MAURITIUS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Questions of which notice has been given Requiring an Oral Answer Sitting of Tuesday 17 December 2024

<u>Questions addressed to Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands</u>

The Honourable Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (Mr Venkatasami)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to barristers and attorneys of the private practice whose services were retained by the former Commissioner of Police, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the (a) names thereof and (b) amount of fees paid thereto?

The Honourable Third Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or (Mr Etwareea)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to cases of alleged falsification of statistics in the recent years thereby projecting a different state of the economy, he will state if consideration will be given for the setting up of an enquiry thereinto?

The Honourable First Member for Savanne and Black River (Mr Babaiee)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the Property Development Scheme, he will state the amount of funds allocated to social projects thereunder for the past 10 years as provided for in Regulation 10(1) of the Investment Promotion (Property Development Scheme) Regulations 2015?

I B/43 The Honourable Fourth Member for Rodrigues (Mr Edouard)

> To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

> Whether, in regard to the construction of a new runway at the Plaine Corail Airport in Rodrigues, he will state (a) the terms and conditions of the financing Agreement thereof signed with the World Bank and (b) where matters stand, indicating the expected starting date thereof?

I B/44 The Honourable Second Member for Flacg and Bon Accueil (Mr Beechook)

> To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands -

> Whether, in regard to official missions undertaken by the former Speaker of the National Assembly between 19 July 2024 to 04 October 2024, he will state the (a) number thereof and (b) related expenses incurred therefor?

I B/45 The Honourable Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (Mr Venkatasami)

> To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

> Whether, in regard to the Gambling Regulatory Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to (a) the name of the legal adviser/s thereof from 2019 to date and fees payable thereto and (b) if Mr D. B., former Senior Adviser at the Prime Minister's Office, was a board member thereof, indicating (i) the dates thereof and (ii) total amount of money paid thereto?

I B/46 The Honourable Second Member for Rodrigues (Mr François)

> To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

> Whether, in regard to the amount of Rs 19 million earmarked in the 2024/2025 budget under the Small Development Projects (Indian Grants) for Rodrigues, he will state where matters stand as to the works/projects carried out thereunder as at date, indicating in each case the (a) contracts, if any, allocated thereunder (b) cost thereof and (c) expected completion date thereof?

The Honourable Fourth Member for Rodrigues (**Mr Edouard**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the domestic departure terminal for Rodrigues at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether access to the drop off at the external doors thereat is closed to passengers' vehicles and, if so, the reasons therefor, indicating if he will use his good office to request the relevant authority to extend accessibility to vehicles during drop off?

The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Dr Aumeer**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the Forensic Science Laboratory, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the (a) current staffing thereof and (b) number of cases referred thereto since the last 3 years, indicating the number which are (i) still pending (ii) related to drugs and (iii) awaiting DNA analysis?

The Honourable Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (Mr Jhummun)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the depreciation/devaluation of the Mauritian rupee since 2014, he will (a) state the number of times the relevant Authorities have intervened thereon and (b) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Bank of Mauritius, information as to the amount of foreign currencies injected in the market to regulate same, indicating (i) the source of such foreign currency reserve and (ii) if any shortage thereof is still prevailing in the market?

The Honourable Third Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or (Mr Etwareea)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the current economic situation, he will state the extent of debt burden on the economy in terms of interest and capital reimbursements for 2025 and 2026, respectively, indicating (a) the proposed reimbursement mechanism being envisaged therefor and (b) if any negotiations have been initiated with the International Monetary Fund for an eventual Stand-by Agreement?

The Honourable First Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East (Mr Baboolall)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the Safe City Project, he will state the number of cameras installed since the implementation thereof to date, indicating the (a) number thereof (i) in use and (ii) out of order and (b) total cost incurred thereunder as at to date?

The Honourable First Member for Piton and Rivière du Rempart (**Dr Prayag**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the case of alleged murder of late S. K., he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to where matters stand as to the inquiry initiated thereinto?

The Honourable Second Member for Flacq and Bon Accueil (Mr Beechook)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the cancellation of the Mystik Festival Musical Concert which was scheduled for Saturday 07 December 2024, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to the reasons for overturning the prior approval granted for the holding of the concert?

The Honourable Fourth Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (**Mr Adrien Duval**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands –

Whether, in regard to the Cabinet decision dated 25 October 2024 for arrangements to be made for the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into and report on the alleged misuse of telecommunications infrastructure and the publications and/or broadcast of alleged telephone conversations on social media and other platforms, he will state where matters stand?

Questions addressed to Honourable Ministers, other than to Dr the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands

The Honourable Second Member for Rodrigues (**Mr François**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries –

Whether, in regard to Santalum Album trees, commonly known as sandal wood, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Plant Protection Office and/or Conservator of Forestry Services, information as to (a) if any phytosanitary certificate for the exportation thereof from Rodrigues have been delivered from 2022 to date and, if so, indicate the (i) conditions attached thereto (ii) persons and companies holding same and (b) the volume of sandalwood to be or recently shipped from Rodrigues?

The Honourable Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (**Mr Jhummun**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Energy and Public Utilities –

Whether, in regard to the Rivière des Anguilles Dam, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the (a) amount disbursed for the construction thereof to date and (b) timeframe for the completion of works thereof?

The Honourable Third Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East (Mr Saumtally)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government –

Whether, in regard to roads at Camps la Serpe, chemin La Forge, MCB Road and chemin Cooperative in Bel Air, he will state if any survey has been carried out to assess the state thereof, indicating the estimated cost to be incurred for the reconstruction thereof?

The Honourable Third Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East (Mr Saumtally)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resource –

Whether he will state if consideration will be given for the conversion of the Sebastopol MITD into a State Secondary School for the benefit of students in the regions of Sebastopol, Mont Ida and Olivia?

The Honourable Second Member for Rodrigues (Mr François)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries –

Whether, in regard to Port Mathurin Port Development Master Plan, he will state where matters stand as to the implementation thereof?

The Honourable Third Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (Mr Ramdass)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports -

Whether, in regard to illegal rallies and motor racing in public places and along public roads, he will state if his Ministry will consider coming up with a legal framework for the proper control of such activity to reduce the risks of accidents?

The Honourable Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (Mr Jhummun)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resource –

Whether, in regard to State Secondary Academies and Regional Schools, he will state the yearly intake of boys and girls at Grade 10 level, respectively, since the implementation thereof to date, indicating if his Ministry proposes the phasing out thereof and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Second Member for Flacq and Bon Accueil (Mr Beechook)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness –

Whether, in regard to the Sir Anerood Jugnauth Hospital at Constance, he will state if his Ministry has carried out a comprehensive audit of the hospital and, if so, indicate the issues identified and the remedial actions being envisaged therefor?

The Honourable Second Member for Flacq and Bon Accueil (Mr Beechook)

To ask the Honourable Minister of National Infrastructure –

Whether, in regard to drain projects undertaken by the Land Drainage Authority and the Drains Infrastructure Construction Ltd., since 2018 to date, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the respective date thereof and the associated costs therefor in each case?

The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Dr Aumeer**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Energy and Public Utilities –

Whether, in regard to the Central Water Authority, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the (a) reasons for the resignation of the Chief Internal Auditor in June 2024 and (b) number of staff who (i) have resigned and (ii) are on leave without pay, since January 2023 to date, indicating if any case of constructive dismissal has been lodged against the Authority?

The Honourable First Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East (**Mr Baboolall**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government –

Whether, in regard to the new market fair in Bel Air, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the District Council of Flacq, information as to (a) the mechanism put in place for the allocation of stalls thereat (b) the number of stalls not yet allocated and (c) why priority was not given for the allocation of stalls thereat to existing vegetable sellers who have been operating in the old market fair for more than forty years?

The Honourable Second Member for Savanne and Black River (Mr Jugurnauth)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Land Transport –

Whether, in regard to the National Transport Corporation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to (a) the financial status thereof from January 2020 to 30 June 2024, indicating the total amount of subsidy granted by Government thereto for the same period and (b) current state of the fleet thereof?

The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Dr Aumeer**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness –

Whether, in regard to the General Workers at his Ministry, he will state the date for the holding of the last three recruitment exercises thereof, indicating in each case the (a) date of advertisement thereof (b) number thereof recruited and (c) conditions of service thereof?

The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (**Mr Seeburn**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning –

Whether, in regard to the Insurance Industry Compensation Fund, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the amount of funds available under the Hit and Run Sub Fund, indicating the total amount disbursed for the year 2023-2024 (a) to victims of accidents as compensation and (b) as expenses?

The Honourable Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (Ms Daureeawo)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation –

Whether, in regard to digital innovation/transformation towards Industrial Revolution 5.0, he will state the measures being envisaged to harness the full potential of Mauritius as a digital hub in the region of Africa to achieve same?

The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (**Mr Seeburn**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government –

Whether, in regard to the ongoing renovation of the football ground in Bois Des Amourettes, he will state where matters stand, indicating the (a) scope of work thereof and (b) expected completion date thereof?

The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (Mr Seeburn)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Energy and Public Utilities –

Whether, in regard to the new water pipes being currently installed along coastal road of Grand Port, Anse Jonchée and Bambous Virieux, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to where matters stand, indicating the expected completion date thereof?

The Honourable Third Member for Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East (Mr Saumtally)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Energy and Public Utilities –

Whether, in regard to the regular interruption in water supply in several areas in Constituency No. 10, Montagne Blanche and Grand River South East, he will (a) for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Central Water Authority, information as to the measures being envisaged to alleviate the burden of the inhabitants thereof and (b) state if consideration will be given for the construction of a dam in the region of Pont Lardieu as a long term solution?

The Honourable Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes (Ms Anquetil)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Local Government –

Whether, in regard to SMK Navin Soonarane Gymnasium located at Ebène, he will state if same is still homologated for volley ball tournaments and, if not, why not?

The Honourable First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (Mrs Savabaddy)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness –

Whether, in regard to the Montagne Longue Hospital, he will state the (a) operating hours thereof (b) facilities available and services provided thereat and (c) number of patients treated thereat over the last two years?

The Honourable Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (Ms Daureeawo)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations –

Whether, in regard to escalators or lifts placed in public places, he will state if consideration will be given for (a) the regulation thereof to ascertain the safety of such facilities in public places and (b) regular site visits or inspections to be effected thereon to ascertain the safety of the users thereof?

The Honourable Fourth Member of Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (Mr Adrien Duval)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection –

Whether, in regard to the proposed reduction in the price of Mogas and diesel, he will state where matters stand?

The Honourable Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (Ms Daureeawo)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness –

Whether, in regard to the procurement of 1,000,000 Molnupiravir capsules at Rs 79.92 each, he will state if (a) an inquiry is being conducted thereinto by his Ministry and, if so, indicate if the report will be made public and (b) any Police enquiry has been initiated thereinto and/or case lodged before the court in relation thereto?

The Honourable Second Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (**Mr Jhummun**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of National Infrastructure –

Whether, in regard to the maintenance of drains in Constituency No. 13, Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Land Drainage Authority, information as to where matters stand therefor in view of the upcoming rainy season, indicating the amount disbursed since January 2020 to date?

The Honourable Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (Mr Venkatasami)

To ask the Honourable Minister of National Infrastructure –

Whether, in regard to the pedestrian bridge used by the inhabitants of St Pierre Centre and Cité Myosotis to go to the St Pierre Roman Catholic Aided school and which was damaged during the passage of cyclone Belal in January 2024, he will state (a) where matters stand as to the reconstruction thereof, indicating the reason for the delay therefor and (b) if a risk assessment has been carried out whereby pedestrians in particular, children who have to cross the river without any security protection to attend school?

The Honourable Second Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or (Mr Beejan)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Land Transport –

Whether, in regard to irregular transport services in the regions of Melle Jeanne, Madame Azor, Melville and Poudre D'Or Village, he will state the measures being envisaged to remedy same?

The Honourable Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (Mr Seeburn)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Financial Services and Economic Planning –

Whether, in regard to motor vehicles damaged during the passage of cyclone Belal, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Financial Services Commission, information as to the criteria used to determine the extent and cost of repairs thereof, indicating (a) the total amount of funds disbursed therefor (b) other type of compensation paid, if any and (c) if insurance companies were involved in the assessment of all individual claims prior to payment being effected to the victims and, if not, why not?

The Honourable First Member for Savanne and Black River (Mr Babajee)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands –

Whether he will state if the company Smart Clinics has obtained the lease of two arpents of *Pas Géometrique* at Colonel Dean Street in Black River and, if so, table the conditions of the lease agreement therefor?

The Honourable Third Member for Grand' Baie and Poudre d'Or (Mr Etwareea)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports –

Whether, in regard to football pitch and other playgrounds, in particular, in the regions of Grand Bay and Petit Raffray falling under the purview of his Ministry, he will state if consideration will be given for the waiving of fees payable to access same?

The Honourable Third Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle (Mr Ramdass)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Land Transport –

Whether, in regard to the irregular bus services in the regions of St Hubert, St Hilaire, Beau Jardin and Deux Bras, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Land Transport Authority, information as to whether consideration will be given for the provision of a regular bus service along Route No 87 St Hubert/Curepipe and Route No 11 St Hubert/Mahebourg, respectively?

I B/85 The Honourable Third Member for Rodrigues (Mrs Henriette-Manan)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection –

Whether, in regard to the high increase in average prices of selected commodities, he will state if (a) his Ministry proposes to introduce any new policy, subsidy or financial relief package aimed at supporting vulnerable populations, such as low-income households and small businesses and (b) consideration will be given to extend same to Rodrigues due to the high freight rate resulting in higher increase in prices?

The Honourable Third Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central (**Dr Aumeer**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness –

Whether, in regard to the diagnostic and therapeutic equipment lying dormant at the National Cancer Centre, he will state if (a) a report on the status thereof was carried out in July 2024 and, if so, by whom, indicating the actions taken, if any, at the material time and (b) the recent visit effected thereat revealed any progress as to the use thereof, indicating the number thereof found defective?

The Honourable Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac (Ms Daureeawo)

To ask the Honourable Attorney-General –

Whether, in regard to the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, he will state if consideration will be given for the introduction thereof on a priority basis at the National Assembly and, if so, the expected date thereof?

The Honourable First Member for Rodrigues (**Ms Collet**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Housing and Lands –

Whether, in regard to assistance extended for the repair of damaged concrete housing units and/or rusty Corrugated Iron Sheets housing units, he will state if his Ministry proposes to revisit the national policy or devise such a policy to meet the needs for a proper shelter for vulnerable families, indicating if the policy will be extended to potential beneficiaries in Rodrigues?

The Honourable First Member for Piton and Rivière du Rempart (**Dr Prayag**)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Health and Wellness –

Whether, in regard to waiting hours in public hospitals, he will state if a survey has been carried out thereinto and, if so, indicate the (a) average waiting time upon a patient being advised for admission and the time admitted to the ward (b) hours spent by an inpatient on being discharged and the time the latter leaves the ward?

The Honourable Second Member for Rodrigues (Mr François)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports –

Whether, in regard to the first FIFA Indian Ocean Youth Festival to be held from 16 to 22 December 2024 in Madagascar, he will state (a) if FIFA will bear the full cost of participation therein (b) the countries invited to participate thereinto and (c) if invitation to participate thereinto was extended to Rodrigues and, if so, is participation thereto being envisaged and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Third Member for Quartier Militaire and Moka (Mr Venkatasami)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Land Transport –

Whether, in regard to Driving Instructor's Licence granted in June 2024, he will state the number of applications received therefor, indicating the number of (a) successful candidates thereof and (b) licences not yet granted as at date, indicating the reasons therefor, if any?

The Honourable First Member for Savanne and Black River (Mr Babajee)

To ask the Honourable Minister of National Infrastructure –

Whether, in regard to the villages of Tamarin, La Preneuse and Black River, he will state if his Ministry is in presence of any project for the construction of a bypass in the region of Yemen to alleviate the heavy traffic thereat, indicating if a feasibility study has already been carried out in that regard?

The Honourable Third Member for Flacq and Bon Accueil (Mr Ramkalawon)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries –

Whether, in regard to the coming into operation of the National Wholesale Market at Wooton in 2023, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the modalities put in place for the auctions of vegetables and fruits thereat, indicating if (a) the purpose for the setting up thereof has been achieved and (b) new measures are being envisaged to review the mode of operation thereof?

The Honourable First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue (**Mrs Savabaddy**)

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Education and Human Resource –

Whether, in regard to the proposed phasing out of the Extended Programme, he will state if consultations with stakeholders, including employees, are being held to identify equitable solutions for those affected therewith, indicating the measures being envisaged to support the (a) employees of the National Social Inclusion Foundation currently working thereunder and the redeployment plan thereof, if any and (b) students currently enrolled under the said Programme?

The Honourable Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes (Ms Anquetil)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Commerce and Consumer Protection –

Whether, in regard to the State Trading Corporation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the list of legal advisors thereof, indicating in each case the remuneration drawn/fees paid thereto for the period December 2014 to November 2024?

Navin Gopall
Acting Clerk of the National Assembly

Parliament House
Port Louis

13 December 2024