

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ACT - PROCLAMATION

(No. 1B/145) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications whether, in regard to the Equal Opportunities Act, he will state if Government proposes to proclaim same and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

**Reply (The Attorney General):** The answer to the first part of the question is yes. The answer to the second part is soon.

### SHAKERS PRIVATE CLUB - INCIDENT

(No. 1B/147) Mr J. Seetaram (Second Member for Montagne Blanche & GRSE) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications whether, in regard to the incident that occurred at the Shakers Private Club in the morning of the 20 March last, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commission of Police, information as to –

- (a) if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto and, if so, the outcome thereof;
- (b) if any arrest has been effected, and
- (c) the actions being taken to ensure public safety thereat.

*(Withdrawn)*

### MEDPOINT CLINIC - ACQUISITION

(No. 1B/165) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Health and Quality of Life whether he will state if Government proposes to acquire the Medpoint clinic and, if so, where matters stand.

**Reply:** In line with Government Programme, my Ministry has initiated procedures for the acquisition of two buildings to set up respectively an Institute for Women's Health and a National Geriatrics Hospital.

Consequently, public tenders were floated on 30 April 2010 and prospective owners had up to 3 June 2010 to submit their bids to the Central Procurement Board (CPB). On 10 June 2010, CPB informed my Ministry that 5 bids had been received in respect of the project for the setting up of the Institute for Women's Health and 4 bids for the National Geriatrics Hospital.

My Ministry is presently setting up Bid Evaluation Committees to assess the bids and make appropriate recommendations to the Central Procurement Board for a decision.

### **BALACLAVA - LOTUS RESORTS LIMITED – LAND LEASE**

**(No. 1B/166) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Housing and Lands whether, in regard to State lands on *Pas Géométriques* situated in Balaclava, he will state if Lotus Resorts Limited has been granted a lease of a plot of land thereat

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(a) indicating the terms and conditions, including the

(i) date;

(ii) extent;

(iii) purpose of the lease;

(b) the annual rental value of the total area, and

(c) the amount of taxes and fees paid to Government.

**Reply:** I am informed that, following a statement made to the Police last year by the hon. Member himself, the Police has been conducting an enquiry on a number of leases allocated on State land including the lease of State land at Balaclava to Lotus Resorts Limited.

As the Police enquiry is on, it would neither be in order nor proper to make any further statement on this matter at this stage.

**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE, COOPERATIVES AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION - ADVISERS**

(No. 1B/167) Mr E. Guimbeau (First Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Business, Enterprise, Cooperatives and Consumer Protection whether, in regard to advisers posted at his Ministry since May 2010, he will state -

- (a) their names;
- (b) their qualifications, and
- (c) the salaries and benefits drawn by them.

**Reply:** Two advisers namely -

- (i) Mr Dhaneshwar Luchmun – Adviser in Public Relations, and
  - (ii) My Yan Vincent Seetaram – Adviser on Information Matters
- are employed in my Ministry.

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

**INTERNET FACILITIES – STUDENTS AND SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

(No. 1B/182) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Information and Communication Technology whether, in regard to the internet, he will state –

- (a) if Government proposes to offer free access thereto to students, and
- (b) whether consideration will be given to reduce the tariff charged to the Small and Medium Enterprises to the same as the one charged to domestic users and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** As from October 2005, Government is already providing free internet access to students in 172 secondary schools and since early 2009; this internet facility has been extended to 261 primary schools.

A further step to enhance student access to the internet is the “one laptop per child” project for the benefit of Lower VI students, over which project, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, other stakeholders and my own Ministry has just started working. It is expected that this project would lead to the extension of telecommunication facilities in such a manner as to provide access to internet by more and more students.

As regard part (b) of the question, I am informed by the Mauritius Telecom Ltd that the domestic offers and the SMEs offers are two different commercial services. They each have different characteristics and require different levels of investment and operating costs. In particular, the SMEs offers/provide a higher level of comfort access with better fluidity and priority while accessing the internet. The service is designed for facilitation of business. Hence, the difference in prices between the two offers.

I wish to inform the House that during the last five years, Telecom Plus has progressively reduced both its residential and business broadband tariffs and has increased internet penetration at affordable prices. As an indication, the residential tariff has been reduced on an average by 66% and the lowest tariff today is at Rs499 inclusive of VAT for a speed of up to 256 kilobits per second. The business tariff has been reduced on an average by 45% and its speed doubled in 2009.

I shall request the Mauritius Telecom Ltd to seriously look into the issue raised by the hon. Member and examine the possibility of working out other internet packages that will be more attractive for SMEs.

### **SMES & DORMANT COMPANIES – LICENCE FEES**

**(No. 1B/183) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Development whether, in regard to annual licence fees payable to the Registrar of Companies by domestic companies, he will state if Government will consider exempting dormant companies and the Small and Medium Enterprises from the payment thereof and, if not, why no.

**Reply:** Currently out of a total of 44, 422 local companies on the register only, 33 are dormant. The Companies Act provides that for a company which has been recorded as dormant, a flat fee of Rs 2,000 is payable irrespective of the type of companies (Twelfth Schedule to the Companies Act 2001).

As there is a cost associated to keeping dormant companies on the register, it is not proposed to exempt payment of registration fees to these types of companies as they already benefit from a reduced fee of Rs 2,000.

As regards small private companies, i.e. companies with a turnover of up to Rs 50 million, they also benefit from an annual registration fee of Rs 2000 as compared to Rs 6000 for large Private Companies and Rs 9000 for Public Companies.

In addition, to encourage small enterprises registered with SMEDA to convert into companies, the registration fees payable at the time of registration/ incorporation was waived in June 2009 under the Companies (Waiving of Fees) Regulations 2009. This exemption will lapse in December 2010. (G.N 72 of 2009). There are currently some 624 such companies registered with the Registrar of Companies i.e. those registered as SME following recommendations of SMEDA.

The House may wish to note that we are currently reviewing support to small enterprises generally and any decision on whether to exempt or not these small enterprises will be taken in the light of the review.

#### **CITE BARKLY - PAVEMENTS**

**(No. 1B/184) Mr K. Li Kwong Wing (Second Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to road safety at Cité Barkly, he will state if consideration will be given for the putting up of pavements along roads used by buses.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill that as the responsible authority they are considering putting up pavements along the road being used by buses at Cité Barkly namely Nelson Mandela Street.

## **CAB OFFICES – MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT – CONSTITUENCY SURGERY**

(No. 1B/185) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Citizens Advice Bureaus, he will state if it is the policy of Government to put same at the disposal of Honourable Members for conducting their constituency surgery and meeting with the community organisations.

**Reply:** The mandate of the Citizens Advice Bureaus network consists largely in supporting Government Programme by seeking grass root support and in responding to the needs and aspirations of the community by bringing government closer to people.

Currently, these offices are being used by Parliamentary Private Secretaries and Ministers.

Government proposes to have a review of the CAB System on the whole.

Backbenchers of Government do help the PPS in CAB offices at times.

## **REMPART ROAD, GLEN PARK – WATER SUPPLY**

(No. 1B/186) Ms S. Anquetil (Fourth Member for Vacoas & Floreal) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether he will state if he is aware of the irregular water supply off Rempart Road, Glen Park and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

**Reply:** I am informed by the CWA that inhabitants of Rempart Road, Glen Park are supplied from La Marie Treatment Plant which is fed by Mare aux Vacoas reservoir.

Prior to 14 June 2010, the supply to the region was on a 24-hour basis.

In view of the low rainfall rate in the past three (3) months, which is below average and the decrease in the water level at Mare aux Vacoas reservoir, the hours of supply in the regions serviced by this reservoir, including Glen Park are presently from 3.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. to 09.00 p.m.

CWA is closely monitoring the situation and will provide a water tanker service whenever required.

To improve overall water supply in the Mare aux Vacoas system during dry season, my Ministry will implement a project to transfer additional resources from Rivière du Poste into the Mare aux Vacoas reservoir. The detailed design will be undertaken shortly and the works are expected to be completed by the last quarter of 2011.

#### **AVENUE JOHN KENNEDY, VACOAS - PONT DILO SO - RECONSTRUCTION WORKS**

**(No. 1B/187) Ms S. Anquetil (Fourth Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the reconstruction works of Pont Dilo So at Avenue John Kennedy, Vacoas, he will state where matters stand, indicating the expected date of completion.

**Reply:** I am informed that works to widen the bridge called “Pont Dilo So” situated at Avenue John Kennedy, Vacoas and the reconstruction of the footbridge started three weeks ago and are expected to be completed by end of July 2010.

#### **LA CROISEE DIOLLE, GLEN PARK - TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

**(No. 1B/188) Ms S. Anquetil (Fourth Member for Vacoas & Floreal)** To asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware that the recent installation of traffic lights at La Croisée Diolle, Glen Park is causing traffic congestion during peak hours and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Traffic Management Unit, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

**Reply:** I have been informed by the Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit that a set of traffic lights was installed at la Croisée Diolle, Glen Park and is operational since May of this year to ease the flow of traffic. As is the case with all newly installed traffic lights, this set of traffic lights is under observation for a period of two months to see how well it is regulating the traffic. Thereafter, remedial measures such as phasing of the green light will be brought, if required at peak and non-peak hours. In case long queues are identified during peak hours, Police will be requested to control the traffic lights manually.

### **NGOs – FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**(No. 1B/189) Dr S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to financial assistance to Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), she will give, for the period 2005-2010, a list thereof which have benefitted from assistance from –

- (a) the NGO Trust Fund
- (b) the National Empowerment Fund
- (c) the Decentralised Corporation Programme Fund, and
- (d) the Corporate Social Responsibility Fund, indicating the amount of assistance to each NGO, giving a detailed breakdown for each project.

**Reply:** I am arranging for placing on the table of the National Assembly the relevant information regarding the financial assistance provided to Non-Governmental Organisations by the NGO Trust Fund which operates under the aegis of my Ministry.

As regards information requested at parts (b) to (d) of the question, I would invite the hon. Member to put his question to the relevant Minister responsible for these issues.

### **NGOs - ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES**

**(No. 1B/190) Dr S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to assistance programmes to Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), she will state if her Ministry is in presence of conclusions and recommendations of evaluation reports made by the donor agencies on each project conducted under the NGOs assistance programmes.

**Reply:** I wish to inform the House that financial assistance is provided to NGOs by the NGO Trust Fund operating under the aegis of my Ministry.

The NGO Trust Fund has an appropriate mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the projects/activities of these NGOs. Disbursement of funds is made to the NGOs by the NGO Trust Fund after taking into consideration the evaluation exercise.

In addition to the assistance provided by the NGO Trust Fund, a few NGOs also benefit from assistance from donor agencies for either running their activities or financing their specific projects. As such, these donor agencies which operate independently of Government, have their



own mechanism for monitoring and evaluating these NGOs and do not submit their evaluation reports to the NGO Trust Fund or to my Ministry.

#### **NGOs - GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR ASSISTANCE**

**(No. 1B/191) Dr S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), she will obtain information on the mechanisms in place at the office of the Registrar of Associations to ensure that NGOs benefitting from Government and Private Sector Assistance are bona fide ones.

**Reply:** I would like once again to invite the hon. Member to direct his question to the relevant Minister responsible for the Registry of Associations.

However, I wish to inform the House that the NGO Trust Fund which operates under the aegis of my Ministry provides financial assistance to NGOs and has a mechanism for ensuring that the assistance is provided to *bona fide* NGOs.

#### **CUREPIPE - TRAFFIC CONGESTION**

**(No. 1B/192) Dr S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he is aware of traffic congestion during peak hours at the junction of Route du Jardin, Rue Brown Sequard and Rue St Clement in Curepipe and, if so, will he state if consideration will be given for the putting up of traffic lights thereat.

**Reply:** I have been informed by the TMRSU that there is no such junction as the junction du Jardin, Brown Sequard and Rue. St. Clement, I therefore, assume that the hon. Member is referring to two separate junctions situated at Route du Jardin/Rue St. Clement and Rue St. Clement/Brown Sequard.

The TMRSU has further informed that the traffic flow at these two junctions is low and, therefore, the installation of traffic lights is not warranted for the time being. However, due consideration will be given if the need arises.

## **INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION– REPORT**

(No. 1B/193) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether he has taken cognizance of the Report submitted by the representative of the International Tennis Federation in regard to the Mauritius Tennis Federation, and, if so, will he state the stand of his Ministry thereon.

**Reply:** First of all let me thank the Hon. Member for his concern about the situation of the Mauritius Tennis Federation.

Yes I have taken cognizance of a report dated 26 May 2010 submitted by the President of the International Tennis Federation, Mr Francesco Ricci Bitti, addressed to the Mauritius Tennis Federation and transmitted to me by the latter.

With regard to my stand, being given that there are two court cases in connection with the election of the Federation, I do not wish to comment further on the matter but I can assure my colleague that I am monitoring the situation very closely.

## **FOOTBALL WORLD CUP 2010 – TRAINING CAMPS**

(No. 1B/194) Mr JF. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to the Football World Cup 2010, he will state if any invitation was launched to participating teams to train in Mauritius prior to the competition and, if so, if there was any response and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** In the context of FIFA World Cup 2010, in April 2009, it was decided that our country would arrange for training camps for one or two high profile football teams, which would be willing to train in Mauritius.

Accordingly, the Mauritius Football Association in consultation with my Ministry, designated an agent, in the person of Mr. Jean Garcia, who, in the recent past, arranged for the visit of the national football team of Côte d'Ivoire. Mr Garcia contacted several teams like Spain, Japan, Portugal, Italy, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire on the possibility for them to hold training

camps in Mauritius. Also Mr. Paul Leguen, the Coach of Cameroon visited Mauritius and met me personally to discuss the proposed visit of the Cameroon team.

Moreover, during my mission to South Africa for the drawing of lots, I personally established contacts with representatives of the above teams, including England and France.

However, despite all efforts, these teams did not respond to our invitation and decided to conduct their training camp and friendly matches elsewhere.

It is unfortunate that we missed this great opportunity to enable our football fans to appreciate the talent of world class football players. However, this situation was indeed beyond our control.

### **YOUTH CENTRES – BUDGET ALLOCATION**

**(No. 1B/195) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière)** asked the Minister of Youth and Sports whether, in regard to youth centres, he will state -

- (a) the number thereof;
- (b) their location, and
- (c) the annual budget allocated to each centre.

**Reply:** My Ministry operates 22 Youth Centres, 2 Sub-Youth Centres and 3 Residential Youth Centres which are situated around the country.

The information relating to the location of the Youth Centres is being tabled.

There is no specific annual budget allocated to each centre as such but rather an overall annual budget is earmarked for the Youth Section of my Ministry. In the 2010 budget, a total of Rs 64,093,000 has been earmarked under Programme 683 - Youth Services comprising of Rs 45, 986,000 under Sub Programme 68301 - Youth Empowerment and Rs 18,107,000 under Sub-Programme 68302- Recreational and Community Based Activities. This amount is used to meet all operational costs of the Centres and the activities organized by them.

## MINISTRY OF TOURISM & LEISURE - LEISURE ACTIVITIES

(No. 1B/196) Mr J. P. F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Tourism and Leisure whether, in regard to leisure, he will give a list of activities proposed to be held during the second half of 2010 at regional and national levels.

**Reply:** As the House is aware, my Ministry has always been ensuring that the population's needs for leisure are met and that leisure opportunities are accessible to one and all.

I am at present working on an Action Plan for the next six months, in partnership with major stakeholders concerned.

Accordingly, I seize this opportunity to welcome any suggestion from Members of this House for any other proposed leisure activity that they would wish my Ministry to organise for the benefit for the local communities and for the population at large.

## *CONFEDERATION DES TRAVAILLEURS DU SECTEUR PRIVE- COMPLAINT- ILO*

(No. 1B/197) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne and Black River) asked the Minister of Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment whether he is aware of the complaint made by the *Confederation des Travailleurs du Secteur Privé* (CTSP) to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in relation to the provision of the Employment Rights Act which makes of Sunday a normal working day and state whether Government has received any recommendations from the International Labour Organisation in relation thereto and, if so, the measures Government proposes to take.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **LES SALINES PUBLIC BEACH- ACCESS**

**(No. 1B/198) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the Les Salines public beach in the village of Rivière Noire, he will state if he is aware that private land owners have blocked access thereto and, if so, will he state the remedial actions that will be taken.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **VEHICLES REGISTRATION PLATES- TENDER**

**(No. 1B/199) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the project for the replacement of existing vehicles registration plates by yellow ones, he will state -

- (a) if any tender has been launched for the -supply thereof, indicating the date, and
- (b) if it has been awarded and, if so, the name of the successful bidder and details of the contract.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **DISABLED PERSONS – WHEELCHAIRS - ALLOCATION**

**(No. 1B/200) Mrs M. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne and Black River)** asked Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether she will state the number of disabled persons who have applied for the allocation of wheelchairs since last year and who are still on the waiting list and say

- (a) when the last order for wheelchair was made;
- (b) the number received to-date, and
- (c) whether any tender has been launched for the supply thereof and, if so, when.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **CASE NOYALE- WATER SUPPLY**

(No. 1B/201) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether he is aware that the inhabitants in the region of Case Noyale do not have an adequate water supply and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the remedial measures that will be taken.

*(Withdrawn)*

### **TERRE ROUGE-VERDUN HIGHWAY- REPRESENTATIONS**

(No. 1B/202) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue ) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will state if he has received representations from the inhabitants of Boullingrin, Montagne Longue in regard to the alignment of the Terre Rouge-Verdun Highway and, if so, will he state if a meeting with the inhabitants is envisaged before the works start and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** I am informed that on 10 October 2008, a few planters of Boullingrin, Robinson and Rivalland villages made representations on the road alignment and requested for modifications so that their lands, planted with vegetables and sugarcanes, are not affected.

The complaint was examined by Engineers of the Road Development Authority (RDA) and they considered that the change in alignment was not plausible for technical reasons. The present alignment is considered the best available option.

The House would agree that any alignment for any new road is bound to affect some planters. Development is always at the cost of some sacrifice. However, due compensation for land acquisition as prescribed in law will be effected.

## CWA - WATER LOSSES

(No. 1B/203) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to water losses in our water network, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the percentage thereof, on a yearly basis since 2005.

**Reply:** I shall reply to PQ No. 1B/203 and No. 1B/204 together.

I am advised by the CWA that the average daily production is around 580,000 m<sup>3</sup> and the average volume of sales is around 303,000 m<sup>3</sup>. During the last five years six service reservoirs have been commissioned. I am tabling a copy of the list.

From 2000 to 2009, the average level of Non Revenue Water has been around 45%. On a yearly basis, the level of Non Revenue Water from 2000 to 2009 was as follows -

<u>Year</u>	<u>% NRW</u>
2005	44.7
2006	45.2
2007	44.4
2008	47.6
2009	49.6

Non Revenue Water consists of two components, namely -

- **Physical losses** which are leakages in the transmission systems and distribution mains.
- **Commercial losses** consisting of illegal connections, free water use by fire services from hydrants, flushing of pipelines and cleaning of reservoirs.

The level of Non Revenue Water is mainly due to the state of the water supply network which in some regions dates back to more than 100 years. It should be noted that the level of physical losses also depends on the available water resources injected in the network. Some 1800 km of the network is made up of asbestos cement, cast iron and steel pipes which have since long outlived their economic/technical lifespan. The cost of replacement of these inefficient pipelines is estimated at around Rs 10 billion.

As a first phase of our action plan, a provision of Rs 640 million has been made in this year's budget for replacement of pipelines where the level of Non Revenue Water has become critical. Furthermore, under the ongoing Plaine Wilhems Sewerage project the opportunity is being taken to replace some 185 km of CWA pipes.

#### **CWA – POTABLE WATER - CONSUMPTION**

**(No. 1B/204) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to potable water, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to –

- (a) the volume thereof produced and consumed on a daily basis, and
- (b) the number of reservoirs commissioned during the last five years.

*(Vide reply to PQ No. 1B/203)*

#### **QUATRE BORNES – MARKET – CONSTRUCTION**

**(No. 1B/205) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to the construction of a new market in Quatre Bornes, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes, information as to -

- (a) where matters stand;
- (b) if land has been earmarked, and
- (c) the budget allocated for its realisation.



*(Withdrawn)*

## **MTPA/EURO CRM – CALL CENTRE SERVICES – CONTRACT**

**(No. 1B/206) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Tourism and Leisure whether, in regard to the contract between the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority and Euro CRM for call centre services, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Authority, information as to –

- (a) the details of the contract agreement, and
- (b) the fees paid to the said Euro CRM for its services for each of the last five years.

**Reply:** In recent years, international competition in the travel and tourism industry has become increasingly intense. Competing destinations are consequently making use of modern technology, especially e-marketing in addition to traditional marketing methods to sharpen their competitive advantage. Mauritius, therefore, has to find ways and means to stay ahead of competition as well.

The MTPA, in line with its objective to promote the destination, normally receives various proposals regarding promotional projects from various quarters. These proposals are considered and approved on a merit basis. It is in this perspective that MTPA decided to avail of the services of the call centre with the firm EURO CRM.

I am, in fact, informed that in September 2005, MTPA received a proposal from the firm Euro CRM regarding the provision of call centre services in France. This specialized firm is among the top ten players on the distance customer relationship management market in France. It is based in France and has a deep knowledge of the French Market. It works with leading partner companies such as GDF Suez, Orange, MMA, SFR, 118.218 Le Numéro, Canal+, Network Solutions, Sears, Workopolis and others. The group presently has 6 call centres around the world.

The MTPA Board examined the proposal on 16 September 2005 and found it interesting with great potential to drive further growth in France which is our main market. More specifically, the proposal would generate the following benefits -

- (i) to complement the ongoing promotional activities of MTPA;
- (ii) to centralise and capture all enquiring calls with a view to help convert them into concrete business, and
- (iii) to generate statistical information for strategic decision making.

Consequently, the MTPA Board approved the proposal. A first Memorandum of Agreement between MTPA and the firm Euro CRM was signed 14 October 2005 on a pilot basis for a period of six months commencing on 15 November 2005 and terminating on 15 May 2006.

I am further informed the firm Euro CRM has been providing a reliable service and possesses up to date technological facilities in Mauritius with back up services in France, coupled with trained staff.

Consequently, the Board decided to renew subsequently the contract of Euro CRM on a six month basis till November 2009 and on the same terms and conditions on account of the following developments occurring in the French market –

- (i) the entry of Corsair flight in Mauritius brought in an increase of seat capacity and accrued demand from provinces in France. This required greater capacity to handle request for information from French nationals;
- (ii) outbreak of Chikungunya in 2006 and increasing need to continuously reassure French travelers coming to Mauritius, and
- (iii) closure of Paris Office and the need to ensure smooth continuation of information dissemination and customer services without disruption of services.

However, following the coming in force of the Public Procurement Act, the MTPA launched on 9 December 2010 a restricted tender to 17 firms for provision of call centre services

for France for the year 2010. By the closing date, i.e., 28 December 2009, two bids were from two firms namely: Euro CRM and Bluephone.

According to the report of the Evaluation Committee, only the firm Euro CRM was technically qualified to perform the services. The contract was awarded to the latter to the tune of Euros 2,484/- per month for a period of one year.

With regard to the part (b) of the question, I am informed that the fees paid to EURO CRM for each of the last five years is as follows –

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount Paid (Rs)</b>
2005/2006	1,783,607.85
2006/2007	1,356,411.18
2007/2008	909,859.37
2008/2009	1,526,537.54
Jul – Dec 2009	783,369.82
Jan 2010 to date	182,470.36
<b>Total paid to Euro CRM</b>	<b>6,542,256.12</b>

#### **CENTRAL MARKET – STALLS – ALLOCATION**

**(No. 1B/207) Mr J. C. Barbier (Second Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether, in regard to stalls at the Port Louis Central Market, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Port Louis, information as to -

- (a) the number of stall-holders who, during the month of June 2010 to-date;
  - (i) have been dispossessed, and
  - (ii) have been given back possession of their stalls and

(b) whether any of the stalls have been allocated to persons other than the existing stall-holders and, if so, give their names and addresses.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Municipal Council of Port Louis that no stall holder of the Central Market has been dispossessed and no stall has been allocated to any person other than the stall holders during the month of June 2010.

### **CAMP ITHIER – WATER SUPPLY**

**(No. 1B/208) Mr D. Khamajeet (Second Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether he will state if he is aware of the irregular water supply at Camp Ithier and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the remedial actions that will be taken, indicating when the situation will return to normal.

**Reply:** I am informed by the CWA that Camp Ithier is supplied from two sources, namely Caroline Borehole of capacity 8,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, operated on a 24-hr basis and Camp Ithier borehole.

The water for Caroline borehole is shared among the villages of Ecoignard, Camp Ithier and Bramsthan through a daily valve operations as follows -

Upper part of Ecoignard: 9.00 hours to 11.00 hours and 18.00 hours to 23.00 hours, and

Ecoignard, Camp Ithier and Bramsthan: 11.00 a.m to 6.00 p.m and 11.00 p.m. to 9.00 a.m. the following day.

To improve water supply to these regions, the CWA is implementing a project to pump water from Caroline borehole to the new Belle Rose Clemencia reservoir. Two separate pipelines will be laid from Belle Rose Clemencia reservoir to supply Upper Ecoignard, Camp Ithier, Ecoignard and Bramsthan respectively.

The contract has already been awarded to Messrs. Sotravic Ltee for the value of Rs69 m. and works are expected to be completed in May 2011.

## **LALLMATIE & BRISEE VERDIERE – WATER SUPPLY**

**(No. 1B/209) Mr D. Khamajeet (Second Member for Flacq & Bon Accueil)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities whether, in regard to water supply in the regions of Belvédère, Lallmatie, Mare D’Australia and Brisée Verdière, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to whether the causes for the irregularity and insufficiency thereof have been identified and, if so, the remedial actions that will be taken, indicating the timeframe.

**Reply:** I am informed by the CWA that water supply in the regions of Belvédère, Lallmatie, Mare d’Australia and Brisée Verdière is irregular due to the state of the existing network.

In the lower parts of these regions, water supply is generally adequate whereas in the upper parts especially at Lallmatie and Belvédère, the water pressure is lower.

In order to improve the water supply in these regions, CWA is implementing projects to -

- (i) transfer approximately 2500 m<sup>3</sup>/day of water from Petit Paquet Borehole to l’Unité. Works will be completed by December 2010;
- (ii) transfer of water from Camp Thorel borehole to Salazie reservoir. The contract will be awarded in early 2011. The works are expected to cost Rs25 m. and will improve water supply in the region of Belvedere, and
- (iii) replacement of the old pipeline from Mont Ida to l’Unité Service Reservoir at the cost of Rs96 m. Works are scheduled to be completed by end 2011.

## **MR C. E. – SHOT BY POLICE – COMPENSATION**

**(No. 1B/210) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West)** asked the Attorney General whether Government will consider compensating financially one Mr C. E. who was shot by the Police in 1982 in Black River as a result of

mistaken identity and which led him to being physically handicapped and, if so, when and, if not, why not.

**Reply:** I wish to refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the hon. Prime Minister to a similar question which was put to him at a previous sitting of the National Assembly in March 2010 (PQ B/24).

The hon. Prime Minister had informed the House that Mr. C.E and three other persons entered a case in the Supreme Court against the Government of Mauritius claiming damages worth Rs 2.5 m. for gunshot injury during a Police raid on 5 March 1982. The case was heard and dismissed with costs on 30 June 1986.

I will, therefore, reiterate what the hon. Prime Minister has already said, that the payment of compensation, does not arise in the light of the Supreme Court judgment.

### **TRUST FUND FOR THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS – IRON SHEETS & POLES**

**(No. 1B/211) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West)** asked the vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment whether, in regard to the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Trust, information as to the eligibility criteria for the grant of corrugated iron sheets and poles to poor families.

**Reply:** I am informed by the National Empowerment Foundation that the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups provides immediate assistance to vulnerable families in terms of, *inter-alia*, provision of corrugated iron sheets and associated materials for the setting up of housing units of two rooms of 11 feet x 22 feet.

The criteria for the eligibility of corrugated iron sheets and poles to vulnerable families in Mauritius is as follows -

- (i) the household income (excluding social benefits) should not exceed Rs5,000 monthly, and
- (ii) the beneficiary should either be the owner of the land or have obtained a written authorisation or lease from the land owner. This includes State land.

Moreover, I understand that any potential applicant who is already the owner of a house, but which is in deplorable condition may also benefit from this facility.

The House may wish to note that since July 2005, a total of 3,255 households in Mauritius have benefitted from this project at a cost of Rs195 m.

### **SCHOOLS – SEX EDUCATION**

(No. 1B/212) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West ) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to sex education in schools, he will state if Government proposes to introduce same in the school curriculum.

**Reply:** Sex education is already covered both in primary and secondary curriculum frameworks.

In fact, we espouse the UNESCO-driven concept of sex education as a life skill. In that capacity, it is meant to facilitate the emergence of a balanced individual with healthy attitudes and values for sound and responsible citizenship.

At the primary level, it has already been incorporated in the curricular materials that are currently used in Standard V and will find themselves in the new textbooks of Standard VI in 2011.

At the primary level, the learning competencies for sex education are thus taught under the subject “Health Education”.

These competencies have been so developed as to not only make the growing child understand his physical and physiological changes but also make him act in a responsible manner by making the right choices.

At the secondary level, sex education is also integrated but this time across the curriculum, more particularly in subjects like Health & Physical Education, Integrated Science and Biology.

The new National Curriculum Framework for the secondary subsector that will serve as basis for the production of new curricular materials, incorporates a substantial element of sex education as from Form 1 including issues related to communicable diseases like sexually transmitted infections.

Components of Sex Education have been integrated in the Teacher Training Programme conducted by the Mauritius Institute of Education. In June of this year, a training was conducted for Primary and Secondary Educators, on Health Issues, which included Sexual Reproductive Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life and other partners.

Furthermore My Ministry is putting in place a more structured approach with respect to the conduct of sex education in school. In this regard, other stakeholders including Action Familiale and the Mauritius Family Planning Association will be called upon to work in partnership with the National Educational Counseling Service of my Ministry for the training of our educational psychologists. This approach will enhance the exposure of our students to sex education.

We have moved from the time when sex education was seen as a taboo and children were not meant to be exposed to it until they reached a level of maturity in line with their life. Today, we have gone beyond that realizing all same that the issue being sensitive, has to be dealt with in a deft and equally sensitive manner.

#### **LA GAULETTE SSS – LYCÉE POLYTECHNIQUE – CONSULTATION**

**(No. 1B/213) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he will state if his Ministry has taken any decision to convert the La Gaulette State Secondary School into a *Lycée Polytechnique* and, if so, whether any prior consultation has been held with the inhabitants of the region.

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

#### **RICHE TERRE LAND SETTLEMENT – VEGETABLE GROWERS**

**(No. 1B/215) Mr A. Ganoo (First Member for Savanne & Black River)** asked the Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security whether, in regard to the 23 vegetable growers of the Riche Terre land settlement who refused the compensation offered to them, he will now consider tabling the copy of the Report of the committee appointed as independent arbitrators comprising of Mr A. N. and Mr J. R.



**Reply:** The Noel/Ramkissoon Committee was set up by Government to consider the case of the 23 ex vegetable growers of Riche Terre Settlement who refused the compensation offered to them.

On receipt of the Noel/Ramkissoon report, a Joint Committee, comprising officers of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and my Ministry, looked into the implications of the recommendations made. In the light thereof, Government decided that the 13 planters who had been occupying their land be paid a cash compensation of Rs 120,000 per arpent together with accrued interests for period 23/24 May 2007/end June 2010 and that they be relocated at either Bois Marchand or Arsenal.

In addition to the compensation of Rs 120,000 per arpent and relocation, the planters are also entitled to support under the Food Security Fund for land preparation, fertilizers and seeds, upgrading of irrigation network, fencing and other upgrading works that may be necessary and which have been estimated to cost around Rs 120,000 per arpent. Such assistance has the advantage of providing the planters with the opportunity and better possibilities of continuing in their past activities in a conducive environment and not only continue earning their livelihood but also contribute to improve food security in Mauritius.

As for the remaining nine who had abandoned their land, they would be granted the cash compensation with accrued interest only. If these 9 ex-planters eventually decide to revert back to crop production, the grant to them of land and other facilities currently available under existing schemes at my Ministry will be considered. The compensation granted is in consonance with proposals made in the Noel/Ramkissoon report.

The report having been commissioned to enable Government to take a fair and just decision on this issue, I consider that it would neither be judicious nor appropriate to table or release the report. This would add to more confusion on the issue of fair and just compensation to all ex lease holders.

## **SCHOOLS – NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS – FORM III LEVEL**

**(No. 1B/216) Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill)**

asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to national examinations at Form III level, he will state –

- (a) the purpose thereof;
- (b) when they will be introduced, and
- (c) the options that will be offered to students who fail thereat.

*(Withdrawn)*

## **ROSE-HILL – MARKET TRADERS ASSOCIATION – PROTEST**

**(No. 1B/217) Mrs L. Ribot (Third Member for Stanley & Rose Hill)** asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether he will state if he is aware of the protest of the Market Traders Association in Rose Hill on 22 June 2010 in connection with the presence of street hawkers and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House obtain from the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin/Rose Hill, information as to the actions that will be taken in relation thereto.

**Reply:** I am informed by the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose-Hill that about four market traders out of 156 came on the road on 22 June 2010 from 10.30 hrs to 14.00 hrs to expose their vegetables to protest against the presence of some illegal hawkers selling a few vegetable items in the vicinity of the market.

I am also informed that control of hawkers is an ongoing exercise at the Municipal Council level with the assistance of the Police. On various occasions, many articles have been

confiscated and contraventions have been applied. For instance, from November 2009 to date, 101 cases have been established and 56 contraveners have been fined.

I am further informed that the Council has put a stand-by inspectorate service at some strategic places on Saturdays and during certain specific festivals such as Valentine Day, Rakhee, etc to check the presence of hawkers.

The control of hawkers throughout the township is being closely monitored. In view of solving this problem, the Council has resolved to look for the possibility of finding a permanent and suitable site to house the hawkers. I am informed that this exercise has already started.

### **FESTIVAL KREOL – SUM DISBURSED**

**(No. 1B/218) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose & Quatre Bornes)** asked the Minister of Tourism and Leisure whether, in regard to the last two editions of *Festival Kreol*, he will state the sum disbursed and paid to Check in Travel and any other company in respect of arrangements made for the accommodation of artists and other guests, giving details thereof.

**Reply:** I am informed that no payment was made to Check-in Travel in respect of arrangements made for accommodation for artists and guests for the last two editions of Festival Kreol.

However, an amount of Rs 103,500 was paid to Formatech Ltd in respect of arrangements made for the accommodation of around 170 visitors, comprising of 99 artists, 2 conference speakers and 68 international journalists for Festival International Kréol 2008.

I am further informed that no such payment was made for the 2009 edition of the Festival Kreol.