

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**TEENAGE VIOLENCE - CASES**

**(No. B/178) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to teenage violence, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof committed between 2002 and 2008 (a) individually (b) in gang, indicating the number thereof in each case in which -

- (i) death of the victim/s resulted and
- (ii) teenage depression was identified to be associated therewith.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that during period 2002 to 2008, a total of 1,618 cases of teenage violence have been reported, among which 1,399 have been committed individually and 219 were committed in gangs.

I am further informed that in nine cases the aggression has resulted in the death of the victims.

It is to be noted that only a Healthcare professional can determine if a teenager is depressed by using psychological tests and detailed clinical interviews with the teenager and his/her family members, teachers and peers. The Police is not trained to identify teenage depression although they may recognize some of the more common symptoms.

In such cases, the suspects are referred either to the Police Medical Officer or the hospital.

**VIDEO RECORDING – CHILDREN’S STATEMENT**

(No. B/179) Mrs S. Hanoomanjee (Second Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the use of video recording of children’s statements, especially of victims of abuse, as evidence in courts, he will, for the benefit of House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if a Committee has been set up to make proposals in relation thereto and, if so, indicate –

(a) the composition thereof ;

(b) the number of meetings held as at to date, and

(c) where matters stand.

**Reply:** As I stated in my reply to Parliamentary Question B/1193 on 11 November 2008, consideration is being given by the Police to adopt what is called the “Méthode Mélanie” which consists of video recording of children’s statements to be used as evidence in Court.

In this regard, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that the project is currently being monitored at the level of the Police Headquarters. In the exercise, three Interview Rooms of the Police Family Protection Unit have been identified: one at Piton,

one at Rose Hill and one at Port Louis and the procedure to equip them with video recording system is underway. I am also informed that the Commissioner of Police will shortly convene further working sessions with the relevant stakeholders namely, the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare; the Solicitor General's Office; the Master and Registrar, Supreme Court; the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Ombudsperson for Children's Office with a view to examining the issues pertinent to such video recording of children's statements.

**PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM – SENATE**

**(No. B/180) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands)**  
asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether he will state if Government proposes to introduce a Senate in our parliamentary system with a view to enhancing democracy.

**Reply:** Our existing unicameral legislature has served the country well since independence, so much so that Mauritius is today recognized internationally as a model of a living and vibrant parliamentary democracy. The SACHS Commission also observed that “by international standards Mauritius rates highly as a democratic country”.

Nevertheless, as the House is aware, the Labour Party had proposed the creation of a second chamber in our Parliament and it was included in the Labour/MMM manifesto of 1995. However, with the break-up of the Labour Party/MMM alliance, the Opposition then clearly stated that they would not vote for the establishment of a Senate which necessitated a constitutional amendment for which there was no required majority - i.e. votes of  $\frac{3}{4}$  members of the National Assembly. Since then we have not seen much enthusiasm for the idea. It was not included in the terms of reference of the SACHS Commission nor was any mention of it made in the Presidential addresses of 2000 or 2005.

**FLIC-EN-FLAC, GRAND' BAIE AND TROU D'EAU DOUCE –  
TOURISTS - BURGLARY AND LARCENY**

**(No. B/181) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)**

asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the offence of larceny and burglary in the regions of Flic-en-Flac, Grand' Baie and Trou d'Eau Douce, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof, over the last two years, in which tourists have been victims.

**Reply:** I am tabling the information requested by the hon. Member.

The House will note that there has been a decrease in the number of cases of larceny and burglary which have been reported to the Police last year as a result of several measures taken for ensuring the safety and security of tourists.

In my reply to PQ No. B/1137 on 19 August 2008, I indicated a series of measures taken by the Police and the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications to reinforce security of tourists.

In addition, as indicated earlier in my reply to PQ No. B/175, the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance system has now been installed at Flic-en-Flac. It will be operational as from 24 April 2009. The CCTV project is also being implemented in the region of Grand Baie. Tenders are being launched for the project.

It is felt that with the installation of the CCTV surveillance system in the two regions, the crimes rates will be even more significantly reduced.

### **BANGLADESHI WORKERS - WORK PERMITS**

**(No. B/182) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the Bangladeshi nationals, he will state Government policy in relation to those having a contract of employment in Mauritius, indicating if any changes have recently been brought thereto.

**Reply:** I am informed that several problems have been encountered with Bangladeshi workers such as -

#### **Discrepancies in their passport.**

Difficulties to keep track as some of them have changed several employers. There are cases where officers of the Passport and Immigration Office have arrested Bangladeshis working in sugar cane fields, poultries and selling fruit in street corners.

There were no bank guarantees for their repatriation. Some have come here with fake work permits and fake identities.

Bangladeshi workers are very often involved in Police cases. Very often they fight among themselves and are involved in cases of rape, wound and blows and larcenies.

There are also cases where Bangladeshi nationals placed on the control list of the Passport and Immigration Office, have re-entered the country under a different name in order to escape immigration vigilance.

As a result, it was decided in December last that no new application for work permit for male Bangladeshi workers should be entertained until we can be sure that such behavior can be stopped at source.

However, in order not to disrupt the operation of company they are serving, it has been decided that the work permits of those who are already in employment in Mauritius be extended up to end of December 2009 and then we will re-assess the situation.

There is no change in the policy as regards female Bangladeshi workers.

#### **FOREIGNERS - IRS -FOREIGNERS - RESIDENCE PERMIT**

**(No. B/183) Mr S. Soodhun (Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the foreigners who have been granted a permanent residence permit after the acquisition of property under the Integrated Resort Scheme, he will state the number thereof.

**Reply:** Foreigners who have acquired a property under the Integrated Resort Scheme are not granted a permanent residence permit. They are issued with a residence permit which remains valid for the whole of the period during which the non-citizen holds the residential property under the IRS and for so long as the holder is not certified by the Board of Investment to have ceased to satisfy the requirements of the IRS.

I am informed that 208 residence permits have been issued to foreigners who have acquired immovable property under the IRS. Furthermore, 311 residence permits have also been issued to their spouse and dependents.

#### **STOLEN PROPERTY – OFFENCES - CASES**

**(No. B/184) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the offence of possession of stolen property, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases thereof, for each of the years 2005 to 2008, indicating in each case, if the accused had, in the past, been found guilty of the same offence.

**Reply:** I am tabling the information requested by the hon. Member.

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that Police has taken a series of measures to curb down larceny ranging from preventive patrols to awareness campaigns.

The Police Crime Prevention Unit has launched a vast sensitization campaign to inform the community at large on a regular basis of the consequences of being found in possession of stolen property as well as of the different ways to protect their property.

**DIEGO GARCIA & CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO - MAURITIUS**  
**SOVEREIGNTY**

**(No. B/185) Mr N. Bodha (First Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the issue of the sovereignty of Diégo Garcia and the return on the islands of the Archipelago, he will state if Government proposes to involve the new United States administration in the current efforts to find a suitable solution thereto, following the election of Mr Barack Obama as President of the United States.

**Reply:** Only two weeks after the new American President Mr Barack Obama took office, I proceeded to Washington from 03 to 06 February 2009 to attend the 57<sup>th</sup> National Breakfast Prayer Meeting and other related events. I had the opportunity to meet members of the new administration and to renew contacts with some influential members of the US Congress. I was among the select group of foreign personalities who were invited to the meeting with high officials of the new US Administration together with senior members of the House of Representatives and the

Senate. I exchanged views with Ms Valerie Jarett, an influential member of the US President's team, Senior Adviser of the President for inter-governmental relations and public liaison.

In the course of my meeting with the State Department, I raised the important issue of Mauritian Sovereignty on the Chagos Archipelago. I explained our position concerning the very long standing claim of Mauritius. I pointed out that should we not get satisfaction at the earliest on this issue, we would have no alternative but to explore other avenues. Since the Agreement to lease Diego Garcia to the US will expire in early 2016, I invited the US to use its goodwill as a common friend and 'interested' party to help resolve this issue. I mentioned that Mauritius has, in principle, no objection to the US having a military base in Diego Garcia. The US officials took note of our stand and expressed their appreciation of our decision to bring this matter up.

I also had a meeting with prominent members of the US Congress. In the course of this meeting I informed the US authorities of our stand on the Chagos Archipelago and in particular the island of Diego Garcia, to try to come to a settlement in an amicable way of the long-standing and legitimate claim of Mauritius on the sovereignty over the Archipelago.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY – DAILIES - WEEKLIES-AMOUNT PAID**

**(No. B/186) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to Government publicity for period July 2008 to April 2009, he will state the amount of money paid out to each of the dailies and weeklies which have benefitted therefrom, including “L’Express”, “Le Mauricien”, “Le Matinal”, “Week-End” and “Le Defi” Group, indicating the criteria laid down and followed for the allocation thereof.

**Reply:** I shall reply to PQ No. B/186 and B/190 at the same time as they relate to the same subject matter. I am tabling a statement in respect of the amount of money paid for Government publicity for the period July 2000 up to March 2009, so that hon. Members may be in a position to be totally enlightened.

As the House is aware, Government has been served with a “*mise en demeure*” by La Sentinelle Ltd. and the Director of La Sentinelle Ltd, as reported in the Press, has clearly stated that the Court will soon be called upon to decide on the legality of Government’s allocation of paid publicity to newspapers. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate to communicate details of the criteria for the allocation of Government publicity or to state whether an independent body will be set up to lay down such criteria, except in the course of the Court proceedings.

Although, I did say in reply to previous Parliamentary Questions we would be re-looking at the criteria following the report by G. Robertson Q.C. on Media Law.

***MBC - TRADE UNIONS - ACTIVITIES - COVERAGE***

(No. B/187) **Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the activities organized by the Trade Unions, he will for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, information as to if official complaints have been registered therewith to the effect that the Unions are not receiving fair coverage by the Corporation and, if so, the actions that will taken to ensure that the provisions of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation Act in relation to fair coverage be complied with.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Director of the Independent Broadcasting Authority that the Authority has received a letter of complaint dated 06 March 2009, from the "*Confédération des Travailleurs du Secteur Privé*" to the effect that the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation did not cover the "Pacific Demonstration" organized by the "*Confédération*" in the streets of Rose Hill on Saturday 28 February 2009.

The complaint will be heard by the Complaints Committee of the Independent Broadcasting Authority on 21 May 2009. I am advised by the Director-General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that it is practically impossible for the Corporation to accede to all requests for coverage. The MBC covers a wide range of activities subject to availability of resources and the newsworthiness of the items of the day. This is not an easy task given the increasing demands for coverage from various quarters, and the plurality and complexity of the Mauritian Society. Nevertheless, the MBC is doing its

level best to provide adequate coverage of newsworthy activities including those of trade unions in a balanced manner.

*MBC- CAMERAMAN - ARREST*

**(No. B/188) Mr G. Gunness (Third Member for Montagne Blanche and GRSE)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, information as to if any cameraman of the Corporation was recently arrested for damaging property by band or any other charge and, if so, if he has been interdicted.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Director-General of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation that he is not aware of any cameraman of the Corporation having been arrested recently.

The question of interdiction does not, therefore, arise.

**PUBLIC CONCERTS - SECURITY MEASURES**

**(No. B/189) Mr Y. Varma (First Member for Mahebourg and Plaine Magnien)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to public concerts, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the measures that are taken to ensure security at the place where they are held.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that when applications to hold public concerts are received, the Divisional Commander in charge of the region where the event will take place, is requested to assess the suitability of the venue.

The local Police examines the following local security aspects –

- (i) accommodation capacity;
- (ii) whether the site is equipped with appropriate gates for the easy evacuation of the public, in case of any eventuality;
- (iii) adequate parking spaces, and
- (iv) lighting, if held at night.

These applications also require, amongst others, authorization from the following authorities, as applicable: Fire Services, CEB and the Local Authority.

On his part, the Commissioner of Police imposes security measures to the organizers such as ambulance and first aiders facilities, stand-by generator teams, insurance policy cover and special transport facilities.

Furthermore, the extent of Police deployment will depend on the **information obtained through Police enquiry.**

**GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY - AMOUNT PAID**

**(No. B/190) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to Government publicity, he will state the amount of money paid out to “Le Matinal”, “Le Socialiste”, “L’Express”, “Le Militant”, “Le Mauricien” and “Week-end” -

(a) for the year 2008, and

(b) since January to March 2009, indicating if Government proposes to task an impartial and independent body with authority to decide on the quantum thereof to be allocated to each of the newspapers published in Mauritius.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. B/186)*

## **MAURITIAN PASSPORT – APPLICATION & RENEWAL**

**(No. B/191) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the application/renewal of the Mauritian passport, he will state where matters stand as to the review of the procedures to simplify same.

**Reply:** I am advised that currently the time lag between the application and the issue of a passport is around seven days and this is well within international norms.

However, the Passport and Immigration Office is working on a procedure to further simplify the existing one for the renewal of a passport while maintaining all the security aspects. For example, any person who applies for a new passport which has expired, damaged, or lost will not be required to submit relevant Civil Status Certificates if there is no change in his name or marital status. Besides the list of persons eligible to countersign passport applications is being enlarged.

Appropriate Regulations to give effect to these proposals are being finalised.

## **ELECTRICAL BICYCLES - LEGISLATION**

**(No. B/192) Mr M. Allet (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)**

asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to electrical bicycles, he will –

(a) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of reported cases of accidents involving same, since January 2006 to date, and

(b) state where matters stand as to the proposed legislation for the regulation of their use.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since January 2006 to date, 27 cases of road accidents involving electrical bicycles have been reported to the Police.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping, in consultation with the Police and the Attorney General's Office, is currently finalizing a draft Road Traffic (Electric Cycle and Power Assisted Cycle) Regulations as electrical cycles do not fall within any class of motor vehicles listed in Section 4 of the Road Traffic Act. These Regulations will provide for the registration of the electric cycle, safety devices that should be fitted, the wearing of helmets, use on roads, passengers and goods and parking. Once the

Regulations will be enacted, all electric cycles will have to be registered and will be governed by its provisions.

### **GAMING HOUSE - INCIDENTS**

**(No. B/193) Mr M. Allet (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the gaming houses, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the number of incidents reported thereat, since January 2006 to date, indicating in each case, if any arrest has been effected in relation thereto.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that since January 2006 to date, eighty eight incidents at gaming houses throughout the island have been reported to the Police.

In twenty one cases, twenty seven persons have been arrested.

### **POLICE OFFICERS – BSC POLICE STUDIES**

**(No. B/194) Mrs L. D Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the Police Officers, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the

Commissioner of Police, information as to the number thereof who are holders of a BSc Police Studies, indicating in each case their respective grades.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that todate, 314 Police Officers hold a BSc (Hons) in Police Studies as follows:-

Grade	No. of Officers
Assistant Superintendent of Police	5
Chief Inspector of Police	22
Inspector of Police	48
Woman Police Inspector	3
Police Sergeant	130
Woman Police Sergeant	13
Woman Police Corporal	4
Police Constable	67
Woman Police Constable	22

#### **FOREIGNERS - PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT**

(No. B/195) **Dr A. Husnoo (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and Home Affairs whether, in regard to the foreigners who have been given permanent residence in

Mauritius over the last five years, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Passport and Immigration Office, a list thereof, indicating in each case -

(a) their respective nationality, and

(b) the ground on which they were given permanent residence.

**Reply:** The Permanent Residence Scheme was introduced under the Immigration (Permanent Resident Status) Regulations 2000 to make provision for the grant of a Permanent Residence Permit to a foreigner investing a sum of 500,000US\$ in a qualifying business activity or in the Permanent Residence Investment Fund.

Permanent Residence Permits were also issued under the Scheme To Attract Professionals for Emerging Sectors (SAPES), which was introduced in February 2002 to attract foreign talents in emerging sectors such as ICT and financial services. The foreigner was eligible for permanent residence at the end of a 3-year work permit.

Both Schemes were repealed with the coming into operation of the Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 with effect from 01 October 2006.

I am tabling the information asked for by the hon. Member.

**RODRIGUES FISHERMEN - ACTIVITIES**

(No. B/206) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security whether, in regard to the fishermen of Rodrigues, he will state if he has received requests from those wishing to stop carrying out fishing activities to be paid compensations and if so, will same be favourably considered and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** I am aware that in September 2008, the Island Chief Executive, Rodrigues Regional Assembly had received requests from some fishermen in Rodrigues in respect of a scheme whereby they will stop carrying out fishing activities.

On this issue, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly has entered a case in the Supreme Court and I cannot comment further since the matter is *sub judice*.

**SHIPS – DEPARTURE - PORT CLEARANCE**

(No. B/210) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the boats leaving Mauritius from places other than the port, he will state if any system has been put in place for the monitoring thereof.

**Reply:** The Shipping Division of my Ministry has no jurisdiction whatsoever over boats coming and leaving Mauritius outside Port Louis Harbour. Section 198 (1) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1986 (MSA) provides for a port clearance to be issued by the Director of Shipping within one hour of the expected time of departure for ships leaving a port in Mauritius for a foreign country. Vessels which are registered under the MSA and foreign vessels are issued with port clearance.

Section 198 (2) provides that where the master of any ship obtains a port clearance and does not sail within 48 hrs thereafter, he shall report to the Director of Shipping his reasons for not sailing and obtain a fresh port clearance.

Vessels which are not registered under the MSA must instead obtain the authorization of the following Ministries/Departments, as applicable namely-

- (a) the Harbour Radio of the Mauritius Ports Authority;
- (b) the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security (Fisheries Division);
- (c) the National Coast Guard;
- (d) the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications;
- (e) the Customs Section of the Mauritius Revenue Authority, and

(f) the Passport and Immigration Office.

I am informed as follows-

(a) . in case of pleasure crafts, they should obtain the authorization of the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority (Customs Section) and that of the Passport & Immigration Office to leave or enter Port Louis harbour;

(b) by the Mauritius Ports Authority that it is not involved in any monitoring of boats outside the Port waters;

(c) by the National Coast Guard Office under Section 44 of the Customs Act 1988 the master of a ship from parts beyond the seas shall not permit his ship to enter any place in Mauritius other than a port unless from stress of weather or reasonable cause, and

(d) by the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority that under Sections 94 and 95 of the Customs Act, 1988 any boat leaving Mauritius has to obtain prior clearance from Customs and the Director of Shipping as this clearance certificate will be required at the next port of call; and no certificate of clearance shall be issued under Section 94 unless the master of the aircraft or ship has made due report outwards in this prescribed manner and has -

- delivered to the Director-General any outward manifest and such copies as may be required in the prescribed form;
  
- furnished such information and documents relating to the aircraft or ship, the voyage and the cargo as may be required by the Director-General, and
  
- complied with all legal requirements in regard to such aircraft or ship and the inward and outward cargo.
  
- I am also informed by the Passport and Immigration Office that under Section 16 (2) of the Immigration Act the Master of any vessel arriving or leaving Mauritius shall report to the Immigration Officer at a port of entry immediately on arrival or departure as the case may be to enable the Immigration Officer to examine the passengers and members of the crew. Failing to report is an offence.

As regards fishing boats, I am informed that they are authorized to leave for fishing campaigns only after clearances are issued by the Fisheries Division.

**HAJJ MISSION 2008 & PRE-HAJJ MISSION 2009**

**(No. B/239) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Hajj pilgrimage, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Islamic Cultural Centre, information as to-

(a) The composition of the -

Hajj mission 2008;

Pre-Hajj Mission 2009 and

(b) The remedial measures he proposes to take to avoid any shortcomings for the forthcoming Hajj.

**Reply: (The Minister of Housing and Lands):** The Hajj Mission of 2008 was composed as follows-

Mr Nazeer Abdus Samad

Mr Abdullatif Yusuf

Mr Atchia Aboo Bakar

Dr Farhad Kauroo

Mr Badullah Twaher

Mr Aboo Bakar Manjoo

Mr Swadeck Somally

Mr Mamood Hosenbaccus

Mr Dawood Beg

Mr Salim Pirbacosse

Mr Neenoth Imran

Mr Saumtally Shawkat

Regarding pre Hajj Mission 2009, I wish to inform the House that I shall myself lead the delegation which will also comprise of Mr Habibullah Sayed Hossen, Special Adviser to me on Hajj Matters and Mr Hassen Beebeejaun, representative of Air Mauritius.

With over 3M pilgrims converging to the Holy Mosques of Makkah and Madinah over a short period of time and accommodated in limited space at the Holy sites at Mina and Arafat, problems are bound to arise.

Over the past years and specially for Hadj 2008, there has not been any significant shortcomings. In fact, there was no fatal casualty at the Jamarat. This has been the result of the continuous upgrading of the conditions in the Hadj cities and Holy sites by the Saudi Authorities and strict monitoring by our Hajj Mission.

In fact, strict control is being exercised this year on operators to ensure that the Hajj Pilgrimage proceeds smoothly.

**STEEL /SCRAP METAL - PERMITS**

**(No. B/240) Mr M. Allet (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to steel scrap metal, he will state the number of permits issued to the operators thereof, for the year 2007, 2008 and 2009 as at to date, indicating -

- (a) the names of the operators;
- (b) the duration of each permit; and
- (c) the number of permits which have not been renewed and the reasons therefore.

**Reply:** Permits/licences issued in regard to steel/scrap metal operators are valid for a period of 12 months as from the date of issue in accordance with the provisions of the Consumer Protection (Scrap Metal) Regulations 2007. Renewal of permits/ licences are made on request from applicants.

The information to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question are being compiled and will be tabled in due course.

**JEAN LE BRUN GOVT SCHOOL – CONSTRUCTION WORKS PHASE I  
& II**

**(No. B/241) Dr. A. Husnoo (Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Jean Le Brun Government School, he will state when the construction works for the Phase II and Phase III thereof are expected to start.

**Reply:** I am advised that all the remaining works after Phase I, will be undertaken under the second Phase and will consist of the construction of another classroom block, two toilet blocks, one canteen block as well as the external site works.

The designs, presently being worked upon, are expected to be completed by end June 2009 and tender documents will be floated by end of September 2009.

Within this time frame, construction works are expected to start around October 2009 and will be completed around April 2011.

**POSTER PANELS - LOCATION**

**(No. B/242) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands)**

asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Tourism, Leisure and External Communications whether, in regard to the poster panels, he will state –

(a) the number thereof, constituency-wise, indicating their respective location,  
and

(b) if he proposes to increase the number thereof temporarily, in view of the forthcoming Labour Day and, if so, indicate their proposed location constituency-wise.

*(Withdrawn)*

**Dr. A. G. JEETOO HOSPITAL & QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL -  
SERVICES**

**(No. B/243) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands)**

asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he will state if he has effected site visits at the Dr. A. G. Jeetoo Hospital, Port Louis and the Queen Victoria Hospital, Quatre Bornes to assess the services provided to the patients thereat and, if so, the improvements he proposes to bring thereto.

*(Withdrawn)*



**PUBLIC OFFICERS – CUSTOMER CARE SERVICE - TRAINING**

**(No. B/244) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands)**  
asked the Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms whether, in regard to customer care service, he will state if public officers who are in regular contact with the public have undergone training therein, since 2006 to date and, if so, indicate –

(a) the number of officers -

(i) trained;

(ii) remaining to be trained

(b) the monitoring put up to ensure that the acquired skills are put into effect, and

(c) if new measures for the improvement thereof are being contemplated.

*(Withdrawn)*

**CUREPIPE & MIDLANDS – FLOOD PRONE AREAS - MEASURES**

**(No. B/245) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe and Midlands)**

asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether, in regard to regular flood prone areas in the Constituency No. 17, Curepipe and Midlands, he will state the –

(a) number thereof falling under the purview of his Ministry, and

(b) remedial measures Government proposes to take, giving details of each project, especially in terms of cost and time frame.

*(Withdrawn)*

#### **NHDC UNITS – SEIZURE**

**(No. B/246) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)**

asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to the NHDC units, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Housing Development Company Ltd., information as to the number thereof which has been seized by the Company, since July 2007 to date.

**Reply:** I am informed by the NHDC that 27 housing units have been seized island wide by the NHDC from July 2007 to date.

### **RIAMBEL COASTAL ROAD – SPEED BREAKERS**

**(No. B/247) Mrs D. Perrier (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Riambel Coastal Road, he will consider the advisability of putting up speed breakers thereat for the security of the inhabitants.

**Reply:** I would like to inform the House that the Traffic Management & Road Safety Unit of my Ministry carried out a road safety assessment along the Black River/Savanne road, which runs through Riambel.

From a road traffic management and road safety viewpoint, the following measures have been recommended to improve road safety along that road –

- Provision of reflectorised band signs and multiple chevron signs on the approaches to the bends and at the bend to heightened driver's awareness of the curves. These works have been undertaken by Traffic Management & Road Safety Unit and they have been completed.
- Removal of roadside plantations, namely sugar cane, trees and foliage alongside the road so that a minimum clear zone width of 2.0m is respected from the cane plantation with the edge of the carriageway all along Black River-Savanne Coast road.

- All roadside hazards like trees and rigid poles found alongside the road be properly shielded with guardrails.

- Provision of new road markings.

These recommendations made are based on technical feasibility, economic efficiency, affordability, public acceptability, legality and compatibility.

Although construction of road humps along this classified road is not recommended, I would like to assure the House that the measures which I have enumerated earlier go towards enhancing road safety and the Traffic Management & Road Safety Unit is ensuring with all the authorities concerned that the measures are duly implemented. The situation will be closely monitored and adjustments, as may be required, will be made.

### **FISH AUCTION MARKET - PROJECT**

**(No. B/248) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security whether, in

regard to the project for the setting up of a fish auction market, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** The Fish Auction Market Project at Les Salines (precisely at Fort Williams), Port Louis is presently in its pre-tendering stage. The preliminary drawings have already been approved and clearances from concerned authorities sought. I am informed that action has also been initiated for a percolation test to be carried out shortly, as per the requirement of the Wastewater Management Authority.

The project will embark on the tendering stage. It is expected that construction works will start by July 2009.

#### **LES SALINES – BOAT MOORING**

**(No. B/249) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Minister of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security whether, in regard to the proposed boat mooring project at Les Salines, Port Louis, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** My Ministry has no boat-mooring project at Les Salines as presently fishermen are already mooring their boats there. However, I am informed by the Mauritius Ports Authority that a cruise jetty is presently under construction at Les

Salines. The construction of the cruise jetty will not affect the mooring of boats by fishermen at Les Salines.

### **HOSPITALS - MEDICAL SERVICES**

**(No. B/250) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether, in regard to the medical services provided in the hospitals, he will state if Government proposes to claim payments in respect thereof.

**Reply:** The answer is in the negative.

### **STC - PETROLEUM PRODUCTS – PURCHASE**

**(No. B/251) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Co-operatives whether, in regard to the purchase of petroleum products from Mangalore Refineries by the State Trading Corporation, for the period June 2008 to March 2009, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Corporation, information as to the purchase dates and the purchase prices thereof.

**Reply:** The information is being compiled and will be tabled.

**SHIBANI INWEAR – EMPLOYEES - LAYOFF**

**(No. B/252) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)**  
asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether, in regard to the layoff of the employees of the Shibani Inwear, he will state –

- (a) the date on which the Company informed his Ministry thereof
  - (b) the number thereof
  - (c) the nature of the grief expressed by the workers
  - (d) the employer's responsibility and
- (a) if the employer has complied with all the provisions of the labour laws as regard to layoff.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that Shibani Inwear Co.Ltd was placed in receivership on 11 February 2009 and Mr. I. Mushtaq Oosman was appointed Receiver and Manager.

At a meeting held in my Ministry on 19 February 2009, the Receiver and Manager stated that the employment of the workers would be terminated in due course as the Mauritius Leasing Company Ltd had taken control of the machines of the factory and, consequently, no operations could be carried out. I am advised that on 20 February 2009, the workers were notified in writing that they were being given 30 days notice as from 01 March 2009.

428 workers have been laid off, including 66 expatriate workers.

As regards part (c) of the question, the workers are claiming wages for the period of the notice of termination of employment.

As for parts (d) and (e) of the question, the issue of the employer's responsibility does not arise with the appointment of a Receiver Manager in whom all legal and administrative powers are vested.

### **TIANLI PROJECT-TERRE ROUGE**

**(No. B/253) Mr P. Jugnauth (First Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Tianli Project in Riche Terre, he will state where matters stand.

*(Withdrawn)*

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**PLAINE VERTE GARDEN – UPGRADING WORKS**

(No. B/254) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East) asked the Minister of Local Government, Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Plaine Verte Garden, from the Paul & Virginie Street to the Diégo Garcia Street, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to if consideration will be given for-

- (a) an increase in the number of –
  - i. lighting points
  - ii. benches
  - iii. dustbins
  - iv. entrances and
  
- (b) the upgrading of the pond found in the centre of the garden, in view of the increasing number of visitors thereat at night

**Reply:** I am informed by the Municipality of Port Louis that the following upgrading works have already been undertaken to the Plaine Verte garden-

- i. construction of a jogging track;

- ii. renewal of fencing;
- iii. fixing of 16 benches;
- iv. provision of 20 new lighting points;
- v. upgrading of alleys;
- vi. construction of a new kiosk, and
- vii. levelling and planting works.

I am further informed that the Municipal Council envisages to carry out the following works –

- Fixing of twelve additional benches and three metals bins.
- Provision of four additional entrances.
- Fixing of additional points.
- Upgrading of the pond whose specifications are being finalized.

#### **ROSAN AND CORINGA STREETS, CITÉ MARTIAL – DRAINS**

**(No. B/255) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East)** asked the Minister of Environment and National Development Unit whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a 165-metres drain along the Rosan and Coringa Streets, Cité Martial, he will state where matters stand.

**Reply:** The drain projects along Rosan and Coringa Streets, Cité Martial were identified for implementation after the torrential rain on 17-18 September 2008. The scope of works has been prepared by the Municipal Council of Port Louis. The projects will be awarded to our road and drain contractor in the near future.