

No. 2 of 2006

RODRIGUES

FIRST REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Debate No. 2 of 2006

Sitting of Tuesday 14 February, 2006

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Port Mathurin at 10.30 hrs.

(Mr. Chairperson in the Chair)

The National Anthem was played

RODRIGUES REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 2006

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The Executive Council
(Formed by Mr. Louis Serge Clair)

Mr. Louis Serge Clair	Chief Commissioner responsible for Central Administration, Civil Aviation (administration), Education (administration), Customs and Excise Duties (administration), Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, Industrial Development, Judicial (Administration), Legal Services, Marine Parks, Marine Services (administration), Meteorology (administration), Registration, State Lands, Statistics in respect of Rodrigues, Tourism, Town and Country Planning.
Mr. Jean Daniel Speville	Deputy Chief Commissioner responsible for Agriculture, Food Production, Housing. Infrastructure including Highway and roads and Public Buildings and Utilities Plant and Animal Quarantine, Transport, Water Resources.
Mrs. Arlette Perrine-Begue	Commissioner responsible for Arts and Culture, Child Development, Community Development, Family Welfare, Library Services, Women's Affairs.
Mr. André Lelio Roussety	Commissioner responsible for Civil Status, Employment, Information Technology & Telecommunications, Museums, archives, historical sites and buildings, Postal services (administration), Vocational Training.
Mr. Soopramanien Sooprayen	Commissioner responsible for Co-operatives, Fire services, Health (administration).
Mr. Nicolson Lisette	Commissioner responsible for Consumer Protection, Handicraft, Trade, Commerce and Licensing, Youth and Sports.
Mr. Robertson Mercure	Commissioner responsible for Labour and Industrial Relations, Social Security (administration), Prisons and Reform Institutions (administration).

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS

Mr. Chairperson	Lamvohee, Mr. Joseph Chenlye
Clerk	Vithilingem, Mr. Soocramanien
Serjeant –at-Arms	Louis, Mr. Jorgenson

Oral Answers to Questions

PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST CHIKUNGUNYA

B/1: The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. Pierre Louis) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether, as regards Chikungunya which is now an epidemic in Réunion Island, the Commissioner would inform the House:

- (a) whether there has been any case detected in Rodrigues so far; and
- (b) what preventive measures his Commission is taking or intends to take to avoid its outbreak in the island?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, (a) I am informed that no case of Chikungunya has been detected in Rodrigues so far; (b) regarding the prevalence of Chikungunya in Mauritius, Reunion and other Islands, the following measures have been taken to prevent any epidemic of this disease in Rodrigues:- (1) The same programme established in Mauritius regarding surveillance of communicable diseases has been set up here; i.e. all passengers coming from infected areas (both by air and by sea) are screened and put under surveillance of Chikungunya and are visited within a period of 5 days following their arrival; (2) incoming aircrafts from Reunion Island are cleared only after it has been ascertained that the plane has been disinsectivized before taking off from Reunion Island; (3) larviciding of stagnant waters has been reinforced throughout the island; (4) more attention is being laid on larviciding of the Port and Airport areas; (5) the Health Director as well as the Principal Public Health Inspector has been on the radio to explain the public the mode of infection and the precautionary measures such as the need to eliminate stagnant water on their premises are being broadcast on the radio regularly; (6) arrangements are being made with the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life to provide the Commission with adequate pesticides and a fogging apparatus to avoid outbreak of the disease here; (7) to conclude, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no case has been reported in Rodrigues up to now and the situation is closely monitored.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner for Health whether he means that there is no risk that there could be an outbreak of the disease.

Commissioner Sooprayen: Monsieur le Président, comme je viens de le dire en énumérant les sept points, pour le moment, on peut dire qu'il n'y

a pas de risques, mais on est en train de prendre toutes les précautions nécessaires.

Chairperson: Next.

Mr. Pierre Louis: Question B/2.

BOOKS FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

B/2: The Fourth Island Region Member (Mr. Pierre Louis) asked the Chief Commissioner whether as regards books for needy students, the Commisisoner would inform the House where the matter stands so far?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the procurement process for the purchase of books for needy students has already been initiated and that the contract for the supply of same has been awarded on 23 January 2006 to three suppliers, namely – (1) Ernest Store of Port Mathurin; (2) Edition de l'Océan Indien, Mauritius; (3) Edition Le Printemps, Mauritius; (4) The suppliers will have to effect delivery of all books ordered by my Commission within a period of one month as from the date of order. Furthermore, the books ordered from the Edition de l'Océan Indien have already been received and the distribution of the books is being carried out. Arrangements are being made with Edition Le Printemps for the shipment of the books during the next trip of the boat vessel to Rodrigues.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can we know the reasons why although schools and colleges resumed on 11 January, they have awaited until 23 January nearly the end of January to award the contract?

Chief Commissioner: Usually, we have to know who are the students who will enter form I at the secondary schools. There is also the process of looking for information from the school itself and from the Social Security Commission. We have taken the decision that, as from this year all lists of needy students should be ready 3 months before the end of the school year. And we are going to see exactly how this can be processed immediately so that the books can be ordered before the end of the year. But we must know exactly who are the students. This is the problem who are the needy students from the CPE who will go to College? And also the books for the needy students for forms IV. We must know exactly and sometimes the needy students that depend on aid from Social Security. Sometimes for some, the Social Security aid has stopped. That's why we must wait. And I am sure we are going to take up this question before the school year. Thank you.

Minority Leader: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the contract has been awarded on 23 January, when the books will be delivered to the students?

Chief Commissioner: I just said Mr. Chairperson, Sir; the books from L'Edition de L'Océan Indien have already arrived. The suppliers will have to effect the delivery of books ordered within a period of one month as from the date of order. Furthermore, the books ordered from L'Edition de L'Océan Indien have already been received and the distribution is being carried out. Arrangements are being made with l'Edition le Printemps for the shipment of the books during the next trip of the ship to Rodrigues and I have no information here concerning Herney Store. I think the Herney Store books are already in Rodrigues and I am sure that the books have been delivered.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Chief Commissioner concerning books to students in primary schools, there is a scheme in Mauritius whereby students are obtaining Atlas and dictionaries. I don't know whether here it is the same and whether the students here are enjoying the same facility.

Chief Commissioner: All the books have already been distributed to primary schools in Rodrigues.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, est-ce que le Chef Commissaire, peut dire, le fait que ces livres arrivent en retard c'est un fait, quel est l'impacte sur ce qu'on appelle le teaching and learning process in the schools concerned?

Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we know that, whenever the students don't have the books and usually in the different colleges, they try to rely on themselves. I am sure that the delay in the distribution of books to needy students should be solved to next year.

Chairperson: Next, the First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres.

Mr. P. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, question B/3.

ACCUMULATION OF WATER IN THE DRAINS BETWEEN HAPPY CORNER SHOP AND THE CHAPEL AT OYSTER BAY

B/3: The First Local Region Membr for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. François) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards water accumulation in the drains between Happy Corner Shop and the Chapel

at Oyster Bay causing health hazard, he would inform the House about the measures he intended to take to remedy same?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, further to a site visit carried out on the stated site, my office took cognizance of water accumulation in the drains between happy corner shop and the chapel at Oyster Bay and the potential health hazard that it represented. Provision was, therefore, made under the Vote/Item National Disaster Emergency Expenditure for the construction of a drain of about 220 metres long from Happy Corner to the sea complete with a concrete flow at the required slope to channel the water to the sea. The estimated costs of the project is about Rs 4 and the works have been allocated to A.J Maurel Construction Ltd on the 7th November, 2005 under the annual rate contract approved by the Central Tender Board. I have been informed that the percentage of works completed to-day is about 30% and that all works are scheduled to be completed by the end of April.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, out of the Rs 4 m earmarked for the project, whether this includes handrails along the drains?

Chief Commissioner: Well, I'll find out. It seems it's only for the drain. I'll come with a statement on that.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, the drains will lead to the sea I believe it will be at sea level, somewhat above sea level. Has the impact of high tide – raz de maré and other natural occurrences – whether sea water may flow in, been the object of attention.

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, jusqu'à maintenant l'eau rentre à l'intérieur à marée haute. Le fait que Port Mathurin et les autres endroits sont presque qu'au même niveau de la mer, on ne peut faire autrement, à moins de mettre des vannes un peu partout quand l'eau monte afin de l'empêcher d'entrer. Mais il faut quand même se dire que cette eau salé qui entre dans la rivière de Fond la Digue, ça crée quant même un certain aspect au niveau de l'eau qui entre à l'intérieur. Mais comme j'ai dit ici qu'on va donner la pente qu'il faut pour que l'eau aille vers la mer. On ne peut rien faire s'il y a une grosse mare et que l'eau entre à l'intérieur de ces drains. Alors c'est la nature et on ne peut rien faire contre cela à moins que demain on met des vannes partout et qu'à mare haute, on les ferme pour empêcher l'eau de pénétrer à l'intérieur. Mais laissez-moi vous dire, Monsieur le Président, nous avons essayé de voir comment l'eau de la mer soit un aspect qui entre dans la vie des villages. Nous avons même pensé au niveau du Winston Churchill bridge si lorsque ça rentre si ne peut pas être retenue d'une certaine façon afin qu'il y ait toujours de l'eau dans cette rivière pour que

vraiment on ne voit pas ce sable noir et les pierres et ainsi de suite. Alors donc il y a rien qu'on peut faire pour empêcher l'eau de rentrer. Mais alors le gros problème, c'est de donner la pente pour que l'eau descende, pour qu'elle ne reste pas stagnante dans les drains. C'est ça qui est dangereux. Il faut toujours permettre à cette eau d'aller vers la mer.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président nous avons un coût de Rs 4 m, on a dit ici pour 250 mètres de drain, ça fait un coût de Rs 16,000 le mètre pour la hauteur d'à peu près 1.5 mètres. This cost is Rs 16,000 on a basis of 250 metres. Can I ask whether this cost is justified?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur Le Président, c'est un « rate contract ». Il y a eu un appel d'offre, il y a eu des offres et ça a été approuvé par le Central Tender Board et le fait est que ce travail est donné aux contracteurs pour permettre que ça aille plus vite. Le Vice Premier Ministre qui est ici en ce moment ci, on lui a parlé de toute la question des routes, ce que ça coûte à Rodrigues pour faire une route, des drains et il est arrivé à dire que exactement c'est presque les mêmes prix qu'à Maurice. Mais à Maurice c'est moins cher par rapport à Rodrigues. Il y a le coût du ciment, le coût du fer, le coût du macadam, le coût de la pierre, ainsi de suite du sable et autres. Donc ce que je peux dire, Monsieur le Président, c'est un rate, un taux de construction qui a été approuvé par le Central Tender Board. Il y a eu des experts qui ont travaillé dessus, l'ingénieur qui a travaillé le projet, il y a eu des appels d'offre et lorsque c'est arrivé, il y a eu des comités d'évaluation et ensuite ça a été envoyé au Central Tender Board, qui a approuvé ce taux justement pour la distribution du travail.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I'd like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether out of the Rs 4 m there is included the amount to be paid to the design consultant i.e Gibbs (Mtius) and, if yes, state the amount.

Chief Commissioner: Usually when there is a project in the environment sector, it is supervised by the engineer of the Commission for Public Infrastructure. This is not in the contract with Gibbs (Mtius). This is in-house supervision. I must also say that all these works comprise excavation works, materials. There is also a bridge to go on the reclaimed land. This is the information given by my colleague here. This does not fall within the purview of Consultant Gibbs (Mtius). Even for certain roads here, it is according to a rate and is supervised by our Engineer in the Commission for Public Infrastructure.

Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner mentions in-house project. Here we see that the cost is Rs 4 m. I will ask the Chief Commissioner whether in-house they have qualified engineers to make a design and to supervise construction of the project.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Mr. Pheerunghee who is here is a qualified engineer registered with the Council of Engineers. Mr. Perrine also has just been confirmed as engineer for Rodrigues. They are qualified engineers, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. We are not allowed to give work to people who are not qualified engineers to supervise works. They have people under them who work with them. Well we have to put our confidence in qualified people and I must say that Mr. Pheerunghee and Mr. Perrine are qualified engineers and they are working together.

Chairperson: Next? Same member.

Mr. L. P. François: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, question B/4.

OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL AT MARECHAL

B/4: The First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres (Mr. François) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports whether, with regard to the Olympic Swimming Pool found at Maréchal, he would state

- (a) what is being done to make maximum use of the infrastructure; and
- (b) if training courses for swimming will be provided in the future?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Olympic swimming pool at Marechal became international as from November 2005 and since then it has been opened to the public free of charge on Saturdays as from noon to 15.00 hours and from 10.00 hours to 15.00 hours on Sundays and public holidays. I am, informed that an average of 300 persons are having access to the pool per week end. In order to make maximum use of the infrastructure, the pool is being used as follows:-

- (a) practice in swimming by firemen and the officers of the National Coast Guard during weekdays;
- (b) two écoles de natation comprising of each fifteen children within the age range 7 to 9 years old had already been set up and respectively trained twice a week from 4.00 to 5.00 p.m;
- (c) following a series of detection made during the different scéances liés à la notation organized during the month of December to January, a centre de formation consisting of youngsters aging from 14 years old has been set up and are being trained twice a week.
- (d) two special sessions per week are being organized for disabled persons;
- (e) My Commission is

encouraging the setting up of clubs de natation in all secondary schools. In this respect, my Commission is embarking on a sensitization campaign to this effect in all secondary institutions; (f) women and old aged pensioners are encouraging to meet sessions during weekdays; (g) following a meeting held with the headteachers of all primary schools, my Commission is looking into the possibility of introducing swimming in the primary school found in the vicinity of Marechal. As regards to part (b) of the question a first basic course in initiation and officiating in swimming were held in November and December 2005. Twenty-five representatives from primary and secondary schools were allowed to follow same. Those stagiaires who successfully completed the course will now be selected to participate in a level I within a cadre sportif contest specific to be run jointly by an officer of the Ministry for Youth and Sports and a representative of the Mauritius Federation by the end of February 2006. Furthermore, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, another basic course in initiation and officiating will be organized by the swimming coach attached to the Commission for those members of the public who are interested for the setting up of swimming course.

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, could the Commissioner for Youth inform the House who is monitoring the swimming session?

Commissioner N. Lisette: At present, as I said Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a swimming coach who is attached to the Commission. But still, I should say as regards the public sessions which are held during week ends and public holidays. We have volunteers who have followed the course d'initiation and officiating held in December. So they are helping the swimming coach in the sessions.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner mention Federation Mauricienne de Natation. I would like to ask him about the Comité Régional de natation à Rodrigues?

Commissioner N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before we can set up a Comité Régional de natation, there should be, first of all, formation of sports clubs for swimming. As I have said in my answer, we are moving ahead with the training of those members of the public who are interested in the formation of swimming sports clubs. Once these clubs are settled, we shall be in a position as per the Sports Act to set up a Comité Régional de Natation.

Chairperson: Next.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/5

RURAL DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMME FINANCED BY IFAD

B/5: The Second Local Region Member for Marechal (Mr. Agathe) asked the Commissioner responsible for Community Development whether, with regard to the rural diversification programme financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rodrigues she would

- (a) table the project cost, the amount earmarked per year, the expenditure incurred and the percentage of expenditure of the total project cost incurred for the five Annual Work Plans (AWPs) 2000-01 to 2004-05 per component, that is, FAD Fisheries, Micro-Enterprises/Micro Finance and Community Development;
- (b) table the details of all the works achieved for the Annual Work Plans;
- (c) State the number of years scheduled for the implementation of the programme and the date of completion; and
- (d) State whether matters stand for the purchase of a patrol boat and ten community boats?

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the agreement which the Government of Mauritius and the International Fund for Agricultural Diversification (IFAD) was signed on the 28 July, 1999 to become effective on 4 April, 2000. But when I took over the portfolio of community development in October 2002, the IFAD Programme which was under the control of the Island Secretary remain under the control of the Island Chief Executive for some time. He agreed to hand over to my Commission only in September 2003. At that time the IFAD Programme which should be operated by pool fishers like in Mauritius namely by a Project Manager more than one community development officers. A finance officer, a field officer was managed by only one public officer seconded for duty as Project Officer doing all the tasks. A project Manager was then appointed and took office in September 2003. The immediate assistance namely the finance officer and one social facilitator assumed duty one year after in September 2004. It was only then that project management unit became properly constituted to implement the project. The number of years scheduled for the implementation of the programme is six, i.e 2001/2006. The project completion date is 30 June, 2006 but the loan is due to close on 31st December, 2006 by which

the whole account of the project must have been finalised. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I need to point out that the micro enterprise, micro finance component of the programme was managed by the Ministry for Women's Rights until 2004. A loan disbursed by the Development Bank of Mauritius, the Project Management Unit in Rodrigues is only responsible for training of beneficiaries of micro credits, micro projects for the last two years of the project, i.e 2004/2005, 2005/2006. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I mentioned previously in this Assembly the budget for the community development component of the IFAD Programme has been successfully and rapidly executed and managed since we took over in September 2003 that we apply for an increase of ten millions from the Ministry of Finance to complete the outstanding projects which we receive from all of the population. In fact, community development in Rodrigues is the only component of the whole programme including all the IFAD Agencies in Mauritius to have fully utilized the budget and which needed additional funds. As regards the Fisheries component related to Rodrigues, it was managed by the Ministry of Fisheries until 2003/2004. It is only 2004/2005 that the Fisheries Research and the Training Unit (FRTU) in Rodrigues was entrusted with the management of this component. Ten millions has been provided for in the Programme Budget for the purchase of community boats; this amount will be used for as many boats as may be acquired and not 10 boats as mentioned in the question. In June, 2005, tender documents were sent to the Central Tender Board for the design and construction of the patrol boat and the community boats. Tenders were floated from 30th August to 26 October, 2005. The valuation community did not recommend any bid at non satisfied per specification of the tender documents. A of the tender documents was submitted to the Central Tender Board on 15 December, 2005 for the supply of a fibre glass boat to be used as a patrol boat and other fishing boats to be used as community boats. The boats referred to in the fresh tender are ready made once available off the shell rather than specifically designed ones. This method, which is both cost and time effective, has been approved by the Central Tender Board. The boats to be acquired will be delivered before June 2006. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am now tabling information required under paragraph (a) and (b) of the question **(Appendix I)**.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner mentioning many ministries. She mentioned October 2002, September 2003 and she mentioned also Ministry of Fisheries. Before dealing further with the question, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether she is well acquainted with the project.

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I confirm what I just mentioned in my answer. Thank you.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as far as the boats are concerned, patrol boats and the community boats; the Commissioner said that there has been a change in the design of these boats; can we know, according to the Commissioner the design was specific, the specificities she mentioned.

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I cannot give specifications. I think if you want more information, you must come with a substantive question, so I can give all the details relating to that.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président We should have more attendants, Mr. Clerk.

Chairperson: Are you proceeding with the question, or do you wish to wait for the answer.

Minority Leader: Yes, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether she is aware, whether she has read the Director of Audit's report for the last financial year regarding this aspect of IFAD, FADS Community development, micro finance in this project.

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: Yes, of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but I don't have all the details ready. I prefer, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that I am put specific questions.

Minority Leader: Is it true, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that as at the close of the financial year, more than 70% of the budget - with your permission I will look at the Director of Audit's report for the right information - yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes the Community Development, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on an amount of Rs 39 m for Rodrigues, they are expecting to spend only 63% of that amount. On the fisheries component they have spent to date only 26% i.e on a revised project value of 22 m as at 30 June, 2005, they have spent only Rs 5,639,000, 23%. On the micro credit scheme, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rs 447,000. So, how would the Commissioner

Chairperson: I am sorry to disturb you, for which period it was?

Minority Leader: Yes, financial year beginning in June 2005, the last financial year. On the total, Mr. Chairperson, Sir; and the project is to be closed is 30 in June, 2006 in about 4 months. Overall, for the information of the Commissioner, they would have spent only 48% of the total budget, i.e Rs 29 m on Rs 61 m. I don't know whether members realize this waste of international of funds which are available. I don't blame anybody; may be it was due to lack of planning, lack of manpower; there is the problem than less than 50% of the budget will be spent. What accountability to this House as regards this on the part of the

Commissioner for the projects that fall under her? How would she account for such a low performance?

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I can say that the budget which is accounted for in the last percentage of the completion of the project is 2000 up to September 2003 and the different tables that I have submitted show very clearly. Until 2004, it was only up to 25% of the budget managed by the Ministry of Fisheries up to now. And when we took it at 2004/2005, we have done all that was possible to do by the PMU (the Programme Management Unit) of IFAD, Rodrigues. As regards training, sensitisation, all was possible; when you look at the second paper that I have submitted, you will have all the details of activities done and the percentages. But as regards the boats account this represents a high percentage of the fisheries component and that is why we are confident that now that the Central Tender Board has approved the tender documents and that we are going via procedures which can be lighter, more direct, we are more or less sure that for the years that we took over the files 2004-2006, we would be in a position to account for a very good management of funds that was offered to us. As regards micro-enterprises, micro-financed projects up to 2004 when we look at the column 2003-2004, the amount budgeted and the amount actually spent, there is only 13%. As regards funds that were given to people, in Rodrigues we never approve small projects and give funds. It was the Ministry of Women which had the responsibility for the whole Republic of Mauritius as regards micro-enterprises, micro-finance. We only took activities for training and sensitization during the micro-credit year i.e. last year, we organized 51% of the activities when we had somebody because we have the Community Development Officer who was to take over the files, she did between September 04 to January 05 - 51% of the whole budget that we had proposed so that we think, Mr. Chairperson. Then, she left and recruitment of someone is still ongoing. We, therefore, have reasons to give. We have done between September and January 51% for Rs 502,000 that was budgeted for us to do follow-up activities with those who had already received funds. As regards community development, which is directly under the control of my Commission during the years 2000-2001, only 13% was used, during 2001-2002, 24%; during 2002-2003, 37%, 2003-2004, 102% and now 2004-2005 we have already disbursed 98% of the funds so that, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are doing the job correctly. But there are certain explanations, e.g. in Community Development, there are 2 aspects: little community infrastructural projects and track roads, community centres, pre-primary schools, renovation/construction, environment projects, acquisition of equipment, training, income generating activities with communities and individuals. But there is also the aspect of agriculture. Here also there is the question of procurement. We have a number of activities with the Commissioner for Agriculture, IFAD and my

Commission. Training in honey, study tours to planters, purchase of equipment, agro-processing, livestock, fodder, training of farmers, model farms setting-up, orchard management, mechanization, soil conservation, irrigation water use management, all these are projects that we have done in agriculture. But where there is procurement for equipment, this is where it gets stuck a little bit. But we are confident that even in this aspect of Community Development and the agricultural component, we will be able to procure all the equipment that are in the pipeline at present and increase the percentage of budget use.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président

Chairperson: Time is up, I will allow only one last question.

Minority Leader: La Commissaire peut parler, mais d'après les informations qu'elle a données, elle même, ça démontre que dans ce projet sa responsabilité is to be put to blame because the project is not working. I'll give example and ask her to comment under output 4 of the project, I think it is from the annual workplan for the period July 2005 – June 2006 i.e the current financial year under the output “knowledge, skills and motivation of registered fishers for off lagoon fishing around fads in place”, they proposed to train a number of persons trained in FAD fisheries - fish aggregating device, they proposed as their target 110 – to date, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that figure is zero trained so zero % achievement. Number of Community boats distributed, target 10, to date zero. Same, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, no. of persons trained in middle management of FAD fisheries, target 45, zero. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Director of Audit Report again says “the programme provides for the deployment of 15 FADs around Rodrigues including the replacement of 5 others i.e 15”. What we see here is in the Director of audit Report, page 4 for Rodrigues, only Rs 29,000 out of the revised project value of Rs 1.1 million were spent – only six FADs have been deployed and 3 others replaced. Monsieur le Président, est-ce que la Commissaire va premièrement commenter sur ces chiffres, ces resultats qu'elle a elle même déposés et annoncer pendant les 4 mois qui viennent quelles sont les mesures qu'elle compte adopter pour faire en sorte que tous ces targets pour lesquels L'IFAD et le gouvernement de Maurice a mis le budget, le fonctionnement nécessaire pour qu'elle puisse “at least” improve her performance in that project. I would end by saying, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that if she needs help, this part of the House can help her.

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: Point of Order, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. The Minority Leader is commenting. He must put his question. Well, as regards, the boats, as I said this is still ongoing. And it has a major impact on the final result that we shall have. Even though as I said it is

only in 2004 as it is said clearly when we took over the file and we have shown due diligence on this file, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards FAD fisheries I must say we have put a technical management Committee in which the Commission for Fisheries as well as IFAD and my Commission are closely managing the technical aspects of these projects. I must say that even with IFAD in Mauritius, there are a number of problems, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. This is not so easy to put into practice because there are a number of technical problems that you cannot escape. As regards FAD training it is ongoing. I have not put it. The question was not specific about 05, 06. I have not included in my answer the FAD training, but I can submit it again. As regards FAD, he has said that 6 have been deployed but 12 more will be deployed before June, 2006. So, we are confident. What I would invite the House to do, I have submitted the document in transparency. I would say that IFAD supervisors came over to Rodrigues and said that Community Development really requires applause for what we have done. I would invite the House, that is, would not be good to do demagogy; it is good to wait until the programme is finished because before we do comment on the programme we have a lapse of time for 01-06. We took over at 04 so that we are sure, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that it is quite with honour that we would be presenting the percentages that we would have been able to do because for the years that the project was not managed by us, the project was divided between several agencies in Mauritius, Ministries, etc. We cannot account for that, we can only account for what we have tried to do during the time we took over the file.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/6.

WORKLOAD OF THE COMMISSION – AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

B/6: The Second Local Region Member for Marechal (Mr. Agathe) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regards to the workload of the Commissioner/s he is responsible for he would

- (a)** table a comparable list of his areas of responsibility as well as the names of the Departmental Heads, Adviser's and other Senior Administrative Officers serving in his Commisison/s for the years 2005/2006; and
- (b)** state the exact current physical location of the office of the former Commissioner for Education, Training, etc, Commissioner André Lélío Roussety?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, (a) I am tabling the lists of my areas of responsibilities as well as officers and Advisers who served and are serving in my office for years 2005 and 2006; **(Appendix II)**. (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Mr. André Lélío ROUSSETY, Commissioner for Vocational Training and his Commission is accommodated in offices found at the Human Resource Centre of Malabar. Action is being initiated to seek tenders for the renting of office space in Port Mathurin for the Commission of Vocational Training including an office for the Commissioner. After the completion of procedures, the Commission's Headquarters will be transferred to Port Mathurin except for the office of the Employment Services which will remain at Malabar as it is related with training. It is expected that jobseekers would also take advantage of career guidance services which will be offered at the Human Resource Centre in the near future.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, it is known that training, education, etc, go together. Can the Commissioner justify the reasons why there is a Commissioner responsible for training and another responsible for Education. What is this kind of policy, Mr. Chairperson, Sir?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, si on sait très bien qu'autrefois, même l'éducation était séparée de la formation et de l'emploi sous l'ancien gouvernement et il est sûr et certain que la question de formation a besoin à Rodrigues d'une attention particulière et plus particulièrement auprès de ceux qui ont quitté l'école. Avec aussi la formation qui est donnée par la Commission de la jeunesse et des sports, par la Commission de la femme et la Commission de l'agriculture. Nous avons décidé que ces quatre commissions vont travailler ensemble pour essayer justement à arriver à créer dans la population toute une mentalité, d'entrepreneuriat, de formation et connaître et savoir et n'importe qui dans ce pays doit pouvoir faire quelque chose. C'est ça notre but et c'est pourquoi nous avons pensé que ce sera un travail très centré sur la jeunesse, sur les femmes, les hommes et aussi tout le monde. Et nous pensons que ça va être un travail assez lourd et qu'il faudra justement essayer de lui donner toute son importance et c'est pourquoi, il y a cette séparation. Mais ce qui veut dire aussi que dans l'éducation nous avons aussi, ce que nous appelons l'orientation professionnelle. Donc, ce qui veut dire que même les jeunes qui sortent du collège pour L'IVTB. Donc, il y a une continuité dans tout cela. Et c'est pourquoi il nous faudra repasser toute la question de formation vocationnelle et formation professionnelle et que dans l'éducation nous pourrions orienter tous ces jeunes qui vont quitter les collèges, et même dans l'éducation aujourd'hui, donner cette orientation et qu'à ce moment là, ils arrivent dans ce domaine de la formation professionnelle et vocationnelle.

Mrs. M.T.Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commisisoner concerning training, career guidance, he talks about career guidance after students have left school. But that does he think about career guidance at the level of secondary schools?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, nous avons créé dans le budget de Human Resource Centre, un poste de career guidance et en ce moment ci, il y a dans tous les collèges, tout un groupe d'enseignants. Là, je tiens à féliciter, à remercier ce groupe d'enseignants dans les différents collèges qui sont en train de réfléchir justement sur l'orientation professionnelle de nos jeunes avec la collaboration de l'ambassade de France. Cette unité de Career guidance au niveau de Human Resource Centre à ce moment là sera répandue et ça va être le centre de la formation, de la réflexion de tous ceux qui dans ces groupes dans les écoles, il n'y aura pas simplement une personne mais tout un groupe d'enseignants qui à travers la formation de ces enseignants pourront inculquer à nos jeunes les possibilités d'une orientation professionnelle. Donc, la structure à partir du Centre de Ressources Humaines avec ce poste de Career Guidance Officer, ça va se répandre au niveau de tous ces collèges. Donc le travail a déjà commence avec les groupes d'enseignants.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before 10th January, this year the Chief Commissioner was responsible for central administration, environment, fisheries, forestry, industrial development, state lands, tourism, town and country planning (nine among twenty areas of responsibility, including sectors as important as to tourism, state lands, fisheries, environment and now he has taken over education. From a strategic point of view, can the Chief Commissioner justify this move of bringing the responsibility for education within his control?

Chairperson: This is a question which I have already ruled upon before; the question was presented in a very different way and it was about assignment of responsibilities, the reasons why x Commissioners are assigned x responsibilities. I ruled that such questions were inadmissible on the Order Paper being given that the responsibility to assign all those areas is vested in me under the law. As such questions ought not to be answered in this House. It goes directly to my jurisdiction under the law and the question was not admissible on the Order Paper and of course, it won't be admissible as a supplementary question. But of course, if the wording of the question is changed to such an extent, it may depending on the purport of the question be admissible. Yes, would the Commissioner react to what the Minority Leader has asked?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, il est sûr et certain qu'on voit que c'est beaucoup de responsabilités mais au niveau de l'administration, si on regarde bien, il y a beaucoup de petites choses – registration, civil aviation, etc. Il y a toute une méthode de travail au niveau du Chief Commissioner's Office. Et cela ou justement chaque area of responsibility a des personnes responsables, donc notre but ce n'est pas de faire le travail à la place des autres mais de faire faire le travail. Donc, il y a des responsabilités, il y a des officiers au niveau de ma Commission et que chaque officier sait de quoi il s'agit et quel est son travail. C'est toute une question d'organisation du travail. C'est toute une question de travailler avec ces personnes et si on regarde bien, à Maurice ils ont plusieurs ministres, mais ici on n'est que sept et chacun ici a beaucoup de responsabilités. Quand on regarde le Commissaire des infrastructures publiques, de l'agriculture et de l'eau ce sont des secteurs où il y a beaucoup de responsabilités. Si on regarde aussi du côté de la femme, de l'enfant, des arts et de la culture, si on regarde au niveau de la santé, alors ce sont des secteurs, vraiment qui demandent beaucoup d'attention. C'est pourquoi nous avons avec le personnel que nous avons au niveau de l'administration de ces petites responsabilités qu'il y a sur la liste, ce n'est que simplement au niveau de l'administration. Ce sont des procédures administratives. Donc ce que nous voulons simplement dire, c'est tout simplement une question de travail, de faire le travail comme il faut et puis nous avons dit que nous voulons mettre l'accent sur la formation. Nous avons remarqué que ceux qui sortent des collèges, que ceux dans le pays partout, tout ce monde là a besoin d'être formé. Je félicite madame ici de vouloir vraiment aller au fond de la formation des femmes et de jeunes filles et ça c'est un bon travail. Et quand on voit à la télévision les jeunes filles qui viennent vous parler "bizin capav dibout lors nous deux lipieds" c'est ça qu'il faut inclure et ça c'est un gros travail tout ça et parfois avec le peu de personnel que nous avons à accomplir le peu de moyens que nous avons, nous arrivons à faire les choses autrement et de bonne manière.

Chairperson: Last question.

Mr. Christian Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, before 2006 the Chief Commissioner's Office had got a number of administrative cadre and at that time education did not fall under his responsibility. Now with the same strength of administrative workers and problems with tourism we have a lot of problems in Rodrigues and we see now that with the same number of workers, he has taken over the responsibility for education. I will ask the Commissioner whether this will have an impact on education and any other areas of responsibility in his Commission.

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, l'unité du tourisme est toujours là avec les Executive Officers, les Clerks, les Departmental Heads. Et ce qui est intéressant au niveau de l'éducation, on est en train de mettre de nouvelles structures, il y a une question plus loin dessus, de nouvelles structures, de nouvelles responsabilités et aussi une nouvelle organisation pour qu'il y ait beaucoup plus de partage de responsabilités et j'ai fait des rencontres avec les enseignants, avec les maîtres d'école et autres, on va faire des rencontres avec les autres. Déjà le Departmental Head, Mr. Davis Hee Hong Whye a fait une rencontre avec les recteurs, il y a des choses qui commencent à se créer, donc toute une ambiance et nous attendons la réponse du Ministre concernant le REDCO et il faudrait que ça aille vite. Donc il y a tout un travail qui a commencé, tout un travail qui a été fait et notre but, c'est justement rendre les personnes plus responsables, arriver à mettre sur place des structures pour que ces personnes là deviennent responsables et donner un esprit à ce qu'on appelle l'éducation. C'est pourquoi on voudrait faire la même chose au niveau de la formation vocationnelle et professionnelle, mettre des structures en place pour que justement les gens puissent se sentir responsables et partager les responsabilités à tous les niveaux.

Mr. Christian Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/7.

PROJECTS OF GRANTING "BASSINS" TO TRUST FUNDS' BENEFICIARIES

B/7: The Second Local Region Member for Marechal (Mr. Agathe) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the project of granting "basins" to the beneficiaries of the Trust fund for Vulnerable Groups, he would state

- (a) who obtained the contract for the manufacture of these tanks;
- (b) table a list of beneficiaries who have already received theirs; and
- (c) what action is being taken so that the other beneficiaries obtain theirs?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson Sir, the information is as follows: (a) the contract for the manufacture of one thousand (1,000) fibre glass tanks of capacity 23 was awarded to Rodrigues Boatyard Ltd on 17 April for the construction of Rs 6,500, 000; (b) the Trust Fund for Vulnerable Groups has been requested to contact the listed beneficiaries who have already received and this will be tabled in the library of the Assembly shortly. Several problems were encountered with the quality of

the tanks. It was found that there was a problem of leakage in most of them. In line with the condition of the contract, it was decided to terminate the contract for the manufacture of water tanks due to its poor quality and also because of the delay in their delivery. As at today an amount of Rs 1,174,000 has been paid to the Rodrigues Boatyard Ltd. It was proposed to construct circular concrete water tanks using moulds which are available in villages and using the remaining funds to purchase materials to be provided to all approved beneficiaries who would then be responsible for the casting of the tank. The clearance of the Trust Fund for the social integration of Vulnerable groups for the financing of this project is still being awaited.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on a previous question on that issue, the Deputy Chief Commissioner himself stated that those defective fibre glass tanks would be repaired. Can I ask him now at the time we are speaking whether this has been done, if not, why?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally the Trust Fund was requested to send back the defective fibre glass tanks to the manufacturer's place for repairs. Some of them have been repaired after survey by the officers of my Commission; they were still defective. This is why perhaps the contract has been rescinded.

Mr. Allan Ladd Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in fact, some of these tanks were returned to Boatyard Ltd. But in 2005, many of these fibre glass tanks were sold to members of the public. I should like to ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he is aware of this state of affairs and secondly why these tanks have been sold?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the contract has been rescinded. Liquidated damage clause has been applied against the company and it is the company itself which has sold the fibre glass tanks.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner state what amount still remains?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is Rs 6.5 minus 1,174,000.

Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. C. Agathe: Question B/8.

**BANGELIQUE FISHERMEN CO-OPERATIVE
& OTHER FISHERMEN**

B/8: The Second Local Region Member for Marechal (Mr. Agathe) asked the **Chief Commissioner** whether, with regard to the Bangelique Fishermen Co-operative and other fishermen who have already handed over their fishing nets, he would

- (a) state whether they have already obtained their compensation; and if yes, state the quantum per fishermen; and
- (b) if not, state where matters stand?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on the 30th August, 2004 the Bangelique Cooperative Netfishermen Society Ltd represented by Mr. Bruno Capdor made a request to relinquish his large net activities. After relevant enquiry his request has been transmitted to their Ministry of Fisheries in May 2005 for consideration as funds for payment of approved compensation to fishers who relinquish their net activities have been provided in the estimates of that Ministry for both Mauritius and Rodrigues. In a letter dated 15 August, 2005, the Ministry has advised that funds are available for the payment of compensation to the Banzelique Co-operative Net Society at the rate of Rs 70,000 per fisherman. However, Mr. Capdor, the Head Fisherman, has explained that all the nets of the Cooperatives Society belong to him and claims that he be compensated on the same basis as private large net fishers i.e Rs 280,000 + Rs 42,000 representing the cost of the net. In view of the previous request of Mr. Capdor in a correspondence dated 2 September, 2005, the Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries has been requested to consider the possibility of the grant of Rs 42,000 to the Head Fisherman. A reply is awaited. On the request for the payment of cost of net allowance before proceeding further with the application of the Co-operative Society to relinquish their net fishing activities. I raised a question with the Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries during a meeting I had with him on the 17 January, 2006. He has informed that he will look into the matter and will favour my office with a reply. In the meantime the Bangelique Cooperative Society Ltd was fully engaged in the net fishing during the last fishing season and has again applied for the renewal of his large net licence in view of the next fishing season which will start on the 1st March, 2006.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, at the sitting of 8 November, 2005, the Chief Commissioner mentioned that the Executive Council would take a decision so as to compensate the Bangelique Co-operative Net Fishermen Co. Ltd., I'd like to ask the Chief Commissioner where does the matter stand?

Chief Commissioner: Well, I agree with the member. Well, we have tried our best and when I met the Minister, Mr. Boolell, I explained the case to him. So, we are waiting for his answer. Whenever his answer is delayed, we are going to contact him again. So, I think we are on this side here; we are going to take a decision and find the necessary funds to compensate the Bangelique fisherman Co-operative Society.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Head Fisherman informed of the relinquishment of this large net licence on 30 August, 2004 and in May 2005, the Chief Commissioner's Office sent the documents to the Ministry of Fisheries. Can I ask the Chief Commissioner why he has taken so long to send the documents to the Ministry of Fisheries?

Chief Commissioner: Well, it was not only this case, there were also other cases of cooperatives and we are going to see how these co-operatives are going on. It was not for this only but for other co-operatives. So, at the different meetings of the Committee on fishing, very often we had to put questions to the Divisional Co-operative Officer, Mr. Anthony, and there was always a written correspondence between the Co-operative and my Commission and at that time you know, sometimes it took a long time for letters from Mauritius to come here. That's why this has been delayed from August 2004 to May 2005 and the problem you know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is that when you write a letter to Mauritius sometimes it takes a long time and we had to make enquiries on the different co-operatives here. At a certain time it was said that those co-operatives should be written off and in the last Fishermen Act, there is a new co-operative law stipulating that all those co-operatives which are not working will be written off. That's why, you know, it has taken such a long time.

Chairperson: Time is up, next question? The Second Island Region Member.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/9.

HOTELS AND TOURISM PROJECTS AROUND THE ISLAND

B/9: The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. Meunier) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards hotels and tourism projects around the island he would state

- (a)** the number of projects for which the lease has been allocated and the date of allocation;

- (b) whether the delays prescribed in the lease for starting construction on each project have been adhered to; and
- (c) state the names and location of projects which have not conformed to the above requirement?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to hotels and tourism projects around the island I am tabling all the required information with respect to the number of projects for which the lease has been allocated, the date of allocation, the delays prescribed in the lease for the start of construction, the names and locations of the project, the status of each project to date (**Appendix III**). It is noted that one promoter whose lease for a guest house project at English Bay has expired since October, 2005, has applied for an extension of his lease him to enable him to start his project. His request is presently under consideration.

Chairperson: Yes, we move on?

Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have been told that there is only one promoter who has not complied with the delay prescribed in the lease to build up. Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this matter has been mentioned in this House that the Commissioner was giving due consideration to the fact that some promoters, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, have just obtained the land for tourism development. They have not enough of financial resources to complete the project and some of them are actively at the national and international level trying to resell these projects. Is due consideration being given to such issues at the level of the Commission for Tourism and of course the Commission for land?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have not yet received the request for selling of land or projects. But I said in a reply here in this House that we are not going to allow that those who have been allocated land for a special project sell their rights on the land to other promoters. And all the promoters have been convened and we have told them that we'll not accept those kinds of things. And we know some of the promoters whom we have met last year and we are still discussing with them when they are going to start their projects. Some say they have some projects in Mauritius, they are going to finish these and they will come to Rodrigues. Some say that well they are working for shareholders and some say they are waiting for roads to be constructed so that they may have access to the land. But I must assure the House that we are not going to accept any kind of things concerning the transaction of land or any selling of projects in Rodrigues.

Minority Leader: We appreciate such a position Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if we look at the table which has been submitted, we see that there is a varying difference in the period for the development of site as from the signature of the lease – 12 months, 24 months, 36 months and only one promoter, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, La Belle Rodriguaise Cie has been allocated 42 months, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, compared to Pte Venus Hotel – 36 months, which is of bigger capacity, it has been allocated a lease in 2002 it is already completed. La Belle Rodriguaise was allocated in May, 2003, it has not yet started 3 years after. It has got 42 months. Other projects such as Ecotourism Centre at Eau Claire which were allocated well after La Belle Rodriguaise Ltd in April, 2004 and other projects Tortoise Reserve 36 months allocated in 2005, they have already started. I'd like to invite the Chief Commissioner to say whether he would give particular attention to this project of La Belle Rodriguaise Co. Ltd which is 42 months i.e 3½ years expiring this year.

Chief Commissioner: La Belle Rodriguaise has already obtained a building permit and we'll find out in the lease whether it is exactly 42 months or less than that. We'll see also why. There is also a problem concerning access to the road and we'll find out whether it is 42 months and we'll come with a statement on what has been done here giving exact information on the different projects mentioned in the paper. Thank you.

Chairperson: Next.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/10

ALLEYS LEADING TO THE FEMALE WARD IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

B/10: The Second Island Region (Mrs. Meunier) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health with regard to the alleys leading to the female ward in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, whether he would give the reasons why the covering has not been completed and then this will be done?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I inform the House that the whole project of the alley was in phases. The first phase comprised rehabilitating the alley itself. The second phase was putting up the concrete columns and the last phase the covering structure. The contract of covering the alleys has been awarded on 09 January, 2006 and the work is to be completed by 16 March, 2006. Regular site meetings are being held with the contractor, the last one took place on 30 January, 2006. The progress of work is on schedule.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Monsieur le Président, puis-je demander au Commissaire de la Santé pourquoi se fait-il qu'il y a eu différentes phases dans le projet, vu que c'est un hôpital; il y a des dérangements dans la cour, il y a dérangements des patients, il y a des visiteurs qui risquent de se blesser. C'est pourquoi je lui demande de justifier pourquoi il y a eu trois phases au lieu d'un continuus project?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de dire à l'assemblée quand le gouvernement régional est venu au pouvoir en Octobre 2002 et moi j'ai été là comme Commissaire ce jour là, je suis allé voir un peu partout. Il y a beaucoup de choses à faire et j'ai vu cette allée, j'ai vu comment les trolleys passaient sur cette allée avec des malades de la salle des dames, e.g pour aller à la salle d'opération et une de mes priorités à ce moment là, c'était de regarder l'allée. Là on m'a dit pourquoi ne pas faire le tout en même temps, l'allée, les colonnes, la couverture. C'est très bien, ça. J'aurais aimé avoir une transformation de mon hôpital, de mes dispensaires, etc. On a beaucoup de vision, mais c'était une question de finance. C'est pourquoi j'ai dit, voilà on commence par le plus important – l'allée et ça a été vraiment très bénéfique pour les patients, laissez-moi vous dire. Je vous donne la garantie que le 16 Mars, vous serez à l'abri vous mêmes si vous venez à l'hôpital vous allez voir que ce soit contre la pluie ou le soleil.

Chairperson: Next question, last supplementary.

Mrs. M.T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner whether there were other constraints than financial ones?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Pas tout à fait d'autres contraintes mais il ya les procédures de la finance.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I heard the Commissioner mentions construction of alleys, cover, reinforced concrete columns, I have a paper here which I received from the Chief Commissioner's Office dated 23 August, 2005 (**Appendix IV**). It is mentioned that the alleys and the construction of reinforced concrete columns have already been done.

Chairperson: Yes, if you want to refer. Are you tabling this paper?

Mr. C. Agathe: Yes.

Chairperson: Your question is?

Mr. C. Agathe: How come that now he is going to construct again?

Chairperson: Can the Commissioner be allowed to see the paper?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Monsieur le Président, je vois la dessus on a mis, covering of alleys, ce n'est plus covering of alleys, c'est plutôt the columns, the second phase. This has been a repetition I will check it. I will not give you false information.

Chairperson: Yes, next. Time is up for this question. Next one.

Mr. C. Agathe: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a last one.

Chairperson: I shall allow you a last question.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, excusez moi, mais je crois que l'affaire est assez sérieuse. On demande que le Commissaire précise sa position, parceque le membre de l'opposition a déposé un document officiel attestant que L'allée a été construite.

Chairperson: Please wait the member himself, take your seat please, stated that he got a paper from the Commission. It is not proved to me whether this a privileged document, what is the veracity on the face of the document, whether the document is a correct version of things. It has to be proved first. When you say it is official, I agree with you. It should be known whether it is official, I agree with you. It should be known whether it is and secondly, if you just table a paper without giving ample time to the Commissioner to react, of course, what do you expect? The Commissioner should be given time to at least identify the paper, situate the thing and then reply to your questions.

Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the officialness of the paper which is issued from.

Chairperson: To whom?

Minority Leader: Written reply the source is the Hansard of the Assembly, written reply to PQ A/1 of sitting of 23 August, 2005.

Chairpeson: So, the correct source is that you took cognizance of the document from the table of the Assembly. Yes, if you had said so, then it would have been clear.

Minority Leader: So, I will repeat, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Chairperson: Yes, it is an official document, it has been tabled.

Minority Leader: Yes, unless you want to bring Hansard here.

Chairperson: For what purpose?

Minority Leader: I have mentioned. We trust the Clerk and my member. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the affair is serious enough to kindly request you to give us some more time to examine this matter on the grounds of accountability that the Commissioner explains what is happening.

Chairperson: Yes, what do you want me to do if the Commissioner says he will look into the matter?

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we do not have a clear picture of what is happening. As usual he is confusing us here. He is himself confused. There are 2 items converging of alleys and construction of reinforced concrete columns at Q.E.H. It is true we recognize that the amounts are the same. The question arises whether the same amount has not been paid twice, once for covering of alleys and another for construction of reinforced concrete columns but we all know, I have been to the hospital this morning there is no covering of alleys. What is the position of the Commissioner?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the whole project including the covering part. But I have just said, I will look into the matter and I will see the Commisison which presented the paper. I have said it is repetitive.

Chairperson: Order, please, yes.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think this matter is serious. We are playing with Rs 200,000. What I would suggest, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Chairperson: This is question time.

Minority Leader: For us to have a clearer picture of what happened, the Commissioner could contact his Departmental Head and ask him to produce the information for him before the Assembly closes so that he is allowed to make a statement thereon.

Chairperson: Next question, please same member.

Mrs. M.T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/11.

BEDS IN THE FEMALE WARD

B/11: The Second Island Region Member (Mrs. Meunier) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health whether he would inform the House about the number of beds in the female ward and whether any patient has stayed without a bed on his/her admission to Queen Elizabeth Hospital?

Chairperson: Order, please you are sort of disturbing the Commissioner and then you want an answer which is which?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are 28 beds in the female ward at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I am informed that it has never happened that patients had to stay without beds on admission for a long time. It could have happened when beds are occupied that a patient who is mobile had waited for half an hour or so before discharged patients left the bed. In case of a very sick patient getting admitted, arrangements are made to transfer the convalescent patient or to arrange for immediate conveyance of discharged patients to their places of residence. On occasions when the wards are fully occupied and admissions are getting in, arrangements are made to transfer convalescent patients to Area Health Centres at Mont Lubin or La Ferme.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I ask the Commissioner during the thirty minutes that a sick patient is waiting for admission and for a bed, what happens to him? Where does he go?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I first said, a patient who is mobile waited for half an hour or so. Now for a very sick patient, arrangements are made to transfer the convalescent patient to a place for a very sick one.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, does the Commissioner mean that then a patient is mobile, he is not very sick? You've got my point?

Chairperson: Please stop interruptions from a sitting position. This applies to both sides.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Does the Commissioner mean that when a patient is mobile, he is not very sick?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I really don't mean this. By saying if the patient is mobile, at least he or she has a place to sit down for some minutes, half an hour. But he has a place to sit down.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner talked about immediate discharge of patients, so that if lots of patients are

coming, I'd like to ask him whether this forms part of his policy and, if not, what are his policies concerning that matter.

Chairperson: You've understood the question? No, I am sorry if you really want an answer, you must repeat the question.

Commissioner Sooprayen: Monsieur le Président, ce n'est pas une question de policy, c'est une question d'administration, ça n'arrive pas tous les jours.

Chairperson: Last one.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Commissioner for Health if he is aware that not later than a fortnight ago, two female patients were admitted at Queen Elizabeth Hospital at 10.00 a.m. They waited for a bed until late at night when they were transferred to La Ferme Health Centre? Is he aware of that?

Commissioner Sooprayen: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have not been made aware of it and I will find out.

Chairperson: I suspend the Assembly for 45 minutes. We shall be resuming at 12.52 hours.

(Suspension at 12.07 hours)

(Resumption at 12.52 hours)

Clerk: Resumption of questions, B/12

Chairperson: Yes, can we proceed. The Sixth Island Region Member.

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/12.

**BUS STOP ALONG LA ROUTE DE L'AUTONOMIE AT
PETIT GARBIEL OPPOSITE "KIKI COIFFURE"**

B/12: The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs. Prosper) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the bus stop along La Route de L'Autonomie at Petit Gabriel Opposite "Kiki Coiffure"

(a) whether he is aware of the problems caused to traffic when buses stop there due to the lack of lay-by; and

(b) state what measures he intends to take to remedy same?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, No representation has been made to the Road Safety Committee and the National Transport Committee regarding problems caused to traffic when buses stop at Petit Gabriel opposite to Kiki Coiffure. However, Road Safety being a matter of urgency, representations from anyone is always welcome. Officers of the National Transport Authority and Police Representatives of the Road Safety Unit and the Road Safety Committee will carry out site visits and submit their report in due course. Information will also be sought from the Road Development Authority to supervise the road construction as to why a lay-by has not been constructed there. If there is need to construct a lay-by at this particular place, same will be considered.

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, could the Deputy Chief Commissioner say if that lay-by existed in the project?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Yes, as I have said, information will be sought from the Road Development Authority to supervise the road construction to see whether there was a lay-by in the project. In the light of this consultation, that we know whether there was a lay-by in the project at this particular place.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the member has put a question last week and the Commissioner says he will look whether there was a lay-by in the project. Why is it that he has not consulted the Consultant or the engineer to see whether there was a lay-by in the project? Why afterwards?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, instructions have already been given to officers of my Commission and since the Road Transport Development Authority is in Mauritius, I am awaiting a reply.

Chairperson: Next.

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/13.

ROAD JUNCTION AT MALABAR

B/13: The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs. Prosper) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner with regard to the road junction at Malabar whether, he would state

- (a) the number of accidents which happened there;
- (b) how many had been fatal; and
- (c) what measures he intended to take to remedy same?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, (a) three (3) accidents have occurred at that road junction; (b) one of them was fatal in January, 2004; (c) it is proposed to reduce the present speed limit at this junction from 50 kms per hour to 30 kms per hour. In view of the particular location of this road junction, the views of the traffic Management Unit will also be sought. Any measure which will be recommended to make that junction safer will be taken as a priority by the Road Safety Committee.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Deputy Chief Commissioner say what is the expected time by which the recommendations of the Road Safety Committee will come to his Commission so that an urgent action is taken?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, normally on this type of issue, the Road Safety Committee has no expertise to deal with the matter and we are requesting someone, an engineer from the Traffic Management Unit of Mauritius to come in Rodrigues to look at the matter and give proper recommendations.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: In the meantime, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether he can have police officers in the Road Traffic Unit to be posted there during peak periods in order to ensure safer circulation of traffic there because it is a very dangerous place.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I take notice of the question on the recommendation and I will deal with the matter in the Road Safety Committee requesting police to patrol over the island.

Chairperson: Next.

Mrs. J. Prosper: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/14.

NARROWNESS OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE FILLING STATION AT PORT MATHURIN

B/14: The Sixth Island Region Member (Mrs. Prosper) asked the Deputy Chief Commisisoner given the narrowness of the entrance to the filling station at Port Mathurin and the increasing traffic flow there during refueling periods causing regular traffic jams, what measures he intends to take to improve the situation?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have been advised by the police that for a remedial urgent measure the exit from the Filling Station be used as the entrance to accommodate vehicles queuing and the present entrance gate be used as exit for vehicles leaving the filing station. Subsequently, appropriate indication signs will have to be placed. This proposal will have to be further discussed with the Road Safety Committee, the Road Safety Unit and with the Company AEL DDS. A second filling station will be set at Mont Lubin and AEL DDS will be granted an industrial lease for that purpose. A letter of intent has already been issued to the Company in 2005. In addition the company is proposing to operate a mobile filing station at Baie Lascars for the refueling of buses in the morning and in the afternoon at Grand La Fouche Corail. This will greatly help to improve the situation. The Company has already applied for an "A" Carrier Licence to do so.

Chairperson: Next? The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme.

M. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/15.

PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO IN BOTH PREPRIMARY & PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN RODRIGUES

B/15: The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Jabeemissar) asked the Chief Commissioner whether he would say

- (a) what is the pupil-teacher ratio in both pre-primary and primary schools in Rodrigues;
- (b) what are the norms of such ratio for the Republic of Mauritius; and
- (c) if any school in Rodrigues has a higher ratio and to give the reasons thereof?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the pupil/teacher ration for this year in both primary and secondary schools in Rodrigues are 17.5: 1 and 27:1 respectively. There are presently no norms established for the Republic of Mauritius for such ratio. However, it is recommended that the maximum pupil/teacher ratio should be not more than 25:1 and 40:1 for preprimary and primary schools respectively. There is no preprimary or primary school in Rodrigues which has a class population of not more than 25 and 40 pupils respectively.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am sorry to tell the Commissioner, personally I beg to disagree with him because I am aware

that in some classes in certain schools in Rodrigues, there is a ratio of 38:1. And in these classes the space provided is very limited. And even in primary schools, there are pupils sitting on the floor, will the Commissioner look into the matter?

Chief Commissioner: We are aware of this information that especially in Basile Allas Government School and measures have been taken to build a 4 or 6 classes there just to reduce a number of pupils by classroom. We have also taken the decision to build two community schools; new classrooms will be constructed at Terre Rouge and two community schools will be constructed at Araucaria and Montagne Charlot. Yes, we are aware of that, Mr. Chairperson. In order to reduce the number of pupils by classrooms, we expect in the future that such a way we say that we must reduce pupils by classrooms. It must be around 20-25 so that there is a good education, good communication between the teachers and the children. We are aware of that. If you say that there are pupils sitting on the floor, so we'll find out. Thank you.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems to me that the reply of the Chief Commissioner is misleading this House because as far as part (c) of the question is concerned, he just said that there is no school in Rodrigues with the higher ratio that of 25 or 27. Now he says he is aware of the situation that my colleague has raised in this House.

Chief Commissioner: No, I said 25:1, it is in the pre-primary school. We said that there are presently no norms established for the Republic of Mauritius for such ratio. We will find out with Mauritius whether there are such norms. However, it is recommended that the maximum pupils/teacher ratio be not more than 25:1 for pre-primary and primary school respectively. Well, the only school where you have 38:1 is Basile Allas for certain schools, sometimes it raises slightly below 40 – not more than forty. Of course, it is impossible for a teacher to work with a class of 40. We know that that's why I said we have taken the decision to build six more classrooms at Basile Allas - for pre-primary, Terre Rouge will have four classrooms and we have made an enquiry with the pre-primary school teachers, Association des Ecoles Maternelles et ailleurs, we have made an enquiry so that we see how we can improve the Environment conditions of the pre-primary schools and primary schools in Rodrigues.

Chairperson: Next?

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have a supplementary question concerning, pre-primary schools, I just want to ask the Commissioner one more question concerning pupils presently in the Government Quarters. We were talking about the pupil – teacher ratio

where we have the problems of toilets, safety, environment because these pupils last year we heard from an answer to a question that these pupils would be housed for about 3 months. Now one year has elapsed and the pupils are still in these conditions crowded in quarters. There is one in Port Mathurin, there is another one at English Bay, so what is going to happen to these pre-primary schools pupils?

Chief Commissioner: Well, unfortunately, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as for the toilets of Port Mathurin, there should have been included in the construction of pre-primary school at Port Mathurin. Unfortunately, the tender documents for the allocation of the construction of toilets in pre-primary schools in Port Mathurin has been allocated. Concerning the classrooms in government quarters at Anse aux Anglias, there is only one classroom in the pre-primary at Terre Rouge. They have asked for two or three more classrooms. That's why tender is also being launched to build four classrooms at Terre Rouge and they have asked for one more toilet and to improve the toilet in the government quarters at Oyster Bay. This quarter has been visited by the Inspector of Schools, Mrs. Capdor, and they have found that for the time being, there is no problem for those children to be there. However, they have recommended the improvement of the toilet facilities. When the tender will be allocated, probably in six month's time, I don't know what will be the time for the construction of the primary school there. And for the pre-primary school at Terre Rouge, everything has been provided for: toilets, bathroom and so on. It is separated from the "male" building at Terre Rouge.

Chairperson: Next.

PRE-PRIMARY SECTOR IN RODRIGUES

B/16: The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Jabeemissar) asked the **Chief Commissioner** as regards the pre-primary sector in Rodrigues, would the Commissioner say

- (a) how many categories of pre-primary schools there are, stating the number per category;
- (b) whether the teachers work in these schools have got the same training and qualifications ; and
- (c) if they have the same scheme of service and receive the same salary and, if not, why?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the pre-primary schools in Rodrigues, I am informed that the number per category is as

follows namely: (i) privately run schools - 30; (ii) Pre-Primary School Trust Fund schools - 03. I am informed that the basic qualification required to teach in Pre-Primary School is the Early Childhood Proficiency Course and a Teacher's Certificate for Pre-Primary. Not all the teachers working in these schools have got the same training and qualifications. Except for the three schools under the aegis of the Pre Primary School Trust Fund, the other teachers do not have the same Scheme of Service and do not receive the same salary as they are privately employed.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that the primary sector forms the basic foundation of education everywhere, be it in Rodrigues or elsewhere in the world. Now since the Chief Commissioner himself admits that there are different categories of the pre-primary school, different kinds of teacher although they have to dispense the same kind of education everywhere, may I ask the Chief Commissioner what is the policy of the Executive Council as regards these pre-primary education in Rodrigues.

Chief Commissioner: Well, our policy is that all teachers in the pre-primary sector in Rodrigues either in the Trust Fund or in the private schools must be treated at the same level. It is a question of justice. That's why we have discussed with the Association des écoles maternelles. Let's say that the pre-primary school Trust Fund teachers are paid in accordance with the PRB report and they earn about Rs 7000 per month whereas we have discussed with the private-owned pre-primary schools, the Association des Ecoles Maternelles and we are working on a project on how they can hold a certain level of salary. In the meantime we are preparing a law - the Rodrigues Preschool Trust fund so that those private pre-primary institution can be at the same level as in government concerning salary. Also the question of scheme of service and programme and so on. That's why we are going to create a pre-primary unit at the Commission for Education. Well, let me say I have met twice the teachers of the privately owned pre-primary schools and they are all agreed that we could increase the contribution of government from Rs 200 to a certain sum of money but we have not yet arrived to a sort of agreement in the budget but we are having discussions in a few days. Our policy, we declare it there is that there must not be injustice, inequality between these who fall under the Trust Fund and those of the institutions privées.

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the teacher training of the pre-primary school teachers, may I ask the Chief Commissioner to say who are responsible for the ongoing training of these teachers and whether they are being supervised by his Commission or by the Ministry of Education on the mainland?

Chief Commissioner: Well, whenever it is the Mauritius Institute of Education which is responsible for the training of pre-primary and primary teachers. Well, there is a course which has been given in 2000. The certificate is a pre-requisite to follow Teacher's Certificate for pre-primary. First of all there is the Early Childhood Proficiency Course and then followed by the Teacher's Certificate for pre-primary. After the year 2000 there have been fifteen pre-primary teachers which have not followed this course. And I have asked why and this is a question for MIE which is going to run this course. But as I have taken the Commission for education, I am not working on the possibility of inviting the MIE to give training to those 50 teachers who have not followed the Early Childhood Proficiency Course and the Teacher's Certificate for the primary sector.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has talked about the setting up of the Rodrigues Pre-School Trust Fund. Can I ask him what is the time frame his Commission has scheduled for the setting-up of this fund?

Chief Commissioner: We are working on the project; we are waiting for our legal adviser. I must say that we are waiting the approval of the Prime Minister's Office and that's why we are waiting for our legal adviser, to work with us on the Rodriguan Pre-School Trust Fund.

Chairperson: Next?

Mr. G. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/17.

SC & HSC RESULTS IN RODRIGUES – EXAMINATION 2005

B/17: The Second Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Jabeemissar) asked the Chief Commissioner as regards the SC and HSC results in Rodrigues for examination held in the year 2005, whether he would

- (a)** state if there has been any progress in performance over the previous three years in so far as the pass rate per college is concerned, and if yes, elaborate thereon;
- (b)** obtain information from those concerned as to the reasons for the sharp fall in the SC results at Grande Montagne College and state the measures they intend to take to remedy bad situation; and

(c) table the SC and HSC results collegewise?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to SC and HSC results in Rodrigues, I am tabling the SC and HSC results for the year 2005 as well as the pass rate per college for the past three years (**Appendix V**). The table, Mr. Chairperson is self explanatory with regards to the progress achieved by each college.

With regards to Grande Montagne College it is noted that the pass rate has dropped to almost the 2003 figures after a significant increase in 2004.

I am proposing as Commissioner for Education because I must say that the Departmental Head has also met the Principal of the REDCO Colleges and Rodrigues College, I am proposing as the Commissioner of Education to meet the Acting Rector for Grande Montagne College and his staff to discuss with them the proposals they have recommended and intend to take to remedy the situation. I can assure this house that my office will provide all necessary support to the management of the Grande Montagne College as well as the other colleges so as to achieve better results at secondary level. A preliminary meeting was held with all the rectors and my Departmental Head last week to take stock of the situation and to make proposals for a better education at secondary level.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Monsieur le Président, je peux demander au Chef Commissaire le fait est que le résultat de Grande Montagne a chuté. Est-ce qu'il ne serait pas d'accord que c'est une suite logique du fait qu'il y a trois colleges rapprochés les uns des autres. Il y a 3 collèges et certainement, Monsieur le Président, il y aura un college qui va grouper et il aura un autre qui va tomber. Là on voit le cas de Grande Montagne, j'aurais aimé lui demander s'il est d'accord avec le fait qu'il y a eu dans le passé une mauvaise décision d'avoir trois colleges si proches les uns des autres?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, il est sûr et certain qu'en 2000 – 2002 nous n'étions pas là, que nous avons proposé et vu aussi l'architecture de ce bâtiment que du béton. Nous sommes un pays de nature et à l'intérieur de ce bâtiment, il n'y a pas un seul arbre qui a été prévu ni un par terre de fleurs ainsi de suite. Nous ne sommes pas responsables de la situation de ce bâtiment à Mont Lubin. Si nous avons été là, il y aurait eu une étude. Entre 2000 et 2002, nous n'étions pas là, il y avait fait des suggestions que ce collège soit construit un plus bas du côté de Port Mathurin, alors qu'il aurait eu un college du côté de Songes.

Maintenant nous avons pris la décision de voir avec les différents recteurs, nous aurons des réunions régulièrement avec eux pour voir ensemble, dialoguer voir comment améliorer les résultats dans ces collèges. Il n'y a pas que ça, il y a toute la question des différents ayets par collège, que ce soit pour la S.C ou la HSC. J'avais demandé que les différents collèges nous envoient les performances par sujet une sorte d'analyse, à partir de là, on va travailler et je pense qu'on va essayer avec ces différents recteurs et principal y compris le Rodrigues Collège pour voir comment arriver à améliorer les performances de ces collèges et je vois ici au niveau de la HSC, il y a eu quand même une grande performance par rapport au Rodrigues College et Citron Donis. Donc ce qui veut dire la question d'enseignement dans ces collèges même s'ils ont des enfants d'un certain niveau et que tous ne vont pas au Rodrigues College, ça doit donner beaucoup d'encouragement à nos enseignants surtout ceux de Rodrigues qui sont en majorité dans les collèges de REDCO. Là Monsieur le Président, je rassure l'assemblée que l'enseignement secondaire à Rodrigues nous préoccupe terriblement parce qu'il y a beaucoup de gens; même des étrangers qui nous posent la question: que vont devenir ces jeunes dans les années à venir. C'est la grosse question qu'il faut se poser et c'est pourquoi justement il faut savoir aller dans la bonne direction et pour ça on a la collaboration des parents des élèves, des enseignants et tout le monde concerné.

Chairperson: Time is up, last question on this.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire, Monsieur le Président. Le fait que les gens voient l'évolution des collèges de REDCO surtout, est-ce que ça, ces résultats là, n'auraient pas des conséquences dans la tête des parents. Comment vont-ils encouragés à envoyer leurs élèves au Grande Montagne Collège. Est-ce que cela n'aura pas des repercussions dans la tête des parents à Rodrigues?

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, je ne peux pour maintenant dire qu'est-ce qu'il faut faire. Il y a eu des recommandations qui ont été faites par le Collège Grande Montagne. Le Departmental Head qui a rencontré les différents principaux et recteurs des collèges. C'est à partir de là qu'on va essayer de voir comment recréer la confiance et tout le système de l'admission, de suivi par les PTAs, les parents et la communauté. C'est un peu la même chose au niveau du primaire. Nous sommes en train de voir tout cela par rapport justement à un collège qui monte et un autre qui descend. Il faut un analyse complet de la situation et pourquoi c'est arrivé comme ça. Je ne peux dire comment les parents vont réagir, mais il suffit tout simplement les solutions pour que ces collèges puissent regagner la confiance des parents.

Chairperson: Next.

PUBLIC TOILETS IN RODRIGUES

B/18: The First Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Grandcourt) asked the **Chief Commissioner** whether, with regard to public toilets in Rodrigues, he can give information about

- (a) the number of public toilets in Rodrigues and their locations;
- (b) if any of these toilets has been demolished or closed to the public, giving the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the name of the Company which is responsible for the cleaning of same, table a copy of the relevant terms defining how such work should be done in the contract document?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am circulating a list of 22 public toilets and their locations (**Appendix VI**); (b) As regards part (b) of the question, I am informed that no public toilet has been demolished, so far, however the public toilets situated at the Baie Lascars Bus Terminal and the Green Space opposite Port Mathurin Police Station are temporarily closed pending repair and replacement of several items which have been damaged due to misuse and vandalism; (c) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Messrs. La Voirie Ltée is responsible for the cleaning of the public toilets situated at the following places: (i) Baie Lascars Bus Terminal; (ii) Queen Elizabeth Hospital; (iii) Mont Lubin Health Centre; (iv) La Ferme Health Centre; (v) Granary, Port Mathurin; (vi) Port Mathurin Green Space (near Police Station); and (vii) Petit Gabriel.

I am also tabling an extract of the contract document defining the scope of work of La Voirie Ltée with respect to the cleaning of these toilets (**Appendix VII**).

Mr. Jabeemissar: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the public toilet at La Ferme next to the Health Centre, may I ask the Chief Commissioner whether he is aware of the constant amount of water which remains on the floor all day long and this causes a lot of discomfort to the users. What remedial steps does he intend to take to avoid same.

Chief Commissioner: Yes, we have already visited this toilet. We must say that sometimes the flow of water results from “des tuyaux bouchés ou autre chose. Et je pense qu’il y a un défaut dans la construction du floor. Il y a un problème de niveau. Et mon collègue le Commissaire de la Santé a parlé la dessus, il va faire le nécessaire parce que cette toilette va être aussi utilisé par les personnes qui vont aller au centre

administrative de la Ferme, il y aura tout un complexe, un parking etc. Et il y aussi toute la question de nettoyage. En principe c'est nettoyer pour la Voirie une fois par jour. Mais il y a aussi la façon d'utiliser ces toilettes. Il y a toute la question de vandalisme, boucher par ci, boucher par là. Je pense que bientôt le Commissaire de la Santé avec le Commissaire des Infrastructures publiques va prendre les mesures nécessaires pour revoir et refaire complètement le sol des toilettes.

Chairperson: Last question.

Mrs. M. T. Meunier: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner has rightly said that there is a big problem and it is not the first time that we raise this matter concerning the toilet in this House. I think the problem is not only with vandalism. The main problem is also with the frequency at which the toilets are cleaned everyday. I think that if a person was posted to the toilet and look after the toilet, all these problems could be solved. Will the Chief Commissioner please look into this matter?

Chief Commissioner: Yes, we have tried to go to the Tender Board to extend the scope of work of La Voirie but this has been turned down and we must perhaps in the next tender include this. It is also the question of money available for this. Well, we have also discussed about having someone frequently there especially at La Ferme, Mont Lubin, Queen Elizabeth Hospital and also at Port Mathurin. And this is being discussed to find out in the Environment Committee. We are having a meeting to-morrow or on Thursday concerning this problem with La Voirie and the Environment Unit.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Monsieur le Président, il est question comme ma collègue l'a dit de la Compagnie qui nettoie les toilettes. Il faut aussi se rappeler qu'il y a des Enforcement Officers. Est-ce qu'ils font leur travail parcequ'on a été visité les toilettes avec quelques collègues à Port Mathurin qui étaient supposés être fermées. Mais les gens venaient quand même et ils ne savaient pas où aller. Il y avait des aslicots qui marchaient sur le trottoir. C'est très très abérrant étant donné qu'on prône l'écotourisme à Rodrigues, je pense que c'est un très mauvais image. Donc, je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire de voir que les Officiers qui sont en charge de superviser les travaux de cette compagnie, de revoir leur mode d'action.

Chief Commissioner: C'est pourquoi, je dis que nous avons à voir cette réunion avec, moi aussi j'ai noté quelques manquements dans le travail des Enforcement Officers. Malheureusement, il y aura un seul Enforcement Officer, il y aura un deuxième poste qui va être rempli. Mais Monsieur le Président, il n'y a pas seulement des Enforcement Officers, il y a aussi les inspecteurs sanitaires; ça aussi c'est leur travail.

Mais nous voyons aussi des manquements du côté du secteur sanitaire. Quand il y a eu une question tout dernièrement sur l'eau qui coule. On a servi un papier à la personne et on entendu après. Mais il y a un gros problème. C'est ce qu'on appelle le Enforcement Cadre et ça c'est très très important et on a souligné ça aux assises du tourisme qu'il y a trop de laissez aller. Ceux qui sont supposés faire le travail avec beaucoup d'autorité et régulièrement parfois il y a des manquements. C'est là aussi qu'il faudra voir. On a vu qu'il faut arriver à quelque chose où vraiment ces officiers font leur travail comme il faut. Il faut qu'ils s'intègrent dans tout un ensemble dans tout un contexte d'environnement et c'est ça que très souvent il faudrait inculquer aux officiers de l'administration, pas seulement à Rodrigues, mais à Maurice et partout ailleurs. Très souvent ils ne sont pas impliqués, il n'y a pas cette vision de l'environnement que tout soit propre. Alors quand nous avons cette reunion, des questions vont être soulevées concernant le travail de l'Enforcement Officer. Et souvent j'ai soulevé la question avec mon Departmental Head, est-ce qu'il y a des Enforcement Officers, quel travail ils font, est-ce que vraiment ils font leur travail comme il faut. Et là vous avez soulevé la question et avant que vous le fassiez, nous en avons pris conscience, tout le temps on a soulevé la question. Mais cette fois ci avec les remarques qu'on a eu de Maurice ceux assises du tourisme, il faudrait faire quelque chose. A ce moment on va dire on parle trop brutalement, on est trop autoritaire avec les gens. Mais il faut leur faire prendre conscience qu'ils ont un travail à faire et que tout le monde doit faire son travail. Et c'est là, justement à mon avis que la conscience professionnelle de l'officier de l'état doit être développée à 100%. Et ça c'est bien important pour que cette conscience professionnelle soit au service de la population, de l'environnement et du développement du pays. Merci.

Chairperson: Yes, next.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/19.

ILLEGAL FISHING OF "LOUBINE" IN RODRIGUES

B/19: The First Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Grandcourt) asked the Chief Commisisoner as regards the illegal fishing of "loubine" in Rodrigues, whether he can state

- (a) the number of cases registered from January to December 2005;
- (b) whether any such fish was seized by the local authorities; and

- (c) if yes, give the amount seized, and table a breakdown of all the government institutions which received the seized fish, including the amount per institution?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that a joint patrol by the Fisheries Protection Services and the National Coast Guard on 28 December, 2005 resulted in the booking of four fishermen who were in two fishing boats in which fish commonly known as “loubine” which were suspected to have been caught by means of illegal fishing were found. The Fisheries Protection Services established contravention against two persons in one boat while the National Coast Guard established contravention against the two other persons. Both the fishing boats and the fish suspected of having been caught by illegal means were seized. The Fisheries Protection Services seized 40 kg of “loubine” which were issued to Rodrigues Prisons against the appropriate store form. The National Coast Guard seized 30 kg of “loubine” which was also issued to the Rodrigues Prison against issue of store forms.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Monsieur le Président, je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire, s’il est au courant qu’il y avait deux pirogues ce jour là

Chairperson: Please wait. If you are going to make allegations you will need to substantiate. Yes, substantiate first. If you have seen, you say so.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Je reformule ma question. Monsieur le Président, je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire s’il y avait pas plus de loubine dans ce bateau et qu’un seul loubine pesait plus de quarante kilos. Comment se fait-il qu’on a eu que 40 kilos de loubine. J’ai vu et il y a beaucoup de personnes qui étaient là. Un loubine pesait plus de 40 kilos. Comment se fait-il, Monsieur le Président, qu’on vient dire, on donne des informations, qu’il y avait que 40 kilos de loubine.

Chief Commissioner: Monsieur le Président, il y a une différence entre l’information que je reçois et les informations sur le terrain. Well, I myself I was astonished when I read that 40 kilos of loubine – 40 kgs + 30 kgs, I was very astonished

(laughter)

and I asked the Departmental Head to go for more information. I have just received the information. I shall read the additional information. This can help you. The fishermen involved in 2 cases of illegal fishing of loubine were arrested by officers of the Fisheries Division and the

National Coast Guard during a joint patrol on 20 December, 2005 at 17.20 hours in the vicinity of Ile aux Crabes. This is not in my reply. (2) At the time of arrest there was no "seine" net found in the boat except the caught fish. Il n'y avait pas de seine au moment où les gars ont été arrêtés. The fishermen were arrested and brought to shore at Petite Butte along with the boats and fish. The officers and the contraveners reached Petite Butte at about 18.00 hours where the names, addresses, statements were recorded according to usual procedures. On shore there were about a hundred person. Members of the public were gathered and attempted to tamper with the exhibits – the fish. The officers of the Fisheries Division and the National Coast Guard had to have recourse to assistance by additional police officers from Rivière Cocos and La Ferme Police Stations. During the time they look for assistance, it seems there was a rush on the loubine and the Officers could only spare about 2 or 3 loubines just for exhibits. Yes, this what I have been informed. People just came around and took the fish away. Well, this is the information, I have just received. I don't know whether there is any other thing. But it is not only the information he gave me. I have had the same information from other people who witnessed what happened on that day. So, the boats were secured and the fish was delivered to Prisons. I don't know whether Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there has been some conveniences between the officers and so on. But it is not my duty to argue on that or to allege that there has been complicity. The problem is that 100 persons were there. But they do not say what the 100 persons did, whether they took loubine. Only 2 or 3 loubines were left as exhibits. Well, this is the information received. But you know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, last year nets were seized and among those nets, I have been told there were loubine nets seized at Caverne Patate and it was a good "intervention". Mais depuis la question du membre de la minorité, il semblerait que cette histoire de loubine est devenue quelque chose d'illégal, devenue légale. Alors, c'est la dessus qu'il faut essayer de voir. On est en train de voir toute la question des officiers, la reorganization de ces services parceque vraiment, Monsieur le Président, il y a trop de, c'est pas seulement de ce côté, c'est incroyable comment plus on attrape des seines illégales plus on en voit, plus on ramasse, plus on en voit. Alors, il a bien quelque chose au niveau du lagon qu'il faut essayer de voir toute la question de management du lagon. J'en ai parlé au Commissaire de Police, comment arriver à augmenter les effectifs du National Coast Guard. Comment arriver à mettre d'autres officiers sur les Fish Landing Stations pour permettre à ces officiers de fisheries d'être plus presents sur la mer et d'avoir une surveillance de 24 heures sur 24.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: This is going to be the last one.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, illegal means were seized. How come when 2 pirogues de loubine sont saisis, au bord de la mer à côté d'un poste de fisheries. Je voudrais demander au Chef Commissaire, est-ce que c'est normal, une situation pareille, des officiers saisissent 2 pirogues de poisson, et il y a un comité d'accueil qui les attend au bord de la mer?

Chief Commissioner: Moi, je me pose la question. Est-ce que c'est normal? Il y a quelque chose par là. J'ai parlé tout à l'heure d'une reorganization de ces services. On va essayer au niveau du Comité de la pêche qui se réunit régulièrement de voir comment arriver à cela. Et on s'est rendu compte qu'en l'absence de quelqu'un, il y a un beau travail qui a été fait par d'autres officiers et je les ai même appelés pour les féliciter du beau travail effectué. Alors c'est justement, Monsieur le Président. We are not here to reveal the name of public officers. It is not our duty. But it is not only the person. There are certain people and complicity and use of portable. Le portable est devenu un moyen qui amène de plus en plus oui l'évolution et c'est pour le bien et le mal aussi. Mais je pense qu'il faudra regarder cet aspect de surveillance de la mer et avoir beaucoup plus de gens sérieux et c'est ça qui doit être fait.

Chairperson: Next.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/20.

ISSUE OF THE NEW STUDENT IDENTITY CARDS BY THE NATIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

B/20: The First Local Region Member for La Ferme (Mr. Grandcourt) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards the issue of the new student identity cards by the National Transport Authority to Rodriguan students, whether he can state

- (a) the number of such cards issued to date; and
- (b) when these cards will expire?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, National Transport Authority has up to now delivered, New Students Identity Cards to 4172 Rodriguan Students. These cards will expire on 30 April, 2006. Afterwards new identity cards will be issued.

Mr. F. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, parents have paid Rs 50, I think, for the cards this month, Rs 25 for the photo and these cards will expire in April. Does this mean they will have to pay again for the cards. This is the problem; the parents are asking themselves whether they will

have to pay again for the cards. This is the problem, the parents are asking themselves whether they will have to pay again Rs 50 and Rs 25 for the new card after April.

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't think so. I shall seek the information from the National Transport Authority.

Chairperson: Next?

Mr. L. Guillaume: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/21.

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY RODRIGUAN PROFESSIONAL PLANTERS

B/21: The Third Island Region Member (Mr. Guillaume) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, in view to the difficulties faced by Rodriguan professional planters as a result of the vagaries of the weather, in particular during periods of drought or very heavy rainfalls, he would consider the payment of a bad weather allowance to them?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with your permission, I shall answer question B/21. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me re-iterate that empowerment and capacity building for small planters is central aspect of our strategy for a new orientation and impetus to the agro industry which comprises planters. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in view of the difficulties faced by Rodriguan professional planters, my Commission has created a special recurrent budget item, vote named "incentives to planters and farmers". This item of the vote has enabled us to recognize the Planters Community, all part-time and full-time planters have been given a planter's card together with the card, every planter has an information booklet at the level of my Commission and Extension Officers visit these planters regularly to have information about their activities. Now that we are during a drought season the information from the data base can easily be obtained concerning the planters at the time being and if the of the weather persist, with the planters card and the provision available as an incentive, a decision will be taken. A first consultation has been made with the planters and we are planning to do a second one. Moreover, I would like to inform the House that normally the Commission for Agriculture usually assist planters with numerous incentive following a cyclone like seeds and fertilizers. However, my Commission is working on the setting-up of a small planters welfare fund especially with Rodriguan planters which will provide assistance to planters following heavy rainfall or Cyclone such as a one cash grant to planters on the basis of losses and extent of their plantations and fertilizers and seeds free of charge to enable re-plantation. The fund will also enhance the level of awareness, disasters

and prepare them adequately to face crisis situation. Moreover, planters have also been informed that a loan of thirty thousand rupees up to a maximum of sixty thousand rupees per arpent is also available from the DBM and the permanent disaster scheme has a conflictionary rate of 3% and a of the existing loan. The SICOM is also operating a crop insurance scheme to protect growers from calamities and planters may adhere to the skills.

Chairperson: Next.

Mr. L. Guillaume: B/22

SECURITY & OTHER RISKS FACED BY WATCHMEN ON ILE AUX COCOS & OTHER ISLANDS

B/22: The Third Island Region member (Mr. Guillaume) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with regard to the security and other risks faced by watchmen on Ile aux Cocos and other islands, he would state

- (a) whether they have received a walkie-talkie or a mobile telephone and an overcoat and boots (the last two on an annual basis); and
- (b) what precautionary steps are envisaged for their safety in case of a calamity such as a Tsunami or a violent cyclone?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that since September, 2004, a member of three shifts of three watchmen posted at Ile aux Cocos are in receipt of one pre-paid telephone card of Rs 100 monthly. Same facilities are being extended to two watchmen posted on Crabs Island by the Deputy Chief Commissioner's Office which is also responsible for the management of the islets. One raincoat and two pairs of boots have been issued to all watchmen posted on Ile aux Cocos on 13 July, 2005 and 31 October, 2005, respectively. I am also informed that same has been issued to Watchmen working on Ile aux Crabes; (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to part (b) of the question, I am informed that a boat with outboard motor is kept with the watchmen working on Ile aux Cocos and Ile aux Crabes to be used in case of emergency. According to standing instructions, the watchmen are authorized to leave the islet when there is a cyclone warning Class I. In case of need on the occurrence of natural disasters such as tsunami and cyclone, arrangements are made with the National Coast Guard to evacuate the watchmen from the islets.

Chairperson: Next.

EDUCATION – ORGRANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF HIS COMMISSION

B/23: The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to education, whether he will reveal what is the organizational structure of his Commission specifying

- (a) what are the different sections;
- (b) who is in charge of the different sections, specifying their qualifications, grade and experience in these sections, and
- (c) state briefly what are the aims and objectives being promoted by each section in their relevant fields?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to Education department, I have to inform the House that there are five main sections namely: (a) Pre-Primary and Primary Education Section; (b) Secondary Education Section; (c) Tertiary Education Section; (d) Human Resource Section; and (e) Administrative Section. Presently, the post of Secondary School Inspector is vacant and the Senior Primary School Inspector in addition to her duties of overlooking the Pre-Primary and Primary Sections is voluntarily and without any remuneration overseeing the secondary section. The Human Resource section and the Tertiary section are under the responsibility of the Head, Human Resource Centre whereas the Administrative Section is headed by one Assistant Island Secretary. All these above officers hold the qualifications and experience as prescribed in the scheme of service for their posts and they are under the direct responsibility of one of the two Departmental Heads attached to my office. I am tabling the aims and objectives of each section for the information of members **(Appendix VIII)**.

Minority Leader: Monsieur le Président, concernant la gestion du Secondaire, est-ce que c'est normal pour le Chef Commissaire, que la personne qui est en train de "shoulder the responsibilities" has no experience at all in the management, functioning, teaching and learning at secondary level. But they are in charge of secondary education. The question I ask the Commissioner: How can a person who has never taught at secondary level, never know what happens in a college, no experience in secondary education, teaching, learning management. But he is responsible for secondary education.

Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I must not say that the Senior Inspector is responsible for secondary education. She has been responsible for the admission in Form I. Now, we have re-organised the Education at Malabar and it is the Assistant Island Secretary who is in charge of the Secondary Section and the tertiary section at the Commission for Education. And we are working on the scheme of service of the Secondary School Inspector and the post will be advertised and when we have this Secondary School Inspector, this section will be under him with supporting staff.

Chairperson: Next?

Minority Leader: B/24.

RANKING FOR BOYS & GIRLS - HSC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2005

B/24: The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to education, whether he will state the reasons as to why the ranking for boys and girls for the HSC Examination results for 2005, published this year, has not been made public by his Commission and whether he will table same in the Assembly for the sake of transparency?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the ranking of boys and girls for the HSC examination was never published in the past by the Commission for Education. The original copy has now been received from the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate and the result will be communicated to the two colleges concerned as it was in the past. The results may be obtained on the website of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate. I am tabling a copy of same for the information of members of the Assembly (**Appendix IX**).

Minority Leader: Can we know whether this ranking will be used as available. It is surprising, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that it is available at the MES but the Commissioner here does not want to release it. I would like to know whether this ranking for boys and girls will, as expected, be used in order of priority for those names which appear on it for the allocation of the different tertiary scholarships available.

Chief Commissioner: There are only four scholarships which are being taken into account for boys and girls. The first two boys and two girls for the state scholarship and one boy and one girl for the French scholarship. We have been asked by the CIFOD to communicate the names of the

second boy and the second girl. As for the other scholarships, they are open ones. The Students must apply for them. That's why I say there are only 4 scholarships which will take into account the ranking of boys and girls. The other scholarships are open scholarship and I must say Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even those who have sat for the examination in 2004 can also apply. It is not only for 2005 results. This is open scholarships and anybody can apply. You can apply and obtain a second scholarship and study law, management. That's why we must give the opportunity to those who have passed the HSC with good results and who are fighting for a scholarship. As for the medical scholarship, it will be also the same. But this depends on the grades A,B or C. We have just received last year a paper from the Russian Embassy saying that they will not accept candidates under grade C. This is a question also of what the universities ask whether it be in Russia, India, China, Ichecoslovaquia and so on. I must say that the four scholarships which take into account the ranking for boys and girls, the first boys and first two girls are only for state scholarships and for the French Scholarships.

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can I invite the Chief Commissioner to make public these criteria, put in the press on the radio through a communiqué for the sake of transparency, the number of scholarships available, the different criteria to be used; and for those scholarships which are opened when the procedures will be initiated for the allocation of these scholarships.

Chief Commissioner: we are having a meeting to-morrow with the Students who have passed the HSC and their parents. Mrs. Yeung has prepared a paper, a booklet and we are seeing whether we can issue it. Now, whenever, there are scholarships there are always advertisements in the newspaper, on the radio and so on giving all the requirements to be eligible for a scholarship. We also have a Committee and these Committees, as in the past, will invite candidates in writing for an interview. Well, we'll see what are the means so that the students, the parents and the public at large can have much more information concerning those scholarships.

Minority Leader: The Commissioner mentioned that there will be an interview, I believe, some sort of committee for the allocation of these scholarships. My first question is; in Mauritius there was a high powered committee on scholarships, can we have more details about this with all whether there are politicians on this Committee. In Mauritius you have only academics on this Committee.

Chief Commissioner: The Committee is chaired by someone from the High Powered Committee in Mauritius. We don't know whether there has been a change, I don't know exactly who is going to sit on this

Committee. Usually we are writing to the High Powered Committee to know who is going to chair. Usually, it is a member of the High Powered Committee who chairs the Committee here. And there is no politicians on this Committee, only officers.

Minority Leader: Can we know, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, apart from these two state scholarships offered by the Government of Mauritius for the 1st boy and 1st girl, and two French Scholarships genderwise, what are the other regular, I mean yearly scholarships? For which country and what is the scholarship, whether there are other regular scholarships from these two schemes?

Chairperson: I understand this has been the subject of a previous question. I don't know have the answer of the question. Well.

Chief Commissioner: I shall come forward with a statement in the future. We have also scholarships given by the Ministry of Education, the University of Mauritius. We have the President's award, the University of Technology, India, China, Russia. In all it is about 14 – 15. I think it is 14 scholarships – 14 + the two medical scholarships from the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Minority Leader: In this case, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if there are I believe scholarships from India which are regular, scholarships from Russia for medicine, which are regular, scholarship from Mauritius, about fourteen scholarships which are regular. Why do we have to put the burden of choosing each year through a committee and something which is a bit curious allow other people who have sat HSC examination in the past to apply. I don't know whether this policy is acceptable. You are rewarding people for their achievements which is not for the right period. These people may be no more interested. What will be their motivation first, if I am sitting for HSC and I know that the scholarship I am competing for may be allocated to one but to another person who sat for HSC some or two years before? Where is the motivation? So, what is the use Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a ranking, why don't we just use that ranking for the allocation of, the scholarships because each year we have the same problem. And now something which is surprising, is that the Commissioner of Education has admitted that it is now that they are asking the High Powered Committee Mauritius what to do. We don't know also who is on what Committee it not clear to us. Why don't we use the list provided by Cambridge. They have given the first four boys and the first four girls. They can give, if we ask them, for all the first 20 or 25. This is available.

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Minority Leader is not asking a question

Chairperson: Please wait until he resumes his seat, yes?

Commissioner A. Perrine-Bégué: He is being very long on this affirmation instead of question and I would invite you to

Chairperson: Yes, the point is well taken. This is a speech. I have not even understood what the Minority Leader is up to. Yes, can you put your question in a straightforward manner?

Minority Leader: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would invite you to notice that for the past 2 sittings, Commissioner Perinne-Begué seems to have a particular

Chairperson: Question, please, no motives.

Minority Leader: My question is why don't we use the ranking for boys and girls for the successive allocation of these scholarships as it was in the past. In the past it was the first chosen whether he wants France, Mauritius or India and then the other choose etc, etc. Why is it not so India and then the others choose etc, etc. Why is it not so?

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there are 2 things. First of all the question of subjects and the grades. That's why there must be interviews by the High Powered Committee. That's why in the past we thought was not good to publish the results. Now it is a combined list. If you look at the first or third girl, they cannot be at the same level as the first or three boys. It is a question of qualification asked for. The problem is it is a combined list. You can have someone after the 5th or the 6th who has better qualification for a scholarship then the third girl or third or fourth boy. These criteria have been set down by the High Powered Committee. We are following the High Powered Committee of the Ministry of Education. If we are to change that we have to address ourselves to the High Powered Committee to see whether they would like to change the criteria. The question of first five boys or first five girls, it is a question of qualifications. And also Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the boy or the girl who has started his studies at the University and has applied for a scholarship. And he has obtained the scholarship while already at the University. According to me, it is a question of justice. It is not only for those who have sat the 2005 examination. It is also to give opportunities to those who have sat for the HSC examination. It is a question of justice, equality, chance for everybody not only for those who have sat the 2005 examination. This is my reply. But we will see. I said a few minutes ago, it's not now that we are going to set up this High Powered Committee. It has already been set up in Rodrigues. There has been someone from the High Powered Committee who chaired in the past with

three or four members from Rodrigues. I do not know the names of the members from Rodrigues. I said I would come with a statement giving more information about those scholarships – 14, 15, 21 to Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam Medical School.

Chairperson: Next

Minority Leader: B/25.

DEFECTIVE DRAINS & STAGNANT AND FLOOD WATERS – LETTERS OR PETITION

B/25: The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner whether a letter or petition or other complaint has been received since 12th October, 2002 from people of Port Mathurin including Mr. Anthony, relating to problems caused by defective drains and stagnant and flood waters and, if yes, what steps have been or are being contemplated as a result?

Deputy Chief Commissioner: Since 12 October, 2002, various representations have been made regarding problems caused by defective drains in stagnant and flood water in Port Mathurin. As a short term measure, action is being taken to clear drains on a regular basis and pumping of water is done after each heavy rain. As a long term solution, it has been recommended that an overall study for drainage problem be made for the whole area. Presently, the Consultant GIBBS (Mtius) Ltd has been requested to conduct a study for some sensitive areas in Port Mathurin. The survey around Clyderlex and the vicinity has been completed and a preliminary proposal is being prepared for approval. Officers of my Commission and that of the Chief Commissioner's Office, have made a site visit concerning drains in the vicinity of Mechanical Workshop and part of the road of François Leguat. The survey of this region will also been entrusted to GIBBS (Mtius) and necessary action will be taken upon recommendation of the survey.

Chairperson: Next.

Minority Leader: B/26

CLOSURE OF THE LES COCOTIERS HOTEL – LAYING-OFF OF WORKERS

B/26: The Minority Leader (Mr. J. Roussety) asked the Commissioner responsible for Labour Relations whether, he has been

informed of the closure of the Les Cocotiers Hotel and the laying off of worker of this firm prior to the date of closure; and

- (a) if yes, what steps he has taken to try to find a solution;
- (b) whether the law has been complied with in the laying off of the workers; and
- (c) what measures are being envisaged to prevent such problems arising in the future?

Commissioner R. Mercure: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to apprise the Assembly that the management at Les Cocotiers Hotel neither notified me nor the Hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations prior to its decision to close the hotel and lay off of its workers. It is only when employees were sacked on 12 January, 2006 with immediate effect that my Commission was made aware of the situation; (a) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the decision to lay off some 48 so- called redundant employees of the Mauritours Co. Ltd had paved the way for a very tense industrial relations at Les Cocotiers Hotel. Subsequent to representations made by these “redundant” employees, my Departmental Head, the Labour and Industrial Relations Officer and myself made our way to the hotel on the very day. I immediately apprised the Management of Les Cocotiers Hotel of its inhumane and brutal decision to lay off some 48 employees instantly. It was clear that the procedures laid down as per Labour Act 1975 had not been followed per se. After our forceful intervention, followed by protected discussions and negotiations, the management of Les Cocotiers Hotel agreed to stay action and instead, employees were put on leave with pay. In the meantime, the matter was to be referred to the Hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations as per Section 39(2) of the Labour Act 1975; (b) Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that the management of Les Cocotiers Hotel notified the Hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations of its intention to reduce its workforce only on 17 January, 2006. At this juncture, it has complied with the regulations in force. I am also made to understand that the matter has been referred to the Termination of Contracts of Service Board to determine whether the proposed laying off of the employees is justified or not. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Labour Industrial Relations are governed by legal provisions and enacted by the Parliament. Therefore, the law safeguards both the interest of the employees. However, as a caring Commission for the employees as well as the economic take off of the island in various sectors, my Commission has set up a monitoring Committee comprising the employers, workers and my staff to take stock of the situation and find out workable solutions for the benefit of one and all. Education and sensitisation programme as well as workshop in favour of all

stakeholders pertaining to labour laws and occupational Health and Safety and norms will be continued. However, in case of non-compliance, employers will run the risk of being prosecuted and if found guilty, will have to pay several allowance at six times the normal rate unless good cause is shown. Section 39(5) of the Labour Act refers accordingly.

Chairperson: Yes, the last question.

Mr. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, B/27.

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS IN RODRIGUES

B/27: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Commissioner for Youth & Sports as regards football tournaments in Rodrigues, whether the Commissioner could

- (a) table the list of football clubs in Rodrigues per division;
- (b) state the names of clubs presently

Commissioner Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the list of football clubs affiliated to the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee is being tabled as submitted same (**APPENDIX IX**). Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the different tournament which is organized by the Rodrigues Football Committee for the respective divisions are as follows:-

- (1) First division league tournament comprising of all first division teams;
- (2) Second divisional league tournament for all second division teams;
- (3) Zone regional tournament for all regional clubs in their respective zones. We have a super league also for the best six teams of the first division tournament. We have a relegation promotion tournament played between those teams which rank second, third, fourth and fifth of the second division tournament and the last four teams for the first division tournaments. And then we have also a league interzone tournament among the Champions of the different zone regional clubs. We have also the republic cup tournament for the first and second divisional team. We have also feminine zone tournament for feminine clubs and then the interzone feminine tournaments between the different champions of the zone tournaments. All clubs which are affiliated with the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee, may participate in the respective tournament as detailed above.

Chairperson: Yes, time is up. Can we move on the next item?

(the time is 14.15 hours)

STATEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

(i) Chief Commissioner

Legal notice served on the Executive Council

I am circulating a copy of the notice **(APPENDIX XI)**. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after consultation with the Solicitor General's Office, the Executive Council has

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a point of order!

Chairperson: Yes.

Minority Leader: I believe that this matter is strictly a juridicial matter and that, if the Commissioner wants to answer, he has to answer by the proper legal means either by answering the Attorney or ..., the Attorney has asked for a compliance with a particular judicial procedure, if the Commissioner wants to answer, I believe it is up to him to answer. I have asked for compliance with a particular part of the law and I am going to court shortly, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because this is a civil matter, a civil case that we have lodged and I would invite you to ask the Chief Commissioner to wait that this matter be decided by the Court or to answer through my Attorney what he wants to say, thank you.

Chairperson: Yes, I would like you to guide me on what you rule, you rule on your point of order. What is the particular principle of the Standing Orders.

Minority Leader: My point of order is that this matter is in the hands of the Court – Supreme Court of Mauritius. It is a matter which is in front of the Court.

Chairperson: Just to enlighten me. Has the count's case already been lodged.

Minority Leader: No it has not been lodged but the affidavit has been served.

Chairperson: Yes, as yet it is not a case where

Minority Leader: I am first saying that this matter is in the hands of justice. I will ask for an interpretation from the Court and I believe that now it would be premature for the Chief Commissioner to give his arguments. If he wants to give his arguments, I believe the proper way will be in the Courts because you know the process. We cannot sue government. I have been advised by my lawyer, Mr. Jacques Panglose and Mr. Dauhoo that we cannot sue government before serving upon them a mise en demeure. I have learnt something. On doit les mettre en demeure. I have learnt something. On doit les mettre en demeure. So, je les ai mis en demeure comme un bon citoyen, un member de l'assemblée. Maintenant la procédure est en cour. They have not complied to our request to nominate these committees, so the judicial process is still ongoing. We are going to put the case in court.

Chairperson: Yes, thank you for this enlightenment on this case. Normally, it parliamentary practice that members should not in a sort of way either in debate, questions or statements allude to a case which is in litigation or

Minority Leader: Sorry to interrupt you. I add it is an anti process which has already been engaged. As I have told you, I would personally, would have lodged the case in the Supreme Court. But dans sa sagesse, Me. Panglose a décidé de mettre en demeure avant. Comme je vous ai dit the quick process has already been engaged.

Chairperson: Yes, I continue where I stopped. Cases which are already in lite before the court should not be alluded to or commented upon. But of course it stands to reason that in a case which is contemplated, we have the words of the Minority Leader that he is in fact contemplating a court case, then I will write the Chief Commissioner, if ever he wishes to allude to the mise en demeure, constrain the substance of the motion so as not to prejudice the future case. But of course, I don't know what the Commission is up to by referring to the mise en demeure and I will invite his attention accordingly. You may proceed with your statement.

Chief Commissioner: Well, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, when we received this notice, we just give what we have done concerning certain amendments we have already prepared for the National Assembly to consider.

Chairperson: Proceed, then.

Chief Commissioner: I will just give an explanation of what has been done in the past. The Minority Leader can go ahead with his civil case. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after consultation with the Solicitor General's Office, the Executive Council has approved that government be requested to initiate action to amend Section 59 (5) of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act. The proposed amendment is included in the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (amendment) Bill prepared by former judge Mr. Robert Ahnee. You will recall that in July last year, I informed the Assembly that the services of the former judge, Mr. Robert Ahnee was retained by the then ministry of shipping in Rodrigues and the Outer Islands to review the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act 2001 with a view to proposing changes wherever required in consultation with all stakeholders both in Mauritius and Rodrigues. After consultation with Stakeholders in Mauritius and Rodrigues, Mr. Robert Ah Knee has worked out the amendment bill which is now being considered by the authorities in Mauritius. The amendment of Section 59(5) is motivated by the fact that the appointment of Standing Committee as per existing provisions of the law may be in conflict with the duties and powers of the Executive Council and those of Commissioners as provided under Section 35 and 38 of the Act. Furthermore, it has been noted that the functioning of the Education, Culture, Welfare, Sports and Leisure Standing Committee has been constrained as it cannot call for persons to collect evidence and particulars. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a request is, therefore, being transmitted to government to amend Section 59 (5) as recommended by the Solicitor General's Office. I shall keep the Assembly informed of developments in due course. Thank you.

Chairperson: Yes, I understand that Commissioner Mercure

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Chairperson: Yes, if you wish to react to what the Commisisoner has said, you may do so after adjournment.

(ii) Commissioner Robertson MERCURE
Reduction in workforce at Les Cocotiers
and Mourouk Ebony Hotels

With your permission, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to make a statement on reduction of workforce at Les Cocotiers and Mourouk Ebony Hotel. I wish to state that industrial relations had deteriorated at Les Cocotiers and Mourouk Ebony Hotel during early period of January 2006, due to the decision of the Management of these hotel institutions to drastically reduce their work force with immediate effect.

Subsequent to the decision of the Mauritours Company Ltd to dismiss some employees of Les Cocotiers and Pte Venus Hotels on Thursday 12 January 2006, a group of workers called at my Commission to express their frustration and anger towards the management of these hotel institutions. It was thus a prelude to mass dismissal of the work force.

Immediately my Departmental Head and myself went to the hotel on Thursday 12 January 2006 and took cognizance of the bad and intense prevailing industrial relations. All the employees had stopped working and they were very furious. There had been some minor damages to the hotel property. The employees were very angry to the inhuman and callous decision of the management to reduce its work force drastically and without any prior notification of same.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I wish to forcefully state that, at any point in time, the Management of Mauritours Company Ltd had thought it wise to notify this Commission or the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations of its intention to dismiss the employees of its hotel organizations. This was a brutal and unbearable shock to all the employees who had worked hard towards the success of Les Cocotiers and Pte Venus Hotels.

Discussions were immediately held with the management of the Mauritours Company Ltd and my Commission forcefully submitted that, accordingly to the provisions of the Labour Act, Mauritours Company Ltd was wrong in its decision to dismiss those workers. As per the existing legislations the management was reminded that it should have referred the whole issue of closing Les Cocotiers Hotel and its intention to reduce its work force to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations for the latter's consideration and submission to the Termination of Contracts of Service Board. The Law provides that, for any reduction of 10 or more employees, the matter should be referred to the Minister for his consideration and any appropriate action deemed necessary at his end.

Following discussions and negotiations, the management agreed to refer the matter to the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations as well as not to go ahead with the dismissal of its employees. However, a drastic change was noted in the attitude of the Management of Mauritours Ltd on the same day and in the afternoon when it decided unilaterally to dismiss all the 48 workers with immediate effect upon payment of 120 days salary. Such an inhuman and abrupt decision had worsened the whole situation and it was very difficult to contain the workers' attitude at that particular moment. Some casualties had been diligently avoided

by our means of persuasion and the collaboration of the Police force, though there was a real uproar at the hotel. Negotiations had to be started anew.

The management was requested to withdraw its fresh letters of dismissal accompanied with 120 days salary. A new decision was taken late in the evening on Thursday 12 January 2006 to refer the matter to the Minister and subsequently letters were issued to all the 48 employees, putting them on leave with pay pending the decision of the Minister. The hotel management averred that the decision to close the hotel temporarily and to reduce its work force was due to its bad financial situation.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it was worthwhile pointing out that upon our forceful intervention and appeal to Mauritours Ltd, the latter apprised the Hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations on 17 January 2006 of its intention to reduce its work force at Les Cocotiers and Pte Venus Hotels in an attempt to restructure its hotel organizational set up. Mauritours Ltd solicited the Minister to take appropriate action deemed necessary for the purpose that is, either to accede to its request to lay off 48 employees within the legal parameters or to refer the matter to the Termination of Contracts of Service Board.

Subsequently, an urgent meeting was called in Mauritius under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations on Thursday 19 January 2006 to discuss the above issue and labour matters in Rodrigues in general. My Departmental Head and the Labour and Industrial Relations Officer attended the meeting. During the discussion with the Minister and his staffs, it was pointed out that the Management of Mauritours Ltd was prepared, since the very beginning of the prevailing situation at Les Cocotiers Hotel, to offer an indemnity representing 2½ months wages to all the 48 employees. However, the delegation of my Commission strongly denied the so- called package of Mauritours Ltd in favour of the employees and it was stated that all negotiations and discussions were focused on the placement of the 48 employees on leave with full pay pending the decision of the Minister.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I now come to the situation at Mourouk Ebony Hotel. On 16 January 2006, two workers from Mourouk Ebony Hotel registered a formal complaint of dismissal, and according to additional information gathered it was noted with concern that the management had issued letter of immediate dismissal to 18 workers with effect from 15 January, 2006. This was also a case of redundancy as at Les Cocotiers Hotel.

Further enquiry carried out, revealed that among the sacked workers, 13 did reckon more than one year service and even one had 11 years'

service. In this case also, the provisions of the existing legislations were flouted as there had been no notification to the Hon. Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations as per Section 39 of the Labour Act.

The issue was raised at a meeting which my Departmental Head and the Labour and Industrial Relations Officer had with the Minister on 19 January 2006 at the Ministry in Mauritius where close monitoring was suggested as most of the workers had more than one year service. As such, they could claim compensation at punitive rate that is 3 months' wages per year of service if the dismissal was found to be unjustified or normal compensation for justified dismissal which is ¼ month's wages per year of service.

However, during subsequent enquiries, it was observed that management of the hotel has, in view of an amicable settlement, proposed an offer representing 45% to 50% of the maximum compensation payable to the workers. All the 13 workers with more than one year service have accepted the offer, whereas for the remaining 5 workers reckoning less than one year service, consultation is still in progress and a decision could be reached by end of February 2006.

Thank you.

Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly be adjourned to Friday 24 March, 2006 at 16.00 hours.

(The Deputy Chief Commissioner seconds the motion)

Chairperson: Question: that this House be adjourned to Friday 24 March, 2006 at 16.00 hours. Those in favour say aye, those against say no. The ayes have it.

ADJOURNMENT MATTERS

Minority Leader - Appointment of Committees under Section 59(5) RRA Act

Minority Leader: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, briefly c'est que il y a une procedure civile en mon nom qui a été engage par des hommes de loi pour demander que la section 59(5) de la loi soit appliqué concernant la nominations des comités. Le Chef Commissaire devrait savoir que la loi est telle comme elle est until it is modified or until it is amended. What is to be applied is what is written in the law. Of course, I have seen L'ébauche propose to amend the Rodrigues Regional Assembly including

repealing Section 59(5) and including something. I don't know whether members are aware of this. This matter of I am not challenging the authority of the House, it is just from a legal point of view – of assigning areas of responsibility. Originality of the first assignment has been made by the President of the Republic and there is an error.

Chairperson: Which assignment?

Minority Leader: Assignment of areas of responsibility.

Chairperson: Never.

Minority Leader: It was not on the recommendation of the President?

Chairperson: No.

Minority Leader: Because by Robert Ahnee we have been told. The first assignment was not made by the President? When the Commissioners swore in?

Chairperson: No, the law as you see it has been since ever the Assembly first sat.

Minority Leader: Yes, the law says the Chairperson. But when writing the law, Robert Ahnee told us that this is not the Chairperson, it is the President.

Chairperson: This may have been his intention.

Minority Leader: The law is the law; from this point of view, it is legal. You have acted legally.

Chairperson: This intention was that.

Minority Leader: Yes, I know what they have done Microsoft Word, they have substituted Chairperson for President because the original law, the first document which was released proposed decentralization of the system of government. There was no matter for Chairperson. There was either Speaker or President of the Assembly. So, when they changed President for Chairperson, the matter of assigning areas of responsibility, the word President became Chairperson. So, we were told, the side of the House agrees: "assignment of responsibilities was to be done by the President and the law, l'ébauche de la loi qui a été travaillé par Robert Ahnee, justement voulait amender cela et mettre "President" à la place de "Chairperson". Je ne sais pas si vous pouvez avoir accès à cela, mais c'est ce que moi j'ai vu, que la loi est telle qu'elle est maintenant. Mais

pourquoi ce n'est pas appliqué en ce qu'il s'agit de la Section 59(5) parce que Monsieur le Président, il y a des toilettes qui pourrissent làbas, comme mon ami a dit, il y a des problèmes sur Anse Raffin, je ne dis pas qu'il y a eu vol, je ne sais pas ce qui s'est passé, mais il y a eu un large dépassement du budget. Mais s'il y avait le comité finance, par exemple, on aurait su avant d'allouer d'autres fonds, avant d'allouer tant et tant millions, on, aurait su, l'opposition, les membres du gouvernement de ce comité. It is a question of accountability. Ce que les provisions de la loi prévoient ne sont pas respectées. C'est pour ça, Monsieur le Président, nous avons donné des instructions aux hommes de loi – the invitation to comply with the law by myself and on behalf of the minority has not been complied through the mise en demeure, we are going to the Supreme Court to ask the court for an interpretation of that matter. On a eu des indications aujourd'hui encore que le bureau du Solicitor General a donné comme argument comme conseil de reviser la loi, de demander au gouvernement central de Maurice de reviser la loi. Je ne crois pas étant donné les circonstances politiques actuelles que ça va se faire facilement. Mais le Solicitor General n'a pas dit que la non-nomination de ce comité est legal. This is the point we have to do. Je vous remercie.

Chairperson: The House stands adjourned.

On its rising at 14.35 hours, the Assembly stood adjourned to Friday 24 March, 2006 at 16.00 hours.

Questions falling outside time limit requesting written answers

**GOVERNMENT VEHICLES UNDER REPAIR
AT THE MECHANICAL WORKSHOP**

B/28: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards the government vehicles under repair at the Mechanical Workshop, whether the Commissioner would

- (a) table the list of vehicles presently under repairs at the workshop, specifying
 - (i) their age;
 - (ii) the duration of their stay at the workshop; and
 - (iii) the reasons for the breakdown of each vehicle.

- (b) say how much money has been spent in Rodrigues and in mainland Mauritius for the purchase of spare parts since 1st July, 2005 to date; and
- (c) say whether any officer has been sent to Mauritius for the purpose of spare parts during the same period, stating the number of trips, amount spent on air tickets, board and lodging for the officer(s) concerned?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards part (a), the list of vehicles under repairs at the Mechanical Workshop and with particulars as at (i), (ii) & (iii) is at Annex.

- (b) Since 1st July 2005, the amount spent for spare parts in Rodrigues is Rs 1,945,919 and in Mauritius Rs 205,807.
- (c) The Acting Mechanical Engineer of the Workshop was on mission in Mauritius on two occasions respectively in December 2005 and January 2006 for the purchase of spareparts.

The following expenditures were incurred:

Air tickets Rs 10,038.-

Board & Lodging: Rs 5,630.-

A monthly meeting with the staff of the Mechanical Workshop is organized by my Commission to review the list of all vehicles under repairs at the Mechanical Workshop and take necessary action regarding the purchase of the spare parts. The last meeting was held under my chairmanship on the 18 January 2006.

TOURISM PROJECTS IN RODRIGUES

B/29: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to tourism projects in

Rodrigues, whether he could say if there are any specific projects in the tourism sector which are strictly reserved for Rodriguans domiciled in Rodrigues and state the nature of these projects and the reasons for their being reserved for Rodriguans as defined above?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues Tourism Committee has decided that State land leases will be granted to persons domiciled in Rodrigues for the running of tourist enterprises like “Gîtes, Chambres et Table d’Hôtes” as it is essential that the operators of such enterprises ensure a personalized attention to their guests. However, project of owners of private land may be licensed provided that the premises meet the approved guidelines for the proposed enterprises.

WATER DISTRIBUTION IN THE WESTERN REGION OF RODRIGUES

B/30: The First Local Region Member of Marechal (Mr. Emilien) asked the Deputy Chief Commissioner as regards water distribution in the Western region of Rodrigues, the Deputy Chief Commissioner would inform the House whether the problem of smelly water recently distributed has been attended to, stating the source of the problem, if any and solutions identified to remedy same?

Reply: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am advised that the smelly water which was recently distributed to the western region is due to the exploitation of unoxygenated water at the bottom of the dam at Anse Raffin.

- 1.0 In such situation, the best way to get rid of smell is implementing a filtration Process called “Cascade aerator” to expose the water in the air thus removing all the smell.
- 2.0 The filtration plant at Anse Raffin is equipped with filtration media which is inadequate to remove all the smell.

- 3.0 An accelerated dosage of aluminium sulphate has more or less resolved the problem but will persist so far as unoxgenated water is being used.
- 4.0 Such problem will disappear when the dam is at its maximum capacity.