

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CYCLONE KALUNDE – DONATION BY CHAIRMAN OF MHC

(No. B/301) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the visit of the Prime Minister in the aftermath of cyclone Kalunde, he could state -

- (a) the value of the cheque received from the latter at the Passenger Terminal Building;
- (b) the amount of money already disbursed;
- (c) what was the objective of that donation, and
- (d) the measures he was taking to meet that objective.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, during the visit of the Prime Minister to Rodrigues in the aftermath of cyclone Kalunde, the Chairman of the Mauritius Housing Corporation, Dr. M. Khodabacus, donated a cheque worth Rs150,000 to the Prime Minister's Cyclone Kalunde Relief Fund which is managed in Mauritius by the Prime Minister's Office.

I regret being unable to provide any additional information on this Prime Minister's Cyclone Kalunde Relief Fund.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I want to know whether there were other donations, because here I have in mind the donation from the Prime Minister.

Mr Chairperson: But this falls outside the ambit of your question. So, you will have to give notice of this.

RODENTS AND CAMALEONS - PROLIFERATION

(No. B/302) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the proliferation of rodents and "*Camaléons*" in Rodrigues, he would –

- (a) say, if they represented a danger to our flora and fauna, and, if yes;
- (b) state the measures he intended to take to have them under control.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the proliferation of rodents does represent a danger to the flora and fauna of Rodrigues in the sense that they sometimes feed on seeds of native plants and destroy eggs of native birds.

As far as “*Camaléons*” are concerned, I am informed that not much is known about the danger they can cause to the flora and fauna. I am, further, informed that the situation is under control and is being closely monitored by the Forestry Services.

As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that a campaign for the eradication of rodents and cats on Cocos & Sable islets was positively undertaken in November, 1995 by scientists from the National Parks and Conservation Service of Mauritius in collaboration with the Forestry Services of Rodrigues. The matter has been referred to the Forestry Services and the Agricultural Services to assess whether the need is felt to reactivate a similar campaign on the mainland. Moreover, the installation of rat-proof fence is being tested by the National Parks & Conservation Service and the Mauritius Wild Life Foundation in areas where habitat restoration is being carried out in Mauritius. Should that type of fence be efficient, my Commission will then introduce same in Rodrigues. Moreover, the possibility of carrying out research on the impact of “*camaléons*” on the flora and fauna is being looked into.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairman, Sir, I thank the Deputy Chief Commissioner for his decision to look into that problem. In fact I am much more concerned about the problem caused by “*Camaleons*” because there are many cases where planters, beekeepers have complained that these creatures cause damage to their beehives, to their plantations, to their eggs, to orchards. Is he prepared to consider this as a matter of urgency? Because even in winter we can see that these creatures have increased considerably. And we know that in the hot season they have a tendency to increase more rapidly. So, that’s why I would ask him to look into the matter urgently by seeking advice from experts or do the work locally.

Secondly, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would ask him whether studies have been carried out in order to see how these creatures have been introduced in Rodrigues, because now we have got rodents?

Mr Chairperson: Now you must differentiate between “*Camaleons*” and rodents.

Mr Jabeemissar: Les *rats musqués* as far as rodents are concerned. This has become alarming – I am sure he knows that the situation has become alarming. It concerns *Camaleons* as well. So, the question is: have researches have been carried out to see how they were introduced in Rodrigues and whether he is going to set up phytosanitary control in order to prevent this from worsening in the future?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand the worry of the respected member. We have been advised that there are certain biochemicals that

can be used to kill *cameleons*. But my Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of environment in Mauritius, is checking whether these bio-chemicals will have an adverse effect on the environment. Moreover, we are looking into the possibility of doing a study on the impact of *cameleons* in Rodrigues and the results of such a study will give us more light on how to tackle the problem. Nowadays we are having different trips by boat between Mauritius and Rodrigues. Perhaps, through pipes and containers, rats and *camaleons* have got into Rodrigues. But with the masterplan for the port and airport, we will look into the possibility of setting up a phytosanitary section to look into the matter.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether there is a special unit in the agricultural section to check the proliferation of rodents and *cameleons* in Rodrigues?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I take notice of this question and I'll look into the matter.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, given the impact of these exotic species of *Cameleons*, etc in Rodrigues, which I believe did not exist some years ago, can I ask him - since he admitted that there is a possibility that these species have been introduced accidentally - what control measures are there specifically at the port and airport regarding control of these species, particularly *cameleons*?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware of the control measures. But as I have said in the masterplan for the port and the airport that is being constructed, the possibility of setting up a phytosanitary section is being looked into.

MT. CABRIS RESERVOIR

(No. B/303) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to Mt. Cabris Reservoir (Grand La Fouche Corail), he would say –

- (a) if it was now operational and, if not, give the reasons therefor; and
- (b) if consumers who received water from that reservoir were adequately supplied with water and at what frequency.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the reservoir at Mt. Cabris has not been operational since the beginning of July, 2003 due to damage to the liner of the reservoir. In order to avoid undue hardship to the consumers who receive water from that reservoir, the pipeline feeding the reservoir has been diverted and connected directly to the water distribution network. The frequency of

water supply is at present about 18 to 22 days and will be shortened once the reservoir is operational. The reservoir is expected to be operational within the next two weeks.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has said that the problem will be solved in 2 or 3 weeks. But lately we have been supplied with water for an average of one month in that region. This causes a lot of problems being given that when the reservoir was not operational, these people had difficulty to get water. Now when water was distributed lately, the amount given was supplied for one or two weeks only. And we have been informed that there will be another supply soon. People in the region are waiting for it. When we enquired from the Water Unit at La Ferme, nobody was able to explain the situation correctly. That's why I would ask him to inform the House whether these measures can be looked into urgently, because the situation is alarming. What about the use of the water tankers? Could this be used in order to supply water to places where there still exists water in the fibre glass tanker?

Mr Chairperson: The member does not believe in the two weeks!

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: There has been a problem with the water distribution in that region, because the damage to the liner was being investigated. Now that it has been assessed, the matter is being considered urgently to restore the situation.

Mr Jabeemissar: Yes, Mr Chairperson, sir, I would wish the Deputy Chief Commissioner to be a little bit clearer. He says the liner, does he mean the main liner from the distribution line, the whole network, or is it not the reservoir itself? I have been informed that there is a problem with the reservoir. Could he give more information?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: When I said liner it is the membrane in the reservoir; the corrugated iron sheet reservoir has a membrane in which water is stored. It is the membrane which has been torn off.

Mr J. Roussety: There has been mention of an investigation, can we know the nature of this investigation?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The investigation is in respect of checks in the reservoir to know whether the liner has been torn. There was leakage of water and the workers from the Water Unit were looking into the matter.

Mr J. Roussety: This reservoir, I believe, has been built quite recently. Would he admit that there have been structural faults in the construction of these reservoirs?

Mr Chairperson: This is not strictly related to the main question. Yes, the Deputy Chairperson will ...

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this reservoir, that is, Montagne Cabris Reservoir, among others which was constructed I don't know when, often have problems. Can the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether in Rodrigues we have sufficient expertise and materials to cater for repairs whenever such reservoirs face problems? As regards the one at Papayes, has it been repaired since or is it in the same situation as the one at Montagne Cabris?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The repairs to such reservoirs will depend on the extent of the damage. The damage in the Montagne Cabris Reservoir is minor and we have expertise to repair it. But if the damage is of a greater extent such as the one at Papayes, we need overseas expertise to deal with it.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Deputy Chief Commissioner has mentioned investigation. Can we know from him how much time this investigation has taken?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I do not have the exact duration. But it lasted from 2 to 3 weeks.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, given that the investigation is not very complex and the needed repairs are not also very complex, can I ask him, given the hardship being faced by these people, who have water after one month, which is unacceptable, Mr. Chairperson, Sir ...

Mr Chairperson: The one-month comes from a statement made by the Second Local Region for La Ferme. But the answer is eighteen to twenty days. So, you have to be precise.

Mr J. Roussety: The official answer would be 18 to 20 days. The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme, elected there in September, was there on a daily basis and he is aware of the problem very well; he has formulated his question and he says that it is thirty (30) days. The House is free to believe who they want. But my question is: given this simple problem with the reservoir, given the availability of materials and funds, given the hardship these persons are facing, - I don't know the number, but I believe there are babies, old persons - can I ask him when he intends to get this reservoir repaired and when these persons will be supplied with water on a more regular basis?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I have said the normal frequency of water supply when there is water shortage is 18 to 20 days. But there was a problem with the distribution, because damage was under investigation. The matter is being considered as an urgent case and the reservoir will be repaired very soon.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I don't know whether my question is directly related to the main question, but in fact, it is part of the cause of that problem. Everyday, since the beginning of this week, at 7 o'clock in the morning, the Water Unit at La Ferme receives calls and personal visits about the problem of water. I am sure that this is caused by Mt. Cabris Reservoir. Is the Deputy Chief Commissioner aware of that situation and, if not, is he going to investigate to see how many complaints the Water Unit of La Ferme receives everyday, during the period of one week, since the Mt. Cabris reservoir is not operational?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, as the member said, we are aware. This is why we are considering the matter as an urgent case.

WATER UNIT - WATER TANKERS

(No. B/304) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the water tankers in the service of the Water Unit, he would say –

- (a) how many there were in all and how many were operational;
- (b) whether they operated everyday and table a list of households/institutions or villages they currently supply with water, and
- (c) whether there were sufficient drivers for them, and, if not, give the reasons therefor.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, I am informed that there are nine water lorries which have been allocated to serve the Water Unit especially during drought season. I am informed that presently three lorries are operational, four on breakdown and two are beyond repairs. These water tanks operate on daily basis and during weekends if need be. I am tabling a list of institution/villages being currently supplied with water tankers. There are sufficient drivers for the water tankers.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding the last part of his answer, is he referring to the three lorries which are operational? Do we have drivers for these three or do we have drivers for the nine lorries when they are all operational? Could the Deputy Chief Commissioner be more precise about it?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, we have nine drivers when the nine lorries are operational.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner where are the three lorries which are operational posted?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Two (2) of them are posted at La Ferme and one (1) of them is operational at Plaine Corail, Airport.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, being given the problem of water I have just mentioned, if all these lorries were operational, I am sure this would have been of great help to these localities. May I know since when these lorries have broken down or been out of operation? I can assure him that right now until the end of December, we'll be facing problems of water, because our rivers are starting to dry up and if things are not done properly right now, he will get into trouble.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: The lorries broke down on 31 July 2003, 23 May 2003, 07 February 2003. They are awaiting spare parts.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can we know from the Deputy Chief Commissioner when all these lorries will be operational? Is there any deadline?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: I cannot fix a deadline, because we are awaiting spare parts. Some of these are not available on the market in Mauritius. The lorries are old ones.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as we are all aware, since the beginning of this Assembly, questions have been raised on the problem of water. I know that for the long term, there are many things which have been started. We hope that in the long term we'll reach the objectives. But as far as the day-to-day situation is concerned, Mr Chairperson, Sir, everyday we cannot live in such a situation.

I know that in this budget no provision has been made for the purchase of water tankers and so on. Mr Chairperson, Sir, would the Deputy Chief Commissioner look into other ways and means, apart from waiting for the repairs of these lorries, to have additional ones?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As we received these lorries in reconditioned state - they are old lorries, ten years old - my Commission is planning to hire private water tankers in the short term so as to provide water to those regions which are in need.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is quite astonishing to see from the information tabled that there are 4 villages, 80 households, 9 government institutions, including the Regional Assembly being supplied by only 3 lorries. I believe there is no water today in the House. Can I ask him objectively whether that is sufficient?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the question has already been answered. The Commission is doing its best to provide water in that region. I think that after repairs, the situation will return to normal.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, everything is subjective in his answers. He says very soon, after repairs! All these persons are waiting. Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would ask again: are these 3 lorries sufficient, given the workload assigned to them?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are planning for other alternatives, that is, to hire private water tankers to compensate for the problem of breakdown of lorries. We have no alternative as at now but to hire private lorries; and my Commission will not buy other lorries, because we are trying to tackle the problem of water on a three-front basis so that all Rodriguans can have water from taps on a regular basis.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, will the Deputy Chief Commissioner agree with me that hiring private lorries is an alternative, but does it not give way to more public expenditure? Because we know that in the past - I am not going to mention corruption – this could lead to mishandling the situation?

The Chief Commissioner: This is not allowed; this is imputation.

Mr Jabeemissar: Well, will he see to it that whenever he grants permits to private lorries, they give value for money so that the real beneficiaries get the water they deserve? I am not going to impute motives. But I am sure that if things are not done properly there is a risk...

(Interruptions)

He knows what I want to say.

Mr Chairperson: You want to say or you want to ask? The Deputy Chief Commissioner has understood the question.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes. Mr Chairperson, Sir, I take note of the comments of the respected member and I will look into the matter.

BAIE DU NORD/GRAND LA FOUCHE CORAIL/LA FERME - MAIN ROAD - HEAVY VEHICLES

(No. B/305) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member for La Ferme) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to heavy vehicles using the main road from Baie du Nord to Grand La Fouche orail via La Ferme, he could

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- (a) make a statement on the measures his Commission had just taken concerning same; and
- (b) say whether strict safety measures were always being observed as regards their loads and the speed on that road and, if not, what he intended to do to remedy same.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the house that following several petitions by the Parent/Teacher's Association of St. Esprit RCA School and the village committee of La Ferme, the Road Safety Committee has decided to forbid all heavy vehicles along the main road starting from Terre Borne up to the junction near La Ferme Sport Complex. This measure has been taken for the safety of the pupils of the St. Esprit RCA School, and for those attending mass at St. Esprit Church as well as pedestrians along the main road in front of La Ferme hospital. Heavy vehicles coming from Baie du Nord proceeding towards Grand La Fouche Corail and then returning from Grand La Fouche Corail are now diverted via Pistache.

I am, further, informed by the Police that patrols are regularly carried out to ensure that existing regulations are complied with. The possibility of procuring weighing devices to ensure that loads are being complied with are being discussed at the Road Safety Committee and a decision will be taken shortly.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand that his Commission has taken a wise decision in order to divert the flow of traffic. Could the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether this applies also to long vehicles? Because I am sure that long vehicles are as dangerous as heavy vehicles and many of them frequently use that road. Secondly, does he intend to take long-term measures to tar the newly ½ km road linking Piment to Grand la Fouche Corail as this would alleviate the problem to a great extent?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this decision applies to lorries which are carrying rocks and other building materials. But it does not apply to buses, because you have passengers on the way. The question of tarring that part of the road will be looked into in the next financial year.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether any survey has been carried out on the new access road for lorries? Because there are many blind corners.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: All complaints relating to these matters are handled by the Traffic Branch of the Police.

RIVIERE COCO AND CITRON DONIS VILLAGES - POVERTY

(No. B/306) Mr G. Jabeemissar (Second Local Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Family Welfare and Community Development whether, in view of the acute poverty prevailing in the villages of Riviere Coco and Citron Donis, she could say –

- (a) what strategies she had evolved to deal with the situations, and
- (b) whether she intended to supplement the efforts deployed by her colleague, the Commissioner for Education, within the ZEP Scheme.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson Sir, with respect to part (a) of the question, a number of poverty alleviation programmes have been set up by the Government to provide support to the poorest segment of the populations including those living in the villages of Riviere Coco and Citron Donis. These programmes are –

- (a) The Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups;
- (b) A Poverty Alleviation Programme “A Nou Diboute Ensam”;
- (c) IFAD Community Development Programme; and
- (d) Fight Against Exclusion in Rodrigues, “Levé Deboute”.

Mr Chairperson Sir, you may recall that in the reply to Question B/2 addressed to me by the Minority Leader, I gave full details of the scope of the activities of those programmes.

Moreover, Mr Chairperson, Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that the Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs and the European Union are carrying out a study to perform a Decentralised Co-operation Programme for Poverty Alleviation to be financed under the 9th EDF allocation to the Republic of Mauritius. The programme intervention area will include Rodrigues.

With respect to part (b) of the question, Mr Chairperson Sir, there is no provision for any specific programme apart from those I just mentioned. Yet it is to be noted that the “Zone d’Education Prioritaire” project which has been launched is a comprehensive one which is being implemented under the National Educational Programme both in Mauritius and Rodrigues.

(Interruptions)

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: M. le Président, je disais que le membre qui m’a posé cette question me demandait si c’était une stratégie pour réduire la pauvreté que d’organiser des festivités dans le cadre de la journée Internationale de la famille.

Mr Chairperson: But you will have to be very brief, because I have overruled this sort of ironical and offensive insinuations that have been mentioned by him.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Alors, je pense que j’avais presque terminé de répondre. Je disais donc que la journée internationale de la famille est célébrée internationalement de

la manière que chaque gouvernement pense qu'il doit le faire. Même la société civile peut le faire et je ne pense pas que Rodrigues soit si petite, si insignifiante pour le faire. Nous l'avons fait prenant un thème qui divise les familles rodriguaises, à savoir la participation trop restrictive, trop minime des hommes au niveau de la famille et de la communauté, et la différence qu'il y a de plus en plus entre les générations. C'est ces deux thèmes qui avaient été utilisés. Nous savons bien que la formation n'est pas palpable et qu'on ne voit pas les résultats tout de suite. Mais c'est une manière effective, moi je pense, d'éradiquer la pauvreté. Quand il y a la formation il y a l'instruction et il y a l'éducation. Et c'est justement ces aspects là que nous avons pris en considération.

D'ailleurs, moi je pense qu'il ne faut pas mélanger les sujets. La journée internationale de la famille, c'est une journée internationale décrétée par les Nations Unies à travers son assemblée générale à laquelle participe Maurice. On a vu son bienfondé pour toutes les sociétés du monde. Je pense que cela a son influence au-delà de la pauvreté. Elle a son influence sur la paix sociale.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I thank the Commissioner for her explanations. But given the fact that the living conditions of many people of that region are below standard, could the Commissioner declare that region as *Zone de Pauvreté Prioritaire*?

Mr Chairperson: Is it *Zone d'Education Prioritaire*?

Mr Agathe: *Zone de pauvreté Prioritaire*, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: M. le Président, comme je l'ai dit dans ma réponse, tous les villages de Rodrigues même Port Mathurin sont pauvres, à des degrés variables. Nous n'avons pas d'étude spécifique pour dire que ces deux villages sont les plus pauvres. Nous savons bien qu'à Rivière Cocos, par exemple, il y a un certain nombre d'infrastructures et de structures sociales. Ce village est parmi les plus privilégiés en terme d'infrastructure sociale. Il y a les écoles, les centres communautaires, la poste ; les artères principales sont asphaltées ; il y a l'église et même un cimetière, des infrastructures sportives. Je pense que la demande devrait être individuelle et de groupe. Les gens doivent venir de l'avant et je pense tout le temps que ces membres représentent ce village. Ils ont bien le droit d'avancer des thèmes.

Nous sommes les représentants de beaucoup de régions ici et peut être, beaucoup de ces villages pourraient venir nous demander les mêmes questions. Alors je pense que la question ne se pose pas. L'approche envers la pauvreté doit être égale et équitable pour tous les villages.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues, according to a study, is the poorest region in Mauritius. Citron Donis is the poorest among the poorest; so there is a problem there. *Zone de Pauvreté Prioritaire*, perhaps she has not understood the concept. I think that we must have a study. Can the Commissioner look into the matter, please?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I think you would recall, I have just mentioned in one of the answers to questions that the member asked, that we are negotiating with international funding agencies for specific studies on poverty, zooming down to the villages.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in her introduction to her answer she said that even in the richest countries, there is poverty. I don't know whether this is an acceptance of poverty here in Rodrigues, but I would believe that the policy should be different. We cannot accept poverty. At the grassroots level, from the answers which have been given, I understand that in these two localities - and in Rodrigues in general - poor people don't make enough moves towards poverty alleviation programmes implemented by international organisations.

Can I ask her, at the level of her Commission or at the level of all these programmes, what grassroots mechanisms are there, if any, to see to it that the poor people are being touched by these programmes and are these mechanisms efficient?

Mr Chairperson: Yes, the question is what are these mechanisms and are they efficient?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes, Mr Chairperson, Sir, at grassroots level we have a number of organisations, we have, for example, the RCSS which has 101 villages and these villages have their executive coordinating branches. They all come upward and at the mother level of the RCSS, that is, they bring their representatives there to represent people at executive level. We in government liaise with RCSS. But we have also a co-ordinating committee on poverty and a Commissioners' Committee on Poverty. What we do is that we co-ordinate the NGO's. I personally go the villages with the technicians and conduct meetings. I talk to people on radio, at their own level and inform them of the spectrum of projects that there are and what steps they should take to benefit from them.

Mr J. Roussety: Effectiveness, Mr Chairperson, Sir?

Mr Chairperson: I understand this is a question.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes, well I consider that the efficiency of the mechanisms, as I said, will depend on the people themselves. We have, e.g at 'Levé Debout' level, the IFAD Community Development Project has negotiated and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 'Levé Debout' as far as identification is concerned. And in parallel to the NGO's, the 'Levé Debout' is conducting another Committee, including all the NGOs at regional level. Politicians are excluded from these mechanisms. Only representatives of NGOs which are non-political are involved. All these NGOs send representatives to this Committee and together they discuss their priorities at their village level. Then they come forward to the Coordinating Committee on community

development. Then they tell us the requirements at grassroots level. Then the regional government against a macroeconomic background sees how these can be implemented and generally these projects are approved.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I understand there is no specific policy for these villages. I understand also that there is a multiplicity of programmes touching these two villages. This causes a sort of imbroglio. What is the role of the Commission in defining things? Because we have 'Levé Debout', Trust Fund, UNDP, IFAD, RCSS and others. This creates a big imbroglio. People don't know where to go for their specific needs. So at her level what is being done in these villages, to stay within the limits of the question, to dissipate such uncertainties? Because the people don't recognise themselves. So, what is being done at the level of her Commission to improve the effectiveness of these programmes?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, first I never said that people did not participate. It was found in the question of Mr Agathe. I never said that people did not participate. What I said is that I call on people who feel the need to come forward with their proposals. This is one thing. As regards what is done, I just said, we are coordinating all these funds. Another thing is that all their funds are operating at grassroots level. If people are participating, they will naturally understand the objectives of these Funds. As you will see, there is a multiplicity of Funds, but the objectives also are multiple. And the different Funds that come here have their own objectives. They do a survey, they talk to people, to government before they come forward with their specific plans. Their plans have a number of objectives. You have microcredit like I said; I also said there are projects that address the need for socio-economic infrastructure. So, people that participate either at regional, local or at micro-economic level understand these objectives.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I have more precision of strategies at macro-economic level in these policies?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: We have Funds intervening in all localities. People at Citron Donis and Rivière Cocos must come forward and spell out their needs. All the projects in which they believe and which are viable will be considered.

Mr Grandcourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, from the answer of the Commissioner for Family Welfare, it appears no study has been carried out to evaluate poverty in the villages. Can I ask her when she is going through a survey to assess the level of poverty in these villages?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Well, we are coming forward at the macro-level with a project which has just been started. It is called the Integrated Plan Project for sustainable development in Rodrigues. This project will take into consideration the different regions

and all the stakeholders in Rodrigues. But apart from that, we are negotiating with international Funds viz UNDP for a specific project pertaining to the study of poverty in detail. Because we have a number of plans, programmes, *par exemple le projet Présidentiel pour l'exclusion de la pauvreté qui a été lancé et qui prend en consideration l'aspect Rodrigues*. But it is more or less an aerial study. We are negotiating for a specific study.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has just said that these people have to identify their needs. If they are poor, Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is because these people cannot identify their needs. Therefore, there are so many NGOs who are helping people everywhere in Rodrigues. Are they playing their roles properly so as to help people identify their needs? How could you explain that one person in Citron Donis is living in an abandoned latrine? Is it not a shame?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please!

Mr Jabeemissar: What is her Commission doing to monitor these poor people? The question focuses Citron Donis and Rivière Coco. But you have responsibility for the whole of Rodrigues. Hence, the question. How are the NGOs doing their work without *being tirés par les ficelles*?

Mr Chairperson: I don't think this question may be allowed. The NGOs are not under the control of the Commissioner unless the Commissioner wishes to give an answer.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: An idea has just crossed my mind. People on the other side of the House should put specific questions to me. You put ten questions in one global question. How do you want me to answer that? But as regards, NGOs, they are registered with the Registrar of Associations. We do not control NGOs, we can only co-ordinate them. The other thing, I said at Citron Donis and at Rivière Cocos, there are a number of *forces vives*. These people cannot be dragged into NGOs. You have, e.g the village committees. There is the *caisse villageoise* in these two villages for micro schemes. These people can put their projects forward. I cannot go and drag people to go to the NGOs. They must identify the NGO that can meet their needs. In Rodrigues if you don't want to go to Regional NGOs, you can go to national ones. There are a number of them. Only at woman level we have 108 NGOs. At RCSS level we have 101 NGOs. Then you have a number of NGOs which are registered with the Registrar of Associations.

Ces personnes doivent faire la démarche de vouloir sortir de la pauvreté. Naturellement, nous offrons toutes les facilités, mais c'est à ces gens d'aller vers les endroits où ils trouvent qu'il y a des possibilités, parce que nous ne pouvons pas aller identifier leurs besoins exactes. Ces fonds d'aide sont signés avec le gouvernement. Mais

il y a des accords qui disent qu'il faut absolument pour que cela ait une légitimité que les gens soient regroupés dans des ONGs.

If people don't make the move themselves, they won't be able to get out of poverty. I can tell you there are so many projects that people can implant in villages. I can go in Rivière Cocos and Citron Donis and say I want to have a Community Centre there. But if people do not feel this is a need, they might ignore this social infrastructure. That is why we say that people must identify their needs and they then will own the project and understand the hardship involved in organising, and co-ordinating things. They will put their heart into it and they will have the drive to get out of poverty.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there has been a study. I refer to the reply given to question B/282. There has been a problem with ZEP and the reasons are poverty and monoparental families. This is why the question is being asked. Now Rs1.2 m have been earmarked in the budget 2003 – 2004 for women and family development. I have seen the Commission for Family Welfare organising festivities at Pte Coton and Ile Michel. Was it a strategy to alleviate poverty in that region?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, first of all this question is a completely separate question from this one.

(Interruptions)

I want to answer.

Mr Chairperson: Please wait, there is a point of order.

Mr J. Roussety: The member is substituting herself for the Chairperson regarding the admissibility of questions. This, I believe, Mr Chairperson, should not be allowed.

Mr Chairperson: Of course, if I allow a question, it is up to the Commissioner to reply to it, he or she may choose to answer or not according to the Standing Orders. But I see nothing offensive if a Commissioner says that the supplementary question is not related to the main question. But if the question is allowed, it is allowed.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I don't know whether you realise, but the member is asking me whether what we do at family level has anything to do with eradication of poverty. We should not come into this House...

Mr Chairperson: It was a very complex question. There are many limbs to it and there was a reference to the earmarking of Funds in the budget. If you have not understood the question...

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Will he repeat the question, please?

Mr Chairperson: Please wait, you would wish to have the question again. Yes, the Minority Leader, your point of order.

Mr J. Roussety: Rules and Regulations do not put restriction on complexity of questions. If a question is complex, it is complex.

Mr Chairperson: O.K. But please are you commenting on my ruling?

Mr J. Roussety: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we will not tolerate that some people put themselves in your shoes to comment on the admissibility of questions. You are the sole authority to do so. If other people start doing it, we'll lose confidence in the House.

Mr Chairperson: Yes, I agree with you, Minority Leader. But you should realise that I have no control over the answers. The Commissioners are advised to consider this. The Second Local Region for Marechal wanted to have an answer; put your question in the most succinct form, please.

Mr Agathe: A sum of Rs1.2 m has been earmarked in the budget 203-2004 for the promotion of women and family development. As the Commissioner for family welfare is organising festivities or we can call it *la faya* at Pte Coton and Ile Michel.

Mr Chairperson: Please, you are not allowed to make ironical remarks.

Mr Agathe: Yes, she is organising festivities at Pte Coton and Ile Michel. Was it a strategy to alleviate poverty among women in that region?

Mr Chairperson: Please wait. I was addressing you, but you did not seem to listen. You are not allowed to make offensive or ironical insinuation in this House. Your question, please?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I thank the member for allowing me to comment on what he said in the newspapers. Je voudrais dire que la journée internationale de la famille est célébrée à travers le monde. Les membres de la minorité semblent penser que Rodrigues est trop petite, à moins d'importance que Maurice qui l'a célébrée comme elle veut dans toutes les régions, nous l'avons célébrée que dans deux régions. Vous parlez de festivités. Quelles festivités ? Vous aviez été invités à ces deux célébrations. C'était des célébrations de la journée de la famille. C'était emmener les familles ensemble, c'était sur deux thèmes, le premier emmener les hommes à comprendre l'importance de la famille, la participation des hommes dans la société rodriguaise ; la deuxième c'était sur

l'inter génération, le respect des jeunes pour les vieux, et prendre avantage de l'expérience des vieux. C'était ça.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order, please! Order, please!

(Interruptions)

Order! Order, please! I suspend the sitting.

At 11.30 a.m. the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 11.50 a.m. with Mr Chairperson in the Chair.

ASSEMBLY – MEMBERS - BEHAVIOUR

Mr Chairperson: Respected members, I regret to note that, despite my repeated calls for order some of you paid no regard at all. Either they have intervened from a sitting position or they have vociferated loudly and have used expressions that were not in conformity with parliamentary practice. In line with the Standing Orders, I severely condemn this. I wish to emphasize the correct behaviour of members in the House so that we have a good atmosphere conducive to meaningful debate. Same conduct will no longer be tolerated as I shall have no alternative than to apply the Standing Orders strictly.

Lastly, I would wish to inform members that we have today visitors from abroad, from the USA and I would wish you all members to convey to them the message that you would wish them to carry home.

Thank you.

So, we proceed with questions. I understand that the Commissioner for Family Welfare and Community Development was in the process of answering the question. Please proceed.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: I have already answered the question; I won't repeat it.

Mr J. Roussety: We did not hear anything about macroeconomic considerations in this multiplicity of projects. Mr Chairperson, Sir, regarding poverty alleviation in these regions, can she tell us in the long term whether she will ascertain the sustainability of these projects? Because some projects are here for six months, three months to buy ten (10) chickens; then they sell it and there is nothing afterwards. Some last 2 years, other less. So, what about the long-term sustainability aspects of such projects?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Well, Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have just come into office. As regards, poverty alleviation we are building up strategies and among them is the most important element called the strategic plan for integrated and sustainable development. These aspects will be taken into consideration. But I also think that there are a number of projects which operate for a number of months. But the Funds assure the perennity as we do capacity building, then the people take over. For example, at '*Levez Debout*' level, there is the *caisse villageoise*; the Fund has operated for a number of years. Now at the different villages, people are taking over these *caisses villageoises* and running them themselves. But at my Commission level we will do our utmost to make sure that when a project has been initiated and it is viable, there is a follow-up so that these projects keep their rhythm and attain their objectives.

PATIENTS (BEDRIDDEN) – MEDICAL FACILITIES

(No. B/307) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, whether, for the benefit of the House, he could state –

- (a) how many people were bedridden at home in Rodrigues; and
- (b) how many of them suffered from a terminal disease;
- (c) how many were waiting for a specialist medical practitioner to attend to their illness.
- (d) what medical facilities are available to them pending the arrival of the specialist.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, information on bed ridden patients in Rodrigues is being compiled with the support of the Community Health Agents. I am also informed that patients of all ages may be bedridden due to Cerebro-vascular accident (CVA) and old age debility. There are, however, 46 registered patients above 90 years of age who receive a home visit on a monthly basis by the registered Medical and Health Officers.

With regard to part (b), information is being compiled to know the exact number of patients suffering from a terminal disease. Patients may be suffering from a terminal disease due to Neoplasm with Metastasis or old age debility. During the month of July 2003, 18 senior citizens have been visited by the Medical and Health Officers and none was found to be suffering from a terminal disease.

As for part (c), I have not obtained any information that any patient suffering from a terminal disease is awaiting the visit of a specialist. Specialists do not usually visit the bedridden patients at home. Some of them attend hospitals on wheelchairs and are provided with ambulance service. The Medical and Health Officer attend to all the senior citizens above 90 years on a monthly basis and any case needing a specialist's attention is communicated to the appropriate specialist for expert opinion and management. However, it is the policy of the Regional Government to appoint family doctors to give greater care to those patients in due time in future.

As regards part (d), in case patients, especially those eligible for a domiciliary visit, need the attention of a specialist, the Medical and Health Officer seeks the appropriate advice and dispense the treatment. The relatives are also motivated to provide necessary care and report any medical emergency situation to the paramedical and medical staff of the nearest Health Centre which will take necessary action immediately.

Mr Agathe: Can the Commissioner responsible for Health state how many bedridden are below 90?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have just said that information about bedridden is being compiled.

Mr Agathe: According to the reply given by the Commissioner, there is no specialist attending to the bedridden. It is a fact that some people are waiting for the specialists, especially those who are below 90. Could the Commissioner say at what frequency do they receive the visit of specialists?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have stated that bedridden patients are often brought to hospital in the ambulance or on wheelchairs. This is my answer to the member's question. They do receive treatment from specialists at hospital.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, is it convenient to transport bedridden patients on wheelchairs to the hospital? Secondly, can all of them go to hospital in a wheelchair although they are bedridden? Would it not be appropriate that the specialists visit them at their house?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I do understand quite clearly what the respected Minority Leader wants to know. But you know our regional government is doing its utmost to care; and we are caring for everyone here. If these bedridden patients need specialist care, care is and will be given.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, since these patients are bedridden, it means that they are confined to their beds; they cannot be conveyed to hospital in a wheelchair. That is why we are asking the Commissioner whether these people can have domiciliary visits by specialists, since, probably, the generalists cannot - I am not putting into question the ability of the medical practitioners - cope with their illnesses.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, what I am saying is that it is the policy of the Regional government to have family doctors very soon. We are determined to do it; we'll do it very soon. When I say they come in wheelchairs, you are very intelligent, you can guess that it can also be on stretches in an ambulance.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we cannot guess what has not been said. The Commissioner says family doctors would attend; would family doctors include specialists?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is what are aiming at. Among the family doctors there will be specialists.

Mr Agathe: I have heard of Community Health Nurses, what is their role?

Mr Chairperson: I don't think this question is allowed. It is not related to the main question.

Mr Agathe: It is about medical facilities.

Mr Chairperson: Are you questioning my ruling? I said that the question is not allowed. You may have a different wording, if you wish.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the bedridden have many problems at home, e.g problems of microbes. Would the Commissioner arrange for them to have a water bed?

Mr Sooprayen: I take notice of this suggestion.

BALADIROU YOUTH CAMP – INFRASTRUCTURE - UPGRADING

(No. B/308) Mr J. Pierre Louis (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards the Baladirou Youth Camp, he intended to upgrade the infrastructure there, including the dormitory, the bathrooms, the toilets and the access road to the Camp.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform this house that the upgrading of the infrastructure at Baladirou Youth Camp has been included in the programme of building/ maintenance/upgrading of buildings for this financial year. A survey of the state of the building has already been carried out and the whole upgrading is scheduled to start by mid September, 2003. The building will be used also for residential seminars, school camps, etc.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, will the Deputy Chief Commissioner inform the House whether in the project he would also include the decorative aspects of the site, protective measures such as breakwater in order to prevent erosion caused by waves?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, many people go there, especially school children. We want to renovate the building structures and embellish the environment which includes embellishment of the beach and of the access to the building so that visitors can spend a good time there with all the facilities for fruitful work.

Mr Agathe: As regards the access road, would the Commissioner arrange for an access road linking Baladirou to Grand Baie?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, for the time being only the access going down to the building will be considered and access from Baladirou to Grand' Baie is among our priorities for the coming years?

RE-AFFORESTATION PROGRAMME

(No. B/309) Mr J. Pierre Louis (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he could state if there was any re-afforestation programme going on or to be implemented and the places earmarked for that purpose.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, I am informed that during the last rainy season, re-afforestation was carried out on State lands at -

- Cascade Pigeon
- Mt Malgache
- Chateau des Fleur
- Mt. Charpentie
- Coco Islet Nature Reserve
- Papaye, and
- Marechal.

During the next rainy season, re-afforestation will be undertaken at Roche Bon Dieu and Anse Ally. All the places where re-afforestation has been carried out or will be undertaken are protected by fencing.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, since forest and newly re-afforested zones already covers 30% of the island, priority is now being given to restoration and management of existing forests which consist of improving the forest with native and endemic plants.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, could the Chief Commissioner inform the House whether the re-afforestation programme also includes places where there are risks

of heavy erosion which may cause landslides? There are many such places, e.g, from Montagne Cabri Corail down to Grand Var and also on the slopes of Montagne Croupier which are bare and at Montagne Plate, Baie du Nord where they are removing rocks and so on, these are very sensitive places which have to be taken into consideration.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, all the places mentioned by the respected member are discussed in the environment committee and suggestions have been made; and some re-afforestation is being conducted in the anti-erosion programme and if the respected member would come with a substantive question, we will reply to it.

POINTE COTON BEACH - ACCESS

(No. B/310) Mr J. Pierre Louis (Fourth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the Environment he would state when he intended to open to the public the part of the beach at Pointe Coton which has been fenced to keep away stray animals and picnickers.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, I am informed that part of the beach of Pointe Coton was fenced off in 1995 to plant new filao trees in replacement of old ones. It is scheduled to open that part of the beach to the public in December 2003. The fence is regularly repaired by the Forestry Services after its damage by picnickers.

Prior to its opening, the required pruning and thinning will be carried out.

ELECTRIC POLES - REPAIRS

(No. B/311) Mr L. P. Francois (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, as regards some of the electric poles which were bent by strong winds during cyclone Kalunde, the Commissioner would consider the possibility of repairing same for aesthetical reasons and security.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, I am informed by the Central Electricity Board that, with regard to some of the electricity poles which were bent by strong winds during cyclone Kalundé, works realignment have already started for the reinstatement of all the high and low tension poles and that works are under progress and progressing satisfactorily. It is expected that all works will be completed in a few weeks' time.

CAMP DU ROI STADIUM – ROAD - UPGRADING & TARRING

(No. B/312) Mr L. P. François (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, he intended to upgrade the untarred road which passes behind Camp du Roi Stadium so that it could be used as an exit road to and from Port Mathurin in case of emergency.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, my Commission has been instructed to carry out maintenance works along the untarred road which passes behind Camp du Roi Stadium. Marine soil will be spread on the road to render it practicable even during rainy periods. I am further informed that the village committee has made a request to the IFAD project for the financing of a track road. The matter is being processed and a decision will be taken by the IFAD steering committee soon.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask whether the possibility of using marine soil or track road is being envisaged instead of tarred road? Because it is behind the stadium and it is going to be used in cases of emergency. Would it not be more appropriate to have a tarred road, like the roads we have in Port Mathurin, for example?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: As it has been already said in the Assembly, tarring of roads will depend on the availability of funds. The IFAD Committee is looking into the possibility of having a complete track road, a cement road which can also be used in cases of emergency.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand that IFAD is for rural development. Here, we are talking of Port Mathurin. Would it not be appropriate to tar it like the road outside this House? It is a road used for commercial, residential and leisure purposes. Why is it that we have to use IFAD funds which have an opportunity cost and which could be used in other regions in rural areas? This is the philosophy of the project. Would it not be appropriate to use public funds to tar that road? If I am not mistaken they do have that in their budget for this year.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are looking into the possibility of getting IFAD to repair roads. But IFAD does not deal only with rural development. It deals also with community development. There is a whole community who uses that road. We are looking into the possibility of helping these persons.

Mr Jabeemissar: In the same breath, Mr Chairperson, Sir, being given that we have talked of emergency. Emergencies may be in case of fire...

Mr Chairperson: No need to stress, we have little time left for questions. Be brief, please.

Mr Jabeemissar: Could the Commissioner not consider the possibility of having a real road in the long term, a road which can cope with any type of vehicle even in emergency situations?

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, a real good road can be in concrete as is the case in many countries. In case of emergency they have proved to be good roads.

MAURITIUS EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE – CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS

(No. B/313) Mr L. P. François (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commission for Education if he could inform the House whether, the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate, which is responsible for the organization and conduct of CPE, SC and HSC and other examinations in Rodrigues, has set up a mechanism for the island for the performance of the abovementioned functions.

Mr L. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, all examinations in Rodrigues have always been conducted by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate and this will continue unless there is a change in policy at the national level. The only notice of change in the conduct of examinations in Rodrigues is the overall supervision and coordination which is now being undertaken by my Commission. Prior to the advent of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly all examinations, except for CPE, were co-ordinated by the Central Administration. With the setting up of Commissions for the management of the affairs of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, my Commission which has been vested with the responsibility for education will also be responsible for the conduct of examinations. The same mechanism has been put up in my Commission under the supervision of the Departmental Head assisted by two Senior Officers.

The Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) which has overseen these arrangements is satisfied. I would also like to inform the House, that since the taking over of the conduct of Examinations from Central Administration, my Commission has already undertaken the supervision of the SC and GCE (oral examinations) satisfactorily.

Mr François: Can we obtain a guarantee from the Commissioner that whenever staff are selected for the supervision of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) examinations, equity and fairness will prevail?

Mr L. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, there is no reason to doubt the application of equity and fairness in the choice of supervisory and invigilation staff. This I can assure the respected member will be seen to be done.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate is an independent body. In his answer, does the Commissioner mean that he has some say or some influence in the selection of supervision staff during examinations, and if yes, on which grounds?

Mr L. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, that is indeed my answer. We do have some say in the choice of invigilators as has always been the case. We, in Rodrigues, have always chosen the people with the approval of the MES, of course.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is surprising. How can he have a say in SC, HSC Exams when all those concerned are private employees either from REDCO or private college? How is it that his Commission which has nothing at all to do with the teaching at secondary level is intervening in the selection of Mauritius Examinations Syndicate Supervision Staff during examinations? Is he right when he says that he has some influence? Would that be ethical to intervene in the selection exercise by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate who, I believe is quite autonomous and can better choose its own staff? Would the Commissioner not open the door for criticism on the Regional Assembly if tomorrow some persons are not selected by his Commission? Would it not open the door for political interference?

Mr Chairperson: Minority Leader, your question is too long. It contains arguments, imputations. This is not allowed.

Mr J. Roussety: I'll reformulate, if you will allow me to do so. Would he not create a feeling of Rodrigues affecting the independence of the conduct of examinations when his Commission is intervening in the choice of Staff who are employed privately?

Mr Chairperson: This is again hypothetical, not based on facts. It is argumentative. This is not allowed, unless you want to re-word.

Mr J. Roussety: Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES), colleges, Examining bodies are independent. What is the role of his Commission in these matters?

Mr L. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that, in spite of the fact that the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) is an independent body as the respected Leader of the Minority party is saying, the examinations in the past had been the responsibility of the Central Administration. It is only right now since the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, that the matter should fall within the purview of the Commission for Education working jointly with the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate. And I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that a memorandum of understanding has been proposed by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate itself and the Commission for Education is agreeable to the proposed terms and the written agreement is being finalised.

Mr Chairperson: I shall suspend the Assembly for fifteen (15) minutes because of a problem with the recording equipment.

At 13.00 hrs the sitting was suspended.

On resuming at 13.45 hrs with Mr Chairperson in the Chair

Mr Chairperson: Let us proceed with questions. I inform members that we don't have much time left for questions requiring an oral answer. I shall make a request that we don't have too many supplementary questions so that we can exhaust all the questions on the Order Paper.

Mr J. Roussety: Can we know how much time is left.

Mr Chairperson: We have until 2.15 p.m., we have roughly twelve (12) questions.

RODRIGUES/ILE AUX COCOS - PLEASURE CRAFT TRAFFIC

(No. B/314) Mr D. L. Guillaume (Third Island Region Member) whether, as regards the pleasure craft traffic between the island of Rodrigues and Ile aux Cocos, the Commissioner would state -

- (a) how many tourists visited the Coco island during the years 2002 and 2003;
- (b) how many pleasure craft permits were delivered during those two years;
- (c) the total amount of money received by the Central Administration for these permits, and
- (d) what action was being taken or would be taken to facilitate access to the Ile aux Cocos during low tide.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, the answer is as follows -

- (a) the accurate number of tourists visiting Coco Island is not available as the Fisheries Division does not record the number of persons per permit issued. A permit is normally valid for the number of persons (including the two boatmen) authorised under each pleasure craft permit. The

number of permits issued in 2002 and in 2003 (up to 31st July 2003) amounts to 1243 and 395 respectively.

- (b) Sixteen (16) pleasure craft permits have been issued during those two years (**Appendix I**).
- (c) Fees received by Central Administration/ Rodrigues Regional Assembly from the above permits amount to Rs327,600.
- (d) It is true that the pleasure crafts have difficulty at low tide to come near Coco Island and the visitors have sometimes to walk to the island. In the budget Estimates 2003/2004, funds have been provided for the maintenance and evacuation of sea passes. Priority will be given to the access routes via Passe Diamant and Pointe Rond during this financial year. This will greatly improve access to Coco Island at low tide.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Pleasure Craft Act Section 3(a) provides for the setting up of the Competency Test Board for the issue of a licence for pleasure craft. In the context of the current decentralization process, would the Chief Commissioner state what are the corresponding arrangements for Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: Concerning Rodrigues, the Central Administration has got delegated powers to grant pleasure craft permits. Before giving the permit the boat is examined by the Coast Guards and the Port Authority. These arrangements are now in place.

Mr Agathe: Before issuing the permit, there must be a Board. The Board is known as the Competency Test Board. Is there one in Rodrigues?

The Chief Commissioner: I need notice of the question.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is a fact that to ride a motorcycle, we need a licence. ...

Mr Chairperson: The member should not make reference to something which is not in the ambit of the main question. I do understand what he is aiming at.

Mr Agathe: Do all the skippers have a skipper's licence?

The Chief Commissioner: Usually as I said, the boat itself and the skipper are examined by the Coast Guard to see whether skippers can swim and help people when there is an accident.

ROUSSETY LIMITED COLD STORAGE - BRIDGE

(No. B/315) Mr D. L. Guillaume (Third Island Region Member) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to difficulties faced by Firemen and vehicle owners because there is only one road which gives access from Camp du Roi to Port Mathurin, he could state –

- (a) if he intended to build a large new bridge near Roussety Limited cold storage where a foot bridge is being constructed;
- (b) if he considered the access adequate between the two places and, if not what action is being taken to remedy the situation.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to inform that the possibility of constructing a large bridge near Roussety Limited Cold Storage for vehicular traffic will be looked into after the completion of other priority bridges such as the one at Port Sud Est, Winston Churchill Bridge, and new bridges to replace some *radiers* along the Port Sud Est – Rivière Cocos road. Meanwhile, my Commission has constructed a new footbridge so as to ensure the security of those people who normally use this shortcut.

Presently, the access between the two places are adequate as Camp du Roi and Port Mathurin are linked via three accesses namely -

- (a) an asphalted concrete tarred road from MCB Square leading in front of Les Tamaris Hotel;
- (b) an earth road behind Camp du Roi Stadium which is being upgraded;
- (c) a tarred road from Pointe Monier to Port Mathurin.

MONT LUBIN – ALCOHOLICS - REHABILITATION CENTRE

(No. B/316) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether, as regards to the Rehabilitation Centre for alcoholics at Mont Lubin, he would say -

- (a) since when it has been operational;
- (b) how many patients have received treatment up to now;
- (c) how many officers were posted there; and
- (d) what kind of treatment was offered to the patients;
- (e) what criteria were used to assess the degree of success.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the answer is as follows -

- (a) I am informed by CRAC Anti Drug Group that the Rehabilitation Centre for alcoholic patients, has been operational since 01 July 2003.
- (b) I am informed that the centre has received four patients on a residential basis since the 15 July 2003.
- (c) No public officer is posted there. However, the centre is benefiting from the services of the existing Medical and Nursing staff of Mont Lubin Area Health Centre whenever any requirement is felt.
- (d) The patients admitted at the centre follow a Medical and rehabilitation programme. All medical treatment is prescribed by the treating Medical and Health Officer and administered by Nursing staff posted at Mont Lubin Area Health Centre.
I am tabling a list of activities embodied in the rehabilitation and reinsertion programme.
- (e) The degree of success will be known on the basis of percentage of alcoholics who stop making abuse of alcohol upon completion of the treatment. I am, however, informed by CRAC that an ongoing follow-up will be ensured to all patients. The patients will be assessed every six months following the start of their treatment programme. CRAC has agreed to submit a monthly return to the Commission for Health regarding the activities carried out and the outcome.

Mrs Prosper: Can the Commissioner tell us if these Nursing Officers have been trained to deal with these kinds of patients?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, all the Officers working at the Area Health Centre at Mont Lubin are trained.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are speaking of a rehabilitation centre for alcoholics. Are those giving health care at the rehabilitation Centre, not those at the hospital trained?

Mr Chairperson: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the officers are not posted there, but at the Area Health Centre. But these officers are sent to the Rehabilitation Centre. They have all obtained special training.

Mrs Prosper: Under what condition are they working at the Rehabilitation Centre?

Mr Sooprayen: They are working under good conditions.

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Please wait. The Commissioner is still on his feet.

Mr Sooprayen: As I have said, they are Nursing Officers. They are working at the Area Health Centre at Mont Lubin. They go there as Nursing Officers with special training.

Mr J. Roussety: M. le Président, sous quelles conditions les officiers du gouvernement sont envoyés à ce centre ? Y-a-t-il des conditions spécifiques par rapport à leurs salaires, leur *workload*?

Mr Sooprayen: I think the member means conditions of work. Those Nursing Officers are government Officers. They go there to serve but are not posted there. So, when required they go there and the same conditions as at Mont Lubin apply. They go there during normal working hours.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we all know that Nursing Officers are normally posted to a Health Centre. Now conditions at a rehabilitation Centre are not the same. When these officers are asked to attend the rehabilitation Centre, are there any specific conditions attached so as to motivate them? What, if they refuse to serve in these centres?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I take notice of this question.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand this Centre is managed by an NGO, how come government Officers are sent there?

Mr Sooprayen: This is a normal process.

Mr J. Roussety: How come staff attached to a Health Centre and their services are extended to a private centre?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I take notice of this question.

RAVINA, MRS E.- LIVING CONDITIONS

(No. B/317) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security whether, the Commissioner is aware of the living conditions of Mrs. E. Ravina of Eau Vannée who is an old aged pensioner and, if yes -

- (a) what measures are being taken to, relieve her misery; and
- (b) would he consider inquiring into the matter and taking appropriate measures to help her.

Mr Mercure: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a), Mrs Emilie Ravina initially possessed a single room corrugated iron sheet house. In February 2003, she was provided by the Trust Fund with construction materials such as corrugated iron sheets, batten and timber, sand and cement for the repair and upgrading of her house. I am informed that these materials disappeared one week after its delivery.

The house was subsequently damaged by Cyclone Kalundé in March 2003. Following a complaint made in my office on 9 July 2003 by the president of the Village Committee of the locality, the Trust Fund was contacted to reconsider the case of Mrs Emilie Ravina for rehabilitation. I am informed that she will be provided with additional construction materials through the Senior Citizen Welfare Association which, in collaboration with the Village Committee of the locality, will provide labour for the construction of the house. The materials to be provided will remain in the custody of the Village Committee.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (b), an officer of the Social Security Division has already started an enquiry into the case of Mrs Emilie Ravina to identify any possible additional financial assistance that can be provided to her under existing regulations governing the Social Security. The assembly will be informed of measures taken in due course.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner tell us what kind of housing accommodation is Mrs Ravina living in now?

Mr Mercure: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I need notice of the question.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, Mrs Ravina is living in very indecent conditions. The Commissioner has said that materials have disappeared the first time. They were delivered a second time. How can he account for the disappearance of materials which have already been delivered? What has happened since public funds have been used? This does not seem to be a matter of concern to the Commissioner. What is the explanation behind this disappearance?

Mr Mercure: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Trust Fund delivered materials to Mrs Ravina. I am not supposed to keep watch over these, and check what they do with the materials which have been given to her. I can't be responsible for the disappearance of her materials.

Mr J. Roussety: M. le Président, on ne demande pas au Commissaire de surveiller les matériaux. Vu la condition de cette dame et puisque le Trust Fund a donné des matériaux, je voudrais demander au commissaire ce qu'il va faire pour assurer que les matériaux *don't disappear, anymore and that this poor woman at last gets un toit décent* ?

Mr Mercure: This question, Mr Chairperson, Sir, has already been answered. I said that materials will be given through the Senior Citizen Welfare Association with the collaboration of the Village Committee that will take the responsibility to provide labour to build the house.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is a clear indicator how vulnerable...

Mr Chairperson: No insinuation, please. Put your question.

Mr Jabeemissar: Is the commissioner prepared to review the policy in helping poor people so that such situations do not recur?

Mr Mercure: Materials have been given to the lady, Mr Chairperson, Sir. So, the lady is supposed to be responsible for their safekeeping. It is the policy of the Trust Fund to give materials and for beneficiaries to build their house. It is not materials coming from the Commission for Social Security.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, during one of the last sittings, one Commissioner said that there had been a complete failure of self-help projects. Now that woman got materials and could not build her house.

Mr Chairperson: While you proceed with the question, bear in mind that none of the Commissioners of this Assembly is responsible for the matter now being discussed. I am sorry to have interrupted you.

Mr J. Roussety: On a dit la dernière fois que les projets *self-help*, d'après le Deputy Chief Commissionner, sont un échec. Un Commissaire dit que les projets *self-help* ne marchent pas, un autre Commissaire dit qu'il va continuer à livrer les matériaux. Je voudrais savoir du Commissaire si sa politique est différente de celle du Deputy Chief Commissioner.

Mr Mercure : This time, Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Village Committee have committed themselves to provide labour.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as the Commissioner responsible for Social Security - I stress on these words "responsible" - has he paid a visit to that old woman?

Mr Mercure: As I said at the beginning that Officers of the Social Security Division have already paid a visit to the lady.

Mr Agathe: Has the Commissioner himself paid a visit to the lady?

Mr Mercure: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have Officers to do this. I don't think I have to pay personal visits.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL – MATERNITY WARD

(No. B/318) Mrs J. Prosper (Sixth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health, whether he would say -

- (a) what services the present Maternity Ward at Queen Elisabeth Hospital offers to patients;
- (b) how many officers are assigned on
 - (i) day duty
 - (ii) night duty
- (c) if there are officers trained for each category of service?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the answer is as follows-

(a) Services offered at the Maternity Ward are Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Paediatric Neonatology

1. **Obstetrics Services include**

Antenatal care, that is treatment of complications of pregnancy;

Intranatal care, that is labour and delivery; and

Post Natal care, that is post normal delivery and post Caesarean service

2. **Gynaecology Services include**

Treatment of all gynaecological cases which need hospitalisation;

Pre-operative preparation of cases needing operative intervention either elective or emergency; and

Post-operative follow up

3. **Paediatric Neonatology include**

care of premature babies;

care of babies who suffered from hypoxia at birth.

(b) (i) one officer of the grade of Charge Nurse and Five officers are normally posted in the Maternity Ward and additional officers are posted when the number of patients and workload is higher.

(ii) Three officers are posted on night duty, and recourse to additional officers is made when the need is felt.

(c) All officers working in the Maternity ward are fully trained and qualified.

Mrs Prosper: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as the Commissioner said, there are several categories of patient and service. Does he not think it is high time to build another maternity ward?

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, this is already in our OPR Programme and it will come.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, we are not concerned with programmes of political parties; we are concerned about what is being done at his Commission. He is not here Commissioner of the OPR, he is Commissioner of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mr Sooprayen: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as an elected member of the OPR party and Commissioner for Health for the whole of Rodrigues, I state that we have in our next budget provision for the construction of a maternity ward.

LATANIERS - CULTURAL AND LEISURE CENTRE - CONSRUCTION

(No. B/319) Miss M. L. Castel (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible, inter alia for Arts and Culture whether, as regards the construction of a Cultural and Leisure Centre at Lataniers, the Commissioner could inform the House of the current implementation stage of the project

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, you would recall that in the draft Estimates for financial year 2003/2004 an amount of Rs9 m. has been provided for the project.

In April, 2003 tenders were invited from four pre-selected firms with experience in Rodrigues for the provision of architectural consultancy services for the construction of the Regional Cultural and Leisure Centre at Lataniers. On the opening of tenders three offers were received from -

- (i) ZAC Associates Ltd,
- (ii) Lampotang & Siew Architectural Ltd,
- (iii) Atelier D'architecture Diagonale II Ltée.

Messrs. Desai Bimel Pradeepsai, the fourth firm which was invited to tender, did not respond.

In June, the contract for Architectural Consultancy Services was awarded to Atelier D'architecture Diagonale II Ltée who submitted the best offer. After negotiation the consultant accepted to reduce its quoted fee from 10% to 8% inclusive of VAT.

Mr Chairperson Sir, the draft Preliminary Design report has been submitted by the contractor and is being considered before granting approval for preparation of final Design.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the cultural and leisure centre at Lataniers, I believe for Rodriguans. Can I ask the respected Commissioner whether these Consultants in the Terms of Reference have gathered the views, opinions, proposals of people concerned with culture, leisure, etc in Rodrigues before submitting their proposal?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Mr Chairperson, Sir, specific terms of reference have been given to the contractor before launching the tenders; and in these, the village was already stated, because we are government and we choose where to put things. I think that the matter was already discussed in the budget.

Mr J. Roussety: The question remains the same Mr Chairperson, Sir: have the views of artists, people involved in culture e.g dancers, singers, painters who will use the centre, been sought and taken into account?

(Interruptions)

Mr Chairperson: Order! Order!

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: If the Minority Leader means people living in the region of Lataniers, then it is O.K. We have already discussed with them. Islandwise we have a project of six (6) regional and cultural centres. Discussions with artists have been ongoing. I have had at least three (3) meetings with all the artists in Rodrigues to discuss the matter.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, has the site been selected and if yes, where?

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes, the site of the proposed building has already been identified with the valuable expertise of the people from the Cadastral Unit. *En haut de la route, à côté de l'école, c'est à dire, si vous allez à Lataniers, à droite juste après le tournant.* If you want a diagram, it could be given next time.

Mr J. Roussety: We would appreciate if all terms of reference, diagrams and proposals could be tabled.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT UNIT - ADMINISTRATION

(No. B/320) Miss M. L. Castel (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible, *inter alia*, for Child Development whether, there had been any new development in the administration of the Child Development Unit in Rodrigues.

Mrs Perrine-Bégué: Yes, Mr Chairperson Sir, there had been a change in the administration of the Child Development Unit in Rodrigues recently. Although the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act confers the exercise of full political and administrative responsibility for Child Development to Rodrigues, the administrative mechanism already in place at the time of the establishment of my Commission could not be changed immediately. However, my Commission was working in close collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare which had employed a Police Officer on secondment on its establishment as Child Welfare Officer.

The Child Development Unit which is operational under the aegis of the Ministry for Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare since July 2002 has now been administratively taken over by my Commission. The Police Officer's secondment has been extended for another 6 months by which time we will have to recruit the appropriate staff for the provision of this service.

DISABILITY UNIT – FACILITIES OFFERED

(No. B/321) Mr J. C. Agathe (Second Local Region Member for Marechal) asked the Commissioner responsible for Social Security whether, with regard to the Disability Unit in Rodrigues, he could he state -

- (a) where the unit was situated;
- (b) what facilities were offered there;
- (c) who was in charge thereof;
- (d) the name of the Associations presently using the unit as a facility; and
- (e) the total amount of money earmarked in the budget 2003/.04 to run same.

Mr Mercure: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I would like to inform the Assembly that there is no Disability Unit as such in Rodrigues. This service is being provided by the Ministry of Social Security in Mauritius for the National Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

My Commission has initiated discussion for an eventual posting of a Disability Officer in Rodrigues pending the creation of this post in our budget. But there are NGOs which provide facilities to disabled persons.

Mr Agathe: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I have asked the question because of the reply received to question B/281. Therefore, the Commissioner is always misleading the House...

Mr Chairperson: On which point? The member should be clear.

Mr Agathe: To a previous question he said that there is a Disability Unit at Malabar and now he is saying there is none.

Mr Mercure: The Disability Unit was mentioned further to the supplementary question from the respected member to B/281 at the last sitting to refer to the Association of the Disabled situated at Malabar. There is no Disability Unit as such.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – ADVANCED DIPLOMA - SCHOLARSHPS

(No. B/322) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards scholarships granted to students/candidates from Rodrigues for an Advanced Diploma in Information Technology or other similar studies in India recently, he would -

- (a) give an overview of the courses and their objectives;
- (b) state the number of persons from Rodrigues who were selected and the number of public officers who attended, if any;
- (c) explain the terms and conditions of the awards;
- (d) state whether the public officers who attended, if any were paid their salary and other benefits accruing to them by virtue of their substantive job during the period of their training and, if not, why.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, the answer is as follows –

- (a) A press communiqué dated 10 September 2002 was issued by the Scholarships Section of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research inviting applications from Rodriguan HSC and SC holders below the age of 30 for a six-month course at Pune, India.

- (b) Seven (7) persons were selected – six (6) Public Officers and one (1) unemployed;
- (c) The scholarship covered tuition fees, international travel, board and lodging. The seven candidates were also paid a stipend by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.

Half of the stipend was paid to the candidates in Rodrigues on 14 November 2002 by Mr R. Duva-Pentiah, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Education and Scientific Research.

The second half was credited to their bank account on 30 May, 2003.

- (d) The Public Officers who attended the course from 16 November, 2002 to 11 May 2003 were granted leave as follows -

Public Officers 1 and 2 who are substantive holders of their post – study leave without pay

Public Officers 3 to 6 were exceptionally granted leave without pay

The Secretary for Public Service Affairs did not approve the grant of leave with pay taking into consideration that the Diploma in IT is not of direct relevance to the work being performed by the selected Officers.

SETTING UP OF THE “ATELIERS DE SAVOIRS”

(No. B/323) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth & Sports whether, as regards the setting up of the “Ateliers de Savoirs” set up recently, he can -

- (a) state their number, location and specialization;
- (b) give an overview of the initial admission criteria; and
- (c) the duration and philosophy of the project.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a) of the question, six *Ateliers de Savoirs* were set up; their localisation and specialisation are as follows -

- (1) Trefles - building construction
- (2) Mont Plaisir - building maintenance
- (3) Malabar Pastry/food processing

- (4) Grand La Fouche Corail - mechanics auto/moto
- (5) Cyganges - sewing; and
- (6) Songes - cabinet making

With regard to part (b), an overview of the initial admission criteria -

- (i) Trainees should be between “16 - 21”, out of school and unemployed;
- (ii) They should have had a basic vocational training or technical know how from a workshop;
- (iii) They should either be willing to start their own micro-enterprise after the training or be willing to find a job in the field chosen by experience.

With regard to part (c), the duration is as follows -

A maximum “Credit” of three years but it could be that trainee may leave after 12 or 18 months after acquiring sufficient technical know-how to start their own micro enterprise or willing to find a job.

As regards the philosophy, the setting up of the *Ateliers de Savoirs* provides job-skill training for the youngsters and provides them with the working atmosphere of an enterprise. For example, youths coming from IVTB or other training institutions are sometimes not able to find a job due to lack of working experience. The *Ateliers de Savoirs* Project gives technical experience to youths that have had basic experience in the field of training mentioned above.

It is to be noted that youths that leave the Ateliers have the opportunity to have access to micro-credit facilities, which is another component of the project.

The job skill training also includes work attachment in local enterprises with which the BEFA Project has already established a fruitful working atmosphere. Such linkages are vital as -

- they allow trainees to make the link with the world of work during their vocational training
- trainees have the possibility to acquire skills and attitudes necessary to face the world of work

- employers have an idea of potentials employees and, therefore, trainees are more likely to find a job

It is also to be noted that the *Ateliers de savoir* do not have the same programme as a school. It is a system for the youths who have not succeeded in formal education, as it is strongly believed that these youths can perform well in technical areas.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner first whether the *Ateliers de Savoir* project is for the whole of Rodrigues and second, on which basis the six localities or *Ateliers de Savoir* were selected?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, in the terms of the contract, it is stipulated that there are ten (10) *ateliers de savoir*. Initially we have set up six on a pilot basis. Now if they work well, we shall have four additional ones. As regards the criteria, it is a matter of availability of buildings.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know, these *Ateliers de Savoir* are in the buildings which initially were meant for *parcs de transit*. Will the Commissioner say whether these *parcs de transit* meet the purpose of the *ateliers* or is it because there were no other buildings?

Mr Chairperson: Yes, as far as the question relates to the rationale of the *Parcs de transit*, this is not allowed. But the other part is.

Mr Lisette: I think that two (2) *parcs de transit* used, have not been by the farmers of the region. That is why they have been used for the benefit of the *Ateliers de Savoir*.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, how would the Commissioner explain that, for the region extending from Baladirou to Baie du Nord, including inland areas, not only the coast, there is not a single *Atelier de Savoir* where he is himself a representative.

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as I have said there are four other *ateliers de savoir* which will be set up if the present six work well. Another is intended in that part of the island.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, as far as I know there is no *parc de transit* in the northern region. Does this mean that there will be no *atelier de savoir* there?

Chairperson: No, this question is not allowed. This is indirect insinuation. Re-word your question, please.

Minority Leader: Is it the policy of his Commission to supply services where buildings exist already or where the children who need the training are? Does he mean that he wants the students to come to him or will he go to the Students?

Mr Lisette: This is where the Minority Leader is going wrong. Among the *Ateliers de Savoir*, only two are to be found in *parcs de transit*. The others are found in Community Centres. So, the one we shall set up in the northern or other parts of the island may be accommodated in new buildings or in Community Centres.

Mr Jabeemissar: Mr Chairperson, sir, the philosophy behind the setting up of these *Ateliers de Savoir*...

Mr Chairperson: Put your question, please. We don't have much time for questions.

Mr Jabeemissar: ... is to provide opportunities for various types of activities, e.g, cabinet making; may I know from the Commissioner who provides the raw materials and once the finished products are obtained, what is done with them? Do the workers obtain some revenue?

Mr Lisette: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is a project where materials initially have been provided by the different agencies which are funding the project. But with time, the *Atelier de Savoir* will act as an enterprise. So their products will be sold and the proceeds shared among the beneficiaries.

CYCLONE KALUNDE – PAYMENTS TO PLANTERS

(No. B/324) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner, whether, as regards compensation payments to be made to planters, fishermen and others following cyclone Kalunde, he would –

- (a) give an overview of the amounts paid per person and per category e.g planters;
- (b) give the total number of beneficiaries involved per category;
- (c) state the initial terms and conditions under which such benefits/compensation were to be paid; and
- (d) whether all due payments had been made as scheduled and, if not, why.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson Sir, following the passage of cyclone Kalunde, a financial assistance scheme was worked out with the Ministry of Finance from recommendations and submissions of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

As regards parts (a) & (c), the following schemes have been finalised for planters (full-time and part-time), beekeepers and fishermen. Financial assistance is given to those persons who have suffered prejudice during the cyclone e.g for planters; they must have been cultivating a crop during the passage of cyclone Kalunde.

Beekeepers - they will suffer prejudice after the passage of cyclone Kalunde as they will have to feed the bees and not earn revenue due to lack of flowers for the bees; and for fishermen for the repair of boats damaged.

Farmers - full-time beneficiaries – agricultural activities are their only source of income and they have suffered prejudice during cyclone Kalunde. They are paid a financial assistance of Rs3000 monthly for three (3) months.

Part-time beneficiaries – they are involved in agricultural activities but have another source of income e.g government employees, registered fishermen etc. They are paid a financial assistance of Rs1000 monthly for three (3) months.

Beekeepers - beekeepers will be paid a financial assistance according to the number of beehives they possessed during cyclone Kalunde irrespective of whether the beehives have been partially or completely destroyed. The beekeepers will have to feed the bees for several months till trees start flowering again.

For those possessing less than five (5) beehives, a financial assistance of Rs500 monthly for three (3) months is payable. For those possessing five or more beehives, a financial assistance of Rs1000 monthly for three (3) months is payable.

Fishermen - the fishermen who had their boats damaged and reported same to the Fisheries Protection Services have been compensated for repairs effected to their boats. Financial assistance varied according to severity of damage.

Information concerning fishermen compensated under '*Anou Diboute Ensam*' Project and financial assistance paid to date is being circulated (**Appendix III**).

Farmers - financial assistance to farmers who have lost their cattle and sheep is being finalised.

The total number of beneficiaries is as follows –

Farmers (full-time)	-	279
Farmers (part-time)	-	1139
Total	-	1418

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I understand from the answer and what was declared by the Hon. Prime Minister that payments were to be made monthly, Rs3,000, Rs 1,000. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner when the first payment was made and the reasons as to why these persons have to wait until the 20th August to receive payment for 2 months?

The Chief Commissioner: Well we don't have the exact date as to when the first payment was made. But as regards the 2 other payments, I did say that delayed payment was due to some cross verification which was effected by the Commissioner for Agriculture following representations received. So, we had to crosscheck and cross-verify the information and declarations made by the farmers.

Mr J. Roussety: Why is it that he paid the first installment and then they had to crosscheck? Where is the problem?

The Chief Commissioner: The first payment was done immediately after the survey carried out by the technicians of the Agricultural Services. Then there were representations. Other people came forward and said that their crops too had been destroyed by cyclone Kalundé. Hence, the reason for fresh verifications.

Mr J. Roussety: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is admitting that these funds have not been used properly.

The Chief Commissioner: They would have been used improperly if we had paid to people who did not deserve the compensation.

Mr Grancourt: Mr Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has been talking about finalising the compensation to farmers who have had their animals killed during the cyclone. Can we first have more information about this finalisation; and second, can he explain the long delay for the payment of compensation?

The Chief Commissioner: Well, I have already replied to the question. We have to verify the number of sheep, cattle, pigs, goats lost. People have declared that they have lost quite a number of animals. But we can't assess the extent of loss due to absence of evidence. So, there will be a cross-verification by the Commission of Agriculture. We shall then finalise the quantum of assistance to those farmers.

Mr Jabeemissar: In the light of this verification exercise, will those who were undeserving but who have been paid the first instalment not be paid further installments and new genuine cases considered favourably? Or will all those who have received the first instalment be paid the two others?

The Chief Commissioner: A number of cases have been considered after verification. Some cases were undeserving and for the next installment there are cases which have been considered after complaints.

**RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY –
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

(No. B/325) The Minority Leader (Mr J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner, whether, as regards the employment of Head of Department by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, he would -

- (a) state what qualifications are required for that post;
- (b) give an account of the number of persons who have entered that post and the number who have left afterwards;
- (c) explain the reasons why there is a high rate of resignation necessitating repetitive recruitment procedures.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, it is understood that the Minority Leader is referring to the post of Departmental Head.

As regards part (a) of the question, the qualifications required for that post are -

- (i) a degree from a recognised institution, or
- (ii) an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Public Service Commission.
- (iii) at least five years' experience at middle management level;
- (iv) Candidates should –
 - (A) have strategic and operation at leadership qualities;
 - (B) be able to command multidisciplinary teams and exercise authority;
 - (C) have the ability to work under extremely demanding conditions;
 - (D) be forward looking and innovative with personal credibility and integrity, and
 - (E) have excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Candidates should produce written evidence of any experience claimed.

As regards part (b) of the question, in response to the advertisement for the post issued by the Public Service Commission, candidates are invited to send their applications directly to the Secretary of the Public Service Commission. Consequently, it is not known how many candidates applied for the post in response to each advertisement issued.

The following candidates were offered letter of appointment and have since resigned their post or not accepted the offer –

Resignation

Dr. D. Awootar with effect from 06 February 2003

Reason: Wife's health conditions – Return to Mauritius

Mr R. Bhowany with effect from 24 March 2003

Reason: Personal reasons – To resume employment in the Education Sector

Mr Jean Maurice Leong Tim with effect from 21 February 2003

Reason: Study leave without pay in Australia

Non-acceptance of offer of appointment

Dr. N. L. Luckeenarain (Mrs)

Reason: Unforeseen commitments

With regard to part (c), the reasons for the resignation of the three Departmental Heads are mentioned above. Since the advent of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly on 12 October 2002, there have been two selection exercises for the post of Departmental Head.

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

DEPUTY CHIEF COMMISSIONER - MISSION TO SEYCHELLES

The Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, please allow me to make this short statement to this House regarding the outcome of the mission I effected to Seychelles together with the Chief Commissioner and my Departmental Head. The delegation comprising the three persons, I have just mentioned, below visited Seychelles for four days from the 16th July 2003 to 21st July 2003.

With a view to meeting the present water shortage and future increases in water requirements in Rodrigues, one of the immediate best solutions to alleviate the water shortage problem has been considered to opt for desalination of seawater.

With a view also to selecting the most appropriate desalination process, proper location of the intake and brine disposal and to ensure proper operation and management of the desalination plants so as to minimize the adverse impact, if any, on the environment, a mission was effected to Seychelles. The visit was effected under the Sixth Seychelles – Mauritius Bilateral Cooperation Agreement.

In order to cope with the increasing water demand of the islands, the Government of Seychelles has decided to build four (4) desalination plants as briefly described below -

- A 5,000 m³/day plant at Providence with capacity to be increased to 7500 m³/day in the future.
- A 2500 m³/day plant at Anse Boileau with a capacity to be increased to 3750 m³/day in the future.
- A 600 m³/day plant at Baie Ste Anne, Praslin, with a capacity to be increased to 900 m³/day in the future.
- A 300 m³/day plant at La Passe, La Digue, with a capacity to be increased to 450 m³/day in the future.

From each of the plants desalinated water is pumped to a local reservoir where it is blended with surface and underground water prior to distribution to the network and the public.

The processes to be used at the four locations are as follows -

Intake: The intake is to be by direct sea intake through an intake screen, which has slot sizes of 2 mm. The intake screen is some 2 – 3 metres below sea level.

Pre-Treatment: Pre-treatment includes chlorination of the feed, water gravity and pressure filtration, cartridge filtration and dechlorination.

A site visit was also carried out on Ste Anne island where a Reverse Osmosis Plant produces 200 m³/d of drinking water. The ocean surrounding this hotel is a very environmentally sensitive area called Ste Anne Marine National Park, so the method of discharging the brine receives a lot of scrutiny. It was not possible to mix the brine with treated sewage to reduce the Total Dissolved Solid because the treated sewage is used for irrigation at the hotel. The method used for discharging the brine is as follows –

- The seawater is pumped to an intermediate tank at a higher flow rate than that required to feed the Reverse Osmosis Plant;
- Pumps in the intermediate tank feed the Reverse Osmosis plant;
- The brine from the RO Plant mixes with the excess water from the intermediate tank, and the mixture is discharged by gravity through an ocean outfall. In this way the brine is diluted.

However, since it is being diluted with seawater it will never reach to Total Dissolved Solid of the ambient seawater.

The outfall itself discharges near the edge of the shallow coral reef. This was a lot easier to accomplish at Ste Anne than it will be at Rodrigues because the edge of the reef is only about 100 m off the edge of the beach. Outside the reef edge there is usually good wave and current action, so that the brine mixture is mixed quickly into the ambient seawater.

Based on the visit, the following conclusion can be drawn -

- (i) The visit has been very enriching and extremely useful and has given much confidence to the Team Members regarding the selection of desalination process, location and layout of important components, e.g. intake and outfall, implementation and operation of the proposed desalination plants in Rodrigues;
- (ii) The entire process that is being envisaged to be adopted for the proposed desalination projects in Rodrigues, namely the re-planning of the project, selection of the project area, preparation of terms of reference and tender documents is considered to be far more superior to what has been adopted in Seychelles;

- (iii) The desalination project in Rodrigues will be implemented in a most efficient and cost effective way using the state-of-the art;
- (iv) The necessity of recruiting an electrical engineer or an electrician technician will be of utmost importance;
- (v) The cost of energy accounts for more than 50% of the operating costs and shall be one of the essential criteria for evaluation;
- (vi) Only energy recovery system of Reverse Osmosis system shall be considered, as it is more efficient;
- (vii) The brine discharge shall be looked into with special care within an environmental impact assessment exercise.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I will end here by expressing the sincere thanks of the Executive Council of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly to –

- The Ministry of Economic Planning for meeting the costs of airfares in relation to the visit.
- The Government of the Republic of Seychelles for hosting the delegation.

The Public Utilities Corporation of Seychelles especially the Managing Director, Mr Stephen Rousseau, for organising the visit to the various project sites in a highly professional manner, for accompanying the team members to the sites and extending courtesy during the visit.

Thank you for your attention.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I wish to join the Deputy Chief Commissioner in extending our sincere thanks to the Government of Seychelles and to other persons and bodies mentioned by him.

M. le Président, je voudrais au nom des membres de ce côté de la chambre presenter nos excuses à la Présidence pour avoir dérangé le bon déroulement de l'assemblée, il y a quelques minutes.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DISTRESS - SCHEME

The Commissioner for Arts & Culture & Women's Affairs: (Mrs A. Perrine-Bégué): Mr Chairperson Sir, with your permission, I'll make two statements this afternoon. First, it is with pleasure that I wish to inform the House that my Commission is introducing a scheme for Women and Children in distress. Since my coming into office, I have come across a number of families who are very much at a loss after the sudden death of the breadwinner.

The object of the scheme is to provide temporary relief to women who are in need of financial assistance due to the sudden death of their spouses in exceptional circumstances. An allowance of Rs9,000, spread over a period of three months is paid to women who are in need. An initial amount of Rs50,000 has been provided under the vote/item “Assistance to Women and Children in Distress” of my Commission for this financial year.

The criteria of eligibility for assistance under the scheme will be as follows-

- (i) the applicant’s husband should have died following an accident, murder, electrocution, poisoning, drowning, shipwreck, air crash, riot, or any other exceptional circumstances as the Commissioner may approve;
- (ii) the widow, if working, should be drawing a salary not exceeding Rs6,000 per month;
- (iii) the deceased husband should not have been a regular income taxpayer at least for the last three financial years;
- (iv) consideration will be given to the wife who was living with the deceased before his death;
- (v) the widow should not be the beneficiary of any life insurance taken by her husband;
- (vi) the death should have occurred at most three months following the cause of death;
- (vii) applications for assistance should be made at most six months after the death of the husband;
- (viii) mothers who are dependent on the only son or daughter, in case the offspring dies as a result of any of the causes mentioned above;
- (ix) in the case of accidental death of a child, assistance will be provided to the tune of Rs3,000 to the parents/legal guardians to cover funeral expenses provided that the combined salaries of the parents/legal guardians do not exceed Rs5,000, and
- (x) victims of domestic violence who are temporarily sheltered following an Emergency Protection Order and who cannot, for various reasons, return to their previous residence and have to look for another residence. A sum of Rs3,000 is given to these women.

A communiqué will be issued to inform the public of the introduction of the scheme as soon as the necessary procedures have been finalised for its operation and prescribed forms will be made available at my Commission to potential beneficiaries.

Thank you Mr Chairperson, Sir.

2003 GLOBAL SUMMIT OF WOMEN

Mr Chairperson Sir, with your permission I would also like to inform the House of the outcome of my mission to Marrakech, Morocco where I attended the 2003 Global Summit of Women.

May I first of all express my deep appreciation to the Government of Mauritius, the Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare and the UNDP for having invited a representative from Rodrigues to form part of the Mauritian Delegation to the Summit. May I also thank the Chief Commissioner and my colleagues of the Executive Council for nominating me as Commissioner for Arts & Culture, Women's Affairs, to represent Rodrigues in that Global meeting. The Mauritian Delegation headed by the Minister A. Navarre-Marie consisted of 4 persons.

The Global Summit for Women was held in Marrakech from 28 to 30 June 2003. Informally called the "Davos for Women" by past participants, the summit has developed a reputation as an exciting, fact-filled, hands-on gathering of high calibre participants. The Global Summit has celebrated women's leadership worldwide by bringing together business women, professional and governmental leaders from around the world for three days of stimulating sessions led by opinion leaders and influencers who happen to be women. This year's meeting focused on accelerating women's economic development with an emphasis on cross-border business alliances which is one of my Commission's top priorities. Over 6000 political women leaders and 200 business women from all over the world attended the 13th summit.

The Summit reaches across borders, across disciplines and cultures to enable women from different countries to learn from each other experience in ongoing efforts towards achieving greater economic equity.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, I had the opportunity to intervene during the plenary session on the theme "Women and Leadership" and talked about Rodrigues's Autonomy and the challenges ahead of Rodriguan women. I was congratulated by Minister A. Navarre-Marie for my intervention. The Executive Secretary of the *Organisation Panafricaine des Femmes*, Mrs. Assetou Koitee, approached me and proposed that Rodrigues be the venue for the next Panafrican Women Forum.

I was really moved by the offer and I have discussed the proposal with my colleagues and the Chief Commissioner. We are of the view that as we are still in a transitional period of the effective establishment of the decentralised system of Government, such a major regional event may be organised in Rodrigues in the forthcoming years. Moreover, I had the opportunity to meet and exchange views with quite a number of Women Leaders and I shall maintain contact with them for possible future collaboration for the development of Rodrigues.

Participants agreed on the following main recommendations -

1. Improvement of partnership between Government and the Civil Society;
2. Re-inforcement of the role of the Private Sector;
3. The creation of an appropriate environment for investment;
4. Promote good governance;
5. Research and accessibility to credit facilities and to the market;
6. The promotion of SME;
7. Improvement of the role of medias;
8. Elaboration of Educational programme and specific training for women to strengthen their capacities in the economic activities;
9. Facilitate access to training and in the state-of-the-art technologies;
9. Undertaking structural reforms in terms of micro and macro economic, financial, fiscal, customs and the elimination of administrative bottlenecks to encourage and guarantee a better efficiency in entrepreneurship amongst women.
10. To appeal for the humanization of globalisation and equitable distribution of wealth; and
12. To encourage the setting of a permanent culture of exchange and national solidarity between women through international network and meetings, such as, World Summit to promote women creativity worldwide.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS GAMES – RODRIGUAN ATHLETES - PARTICIPATION

The Commissioner for Youth & Sports: (Mr N. Lisette): Mr Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement with regard to the participation of our athletes in the forthcoming Indian Ocean Islands Games. We are 24 days from the launching of the Games in Mauritius and for Rodrigues we are J-30 as the judo competition will be held on the fourth of September here. Rodrigues is highly privileged to host such an activity in its new political phase and my Commission has taken it as a challenge to make the event a very successful one.

My Commission is working in collaboration with the COJI-Rodrigues and we are proud to welcome the Flame of the Games in Rodrigues on Tuesday 19 August, 2003 at about 14 00 hours. The flame will pass through a whole set of villages - a distance of about 26 km. We are also organising a show at the Millenium Square from 17.00 hours to midnight to celebrate the event which will be animated by the youths.

Mr Chairperson, Sir, we have no less than 39 sportsmen of Rodriguan origin who have been selected to represent the Republic of Mauritius in the coming Island Games. I should say here that in 1985 we had only seven athletes who formed part of the Mauritian team. Now in 2003 we have 39 Rodriguan athletes. Among these, we have 15 athletes and 6 judokas who have done their full training sessions in Rodrigues itself. The whole Rodriguan population should be proud of all of them as they deserve our full respect.

The Games' Truce to be observed during the 2003 Games eloquently demonstrates the positive influence that sport can make. I heartily welcome the central themes of these games: National Unity, Protection of the Environment and general upliftment of young people. I know the message will touch a cord in all our hearts!

I am confident that the Indian Ocean Islands Games will encourage our selected athletes to build on their successful sports careers and continue to serve our country as the role models and ambassadors that they are. Our sports persons, administrators and coaches have demonstrated dedication to sports and excellence and an ability to humble themselves even under the most challenging of circumstances.

I wish to congratulate all these deserving young sportsmen and sportswomen for the success they have scored and I want them to know that this Regional Government and the whole Rodriguan population firmly believe in their abilities. On its part, the Commission for Youth and Sports is committed to the creation of an ideal climate for sports to thrive. It is often said that the Indian Ocean Games will give a new boost to sports in Rodrigues; that is true; but it is to be noted and I would venture to say that the setting up of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Commission for Youth and

Sports on 12 October 2002 have been the driving force and the new impetus to all our sportsmen.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson, Sir.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chief Commissioner: Mr Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do now adjourn to Friday 03 October 2003 at 10.30 hrs.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

Question put and agreed to.

At 2.15 hrs the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Friday 03 October 2003 at 10.30 hrs.

TABLE

APPENDIX I (B/304)

A list of villages institutions and households are listed hereunder for your information:

No.	Villages supplied by tankers	No. of household	Remarks
1	Plaine Corail	20	No net work
2	Bangelic	30	No network
3	Grand La Fouche Mangues	10	No network
4	Baie du nord	20	No network

Water tankers are also used to provide water to village Camp Pintade and Petit Butte in case when the frequency of water distribution is too long and there is about 50 families in Camp Pintade and 20 families at Petit Butte.

LIST OF GOVT. AND NON GOVT. INSTITUTIONS

No.	Name of institution	Location	Remarks
1	Staff quarters	La Ferme	
2	Slaughter house	La Ferme	
3.	Public Infrastructure site	La Ferme	
4	College	Marechal	
5	Slaughter house	Port Mathurin	
6	Regional assembly	Port Mathurin	
7	Rodrigues Prison	Pointe la Geuele	
8	Bus Terminal	Port Mathurin	
9	Central Administration	Port Mathurin	

RODRIGUES/ILE AUX COCOS - PLEASURE CRAFT TRAFFIC

Name	Purpose of licence	Name of boat (if any)	Site of operation	Licence No.	No. of person authorized	Date of issue of licence
MEUNIER Jean Paul	Commercial	Vacances Tropicales	In lagoon	PC 1853 AX (15)	15 persons	18.02.02
Osmosis represented by Percy GONTRAN	Commercial	Osmosis	Around Rodrigues	PC 1854 AY (12)	12 persons	28.03.02
HO TU NAM Fock Keng	Commercial	-	Around Rodrigues	PC 1855 AX (5)	5 persons	11.04.02
MONERET Bernard	Private	O. Guenel	Around Rodrigues	PC 1856 AY (7)	7 persons	15.04.02
ROMUALD Jean Francois	Commercial	Mont Plaisir	Around Rodrigues	PC 1857 AY (15)	15 persons	24.04.02
RAVINA Jean Frederic	Commercial	Mary Jo	Around Rodrigues	PC 1858 AX (6)	6 persons	07.05.02
GENTIL Marie OJoseph	Commercial	Silver Rado	Around Rodrigues	PC 1959 AY (15)	15 persons	08.05.02
CHEVERY Joseph Marlo	Commercial	Saint Jean	Around Rodrigues	PC 1860 AX (5)	5 persons	11.06.02
EDOUARD Marjolette	Commercial	-	Around Rodrigues	PC 1861 AY (16)	16 persons	13.06.02
MEUNIER Francis	Commercial	Saint Pierre	Around Rodrigues	PC1962 AY (16)	16 persons	01.07.02
Ebony World/ Compagnie Valome Ltee	Commercial	-	Around Rodrigues	PC 1863 AY (12)	12 persons	09.07.02

Name	Purpose of licence	Name of boat (if any)	Site of operation	Licence No.	No. of person authorized	Date of issue of licence
CESAR Eric	Commercial	Le Boss	Big Game Fishing	PC 1864 BY (15)	15 persons	19.07.02
MENAGE Roger	Private	-	In lagoon	PC 1865 AX (6)	6 persons	30.07.02
EDOUARD Jean Sergio	Private	-	In lagoon	PC 1866 AX (6)	6 persons	01.10.02
LAGESSE Jean Pierre	Private	-	In lagoon	PC 1867 AY (7)	7 persons	04.10.02
MERCIER Marie Grèce	Commercial	-	Deep Sea Fishing	PC 1868 AY (11)	11 persons	07.10.02

TABLE

APPENDIX III (B/316)

The following activities are embodied in the rehabilitation and reinsertion programme of CRAC:-

- Individual psychotherapy
- Light physical exercise
- Group therapy
- Family therapy
- Ramble
- “Atelier de la nutrition”
- Bee keeping
- Flower production
- Cookery
- Group discussion
- Film show and discussion
- Music therapy
- Video therapy
- “Gymnastique Douce”
- Group counselling
- Indoor games

PQ No. B/324

□ **Others**

Financial assistance to farmers who have lost their cattle and sheep is being finalized.

(b) The total number of beneficiaries is as follows: -

◆ **Farmers**

		<u>No.</u>
• Full time	-	279
• Part time	-	<u>1139</u>
Total		<u>1418</u>

◆ **Beekeepers**

		<u>No.</u>
• < 5 beehives	-	44
• 5 or > beehives	-	<u>90</u>
Total	-	<u>134</u>

◆ **Fishermen** - 16

(d) Financial assistance paid to date

(i) Planters - Rs 1,976,000

Payment for the remaining two months will be effected by the 20th August 2003 in one last instalment.

(ii) Beekeepers - approximately Rs 330,000

(Payment will be effected by 20th
August 2003 in one instalment
for the three months)

(iii) Fishermen

- Payments already effected as per
Annex I.