



**SIXTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**PARLIAMENTARY**

**DEBATES**

**(HANSARD)**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WEDNESDAY 27 JUNE 2018**

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**MAURITIUS**

**Sixth National Assembly**

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**FIRST SESSION**

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**Debate No. 19 of 2018**

**Sitting of Wednesday 27 June 2018**

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

**The National Anthem was played**

*(Madam Speaker in the Chair)*

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

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

**Mr Hurreeram 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.*

**Mr Bhagwan:** Madam Chairperson, can I make a point of order before we start?

**The Chairperson:** Yes.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I would like to raise a point of order just before we complete the whole list concerning the Committee of Supply.

The other day, I raised a point concerning replies, which we agree, sometimes, have to be circulated. It is true. Sometimes, so as not to lose time, we agree that hon. Ministers be allowed to circulate the replies. I have been through the records, Madam Chairperson, even for last year's Budget, many hon. Ministers - I will not say *couyone service* - have not even dared, save the hon. Prime Minister, to send their replies to the National Assembly.

We are a Parliament. *Nous sommes tous payés des deniers publics. Surtout les ministres, venir dans la Chambre et dire qu'ils vont circuler les réponses, je crois qu'il y a quelque chose de sérieux.* I am appealing to you - the Prime Minister is not here; the Deputy Prime Minister is here - that hon. Ministers be instructed. The hon. Prime Minister has given example, because I have been to the Library to see.

So, can I appeal to you, Madam Chairperson, to ensure that Ministers *garde zot parole*, at least, to this Assembly, and to the people of Mauritius and the taxpayers to send their replies, and not to hide, just for the sake of giving replies?

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Members, please be seated! I have to settle one point of order...

*(Interruptions)*

The same thing? Okay! Usually, we do not allow.

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Yesterday, during the course of questions, I had a question addressed to the Minister of Social Integration regarding the item Extra Assistance attached to his Ministry. The Minister deliberately refused to circulate the paper. I have checked, but it is not available. Would you, please, ensure that the hon. Minister circulates the details about this item?

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Members, what I have to say is that whenever a reply is long, I always ask that it be circulated. If the reply is long, I believe that the Minister already has it with him and he can circulate it immediately. That is the first thing.

Now, the second thing is when Ministers say that they do not have it with them but that they will circulate. I will appeal to Ministers to do so as quickly as possible. And on our side, from the Speaker's Office, we will try to sort out this issue again and remind Ministers whenever they do not circulate their replies.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, if I may, on the same point that was raised by my colleague, the Minister of Social Integration had the information, but he deliberately refused to circulate it. I think that is not acceptable at Committee of Supply, where we are here to check the amounts paid and the amounts that have been voted.

**The Chairperson:** On this issue, I do not think I can ask the hon. Minister to circulate the reply or not, because it is up to the hon. Minister to decide whether an information can be given or not.

*Vote 3-1 Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities was called.*



**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Madam Chairperson, I would wish, through you, to thank the House for having accepted to accommodate my personal commitments and to take my Votes out of time. Thank you very much.

**The Chairperson:** Page 82! No question! Page 83!

*(Interruptions)*

Please! Hon. Baloomoody, do not interrupt, especially when I am talking!

*(Interruptions)*

Page 83! Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.001(5) - *Deputy Director, Technical Services (Public Utilities)*, can I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether this post has been filled, and if so, by whom?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Yes, he has been appointed. It is Mr Jahajeeah.

**The Chairperson:** Page 84! Hon. Leader of the Opposition first!

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Under item 26313.098 - *Utility Regulatory Authority*, can I ask the Deputy Prime Minister what are the responsibilities now, the legal ambit of the URA, what is it actually regulating and which sectors is it regulating?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** For the moment, according to the Act, only electricity. In practical terms, what is happening is that after the recruitment of the Director General, certain *encadrements* have been put in place. The first matter will be certain regulations, obviously licensing will become one of the first issues. This is to my understanding what the Board is now doing.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan! Page 84!

**Mr Bhagwan** Madam Chairperson, under item 26313.098 - *Utility Regulatory Authority*, can the Deputy Prime Minister inform us whether the URA is fully operational by now, who is the Chairperson - if there is Chairperson - because recently there have been some resignations; who is the Chief Executive and whether it is situated in the Ministry itself or in another office for operational purposes?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, it has a separate office. I will get the exact address immediately. It has a separate office and its own budget; it is operational. It has started operating, but it is still in its starting phases. The Chairman was Professor G.

Mohamedbhai, but he has stepped down. He asked to be relieved of his duties and is replaced by Mr Philip Ah-Chuen, and there are other members of the Board. The CEO is...

*(Interruptions)*

Sorry?

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

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The CEO is Mr Byigero from Rwanda; he used to work at the Utility Regulatory Board - I think, this is what it is called in Rwanda. There are certain members of staff. It is a slow start-up, but it is working. Of course, I do not interfere.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Last year, during the Committee of Supply, the Deputy Prime Minister - with due respect to the Utility Regulatory Authority - said that we are having the assistance of the Republic of India to allow us to quickly and swiftly move to the full operation of the Utility Regulatory for wastewater, water and electricity sector. Can we know, now that the office is fully equipped with the required personnel, when can we have these three sectors being regulated? Will it be this year?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Of course, it has taken a little bit more time than I expected. Now that all the *encadrements* are in place, we will pursue and will continue. We have been on a line of communication with India. The Minister has just changed; I am going to familiarise myself with him now - the new one whom I know already. I must also stress that the URA has obtained assistance under the Green Climate Fund, which is quite a sizable contribution.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** At page 84, second item on the page, item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, can we have the details of which these allowances are attributed to, please?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** For petrol allowance, responsibility allowance, extra duty allowance, duty remission on car allowance, car allowance in lieu of official car; these sort of allowances. Well, in all the votes, that is what appears.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22120 – *Fees*, there is an increase from Rs750,000 to Rs900,000. May we know the beneficiaries and the reason of the increase?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, the increase is Rs150 m. It is fees for the Committees, the Departmental Bid Committee, Bid Evaluation Committee, the Water Tank Grant Scheme Committee. The provision has been increased due to an increase in the rate of fees payable to the members of the Committees, as set out by some other body.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Under item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, may I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether there is any adviser attached to his office? If so, who and how much is he paid?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** There are three advisers -

- Ms K. Rugoonundun on Information Matters;
- Mr G. Tirvengadam, Public Relations, and
- Mr L. Sungkur, Complaints and Landline Water Issues.

**The Chairperson:** Last question on this page, hon. Lepoigneur! No? Page 85, hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On page 85 item 22130 (*e*) - *Consultancy on Electric vehicles*, can we know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister where matters stand as at to date, whether any consultant has been appointed, where have we reached so far concerning this electric vehicles issue?

**The Chairperson:** Item 22130 (*e*) - *Consultancy on Electric vehicles*.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, of course, electric vehicle is not as easy or as sexy as it seems from now that I know what it is all about. There is provision for a full-scale study on the increase in use of electric cars. First of all, public charging points, we have got to know how to do it, where to do it, we have got to try and do it by solar energy because or else it is rather stupid to have an electric car which is driven by electricity provided from fossil fuel.

So, we are trying to work out if we can get solar energy. It appears to be easy according to what engineers tell me. The disposal of batteries and the intervals at which batteries can be charged, I know that in some two-year old cars, now they have to pay for

batteries some Rs300,000. And now we have got to go onto further incentives and the impact on CEB generation, etc. Now, the bids for consultancy will be invited by August 2018, that is, next month.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, under item 22130 (d) - *Consultancy for the Adoption of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)*, there are Rs63 m. provided over three years. Can I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister how much has been spent at the moment and whether he has received even a preliminary report as to the possibility of storing LNG in Mauritius - we know of the very high cost - and what that entails in terms of usage by CEB, by LNG cars, etc., whether he can tell us a bit more on that?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Of course, I will not go into a policy statement on LNG.

*(Interruptions)*

I know. This is why I started by these introductory words. The consultant is Poten & Partners, UK. They started their study in January 2018 and they told me that they were going to submit their report by next month, which is not too far away. It will be a draft report, of course, for us to assess before the matter is given publicly for discussion because this is not something that can be done without having an open, at least information, if not discussion.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Is it a promise?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** No, it is not a promise, it is a statement as to what should be done; whether I am going to do it, I don't know. Let me say if the consultant is clear that LNG will not be here, it becomes a formality. Well, let us not waste time.

The LNG study, of course, the question is not so much cost but efficiency, economies of scale. Because whatever it costs, the question is whether you get profits and the issue is, first of all, the transport from the country to here. That is not too difficult. But then, do we put it in the Port or somewhere else and barge it through? What facility? And then only energy - all my advisers tell me that is stupid. Then, you add transportation, households, but bunkering also. All these are options.

Now, we are reviewing demand and supply, potential sites, because that is also an important matter and commercial, financial and risk analysis.

*(Interruptions)*

The cost of the study is Rs45 m.

**The Chairperson:** I want to remind hon. Members that we had earmarked 70 minutes for this vote item and I have got a long list of questions on each page. So, I would remind you to be brief on questions and on answers as well, please! Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** The Worley Parsons Report already told us that gas is not feasible. Now, the consultancy is for the adoption. So, my question is on the same vote item 22130 (d) - *Consultancy for the Adoption of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)*. Will this consultancy tell us how to make our land transportation and electricity production and also shipping, turn to gas? Is this what are we supposed to expect by next month, hon. Deputy Prime Minister?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** First of all, it is not absolutely correct to say that Worley Parsons said that gas is not reasonable. Let us read Worley Parsons better and then we will see that this is not what they said. But this is not the place to debate it. On the other aspects, let us wait for the report. I do not know what is going to be in the report; I have discussed, but let us wait for it.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, I also wish to remind hon. Members that questions as well as replies should not be on policy matters. At Committee Stage, we do not look at policy matters. Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22130 (a) - *Energy Planning*, can we know whether the survey has been completed and out of this Rs8.1 m. earmarked last year, how much has been spent?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Could you repeat this? I am sorry.

**Mr Baboo:** Item 22130 (a) - *Energy Planning*, the surveys.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** What is your question?

**Mr Baboo:** I want to know whether the survey has already been completed and out of Rs8.1 m., how much has been spent also.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, the survey was undertaken with AFD funding by Maxwell Stamp. They have made a report. We are not satisfied with that report. We have said we are not going to pay them the whole amount and the reasons, no need to go into them for the moment. They were supposed to do a few things and we have made a part payment, part of the contract amount has been retained. Well, that's it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22130 (b) -*Standards for Street Lighting*, there was a sum of Rs5 m. last year and this year it is Rs644,000. May we know where matters stand with regard to that project?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Now for this, we had to develop standards and design guidelines because one local authority does the contrary of what the other one does. When, in 2015, we decided that we would take over this, we did the standards; we recruited Prodesign Engineering Consultants Ltd. Now, for the moment, we have pilot projects. That is for the use of energy efficient lighting systems over certain roads. Then, it will be implemented by CEB for Rs4,279,590 in July 2018. Why CEB? It is because there were tenders where Expressions of Interest were invited but no one was interested. So, finally CEB accepted to do it. Does that answer?

**The Chairperson:** We will pass on to the next page. Page 86, hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes. Just one quick note on item 26323.139, *MARENA* and to draw the attention of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister; first item, there is no capital investment there. I just want to draw his attention that according to Statistics Mauritius appeared in the papers last week: 'petroleum products are up by 11% in 2017 and renewable energy production is down by 4%'. I can table for you later. So, to request the CEB and all related parties to enhance the programme for renewable energy. This is Statistics Mauritius figures.

**The Chairperson:** Be brief, please, in your next question! Hon. Osman Mahomed, please be brief!

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, it is policy. Yes, we can debate that at the appropriate time.

**The Chairperson:** Page 87, hon. Armanee! No? Hon. Ms Sewocksingh!

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Capital Expenditure*, item 28222.014 - *Transfers to Households, Water Tank Grand Scheme*, can the hon. Minister give a breakdown about this item? How many households have benefitted from this project? And we can see that there is an increase in the budget. Can we know if there will be changes in the conditions of applications?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Let me make sure that we are talking of the same thing.  
28222.014!

**The Chairperson:** Yes.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Thank you. Please, stop me if I am not answering to the question you asked. A grant of Rs5,000 is being paid to families with a total household income of Rs25,000. The procedures have been simplified and now we are getting 10,632 applications received in 2017-2018 and 10,899 approved, including applications carried over since 2016-2017. Amount disbursed is Rs45 m. Since 2011, 52,275 households have obtained water tank and a total amount for all those periods is Rs188 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22130 *Studies and Surveys, (b) Dam Break Analysis*. Can I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister who is conducting the analysis, whether any report has been submitted and which dam are we talking about here?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, first of all, we are talking of Mare aux Vacoas. I would like to know who exactly is doing that survey. First of all, now we are no longer concerned with Bagatelle. We are concerned with Mare aux Vacoas, Midlands, La Ferme, that is, in order to be in line with international standards. It is based on simulations and hydraulic modelling. The contract was appointed to Studio Pietrangeli S.r.l. on 31 May 2018 for an amount of Euro 391,290 and Rs1,620,000, that is, around a total of Rs17 m. The study will completed by September 2019.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultant - Water Sector Reforms*, first of all with regard to Rs30 m. that has been paid, not all the reports have been made public. Will the hon. Deputy Prime Minister first produce these reports to the National Assembly and, secondly, give details about the Rs7.5 m. fees as to what sort of consultancy works are being requested?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Which report would the hon. Member wish me to produce?

**Mr A. Duval:** Sorry! Item 22120.008 - *Fees to Consultant - Water Sector Reforms*. With regard to the Rs30 m. fees that have been paid, reports have been made. Will he produce especially the transaction report?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Which report? I have produced the World Bank Report. Which report...

**Mr A. Duval:** No, the transaction report!

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The hon. Member wants the transaction report. Well, he should ask it!

*(Interruptions)*

It is so simple! The IFC transaction report! No, we are not releasing it here now, because it might, of course, prejudice any further public bid offering which would be done. We cannot do that. My Ministry has consulted the IFC, which holds the same view as we do. So, we will not release that part.

*(Interruptions)*

With regard...

*(Interruptions)*

Yes. So, when you see Rs30 m. for last year, that amount has not been paid because this included a grant of 875 USD. We have paid only Rs6.7 m.

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

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, on the item 28222.014 *Water Tank Grant Scheme*, I know the hon. Deputy Prime Minister gave the statistics concerning the beneficiaries. But can I ask him what are the criteria to benefit for the Water Tank Grant Scheme and also what are the regions that are targeted?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, first of all, I think it is not difficult to answer that; it is the whole of Mauritius. The income ceiling has been increased to Rs30,000 as from 01 July. The public is informed through a series of campaign and the procedures have been simplified. You no longer need an affidavit, etc. This is why we have got more people coming in.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!



**Mr Bhagwan:** *Upgrading of La Nicolière Reservoir*, Rs30 m. last year. Can we know whether work has started? Whether any consultancy ...

*(Interruptions)*

La Nicolière!

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Yes.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Whether work has started? Where have we reached? When the upgraded La Nicolière reservoir will be fully operational?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The question of La Nicolière is for increased water supply to the North, which is already not too bad. It is getting about 75% 24-7. The contract has been awarded to SMEC International in May 2017 for a total amount of Rs4,384,263 and USD 385,223 excluding VAT. The study has started and will be completed in November. The study includes EIA. Provision is for payment to the consultant.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 22130 (b) *Dam Break Analysis*. We know, in Mauritius there is a lot of dams that are cracking, a lot of problems with these dams. For this year, we are seeing that the amount has been reduced from Rs10 m. to Rs8 m. May we know why?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I think there is a confusion in terms. I know that when we read the term 'dam break analysis', it appears to us that the dam is breaking. No, it is not that at all! It has got nothing to do with whether there are cracks or no cracks, etc. Let me get the exact term! It is a study based on simulations and hydraulic modelling. In other words, what happens if we get more water; what happens if a dam breaks, etc. It is horribly complicated. I have read the report on Bagatelle. If the hon. Member wants, I can produce it, but I don't think he will be very much wiser after this.

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

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22130 - *Studies and Surveys (c) Pollution/Water Quality Monitoring*. Last year, there was a serious problem in Plaines Wilhems and Beau Bassin. Can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister say whether it is an internal company of the CWA or a company that has been hired? If so, give small detail on the name of the company.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** There was never any serious problem in Beau Bassin or Rose Hill. I do not know where people invent that sort of things. I mean we repeat a yarn, and then we think the yarn is true, and we believe it ourselves. It is not true.

We have got to make continuous tests on water quality and check pollution, and there it is a payment to the CWA for water quality tests carried out by the laboratory of CWA. CWA has got its own laboratory. We do not need the private sector for this. Higher provision is made in 2017/18 to cater for additional tests carried out under the IWRM project completed in December 2017 and to effect outstanding payments in respect of tests carried out prior to 2016.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, it is a very important point. Can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister circulate exactly what the laboratory of CWA is able to test in the water? It is very important. If he does not have it now, I understand - exactly the tests that are able to be done in Mauritius and whether any tests are sent overseas to be tested there.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I do not think there is any of this now, at this stage. But, on occasion arising, I shall ask the relevant officers to make a note and to say. What I know is that, normally, it is done at CWA, and periodically, especially if the public has got doubts of some sort, they go to an external laboratory in Mauritius. May I say that the CWA Lab is accredited and ISO certified.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** With due respect, this is not my question. My question is what are the tests done by the CWA. If the hon. Deputy Prime Minister can - there is not rush - tell us what are the tests that are done regularly on the water; what are they testing for. They can test a lot of things. What do they test?

**The Chairperson:** I have reminded hon. Members that at Committee of Supply, we do not take questions regarding policy and administration. It relates only to items of expenditure and why expenses are being done.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** We are voting for a laboratory. It is important to know what are the tests that they are doing. It is not a question of policy.

**The Chairperson:** No, but it becomes a question of administration.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, it is a question on the laboratory; what is the lab that we are paying, what is it able to test, and whether we need more money to test more things.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, but when it relates to criteria, I would remind hon. Members once again that it relates to administration. At Committee of Supply, we take questions regarding only expenses and not questions of administration and policy.

Page 88. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 28223.010 - *Central Water Authority Pipe Replacement Programme (q) Morc. Swan Pipeline-Phase I*. May we know where matters stand with regard to that project?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, the contract was awarded in January 2017. The works are expected to last until October 2018. They started in May 2017. The contract was awarded in January, not in May. The works started in May. The length of the pipe is 16 kilometres. Regarding works in progress, 80% have been completed.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. With respect to item 28223 - *Transfers to Non-Financial Public Corporations*, can I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether he will consider including the regions of Tranquebar, Vallee Pitot and Ward 4 in Port Louis in there in the near future? Because the pipe reticulation is very old and there are a lot of leakages. Secondly, whether...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Under which item?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 28223 - *Transfers to Non-Financial Public Corporations*. The list of places where there is pipe replacement work...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** If the hon. Member wants to include something, I do not see what...

**The Chairperson:** It is on page 88, item 28223 - *Transfers to Non-Financial Public Corporations*. And then?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** And then, the steel tanks, whether also consideration...

**The Chairperson:** Which item? There is (a) to (t).

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Same main section.

**The Chairperson:** Is it (c)?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** It is still reservoir. It is (b). Because over there, many times...

**The Chairperson:** Is it .010 or .015?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** .010 - *Central Water Authority Pipe Replacement Programme*.

**The Chairperson:** And then you said (b) *Pierrefonds*.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** And then we have the whole list.

**The Chairperson:** And in the whole list, you have got (b).

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** The second part is (b). That's correct.

**The Chairperson:** (b) is *Pierrefonds*.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** No, not *Pierrefonds*. (b) is *Installation of Steel Reservoirs*. It is item .015, I am sorry.

**The Chairperson:** So, it is item .015.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Sorry. It is my mistake. Because I know most likely that I would get the chance only once...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Under which paragraph?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** I repeat the question again, very rapidly.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Under which paragraph? The hon. Member should tell me.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 28223 - *Transfers to Non-Financial Public Corporations* .010 - *Central Water Authority Pipe Replacement Programme*, whether Port Louis can be included.

And then, under item.015 - *Central Water Authority - Other Water Distribution Works*, whether steel reservoirs...

**The Chairperson:** I am sorry, hon. Member. It is not .010; it is .015.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Madam Chairperson. I am asking two questions at one go, because I know I am not going to get the floor again. Because last time...

**The Chairperson:** No, one question at a time. It is .015.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes. Whether the steel reservoirs can be considered for Port Louis region, in my constituency, because many times we have water shortage as the reservoirs have become too small for the population there.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Let me try to reformulate. Tell me if I am correct. The hon. Member is asking, under item 28223 - *Transfers to Non-Financial Public Corporations .015 - Central Water Authority Other Water Distribution Works (a) Construction of Service Reservoirs*, why his constituency does not appear in this. Ask it! So, next time, I write the question and I give the answer.

Well, I cannot answer for that because I can answer for what is there. But I am sure there must be a programme for Port Louis.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, Under item 28223 - *Transfers to Non-Financial Public Corporations .010 - Central Water Authority Pipe Replacement Programme*, can I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister how much money out of the Rs993 m. has actually been spent for the year? My question is simple.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** And the answer is simple, but I have got to find it first. It is Rs339 m.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** There is no 'Oh!' You have been a Minister of Finance, you know what happens! Because, by the time the money is allocated, you go through the procedures, you go through the procurement system, you award the contract and the next year is coming. So, there is nothing 'Oh!' in this.

*(Interruptions)*

I have worked on it for the last three years. *Normal!*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Under item 31113.002(a) - *Bagatelle Dam*, where we are being asked to vote Rs159 m. The Bagatelle Dam appears to be nearly completed. Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform the House whether any action is being taken - within the sum that we are being asked to vote - for the embellishment of Bagatelle Dam? We have seen what happened at Midlands Dam. So, will it include works for security of the whole structure as well as public security? May we know whether in the Rs159 m. provision has been made for a sort of *parcours de santé* around the dam, including the planting of trees?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The next step, of course, is to make as far as possible of Bagatelle a recreational centre. We can imagine, like you see at La Clement; perhaps we won't go to put a dizzer in Bagatelle but, at least, a park. There are safety considerations, of course. There is traffic parking and 3,000 trees have already been planted, but, like the Ministry of Agro-Industry said yesterday, we have to give the trees time to grow. So, 3,000 trees have already planted and we are going to pursue this. We are going to see whether a part of this can be earmarked for activities like simple boating, etc.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Under item 28223.010(m) - *Rose Belle - Plaine Magnien - Beau Vallon* and item 28223.010(n) - *Grand Bel Air - Ville Noire respectivement*, je vois que l'année dernière il y avait un budget de R 175 millions et R 119 millions respectivement. Peut-on savoir combien a été dépensé ? Où est-ce qu'on a changé les tuyaux ? Je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 50 millions qui a été votée pour cette année-ci. Peut-on avoir un *breakdown* ?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Vous parlez de *renewal of pipeline in Plaine Magnien* ?

*(Interruptions)*

*Oui, l'année dernière!*

Renewal of pipeline in Plaine Magnien –

- Contract value, Rs88.1 m.
- Award of contract, August 2017.
- Duration of works: September 2017 to March 2019.
- Land for pipes: 5.7 Km.

32% of the work has been completed for Plaine Magnien.

The hon. Member wanted to know for Grand Bel Air and Ville Noire as well.

- The contractor is Sotravic.
- Contract value, Rs119.8 m.
- Award of contract: August 2017.
- Duration of works: started in September 2017 and will finish in June 2019;
- Land for pipes is 12 Km

75% of the works have been completed.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28223.015(e) - *Drilling of duplicate Boreholes*, may I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister how many boreholes are we talking here and whether the boreholes are located on private properties?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I have got the list. They are Camp Ithier, New Yemen, Old Yemen, Pavillon Swimming Pool, Mare d'Albert, Gébert, Pont Fer, Fond du Sac, Bassin, Pierrefonds, Belle Rose, Clemencia, Eau Bonne, Constance and Beau Plateau. These are duplicate boreholes which have been drilled already. There is provision for 14 duplicate boreholes. Are they all on private land? I do not know! I do not have the information now. If I receive it, I will tell the hon. Member.

**The Chairperson:** Page 89! Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 32145.503(a) - *Pailles Water Treatment Plant* where there was a project of Rs631 m., out of which only Rs27 m. was for last year. Can we know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister if the project has been completed? We have been told by the habitants of Pailles and the nearby region that every time there is a problem of water - which is irregular there - it is because of the water treatment plant at Pailles, which is defective.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The Water Treatment Plant at Pailles is defective? Let me see! In the meantime, can I just say to hon. Uteem that all the boreholes are on CWA land. For Pailles Water Treatment Plant, again, my very good friend just made a statement, but which is not verified. It is not true that the Pailles Water Treatment Plant is defective. I was a bit surprised! The project is completed; it is working and Pailles is getting water.

*(Interruptions)*

You are right not to agree, but then, that is not the place.

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

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Madam Chairperson, since we have 20 minutes left and we have not yet voted this item code, I wanted to come back to page 88, which is Plaine Verte and Roche Bois...

**The Chairperson:** No, page 89!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Yes, but I have given my name 30 minutes back since I came, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Member! Each and every time!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Ameer Meea:** No, I won't start again with...

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Member! Please!

*(Interruptions)*

Please, sit down! Just understand one thing! We had earmarked 60 minutes. The hon. Leader of the Opposition knows fully well that he has asked 70 minutes. We have allocated 70 minutes to this Vote item. By the time we start, I have got a long list of questions. The hon. Member also is on the list. I have to manage the time in such a way that almost all questions are answered on almost all pages, and it is for me to manage the time. It is not for you! I am sorry, hon. Ameer Meea! Please...

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Ameer Meea! Hon. Ameer Meea, please, sit down!

*(Interruptions)*

Now, if you continue, I will have to order you out! I am really sorry; I will have to take sanctions. You cannot take the prerogative of the Chair. I am here to manage the time and it is my prerogative to manage time. If I do not give the 70 minutes that have been agreed between the Whips, then you have cause to tell me something. But if I give you your whole time, then you cannot say anything, and it is my prerogative. You cannot challenge me! It is the last time that I am giving you that warning.

So, we are on page 89! Do you have any questions?

**Mr Ameer Meea:** I don't have!

**The Chairperson:** Okay! Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 32145.503(b) - *Bagatelle Water Treatment Plant and Associated Works*, we have seen that last year it has been earmarked Rs598 m. and this year Rs419 m. Can we know out of last year's sum, how much was spent and when this treatment plant will be operational?



**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Let me start with the last one. We have had certain issues, as I have said in the past. First of all, there was a case in Court with a challenge, which took us 2 years back. We are monitoring the construction of the plant. Apart from the consultants, the CWA has hired the services of an Independent Consultant to monitor the progress. I am receiving regular reports and I am monitoring myself in my minor capacity to see to it that everything is well received. I am not yet satisfied but it is good. The actual amount spent has been Rs327.5 m. and the latest date that I had is that it is 54% completed. 54% is not good enough; it should have been more than that. So, we are trying to put the pressure. Well, to be fair to the contractor, there have been 54 days of bad weather where work could not be done. So, we have to be fair to him as well, but, at the same time, there is not enough labour and not enough equipment. So, we are putting the pressure on him.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you. Item 32145.503(j) - *Cold Potable Water Meters*, can I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister - last year, we discussed about this problem - whether the specifications of the water meters have changed? Because we are voting Rs50 m. for this year. Given the problem of *compteur batte folle*, people have had their bills soaring from Rs200 to Rs1,500.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** To how much? The bill has soared from Rs50 to where?

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Rs200. Some people who were paying Rs200 are now paying Rs1,500.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** First of all, the specifications have not changed. I am told that they used the latest specifications under ISO 2014. There have been very few cases in spite of popular talkies of metres working wrongly. It is 1 in 1000, or something of the sort. These are facts that can be checked. We can think otherwise. In Mauritius, we think otherwise. Alright! Let us look at the real figures.

*(Interruptions)*

No. We are talking of the new metres. The high bills are normally due to leakage inside the house. When people were paying Rs45, estimate by meter readers, they didn't check the installations. Now, they are checking and when they check, they repair and the bill goes down.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you. With regard to item 31122.827 - *Solar Powered LED Security Lighting around reservoirs*, can we have details about the company providing the lights and the number of lights, the quantity that we are purchasing for what seems to be Rs18 m.?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, Rs18 m. is for the four years. For this year, it will be much less. In any case, the solar led lighting will be installed in Bagatelle Reservoir. The contract has not yet been awarded. The bids are to be launched by end July 2017 and this is only a pilot project for Bagatelle Dam. Then we will see for others, whether it works.

**Mr A. Duval:** Do you know how many lights there are?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** No, we do not know how many lights.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson! Under items 32145.503 (a) - *Pailles Water Treatment Plant* and 32145.503 (i) - *Construction of New pumping station at Plaine Lauzun*, can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister inform us where matters stand.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Pailles Water Treatment Plant is to increase capacity from 60,000m<sup>3</sup> to 80,000m<sup>3</sup>. Project was completed in 2015. The contractor was Sotravic. Contract price is Rs725 m. Was that the question you asked me? Then, there was a second question.

**Mr Baloomoody:** Item 32145.503(i) - *Construction of New pumping station at Plaine Lauzun*.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Item 32145.503(i) - *Construction of New pumping station at Plaine Lauzun*. That pumping station, in any case, had to be upgraded, but I just want to check. Yes, the works have started and expected to be completed in October 2018.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Lepoigneur!

**Mr Lepoigneur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same issue that hon. Baboo just asked concerning the Bagatelle Dam Treatment plant, it was reported in a daily newspaper that there was a problem on the testing of the quality of water. Is it still on or is it resolved?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I think you are wrong, if I may say so. You have fallen into error; it is hon. Ganoo who raised it in a PQ.

*(Interruptions)*

Yes, on the quality of water. The water is tested periodically, but in view of the alarm that had been caused, tests were ordered, including independent tests and the water quality was found to be satisfactory, to be well within the limits.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** On page 90.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, page 90, hon. Uteem.

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 32155.316 - *Shares and Equity Participation, Wastewater Management Authority*, may I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister whether, out of the Rs957 m. earmarked, there is going to be any project carried out by the Wastewater Management Authority in Tranquebar, Ward 4 and Vallée Pitot area?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** We are on item 32155.316 - *Shares and Equity Participation, Wastewater Management Authority*. Well, this relates to the projects which are listed here and I see Tranquebar, Vallée des Prêtres Sewerage Project, which is for Rs155 m. and also sewerage project at Bangladesh, Tranquebar, Sainte Marie. Is that what you were looking for? I will be able if you wish, on a private basis, to circulate to you a full paper on this project so that we can discuss, if need be, because it is a very delicate problem.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Item 32145.517 - *Wastewater Management Authority*, I see that last year, there was an amount earmarked for Grand Baie Sewerage Project Phase I (b) Rs2,382 billion approximately, and this year, I don't see this sum earmarked in the budget. May I have the status of the project and a clarification from the Deputy Prime Minister?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** I take it that the hon. Member is referring to 32155.316, paragraph (b) - *Grand Baie Sewerage Project Phase I (b)*.

**The Chairperson:** Wastewater Management Authority.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** We are talking of the Grand Baie Wastewater Management Authority. Well, the Grand Baie Sewerage project, there is a long answer and there is a short answer. I will use the short answer. It is funded by JICA. Nothing can be

done without the approval of JICA and we have got to go through the procedures, and it takes time. Some time has been lost on this. There was an issue as to whether Government could construct a pumping station and replace water pipes at Government cost that led to increase discussions. Finally, we asked the Japanese to come over. They came over and we settled the issues. Now, for the project itself, the works' contract is for Rs2.6 billion. Bids have been launched. The revised closing date is fixed for 20 July 2018. The tentative award date is October 2018. Nine plots of lands have been acquired. Unfortunately, one owner has contested the legality of the acquisition, and we fear that might take much more time.

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

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Chairperson. Item 32145.517 - *Wastewater Management Authority of which (a) Plaines Wilhems Sewerage Project*, may the hon. Deputy Prime Minister inform us if this project has been extended in Constituency No. 17, Curepipe-Midlands, if yes, can we have details of same?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** To Curepipe? I think the short answer is 'no'. For Curepipe, it is another project. Let me see whether I am wrong or not. Yes, of course, it is not extended to Curepipe.

*(Interruptions)*

It is a shame perhaps, but it is not extended to Curepipe.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes, thank you. Item 32155, with regard to the project that was evoked earlier in Ward 4, last year, at Committee of Supply, there was an undertaking that Rs16 m. will be invested.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Tell me which item, please!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** I said just now, item 32155.316...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** 32155, there are 10 pages! I mean...

**The Chairperson:** 32155 on page 90.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** On page 90, yes. Which one?

**The Chairperson:** 32155 - *Shares and Equity Participation*.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Last year, at the Committee of Supply there was an undertaking by Wastewater Management Authority to start the work in Ward 4 to the tune of Rs16 m. in January 2018. But as far as I know, this has not started. Can I know why? Is it because of lack of funds or is there any other problem? Also, there were to be 50 houses in Tranquebar that were to be connected within last year's financial year. Can we also have a status on this? Thank you.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Surely, that does not fall under Shares and Equity Participation. So, stretching that item very far! But I will try to give the hon. Member an answer as soon as possible. They are working on it. Just give me some time.

**The Chairperson:** Can we take another question in the meantime just to save time?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Yes, we can. It is coming. Volcy Pougnet project. Contract will be awarded in August 2018.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Item 32145.517 (c) *House Service Connections*, we have been asked to vote Rs40 m. Is there any priority list...

*(Interruptions)*

House Service Connections, Rs40 m.! Is there any priority list? Whether any contractor has already been appointed. As MPs, sometimes when we ask, there is no contractor; contractor has not yet been given the job. So, can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister inform whether there is a priority list? Whether the amount of Rs40 m. covers which region?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The list is on a first come, first served basis. So, you queue up!

*(Interruptions)*

The criteria are first come, first served.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bhagwan:** Are there any criteria for poor people, for lower income or is it open-ended this house connection?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** House service connection; I am building my house. I want to have a connection. I may be rich; I may be poor. I queue up.

*(Interruptions)*

No, it is first come, first served.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 32145.517 (d) *Repairs/Maintenance/Upgrading of Sewerage Infrastructure*, can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister give us the list where the maintenance has been done last year and, this year, where this work will be effected also? And out of these Rs117 m. ...

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Too many questions!

**The Chairperson:** One question!

**Mr Baboo:** It is same item.

**The Chairperson:** No. One question at a time, please!

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** What is your question?

**Mr Baboo:** I repeat it again. I want to get the list of where the maintenance will be upgrading, that is, the sewerage work. Out of this Fund of Rs117 m., how much was spent last year?

**The Chairperson:** Okay. Clear!

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** 121 repair works completed and 8 extension works will be completed. What I suggest I do, if you agree, is that I will work out the list, I will ask that the list be compiled and then circulate it to the National Assembly being mindful of your words of caution of this morning.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 32145.517 (b) *Kensington Sewerage Project (Pte aux Sables)*, can the hon. Deputy Prime Minister inform where matters stand?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Well, when I hear 'Kensington' I think of hon. Alain Wong Yen Cheong. I also think of you. And the dreams are not necessarily very nice.

*(Interruptions)*

It has been a big thing because these poor people were suffering a lot and now I can tell you the works are going to be completed in August. 1.5 km is already completed. So, 105 houses

are connected. Whoever can go straight to Pointe aux Sables, whoever comes first will be a hero there.

**The Chairperson:** Page 91, hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** I have one question. Can I just come on the other page?

**The Chairperson:** No.

**Mr A. Duval:** Because there is one last page!

**The Chairperson:** I am managing time. Hon. Adrien Duval, I gave that ruling to hon. Ameer Meea. Same ruling applies to you also. Page 91.

**Mr A. Duval:** It takes the same time! Anyway, item *31112.001 - Construction of Buildings*, may we have details about what buildings are being constructed and also the contracts to whom they have been awarded and the value?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** RPA is being housed in a very old building at St Georges Street in Port Louis. So, when I came and discussed with the Chairperson, we agreed that a new building be constructed in Helvetia. It is going to be called RPA Building, Radiation Protection Authority Building. It is an area of 650 square metres. It has been awarded to Modern Jurassic Building & Construction Ltd.

*(Interruptions)*

Modern Jurassic Building! Start of work on 08 May 2018. Completion date on 07 May 2019. Contract value is Rs24.5 m. Supervision is done by MPI.

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

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item *22120*, can the Deputy Prime Minister elaborate who are the beneficiaries of these fees?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The Chairperson and members of the Radiation Protection Council, that is, Rs300,000. Training for Radiation Safety Officers, Rs105,000.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item *31122 - Other Machinery and Equipment .804 - Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*. We see that the amount budgeted last year was Rs50,000, now it is Rs300,000, and afterwards it has been projected for Rs4 m. I

would like to know what these equipment are, and whether this Rs4 m. is for the equipment at the Water Treatment Plant at La Marie.

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** The hon. Member is talking of .804 - *Acquisition of Laboratory Equipment*. This is for radiation protection services. What I have here is that they will procure 200 additional dosimeters. I understand it is to check workers who are working in clinics, etc.; the dose of radiation, I suppose. They have to replace those which are damaged or lost. They are acquiring a gamma spectrometry system, which is going to cost Rs4 m.

*Vote 3-1 Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities (Rs3,522,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

*Vote 22-1 Ministry of Housing and Lands was called.*

**The Chairperson:** Page 320, no question. Page 321, hon. Mrs Perraud!

**Mrs Perraud:** Page 321, item 21110.005 - *Extra Assistance*. Is it for payment for advisers? If yes, can we have the list of advisers and their scheme of duties, please?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, it is for advisers. We have got one Senior Adviser, Mrs Parboteeah, one Adviser on public relations matters, Mrs Boojhawon, and one Adviser on information matters, Mrs Seebaluck.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Item 22030 - *Rent*, it is close to Rs30 m. of rent. May I know from the hon. Minister to what properties the Rs29,675,000 of rent relates?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, a monthly rent of Rs2,201,522 is being paid to Shah Institute of Technology and Company Limited for the renting of office space in Ebene Tower at the rate of Rs449.93 per square metre on a total floor area of 4,893 m<sup>2</sup>. It is from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to 7<sup>th</sup> floor, that is, a total amount of Rs26,408,264 yearly. Office space of 520.43 m<sup>2</sup> on level one of the Ebene Tower is being rented from Excel International Company Ltd at a monthly rate of Rs234,193.50, which houses the Morcellement and the Housing Unit, that is, Rs2,810,322 yearly. Then, we also have rental of parking lots - provision to cater for 20 parking slots. Ten parking are actually being rented from the National Pension Fund at the rate of Rs2,070 per parking, inclusive of VAT. It amounts to Rs248,400 yearly. Ten additional parking from Nex One Ltd at the rate of Rs1,500 per parking, inclusive of VAT, and this amounts to Rs180,000 yearly.



**The Chairperson:** I remind the hon. Minister that if his reply is long, he better circulates the reply right now. Hon. Osman Mahomed!

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** With regard to the same vote item rent, can I ask the hon. Minister whether there are any offices in Port Louis now or the whole Ministry has moved to Ebene?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, we have an office in Port Louis. When we come to the National Assembly, then the officers come here. Sometimes, we have meetings in Port Louis and then the officers come with me for the meetings.

**The Chairperson:** Page 322. Hon. Uteem.!

**Mr Uteem:** Under Capital Expenditure, item 31132.401 - *Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure*, there is an amount of Rs10.5 m. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the contract has already been awarded, who won the bid, and out of the Rs6 m. earmarked for last year, how much has been spent?

**Mr Jhugroo:** This item will meet the expenditure for the upgrading of the ICT infrastructure of the revenue system of the Finance Section of the Ministry. So, no expenditure was incurred last year as the Ministry is coming with a new system, which integrates the State Land Register with the finance system.

**Mr Uteem:** I did not understand the hon. Minister correctly. He just mentioned that no amount was spent, but we are still budgeting to vote Rs10.5 m. We still have to vote it even if it is not implemented?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Being given that it is coming with a new system, which will integrate the State Land Register with the finance system; it has not been spent last year. Now we are having it in the budget and it will be spent this year. It is a new system.

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

**Mrs Perraud:** For Social Housing Development, item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, I see that there is a budget. Can the hon. Minister tell us to whom those allowances are being paid?

**Mr Jhugroo:** It is for payment of acting, ad hoc and responsibility allowance for officers performing higher duties.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** With regard to item 22120 – *Fees*, can I ask the hon. Minister whether this includes fees payable to an internal legal adviser? Because, last year, his predecessor said that SLO was too slow, and that for the recouping of State Land, an in-house legal adviser was resorted to, which is dangerous in my view. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this includes the legal fees?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, the fees are payable to Chairman and members of Committees; local training in line with PRB Report; the MCSA and MOFED circulars. The fees paid to Chairperson and members of Boards and Committees - this item includes fees to the Chairperson and members of the Fair Rent Tribunal; the Chairperson gets an amount of Rs15,210 monthly, the secretary, Rs1,225 per sitting, and the members get Rs890 per sitting. It does not include any fee for any legal adviser.

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

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Item 22900.955 - *Gender Mainstreaming*, can the Minister elaborate? Because the amount earmarked is Rs1.1 m. and Gender Mainstreaming is only Rs200,000.

**Mr Jhugroo:** As per information I have, it is provision for the payment of uniform allowance.

**The Chairperson:** No, it is Gender Mainstreaming! Unless you have specific uniforms for ladies!

**Mr Jhugroo:** So, for item 22900.955, a sum of Rs200,000 is being allocated to each Ministry to promote sensitisation and awareness programmes, and also to implement activities on Gender Mainstreaming. The Ministry envisaged to organise a workshop on facilities which are offered to women headed families, single mothers, mothers in distress with dependent children who are lessees of State Land, are beneficiaries of NHDC houses, unfortunately the workshop could not be held last year due to heavy workload. It is being planned for this year.

**The Chairperson:** Page 323! Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 28222.017 - *Construction of Social Housing Units*. Out of the sum of Rs900 m. that was budgeted last year, may I know from the Minister how many units were constructed and delivered last year and how much has been spent? Also, from the Rs1.2 billion that is budgeted for this year, how many units

are supposed to be constructed and where will the project be implemented? I understand it is excluding the 6,800 units that are already budgeted elsewhere.

**Mr Jhugroo:** From year 2015 and up to 2017...

*(Interruptions)*

Let me explain! I have got devotion.

**Mr Armance:** The Minister should stick to what I asked with regard to year 2017.

**Mr Jhugroo:** The hon. Member will get his answer. It is the answer. He has to listen. So, from year 2015 up to June 2017, the construction of some 883 housing units have been completed over 32 locations at a total cost of some Rs911.5 m. The answer that the hon. Member was looking for is as follows. In the financial year 2017-2018, the construction of 1,288 housing units is expected to be completed over 20 locations at a total cost of Rs1.63 billion.

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

**Mr Ameer Meea:** On page 323, item 28222.012 - *Casting of Roof Slab Grant Scheme*, we can see that for every year - last year, this year and the next two years - there is an amount of Rs100 m. that is being budgeted. May I ask the hon. Minister what is the number of beneficiaries for the current financial year and also for next year, since the income threshold has been increased? Will he agree with me that the beneficiaries will decrease because the sum budgeted has remained the same, but more people will come into that limit because the threshold has increased? So, ultimately, the number of beneficiaries will decrease.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, there was a provision in last year's Budget of Rs100m., and only Rs66.1 m. had been spent. So, it is for this reason that for this year the same amount has been earmarked in the Budget. For income of less than Rs10,000, last year we had 802 beneficiaries and the amount disbursed was Rs55.3 m.

For income between Rs10,000 to Rs15,000, the number of beneficiaries was 287 and the amount disbursed was only Rs10.8 m. So, for this reason, the amount of Rs100 m. is being budgeted this year. Depending also on the trend for year 2018/19, we will request for more budget allocation, if need be.

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

**Mrs Perraud:** At page 323, item 28222.013- *Rehabilitation of Infrastructure of NHDC Housing Estates*, I would like to know the provision that was made for last year, the sum spent, how many NHDC housing estates have been upgraded. Also for this year, what is the list of NHDC housing estates which will be upgraded, and if NDHC La Croisée Vallée des Prêtres - in my constituency - is included in this list.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, it is a very long question. I will give maximum information available and the rest will be circulated. So, let me start - provision in financial year 2017/2018, there was Rs163.4 m.; the amount spent was Rs106.3m. Works carried out are as follows -

- Water proofing works at Poste de Flacq - Rs14.4 m.;
- Camp Levieux - Rs15.7 m.
- Cap Malheureux - Rs6.3 m.
- Dagotière - Rs12.9 m.
- Baie du Tombeau - Rs12 m.
- Drainage works at Cité La Cure - your constituency - and Vallée des Prêtres - Rs12.6 m.;
- Sewer works at NHDC Riche Terre - Rs4.7 m. - again in your constituency;
- NHDC management fee and consultancy services - Rs6.7 m.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Minister, if your reply is long, you better circulate it so that we have more time for questions.

**Mr Jhugroo:** I will circulate.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Leopold!

**Mr Leopold:** At page 323, item 28222.017 - *Construction of Social Housing Unit*, out of the sum allocated, may we know how many housing units will be built in Agalega and Rodrigues?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, in fact, there is a request from Rodrigues to have some NHDC houses. So, we will see to it and, as mentioned by the hon. Prime Minister in his Budget Speech, 50 houses will be built in Agalega.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the same item 28222.012 - *Casting of Roof Slab Grant Scheme*, the hon. Minister mentioned the number of beneficiaries.

May I know from the hon. Minister the number of applications received and how many unsuccessful applications there are for this scheme?

**Mr Jhugroo:** I do not have this information right now. I am going to circulate it later on.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Sous l'item 28212.023 - *Syndics for Maintenance of NHDC Housing Estates*, je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 16 millions qui doit être votée. J'aimerais savoir du ministre combien de syndics fonctionnent correctement à travers l'île, s'il vous plaît.

**Mr Jhugroo:** There are, Madam Chairperson, 41 syndics on NHDC Housing Estates, which are eligible and functioning. So, I am tabling the list.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** An amount of Rs200 per housing unit was voted, I think, four years ago. Has it remained the same or should it be increased now after so many years?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, the information that I have got is, last year, total amount disbursed was nearly Rs16 m. and, if need be, we are going to see.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** It is per unit amount.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Per unit amount; it is Rs200 per unit.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 28222.015 - *Transfer of Title deeds of ex CHA Houses*, this project has been on the agenda for a long time. Can I know from the hon. Minister how many title deeds have not been transferred to the owners now? If he doesn't have it, he can circulate it, but we want to know and the reasons thereof.

**Mr Jhugroo:** The information that I have got is that the remaining 2,317 applicants have not finalised their title deeds for various reasons, namely -

- failure to produce relevant documents such as affidavit of succession, death and birth certificates, identity cards;
- dispute among heirs;
- heirs staying abroad, and
- financial constraints.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** With regard to item 25110.004 - *National Housing Development Company Ltd - Housing Loans*, we see that the housing loan grants remain the same throughout the years, virtually the same, yet we are proposing to construct 6,800 houses. So, under which item will the hon. Minister give grants to housing loans? I cannot see that there will be a supply of 6,800 houses if the loan stays the same.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, I don't think the hon. Member was in the National Assembly when the hon. Prime Minister was doing his summing-up. So, with regard to the construction of the 6,800 houses, there is negotiation with the Government of China and if however this will succeed, then the loan will be taken by the NHDC. So, there is still negotiation with the Government of China.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Clarification on this question?

**Mr A. Duval:** Yes, clarification. What I am saying is that since we are building 6,800 houses for next year, supposedly delivery, where does it show under the loan if it stays the same it has stayed for the past years? How is he going to give financing to people to have accessibility to these houses? It is not in this.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Unfortunately, Madam Chairperson, I cannot answer because the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance made it clear last time during his summing-up.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Barbier!

**Mr Barbier:** Madam Chairperson, I would like to come back to the question put by hon. Armanee under item 28222.017 - *Construction of Social Housing Units*. The Minister stated that 20 sites have been identified for the projects. Can we have the details as to which sites and the number of dwellings per site, if the hon. Minister can circulate this information?

**Mr Jhugroo:** It is a long list and I will circulate it.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Item 28212.023 - *Syndics for Maintenance of NHDC Housing Estates*, wherein we are asked to vote for Rs16 m., but this is going to remain constant until 2021. So, can I ask the hon. Minister whether the flats on ground plus three that is being envisaged in this budget will not require any syndics contribution, that we have resolved this problem of syndics in flats in the NHDC going for worse and for good?

**Mr Jhugroo:** The future high-rise project will be implemented by the NHDC and will require the setting up of syndics. This will be taken care by the NHDC as well as for the operation and maintenance of common utilities and spaces.

Also I would like to reply again to hon. Adrien Duval. There is an appendix on (h) on Capital Projects, you will see that for the construction of 6,800 new social housing units, estimates of 2018/2019, there is Rs7,620 billion and also for 2019/2020, 2020/2021, you can see in this budget.

*(Interruptions)*

Financing is still being negotiated by the Government of China.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Adrien Duval, page 324!

**Mr A. Duval:** Page 325?

**The Chairperson:** No, page 324.

**Mr A. Duval:** No me it is page 325.

**The Chairperson:** Okay. Page 325, hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Under item 22060.013 - *LAVIMS*, can the hon. Minister inform the House the amount spent last year and is the project concerning *cadastre*? Est-ce que c'est déjà prêt auprès des différentes collectivités locales ? Où en sommes-nous avec ce projet de *LAVIMS*?

**Mr Jhugroo:** The *LAVIMS* has three components: a Digital Cadastre managed by the Ministry of Housing and Lands; a Deed Registration System managed by the Registrar General, and a Property Valuation managed by the Valuation Department. The project is fully operational for the first two components, that is, for Digital Cadastre and Deed Registration.

As regards to the third component, the valuation drawn still needs to be finalised by the contractor in consultation with the Valuation Department. The system is being updated on a daily basis to reflect land transaction. As at date, some Rs688 m. have been paid to the contractor for the project. The maintenance cost for 2012 to 31 May 2018 amounts to Rs199,232,011.35. Thus, a total sum of Rs887 m., including maintenance has been spent on *LAVIMS*. On the other hand, revenue generated for the issue of PIN is around Rs25 m. to Rs30 m. yearly.

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

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Concerning the LAVIMS project, again, on the same issue which is a very costly project, can I ask the hon. Minister whether LAVIMS has already been connected to all municipalities and district councils?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, with LAVIMS, all land transactions, including Lands Survey Reports, require PIN prior to registration. This will avoid fraudulent transactions on land matters and the hon. Member may not be aware, people have been trying to even prescribe State lands. It is only through LAVIMS system that the Ministry has been able to detect such malpractices. However, it is true that the system is very expensive. The Ministry is spending around Rs40 m. every year on maintenance.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Minister, the question is whether this project has been linked to the local authorities.

**Mr Jhugroo:** The local authorities have access to LAVIMS. In fact, we have had working sessions with the Ministry of Local Government to facilitate access.

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

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 26313.091 - *Town and Country Planning Board*, may the hon. Minister give us the list of the Board members, their salaries and other benefits allocated to them?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Which page?

*(Interruptions)*

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**The Chairperson:** Which item?

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Item 26313.091.

**The Chairperson:** 26313.091 - *Town and Country Planning Board*.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Town and Country Planning Board, the Chairperson is my PS, Mrs Allagapen. I will circulate; it is a long list.

**The Chairperson:** Yes, I think it is better. Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Item 22130.003 - *Studies and Surveys (a) Review of National Land Development Strategy*. Je vois qu'il y a une somme de R 10



millions qui doit être votée dans ce budget. Peut-on avoir des détails sur cette stratégie? Qu'est-ce qu'il va faire?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Yes, my friend. The National Development Strategy was approved in year 2005 and one of its objectives is to provide a basis for the revision of all the outline schemes. However, there is a need to review the NDS as significant changes have occurred in the economy of Mauritius during the last decade and are continuing to have a profound impact on the use of land on the island. The review could not be effected in year 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 as no responsive bidder was retained following the evaluation of bids of Expression of Interest in two procurement exercises. A fresh open bidding exercise will be launched in the next financial year.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22130.003 (a) *Studies and Surveys (a) Review of National Land Development Strategy*, may I know from the hon. Minister who would be carrying out that National Land Development Strategy and when are they supposed to submit their report?

**Mr Jhugroo:** I just answered! The National Development Strategy, I just answered.

*(Interruptions)*

I stated that we are going for procurement again.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Yes. Madam Chairperson, thank you. With regard to item 22130.003 (c) *Creation of a Council of Professional Planners*, can we have some more details on this and what does it seek to achieve? Thank you.

**Mr Jhugroo:** The Council of Professional Planners will be established to regulate the practice of the planning profession in Mauritius. It will be mandated to register planners, make rules and regulations for the profession and maintain a high standard of conduct. To establish the Council of Professional Planners, a new Council of Professional Planners Act will need to be enacted. A term of reference has already been prepared by the Planning Division of my Ministry and submitted to State Law Office for the drafting of the Bill. A provision of Rs100,000 was made in Budget 2017-2018 for administrative cost as it was expected that the Council of Town Planners would be set up before the end of the Financial Year 2017-2018. As at date, the legislation for the Council is being drafted and finalised in

consultation with the State Law Office. Therefore, a provision of Rs500,000 has been made for this financial year for expenses likely to be incurred in relation to the setting up of this Council.

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

**Mrs Perraud:** Page 325, item 22120 regarding *Fees*, can the hon. Minister give us the list of all legal advisers and the amount paid to each one of them last year and if the hon. Minister is recruiting new legal advisers this year because I see that there is an increase in the Budget? *Fees*, item 22120.

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, I answered earlier. With regard to *Fees*, it is fees payable to Chairperson and Members of the Board. There is no fee for legal advisers. It does not include. I mentioned earlier in reply to an hon. Member from the Opposition.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 22130.008 - *National Spatial Data Infrastructure*, I believe this is in connection with the satellite that we have launched. May we know exactly what is the data that will be studied and send back to Mauritius through that satellite? Exactly what are the data that it is going to be studying through the satellite?

**Mr Jhugroo:** It is a data for various Ministries, not for the Opposition!

**Mr A. Duval:** Can we know exactly? This is not the answer.

**Mr Jhugroo:** But I have got the answer!

**Mr A. Duval:** Can we know exactly – it is a serious question – what kind of data? We are allowed to know what kind of data. Is it topography? Is it sunlight like hon. Deputy Prime Minister has said? We need to have a list of the data that the hon. Minister will be studied because he has been going on about how it is a big issue.

**Mr Jhugroo:** The National Spatial Data Infrastructure will be a component of LAVIMS which will be upgraded to cater for, in the first instance, all the agricultural lands.

**The Chairperson:** Page 326, hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 31410.801 - *Acquisition of Land*, an amount of Rs500 m. has been earmarked. May I know from the hon. Minister in

regard to acquisition of land for construction of drain works in Fond du Sac, what is the status to date?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Jhugroo:** While waiting for the reply on drains, let me state that the land being acquired for the implementation of major Government projects, including that of Metro Express, Road Decongestion Programme, construction of new hospitals, market fairs, sports complex, etc. Acquisition of land, so I am informed that there are 100 plots of lands to be acquired in Fond du Sac for drain works over 2 kms of land. Acquisition limit has just been finalised after consultations with all stakeholders. At this stage, notice under section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act is being prepared.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under same item, *Acquisition of Land*, last year there was an amount of Rs500 m. that was budgeted. May I know from the hon. Minister how much out of this Rs500 m. has been spent on compulsory acquisition?

**The Chairperson:** We are on page 326. Which item, please?

**Mr Uteem:** The last line, Madam Chairperson. Item 31410.801.

**Mr Jhugroo:** It was a provision of Rs500 m., so an amount of Rs710 m. has been spent.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, may we have the list of the lands that have been purchased last year?

**Mr Jhugroo:** I am going to circulate it because we are having development in the country. *Le pays est en train d'être développé sous le gouvernement de Pravind Jugnauth!*

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. On the same item, acquisition of land, with regard to the project of the bridge at Chapman - which is being constructed -, the bypass from Gros Cailloux to Sorèze, apparently there have been complaints from landowners, house owners concerning the lands which have been purchased compulsorily, which is nearly entering their home, leaving them a bit. So, can the hon. Minister give a list of lands which are being acquired and where there is *litige* in that particular region, and what

action is being taken, at least to compensate these three or four householders residing at Chapman?

**Mr Jhugroo:** Madam Chairperson, whenever you have any project, any development ongoing, people will not always accept, but the needful is being done by this Government.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 31132.101 - LAVIMS Project*, we are requested to vote quite massively, and if I add the two pages together, it is Rs86 m. this year. Given that the hon. Minister has said that we are acquiring a lot of land, can I ask him how valuation is being done? Because this is the component of the project that is not functioning at the moment.

**The Chairperson:** It is a policy decision.

**Mr Jhugroo:** It is a policy decision, I cannot answer.

**The Chairperson:** The hon. Minister cannot reply here. Hon. Ameer Meea!

**Mr Ameer Meea:** Madam Chairperson, on the same item, *Acquisition of Land*, in the current year and the next financial year as well because every year there is a budget of half a billion rupees for acquisition of land. May I ask the hon. Minister how much has been spent this year and will be spent next year -

- (i) on Metro Express Project, and
- (ii) whether any acquisition has been done in the region of Highlands?

**Mr Jhugroo:** I replied earlier that the amount budgeted last year was Rs500 m. and we spent much more. For next year, when time will come, we are going to give you the list. With regard to Metro Express, we are going to circulate it.

*(Interruptions)*

For Highlands also, I am going to circulate it.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 31410.801 - Acquisition of Land...*

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Silence, please! We cannot listen to the question.

**Mr A. Duval:** Under the same item, can the hon. Minister confirm whether this is being done compulsorily by Government, therefore, no negotiation at all on the value of the land or whether this is open to negotiation for all cases or some cases? Can the hon. Minister confirm whether it is being compulsorily acquired or it is being negotiated with the landowners?

**Mr Jhugroo:** What I am informed is that normally we start by negotiation. If it does not realise, then we go for compulsory acquisition. As usual, everywhere!

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Again, on the same issue, *Acquisition of Land*, with regard to the Metro Express Project, can I ask the hon. Minister whether all those whose lands have been acquired, especially at Monseigneur Leen, have been compensated?

**Mr Jhugroo:** As far as I know, all those who are eligible have been paid.

*Vote 22-1 Ministry of Housing and Lands (Rs2,566,000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

*Vote 23-1 Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms was called.*

**The Chairperson:** I have no question for page 327. Page 328, hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 21110.005 - Extra Assistance*, can we have a breakdown of this extra assistance, please?

**Mr Boissézon:** It is payment to Adviser. The Adviser is Ms N. Ramyad; basic salary Rs59,700, compensation for 2018, Rs360, travelling Rs11,500 and allowance for cell phone Rs1,144.

**The Chairperson:** Page 329, hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to *Item 31132.401 - Upgrading of ICT Infrastructure (Integrated Human Resource Management Information System)*, can the hon. Minister tell us exactly when all of the three phases will be completely implemented, and also the amount of cost overrun that this budget has incurred?

**Mr Boissézon:** It will be fully completed in December 2019. As far as cost overrun is concerned, I do not have the figures because it is a project which started in 2013. In fact,

since I took office in 2017, now we can say that the project is going at full swing. I hope that I shall give you the information regarding the cost overrun.

**Mr A. Duval:** Can I ask another question on the same item?

**The Chairperson:** Yes.

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to the same project, it was supposed to be implemented fully in 2015. Can the hon. Minister tell us, with regard to the phases, whether at least one of the phases is now up and running or it still has not been implemented at all?

**Mr Boissézon:** In fact, it was composed of five phases. Now, two modules are being run. There will be a parallel run. As I told you, by December 2019, the project will be on.

**The Chairperson:** Page 330, hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under *Item 22900.950 - Improvement of Counter Services*, may we know what has been done to improve these counter services, and from the amount of Rs4.3 m. of last year, how much has been spent?

**Mr Boissézon:** We have a long list of works that have been done. So, I will circulate it.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** I wanted to come on the same issue, *Improvement of Counter Services*. We all know the complaints we have with members of the public with regard to the Civil Servants, especially those at the counter services. Can the hon. Minister give us an idea who trained these people? Who is providing this improvement of counter services? Is there an authority or institution in the Civil Service?

**Mr Boissézon:** In fact, for training, there is a cell in the Ministry that evaluates the work, and then we receive quotations from various Ministries and we implement them.

**Mr Baloomoody:** May we know who heads this cell?

**Mr Boissézon:** It is in the Ministry. As you are aware, all things in the Ministry depend on the Secretary for Public Service.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Please, no crosstalking! Hon. Member, you have asked your question. Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Concerning *Item 22120 - Fees*, Rs14 m., can the hon. Minister elaborate who are the beneficiaries of these fees?

**The Chairperson:** Page 330!

**Mr Boissézon:** So, the hon. Member wants to know the reason for the decrease?

**The Chairperson:** Beneficiaries of the fees; to whom are those fees paid?

**Mr Boissézon:** Fees are being paid to the Mauritius Standards Bureau in connection with ISO Certification for Ministries; training fees for ISO and Small Consultancy Assignments regarding the Public Sector Business Transformation Plan.

**The Chairperson:** Page 331! Hon. Adrien Duval!

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22120.039 - *Continuous Professional Development for Civil Servants*, may we know how much was spent out of the Rs15 m and if the hon. Minister can give a list of the various seminars and sessions that were held for the last financial year?

**Mr Boissézon:** Madam Chairperson, it is for continuous professional development for civil servants. In the wake of the ongoing transformation of the Civil Service, there is a training programme which is dispensed by the Civil Service College.

**Mr A. Duval:** If the hon. Minister can give a list of the various activities, seminars and other workshops that were held, it is a simple question. We know what Continuous Professional Development is.

**Mr Boissézon:** I will circulate the answer.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem! Hon. Bhagwan! Page 331! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Concerning Continuous Professional Development for Civil Servants, can the hon. Minister inform the House of the amount of money spent and the different activities organised?

**Mr Boissézon:** It is more than Rs15 m.

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

**Ms Sewocksingh:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Item 22060 – *Maintenance*, can the hon. Minister give us some information about this item?

**Mr Boissézon:** The information is as follows -

- Rs40 m. for maintenance of plant and equipment;
- Rs40 m. for IT equipment, and
- Rs40 m. for furniture and fittings.

**The Chairperson:** Page 332! Hon. Baboo!

**Mr Baboo:** Item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment for Electronic Attendance System*. Out of the Rs12 m., may we know how much has been purchased last year and also where it has been placed?

**Mr Boissézon:** The main provision here is for the purchase of Electronic Attendance System. I cannot give the exact figure regarding last year. As at to date, 81 Electronic Time Recorders were purchased. This year, we intend to purchase 122 new equipment, including 92 for the Police services.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Can I ask the hon. Minister which type of officers need to clock-in and out under this system? Does it go right up to the Permanent Secretary, the Advisers? Who clocks in and out?

**Mr Boissézon:** All officers!

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under the same item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment for Electronic Attendance System*, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this electronic attendance system involves the recording of fingerprint? How does it operate, in light of the decision given by the Data Protection Office as to the illegality of taking and recording fingerprints?

**Mr Boissézon:** Yes, it is optional. For those who do not want to give their fingerprints, there is a code that they can use.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment for Electronic Attendance System*, can the Minister confirm whether this was not meant to be in the Human Resource Management System and why are we therefore



spending Rs50 m.? Is this in connection with the project? And when we have Rs500 m., do we supposedly have to do the same thing?

**Mr Boissézon:** Yes, it serves two purposes. It is for the recording of attendance and it will also be connected to the HRMIS System.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Rughoobur!

**Mr Rughoobur:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Same item 31122.802 - *Acquisition of IT Equipment for Electronic Attendance System*, may we know the name of the contractor and whether there is a maintenance agreement for the system that has been acquired?

**Mr Boissézon:** Yes, there is a maintenance agreement and the contractor is Leal Communication.

**The Chairperson:** Page 333! Hon. Abbas Mamode!

**Mr Abbas Mamode:** Concerning allowances, can the hon. Minister elaborate who are the beneficiaries of these allowances?

**Mr Boissézon:** This item is meant for extra duties, acting and responsibility allowance.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 22900.934 - *Enhancement of Work Environment in the Civil Service*, can the hon. Minister give us more details about this project regarding the Rs12 m. last year and Rs8 m. this year?

**Mr Boissézon:** In fact, the Enhancement of Work Environment Programme is a programme that we use to enhance the environment in the various departments.

**Mr Baloomoody:** A programme by whom? Run by whom? Who runs this programme?

**Mr Boissézon:** Projects are submitted to the Ministry according to certain criteria.

**Mr Baloomoody:** If the hon. Minister does not have the information in his procession, he can circulate it. We are spending Rs20 m. and we do not know for what programme. If he can, at least, circulate the last report of this Committee?

**Mr Boissézon:** In fact, I am not happy. I would have liked to have more money disbursed on that item. I will circulate a list of all the projects that have been implemented.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** On the same item, Madam Chairperson, whether the Minister can circulate all the projects and give details about the enhancement programme. It is very general, whether he can circulate the detailed projects for the Rs12 m. supposedly spent last year, and for the Rs24 m. that are projected for the coming three years? Can he let us have details about this?

**Mr Boissézon:** Yes, in fact, I can circulate.

*Vote 23-1 Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms (Rs567, 000,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

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

*At 12.46 p.m., the sitting was suspended.*

*On resuming at 1.50 p.m. with Madam Speaker in the Chair.*

*Vote 24-1 Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance was called.*

**The Chairperson:** No question on page 334! Page 335, hon. Leader of the Opposition!

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Under item 22120.008 – *Fees to Consultants*, can the hon. Minister tell us how much has been paid or still due to McKinsey for the Blueprint and also to Lord Desai for the Fintech Report, including airfares and hospitality.

**Mr Sesungkur:** Madam Chairperson, these two consultants have been funded by FSC. So, it has not been funded by the Ministry.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Uteem, he is not here. Hon. Baloomoody!

**Mr Baloomoody:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 26313.008 – *Competition Commission*, can the hon. Minister give us a list of the members of the Competition Commission, including their qualifications and salaries?

**Mr Sesungkur:** I will circulate it, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Bhagwan!

**Mr Bhagwan:** I come to the same issue being given that it is public money. Is the hon. Minister aware that in the Competition Commission there is one member of the Commission who is actively engaged in politics because she is paid from that vote, she was brought to task by the Chairperson and she is again actively doing politics with your party, the MSM? I will not give the name. So, can the hon. Minister, please, enquire and report to the House?

**Mr Sesungkur:** I am not aware, Madam Chairperson.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Henry!

**Mr Henry:** Merci, Madame la présidente. Sous l’item 21110.005 – *Extra Assistance*, je vois qu’il y a une somme de R 4 millions. Peut-on savoir quels sont ces *Advisors* et combien sont alloués?

**Mr Sesungkur:** I have three Advisors –

- (i) Mrs Yotsna Lalji-Venketasawmy, who is expert in money laundering issues;
- (ii) Mrs Sanjana Bhagmal-Kadervaloo, Press Attaché, and
- (iii) Mr Sobhanend Seeparsad, Advisor in Governance matters and PRO of my Ministry.

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

**Mr A. Duval:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. With regard to item 26313.008 – *Competition Commission*, may we know for the last financial year how many matters have been referred and enquired upon by the Commission and how many have been resolved?

**Mr Sesungkur:** More than 200 matters have been handled. A large number has been completed. I am going to circulate it.

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

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. Under item 21110.004 – *Allowances*, can I ask the hon. Minister whether this Rs2.2 m. that was paid in 2017/2018 included any allowances to Mr Guness Naiko, who was interrogated by the CCID of Moka for assaulting a civil agent?

**Mr Sesungkur:** The answer is no.

**The Chairperson:** Page 336, hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I am looking at the last item, 26313.152 – *Financial Services Institute Co. Ltd.* May I know from the hon. Minister -

- (i) whether this company has been set up;
- (ii) who are the Board members, and
- (iii) what is the purpose of that institute?

**Mr Sesungkur:** The company has been set up, Madam Chairperson. The Board presently comprises of two members, namely my PS, Mr Gaoneadry and Mr Sokappadu from the Ministry of Finance. The entire Board is being in the process of being constituted. The Member will recall that this institution was previously under the aegis of the FSPA, which has now merged with EDB. At the Ministry, we thought that it will be good that we have an institution which will build up capacity and take care of human capital development in the sector. So, this is precisely why the company has been constituted.

**The Chairperson:** Hon. Armance!

**Mr Armance:** On the same item, Madam Chairperson, since the Minister has confirmed that the company has been created now, can he confirm whether it is going to be under the Public Procurement Act?

**Mr Sesungkur:** What has PPA to do with this?

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, the hon. Minister should know what PPA has to do with it. The PPA, if the hon. Minister looks at it, as a schedule at the back where companies belonging to the Government are included so that they fall under the PPA. We had the same issue with the CEB. This is the question of my colleague.

**Mr Sesungkur:** I suppose, yes.

**Mr X. L. Duval:** Madam Chairperson, this is not appropriate, either it is or it is not.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** Order!

*(Interruptions)*

Order, please!

*(Interruptions)*

Order, I said! Let me draw your attention to the fact that the Minister has to reply, but it is not a reason for the hon. Member to have a disorderly ...

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Bhagwan!

*(Interruptions)*

Now, I wish to remind you once again, we have nearly reached the end of this exercise and there is no reason why you should have a disorderly conduct.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Madam Chairperson, on a point of order. We have not come here to have a disorderly conduct. We work for the public and this Minister is paid from public funds. The wage....

**The Chairperson:** This is not a point of order, please, sit down!

*(Interruptions)*

Please, sit down!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bhagwan:** Do not shout at me!

**The Chairperson:** No, I will...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Bhagwan:** You can't shout at me!

*(Interruptions)*

**The Chairperson:** No! I have heard you!

*(Interruptions)*

I know what you have said already.

*(Interruptions)*

I will! Hon. Bhagwan!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Bhagwan, if you continue, this is the last warning I give you!

*(Interruptions)*

I will not allow you.

**Mr Bhagwan:** Madam Chairperson, you can't shout at me!

**The Chairperson:** I will!

**Mr Bhagwan:** You have no right to shout at me!

**The Chairperson:** I have! And I order you out!

*(Interruptions)*

I order you out!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Members, let me say one thing. I will say it for the population, not only for this House. I am making this statement for the population to know. When I was coming in, I heard them saying that they will be walking out.

*(Interruptions)*

They have organised it. They have planned it. And now, they have walked out. They have already planned it. I say it not only for Members of this House, but I say it for the general public to know because I heard that they would walk out. Yes!

**Mr Sesungkur:** Madam Chairperson, why I said 'I suppose', because this company is yet to be included on the PPA. That is why I have said. I also heard that they were going to walk out. We have seen their attitude and the people will judge them.

*Vote 24-1 Ministry of Financial Services, Good Governance and Institutional Reforms (Rs245,600,000) was, on question put, agreed to.*

*Vote 25-1 Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (Rs495,400,000) was called and agreed to.*

*Vote 25-2 Social Welfare and Community-Based Activities (Rs371,400,000) was called and agreed to.*

## **ESTIMATES 2018-2019 & INDICATIVE ESTIMATES 2019-2020**

**AND 2020-2021**

**AND**

## **THE APPROPRIATION (2018-2019) BILL 2018**

**(NO. VII of 2018)**

*The Schedule was agreed to.*

*Clauses 1 and 2 were called and agreed to.*

*The title and the enacting clause were agreed to.*

*The Bill was 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 Friday 29 June 2018 at 3.00 p.m.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands (Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo) rose and seconded.**

*Question put and agreed to.*

**Madam Speaker:** The House stands adjourned.

*At 2.03 p.m. the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 29 June 2018 at 3.00 p.m.*