Mr Rutnah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In relation to page 221, I see a number of provisions are made under item 26313 - *Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund*, Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund, Mauritius Museums Council, etc. However, in my constituency, in Barlow, there is Phooliyar Nagar. I don't see any provision for any upgrading work or any provision for infrastructural work at Phooliyar Nagar. May we know whether there is any item in which that is covered?

Mr Roopun: In fact, Phooliyar Nagar is being catered for by the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and there are funds included therefor.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 26210 - *Contribution to International Organisations*, we have only a bulk figure. Can we have some details as to which organisations these funds are meant for?

Mr Roopun: I have got a list which I am going to circulate. It is quite a long list. We have UNESCO, we have World Heritage Fund, etc. I am going to circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Next question, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 31112.417 (b) - *Batterie de L'Harmonie, Black River*, may we know the list of upgrading works that will be carried out this year? Concerning last year, can we know the amount that has been spent?

Mr Roopun: In fact, the fencing has been completed for about Rs2.8 m., if I am not mistaken and, in the meantime, through the RDA, the access road has been enlarged to an amount of about more than Rs350 m., not from the fund of the Ministry, but through the RDA, I believe, and the fencing of the whole site has been completed and the cleaning has been done. Now, we are on the point of launching an Expression of Interest to see whether any private sector wishes to come with proposals for that site.

Vote 12-1 Ministry of Arts and Culture (Rs538,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 13-1 Social Security and National Solidarity was called.

The Chairperson: Page 223! No question! Page 224, hon. Rughoobur! No! Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under item *21110.005 - Extra Assistance*, can we have the names, list and details of the assistance?

Mr Sinatambou: Item *21110.005 - Extra Assistance*, provision, Madam Chairperson, is made for the salaries of three advisers on contract and there is a reduced provision in the code, the salaries have been adjusted in view of the figures of this year. The names of the advisers are respectively –

- Mr Chummun, Public Relations Officer;
- Mr Caunaya, Adviser on NGO matters, and
- Mr Adaken, Adviser on Information Matters.

The Chairperson: Page 225, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Page 225, item Recurrent Expenditure *21110.001 (14) - Disability Empowerment Officer/Senior Disability Empowerment Officer*, there has been a decrease in the budget. The numbers are the same for funded, but there has been a huge decrease in the amount budgeted.

The Chairperson: Page 226, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 226? Page 225 finished?

The Chairperson: Yes.

Mrs Perraud: Okay, page 226 item *22120.001 – Fees for Medical Boards and Domiciliary Visits*.

I would like to know, what are the fees for the doctors?

Mr Sinatambou: The fees, as the hon. Member will see, amount in total to Rs80 m. These are respectively for domiciliary visits and payments are not only for doctors, but also for nurses, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists. Now, I have the total amount which is paid. The amount is Rs610 per visit per doctor and the total amount of visits for July 2017 to May 2018 amounted to 72,377 times, Rs610 per visit, we came to about that figure.

The Chairperson: I will request the hon. Minister to give the reply for questions which have been asked. Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22090 - *Security*, from Rs8 m. to Rs13 m., can I know from hon. Minister who is the private company providing the security?

Mr Sinatambou: Provision is here made for payment of security services for three recreation centres and the increase in provision is for the installation of CCTV surveillance cameras in all security offices.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Merci, Madame la présidente. Item 22120.001 - *Fees for Medical Boards and Domiciliary Visits*, est-ce que l'honorable ministre est au courant que dans le dernier rapport de l'audit, il y a eu beaucoup des commentaires qui ont été faits sur cette mesure, qu'il y a eu des paiements qui ont été faits par le son ministère pour les visites chez des patients qui étaient morts?

Mr Sinatambou: Well, I am not aware of visits being made for dead patients in this financial year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Item 22030 - *Rent*, can the hon. Minister apprise us...

(Interruptions)

Mr Sinatambou: I cannot hear.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please!

Dr. Boolell:... as to why there has been a sudden increase from last year's Estimates from Rs14,675,000 to Rs16,775,000, please?

Mr Sinatambou: I must say there was so much noise that I could not hear the hon. Member's question!

Dr. Boolell: On item *Rent*, as to why there has been an upsurge from last year's Estimates to this year's Estimates by more than Rs2 m.?

Mr Sinatambou: Well, I can only give the fact that I have the list here for the rental. So, the Social Security Office...

(Interruptions)

There is a list that I can circulate to explain the amount.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode, page 226!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes, concerning item 22060 - *Maintenance*, can we have a breakdown which type?

Mr Sinatambou: Yes, we can have it. I will circulate, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Page 227, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.093 - *Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board*, there is an amount of Rs12 m. which is budgeted. May I know how the hon. Minister intends to spend this money and if this Board is still active now?

Mr Sinatambou: Yes, it is still active. What has happened is that the two training centres have had to close down because they are defective and have been condemned by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure. We are looking for alternative accommodation.

(Interruptions)

Already tenders have been floated to rent new premises for training. As soon as these are obtained, the training will start again.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Yes. My question relates to item 26313.093, more specifically about TEDP Calebasses Centre which is closed and for which there are some 20 or so disabled inmates who are now left with nowhere to go. Can I ask the hon. Minister what provision is he making for them? There were several Press articles on this matter.

Mr Sinatambou: As I just said to the previous question, for the two premises which have been closed, we are now launching tenders in order to get new training accommodations for the trainees.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: I just wanted some clarification from the hon. Minister. Item 26313.056 - *National Council for Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons*, may I know what is the scope of intervention of this Council and whether they are responsible to look into the appointment of disabled persons?

Mr Sinatambou: Yes, it is responsive to the appointment of disabled persons. Actually, there are independent members for our disabled, Mr Reynolds Permal, Mr Yaseen Edoo and Mr Nena Jayramen.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

(Interruptions)

Did I hear a phone somewhere?

(Interruptions)

Whose phone was that?

(Interruptions)

No, because Sergeant-at-Arms, I told you that only hon. Members can bring their phone in and that also should be on silent mode. Yes, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 227, item 28211.024 - *Financial Support to Religious Bodies - Water Bills*, can we have a list of the religious bodies benefitting from this financial support, please?

Mr Sinatambou: Well, I do not have the list now because we are speaking about 1,400 religious bodies. One must agree that it will take time. 1,400 religious bodies! Thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.081 - *Senior Citizens Council*, can we know what is the fee which is payable to each association? And there has been numerous requests to consider increasing that fee. Will the hon. Minister consider increasing the fee?

Mr Sinatambou: Can the hon. Member repeat the question, please!

Mr Ramful: Senior Citizens Council, what is the fee which is payable to each association? And there has been numerous requests for increasing the fee. Will the hon. Minister consider increasing the fee?

Mr Sinatambou: As a matter of fact, no individual fee is paid to an association. The Rs9.5 m. is a grant from the Ministry to the Council itself.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28211.004 - *Charitable Institutions*, last year, we paid Rs83 m. to the Charitable Institutions. If the hon. Minister does not have a list now, can he undertake to communicate to us the list of all these charitable institutions which benefitted from this sum?

Mr Sinatambou: I will circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Page 228, hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of *Construction of Recreational Centre Riambel...*

Mr Sinatambou: Which item, please?

Dr. Boolell: Sorry, my apology! Item 31111.002 – *Construction of Recreational Centre at Riambel*, the project value of Rs215,300,000. Can the hon. Minister report progress as to when the construction would be completed?

Mr Sinatambou: The hon. Member said that of Riambel!

Dr. Boolell: Yes, Riambel.

Mr Sinatambou: It is expected probably at the beginning of next year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Page 228, Madam Chairperson!

The Chairperson: Page 228.

Mr Baboo: Item 31111.012 – *Construction of Homes for the Elderly*, can we know where these homes will be constructed and how many homes?

Mr Sinatambou: Yes, two plots of land have been identified at Flic-en-Flac and Belle Mare respectively.

The Chairperson: Page 229, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 27210 - *Social Assistance Benefits in Cash*. On a general note, Madam Chairperson, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since there has been big criticism regarding the pension, what measures he is taking at the level of the Ministry to avoid such a disaster again this year.

The Chairperson: No, it should be specifically related to an item and questions on the figures which are there. This is rather a policy matter and it concerns administration.

Vote 13-1 Social Security and National Solidarity (Rs24,630,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 13-2 Environment and Sustainable Development was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 230, we can see that the Capital Budget for the Ministry of Environment has been drastically reduced, and I believe we have to read this in connection with the National Environment Fund. But, at the same time, the Recurrent Budget for staff and all is remaining the same. Can I ask the hon. Minister how is it going to operate between the Ministry and the National Environment Fund?

The Chairperson: It is a policy question.

Mr Sinatambou: That is a matter of policy. I have the reply, but I would prefer a substantive question. It is a question of policy.

The Chairperson: Page 231, no question. Page 232, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28222 - *Transfers to Households*, .006 - *Solar Water Heater Scheme*, and .026 - *Composting Scheme*, I can see that there is no budget. Can we know why? How much has been spent from the Rs25 m. and Rs10 m. budgeted last year?

Mr Sinatambou: As regards the Composting Scheme of Rs10 m., it was supposed to be for about 7,500 or 8,000 composting plants. These have been ordered already.

As regards the Solar Water Heater Scheme, the tender has been floated. It has been awarded, but there have been two appeals.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs. Perraud!

Mr Armance: Sorry, Madam Chairperson. I also asked why there is no budget for the coming years.

Mr Sinatambou: Because we have already given Rs10,000 and Rs25,000 for the other one.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs. Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 232, item 28221.012 - *Rainwater Harvesting Scheme*. I would like to have a list of those Non-Profit Institutions, please.

Mr Sinatambou: I do not have the list here. I will get it and circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Osman Mahomed!

Mr Osman Mahomed: Thank you. Item 28222.006 - *Solar Water Heater Scheme*. Sometime ago, there was an advertisement and people queued up at the Development Bank of Mauritius for the Solar Water Heater Scheme. The hon. Minister has just referred to the tender. Are people who have already registered themselves going to be under this scheme or are we talking about something else?

Mr Sinatambou: As a matter of fact, for that scheme, all the solar water heaters have already been given.

The Chairperson: Page 233, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 - *Fees*, I see the amount has gone from Rs33,933,000 last year to Rs36,845,000 this year. Can we have some more details about that? I am talking about fees, not the contribution.

Mr Sinatambou: The explanation is that provision for capacity building of Rs1 m. as provided in 2017/2018 will no longer be provided to MOFED. Those fees last year included training. This year, no, because training is provided for elsewhere.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: My question is on page 234, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants (Financed by Grant from International Organisations), (k) Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Study for Port of Port Louis*. There was no budget last year, and then there is Rs5 m. this year. Can we know where matters stand? If the hon. Minister can give us some feedback about this.

Mr Sinatambou: These are monies provided by grants from international organisations. So, it is on call. Last year, there was no call, but this year, there will be.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Item 2120.008 - *Fees to Consultants (Financed by Grant from International Organisations)*. Could the hon. Minister state which international organisations?

Mr Sinatambou: Would the hon. Member tell me under which one for the 11 projects?

Mrs Selvon: Item 22120 - *Fees of which .008* on top of the page *Fees to Consultants (Financed by Grant from International Organisations)*.

The Chairperson: There is a whole range of projects.

Mr Sinatambou: All 11 projects?

The Chairperson: On which project is the hon. Member asking question?

Mrs Selvon: (a) to (k).

Mr Sinatambou: It is just too long. I will circulate the list to the hon. lady.

The Chairperson: Page 235, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning item 31410.402 - *Improvement/Upgrading/Rehabilitation of Beaches*, there has been no money budgeted for 2018/2019, meaning that all rehabilitation works concerning beaches and all the others have already been done?

Mr Sinatambou: No, Madam Chairperson. It is because they are going to be provided for under the National Environment Fund.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Madam Chairperson, item 31410.402 - *Improvement/Upgrading/ Rehabilitation of Beaches, (b) Coastal Rehabilitation Climate Change Adaptation (i) Refuge Centre at Quatre Soeurs*. I see that there is no provision in the estimates for the year 2018/2019. If I could be apprised as to where matters stand in respect for this Refuge Centre at Quatre Soeurs.

Mr Sinatambou: In fact, the Refuge Centre is nearly completed. That is why there is no provision.

The Chairperson: No questions on pages 236, 237 and 238. Page 239, hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 239, item 22070.003 - *Operation of Landfill Sites*, there is an amount of Rs225 m. that has been budgeted. May we know where the operation of landfill site will take place and also some details on this project?

Mr Sinatambou: Provision is made, Madam Chairperson, for the payment and operation of five transfer stations and waste transportation there and from to Mare Chicose.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: It is on item 22070.003 - *Operation of Landfill Sites*.

Mr Sinatambou: I am sorry about that. I will check. Yes, the provision is made to meet payment of landfill operation and maintenance for Rs210,300,000. The increase is due mainly to increase in waste quantities and leachate amount being catered away, which includes escalation costs.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22070.010 - *Operation and Export of Interim Hazardous Waste* where a provision of Rs50 m. is budgeted for the current year, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount that has actually been spent?

Mr Sinatambou: The revised estimates tell me that from Rs50 m., the revised estimates for the year amount to Rs34 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22070.001 - *Public Beaches*, où une somme de Rs133.5 m. a été votée dans ce budget, peut-on avoir le nom des plages et ceux des contacteurs, s'il vous plaît ?

Mr Sinatambou: Madame la présidente, la liste est très longue. Je préfère la faire circuler.

The Chairperson: You can circulate! Hon. Dr. Boolell!

(Interruptions)

Dr. Boolell: Thank very much, Madam Chairperson...

The Chairperson: Order, please! Hon. Henry, we have to listen to the hon. Member's question.

Mr Sinatambou: Which item, please?

Dr. Boolell: Under item 28222.021 - *Compensation for the Relocation of Inhabitants of Mare Chicose*, can the hon. Minister apprise us whether all the inhabitants of Mare Chicose have been compensated? All those who have been relocated to Rose Belle?

Mr Sinatambou: There were 38 residential land owners in the Mare Chicose village who were to be reallocated to Marie Jeannie in Rose Belle. I understand that from these 38 owners, only one owner is yet to be compensated.

The Chairperson: Page 240! No question! Page 241! Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 241, under item 28222.025 - *Compensation for the Relocation of Inhabitants of Quatre Soeurs (Landslide)*, can the hon. Minister state how many families are concerned from the landslide?

Mr Sinatambou: If my memory serves me right, Madam Chairperson, there were 11 families which were to be relocated; five of those have already been relocated, six of them remain to be relocated.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Same item, Madam Chairperson, can the hon. Minister circulate the compensation that has been given to each and that of those who have already been relocated?

And what is being proposed to those who are still staying on that piece of land, as well as the extent of land that they were occupying before?

Mr Sinatambou: I have no objection to doing that, Madam Chairperson.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: At page 241, item 22120 – *Fees*, can the hon. Minister give us some details about those fees, please?

Mr Sinatambou: I understand that fees for training are Rs770 and that is for the Community Disaster Response Team to help in training community members to better respond to emergency situations in the community. We also have fees for consultant which is of Rs2,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance! Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 31122.999 - *Equipment for National Emergency Operations*, as there is a big increase in the amount from Rs2.2 m. to Rs9.1 m., may we know what are these equipment?

Mr Sinatambou: Madam Chairperson, provision is made for procurement of the equipment for our National Emergency Operations. Phase 1 is a multiscreen display system for Rs8 m., then flood monitoring sensors at Rs800,000 and a drone system at Rs300,000.

Vote 13-2 Environment and Sustainable Development (Rs1,220,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 13-3 Meteorological Services was called.

The Chairperson: Pages 242 to 244! Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 244, if I can catch the attention of the hon. Minister! Under item 31122.817 - *Acquisition of Doppler Weather Radar*, there is a project value of Rs537 m. and also in last year's estimates, Rs250 m., and this year, Rs162 m. May I ask the hon. Minister where matters stand in relation to the installation, the coming into operation of the radar and also whether officers of the Meteorological Services have been trained to use this equipment?

Mr Sinatambou: I think if one goes to Trou aux Cerfs, one will see that it is nearly completed. We hope to ensure that the radar is operational before the end of the year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry! Hon. Baloomoody!

Vote 13-3 Meteorological Services (Rs266, 400,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 14-1 Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security was called.

The Chairperson: Pages 245, 246, 247, 248, 249! Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: At page 249, under item 28212.030 - *Payment to Planters - Sugar Cane Sustainability Fund*, no provisions have been made for this financial year. Do I take it that the Rs1,200 that are currently being paid to planters will be stopped now?

Mr Seeruttun: Madam Chairperson, as you are aware, as for the sugar sector there is a Ministerial Committee which has been set up to look into the whole issue about this industry. So, this will be taken up at that level.

The Chairperson: Pages 250, 251, 252! Hon. Mrs Perraud!

(Interruptions)

There are no questions inscribed!

(Interruptions)

I am going page by page!

Mr Ameer Meea: Madam Chairperson, you have said five pages at a row!

The Chairperson: I understand you have a Point of order! Do not argue with me when I am talking, please!

(Interruptions)

Do not argue! I am going page by page and, over here, I have nobody who has asked questions. I cannot ask: 'who has questions?' You did not ask, I do not have any question. Right! Hon. Mrs Perraud, page 252!

Mrs Perraud: Page 252, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we have some information about this item, please?

Mr Seeruttun: Provision was made for the recruitment of a Scientific Officer on contract.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea, page 253!

Mr Ameer Meea: Page 252.

The Chairperson: Page 252, the hon. Member did not say he had any question. I am already on page 253.

Mr Ameer Meea: I said to Mr Gopall as from page 252 onwards.

The Chairperson: He did not say, he asked for 253.

Mr Ameer Meea: Okay, no problem, but I am saying clearly, Mr Gopall, can you put my name on every page on Minister of Agriculture section. I think I am being clear now, on every page. Okay. Yes, on page 253, there is an item 22030 – *Rent*. May we know what is being rented and to whom this is being paid?

Mr Seeruttun: Provision is made for the rental of buildings at Plaisance Air Transport Services for the National Plant Protection Office; also for the rental facilities for the holding of the World Food Day.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultant (incl. Reimbursable Technical Assistance - IFAD)*, can we have some more details about that programme?

Mr Seeruttun: IFAD is funding a project to come up with the Seeds Regulations. So, this is funding which is being obtained by the IFAD in terms of setting up of this regulation.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In respect of item 25210.010 *Agro-processing SMEs (Premarket tests)*, I would like to know why there is no provision in the Estimates for the year 2018/2019.

The Chairperson: Item 25210.010 – *Agro-processing SMEs (Premarket tests)*.

Mr Seeruttun: We have not made any provision because there has not been any request for that under that scheme.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 263, item 25210 - *Non-Financial Private Enterprises*, can the hon. Minister give us a list of all the private enterprises benefitting from all the schemes from item 25210.005 to item 25210.020, if he can circulate the list, please?

Mr Seeruttun: Of course, it is a long list, so, it is going to take some time. I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 253, item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, there is an amount of Rs5 m. that has been budgeted. May we have the details for this amount?

Mr Seeruttun: I will circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Page 254, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28215.003 - *Sheltered Farming*, I see that the grant has increased from a budget of Rs10 m. to Rs50 m. May I know from the hon. Minister the criteria? Those who applied for an agricultural plot of land, do they benefit from this grant for Sheltered Farming under the new scheme?

Mr Seeruttun: I believe they do. They are eligible for that under that Scheme.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 28225.006 (e) - *Rainwater Harvesting*, can I know from the hon. Minister how many people have benefitted from this scheme?

Mr Seeruttun: I will have to circulate that number.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 28215.003 - *Sheltered Farming*, l'année dernière c'était budgété à une somme de R 10 millions et cette année on voit que ça a augmenté à R 50 millions. Peut-on avoir des détails là-dessus, s'il vous plaît?

Mr Seeruttun: Because we are promoting, I mean, the farmers to go into Sheltered Farming. That is why we have increased this fund, so as to have more farmers to go into it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 28225.006 (b) - *Project Assistance Micro Projects*, there was last year Rs8 m. voted for. May I know who have benefitted from this vote and why there is a decrease to Rs1 m. this year?

Mr Seeruttun: The project value is Rs8 m. It is only Rs1 m. which have been provided for.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under the same item 28215.003 - *Sheltered Farming*, is it in relation to the project at Plaine Magnien?

Mr Seeruttun: No, that was another scheme.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes, *Capital Expenditure* item 26323.019 (f) - *Promotion of Macadamia Nut*, there is a project value of Rs20 m. May we know where matters stand in relation to this project, whether production has already started? Do we have any figures of how many tons of Macadamia have been produced until now?

Mr Seeruttun: Madam Chairperson, growing a tree takes time. In fact, the House is aware that we have launched a farm at FAREI some weeks back. So, it is going to grow and then it is going to produce the nuts. So, we will have to wait for that.

The Chairperson: Page 255, hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of item 31112.022 - *Construction of a National Wholesale Market*, we find a project value of more than Rs390 m. Can I be apprised as to where matters stand in respect of the construction and as to whom the contract has been awarded?

Mr Seeruttun: The tender has been launched and we are waiting for the closing date before we can examine those tenders.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: It is already answered.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same page, item 31112.057 - *Construction of Mauritius Biotechnology Institute*, I think it is a new item. Can we know exactly where will that be?

Mr Seeruttun: Well, we have been working into the setting up of a new Biotechnology Institute. We have carried out some workshops to look at the best means to serve that Institute. Only last week, we had Professor Jones from Australia who was here. He was the one who initiated that project in the early 2000 and now he is going to submit his report shortly once he goes back to Australia and then we will move forward.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 255, under item 31112.022 - *Construction of a National Wholesale Market*, can the hon. Minister please give us an update of this project?

The Chairperson: This has just been asked. That question has been replied already. Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 31113.032 - *Setting up of Quarantine Facilities*, there is a project value of Rs34 m., but only Rs3 m. was budgeted last year and nothing budgeted for this year and the coming years. May I ask the hon. Minister, this project has it been abandoned or where matters stand to that?

Mr Seeruttun: In fact, this project was completed last year.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Where! Which locality!

Mr Seeruttun: At Mer Rouge.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Is it Mer Rouge or Terre Rouge?

(Interruptions)

Mr Seeruttun: Mer Rouge.

The Chairperson: Page 256, hon. Ameer Meea!

(Interruptions)

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 256, *Allowances*, there is an amount of Rs3.5 m., may we have the details of these allowances?

The Chairperson: Page 256!

Mr Serruttun: Allowances for Acting, Responsibility, *Ad hoc*, Extra Duty and all that.

The Chairperson: Page 257, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 25210.015 - *Incentives for Milk Production*, may I know how many people are benefitting from that incentive and what is the result?

Mr Seeruttun: Do we have the number of beneficiaries? There were 156 applications, and of those 75 breeders have already benefitted from that scheme.

(Interruptions)

Yes, they are those who are keeping their heifers up to the lactating stage.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants (Strategic Plan Implementation/National Livestock Bio Security Plan)*, who are the consultants, please?

Mr Seeruttun: For consultants, we will have to submit the list.

(Interruptions)

Sure! I mean I do not have the list with me, but I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Item 21111.001 - *Wages*, could the hon. Minister state why there is no Estimates for 2018/2019?

Mr Seeruttun: It has been transferred under Basic Salary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance.

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28215.009 - *Accompanying Measures for the Livestock Sector* to the amount of Rs10 m. going forward. Can we know which accompanying measures are going to use to spend the Rs10 m.?

Mr Seerruttun: The scheme was introduced to boost production and regular supply of quality milk for purchase by industrial milk processes. So, this is a scheme that has been set up to allow the small breeders to improve their milk production.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 257, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, if the hon. Minister can give us some details about *Extra Assistance*?

Mr Seerruttun: *Extra Assistance*, provision was made for the recruitment of a Vet Officer on contract from India.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 25110.003, an amount of Rs20 m. has been budgeted to subsidise the Mauritius Meat Authority. May we have some information, this amount of Rs20 m. what it be for?

Mr Seeruttun: That is annual contribution from the Ministry for the running cost of the MMA.

The Chairperson: Page 258, hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of item 31112.045 - *Construction of New Slaughter House*, if the hon. Minister will be kind enough to tell us the site of where this construction is and to whom the contract has been awarded?

Mr Seeruttun: Well, for that too, the tender has been launched. I think the closing date is in mid-July and the site will be in Wooton.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Same page, concerning item 31113.032 - *Setting up of Quarantine Facilities, (a) Turkey and (b) Monkey*, may I know as far as turkey is concerned whether now

the project has been completed; whether it will be able now to rear turkey in Mauritius for meat purposes?

Mr Seeruttun: Yes, the construction is underway at Plaine Magnien and should be ready very soon, in four weeks' time.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 258, item 31113.026 - *Construction of Farm Buildings*, can the hon. Minister give some details about the farm at Melrose?

Mr Seeruttun: Just a slight correction to my previous reply. It is 20% completed, not in four weeks. For the turkey quarantine, it is only 20% completed as at to date. With regard to the Heifer Farm at Melrose, this is a farm that is being constructed by the Ministry to allow for the boosting up of that sector, that is, producing heifers to be given to the small breeders.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31113.041 – *Establishment of Livestock Zones*, Rs15 m., Rs17 m., Rs15 m., may I know exactly where will that be?

Mr Seeruttun: It is going to be at Melrose next to the heifer farm which we are building so that we can allow ...

(Interruptions)

We do have land there and we have chosen that site to build that livestock zone.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 258, item 31112.045 - *Construction of New Slaughter House*, can we have some information about this?

Mr Seeruttun: Again, I have already replied to that question.

The Chairperson: Yes, question has already been put and replied. Hon. Armance! No question! Page 259, hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: *Construction of New Slaughter House.*

The Chairperson: No, page 259!

Mr Ameer Meea: No, page 258!

The Chairperson: No, page 259!

Mr Ameer Meea: No, I have asked for page 258, Madam Chairperson!

The Chairperson: No!

Mr Ameer Meea: You can ask Mr Gopall!

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea, please sit down!

Mr Ameer Meea: No, it is not fair.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please sit down! Look, I am managing time, right! I am managing time. So, I cannot ask you and give you the floor each and every time. We will have to be fair to everybody...

(Interruptions)

...and you cannot argue with me!

(Interruptions)

I do not want you to argue with me! That is the last warning I am giving you!

(Interruptions)

Yes, page 259! No question! Hon. Mrs Perraud, page 259!

Mrs Perraud: Page 259, item 31122.818 - *Setting up of Salle de Découpe (Porc)*, if we can have some information about this? I hope that nobody asked this question.

Mr Seeruttun: But again this is a new...

(Interruptions)

No, not asked already. It is something which is going to be at Bambous. We are going to equip that site with all the equipment so that the breeders can make use of it to sell their meat.

The Chairperson: Page 260, hon. Ameer Meea! No question.

(Interruptions)

Yes. Be quick!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 260, item 21210 - *Social Contributions*, there is an amount of Rs2.8 m. May we have the details for social contributions and to what it relates?

Mr Seeruttun: It relates to contribution to the National Savings Fund, which is about the rate of 2.5% of the salary.

The Chairperson: Page 261, hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In respect of Capital Expenditure, item 31131, *Cultivated Assets* - how interesting - I would like to know where matters stand with regard to *Improvement of Cultivated Assets*. If it is lengthy, then I would advise the hon. Minister to circulate the reply.

Mr Seeruttun: Provision is made for the setting up of a new irrigation system within the Forest Nursery at Bras d'Eau, also at Abercrombie, the compound at Curepipe, and the construction of a shade house at Bras d'Eau, Vuillemin, Abercrombie, Eau-Bouillie, and at the Seed Centre Nursery compound.

The Chairperson: Can you be silent, hon. Ameer Meea? I am watching you since a few minutes. You have to maintain order in this House. You need to have some discipline. You cannot disturb others.

Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Item 31410.401 - *Rehabilitation, Upgrading of Nature Reserves & Parks*. It was a Rs18.6 m. project. I want to know what has been done so far. There is Rs6.5 m. budgeted this year, and Rs1.5 m. for the year 2019/20.

Mr Seeruttun: Provision is made for the maintenance of the existing national parks, and also for the implementation of a new urban trail at Grand River North West to promote social forestry and also to put more amenities in those parks in terms of kiosk and benches.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31113.014 - *Landscaping Works-Motorway/Public Roads*. I see there is an amount of Rs4 m. current and Rs2 m. every year. May I know from the hon. Minister if it is for landscaping of the whole of the motorway?

Mr Seeruttun: It is for the embellishment of the motorway from the airport up to the north, and this is where we are trying to improve in terms of planting trees to embellish the motorway.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 262, item 26210.092 - *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*, there is an amount of Rs40,000 that has been budgeted. May we know why there has been an increase of Rs2,000 in this budget?

Mr Seeruttun: Well, it is the contribution that is made to that particular Convention, and there is an increase in the contribution.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22090 - *Security*, il y a une somme de R 4.2 millions. Je voudrais savoir si ce sont des contracteurs ou si c'est *in-house*. Si ce sont des contracteurs, peut-on avoir les noms, s'il vous plaît?

Mr Seeruttun: It is provision made for watchman services, which is being carried out by in-house labourers.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Item 26210.090 - *Wetland (Ramsar) Convention*. I see there is an amount Rs100,000 being contributed to that Convention every year. There was a proposal to update the Ramsar sites. Has it been done?

Mr Seeruttun: The update of the Ramsar sites. I mean the sites that have been identified as Ramsar sites are already here. In fact, we are looking at one site in Rodrigues, which is now under consideration for it to be considered as a Ramsar site, but we are not yet there.

The Chairperson: Page 263, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31410.401 - *Rehabilitation of Nature Reserves & Parks (a) Removal of Invasive Alien Species*. Rs50 m. is being allocated for the next financial year. May I know how much has been used from that Rs50 m. and by what means we have tried to remove the invasive alien species?

Mr Seeruttun: Well, this was a project funded by the UNDP some years back. Labourers were recruited to eliminate all those invasive plants so that we can protect these areas which are considered protected areas. This programme came to an end in March, this year. But to continue to maintain those areas that have been cleared, we have put all our resources to keep on with the maintenance of the work.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: In relation to the same item, can we know how many labourers were recruited for that project, and now that the project is over, what has been done with the labourers?

Mr Seeruttun: In fact, they were on contractual basis. About 112 were under that particular project.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31112.055 - *Construction of Field Research Station (Combo)*. I can see there is no project value, nothing has been budgeted last year, and yet Rs2 m. this year and Rs9.1 m. next year. So, why is this so, and what is this project?

Mr Seeruttun: This is for outstations which are being built on those sites where there is need to have permanent staff, employees there.

Mr Armance: What is the project value?

Mr Seeruttun: Well, I will have to check that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 26313.129 - *Vallée d'Osterlog Endemic Garden Foundation*. Every year, there is an amount of Rs10 m. that is being budgeted. May we know what is this Foundation, what is its objective, and where it is based?

Mr Seeruttun: In fact, it is an endemic garden that has been created some years back. Dr. Boolell is well aware of that. It is found somewhere in Le Val area. For the running cost, Rs10 m. is provided for by my Ministry and for the capital expenditure, Rs7 m. is being provided for.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. In respect of Capital Expenditure, item 31113.014 - *Landscaping Works within Black River National Park/Bras D'Eau National Park/Public Gardens* with a project value of Rs28.4 m., for this year, there is an estimate of Rs6.7 m. Can I be apprised as to where matters stand in respect of the work that is going on for landscaping, the number of persons recruited recently?

Mr Seeruttun: Well, I am informed that the amount provided for is for the creation of boardwalks to improve the visitors' access. With regard to the annual upkeep of that particular zone, it is something which is recurrent and I do not believe that there have been new recruits for that particular work.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Under item 31410.401(d) - *Implementation of Islet Management Plan*, où une somme de R 23 millions a été projetée pour ce programme, dont R 8 millions l'année dernière et R 6 millions pour cette année-ci. J'aimerais avoir les détails sur les dépenses de l'année dernière et sur les R 6 millions de cette année-ci?

Mr Seeruttun: It was for the maintenance of those particular islets and in terms of upgrading the sites, cleaning and restoration works. These are the works that are being done on an annual basis. Last year, the amount provided for was Rs8 m.

Vote 14-1 Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security (Rs3,005,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 15-1 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection was called.

The Chairperson: Page 264!

Mr Baboo: On a Point of clarification! It was agreed between the two Whips, the Government Whip and myself, and we signed an agreement also, that for today we will stop after the Ministry of Agro-Industry.

The Chairperson: It is time permitting! I have the authority, time permitting, that we continue. It is only 8 p.m. now, so we can continue.

(Interruptions)

Why should we stop?

(Interruptions)

On what we agree, not the Ministries!

(Interruptions)

Please, sit down!

We agree on the time allocation. If you look at your Standing Orders, you have to see that the Speaker delegates the Whips to agree on time allotment. So, we had agreed on time allotment. This is the agreement. Not on specific Ministries!

Page 264!

(Interruptions)

Can we have some silence, please?

(Interruptions)

Sorry! Do not interrupt me!

Vote 15-1 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection was called.

The Chairperson: Page 264!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Henry! Ask your question! I cannot wait for you!

(Interruptions)

No, no! Do not argue with me! Listen to me! Do not argue, please! I said, page 264! If you have a question, you stand up and ask your question!

Mr Henry: Under item 21110.001(3) - *Confidential Secretary*, may we know why the sum has decreased?

Mr Gungah: The decrease is a provision as the salary of the present officer is lower than her predecessor.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 264, item 21110.001(2) - *Management Support Officer!* Last year there were two posts funded, this year and next year as well, whereas in the estimates it has increased. May we know why?

Mr Gungah: It is provision for salaries and increments.

The Chairperson: Page 265! Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can I have some details about this provision and if they are for advisers? The names and the allowance that they are being paid?

Mr Gungah: In fact, these allowances are for advisers. They are Mr Kinsley Andy Lai Kong Ling, adviser on information matters; Mr D. Ramdony adviser on industry matters; Mr Boda Eargadoo, adviser in public relation matters.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody! Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22030 – *Rent*, peut-on avoir les détails concernant cette somme?

Mr Gungah: Madam Chairperson, it is provision made for rental of three parking slots at Air Mauritius Centre for the Minister, the Permanent Secretary and one adviser.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: At page 265, under item 21110.004 - *Allowances*, may we have a breakdown, please?

(Interruptions)

The Minister gave details on item Extra Assistance, not on item Allowances.

Mr Gungah: Madam Chairperson, it is provision for payment of allowances to employees.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: At page 267, under item 22060 - *Maintenance*, I can see an increase of nearly 100% on the allocation. May we know why?

Mr Gungah: It is provision for the payment of maintenance expenses for cars and other vehicles. I am given to understand that maintenance fees have increased.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Under item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, may we have some details on this item?

Mr Gungah: There is a sensitisation campaign which is ongoing for Gender Mainstreaming in both the Divisions of Commerce and Industry.

The Chairperson: Page 266, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: On item 21110.001(24) – *Security Guard*, may we know why no budget has been allocated this year since there was a budget last year?

Mr Gungah: Madam Chairperson, one security guard formerly attached to the Handicraft Centre under the Ministry of Education was redeployed to this Ministry to provide services of Office Auxiliary. The officer retired on 16 March 2018 and the post of security guard is now listed for abolition by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: At page 266, under item 21110.001(44) - *Office Auxiliary/Senior Office Auxiliary*, may we know whether this post has been filled now?

Mr Gungah: Yes, it is a new post created for Mauritas.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: At page 266, under item 21110.001(11) - *Financial Officer/Senior Financial Officer*, the number of posts funded has remained the same, but for this one, it has not increased. In fact, it has decreased by Rs200,000. May we know the reason for that?

Mr Gungah: In fact, this reflects the salary and increment for incumbents in post; an incoming officer is drawing a lesser salary.

The Chairperson: Page 267, hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26313.011 - *Fashion and Design Institute*, Rs16 m. last year and Rs20 m. for this year. May we know how much we have spent on this item last year?

Mr Gungah: Well, I have a statement of estimated receipt and payment. I can circulate it and the hon. Member can have all the information. Anyway, this is on the website as well, I understand.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: On the same item, may I know why there has been an increase for this year?

Mr Gungah: Provision for administrative and operating expenses, and, in fact, you must be remembering that during the last Budget, the hon. Prime Minister informed that the Jewellery Sector will be merged with the Fashion and Design Institute, and it will cater for the transfer of the staff of the Jewellery Sector from the MITD.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Item 21110.002 - *Salary Compensation*, could the hon. Minister state why there has been an increase in the Estimates?

Mr Gungah: Salary compensation payable to incumbents under this vote. Funds in respect of salary compensation 2018 were not provided in Budget 2017/18.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 22030 – *Rent*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 12,325 millions qui a été budgétée pour cette année. Peut-on savoir quels sont les bâtiments que vous louez et la superficie, s'il vous plaît?

Mr Gungah: Les bâtiments sont Air Mauritius Centre, Ken Lee Tower and Crescent House. Donc, il y a trois bâtiments.

Mr Henry: La superficie.

Mr Gungah: Superficie: 16,200m² à Air Mauritius; 5,825m² à Ken Lee Tower; 336m² à Crescent House.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Madam Chairperson, item 31122.830 - *Acquisition of Gold and Silver*, there was nothing last year, Rs600,000 this year and nothing the next year. Has this been advised by hon. Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The hon. Member cannot ask this question.

Mr Gungah: Madam Chairperson, this is provision for the purchase of set of gold and silver, certified standards, for the calibration of X-ray spectrometer, and, I think, my good friend should read about the objectives of the Assay Office.

The Chairperson: Page 268, hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 21110.002 - *Salary Compensation*, we find that last year Rs124,000 was budgeted and this year Rs620,000. It is a considerable increase; so, may I know why?

The Chairperson: Page 268!

Mr Barbier: Madam Chairperson, may I repeat? Page 267...

The Chairperson: Page 268, you have asked.

Mr Barbier: Page 267 is over? My question was on page 267.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes, on page 268, item 21110.001 - *Assistant Financial Officer*, there was one last year and this year as well one. Last year, an amount of Rs135,000 was budgeted and this year Rs333,000 has been budgeted. May I know why such an increase?

Mr Gungah: Yes, Madam Chairperson, the post is, in fact, vacant and will be filled by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, and provision has been made for six months only.

The Chairperson: Page 269! Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 22 – *Goods and Services*, there is an increase of Rs1 m., can I have the details?

The Chairperson: Item 22 – *Goods and Services*. What is your question, hon. Barbier?

Mr Barbier: There is an increase in the Budget.

Mr Gungah: Item 22 – *Goods and Services* is quite vast. *C'est 22 quoi?*

The Chairperson: The whole item.

Mr Barbier: Let us take item 22010 - *Cost of Utilities*.

Mr Gungah: Goods and Services; we have cost of utilities; we have fuel and oil.

The Chairperson: He is asking you for Cost of Utilities, why is there an increase?

Mr Gungah: Yes -

- telephone – Rs850,000;
- electricity – Rs2,155,000;
- water and wastewater charges – Rs95,000;

Provisions made based on actual consumptions. Increase in reference of water charges is due to payment of wastewater charges for LMS.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Madam Chairperson, under item 21110.001(37) – *Legal Metrology Officer*, there were 7 for 2017/18 and another 7, but the budget has gone down; it was Rs3.5 m., now it is Rs2.6 m.

Mr Gungah: Yes, it is salary and increment for 7 officers in post, 4 officers recruited in October 2017, December 2017, February 2018 and April 2018, and drawing initial salary.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, on page 269, item 22030 – *Rent*, if you can have a breakdown as to how the amount is being allocated, to which rental, please and the surface area?

Mr Gungah: Rental for building for Head Office at Mauritius Building Medcor for 8,100 sq ft, and the rate is Rs381,084 per month; the Trade Division is at Anglo Mauritius Building for 6,932 sq ft at Rs217,174.91 per month. Parking slots for a total sum of Rs18,400 per month, and one vehicle for Trade Division at Medcor, which is at Rs3,737 per month for the Director of Trade at the NPF Building.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: On page 269, item 22040 - *Office Equipment and Furniture*, may we have the details of this amount?

Mr Gungah: Purchase of personal computers, printers and furniture for new recruits.

(Interruptions)

Table, chairs, filing cabinets.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: But he has given you. List all the items!

Mr Gungah: Personal computers, printers, tables, chairs, filing cabinets, you want more?

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l’item 21210 – *Social Contributions*, on peut avoir les détails - comme l’honorable ministre a fait juste avant - de toutes ces contributions, s’il vous plaît?

Mr Gungah: Yes, the question was asked by my good friend here; it is concerning the payment for contributions to National Savings Fund, which is some 2.5% for all employees.

The Chairperson: Page 270, hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 22900 - *Other Goods and Services*, there is a considerable increase again from Rs450,000 to Rs700,000. May we know why and can we have some details of the additional expenditure, please?

Mr Gungah: Yes, this is additional amount provided for uniforms and protective equipment for new officers at the Legal Metrology Service. A workshop will be organised in respect of training for officers of Trade Division and Operators.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item 22120 - *Fees*, can the hon. Minister elaborate which fees and payable to whom?

Mr Gungah: Fees comprise Rs125,000 for members of Departmental Bid Committee and Bid Evaluation Committee; Rs200,000 for training of staff increase to cater for specialised training for officers of Legal Metrology Services; Rs200,000 for inspection and audit fees plus fees for ISO Certification, accreditation, traceability of standards and inter-laboratory comparison for the Legal Metrology Services, and Rs10,000 for parking coupons for office vehicles in respect of site visits.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Item. 22900 - *Other Goods and Services*, last year there was an amount of Rs450,000 and this year there is an amount of Rs700,000. May we have the details and a breakdown of this Rs700,000?

Mr Gungah: I just replied to that question, Madam Chairperson. This is additional amount provided for uniforms and protective equipment...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please, listen!

Mr Gungah: ...for new officers. A workshop will be organised in respect of training for officers of Trade Division Operators.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 31122.804 - *Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*, je vois que l'année dernière il y avait un budget d'un million et cette année-ci R 9 millions. Peut-on avoir les détails de quel genre d'équipement qu'on parle?

Mr Gungah: Donc, il y a R 150,000 pour les *marking tools*; R 3 millions pour le *mass comparator*; et R 3.5 millions *mass comparator* de différentes dimensions; R3 millions pour le *comparator* de 50 grammes, et R 3.5 millions pour le *comparator* de 500 grammes et R 1.5 millions pour *proving measure*.

The Chairperson: Page 271, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Item 22060 - *Maintenance*, can the hon. Minister elaborate what are the fees concerning maintenance?

Mr Gungah: Yes, it is the increase in provision which relates to maintenance charges payable to Aglieum Ltd. following computerisation of the Price Fixing Unit amounting Rs295,579 and enhancement to PFIS.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. The item on *Fees 22120*, may we know these fees are for what purpose?

Mr Gungah: Fees for training: Rs25,000; parking coupons: Rs75,000; laboratory test for toys, steel bars and cement: Rs150,000, and fees for technical committees and National Price Consultative Council: Rs950,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22030 - *Rent*, peut-on savoir quels sont les bâtiments et les superficies, s'il vous plaît?

Mr Gungah: It is rental of building for Consumers Affairs Unit which is situated at Atchia Building for 5,886 square feet, ground floor, first floor, second floor and at Rs188,352 per month, cost for seven parking slots included, additional space on third floor amounts to Rs62,784 a month. This includes two parking slots as well.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Yes. The last item, 22900 - *Other Goods and Services*, there is an amount of Rs550,000, an increase compared to last year. May we have a breakdown of this figure?

Mr Gungah: Yes, this amount is for protective clothing and equipment for seven new Consumer Affairs Officers, and the cash allowance for eligible officers; activities in

context of the World Consumers Rights Day, petty expenses, printing and distribution of pamphlets for consumers.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Item 21110.010 - *Service to Mauritius Programme*, so far, there is no vote for this present proposed budget. May I know why?

Mr Gungah: It is centrally...

Mr Barbier: This why there is no budget allocation for this present...

Mr Gungah: Because it is centrally managed now.

Mr Barbier: Because...

The Chairperson: It is centrally managed.

Mr Gungah: It is paid by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Vote 15-1 Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection (Rs298,000,000) was called and agreed to.

Vote 16-1 Office of the Solicitor-General was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I see from that item that there are many new posts which have been created. May we get an idea from the hon. Attorney-General when Government intends to fill these posts?

Mr Gobin: The question is when will there be recruitment. The Scheme of Service needs to be finalised first, and then recruitment will be done by the Commission.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to the same item, can we have an idea how many persons will be recruited?

Mr Gobin: The hon. Member will note at subitem 17, recruitment will be done at entry level first, and then gradually they will be promoted.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea! You don't have any question. Page 274, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 21111.002 - *Travelling and Transport*, may we know who are the beneficiaries?

Mr Gobin: These are paid to staff.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to the item *Allowances 21110.004*, may we have an idea about the details?

Mr Gobin: Yes. These allowances represent Actingship allowances, Judicial and Legal Service Allowance, black jacket, robing.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of 21110.001 (27) *Assistant Curator of Vacant Estates (New)*, one of these posts is going to be filled...

Mr Gobin: Assistant Curator of Vacant Estates is a new post. The Scheme of Service will be finalised and then advertised.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Item 21110.002 - *Salary Compensation*, why has been there a considerable increase in the Estimates?

Mr Gobin: It is for the compensation paid to employees, cost of living for the year.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Item 21110.001 (30) *Assistant Manager, Financial Operations*, may I know whether this post has been abolished?

Mr Gobin: Yes. The incumbent has been promoted to Manager.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode, page 275!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes. Item 22120.032 - *Fees for Legal Outsourcing*, can we have more details as the budget has decreased?

Mr Gobin: Yes. These are fees for our external lawyers. There is a long list, Madam Chairperson. I would rather circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, there is an amount of Rs1,350,000. Can we have the details for that?

Mr Gobin: No, we are on page 275.

Mr Ameer Meea: No, page 274. The hon. Minister cannot answer it then.

The Chairperson: Page 275.

Mr Ameer Meea: Okay. I thought he could answer it. If he does not want, it is okay, no problem.

The Chairperson: Page 275, I said. We have gone over page 274. Hon. Baloomoody!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I am sorry. The hon. Member has to go according to the page to which I have asked the question.

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22030 - *Rent*. Looking at what has been allocated for rent, it seems that we are occupying the same space. Will that be for the new officers who will be recruited? Are they going to have space for them to do their work?

Mr Gobin: There is a slight increase from Rs16.2 m. to Rs18.9 m. We will tender for additional premises because the actual premises are not sufficient for the new officers who will be recruited.

The Chairperson: I will allow two more questions, because the time allotted has already been exceeded. Hon. Baboo!

(Interruptions)

No, five minutes, and I have what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has given us. Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Madam Chairperson, excuse me. On the paper, it is written 20 minutes.

The Chairperson: I have got what the hon. Leader of the Opposition modified.

Mr Baboo: Here, it is not modified. This is the copy.

The Chairperson: It is modified.

Mr Baboo: No, Madam Chairperson. This is the original with me.

The Chairperson: Yes, five minutes. Page 275!

Mr Baboo: Item 22120.032 - *Fees for Legal Outsourcing*. Can we have a breakdown of this, please?

Mr Gobin: Madam Chairperson, I have already replied to fees for legal outsourcing. I will be circulating; it is a long list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Item 22030 - *Rent*, il y a une somme de R 18,900,000 qui a été votée. Peut-on savoir quels sont les bâtiments et les superficies, s'il vous plaît ?

Mr Gobin: Madam Chairperson, I have just replied to the question, which was asked by hon. Baloomoody.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Item 26313.029 - *Law Reform Commission*. Can we know who are the members of the Law Reform Commission?

Mr Gobin: The Chairperson is Mr Gunness Ramdewar, Senior Attorney. The DPP is a member, the Solicitor General is represented by an officer of my Office, and then there is Mr Gilbert Noël. From memory, Mrs Wenda Sawmynaden, Mr Narsinghen from UOM, and there is also...

Mr Baloomoody: Who is the Chairperson?

Mr Gobin: Mr Ramdewar, Senior Attorney, is the Chairperson.

Vote 16-1 Office of the Solicitor-General (Rs326,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 16-2 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. For State Counsel, there has been an increase from 39 to 44. May I know from the hon. Attorney General whether there has been a change with the minimum qualification to join as State Counsel?

Mr Gobin: As far as I know, there has been no change. I need to verify. I do not think so.

The Chairperson: Page 277, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Page 277, item 22030 - *Rent*, une somme de R 4,200,000 a été votée. Peut-on avoir les détails des bâtiments et superficies, s'il vous plaît ?

Mr Gobin: The rental is for payment to the NPF for occupation of the ground floor of NPF building to house the Certificate of Character Unit. The total area is 131m², and the monthly rental, including service charges, is Rs100,000. There is also rental for parking slots at Garden Tower and SIFB and also at Mère Barthelemy Street, Port Louis, totalling to the number there.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 22170 - *Travelling within the Republic*, Rs1.1 m. I suppose this is travelling to Rodrigues. May we know how much do they get per travel?

Mr Gobin: I do not have the details, but I confirm that this is to travel to Rodrigues. The House will appreciate that the officers from the Office of the DPP need to travel quite often for court cases over there.

(Interruptions)

I do not have the figure. I can circulate it later, but it caters for air tickets, hotel accommodation and a subsistence out of pocket allowance.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120 - *Fees*. May we know who are the beneficiaries? The fees are for what purpose and who are the beneficiaries?

Mr Gobin: It covers training and also for Prosecuting Counsel. I will give the figure. Fees for training to professional and support staff and also fees for a consultant. The ODPP retains the services of one consultant, and also fees in connection with Privy Council cases. Payment is made to the Privy Council agent, and finally the retainer fees paid to Prosecuting Counsel for cases at District and Intermediate Courts. There are actually eight Prosecuting Counsel who provide services to the Office of DPP.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Thank you. Item 22060 - *Maintenance*. From last year to this year, the amount has increased from Rs4.5 m. to Rs5.3 m. May we know what this maintenance is, please?

Mr Gobin: Maintenance covers maintenance for buildings, painting, wear and tear, plant and equipment, vehicles and motorcycles. There are 12 official cars allotted to eligible officers and one Government vehicle attached to the Office, and also maintenance for IT equipment. So, all add up to that figure which is there.

Vote 16-2 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (Rs150,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 16-3 Office of the Parliamentary Counsel (Rs21,700,000) was called and agreed to.

Vote 16-4 Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: May I know whether these posts have been filled because it is the first time that we are having these posts? Is that office operational?

Mr Gobin: Provision is made for the payment of salaries, allowances and travelling. Provision is made for 23 officers. I am informed that all posts have been filled.

The Chairperson: Page 281! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants*, can we know the names of the consultants?

Mr Gobin: The fees include provision for payment of fees to Chairman and members of committees, including Departmental Bid Committee, Bid Evaluation Committee and Fees for training. For consultancy services, there is a provision. The Ministry, you will appreciate, is new; provision has been made for a consultant on the Human Rights sensitisation and awareness campaign, and also for website design and development of this upcoming website that we are going to create.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: There are several new items, one of which is expenses in connection with National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up. May the hon. Minister give us some details on this new expense?

Mr Gobin: The National Mechanism has just been created by decision of Cabinet. This is a new mechanism for coordination between all Ministries and Human Rights Institutions. So, of course, now that it has been created, we will need to budget for the expenses connected therewith.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: At page 281, item 26 – *Grants*. Under item 26210.163 - *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, item 26210.181 - *Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*, item 26210.185 - *Convention on Cluster Munitions ISU Trust Fund respectively*. They are all new items. May I know whether there are new grants also or it was catered for in other parts of the Budget?

Mr Gobin: There is nothing new. These were previously under the PMO. Now they have been transferred to the new Ministry, that is, the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22900.979 - *Expenses icw National Humanitarian Law Committee*, can we have some more details about that Humanitarian Law Committee and who are the members?

Mr Gobin: As the hon. Member may guess, this deals with international Humanitarian Law and Mauritius is signatory to a number of treaties and this caters for the expenses connected with awareness campaigns, and also contribution to our attendance to the training and seminars of the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry! Page 282!

Mr Henry: Under item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 4 millions qui a été *earmarked*, pouvons-nous avoir des détails dessus, s'il vous plaît ?

Mr Gobin: This has to do with the Office of Public Sector Governance. In March, by decision of Cabinet, a Ministerial Committee was set up to review and revamp the Office of

Public Sector Governance (OPSG). So, this caters for the fees which we will pay to the consultant. The Ministerial Committee comprises of my two colleagues, the Minister of Civil Service & Administration Reforms, the Minister of Financial Services and myself. The work is ongoing.

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

Mr Ameer Meea: We can see that on almost every page there are fees that are being paid to consultants. My question is in relation to these fees to consultants. May we know how they are appointed? Are they appointed through public tender, through clear procedures? Or appointed by the Minister?

Mr Gobin: At this stage, it is just a provision; they have not been appointed. We will cross the bridge when we come to it.

Vote 16-4 Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms (Rs61,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Mrs Perraud: Madam Speaker, can I come with a Point of clarification, please?

The Chairperson: Yes, you may.

Mrs Perraud: Thank you. En tant que *Chairperson* de ce comité, bien sûr, tous les membres du Parlement vous doivent le respect et le respect est réciproque aussi. Depuis ce matin, nous avons beaucoup de difficultés de ce côté de la Chambre pour travailler. Alors, je voulais poser la question, à quoi cela sert d'avoir un *Opposition Whip*...

(Interruptions)

Laissez-moi terminer!

The Chairperson: It is not a Point of clarification!

Mrs Perraud: Si! Il faut que je dise sur quel point je dois aborder!

The Chairperson: Please! This is not a Point of clarification. A Point of clarification is not argumentative. It is a statement which is being made and for which there is no reply. Should you wish to discuss on things which concern time allocation, then you come to my office together with the two Whips and we will discuss on this issue. Otherwise, the Point of

clarification is only a statement and there is no argumentation and you cannot expect any reply.

(Interruptions)

Yes! If you make a statement which is not argumentative, which is not debatable, then I will agree, otherwise I would not be able to accept your statement.

(Interruptions)

Mrs Perraud: Alors je constate qu'au niveau du temps alloué, il y a un gros souci. Nous avons, ici, la copie qui est corrigée par le *Leader* de l'Opposition. Le temps n'est pas alloué, je constate...

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud, please come to my office together with the two Whips. We will agree.

I suspend the sitting for one hour!

At 8.44 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 9.56 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.

Vote 17-1 Ministry of Youth and Sports was called.

The Chairperson: Page 283! No question! Page 284, hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 284, under item 22030 – *Rent*, can we have a breakdown of the amount which was budgeted for 2017/2018, Rs16,050,000, please?

Mr Toussaint: Madam Chairperson, for 2017/2018, it was for the rent of the seventh and eighth floors at Citadelle Mall with a surface area of 24,760 square feet.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 22030, à la page 284, *Rent*, il y a une somme de R 17.8 millions, peut-on avoir les détails sur la superficie du bâtiment, s'il vous plaît?

Mr Toussaint: J'ai répondu pour la première partie pour les R 16 millions. Maintenant, pour les R 17 millions, c'est toujours le septième et le huitième étage de la

Citadelle Mall qui fait R 15 millions et quelque. Nous avons aussi loué la mezzanine pour une valeur de R 2,062,465.20 qui nous arrive à un total de R 17,780,113.20. La superficie est de 3,246 pieds carrés.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 21110.002 – *Salary Compensation*, I notice an increase from Rs150,000 to Rs650,000. What is the rationale behind it?

Mr Toussaint: 21110.002 – *Salary Compensation*, R 150,000 c'est arrivé à R 650,000. Peut-on passer à une autre question et je vous ferai avoir la réponse après?

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21111.002 – *Travelling and Transport*, I see a substantial increase in the Estimates for year 2018/2019. Could the hon. Minister give us a breakdown?

Mr Toussaint: Under item 21111.002 – *Travelling and Transport*, from Rs3.2 m. to Rs4 m., isn't it?

Dr. Boolell: That's right!

Mr Toussaint: It is payment of travelling for staff and may I remind the hon. Member that we will be having the Island Games next year.

The Chairperson: Page 285, hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21 - *Compensation of Employees*, item 21110.00 – *Extra Assistance*, Rs13 m. was budgeted for 2017/2018 and Rs16.5 m. for this coming financial year. Can we have a breakdown of both amounts, please?

Mr Toussaint: There is a long list about Sports Advisers. I will circulate it afterwards.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: Under the same item, I wish to know why there has been an increase.

Mr Toussaint: There is an increase because we are providing now for the services of more doctors, nutritionists, physiotherapists and also for technical staff concerning the infrastructures that we are going to undertake.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Madam Chairperson, I have not received my answer for the last question. For this page, my question is as follows: under items 21110.001 (1) – *Director of Sports* and 21110.001 (2) – *Assistant Director of Sports*, what is the rationale behind it? The Director of Sports is funded for one post and in the Estimates it is Rs695 m., whereas for his Assistant, it is Rs846 m. for last year and for this year again, the Assistant will earn more than his Director. What is the rationale? There is something fishy somewhere.

Mr Toussaint: No, there is no fish at all! *Parski mo pas ministère l'océan*. This is so because the Director of Sports, he is the Ag. Director of Sports. He is doing the actingship and he will be appointed in the course of 2018/2019.

(Interruptions)

Excusez-moi, c'était quoi?

Mr Barbier: May I, Madam Chairperson?

The Chairperson: The hon. Member asked a question...

Mr Toussaint: It is coming.

The Chairperson: ...on page 284 for which he said he has not received any reply. Do you have the reply?

Mr Toussaint: Yes.

(Interruptions)

So, salary compensation, I am informed that it is due to an increase in salary.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The hon. Member starts making remarks again and then when I draw his attention, he would say that I am shouting at him. Why do you make such remarks? Ask your question! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Yes, under item 22120 – *Fees*, ...

Mr Toussaint: Which page, please?

The Chairperson: Page 285!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22120 – *Fees*, may we know who are the beneficiaries and what are the details?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Sinatambou, please! Just ignore the remarks!

Mr Toussaint: Under item 22120 – *Fees*, this represents payment to Chairperson and members of the Boards of the Departmental Tender Committee and the Bids Evaluation Committee.

The Chairperson: Page 286, hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22060 – *Maintenance*, the current budget was Rs14,170,000. I see there has been a fall to Rs9,170,000. It is an important item regarding maintenance. I believe it is for the infrastructure. May I know why there has been this drastic fall?

Mr Toussaint: In fact, it is due to the renovation in our major infrastructures. So, during this period, IOGI is doing the renovation on 17 sites. After renovation, of course, we will continue to maintain.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 286, item 22900.939 (*a*) *Preparation of athletes*, there is a provision of Rs60 m. for 2018/2019. Can we have a breakdown of this amount pertaining to the sports disciplines who will participate?

Mr Toussaint: Actually, Madam Chairperson, there is a long list of what we are going to do with the Rs60 m. I am going to circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Barbier!

Mr Barbier: Under item 26210 – *Contribution to International Organisations*, here also we have an increase from Rs572 m. to Rs832 m. So, may we have a breakdown for which organisation we are going to pay that much funds? Can we have a detailed list?

Mr Toussaint: Actually, Madam Chairperson, the increase is due to the increase in the fees for *CJSOI*. I have a list of all the international organisations and I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of item 22900.939 – *Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG)*, there is a sizable sum in the Estimates for years 2018/2019. Now, I would like the Minister to give us a thorough breakdown in respect of how the money is being spent. I know it is lengthy, if he has to circulate it, please do so.

Mr Toussaint: For item 22900.939 - *Indian Ocean Island Games (IOIG)*, a sum has been earmarked for preparation of athletes for *COJI* for the organisation of the games. Madam Chairperson, this is a very long list and, of course, I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Under item 26313.141 – *Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Ltd*, can the hon. Minister state why there has been a considerable increase in the Estimates?

Mr Toussaint: Madam Chairperson this is for the *Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Ltd* which has been set up recently. Actually, we are providing for more staff in the years to come 2018/2019.

Mrs Selvon: How would the hon. Minister spend the money?

Mr Toussaint: Payment to staff.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l’item 26313.094 – *Trust Fund for Excellence in Sports*, il y a eu un budget de R 20 millions qui a été voté l’année dernière. Je voudrais savoir du ministre combien d’athlètes ont bénéficié de ce *Fund* et si on peut avoir les détails, s’il vous plaît?

Mr Toussaint: Madame la présidente, je vais pouvoir circuler la liste parce que comme on peut l’imaginer, c’est une très longue liste et j’ai déjà aussi répondu à une *PQ* dessus, n’empêche je vais faire passer la liste.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to the item 26313.141 – *Mauritius Multisports Infrastructure Ltd*, may I know why has this company been set up and for what purpose?

Mr Toussaint: Madame la présidente, j'ai répondu à cette question lors de la *PNQ* de vendredi, mais rapidement pour ne pas perdre le temps de la Chambre. Le *MMIL* est responsable de la mise sur pied du projet de *Multisports Complex at Côte d'Or*.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28211.064 – *Sports Federations*, there is an allowance of Rs67 m. May we have a breakdown of the federations and what amount is allocated to them?

Mr Toussaint: Madam Chairperson, actually we are financing 41 federations. So, I will circulate the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah, page 287!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 287, under item 31113.006 – *Construction of Sports Infrastructure, (b) Swimming Pools (iii) Curepipe (Design and Tender)*, can the Minister inform the House where matters stand?

Mr Toussaint: Donc, Madame la présidente, nous avons déjà eu un terrain avec le *Ministry of Housing and Lands*, le R 1 million *earmarked* l'année dernière c'est pour le *design and tender*. *This item will be financed under Centrally Managed by the Ministry of Finance*.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Under item 31113.406 - *Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure, (f) Others - basic sports facilities around the island*, I recall when we debated about *Stade St François Xavier*, which is found in my Constituency No. 3, *il était question de gradins couverts* for the upcoming games. So, can I ask the hon. Minister if this is still on and whether this has been budgeted?

Mr Toussaint: St François Xavier, Madame la présidente, fait partie des infrastructures qui seront rénovées par AUGI dans le cadre des Jeux des Iles. *It will be undertaken by AUGI*. Pour le moment, je n'ai pas encore le *design* de tout ce qu'on va faire.

(Interruptions)

Je répondrai en temps et lieu. Je dois vérifier.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. On the same item 31113.406 - *Upgrading of Sports Infrastructure*, can I ask the hon. Minister whether he would apprise us if maintenance is included in the upgrading of sports infrastructure, otherwise we know what happens when there is no maintenance? Thank you.

Mr Toussaint: Maintenance is a continuous item, Madam Chairperson. Donc, la maintenance se fait de façon régulière et on continue.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 31113.406 - (b) *Fencing, Turfing and Waterproofing*, il y a une somme de R 5 millions qui a été votée. Peut-on savoir comment cette somme va être déboursée?

Mr Toussaint: Fencing consists of works at Trèfles Youth Centre, then construction of a low block wall fencing at Pointe Jérôme Youth Training Centre and waterproofing will be in our different Youth Centres.

The Chairperson: Hon. Leopold!

Mr Leopold: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26323.146, will the sum be allocated for upgrading of infrastructure prior to Indian Ocean Island Games in Rodrigues as well and any *Village des Jeux* for the accommodation of athletes?

Mr Toussaint: Pour le Village des Jeux pour Rodrigues, c'est un autre item, donc cela ne tombe pas sous *AUGI*, mais par contre *AUGI* pour Rodrigues c'est la rénovation du Stade Camp du Roi à une valeur de R 10 millions et le gymnase de Malabar à une hauteur de R 12 millions.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 31 – *Acquisition of Non Financial Assets*, I cannot see anywhere here, but last year there was an item for contribution to the Professional Football League. May I know from the hon. Minister, is there any amount earmarked this year for Professional Football League?

Mr Toussaint: Professional Football League, no.

The Chairperson: Page 288, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Merci, Madame la présidente. Sous l’item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, il y a une somme de R 4 millions qui a été votée. Peut-on avoir les détails sur cette somme, s’il vous plaît?

Mr Toussaint: Madame la présidente, donc cette somme a été allouée pour le paiement des *Advisors on contracts, sessional coaching fees, extra duty allowances*, c’est une longue liste, donc je pourrai circuler.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 288, under item 22060 – *Maintenance*, the same amount is being budgeted for the three coming financial years and it was the same amount for the last financial year. Can we know what it pertains to this item?

Mr Toussaint: This amount is under the Youth Services. Buildings - Rs2 m., other structures - Rs6m., plant and equipment - Rs300,000, vehicles and motorcycles - Rs200,000, IT equipment - Rs100,000, and furniture, fixtures and fittings - Rs100,000.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22090 - *Security*, may we know the firm which is providing security?

Mr Toussaint: Contract is allocated to Defence Hi Tech Company, which is responsible for 24 infrastructures, and to Brinks Security Services, which is responsible for eight infrastructures.

The Chairperson: I draw attention that time is over on this item, but I grant two questions on page 289. Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l’item 31112.407 (d) and (e) - *Pointe Jérôme Residential Youth Centre*, je vois qu’il y a des projets de rénovation et de construction là-bas. Peut-on avoir des détails sur ce projet, s’il vous plaît?

Mr Toussaint: The purpose is for the upgrading works in the context of the National Youth Civic Service that will be coming. There is a list of all the works that will be undertaken over there. I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem, last question!

Mr Uteem: On page 289, under item 26313.068 - *National Youth Council*, can I know the composition of the Council?

Mr Toussaint: Does the hon. Member mean the composition of the Board?

Mr Uteem: Yes, and what it does.

Mr Toussaint: I can circulate the list of the Board. The hon. Member asked what is meant by the National Youth Council, isn't it?

Mr Uteem: What is the composition and what does it do?

Mr Toussaint: The composition is here. I can circulate it.

Mr Uteem: What is the breakdown of Rs1,870,000 and what does it mean?

Mr Toussaint: Yes, it is okay. I will circulate.

Vote 17-1 Ministry of Youth and Sports (Rs1,170,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 18-1 Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives was called.

The Chairperson: Page 290, no question. Page 291, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.014 - *Hospitality and Ceremonies*, there is an amount of Rs2 m. earmarked for this year. May I know what this item is for?

Mr Bholah: This is for excellence awards. This is being held every alternate year. This is why you will see that one year it is not there and the following year it is there.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: On page 291, under item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, can the hon. Minister give us details about this item?

Mr Bholah: It is for gender mainstreaming, which is relevant to all Ministries now.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: On the same page, under item 22120 - *Fees*, this has gone up from Rs300,000 to Rs525,000. May we know what is the purpose?

Mr Bholah: Well, this relates to fees for training, fees to Chairman and members of Boards and Committees, and then we have the figure of Rs200,000 since the Ministry is now member of the World Association of SMEs.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.010 - *Service to Mauritius Programme*, could the hon. Minister tell us why there is no Estimate for 2018/2019?

Mr Bholah: Well, this has gone to the Ministry of Finance under the Centrally Managed Fund.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 22030 - *Rent*, il y a une somme de R 7,925,000 qui a été votée. Peut-on avoir les détails des bâtiments et les superficies, s'il vous plaît ?

Mr Bholah: There is 2,934 square feet for level 15 and 6,265 square feet for level 16 at Newton Tower. Then, at the Pope Hennessy Building, the SME Registration Unit is housed over there. These are the three sites that we have.

The Chairperson: Page 292, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 21110.001 (16) – *Registrar, Small and Medium Enterprises (New)*. This was voted in the SME Bill. May I know from the hon. Minister why there is no provision being made for the Registrar?

Mr Bholah: In fact, this post is being held under the name of Assistant Manager now. It was an ex-SMEDA staff who had opted to join the Ministry.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: The post has become obsolete. That is what the Minister is saying. Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: On page 292, under item *21110.004 - Allowances*, can the hon. Minister give us details about allowances and to whom allowances are being paid?

Mr Bholah: Well, provision is made for the payment of Ad Hoc, Acting and Responsibility Allowances for performing higher duties.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item *21110.001 (6) - Analyst/Senior Analyst*, there was provision for two - it was funded - and now there is no provision. Are we abolishing that post?

Mr Bholah: Well, for the present year, they were here, and now they have moved to the Ministry of Finance.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur, page 293!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item *26313.147, (b) Implementation of SME Master Plan*, there was an amount of Rs25 m. which was earmarked for the current year. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the amount that has been spent?

Mr Bholah: I concede that there has been some delay. In fact, SME Mauritius has just launched six schemes and a number of applications have reached the officers. These are being studied, and disbursement will be made as from next year, that is, 2018/2019.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Item *26313.147(b) - SME Mauritius Ltd (b) Implementation of SME Master Plan*, there is Rs25 m. this year, Rs30 m. next year. May we have an indication about which aspect of the 10-year plan that is going to be implemented?

Mr Bholah: Well, I can circulate it, but I can read it as well. Marketing support assistant to SMEs Bar Code, SME Mentoring Programme, Technology and Skills Transfer...

The Chairperson: Is the answer long?

Mr Bholah: It is quite long.

The Chairperson: If it is quite long, it is better that you circulate it. Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 293, item 26313.083 (b) *Refund to SMEs for Participation in International Fairs*. I would like to know how many SMEs participate, if you can give the list, please?

Mr Bholah: I have it. I can circulate it.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Madam Chairperson, my query has been attended.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Item 26313.147 (d) *Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme*. Can the hon. Minister tell us why there is no provision for this year?

Mr Bholah: This will come under the *Implementation of the SME Master Plan* that is on the list.

The Chairperson: Hon. Tarolah!

Mr Tarolah: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 293, item 21110.001 (14) - *Secretary for Cooperative Development*. There is a decrease in the Estimate of 2018-2019 compared to that of 2017-2018. May we know why?

Mr Bholah: One month provision is made for this year only as the officer is on leave without pay.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Page 293, item 26313.147(d) *Solar Photovoltaic Rebate Scheme*. Can the hon. Minister inform the House what is the number of SMEs involved in this project, region-wise, and the amount allocated to each?

Mr Bholah: Well, the scheme is at a grant of a maximum amount of Rs100,000 per SME for the installation of Solar PV installation, which should not exceed 5 kilowatt. This is not for family, but for the corporate society.

The Chairperson: Page 294, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Under item 26313.061 - *National Cooperative College (NCC)*, can we have information about the National Cooperative College, please?

Mr Bholah: Well, this is the running cost of the college to meet operational costs and salaries of staff.

(Interruptions)

Information about the college? Well, we are nearing completion of the renovation of the building. We just need to put the furniture and it will be operational as from, may be, one or two months' time.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 22120 - *Fees*. From Rs615,000 to Rs765,000. If the hon. Minister will tell us for members of the Board, please tell us which Board it is. Every time in his answer, the hon. Minister says fees for members of the Board, tell us which Board.

Mr Bholah: They are fees for members of Corporative Tribunal, of Corporative Development Advisory Board, Departmental Bid Committee, Bid Evaluation Committee, fees for Assessors for the maintaining of the ISO Certification, Training of staff.

The Chairperson: I draw attention that time is already over on this item, but yet, I will grant three more questions on page 294. Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Madam Chairperson, the query I wanted to ask has been attended.

The Chairperson: Page 295, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under item 31112.442 - *Upgrading of Building (NCC)*, the sum earmarked last year was Rs17 m. and Rs1 m. for this year. Can the Minister inform the House of the location of the college and the name of the contractor who is doing the upgrading work?

Mr Bholah: The contractor is Sohanlal and Sons. And the building is found at Bois Marchand, Terre Rouge.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to item 31112 .430 - *Renovation/Upgrading of Maison des Pêcheurs*, can I know from the hon. Minister which *Maison des Pêcheurs* we are talking about and where matters stand with regard to the upgrading works?

Mr Bholah: It is for *La Maison des Pêcheurs de Tamarin*, located at Tamarin.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28211.031 - *Mauritius Livestock Marketing Co-operative Federation*, may I know from the hon. Minister why there has been a reduction in the budgeted amount?

Mr Bholah: For 2017/2018, there was a component for Rs500,000, then for an equipment which was used for pasteurisation in the plant over there.

Vote 18-1 Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives (Rs270, 500,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 19-1 Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment was called.

The Chairperson: Hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(5) - *Research Executive (Ex-NESC)*, I see that two have been allowed, yet the budget has decreased. Can we know why?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provisions have been made for the payment of the salary of one Research Executive for 12 months and for nine months for the other Research Executive (Ex-NESC) presently at the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare in the event that she reverts to her substantive post in this Ministry.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(8) – *Psychologist*. In fact, at the Ministry, there is one psychologist. May we know where he/she is based and her scheme of duties for that Ministry?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: It is to assess therapeutic needs of vulnerable families eligible in the Social Registrar of Mauritius at individual and group level after selection

exercise has been carried out on 11 and 14 May 2018. The selected candidate has been requested to report for duty on 04 July 2018.

The Chairperson: Page, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. At page 297, under item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*, can we have the list, and if there is any benefits attached to this assistance?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Which item, sorry!

Mr Armance: Item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provision made for the payment of salaries for the three advisers on information matter.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 22900.946 - *Expenses icw Poverty Observatory/Monitoring and Evaluation Unit*, may I know from the hon. Minister what this Unit is, what does it do, how many staff does it have?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: This is to act as an Advisory Body to avoid any conflict of duplication of roles between existing entities such as the Ministry, the National Empowerment Foundation and the National Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys*, I see that Rs500,000 only in the Estimates for year 2018/19. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many studies and surveys have been conducted and if these studies and surveys have been rendered public. Thank you.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provision of Rs500,000 made to –

1. conduct survey on the profiling of SRM beneficiaries;
2. conduct and commission studies and surveys on poverty related issues, and to make recommendations accordingly.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: He has not given the full reply? No. He has replied or...

Dr. Boolell: No.

The Chairperson: No.

Dr. Boolell: How many surveys have been made public?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: No.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Concerning item 22170 – *Travelling within the Republic*, the Budget has doubled. So, I want to know who is entitled to go throughout this internal trip from Mauritius to Rodrigues and is there any *per diem* that will be allocated?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Usually, they are people from Ministries, the staff of the Ministries.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Again, under item 22120 – *Fees*, may we know who the beneficiaries of the fees are? Which Board members?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provision of Rs1,975,000 for the following –

- fees to Chairperson and members of Board;
- fees for Committees namely Departmental Bid Committee, Bid Evaluation Committee and Ad Hoc Committee, and fees for training of staff of the Ministry (Rs75,000);
- an amount of Rs1,700,000 to meet cost, sharing of the contribution of the Ministry to the UNDP for the implementation of the project ‘Social Inclusion and Empowerment’, for the service of a consultant to assist the Ministry for the setting up of Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Mr Baloomoody: May we know which Board? The hon. Minister just mentioned ‘Board’, he must tell us which Board is it.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I said the Bid Evaluation Committee.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 22030 – *Rent*, we find that the rent has decreased from Rs10 m. to Rs6 m. May we know which building we are talking about for the rent and the price paid per m² or per ft²?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: It has not been possible to secure another building in Port Louis to house all officers of the Ministry under one roof, hence decrease from Rs10.315 m. to Rs6.315 m.

Mr Baboo: What are the buildings and the price paid per m² or per ft², either/or?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Air Mauritius Building 8,100 ft² at Rs285,000 monthly and there is a service charge of the lift, if you want to know, which is Rs32,000. At Victoria House, it is Rs109,418 monthly and there are 4,210 ft².

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Selvon!

Mrs Selvon: Already answered!

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Order, please! Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l’item 22060 – *Maintenance* la somme de R 2.3 millions a été votée. Est-ce qu’on peut avoir des détails, s’il vous plaît?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Maintenance of building, it is Rs1 m.; provision made to meet the following –

- general, Rs200,000;
- upgrading of working environment in connection with the setting up of a technical unit of an SRM Unit at headquarters and at Victoria House respectively, and there are other maintenance costs and it is upgrading at reception area of Air Mauritius Building.
- plant and equipment, maintenance of photocopies and printers;
- maintenance of vehicles and motorcycles, IT equipment and enhancement to be made to the existing Child Allowance Module and other enhancement costs to the existing system.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 297, item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, there was a sum of Rs1.2 m. budgeted for last year. Can we know the sum spent and to whom the allowances have been paid last year?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Amount provided for the payment of first allowance – Acting Responsibility and other allowance as approved by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms.

The Chairperson: Page 298!

Mrs Perraud: The sum spent, please.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: It is the same for every Ministry which is...

(Interruptions)

We used everything.

The Chairperson: Page 298, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26323.135 - (a) (i) *Construction of Social Housing Units*, may we know from the Minister why the budget has decreased from Rs115 m. to Rs80 m. and where will be the social housing unit under construction, the type of social housing unit and the square metre and if it is in relationship with the container-type housing unit?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provision made for the construction of 200...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please, sorry, no comments.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Provision made for the construction of 200 mostly modular housing units for SRM households who are owners of a plot of land and according to a survey carried out by the NEF, requests received so far for provision of housing support are as follows –

- 116 households who are owners of a plot of land;
- the 50 households have obtained authorisation, and

- 25 households are lessees of a plot of State land and the survey for provision of housing support is ongoing.

To date, some 1,252 SRM households do not own a plot of land and the 10% of housing units constructed by NHDC will be allocated to them.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Armance: Madam Chairperson! I wanted to know what is the type of social housing unit, whether it is in relationship with the container type as well?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I said mostly modular.

The Chairperson: Hon. Rughoobur!

Mr Rughoobur: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Are we talking of page 298, Madam Chairperson?

The Chairperson: Page 298.

Mr Rughoobur: Item 27210.014, I see there is an amount of Rs398,500,000 earmarked for (a) *Empowerment Support Scheme*, and (b) *Educational Support*. May I know from the hon. Minister what amount has been spent in the current Budget?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: This is to provide support to households living in absolute poverty and found eligible under Social Register of Mauritius to meet their basic needs in terms of food, shelter and clothing. The amount disbursed has been Rs323,553,250.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under same item 227210, may I know from the hon. Minister the total number of beneficiaries under these two schemes? How many people have benefitted?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Sorry, I didn't hear. The item number, please!

Mr Uteem: Yes, that's 27210.014 *Social Assistance Benefits in cash*, (a) *Empowerment Support Scheme*, (b) *Educational Support*. May I know the number of people who benefitted under these two schemes?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: As at April 2018, there were 10,858 households eligible under the Social Register of Mauritius. 8,663 households found in Mauritius and 2,195 households in Rodrigues. The 10,858 households comprised 42,972 beneficiaries. If the hon. Member wants the number of adults, there are 24,249 and there are 18,723 children.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to item 26323.135 (a) (i) *Construction of Social Housing Units*, may I know what are the places where those housing units will be constructed? And also, I can see that provision has been made for next financial year, Rs80 m.; Rs60 m. for 2019/2020, and then Rs60 m. for 2020/2021. So, is the hon. Minister planning to construct 200 houses each year or is it 200 houses in all?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: This is what has been budgeted for one year.

(Interruptions)

For the financial year, this is what I have for this time.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.135 (d) *Special Scheme/Start-up Kits for unemployed beneficiaries*, can the hon. Minister elaborate what are those start-up kits? And the Budget is decreased afterwards.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: The organisation of training course up to a maximum duration of six months for SRM unemployed beneficiaries in Mauritius and Rodrigues. And there is a payment of monthly stipend of Rs5,000 and Rs1,000 for transport to SRM beneficiaries. The provision of start-up tool kits to the beneficiaries to start working on their own and start a business and become small entrepreneurs. The objective of the special scheme is to empower SRM beneficiaries so that they can, after a period of six months, after the training course stand on their feet and are economically independent.

(Interruptions)

Yes, there is a number of people. When we finish empowering them, we hope there will be no fund at all. Yes, it will phase out finally.

The Chairperson: Hon. Quirin!

Mr Quirin: Thank you, Madam Chairperson, page 298, under item 26313.135 - *National Empowerment Foundation (a) Operating costs*, I see here that there is an amount of Rs124 m. budgeted for 2017-2018. Can we have a breakdown of this huge amount, please?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I am going to circulate it, thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of 28212.019 *Transfers to Households*, Rs15,100,000 in the Estimates for year 2018/19, can I be apprised as to where matters stand under this item, please?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: There is a provision of Rs10 m. made for the payment of 20% of the remaining balance on grant of project funded under the Decentralised Cooperation Programme of the European Union. 31 projects have been approved by the European delegation and relate to three sustainable development goals namely – SDG 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and hunger; SDG 2: improve maternal health, and SDG 7: ensure environmental sustainability.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 298, item 26313.135 (b) *Upgrading of living environment in deprived regions*, can the hon. Minister give the list of the names of the regions and also what type of upgrading has been carried out in these regions?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Fund of Rs3 m. provided for the upgrading of the living environment, provisions and maintenance of community and recreational facilities namely, children's playground, open kiosk, open gym and a small *pétanque* court in deprived regions. This is done across the island.

Mrs Perraud: Excuse me, I have asked for all the names of the regions, please.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I said it is around the island...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: He will circulate!

(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister, you can circulate the names of the regions if you don't have.

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: Yes, thank you.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ameer Meea!

Mr Ameer Meea: Item 26323.135 (a) (i) *Construction of social housing units*, there has been an amount of Rs115 m. which was budgeted during the current financial year, that is, ended 30 June 2018. May I ask the hon. Minister how many social housing units have been constructed this year and also, how many beneficiaries are there in Constituency No. 3?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I have already answered to that question, Madam Chairperson.

(Interruptions)

And I circulated the paper also.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Please!

(Interruptions)

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I will circulate it a second time, Madam Chairperson.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: *Item 27210.014 (b) Educational Support, il y a une somme de R 188,500,000 qui a été votée dans le budget l'année dernière. Peut-on avoir un breakdown comment cela a été utilisé, et vu qu'il y a eu des problèmes, est-ce que vous avez revu la façon de redistribuer les school materials et tout?*

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I will circulate it. For your information there was no problem in distributing the materials. It was done in a perfect manner. We had congratulations from everyone.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: I draw your attention that the time is already over, but I grant two questions, hon. Baboo and hon. Baloomoody afterwards.

Mr Baboo: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26323.135 (a) (ii) *Upgrading of Existing Houses*, can the hon. Minister tell us the number of houses that will be upgraded and also, how much amount has been spent from the Fund of Rs10 m. of last year?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: 25 housing units have been earmarked for upgrading works, of which works on eight housing units have started in March 2018. Today, works on three units have been completed and works are ongoing on five housing units.

The upgrading works on the remaining 17 housing units will start soon and will be completed by October 2018. Upgrading works on 22 housing units at Dubreuil to the tune of Rs2 m. have already been completed, and provision of two modular housing units to 25

victims in Black River given. Upgrading works carried out on 68 housing units, of which works are ongoing on 26 units, and there are 69 hardship cases, of which 54 cases will be considered based on availability of funds.

Mr Baboo: 25 last year?

Mr Wong Yen Cheong: I have already mentioned.

Vote 19-1 Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment (Rs760,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 20-1 Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping was called.

The Chairperson: Page 300, no question. Page 301, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item No. (37) Ocean Economy Unit...*

The Chairperson: No crosstalking please!

Mr Uteem: ... - *Head, Ocean Economy Unit*, there is nothing provided. May I know from the hon. Minister what is this new Unit going to do and why it is not funded?

Mr Koonjoo: This is a post created by Cabinet decision in October 2017. The post was advertised both locally and internationally in January 2018. Qualifications required: PhD in Marine Science or Oceanography or Ocean Governance and at least 10 years of experience in ocean related projects development and ocean policy development. Selection is under process. Regarding...

(Interruptions)

22 September 2017.

(Interruptions)

I just said that.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: Page 301, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*. Is it for advisers? If yes, can we have the list and scheme of duties of the advisers?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, the information is as follows -

- (i) Mr Bhaskarsingh Burthoo-Barah, Senior Adviser of the ocean economy and related matters;
- (ii) Mr Dorsamy Ramasawmy, Senior Adviser in shipping matters;
- (iii) Mr Premduth Aubeeluck, Senior Adviser on fisheries development, and
- (iv) Mr Jasvin Rao Sok Appadu, Adviser on information matters.

The Chairperson: Page 302, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

Under item 26313 - *Extra-Budgetary Units, .040 Mauritius Oceanography Institute of which Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)/Africa Support Programme (AU Funded).*

Can I know from the hon. Minister what this Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)/Africa Support Programme relates to?

The Chairperson: You have the reply?

Mr Koonjoo: Rs18,500 m. Is this the number?

Mr Uteem: What does the programme relate to?

Mr Koonjoo: Provision made for the recurrent expenses of the MOI; Recurrent Expenditure of Rs61.5 m., of which Rs18.5 m. have been provided for the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES)/Africa Support Programme.

GMES is a Pan-African project with different levels, management and monitoring, namely continental and regional levels. The objective of the project is to promote a more sustainable management of marine and coastal resources.

The Chairperson: Hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Item No. 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultants (EU Funded)* on page 302. Can the hon. Minister inform the House which firm it is?

Mr Koonjoo: Consultancy services for the development of marine biotechnology in Mauritius. The development of innovative aquaculture, including the rehabilitation of the aquaculture hatcheries at Albion Fisheries Research Centre.

Mr Abbas Mamode: The name of the company.

Mr Koonjoo: The consultant is not yet appointed.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson. In respect of Grants, item 26323 - *Extra-Budgetary Units .040 - Mauritius Oceanography Institute*, a sum of Rs15.6 m. is being earmarked in the Estimates for year 2018-2019. Can I ask the hon. Minister to give us a breakdown with respect of projects identified and the number of projects implemented?

The Chairperson: Yes, hon. Koonjoo!

(Interruptions)

Please!

Mr Koonjoo: Is it the project financed by UNDP?

(Interruptions)

No?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, I am sorry. He is just asking!

Mr Koonjoo: Is it the project financed by UNDP?

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: No, I am sorry!

(Interruptions)

Order, please!

(Interruptions)

The hon. Minister is just asking which item it was.

Mr Koonjoo: There is too much noise, I cannot hear.

The Chairperson: There is too much noise! Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22900.970 – *Management of Coastal Zones (UNDP/GEF Funded)*, may we know where matters stand with regard to this management of coastal zones, Rs42 m. for this year?

Mr Koonjoo: Project financed by UNDP/GEF from grants of Rs165 m. to be spent in five years from 2017 to 2021. The provision of the Rs42 m. for 2018/2019 is as follows –

- (i) appointment of International Consultants;
- (ii) purchase of equipment for the enforcement and monitoring of marine protected areas, and
- (iii) acquisition of vehicles, IT equipment, amongst others.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l’item 22030 - *Rent*, où il y a une somme de Rs5,685,000. Peut-on avoir les détails, les bâtiments et la superficie, s’il vous plaît?

Mr Koonjoo: Which page?

The Chairperson: Page 302!

Mr Koonjoo: It includes rental of building and rental of parking. For LIC Building, it is Rs477,987 per month and for Ken Lee Building, Finance Section, it is Rs33,800.

The Chairperson: Next question, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under item 26323.040 – *Mauritius Oceanography Institute*. Out of the Rs38 m. that was budgeted last year, may we know what amount has been used so far and whether any money was returned to the Consolidated Fund? About the Rs15.6 m. budgeted this year, how is this sum to be spent and why has it decreased to Rs4.9 m. in 2020?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, I will circulate the information.

The Chairperson: Page 303! No question! Page 304, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28213.010 – *Transfers to Non Financial Public Corporation, Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd – (Chartering of M/V Anna)*, may we know from the hon. Minister the total amount involved in chartering M/V Anna and how old is M/V Anna?

Mr Koonjoo: For the M/V Anna, the chartered price is Rs75 m. per year.

(Interruptions)

I do not have the exact number of years the vessel has, but I believe it is more than 25 years old.

The Chairperson: Next question, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Under item 31122.999 (a) – *Ballast Water Management Project*, again it was a project value of Rs9.9 m. A sum of Rs2.6 m. has been used last year and only Rs800,000 this year. So, it is a bit confusing. Can the hon. Minister, please, enlighten the House?

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the MOI and the Shipping Division of the implementation of the project, which has as objective, to control, prevent and preserve our sea waters from discharge of ballast water for ships which carry diseases and invasive species, which may have serious impact on our fisheries and other marine resources. Provision is made for payment of the last instalment to MOI.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to item 28213.010 – *Mauritius Shipping Corporation Ltd – (Chartering of M/V Anna)*, in the Audit Report, mention was made that it would have been more cost-effective had we purchased a vessel instead of chartering M/V Anna. Now, can I know where matters stand with regard to the purchasing of a new vessel?

Mr Koonjoo: The decision taken by the Shipping Division is to charter a vessel for one year, which is costing Rs75 m. In that case, when you charter a vessel, you are not responsible for any breakage, any damage, nothing. You just pay the money and you get the service, whereas if you buy a ship, the ship belongs to you, and you will have to maintain the ship, do its servicing, dry docking, for example, every year and that will cost you more than Rs75 m. So, it is better to have a chartered vessel than to buy a new one. A new one will cost you more than Rs800 m. So, in that case, I believe that they had done the right thing.

The Chairperson: Time is over on this item, but I will grant two questions on page 305. Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under items 21110.001 (1) – *Head, Mauritius Maritime Training Academy (New)* and (2) – *Principal Mauritius Maritime*

Training Academy respectively, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the person in charge of the Academy, who was recently found guilty of corruption, is still in office or has his position been replaced?

Mr Koonjoo: There was a vacancy at the MMTA and my instruction was to choose the best qualified person with the best experience in the field. There was a Board which was responsible for choosing and they have chosen. But after choosing, they have had the clearance from the Commissioner of Police as to whether there is any problem or not. I saw the letter. The Commissioner of Police, himself, has given clearance that there is no problem. It is only later, after a couple of years that we happened to know that there is a problem. As such, the matter has gone to Court. I am informed that the case is still pending because the guy has made an appeal to the Court. The hon. Member is a lawyer. Unless you get the answer, you cannot decide.

Vote 20-1 Ocean Economy, Marine Resources and Shipping (Rs357,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 20-2 Fisheries was called.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody, you are disturbing me! Page 307! No question! Page 308, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: On page 308, under item 21110.001 (25) – *Skipper*, one was funded last year, this year we have two skippers, but there is no difference in the amount. How come the amount is the same? You have catered for two skippers.

Mr Koonjoo: I am given to understand that one skipper is on contract and is paid under Extra Assistance.

The Chairperson: Page 309, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Madam Chairperson, under item 22900.020 – *Requisites icw Fishing Activities of which Ice Box for registered fishermen*, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what will be the criteria for eligibility to have the ice box, and what will be the size of the ice box and if he has already earmarked any supplier for this.

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, it is a policy decision. I am sure the box will be bigger than...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.030 -...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Silence, please! Silence!

Dr. Boolell: *Safety and Security Equipment for Fishers*, the sum of Rs1 m. is earmarked in the Estimates for the year 2018/2019. I would like to know how many equipment have been purchased and how have they been allocated to the fishers.

Mr Koonjoo: Madam Chairperson, provision is for the distribution of life jackets to newly registered fishers. The existing registered fishers had already received life jackets in December 2016. Every couple of years from the Ministry, we offer them the best quality of the life jacket.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 22900.903 – *Awareness Campaign (Conservation and Protection of Marine Environment and Bio Diversity*, peut-on avoir les détails quel genre de campagne le ministère compte faire?

Mr Koonjoo: Participation in international conferences...

(Interruptions)

I am sorry. Madam Chairperson, the printing of pamphlets and posters for the sensitisation campaign. I must say that since two years we are making campaign and sensitising the whole nation so far as the octopus ban is concerned for two months and naturally we have to spend some money on campaign and so on.

The Chairperson: Page 310, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 31113.013 – *Construction of Slipway/Jetty – Remy Ollier, Mahebourg*, je vois qu'il y a une somme qui a été votée l'année dernière pour Remy Ollier,

Mahebourg, pour R 3 millions. J'aimerais savoir du ministre qu'est-ce qui a été fait de ces R 3 millions?

Mr Koonjoo: The project at Remy Ollier is one among so many others. It is in our list and as such there is a provision. The project is on. The consultancy services for the EIA, we are expecting to get them soon. The implementation of the dredging of the boat passage is on and there is a provision of about Rs2.1 m. in 2017/2018. We are proceeding with the project. There is a delay occurred in obtaining clearances from various stakeholders especially the fishermen. The Request for Proposal was launched on 04 May 2018. Funds will be made available by MOFED prior to the award of the contract for consultancy.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28225.008 – *Off Lagoon Fishing Scheme, (b) Purchase of Semi-Industrial Fishing Boat*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the boat has been purchased and who will use the boat?

Mr Koonjoo: The semi-industrial boats for fishing off lagoon, especially on our banks, the project is on. This measure will provide financial assistance to fishermen. As such, the entrance of fish production in the local market and also reduced fishing pressure in the lagoon. Four fishermen cooperative societies have already benefitted from the scheme, three more cooperative societies will be allocated funds under this budget.

The Chairperson: Hon. Ramful!

Mr Ramful: With regard to item 3113.013 – *Construction of Slipway/Jetty – Remy Ollier, Mahebourg*, the project value is Rs24,500,000 and for last year Rs3 m. was earmarked. Now, can we know where matters stand? Has the construction already started?

Mr Koonjoo: I believe that the hon. Member is talking about the jetty in Mahebourg. Am I right?

The Chairperson: Yes.

Mr Koonjoo: The project consists of construction of a slipway/jetty at Mahebourg, Côte d'Or, Bambous Virieux and Poste la Fayette. Provision of Rs3 m. in 2017/2018 was for the project at Mahebourg. However, EIA exemption is still awaited from the Department of Environment. Funds will be made available by MOFED prior to the launching of the tender. It is on.

The Chairperson: Time is over! I have got three more questions. Hon. Mrs Perraud, be brief, please!

Mrs Perraud: On page 310, under item 26323.018...

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: At the top of the page! Yes, please go on! Ask your question, hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: ...*Fishermen Welfare Fund*, there is the sum of Rs1 m. earmarked for this year, but there is no budget for next year. Can we know why, please?

Mr Koonjoo: With regard to the Fishermen Welfare Fund. There is in the project an acquisition of a double cab vehicle for Fishermen in replacement of the existing vehicle which is more than 15 years old. There is a provision in the budget.

(Interruptions)

The Chairperson: Page 311, hon. Armance, last question!

Mr Armance: Under item 31132.801 – *Electronic Cash Reporting System*, the project value was Rs11.5 m. and Rs8 m. was budgeted for last year. I see Rs11.5 m. was budgeted again for this year. Does this mean that the project has never been implemented and it is fully budgeted again this year?

Mr Koonjoo: The previous tender exercise was not successful as the price quoted exceeded the cost estimate by more than 15%. Tenders will be launched anew by August 2018.

The Chairperson: Page 312! No question!

Vote 20-2 Fisheries (Rs342,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

Vote 21-1 Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training was called.

The Chairperson: Page 313!

(Interruptions)

This is the last one. At 23.45, we are finishing.

(Interruptions)

Page 313! Do you have a question?

(Interruptions)

Mr Uteem: Madam Chairperson, we received a note from the Chief Whip telling us that we are going to break at half past eleven after Minister Koonjoo.

The Chairperson: Did you give a note, hon. Chief Whip?

Mr Uteem: At half past eleven we are told.

Mr Hurreeram: I have said 23.45.

The Chairperson: 23.45! That is why we take that vote.

(Interruptions)

Page 313! Any question! No! Page 314! Yes, hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, une somme de R 3.7 millions a été votée. Peut-on avoir la liste de vos *Advisers*?

Mr Callichurn: Provision is made for the payment of salaries and allowances to the Advisers attached to my Ministry. They are Mr D. Baichoo, Mr L. Bundhoo, Mr L. Rivet and Mr P. Ramchurrun.

The Chairperson: Page 315, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under item 22900.967 - *National Wage Consultative Council*, can the hon. Minister give a breakdown of the expenses?

Mr Callichurn: Breakdowns are as follows –

Salaries and allowances	Rs2 m.
Goods and Services including office equipment, stationery, office expenses	Rs1,250,000
Fees to Board members	Rs250,000

Other related cost including training fee, Rs1.5 m.
provisional charges etc.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: With regard to item 22120 - *Fees*, may we know who are the beneficiaries?

Mr Callichurn: Provision is made for the payment of fees for officers to attend training courses at Civil Service College and other local institutions.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.967 – *National Wage Consultative Council*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Council is now properly constituted and whether there are any representatives from the trade unions sitting on the Council?

Mr Callichurn: Well, to my knowledge, yes. I have the list of the members actually sitting on the Council and the Chairperson. I will circulate it.

The Chairperson: Page 316, hon. Abbas Mamode!

Mr Abbas Mamode: Under item 22120 – *Fees*, can the hon. Minister inform the House who will be the beneficiaries?

Mr Callichurn: Provision is made for the payment of fees to Chairperson and members of Board and Committees; fees for training and refund of subscription fees to professional bodies. Does the hon. Member want me to give the figures as well?

Mr Abbas Mamode: Yes.

Mr Callichurn: Fees to Chairperson and members of the Board and Committees: Rs2,110,000, that is, payment of fees to Chairperson and members of the Labour Advisory Council, Boiler and Machinery Inspectors Board, Lodging and Accommodation Committee, National Remuneration Board, Commission for Conciliation and Mediation. With regard to fees for training: Rs300,000 and lastly refund of subscription fee to professional bodies: Rs8,000.

The Chairperson: Just to remind hon. Ministers that long replies can be circulated. Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.974 – *Decent Work Country Programme (Second Generation)*, Rs2 m. is earmarked. Can I ask the hon. Minister where matters stand in respect of the Decent Work Programme?

Mr Callichurn: The First Generation of Decent Work Country Programme for Mauritius was completed in December 2015. My Ministry has now embarked on the formulation of Decent Work Country Programme, Second Generation, being given that one of the criteria for ILO to approve the document is the commitment of Mauritius regarding the funding of activities to be implemented. Only a token of Rs2 m. has been provided in this budget, as the total cost of the implementation programme has not yet been finalised.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Item 21110.001(17) - *Deputy Director, Occupational Safety and Health*. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether the post for Deputy Director, Occupational Safety and Health, has been filled?

Mr Callichurn: I am informed that interview has been held by PSC and it has not yet been filled.

Mr Baloomoody: Not yet been filled.

Mr Callichurn: Interview has already been carried out.

The Chairperson: Hon. Henry!

Mr Henry: Sous l'item 22050 - *Office Expenses*, il y a une augmentation dans le budget pour cette année-ci. Peut-on savoir pourquoi?

Mr Callichurn: It is provision for the payment of postage, cleaning materials and office sundries. The increase in provision is due to the expansion of the activities of the Ministry and based on actual expenditure for Financial Year 2017/2018, which amounts to Rs2.1 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under the item *Occupational Safety & Health*, can I know from the hon. Minister how many onsite inspections have been carried out this year by his officers in the Occupational Safety & Health?

Mr Callichurn: Total of inspections carried out is 7,813.

The Chairperson: Hon. Mrs Perraud!

Mrs Perraud: On page 316, under item 22120 - *Fees*, can the hon. Minister give us some information about those fees?

Mr Callichurn: I just answered this question. It is the same question asked by hon. Salim Abbas Mamode.

The Chairperson: Page 317, hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 21110.001(2) - *Deputy Registrar of Associations*, may we know why this post has not been filled, please?

Mr Callichurn: No provision is made since no officer reckons four years' service as Principal Inspector of Associations, thereby qualifying to be promoted as Deputy Registrar of Associations.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment*, I find we are providing for the acquisition of Digital Court Recording System. Is that for the Industrial Court? Which Court are we talking about?

Mr Callichurn: Well, the Digital Court Recording System was installed and commissioned at the Boards and Commissions in March 2015. In this regard, provision of Rs2 m. has been made in the next budget for the replacement of the existing system.

Mr Baloomoody: For which Court?

Mr Callichurn: Boards and Commission. I guess the Board of CCM and NRB.

The Chairperson: Hon. Dr. Boolell!

Dr. Boolell: Under item 26313.013 - *Manufacturing Sector Workers Welfare Fund*, in respect of Rs4 m. earmarked in the Estimates for 2018/2019, I would like to know what support is being extended to the manufacturing sector workers to improve their welfare.

Mr Callichurn: Well, provision required for the payment of grant to TUFT for its administrative expenses and to finance the organisations of seminars. As regards the Manufacturing Sector Labour Welfare Fund, a provision of Rs4 m. is made in this budget.

(Interruptions)

The Manufacturing Workers Welfare Fund is set up under the MSWWF Act of 2012. It promotes the social and economic welfare of workers. There are several activities which are organised by the Manufacturing Workers Welfare Fund each year.

The Chairperson: Page 318, hon. Uteem!

Mr Uteem: Under item 21110.001 (7) - *Employment Officer*, there is a reduction in the number of Employment Officers from 35 to 24. So, may I know from the hon. Minister why there is a reduction in the number of Employment Officers?

Mr Callichurn: It is due to the restructuring of the Employment Service. Vacancies will not be filled. Funds have been provided for 24 officers in post only. New grade of Employment Council Officers will be created.

The Chairperson: Page 319, hon. Armance!

Mr Armance: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28212.028 (a) - *Youth Employment Programme*, there was Rs200 m. last year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many beneficiaries there have been, what was the amount spent and why he is decreasing the amount to Rs150,000 next year, and for the year to come, he is again decreasing the amount.

Mr Callichurn: Provision has decreased from Rs250 m. to Rs150 m. since funds have been provided for the private sector only. As regards the public sector, funds have been provided under the Centrally Managed Item under MOFED.

(Interruptions)

Beneficiaries for last financial year are 7,636 youths.

(Interruptions)

So, as at 31 May 2018, there were 20,479 placed in enterprises under this programme.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baloomoody!

Mr Baloomoody: Under item 22900.903, there is Rs6 m. for *Awareness Campaign*. Can we have some more details about that awareness campaign?

Mr Callichurn: Well, payment for awareness and sensitisation campaign to MBC for TV/Radio programmes, to disseminate information on existing vacancies and to sensitise people on the world of work while promoting the services provided by the Ministry through various programmes. There is a regular programme every day on MBC 2 just after the *information en créole*.

The Chairperson: Hon. Baboo!

Mr Baboo: Under item 28212.028 (d) – *Trainee Engineer Scheme*, what sum was spent last year?

The Chairperson: Trainee Engineer Scheme!

Mr Callichurn: Rs59 m.

The Chairperson: Hon. Uteem, last question!

Mr Uteem: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item No. 22900.003 – *Passage Costs (Repatriation of Expatriates)*, there is an amount Rs1 m. for this year and Rs1.5 m. for next year. Can I know from the hon. Minister why we are providing for this amount? Because my understanding was that any person who employs foreign workers has to give a bond, and that bond is used to repatriate any workers.

Mr Callichurn: This bond was removed since 2013, if I am not mistaken, when hon. Xavier-Luc Duval was Minister of Finance. Now, there is a special Fund in the Ministry. As I said, previously, employers were required to furnish a bank guarantee or a security deposit in line with the prevailing regulation. However, in September 2013, it was a budgetary measure, the bank guarantee was replaced by a one-off payment of Rs500, which was termed as the annual fee gathered for payment of annual fee and which is credited to the Centralised

Account of the Government. So, whenever there is a need to repatriate workers, the Ministry has to make a request for that.

Vote 21-1 Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training (Rs685,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.

The Deputy Prime Minister: Madam Chairperson, I beg to move that you do report progress and ask leave to sit again.

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 27 June 2018, at 10.30 a.m.

Mr Sinatambou rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

Madam Speaker: The House stands adjourned.

At 11.49 p.m., the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Wednesday 27 June 2018, at 10.30 a.m.