

The Clerk : Papers have the report of the Standing Order Committee.

IRRIGATION

(No. B/92) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Other as regards to irrigation to planters in Rodrigues, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the projects he intends to set up for the improvement of the water irrigation system for the next six months, if any; and if so;
- (b) how these projects will fit into the whole water reform being envisaged;
- (c) whether, with the setting up of the reform, a tariff/fee will be introduced for the supply of water for irrigation to the planters and farmers?

The Commissioner for Agriculture (Mr. L.A.Perrine): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a), let me inform the House that the cultivable area in Rodrigues varies between 1500 to 1900 hectares. Irrigation is expected to play a vital role in the development of Agriculture and the strategy for Rodrigues as planned by my Commission is in two phases:-

Phase I-Short Term :Construction/rehabilitation of mini-irrigation projects of size varying from 10 to 20 hectares by utilizing normal flows of river/stream after bringing minor remedial actions to storage structures for example desilting. Total area to be covered under the short term plan is estimated to be 300 hectares.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for the period July to December 2009, my Commission has planned the implementation of the following projects:-

1. Completion of the irrigation network at Letchi/Baladirou and distribution of 50 family drip systems for the setting up of a chilli village in Baladirou.
2. Completion of the irrigation network and distribution of 50 family drip systems to improve production of limes at Graviers.

3. Completion of two water harvesting structures at Citronelle and Baie Topaze.
4. Installation of irrigation network from Morico to Grand Baie.
5. Setting up of new irrigation systems at Eau Vannée, Rivière Coco, Oyster Bay and Grand La Fouche Mangue.
6. Setting up of an irrigation system at Baie Malgache with the objective of improving maize and other crop production in this valley.
7. Distribution of 100 family drip systems for the promotion of onion cultivation in onion growing areas e.g. Port Sud Est, Mourouk, Gravières.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards long term plan, it is proposed to rehabilitate soundly some existing dams which is leaking which need to be desilted and construction of additional storage facilities with a view to capturing the flood flows. The long term plan will cover an area of more than 1,000 hectares and will be implemented with the technical assistance of the FAO.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to part (b) and (c), I have to say that the area of responsibility for water for agricultural development remains with the Commission for Agriculture and Natural Resources Rehabilitation. This includes the development of irrigation for the production of food crop, vegetables and fruit as well as water for livestock production.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not proposed to introduce any tariff or fee for the supply of water for irrigation to planters or livestock keepers. However, Water Users Associations have been set up in several regions to manage the irrigation network of their locality.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the different projects that have been enumerated by the Commissioner for Agriculture in the short term period. May he informed the House about the cost that will be implied and from where the fund will be discussed.

Mr. L.A. Perrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, fund will be provided by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly budget here and also fund have been provided under the Food Security fund. We have one million rupees in our budget here and Rs.10.7 million rupees under the food security fund.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but it is clear in the food security fund that for period July 2009 to December 2009, there will be only a disbursement of only three million rupees as projected in the project in the implementation plan for Rodrigues there is only a projection of three million rupees. Taking into account all the project that has been stated by Commissioner for Agriculture. Will this budget be sufficient to implement all this.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have 17 projects ongoing in Rodrigues now. Fund has been provided for the completion of most of these project and for the long term project it will be for next year. Fund which has been provided in our budget will be sufficient to complete all the project that we have started.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner is proposing a reform in the irrigation sector and I feel that through a reform to be able carried forward, to bring and to carry forward, there should be status. May the Commissioner inform the House what is actual amount of water available for irrigation to devote with respect to its set objective as at now.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am less say that when I assumed duty as Commissioner for Agriculture, there was a projects for irrigation in Rodrigues which dated as far back as 1991 and this project this documents was in the drawer. So, the first thing I did was to invite him from the irrigation authority to update the report and to prepare an action plan for the coming years. So, that why I am saying that the strategy took first instance to set up network where the water exist where there are spring or rivers flow or there is boreholes that we can start the irrigation projects. But as for long term planning we have to built the structures we will chose to utilize flood flows that is to built harvesting structures and like *colin coliniere* and to also use water that are available from rivers. But as I said also to desilte or improve rehabilitate spring and water sources that exist in various villagers. So according to the report we will need about one thousand nine hundred cubic meter of water per day if we want to implement a full projects for Rodrigues. As it is now we have just about five hundred cubic meter.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as at now, we have got only one network both for domestic and for irrigation system. There is no separation as regards to the Network. May I know from the Commissioner for agriculture in his long term plan for irrigation and he is speaking about the collection of water, the rehabilitation of Dams for the collection of water for irrigation. May I asked him whether with respect to these long term plan there will be a completely separate network for the irrigation system around Rodrigues or will

it be connected, interconnected with the present system that is for domestic purposes.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think it is not correct to say that now all the reseaux network to have one network domestic and irrigation. For instead we have at Port Sud Est a separate network for water irrigation which is used water coming from Cascade Victoire. What we proposed to do with the *retenue colliniere* that we are going to built will use a separate network for irrigation and for providing water for livestock breeders.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether planters have been recommended to use other special equipment apart from family drill system for irrigation on farm to ensure optimal water use.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what we need was to invite people from the irrigation authority to make a land suitability survey and of upon recommendation of people from the MSIRI that we are going to advise planters on what method of irrigation to used.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I inform the Commissioner whether his Commission or other funding agency intends to help planters, if it is recommended that spring ... for example have to be used. If his commission of funding agency like the food security fund intends to help the planters by granting them these equipment.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Of course. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said provision has been made for distribution of family drip system that is to economies water that is the water is being supply to the root of the plants itself. It is very good system recommended for Rodrigues and of course under the food security fund, sum of money have been provided so that to be able to grant these planters with this system.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that we are talking of water reform, there is a need of quantify and compare the returns expected from each water unit shared out to the various completing sector like industrial, domestic and other sectors. With respect to Agriculture can the commissioner state whether any pilote projects now for the time being is being set up on the island so that we can have such information.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the irrigation of the ... has recommended that we set up a project at Reposoir/Piments in the sense that my colleague is talking.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, please wait.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner he has spoken has given the number of land how much land are available which are irrigable and he has also spoken of forecast and projection. I would like to ask him how much land is under irrigation actually.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the first phase of the project about three hundred hectare will be covered by the irrigation network.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my question is not, I know it is in your projection of three hundred hectare, I would like to know actually. Because when we are projecting, we must know about the monography, we must know about the actual situation for forecasting. So, that why I would like to know whether study was made to know how much land is under irrigation actually.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, most of the valley that we have in the valley we have irrigation system. So according to information that it is about more than two hundred and eighty that why I am talking about three hundred hectares.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on this issue I would like to ask the Commissioner whether it does not consider it as not equitable ... divided as far as irrigation is concerned. We see that there are coastal valleys that are *amenager* and people get access to water but inland this is not necessary in case I see that in the production we spokn at least two villages one from the central eau Vannee and the other one I think nearly in the West. So, I would like to ask you what consideration you are giving to planters who are situated over in areas over than in *amenager* valley.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have said we have conducted a land ...survey which have been done by the MSIRI to tell us where the irrigation network should be installed. Because we cannot developed a certain network where there is no production or where there is no cultivable land. We should first know where situated to cultivable land for us to be able to set up these network as everyone of us knows the cultivable land in Rodrigues are found in the valleyso that's why we have started as short term we have started to set up the irrigation network in these the places and in the long term we will move where other places where we can built structures to harvest water like Colliniere./ and for the time being priority is being given where it is possible to have water for irrigation.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, even though there is a question on the food security fund that have come later but I tempted at this stage to asked a question with respect to the amount budgeted and the budget forecast for Rodrigues with respect to the irrigation development where it is projected for July 2008 to June 2011 a total sum of six million rupees have been earmarked for irrigation development. With respect to the change in brought by the Ministry of Finance after the budget speech the shifting of the one hundred million rupees from the food security fund to the NEF. Will there be any influence on the amount earmarked for the project of irrigation project.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think they got it wrong. there have been no reduction in the budget envelope earmarked for Rodrigues that is 1.87 million rupees for food security this amount will not ... I am going to answer

Mr. Chairperson: He talks about the transfer

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: There is no transfer Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Ministry of Finance talks about the whole enveloped of one billion rupees not about the one hundred and eighty seven billion rupees for Rodrigues.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mr. Chairperson, Sir in reply to question B/47 last year in April 08 you mentioned the visit of two technician from the irrigation authority and you announced that he will come soon forward with an irrigation projects for all the planters in the eastern region. Now after more than one year I would like to know where matter stand.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I fact Mr. Jopaul and Mr. Ramburn was in Rodrigues in March 2008. They submitted their report in September. Now we are implementing the report. According to the report priority will be given to valley bottom to increase food production to increase staple food because of the food security so that why the first phase concern valley bottom but to reply to my friends for the region of Anse Ally and Patate Theophile they will be included in the programme and in due course we will look into this issue.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes, Mr. Speville.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, on purely economic ground the scare resource like water should have allocated to what activity where its returns is highest. Can the Commissioner states whether there are over developing sectors from the economy competing to the agriculture on the water issue and if

yes, what is the water sharing or is there a regional allocation policy for agriculture in the whole water reform that is being envisaged.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no policy but as you know this Regional Government intends to increase food production in Rodrigues and so planters that is agriculture would have a fair share of water and will sit and discuss about structures which are going to manage by the Commission for Agriculture and structure that are going to manage by the Water Company. But I can assured my friends that Agriculture will have a fair share in this distribution.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as we know irrigation has to do with public policies but as well as private investment. The Commission has just given his plan and projects. I would like to know where is ... support for private persons I mean planters or any other stakeholders and agriculture to indulge in more irrigation projects.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have said that the management of the network will be left over to water uses organization. We are grouping planters very ... to set up a committee that they will manage the network themselves so they will be participating in management and decision taking regarding water distribution.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner I've gone through the papers regarding the mission statement of the consultation with the population regarding Water Reforms. And nopapers is mentioned the question of irrigation. Was the question discussed and what were specific measures discussed as regards to this.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can you repeat the question please.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Yes I was telling the Commissioner that I went through the mission statement that was circulated to *engo's* and to Members and everybody who were invited to the consultative workshop regarding Water Reforms . And in the mission statement there is institutional changes ... investment introduction of the water tariff, but nothing is mentioned and water for Agriculture. Was the issue discussed and what were the priorities taken.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I think this was water for domestic purposes for consumption But there is other issue which is water for irrigation and water for livestock breeders and if you look in the report of Mr.

Shene it is Clearly mentioned that there will be two network that before domestic purposes and for irrigation. The network for domestic purposes would be managed by the Water Company and for irrigation for life Stockbreeders. This will be left for Commission for agriculture and I can assured the Member that will be fine so that planters and breeders have the fair Shop.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, ..

Mr. Chairperson: This will be the last question, yes

Mr. N. Lisette: There is an issue of great importance here given the fact that water is already a scarced commodity on the island and we are going with two network one for irrigation and one for domestic purposes. Does the Commissioner think that it will be wiser that there is a complementary approach between the two system in order for an efficient use with respect to domestic and agricultural purposes.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is anissue we are going to look into in due course.

RADIOGRAPHY SECTION – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/93) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regard to the Radiography Section at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) how many X Ray apparatus are in good running condition and how many are out of order;
- (b) how many are fixed and how many are portable together with their make;
- (c) since when these apparatus have been sent to Rodrigues for operation?

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regards to part (a) of the questions there are three apparatus in good working condition and three are presently out of order. Concerning part (b) and (c) Mr. Chairperson Sir, Queen Elisabeth Hospital is equipped with: -

- (i) One portable x-ray SIMOX-D make Siemens (received on 23 November 2004 and is still in working conditions)
- (ii) One powerful x-ray machine make Siemens Klinograph 4-4 (installed on 25 August 1992 in the X-ray old block near the Surgical Ward which broke down beyond repairs on 28 August 2007. The static unit failed.
- (iii) One static powerful unit make Siemens helippos D (installed on 23 July 2001broke beyond repairs in August 2008).
- (iv) One Portable T. M. S. 300 Make (Siemens) (received on the 7th September 2007 and is presently in use at the casualty x-ray).
- (v) Another portable T. M. S. 300 (Siemens) received in September 2008 broke down on 1st June 2009 at 11:10 a.m (with power supply burnt). The TMS-300 – portable X-Ray will be repaired shortly.

The Biomedical Technician has already made his assessment on 18 June, 2009 and the spare parts are being awaited in a week's time as same are not available on the local market in Mauritius.

- (vi) We recently purchased a C-Arm X-Ray multiparameter intensifier, Make Philips BV LIBRA 1906 for the sum of Rs 2,643,600 which is under utilisation at the Operating Theatre.

This apparatus, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is used for all orthopaedic case and may also be used for other purposes amongst others, placement and replacement of pacemakers. In addition Mr. Chairperson, Sir I wish to inform the House that all types of X-Ray can be performed with this C-Arm multipurpose intensifier and can be used all the way round during surgical intervention.

Over and above this, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, another portable X-Ray machine IMD Basic 100/30 – has been purchased since 1st of April last and will be delivered next week.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether the X-Ray unit is working in conformity with their norms now.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir I have to point out that there has been no disruption whatsoever in X-Ray investigation so far.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether graduation doses are low in the X-Ray so as to protect technician and patients.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Of course Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if all these kind X-Ray apparatus has been performing has been used the X-Ray department and so this is Anyway Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this concerned technical issues I think all the times has been that case and I must remind the respected Member Mr. that may be he is not aware because he were not there because before the four and a half hours that the Member of the other House be in the driving seat of the affairs of Rodrigues only one X-Ray apparatus has been brought to Rodrigues whereas since we are into power here in 2007 we bought one, 2008 another one came and 2009 another and a fourth one is coming shortly in a weeks time just to reminds this respected Member.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House whether the screen protecting the radiographer from radiation is in good working condition.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Member has asked how many X-Ray apparatus are in use and out of order, now they are coming with screen.

Mr. Chairperson: Do you have the answer, please.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: I don't have it Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I asked the Commissioner for Health whether in the last six months, there have been any patients whose diagnosis has been delayed because of inefficient working of these apparatus with respect of any disease concerning gastric, ulcer or any other.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: I am not aware Mr. Chairperson, Sir, such has been the case but in any way I can assure the House that at time they are investigation that can't be done here in Rodrigues. Be we have X-Ray machine in good working conditions and at time they are some specific investigation that have been referred to Mauritius for further agreement and investigation.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that the X-Ray done on a small portable machine on a patient who swallow a tooth brush at the beginning of June 2009 did not show any thing on the film.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in such was the case how is it the surgeon remove toothbrush from the stomach of the patients.

Mr. S. P. Roussety: It was after several times.

DESILTING – FOND ACCACIA DAM

(No. B/94) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the desiltation of *Fond Accacia Dam* he will for the Benefit of the House state where matters stand?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that with regards to the desilting of Fond Accacia Dam, the Commission for Water Resources has already prepared a draft tender document for the works. The bids are due to be launched within the next 15 days in 9 government programme over desilting of dams announced in the budget.

I wish to inform the House that the above works are among those identified and announced in the last budget like I have just said in our strategy to first improve the water distribution of the sector and second promote local employment

Mr. S. P. Roussety: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Chief Commissioner aware that this Dam is serving his village in the supply of water. One hundred and eleven days has been taken not to do anything. What immediate action will he take now.

The Chief Commissioner: I don't sit in this House Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for my village specifically.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner on the desiltation at Fond Accacra Dam, how much time it will take and what alternative will be set up to prevent instruction of water distribution in the village during the work period.

The Chief Commissioner: I have to information Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards the time frame for the desilting of the dam but I don't think it will take much time may be less than one month. As regards to the second part the question we will contemplate to in placing ... dam I upper river. There are two

small rivers coming into the dam so that to prevent rocks and debris coming into this dam. I must say Mr. Chairperson, Sir that this dam Accacia dam was formerly in the last previous government. Formerly regularly cleaned by volunteers lead by the Respected Member which asked this questions. May I invite him Mr. Chairperson, Sir to keep taking the need and to keep voluntary go and clean the dam even though his parties are not in power Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: No fancy word, please.

POLICE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

(No. B/95) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure, Housing, Environment & *Others* with regard to the Police de L'Environnement, he will, for the benefit of the House, seek information from the relevant institution on the following:-

- (a) the number of police officers attached, thereto;
- (b) the number of cases reported to that office since August 2006;
- (c) the number of contravention taken by this unit on a monthly basis since August 2006 to date;
- (d) Whether owners of vehicles emitting heavy smoke are being issued contravention or being issued with notice as per the Road Traffic Act
and if the affirmative, how many contraventions have been issued since in August 2006;
- (e) table the consumption of diesel and the number of kilometers run by the vehicles attached to that unit, per month, since August 2006 to May 2009?

The Commissioner for Environment (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to part (a), 3 police officers are currently attached to the Police de l'Environnement comprising of:

- 1 Sergeant and 2 police constables including 1 woman constable

The house is further appraised that originally 5 officers were posted to the Police de l'Environnement. However following a decision of the Divisional Commander, 2 officers were transferred since May 2009.

As regard to part (b), 822 cases have been officially reported to the unit since August **2008**. The nature of complaints is mainly attributed to solid waste disposal and noise pollution.

As regard to part (c), the number of contraventions established per month during the period August **2006** to date is being tabled.

As regard to part (d), 29 notices have been issued regarding emission of heavy smoke. However no contravention has been established in that respect due to the absence of smoke meter. My office has already approached the relevant authorities to have such apparatus to enable an effective monitoring of the emissions which is also in line with our proactive approach in the protection of the environment.

As regard to part (e), the information is still being compiled.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner how many among these contravention that is mentioned concerns noise pollution.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir we do not have the breakdown of the notices. But I will remind the Members as I have said no contravention as been established I respect to emulsion of smoke.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my question was on noise pollution.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I do not have the exact number of notices but I can say that it is for much less than those attributed to solid waste disposal.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: I would like during at least two budget debate how noise pollutions is causing much problem to the inhabitant of Rodrigues and also to the tourism sector Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I like to appraise this House of this problem specifically how noise pollution is a recurring feature sometimes we have houses Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that houses which are just next to the police stations and particularly I can mentioned Montagne Fanal, Montagne Charlot where we have sometimes unbecoming dvd's are being played and children around are listening to that and

nothing is being done and I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he is aware of that.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I take note of what I just appraised the House but you know we have the police de l'environnement. I would like to ask the Member to if ever there is noise pollution around the vicinity she can hold the police de l'environnement and the matter will be also be taken to our office that is the environment unit.

FISHERIES RESEARCH TRAINING UNIT

(No. B/96) Mr. S.P. Roussety (Fifth Island Region Member asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the Fisheries and Research Training Unit, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) how many trainee fishers have completed their course since August 2006;
- (b) whether a certificate of attendance certifying a completion of the course have been issued to them, and if so, table a list of those who have completed the course;
- (c) whether any fisherman cards have been issued to them?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question I am informed that 122 fishers have completed the course on "off-lagoon techniques course " since August 2006. 300 new fishers are presently following their course and will complete same by the end of December 2009.

I am tabling the list of the 122 fishers who have completed the course and to whom a certificate of attendance has been issued. It is to be noted that completing the off-lagoon course *does not mean that the fisher is automatically entitled to an off-lagoon fisherman card.*

The 122 fishers were already in possession of an in-lagoon fisherman card. The question of whether a fisherman card is to be issued to them does not arise and is being considered on an individual basis for the issue of an off-lagoon card.

The question of whether a fishermen card will be issued to them does not arise as they already have a in-lagoon card. Consideration will be given on an individual basis for the issue of off-lagoon card provided to meet the criteria.

Mr. N. Lisette: Be, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner may inform the House of the criteria to be adopted for these off lagoon fishermen cards.

The Chief Commissioner: This is a completely different question from the main question Mr. Chairperson, Sir. I'm sorry.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Chief Commissioner mentioned that a certificate of attendance does not necessary means that a fishermen cards will have to be issued but nevertheless he stated that it is going to be given on a case to case basis, base on certain criteria. So, this is the question being given that the fishermen who has followed the course. they have all an attendance certificate, if I refer to the answer of the Chief Commissioner at present there are 122 + 300 which makes a total of 322 who will be entitled after completion of the course of course. So this why I am asking what criteria will be set among this 322 after the completion of their course the issuing of the fishermen cards.

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait. Yes, when the Chief commissioner says that he is not refusing to answer but you have to give him information so that he can asked his officers to compile those criteria. Yes, but if he do not answer. Yes do you respond to that Chief Commissioner .

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, the criteria Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the criteria has been approved by the Executive Council and if you want to have the criteria you should set down your question carefully so that you asked for the criteria of the question of out-lagoon fishermen card. I am sorry right now, I can't give detail information about it. But the fact that a person hold a certificate from the FRTU a meaning that he has followed the course there. Does not mean that this person qualified to the bad weather out-lagoon allowance. There are other criteria such as the age of the person, there is criteria about the during the past month what this person has been doing. If the applicant does been fishing in off-lagoon, has not been fishing off-lagoon we cannot grant him a fishermen cards. So there is a whole set of criteria which has been decided and adopted by the Executive council which exists in a file at my office, if you want you can come with a question ok and of course, the fact that one person has an off-lagoon fishermen cards is an advantage, but is not I would say in mathematics *une condition suffisante est necessaire*.

SURVEY – WHEEL CHAIRS & OTHERS

(No. B/97) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Women's Affairs, Child Development and Family Welfares whether she will, for the benefit of the House, state if any survey has been carried out since July 2008 in order to assess the number of wheel chairs, hearing aid apparatuses and spectacles together with the number of persons who have applied for same at the Commission for social Security and indicating the measures being taken to address this issue?

The Commissioner for Social Security (Mrs. M. T. Brault): Mr. Chairperson Sir, I wish to inform the Member of the House that no survey has been carried out by my Commission since July 2008 on the issue of wheel chairs, hearing aid apparatuses and spectacles but I wish also to inform the House that applications for wheel chairs, hearing aids apparatus and spectacles are received at my Commission followed by recommendations from Medical Officers and same are being processed in a reasonable delay.

The last purchasers wheel chair was made in January 2009 for 50 wheel chair for the sum of two hundred and twenty four thousand and two hundred and fifty rupees. We received hearing aids and apparatus spectacles from he welfare unit on the same month from the Ministry of Social Security. However in order not to penalized students, my commission usually purchase spectacles for a needy one on a priority basis from local purchases. Since July 2008 to date eighty six application for wheel chairs. Twenty six for spectacles and nine from hearing aids having received at my Commission. Forty nine wheel chairs, twenty one spectacle and six hearing aids have been issued while thirty seven request for wheel chairs eight for spectacles and three for hearing aids are still under consideration.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I should like to know from the Commissioner whether wheel chair are available today at the Commission for Social Security.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. P. Francois: Can the Commissioner informed the House what measures being taken to addressed this issue since there is no wheel chair available now.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Mr. Chairperson Sir, for the case of wheel chairs because application are made on a case to case basis when the person for example and some people have accident etc. So we cannot purchase wheel chair for example two wheel chairs because in one month we can received one application in another month two in another month three. So we wait until there

is a bulk. So the last bulk we purchase was in January. The next will be purchased in July 2009.

Mr. Perrine-Begue: Mr. Chairperson, Sir I would like to ask the Commissioner what are the criteria for elderly person to received spectacles at the level of her Commission.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Mr. Chairperson Sir, application for wheel chair is received from the beneficiary of social aid and upon recommendation of the medical Officer. For spectacle also it is from a Medical prescription, the beneficiary can come at my Commission to make the application but there should be a recommendation from a Medical Officer and then this is processed.

Mr. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: In October last Mr. Chairperson, Sir Minister Bappoo gave some three hundred *montures* to Members of elderly group and many of them at that time is she aware of them at that particular time were aware that they were entitled to spectacle and they flock to the office. What have been done particularly to those growing number of application that came from those person and has there any help being give to those person who received *les montures* for them to be able to buy there glasses.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Yes of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but I don't really have the figures of how many people have been given these *montures* because this is another question. But as at to date only three applications for spectacle are outstanding those for students and those for elderly person. But still if there are some people who still need these *montures* and if the person is on social aid and they cannot buy the glasses, we do give her on poverty alleviation to these people.

Mr. N. Lisette: Is there any follow up by the Commission for Social Security for taking back any wheel Chair which is no longer being used by person who have suffered any accident and if yes how many of these have been recuperated back.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: I must say right now I don't have the figures of how many have been recuperated and each Officer whenever a person died so the wheel chair has be recovered and return to the Social Security office and then it will be given back to someone else.

Mr. N. Lisette: With respect to this by the Commission for Social Security Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Of course Mr. Chairperson, Sir

Mr. N. Lisette: How many of this have been ...

Mrs. M. T. Brault: I don't have the figures. I can compiled it and give it to you.

Mr. P. Francois: I will mentioned one case Mr. Jacques Rose of Accacia is bedridden since a few weeks. His family has been to Commission for Social Security looking for a wheel Chair. And he has been asked to go and look around where it can find one. What I wanted to know from the Commissioner if it is the responsibility of a bedridden or his family to go and look around for a wheel chair which is not being used.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Of course Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is not the duty of that person and if he have received this answer. I will assure you it is not from me ok. May be some people have given him this advised which is completely wrong. Because the person when he makes the application the officer has to follow up to see whether wheel chair is available and it is not available the person of course has to wait.

Mr. N. Lisette: When these wheel chair are being issued to the beneficiaries is there any record that the beneficiary sign to make him aware that this is not a private property but it remains a property of the Social Security.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Of course, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, everything that is issued except for spectacle which might be broken. It is given on loan. We have just given for last year. We have some wheel chair which were given on loan to beneficiaries who borrowed it then computers also will give on loan Everything which is given by the Social Security especially wheel chair is the property of government and when the person is dead it should be recovered back and the person of course has to sign before receiving that.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner what procedures exists at the level of his Commission to replace damage wheel chair and spectacles are these cases given priority over new demands.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Whenever a wheel chair is broken, for spectacles we don't any have a procedures established but for a wheel chair the person the carer comes to the office of the Social Security and makes record and then the wheel chair is recovered back and it is repaired. Sometimes when it cannot be repaired the people has to wait until another wheel chair is available to be given to him. *Change face*

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué:.. his chapter of the cool issue of striking a balance said that there will be a stock of all these thing that we have just inquiring about and I understand that there is no stock what so ever wheel chairs or hearing apparatus or spectacle actually. Does not that mean of striking false balance.

Mr. Chairperson: You want to ...

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Yes, I want to answer. The last stock, I said was given in January and we still have to wait. We cannot make just a big stock because it depends on availability of funds ok which it means that before procedures for spectacles hearing aids and all these things were really delayed because we had to wait from Mauritius we waited until the social security in Mauritius bought them and then they shifted them to us. But now this is done at the level of the Commission. Now what we have done so far we have cleared all the case since last year. Now there are some case which started since February, March, April, June and this will be cleared in July when we bought the other stock. As for spectacles, I assure you we cannot make a stock of spectacles because it depends on this is a case to case basis.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir does the Commissioner make it a possible to have stock at least five wheel chairs because sometimes it happened we may have unexpected cases that happened and we must help that person at that particular moments.

Mrs. M. T. Brault: Yes, I must tell you respected Member that when we bought the 50 wheel chairs the demand was not so high. Again now we have thirty seven outstanding cases but we are under procedure to buy 50 so we will have a stock of thirty wheel chair that will be available. As you know accident happened everyday we can't really sometimes project how many stock we should have.

DENGUE FEVER

(No. B/98) (Mr. P. Francois) (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) *asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others as regards to the outbreak of the dengue fever disease in mainland Mauritius, whether he would state to the House the measures that have been taken so far to prevent the recurrent of same in Rodrigues?*

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to state at the very outset that no suspected cases

of dengue fever has been detected or reported in Rodrigues, so far. And I sincerely hope that it never becomes a reality for us here.

When the outbreak of dengue fever became public in Mauritius, a team of Vector Biology and Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life under the guidance of Mr. Beekary was on mission in Rodrigues.

As soon as my office has been made aware of such a danger, a Dengue Fever Committee was set up under my Chairmanship on 16 June, 2009 comprising of members of different organizations involved in key sectors such as the Port, Airport and those involved in Tourism activities, the Public health office, the Health Services, the Medical Laboratory staff, the Police, National Coast Guard, SMF, Customs, Passport and Immigration, Environment Unit, Commission for Agriculture, for Youth and Sports, Mauritius Port Authority, Mauritius Shipping Corporation, Airport of Rodrigues, Civil Aviation, Allied Builders, A.J. Maurel, Welcome Industries, Red Cross Society, RCSS etc.

The Committee met on 23 and 26 of June, 2009.

The objective was to have a multisectoral approach for close monitoring of the situation.

It is to be noted, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the Public Health Inspectorate has been on constant alert at both port and airport as is the case for Influenza A/H1N1. Therefore any suspected case will be dealt with in accordance to the set protocol. Separate wards have already been identified and equipped with appropriate devices such as mosquito nets at both Queen Elizabeth and Health , La Ferme and Mont Lubin Area Health Centres.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, in addition a vast campaign of larviciding of stagnant waters to prevent the proliferation of mosquitoes was strengthened since the beginning of June 2009 by entrusting these duties to the entire labour force of the Public Health Office.

A fogging campaign which was halted with the availability of appropriate insecticide Aqua K-OTRINE was started on 19 June 2009, that is the very day the insecticide was received from Mauritius as a preventive measure though no suspected case of Dengue Fever has yet been detected or reported in Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the preventive campaign was enlarged with a view to cover the maximum area possible as the whole island is concerned. In this connection a one day workshop was organized for Community health Agents on

23 June, 2009. The aim was to have these well trained Community Health Agents to disseminate the right information within the society to reach the maximum number of people.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, a massive island wise cleaning campaign has been initiated with the collaboration of all stakeholders in Rodrigues. I am pleased to inform that consequent resources have been mobilized to start the island wise cleaning campaign the Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July 2009 to start with the Northern Region from Bay Lascars to Baie Malgache. The concurrence of different stakeholders have been received eg. A.J. Maurel, Allied Builders, Welcome Ind., Red Cross, SMF etc..

From database of distribution of Chikungunya cases in 2006, it can be projected as to the regions that would be more severely affected in case of incidence of Dengue Fever in Rodrigues due to their similar mode of transmission. This is why fogging campaign has started in the Northern part of the island with special regards to the Port Area, wetlands and places where the soil is of poor permeability.

Due to absence of any positive case, fogging is not done on a case to case basis but rather in a progressive way, not to leave buffer zones of fogging.

Fogging is not carried out systematically in all regions as this exercisedo have a negative impact on bees and pollination of flowers of vegetables as well as fruits. We also note Mr. Chairperson, Sir that actually the local red beans plants is actually in the flowering stage in may regions of Rodrigues. So we got to be very cautious, but, if ever there is an outbreak we do what should be done accordingly.

As at now Mr. Chairperson, Sir, 3 sessions of sensitization of the public have already been broadcasted on the radio and more will be done in the coming days. Sensitization campaigns have already been launched for the public region wise.

An island wise cleaning campaign programme has been finalised and is due to start on week end 04 and 05 July, 2009.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir being given that we don't have competence at local level on the epidemiology and biology issue may I asked the Commisisoner whether Rodrigues has been taken on board on the ... plan which is being prepared by the Ministry of Health on Mauritius.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, and in this context by the 13 hours 30 flight of Air Mauritius 2 persons of the Ministry are coming to help and to access the .. level that has already put in place in Rodrigues.

Mr. P. Francois: Mr. Chairperson, Sir could I ask the Commissioner if medicine is available at Queen Elizabeth Hospital to deal with a case of dengue fever in Rodrigues.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no specific treatment for dengue fever it is treated like what we call normal fever even in Mauritius we don't have specific medicine for it. We had tamiflu for Influenza AH1N1 but for dengue fever and if I come back to the question of Respected Member Speville concerning competence, even in Mauritius we do have competence in this sector. Sample has to be taken and send to South Africa or to England. So as such there is not specific medicine for this illness.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, since there are *break* of dengue fever in Mauritius. When we go on the plane I have gone twice since then and you see that there are medical officers who came on the plane after landing before anybody gets out to identify any symptoms quickly persons showing those symptoms and to deal with it quite rapidly but I did not see anything when I come back to Rodrigues. I do not see any Medical Officer not on the plane not even at passenger terminal level so I would like to ask the Commissioner why is there different in the approach as regards to this.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: This difference is simple Mr. Chairperson, Sir, because all passengers are screened in Mauritius we don't have we don't have they are screened you knowscreening. All passenger coming to Rodrigues are screen in Mauritius, but in Rodrigues we do not have a doctor but we have public health officer *aupres de la passerelle* just to have a look at all the passengers such is the case at the Airport and port also. Every flight we will see somebody standing by the **passerelle** to watch and this is what is done in Mauritius an Officer come into the Plane and what does he do just have a look at the passengers nothing else. Same is being done here but not in the plane but outside the plane. There is no difference.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it's another question which concerned dengue fever also and other viral and contagious illness. Is the Commissioner aware that there is quite a long some few days before sanitary officers contact people who go abroad or foreigners coming of to Rodrigues so that propagation of any viral illness can have time. Is the Commissioner aware

of that and why such a time frame before contacting people taking the blood pricks or whatever.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: In fact Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is no such delay as such concerning travellers coming from countries where there is a freight of dengue fever. Every day after the plane leave Plaisance Airport we have a fax stating the names of passengers coming from countries where dengue fever is present and there is a close monitoring by the health inspectorate to contact these persons and to know there where about. Every day we get it just before coming to this House, I saw a fax for four people coming from France. There residential address in Rodrigues there duration of stay etc and where they come from.

Mr. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir a last question may I asked the Commissioner at the moment who are doing the fogging and large deciding activities because we are during a wet seasons and we see that the frequency of same is very tres tres lent.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: as I said in my reply Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fogging activities is not done all through out the island because we have not any case of dengue fever has been reported so far because it represents a danger to these pollination of food plants and also for our read beans vegetables also. So it is sought is a sysmatic way we have the data base on the outbreak of chikugunnia they are using it until I don't wish to have it unless a case of dengue fever is being reported but this is being done by officers of the workers of the public health center but we have been contacted the Commission for agriculture they have people there know to handle the apparatus we have member of the special mobile force also who has given their assets to give a helping hand whenever need be. We have started our campaign clean campaign on this week end because we are emphasising on cleaning just to avoid propagation of larva. So for the time being we are not concentrating on fogging as such but on cleaning campaign *pour éviter la prolifération de larve*.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: One more question. So, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we are speaking about fogging larva deciding but mosquito progress also where there is water accumulation and you have spoken about sensitisation at domestic level. But I would like to know at public level that is being done in your measures to get ride of the canals whatever which are causing provoking stagnant water.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I said in my reply sensitisation has started having a workshop for Community Health Agents to disseminate information within the community with the people all throughout

the island. We have also sensitisation campaign for the public This has been started in the northern part of the island at Fond La Digue je crois already started we have the concurrence of the Rodrigues council of Social Service because they have about one hundred village communities all through out the island We are using this body to help us in dissimilating information. So we are sensitising the people but as far as you are talking about canals and so on if there is need to get ride to them they will act accordingly. We have to be cautious in using this particular insecticide which is a poisson, which can cause problems to plough and bees we accordingly if wherever there is need.

FIRE STATION

(No. B/99) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) *asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others* whether as regards to the project for the construction of a fire station at *Mont Plaisir*, he would state to the House if there has been any delay in its implementation and when the station would become operational?

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am informed that this project dates as far back as June, 2000. The site plan and location plan with Cadastral Office were finalised in April, 2001.

In Financial Year 2002 – 2003 an amount of Rs 1.0 m was provided under Capital Item 31-073.552 – Infrastructure for Fire Services but Mr. Chairperson, Sir, nothing was done.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a minute from the then Island Chief Executive to the then Chief Commissioner requested that the new Fire Station be included in the next RRA Budget which was approved on 31 October, 2002 for estimates 2003 – 2004.

However, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is regretted to note that same was not included in the 2003/2004 estimates.

In September 2007, upon my request the project was reviewed and same was included in budget estimate 2008-2009. As far back as September 2007, officers of my Commission have been preparing tender documents but unfortunately same were not finalized, due to amendments in the tender documents.

As far back as November 2008, a first draft of tender document for Consultancy Services was submitted to the Commission for Public

Infrastructure for vetting. In December 2008, the Engineer requested that major amendments be brought to the tender documents.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in Budget Estimates 2008-2009 provision of 1 million rupees was made for consultancy services for the construction of a New Fire Station at Mont Plaisir, Rodrigues.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am pleased to inform the House that the tender documents have been floated with closing date set at 3rd July 2009. i.e. by Friday next. After the selection of a consultant for survey, design, preparation of tender documents and monitoring, it is expected that the contract for the construction will be floated by November/December 2009.

I have had consultation with the Commission for Finance on the matter and I have been assured that appropriate funds will be allocated during the next financial year.

By end 2011 Mr. Chairperson it should be operational.

FIBRE GLASS FISHING BOATS

(No. B/100) Mr. P. Francois (Second Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards to the project of supplying Fibre glass fishing boats in support to Rodriguan Fishers to boost up the development of outer lagoon fishing in Rodrigues, he would state where does matter stand so far?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as this House will recall, I announced in my last budget speech that outer lagoon fibre glass fishing boats will be built in Rodrigues and put at the disposal of the fishermen community in Rodrigues. In that context, I am pleased to announce that bids have already been launched for the supply of same and that the closing date for receipt of bid is 22nd July 2009.

It is expected that the first boat will be made available around end of October/beginning of November 2009. (Annexed)

PASTURE – ROCHE BON DIEU

(No. B/101) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Regional Member for Grande Montagne) *asked the Commissioner responsible for*

Agriculture & Others with regard to the putting in place of a pasture at *Roche Bon Dieu/Grenade* could he inform the House of the following:-

- (a) the area to be fenced, thereto;
- (b) the number of animal breeders affected by the projects?

The Commissioner for Agriculture (Mr. L. A. Perrine): Let me inform the House that this project forms part of my Commission's policy to promote sustainable agricultural practices in Rodrigues.

As members in this House are very much aware, unsustainable agricultural practices coupled with deficient rainfall patterns and climate change and long periods of droughts have contributed to extensive land degradation around the island.

My Commission has thus identified some 300 hectares of severely degraded lands in the region of Grenade, Baie Pistaches and Mt. Croupier that form part of a land rehabilitation programme comprising of fencing and re-forestation with melliferous trees and other multipurpose trees as well as fodder species. Once restored, the newly created agro-ecosystem will help achieving soil and water conservation, soil fertility management and prevention of soil erosion, in addition to the provision this is very important of fodder nectar and vegetal fibre. On establishment, this project is expected to yield about 10000 tons of green fodder, two (2) tons of honey and five (5) tones of vegetal fibre.

With regards to the specific question in part (a), Mr. Chairperson, Sir,

Let me inform the House that Roche Bon Dieu/Grenade regions form part of the major land rehabilitation programme of very degraded lands that I have just described.

The area concerned at Roche Bon Dieu/Grenade is about 142 ha.

This project has reached an advance stage with regard to the fencing (about 75%) and planting of fodder will start next month that is tomorrow.

With regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a Project Implementation Committee has been set up and has met on six (6) occasions. The Project Implementation Committee comprises technical and administrative staff as well as representatives of livestock breeders in the regions concerned. I am informed

that the next meeting of the Project Implementation Committee is scheduled on Thursday 01st July, 2009.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, let me also inform the House that in the context of the implementation of this project some three meetings with livestock keepers were held in the concerned regions. Breeders have been consulted through the three meetings namely on the 17th September, 2008, 28th May, 2009 and 1st June, 2009. The last meeting was in fact held on the site on the project itself where livestock keepers concerned were given details of the fencing area.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the number of livestock keepers in the region of Roche Bon Dieu/Grenade, I am informed that they are about 40 who are currently allowing their animals to graze in the project area but also in the surrounding areas of Riviere Banane, Mt. Grenade and Pointe Cotton, and this area this is very important amounts twice the area being fenced. I wish here to reiterate that only 142 ha is being fenced in the project area of Roche Bon Dieu/Grenade and there is sufficient grazing land outside the fenced area for the livestock in that region.

Mrs. R.M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Commissioner for Agriculture has mentioned that there are actually 40 livestock breeders in this region and I would like to know what does this represent in terms of animals.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: I am informed that this represent they have 255 cattles one hundred and thirty six sheeps, 197 goats.

Mrs. R.M. F. Gaspard-Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner has mentioned that there are representative of the livestock breeders on the committee I would like to whether they have discusses about the problem they will have to continue rearing the animals.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, yes of course they have made representation, but the policy is that we have to do away with the open grazing which is being carried out in Rodrigues. We are consultative meeting informing breeders and if we carry on with this system in ten years Rodrigues will become a desert will be no trees and no glass. And what we are going to do to is to implement pasture management. We are going to rehabilitate land with fodder and trees

That will help the planter, livestock keeper themselves We are telling them that this project is there project it is not the project of government. In fact they will be included in the management of the pastures themselves.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that there existing grazing areas in Rodrigues are insufficient to support and extensive life stock centre and fodder provision have to be improved. I would like to ask the Commissioner how will the farmers benefit for all pastures will it be by rotational grazing by allocating grazing right to the farmers or will it be a kept and carry process.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it will be on a cut an carry system Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner inform the House who are involved and responsible in the erection of the fence around the pasture.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the project is being implemented by the forestry division and it is the technical officer who is in charge of the project but as I have said there is a project implementation committee where you have technician administrative staff and also representative of breeders of the Region.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he is satisfied with the quality of work fence has been erected in the Region of Anse Baleine for example is the Commissioner aware that the fencing its already invested the post removed and floated on the ground. La port d'entrée n'est pas canvasser il n'y a pas surveillance c'est comme si il n'y a pas de cloture. I would like to ask the Commissioner if he is satisfied with the quality of their work because as if we are setting up pastures without cloture c'est comme une boeuf sans corn.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have about ten pastures in Rodrigues. When I took office they were all in an abandoned state. What we have been doing is to rehabilitate all these pastures. But at for Anse Raffin they have been vandal and the case has been reported to the Police and I think the Police will look into this matter.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, etant donner que a l'interier de la superficie cloturer, il n'y pas moins cinq abris pour les animaux je voudrais savoir est-ce que la Commission contre aider des abris pour les animaux, est-ce qui contre aider ces eleveurs pour refaire leur abris.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: But I am not aware Mr. Chairperson, Sir, but we will look into this issue this will be a topic on the agenda of the next PIC. We will consider

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Le President etant donner aussi il y a un abbevoir dont tous les 40 eleveurs utilize chaque jour qui se trouve en principe il passe a travers la ou il faut passer la ou c'est cloture rpour arriver a l'abbevoir. Est-ce que la Commission a pris en charge pour le danger que sa va représenter pour ces 400 animaux d'emprunter la route principal matin est soir pour aller vers la breuvoir.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the question of abbevoir will be taken not in this case because we are looking all abbevoir that we have in Rodrigues. We are going to rehabilitate them and we to have them supply with water.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine-Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we understand that it is the DCP who is financing the project isn't it. So, I would like to ask the Commissioner what was the cost of the projects and if he could table the project that was submitted to this financing agency.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: This project as I have said form part of my Commission policy to promote sustainable agricultural practices in Rodrigues. The project has been submitted by my Commission and supported by the DCP to the tune of 2.2 million rupees and so ...the participation of my Commission also financially this project.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know the Commissioner has mentioned three meetings or 9 meetings in all among which three consultative meetings. I would like to know whether decision already taken the fencing already erected before the consultation was made or otherwise.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, works started after consultation of the breeders. But I have to say that we should be careful about the breeders because we there are some people moving around and telling people that this project is not in favour of breeders. Make no mistake we could not rehabilitate deadline in Rodrigues we have about 30% of all land that we have which is very severely degraded. In ten years the consequences may be very very difficult for us.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether he is aware that actually there is a person holding a residential lease inside the fence area.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not aware we will have to look into this issue.

CATERING UNIT

(No. B/102) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Regional Member for Grande Montagne asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regard to the catering unit in place at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the other Health Centres, he could give details regarding the following:-

- (a) the procedures used for the purchasing of commodities to be used for the catering service;
- (b) the budget earmarked for the unit for the period July 2008 to June 2009;
- (c) the monthly breakdown of the expenses for the running of the unit for the period;
- (d) the different commodities purchased together with their prices and quantity as per the different providers on a monthly basis for that period;
- (e) a copy of the contracts signed between the Commission and the different providers/suppliers;
- (f) the categories of workers posted at Queen Elizabeth or other Health centres who benefit from the service offered by the unit?

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson Sir, all commodities to be used for the catering Services have always been procured under the sealed quotation method. Unlike previous years, with the coming into force of the New Public Procurement Act, 2006, advertisement through the press was issued calling all potential suppliers to be registered with the commission. This exercise was carried out on 26 May 2008 with closing date 30 June 2008.

Quotation exercises for procurement of commodities are carried out on a half yearly basis. In November for period 1st January-30th June and in May for period 1st July-31st December

The procedures Mr. Chairperson, Sir are as follows: -

1. The Head Catering Unit submits its requirements to the store section of Queen Elisabeth Hospital.
2. The Store section submits same to the Higher Purchasing and Supply Officer which counter checks as to whether the amounts requested are realistic and submits same to the Departmental Head for approval.
3. Upon approval the Departmental Head requests for sealed quotations to be sent to all suppliers registered with the Commission as per Public Procurement Act 2006.
4. And finally upon receipt of respective bids, the Departmental tender Committee approves or rejects bids according to set specifications.

It is to be noted, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that all commodities for the Catering Unit are attached to the conditions that items should be procured on an "as and when required basis.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regards to (b) of the question an amount of Rs 4.9 million were earmarked under budget estimates 2008-2009.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regards to parts (c) and (d) of the question Mr. Chairperson, Sir the information is so bulky that I am tabling it with your permission, unless I am instructed to otherwise.

Mr. Chairperson Sir for part (e) of the question you know even if I have not been requested to table a copy of such but you know at the level of hospital so many items ranging from different milk powders to eggs through frozen foodstuffs, biscuits and the information is so bulky with your permission I would like to table these information also, it is so bulky.

Mr. Chairperson: Sir, it's all right if you want to table you have the green light to do so.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson, Sir. As regard to part (f) I have been informed that the following categories of workers posted at Queen Elisabeth Hospital and other Health Centres are benefitting from the services of this unit. Hospital Servant, Nursing Officer, Midwife, Doctor, Laboratory Technician, Telephonist, Nursing Administrator, Charge Nurse, Nursing Supervisor, Family Planning Staff, ECG Technician, Ambulance

Driver, Ambulance Attendant, Record Clerk, Record Assistant, Cook on Roster, Laundry Attendant, Radiographer, Radiographic Assistant, Community Health Nursing Officer, Laboratory Attendant, Mortuary Attendant, Pharmacy Staff, Hospital Attendant, Dental Assistant, Community Midwife and Physiotherapy Assistant.

In addition meals are provided to CRAC anti-drug group in accordance to a memorandum of understanding signed between the previous government and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir I would like to know from the Commissioner whether the budget earmarked have been exceeded.

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

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: I would like to know by how much, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: The budget have been increased to 5.7 million Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. Chairperson: Yes you have to rise.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine Bégué: Because she is looking at the paper.

Mr. Chairperson: No, you do not have to wait for her.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine Bégué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is it true regularly by the end of the contract that is given to suppliers and the new one. There is a delay of 2 to 3 months so that there is an automatic extension of the contract to the actual supplier pending that there is a new procurement exercises why is it so it is not for this reasons that the budget get increase and there is no fair share of prices.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Of course, this is not the reasons Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the budget has increased because we can't forecast the number of patients to be admitted I hospital and there is also an increase in the price of commodities. Concerning the extension. The contract is not for the whole years and you know there is a very important point that is included in the contract is that item should be procured as and when required because we can't forecast the exact amount of the commodities to be used to the specific time given in hospital because at time we do not have enough because we forecasted less and we have more patients.

So, what to do we have to continue the supply let say food I know not so we want be so rigid with the contract and just to say you have got the contract up to 30th of June and before another contract is being awarded we have a problem with one let say ...milk we can't wait for the next contract.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Commissioner mean that after the approval of the contract and the award of the contract to the contractor there is a change in the prices of the commodities which the contractor was supposed to supply.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, if it has been agreed that such commodity will be issued on a given price on the 30th of June but this has to be maintained.

Mr. N. Lisette: How can the increase in the price affect the increase in the budget because this has been formally been approved and how can increase in prices during the contract has an incidence on the value.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: I give a simple example Mr. Chairperson, Sir, a contract has been awarded to Mr. X to supply 15 eggs at Rs.300 per unit and then we see that we need instead of fifteen eggs we need twenty two eggs. The supplier is bound by this contract to supply fifteen eggs at Rs.3.00 only but the additional of eggs may be the prices has got up or down so he is not bound to supply at the agreed price the excess. You get my point.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Etant donner que le budget a deborder plus de huit cent mille roupies a peu pres. Est-ce que le Commissaire peut nous dire s'ils ont reflechis au raison qui ont mener a cette augmentation qui est quand meme pas negliger huit cent mille roupies.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Je viens de donner un exemple Mr. Le President. La Membre n'etais pas a l'ecoute. Je suis desolé.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the reply of the Commissioner to my question. We do not be in the advantage of the Commission to ask for a high number of commodities to get lower price with respect to the contractors rather than giving a small number knowing well that there is a possibility that it may increase during the financial year.

Mr. J. A L. Emilien: You want me to come with another hedging.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Le President en regardant le papier

Mr. Chairperson: Please wait, Please wait. There was an answer to the floor. Do you want and answer. All the answer is given. Yes Mrs.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Yes Mr. Chairperson, Sir its clear I can't make provision for a bigger amount than expected if ever the price goes down I bound to accept the commodities on the price.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, dire moi qui prix pe desan dan sa pays la. Which price is going down in this country tell me which commodity priceis going down in this country. Is the price of oil, butter going down in his country. Even the prices of fish is increasing so I think from past experience Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there can be a forecast that has been made by the Commissioner

Mr. N. Emilien: The Member seems to forget that La barille de petrol ete arriver a 37 \$ mais il est desendu a 30 mon vieux tu ne sais pas sa toi pourquoi certain article ne peuvent pas desendre. Personne ne peut prevoir qui n'y aura pas de baisse parceque sa depend beaucoup de comestible que nous importons Mr. Le President dependre de la fluctuation le taux d'echange . Des fois sa descend peut etre pas par une marge .. peut quand meme il y a des baisses.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Dons je regardais les papiers Mr. Le President je vois a aucun moment ou ces mentionnes le brand make des produits qui sont fournis par exemple la je vois que le o % cholesterole oil sa coute le 120 roupies le kilo et a aucun moment on mentionne qu'elle est la marque de l'huile qu'on utilise par exemple.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: You know Mr. Chairperson, Sir, all these are issued by the head catering unit. They know there is an agreement between them the supplier we don't change these commodities every now and then. There is an agreement they know what type of oil is used in hospital.

AMBULANCES DRIVERS

(No. B/103) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Regional Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others with regard to the services provided by the Ambulance Drivers and their Assistants attached to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and the other Health centres, he could state:-

- (a) the number of workers per category attached, thereto;

- (b) the different facilities attached to their conditions of service; and
- (c) table the names of those who have benefited from night allowance for the period January 2008 to date, together with the amount paid?

The Commissioner for Health Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson Sir, as regard to part (a) of the question, the information is as follows:- 22 Ambulance Drivers, 02 Acting Ambulance Drives, 15 Ambulance Attendants, 03 Acting Ambulance Attendants

As regard to (b) workers on shift benefits from:- Night shift allowance, Public Holiday Allowances, Salary + travelling, Overtime when required, Issue of 1 mobile phone card per month. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am hereby tabling the requested information for part (c) of the question.

Mr. Chairperson: You need a little time to see the answer o proceed.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: I would like to know from the Commissioner for Health whether ambulance driver and attendance working at the health center La Ferme and Mt. Lubin they are actually benefiting from rest time and resting time as it use to be.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Resting time Mr. Chairperson, Sir I have got the information, please do wait a minute. I will refer to the PRB report concerning rest time. Recommendation 7 of the PRB Report Section 3.21. We recommend Mr. Chairperson, Sir I quote Mr. Chairperson, Sir the PRB, We recommend that officers working effectively work on night shift should be paid a night duty allowance equivalent to 17.5 persons of the normal rate per hour for the hours of twenty three hours and five hours in the morning including up to maximum of two hours lying in period so resting time is not paid separately. It is taken.

MONT LUBIN HEALTH CENTRE – RENOVATION

(No. B/104) Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis (First Local Region

Member for Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others whether with regards to the renovation works actually ongoing at Mont Lubin Health Centre, he would state:-

- (a) the scope of the work done;
- (b) the different bidders together with their quoted price;
- (c) whether any additional work has been allotted after the completion of the initial contract?

The Commissioner for Health (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that two tender exercises were carried out for renovation works at Mont lubin Area Health Centre namely:-

- (1) Labour cost for laying of tiles
- (2) Labour cost for painting works

The scope of work for laying of tiles is as follows: -

- (i) Removal of old vinyl tiles in (male, female, maternity wards, Doctors and Nurses messes, OPD and Family Planning unit)
- (ii) Cleaning of surfaces for laying of ceramic tiles
- (iii) Hacking and casting of screed and painting of walls.

As regards to (b) a list of registered contractors with the Commission for Public Infrastructure was obtained and tenders were floated. All potential bidders were invited for a site visit with the Higher Purchasing and Supply Officer and Assistant Inspector of Works to explain the extent of works to them to be carried out on Friday 17th April 2009 at 9:00 a.m for laying of tiles and on Friday 22 May 2009 at 9:00 a.m for painting works.

The quoted prices are as follows: -

for laying of tiles there were 6 bidders, namely: -

- (a) CHAN SOW Ah-Hone – Preliminaries and general - the price quoted was Rs 36,370 + Rs 18.00 per tiles of 300 x 300 ml.

- (b) BEGUE Jean Marcelin - Preliminaries and general – Rs 67,561.50 + Rs 54,176.25 for laying of tiles.
- (c) COLLET Joseph Josique - Preliminaries and general – Rs 67,500 + Rs 60,000 for tiles of 300 x 300
- (d) FRANCOIS Joseph - Preliminaries and general – Rs 29,548.00 + Rs 15.00 per tiles of 300 x 300
- (e) AH-YIN Joseph Merlo - Preliminaries and general – Rs 28,048.00 + Rs 15.00 per tiles of 300 x 300

I must point out, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, that the quotation of Messrs. Jean Marcelin BEGUE and Mr. Joseph Josique COLLET were rejected because they did not respect a close of the contract which specified that the price has fully quoted per unit as far as the laying of tiles is concerned.

For painting works out of three potential bidders, only two responded as follows: -

- (a) RABCO contractor Ltd – Rs 95,000.00
- (b) ALBERT Joseph Francois – Rs 156,520.50
- (c) BEGUE Jean Marcelin – did not respond

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the answer to part (c) is yes.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the answer to part c which is yes, I would like to know by how much it has cost for the additional work to be done.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: The additional work Mr. Chairperson, Sir, has cost Rs 77, 170.

Mrs. R. M. F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know whether any other tender was floated for this additional work?

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: No, Mr. Chairperson, Sir. No floated tender.

Mr. Chairperson: Next question.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, may I ask the Commissioner who assess the additional work to be done by the contractor?

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: The Assistant Inspector of Works, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, was this additional work that was done by the contractor, is there any site minute's proceedings with respect to this or was it sent by the contractor or was it sent by the Assistant Inspector of Works?

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, after doing the initial work it was decided that *c'est comme ci vous construisez une maison, M. Le Président, mais vous n'avez pas prévu de faire une belle décoration ou que ça a un plus bon look. Il a été constaté qu'il manquait une petite couche finale parce que les allées été glissante. Il fallait enlevé par exemple enlevé ça et mettre des trucs avec du rocksand qui n'était pas glissante etc. Donc le* Assistant Inspector of Works together with the Charge Nurse of the Mont Lubin Area Hospital inspected all the round and they agreed and even there is a contrary that the inspector of Works said that the price was very fair. According to him it was rather. Yes you have the information!

FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES

(No. B/105) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, as regards Fish aggregating devices (FADs) all around Rodrigues, he has been made aware that no FADs are present from the East to the South and the West off-lagoon of Rodrigues (i.e from St. Francois to Ile aux Cocos) and what is done to remedy same and to help the fisherman concerned to have better catch during the fishing season?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regards to FADs deployed around Rodrigues, I am informed that there is one FAD in the West on the same alignment as Ile Catherine. In my last budget speech, I spelt out that 10 new FADs will be installed during the next financial year and I am pleased to inform this House that three FADs will be deployed in these zones, namely at:

- (1) Graviers
- (2) Mourouk; and
- (3) Trou D'Argent. I mean off to the sea at these basis.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is the second time that this question is being asked. This is an urgent matter. Many fishermen used to go for off lagoon fishing in that region and the lack of FAD's make their activities

not economical from Port Sud Est to Saint Francois, once should cater for Rs 1500 in average per trip. This is why I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner whether between the east and the west of Rodrigues, whether there were FAD's present and if yes; when it is injected?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, between the east and the west there is going in the south and there is going by the north. O.k so you should specify in the north as you are aware there is one FAD at Grand Pointe actually working very good, you can come with next time when and I go out at sea and there is one FAD which has been replaced off at Ile aux Fou. There is another FAD at Grenade which is working. Unfortunately in the south due to bad weather always as you are aware in the southern sea and the difficulties that Diego Rodriguez the boat used for these works at sea for placing of FAD's have had difficulties, we have not been in a position to place these FAD's. I myself very surprised by the way at which these FAD's are placed, but the explanations given to me by the officer in charge, Fisheries Research Training Unit (FRTU) is plausible. The answer is that Diego Rodriguez was not available for these works and no boat can do this because it is a dangerous job with the ropes and all the buoys etc. I'm assuring the Member that we are doing our best and as soon as weather conditions permit and you are aware that now in the winter it is very difficult to have at least one clear. The weather must be very clear, the sea must be calm for these FAD's to be deployed and of course these FAD's are subject to deterioration either by human activity, fishing activities or by bad weather. These FAD's are more than 60 m up to 400 ms depth up and it subject to a extreme conditions and at times the ropes broke and we used the FAD so we have had a person Mr. Venkatasamy who has come and has made recommendation about the placing of the FAD's that is we don't just place FAD's and then we don't know what is the result. FAD's should be placed to keep the fish. You have to know that the agic fish approaches Rodrigues coming from mainly the west, the east and then if there are FAD's this fish is kept. They will spend some times on one FAD and then move over. This is why we have to place FADs all among their way to have them a keep them in their vicinity and increase their change on their caught by fishermen. I agree that the south is deprived of FADs and necessary is being done subject to weather conditions to remedy this situation. I am also aware Mr. Chairperson, Sir that comparatively to Mauritius the number of FADs present around Rodrigues is very small. We have to increase our efforts to place these FADs, thank you.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine-Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, just like the Commissioner said when you put FADs it concerned pelagic fish and being given that from Saint Francois down to the stream south and even part of the west no FAD have been placed for so much time, I like to ask the

Commissioner whether *entre temps* any studies have been made as to the potentiality where the three FADs will be placed?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am not speaking of three FADs to the long term. I am speaking what we are doing now and let me explaining to the Member when we mean Gravieres, it is off Gravieres, Mourouk means off Mourouk and Trou D'argent means you place yourself at Trou D'argent and you look out at the sea and of reason of being 90° to you, you will have the direction of the FADs and I repeat we will tensify our efforts to place more FADs. There is a report that has been made by Doc. Venkatasamy of the Ministry of Fisheries to see how to better place these FADs. We have no data about the productivity of any FAD apart from the observations of Diego Rodriguez when they go out at sea fish along these FADs but it seems that FADs in the south have not been very productive.

RODRIGUES WATER COMPANY

(No. B/106) Mr. J. D. Spéville (Second Local Regional Member for St. Gabriel) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to the setting up of the Rodrigues Water Company, he will inform the House of the following:-

- (a) the date it was incorporated;
- (b) the composition of the Board of Directors together with their names; and
- (c) table its rules and regulations together with a list of its assets to date and its present labour force;
- (d) the number and names of the different posts advertised by the Company and the number of candidates interviewed per category of posts;
- (e) the basis on which the selection exercises have been/will be carried out?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the setting of the Rodrigues Water Company, I am informed that:

- (a) the Company was incorporated on 29th October 2007.
- (b) the composition of the board is as follows:

- (1) Mr. Jacques Davis HEE HONG WYE – Chairman
- (2) Mr. Mahen Navin KHEDAH – Director
- (3) Mr. Antoinio LEONG LONE – Director
- (4) Mr. Nigel WATERSTONE – Director

(c) The rules and regulations are governed by the Companies Act and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly (Invest Management) Regulations 2008. The list of Assets of the Company is as follows:

- 1.0 4 Double Cab Pick-up Van
- 2.0 2 Desktop Computer
- 3.0 1 Laptop
- 4.0 1 Printer
- 5.0 1 Fax Machine
- 6.0 1 Photocopy Machine
- 7.0 4 Office Tables
- 8.0 1 Executive Chair
- 9.0 1 Book Shelves

(d) The Company has up to now employ only one Manager, 1 Administrative Secretary and 1 Technical Assistant.

(e) The different posts advertised by the Company are as follows:

- (i) Operation Engineer (Civil)
- (ii) Operation Engineer (Electromechanical)
- (iii) Technical Officer (Civil)
- (iv) Technical Officer (Electromechanical)
- (v) Technical Assistant
- (vi) Administrative Assistant
- (vii) Team Leader
- (viii) Field Technician
- (ix) Secretary/Receptionist
- (x) Driver cum Office Attendant
- (xi) Handyman

(f) No interview has been carried out yet. The Board is presently carrying out a pre-selection of candidates to be convened for interview shortly.

The selection exercise will be shortly carried out according to merits and in accordance with the qualification and experiences stipulated in the scheme of service for each post as advertised. Thank you.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Chief Commissioner informed the House which building is housed under which terms and conditions.

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, there is a temporary arrangement for a small office space to be used at the Commission for Women's Affairs at Malabar Women Centre and this space is being occupied by the Company upon my approval.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to ask the Chief Commissioner, whether some Government workers posted at the Water Unit will be transferred to the Company and if yes, under which terms and conditions.

The Chief Commissioner: There is no such possibility as at to date. The Company has not had legal status I mean by an Accord Parliament and giving the possibility for this. If we want for this we will have to go by the proper channel like this has been done for Airport of Rodrigues. In any case if any worker of the Government, any sector, including the Water Unit who wants to incorporate this Company this is most welcomed and their applications will be considered by the Board according to the qualification and experience. But actually, there is no official possibility for transfer from Water Unit to the posting to the Company. We are working on this but we must have the administrative authority. We don't have autonomy in this to set up this matter.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Can The Chief Commissioner inform the House whether at the time being, all the vehicles given to the Company are in good working conditions?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that there are four vehicles, four double cab pick-up vans and a must if I am wrong these vehicles are new brand vehicles and good working conditions even if there has any breakdown accident I have not been made aware. I am informed Mr. Chairperson, Sir, however that one vehicle was slightly damaged upon disembark and unloaded from the ship. This is a minor problem. The supplier is just replacing the short of wing cover (eron) on the vehicle. And the vehicle has not been possessed. We have not taken delivery of the vehicle at the level of the Company.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that many of the candidates have academic qualifications and a few of them have technical qualification with a low academic qualification and being given that technical qualification have been proven to be more successful in this water issue in this domain, can the Commissioner inform the House whether these candidates with technical qualification will be given priority?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as I have just said for each post there is an established scheme of service and it is this scheme of service which will prevail for recruitment. There is a scheme of service and there is also the fact that the board will carry out a selection exercise, there will be a selection board that I must tell you that they have had very good candidates, academic as well as technical. Of course, we don't need much academic people there, we will not doing research. In the post priority will be given to those people who have in first academic qualifications and second have had experience in academic qualification for example for the post of handyman and team leader and field technician, IVTB courses for example are very good references for these posts.

Mrs. R.M.F. Gaspard Pierre Louis: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to know from the Chief Commissioner whether the Chairman and the Director are being paid an allowance in the affirmative the corresponding amount.

The Chief Commissioner: Yes, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, they are paid. There is a question come on this and you will have the information on the time to come.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that the Chief Commissioner has stated that there is a pre-selection exercise going on, does he have the information as regards to the number of applications that have been made for the post advertised?

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this should have been specified. You have asked for the number and names of the different posts advertised. If you would have told me that you wanted this, I would have gladly prepared the information. Fortunately, I don't have it, but is 500 - 1000 for some posts.

TRACKROADS & FOOTPATHS

(No. B/107) The Second Local Region Member for St. Gabriel (Mr. J. D. Spéville) asked the Commissioner responsible for Public Infrastructure,

Housing, Environment & Others whether, as regards to trackroads and footpaths constructed/to be constructed all around Rodrigues from January 2009 to December 2009, he will for the benefit of the House, table a list of same and by giving the following details:-

- (a) their lengths and exact location from where to where;
- (b) the total amount and cost per category of materials used to be used;
- (c) the total contractual costs and the names of the contractors involved, if any, per sites;
- (d) the names of institutions financing each track road and footpath?

The Commissioner for Public Infrastructure (Mr. F. A. Grandcourt):

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this regional government is fully aware of the importance of track roads and footpaths in enhancing the quality of life of our citizens and improving accessibility to remote areas. I am therefore pleased to inform the house that in addition to our endeavour in implementing this project, my commission has also approached donor agencies to give a boost regarding the construction of track roads. 4 kms of track road will be constructed under the partnership with the Decentralised Corporation Programme.

As regard to part a, b, and c, I am hereby tabling the list of track roads undertaken during the period January 2009 – December 2009 and the relevant information.

As regard to part (d), the construction of the track roads under the Decentralised Corporation Programme are funded to a tune of Rs 4.2 m by the donor DCP and the remaining balance are met by the RRA.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is the Commissioner aware that materials for the construction of these track roads have been deposited in some places during this month just before the closing of the financial year *bousse un peu trou* and these materials is at the messy of the public. I will ask the Commissioner to inform the House whether these materials are being under safe custody and by whom they are being safeguarded?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it is under the responsibility of the contractor to whom the materials have been delivered to safeguard the same and use it for the construction of these track roads.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regard to the work which are been done by the contractors, I would like to ask the Commissioner for Public Infrastructure whether materials are being provided by his Commission or is it in the contract that the contractor that should supplied its own materials?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the whole materials have been provided by the Commission.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in this way, is it the right procedure that public goods are under the custody of private enterprises?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, this is quite simple. We launch tender for labour cost only. We provided all the materials and what the contractor has to do, it has to build these track roads for us. And it is, I would say it is his responsibility if for example he quoted for 100 ms track road at 6 inches feet, it is his responsibility at the end of the day to hand over to the Commission the 100 ms of track road. O.k so, we provide the materials and the contractor provide for the labour.

Mr. N. Lisette: The Commissioner, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, whether the materials being provided to the contractors are given at one go or as and when required by the Commission?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: It is provided phase 1, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask also from the Commissioner what is the control since it is being given phase wise, is there at the very start of any track road that is being started, is there any record or any projection with respect to the amount that should be used.

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the answer is yes.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, what will be the stand of the Mr. Chairperson, Sir, being given that materials are being provided by the Commission and a projection has been made on the amount of materials to be done, what is the type of control and monitoring that is being done by the Commission to ensure that this projection does not go above what is expected?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I don't really what the Member is asking but still I would like to clarify. First of all, we have Assistant Inspectors at my Commission who are supervising the work right at the beginning during the construction and prior to the handing over. So, I don't know where there will be any problem. We are ensuring that the Assistant

Inspectors are working in close collaboration with the contractors to see that they respect all the parameters of the contract and provide the materials.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in some villages, the direction and positioning of the track roads *laisse à désirer*. *Les villages qui ont des track road leading to only one house only.* There is no in person, no handicapped in that house at the same time on the opposite site we have a settlement of about 15 houses where building of track road will have had much value for money. I would like to ask the Commissioner what is his policy with regard to track road positioning and who have the final say in the positioning of same?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have a priority list and we are building the track roads according to this priority list and the time will come where we will build all the track roads around the island.

Mr. J. D. Spéville: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, can the Commissioner enumerate on the agreement between his Commission and the funding agency? Is the money being given to his Commission under the construction of track road or it is being given to the beneficiaries directly?

Mr. F. A. Grandcourt: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I have already answered to this question.

Mrs. M. A. Perrine Begué: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I see that some of the track road Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in line with the community participation, I would like to ask the Commissioner if he could specify the nature of same.

Mr. Chairperson: Is this correct? Yes, next question then. It is 30 past we've left with ten questions, do we have statements? So we suspend for lunch. Do we proceed until we finish for one hour or we suspend? Yes, proceed. I suspend the assembly for 45 minutes

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION – SALE/EXPORT OF ANIMALS

(No. B/108) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others with regard to livestock production and sale/export of animals to Mauritius, would he for the benefit of the House:-

- (a) table the number of live animals (pigs, goats, cattle) exported to Mauritius for the period January 2009 to date, per month:

- (b) table the number of animals bought and shipped by the Rodrigues Trade and Marketing Company Ltd. to Mauritius for the same period;
- (c) state whether the farmers have fenced/are encountering any difficulties for the sale of any of these products and, if so;
- (d) what action/s his Commission has undertaken or envisage to undertake to remedy the situation?

The Commissioner for Agriculture & Others (Mr. L.A. Pérrine):
Madame Deputy Chairperson, with regards to part (a), information gathered from the Customs Department, the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd and the Veterinary Services of my Commission reveal that a total of 2,387 heads (two thousand three hundred and eighty seven) of live pigs, goats and cattle have been exported to Mauritius for the period January to 29th June 2009. I table a copy of export figures of live animals from January to date.
(Appendix)

A comparison of export figures from 2007 to 2009 for the period January to June 2009 shows that for cattle there has been a decrease of 30.8% and 48.4% in the number of cattle exported in 2008 and 2009 respectively whereas for goats no major difference was noted between 2008 and 2009, while for pigs a net increase of 72.5% has been recorded. I table a copy of export figures from 2007 to 2009.

However, in order to have a more precise idea it is imperative to compare figures over a whole year and a longer time frame.

With regards to the reduction in cattle exports, the matter is being looked at closely and is being taken up with the Mauritius Meat Authority and in collaboration with the Authority, my Commission is looking into ways and means with the network of butchers and other stakeholders to boost cattle exports in Mauritius.

As members are aware, sales of cattle is also a function of time of the year and certain religious festivals where demand for Rodriguan cattle increases. I am informed by the MMA that exports may resume as from the month of September.

With regards to part (b), Madame Deputy Chairperson, the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd deals with the purchase and exports of live pigs

and piglets only. I am informed that for the period January to June 2009, a total of 1,301 pigs and 51 piglets have been purchased and exported. No exports have been recorded for the months of May and June 2009.

I table the number of animals purchased and shipped by the RTMC for the same period. **(Appendix).**

With regards to part (c), Madame Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I have been informed by the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd that it has not received no orders from its buyers in Mauritius for the purchase of pigs since the last shipment of 93 pigs on the 20th April, 2009.

Madame Deputy Chairperson, the causes of this sudden degradation of the market situation is attributed to the following factors:-

- Firstly, the recent pandemic of the Mexican Swine Fever AH₁N₁ has caused a marked reduction of more than 40%, in demand for pork meat in Mauritius as evidenced by the number of pigs slaughtered by the abattoir of the Mauritius Meat Authority which stood at only nine (9) as at 5th June, 2009.
- Secondly, around 3,500 piglets which were imported from South Africa in the month of January 2009 for fattening purposes in Mauritius following the African Swine Fever outbreak are now ready for slaughter and are being put on the market.
- Thirdly, as a consequence of the economic crisis, the demand for meat has decreased.

With regards to part (d), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the actions taken are as follows:-

- (i) the RTMC has requested to reinforce its marketing efforts by exploiting other marketing channels such as charcuteries in Mauritius, “Cooperative des Bouchers de Maurice” and super and hypermarkets for the sales of animals. There has been a boost in the marketing campaign of the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd and in this context I am pleased to inform that Porkers Products Ltd has agreed in principle to import pork cuts from Rodrigues. A delegation from this company is arriving in Rodrigues during this week to finalize agreement with the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Co. Ltd and is expected that export of pork to Mauritius will resume as from next month.
- (ii) In the medium to longer term perspective my Commission believes that with the setting up of a modern slaughter house operating in conformity

with legal and standards and compliant with EC directives, Rodrigues will be able to export carcasses and cuts instead of live animals. I am therefore happy to announce that the construction of a modern slaughter house will start this year at Baie Diamant.

Moreover, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, my Commission has also solicited support from various partners for training in charcuterie and technical assistance to the RTMC to help structure its activities.

Mr. N. Lisette: Madame Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the Commissioner has lengthily spoken about the problem faced by pig breeders as regard to the export of the product but very little said about the question of goats and cattle. May I know what is the status right now, as regards to the export of cattle?

Mr. L. A. Perrine: As I have said Madame Deputy Chairperson, for goats it seemed that there has been no decrease in the demand exports to Mauritius. As for cattle I have discussed lengthily with the Mauritius Meat Authority and they have assured me that there has been no decrease in the demand of meat in Mauritius. You know the annual consumption of meat in Mauritius for cattle is about 2,400 tons and according to records last year it was 2,100 tons. So, there is a slight decrease and according to him, it is a question of time. You know during that period of the year the decrease usually fall and it will be increased as from September because of the coming of Muslim Festival and also for the end of the year. That why we are expecting that in September the imports of cattle will increase from Rodrigues. So we must look at the annual figure. Now if we look at the figures now, we cannot interpret it as a fact we have to look at the end of the year and then compares the figures for a longer period of time.

Mr. N. Lisette: Madame Deputy Chairperson, has it been brought to the knowledge of the Commissioner that as that as at now biers from Mauritius are altering mostly the west African Countries as an expense of our local breeders. Has he made any steps with respect to this in order to protect our breeders in Rodrigues?

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Madame Deputy Chairperson, we have taken up the matter with the Meat Authority not later than this morning I have spoken with Mr. Balgobin. They will have to take account. He has promised me that he will protect local production and he will take into account the production in Rodrigues before issuing any license for importation of live animals from Africa or any way.

Mr. N. Lisette: As regards his policy to boost up meat production may we ask the Commissioner whether he has in mind, any quota that he feels Rodrigues will be required on the Mauritian market?

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Madame Deputy Chairperson, we have not spoken of quota because we have to increase the production. As I have said for instance for cattle, the local consumption is about 2,400 tons. So we have to agree on our production and then we can discuss. But for us now we have just re-organizing the sector and it is a bit difficult for us to discuss quota. So we are looking about increasing boost up the production and then we will talk about quota, discuss on quota and agree on quota.

Mr. N. Lisette: Because if we refer to the FSF, there is the indication that there is the willingness to increase meat production. And if you want to increase its meat production marketing should go along with this. Now what is the guarantee that the farmers who are going to be engaged in the project of livestock increasing livestock production, what is the guarantee are they going to have that whenever they are going to have the finish product? These products will be allowed to be sale for export.

Mr. L. A. Perrine: Madame Deputy Chairperson, I have just said that we have agreed with the Meat Authority that they will take into consideration the local production here before issuing permit for importation. However, I must say what we are suffering now is that we have not modernize the sector. You know export of live animals to Mauritius is a problem. We have to change it to have exportation in carcass as the animals slaughtered in Rodrigues first. Our problem is that we have not modernized this sector and we have no slaughter house. We have agreement to export with Panagora but we have to export in carcasses and with cuts. So our priority now is to have a modern and to have the animals slaughtered and then to enter into agreement for marketing agency in Mauritius, so as to be able to export carcasses in Mauritius.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I would like to ask the Commissioner in which way the Mauritius Meat Authority is going to be crucial and instrumental to helping the boost up of exportation of cattle and others because we see that in Mauritius actually there is liberalization which is on top agenda if not which has already been passed. So in which way has also discussions been made with relevant authorities for example with the Ministry for Commerce to make sure that within the Republic of Mauritius there are specific decisions that are being taken because we see for example that in the EU all the OMC agreements are being put aside to make sure that there is internal protectionism. In which way has the Commissioner discussed with

relevant authority in Mauritius to make sure that in a way that this liberalization Rodriguan products are not be again.

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Madame Deputy Chairperson, Madam the Meat Authority issue importation license whenever there is local markets, we cannot produce or have not enough production satisfied the market. But if we can produce the commodity locally there is no use to issue the importation license. So the discussion with the MMA was that to take into consideration our local production and then to issue license over and above what we can produce in Rodrigues that we have receive the guarantee that in order to protect the local production. We will take it into consideration before issuing license. So, now we should agreed on how much we are going to produce and whenever we come to a figure, we should respect the figure. We cannot one day instead that we are going to produce 10% and after one year or two years it is 5% so we have to organise the production to have a consolide contract sign and we are going to produce what we call contract going production and then to enter into contract with the agency of the Company in Mauritius.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, recently the Commissioner was questioned on this issue. He said thatmay be the end of last year or the beginning of this year, he said that Mauritius never be *autosuffisant* emit and now today he says that one of the two reasons while there is a problem of the pork sector it has to do the 3500 piglets that was imported from abroad, from South Africa. So, which is which?

Mr. L. A. Pérrine: Madame Deputy Chairperson, the question is that the African swine fever that production demand for the pork meat has decreased by more than 50%. But not later than yesterday I was talking with the Director of the Central Abattoir in Mauritius. He told me that pig imported from Rodrigues since April are still at Port Louis waiting to be distributed to the Central Market. So, the main problem is that people has moved away from moving eating pig meats because of the Mexican African Fever. So long of the ciscoes exist, so we will have a problem. However we have trying to have other channel of marketing saying that we have other channel of marketing that's why porkers products is coming to Rodrigues to see whether we can export pork to hotels and other super-hyper markets. Here also I must say that we were suffering lack of infrastructure. We need to have the modern slaughter house, a charcuterie so that we can do transformation to be exported to Mauritius.

TABLE TENNIS

(No. B/109) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports & Others

as regards to the Table Tennis discipline in Rodrigues, would he, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether the Regional Table Tennis Committee is still functioning, and if not, why;
- (b) the number of competitions held for the discipline in Rodrigues from January 2009 to date?

The Commissioner for Youth and Sports (Mr. J. C. Agathe): Madam Deputy Chairperson, as regards to part (a), the answer is Yes. As regards to part (b) Nil, despite of sports equipment purchased at their request.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Commissioner for Sports whether his Commission has received any resignation letter from the Rodrigues Regional Table Tennis Committee?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Yes.

Mr. N. Lisette: In such the case, Madam Deputy Chairperson, why is it the Commissioner states here that the RTTC is still functioning?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the financial year start 2008/2009 is ending today that is on the 30th June 2009. That date my Commission will be in a position to state which committee is functioning and if not, to identify the *maillon faible* and which committee is not functioning. As regards to Table Tennis for the financial year 2008/2009, Rs 17,000 was spent out of a total sum of Rs 25,000 earmarked for this discipline. Although not to my satisfaction I can therefore consider that committee has been active until 1st April 2009 when its President with five members have submitted their resignation for reasons which have not been specified. This was followed by the publication of malicious press articles in the newspaper weekend from the part of the President. Despite of this, I personally took the initiative to convene them for a meeting in my office on Thursday 9th April 2009 to clarify the matter *face à face*..... Unfortunately, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam they have not turned up. Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam I must informed the House that have personally observed some weaknesses that is the *maillon faible* at the level of the committee since my coming in office in December 2006 as Commissioner of Youth and Sports. First the President is also the President of the football team in the region of La Ferme. A member in the Rodrigues Regional Football Committee and also chairman of the organizing committee for football in region 1 is more dedicated and has led to his unsatisfactory performance at the level of the Table Tennis committee. Secondly, Mrs. Deputy

Chairperson, Madam, for the fixing date of competition, moreover, he always submits his request at a very short notice when the gymnasium has already been booked. Third, in the context of the *Jeux de L'avenir* in April 2009 in Mauritius, the Rodrigues Regional Committee has failed to nominate at least for participation in the games. Despite a request was made to them in this respect at several occasions. By so saying, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, everybody who is involved in sports can identify and observe the *maillon faible*.

Mr. N. Lisette: Madam, Deputy Chairperson, as regards to the answer of the Commissioner for Sports, may I ask him if it is illegal for someone to stand on a regional committee and stands on other regional committee as per the Sports Act.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, it is not ethical.

Mr. N. Lisette: What is not ethical, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, for someone to stand on two committees he is the chairman of the Tennis Committee and on the other side, he is also the chairman of his football team. He is also a member of the regional committee and also the chairman who is organizing in other organizing committee in the region 1.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, as regards to the competition which has not been held since January 2009, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there has been any letter emanating from the committee before resignation of the Members in order to proceed with the transport of table tennis table which are in the *Centre Culturelle Chinois* to the Malabar Gymnasium in order to organise competition which are lying there since le jeux de Rodrigues.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I will have to state to this House that for the committee, there are, we have received a lot of equipments from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, I will state all. We have table tennis nets (7 units), table tennis balls (8 dozen), table tennis racquets (8 units), table tennis table (1 unit) and we have purchased in October 2008, table tennis racquets gold cup (48 units) and we have also issued table tennis nets (3 units), table tennis ball 40 mm (15 units), 24 units), table tennis table (2 units). At the level of this committee, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, we can state he that there are lot of table tennis and the table tennis are placed in different, at the Malabar Gymnasium. We have three good table tennis, Citron Donis (1 table tennis), La Ferme Youth Centre (2), Patate Theophile (1) that makes a total of seven.

Mr. N. Lisette: Yes, Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, he is saying that there are three table at the Malabar Gymnasium, I will refer to a letter written by the secretary of the...

The Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, on a point of order. The Member has asked a question, good my Commissioner has answering, now the Member is introducing new matter to this question which a letter which is purporting, is referring to. This is far from the main question and it is clear in the Standing Orders that Members when putting questions should not introduce new matter, this is an example of new matter, so.

Mr. N. Lisette: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Sir, I am referring to the unavailability of tables at the gymnasium of the....

The Chief Commissioner: On a point of order again, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson. I just heard unless my ear is not correct which is the case actually. The Commissioner saying that there are three table tennis equipment at Malabar Gymnasium. The Member is stating that there are not. How can be sure that there are none, officially there are three. You are saying there are none. Are you not taking this Member, Madam Deputy Chairperson, taking unjustly the time of this House and wasting the time of this House. This is what this Member is doing here, wasting and leading this House into error. The Commissioner said that there are three. You can't come here and say there are none unless you can substantiate it. Yes, I'm telling you there are three there. He said him I believe in him. You are saying the contrary. You have to substantiate it. You have to say yes, I have been there. You have been there? You have checked the store? Don't come here and say silly things. He said three, there are three there.

Mrs. Deputy Chairperson: So, you just rephrase and base yourself on the answer.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to ask the Commissioner for Youth and Sports how does he account for the fact that there has been a letter emanating from the Committee requesting the transport of table from the *Centre Culturelle Chinois, Port Mathurin* to the Malabar Gymnasium for competition to be held on the 29 March 2009, how can he account for this if he says that there are table tennis there.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, despite of this, we have three table tennis at Malabar.

Mr. N. Lisette: I come to the use of the Malabar Gymnasium, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. The Commissioner stated that there are always late requests, I would like to ask the Commissioner whether there is a time table that is set for the utilization of Malabar Gymnasium for different competitions with respect to Independence tournament.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there is an established programme at the Malabar Gymnasium how to use the Malabar Gymnasium and all Committees have to abide according to the established programme.

Mr. N. Lisette: In respect Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, how does the Commissioner account for the fact that even though several requests have been made by the Table Tennis for the utilization of this infrastructure, yet there request have not been adhered to.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the Committee has to send the requests. Don't place on the request, we want to use the gymnasium on what date, on what day and on what time. You have to send their request and it is at the level of my Commission who have to decide what date we are going to organise the.

Mr. N. Lisette: In this sense, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, did the Commission advise or direct the Committee as regards to the availability of the Gymnasium through the holding of the competition, did he advise them on the

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the Chairman of this Committee was an officer of my Commission. He already knows that.

WATER – PETIT GABRIEL

(No. B/110) Mr. N. Lisette (First Local Region Member for Baie aux Huitres) asked the Chief Commissioner whether, with respect to distribution of water in the village of Petit Gabriel, he would, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) the diameter of the pipe and the state of the network more precisely serving the families (behing Kan John Shop) in the vicinity of the Community Centre;
- (b) the number of families being served on this network;

- (c) whether any family had faced/is facing difficulties since January 2009 to be supplied with water on this network, and if yes, the reason/s why?

The Chief Commissioner: I am informed, Madam Deputy Chairperson, that with respect to the water distribution in the village of Petit Gabriel:

- (a) the diameter of the pipe in the region under reference is 63mm and partly made of galvanized pipes of 25mm diameter. The galvanized pipes are in a very poor state.
- (b) there are about 28 families who are tapped on this network.
- (c) no complaint has been received by the Water Resources Unit as regards these families.

COMPANIES/RRA

(No. B/111) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to Rodrigues Regional Assembly owned companies, he will, for the benefit of the House, provide information as to:-

- (a) the number and names of the different Companies set up from 2006 to date;
- (b) their respective date of incorporation and when they started operation;
- (c) the composition of their Board;
- (d) the expenses incurred on the staff since they started operation to date;
- (e) their respective Chairmen and Managers, together with their qualifications and terms and conditions attached to the posts

indicating – the remuneration, any fringe benefits and other facilities put at the disposal?

The Chief Commissioner: With regards to part (a) of the question, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I am informed that and aware that there are five (5) companies

namely the Rodrigues Trading and Marketing Company Ltd, RODCLEAN Company Ltd, Discovery Rodrigues Company Ltd, Rodrigues General Fishing Company Ltd and Rodrigues Water Company Ltd have been set up by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly since year 2006 to date.

I am tabling the information pertaining to part (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the questions, thank you.

RRA VEHICLES

(No. B/112) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Chief Commissioner with regard to Rodrigues Regional Assembly vehicles, he would for the benefit of the House state whether vehicles No. 46 RRA 08, 4 RRA 03 are being used to convey any advisers to and from their place of residence; and if so, provide the House with the following information:-

- (a) the monthly breakdown of overtime paid to the drivers attached to these vehicles from June 2008 to May 2009;
- (b) the monthly breakdown of petrol (quantity and value) used and the number of kilometers run by these vehicles for the same period?

The Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, vehicle RRA No. 46 RRA 08 is attached to the Commissioner for Social Security with effect to December 2008 whereas vehicle 4 RRA 03 is attached to the Commission for Tourism Office. The vehicles are often used to convey the Adviser on Communication Matters and the Adviser on Women's and Family Affairs and Community Development respectively from and to their places of residence. Even if the mileage cover by the two mentioned vehicles is not only related to the conveyance of the two Advisers and that the expenses of cannot be attributed to only to the purpose, I nevertheless tabling the information with respect to part (a) and (b) of question. Madame Deputy Chairperson, upon examination by me of the information it has seen that the mileage seems to be on the right side for both vehicles. I have questioned the drivers of these vehicles and it that the speed kilometers of the vehicle for RRA 03 is not in good order and I remind the House that this vehicle was formerly attached to a Commission which was involved in an accident and which in fact has problems. In any case as you would see in the table information routine the diesel paid of the vehicle is not that excessive per month.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know whether according to existing regulations and the terms and conditions of the employment, these Advisers are eligible to get these facilities.

The Chief Commissioner: They are not eligible, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: So why these vehicles often in fact 4 RRA 03 everyday this vehicle is used to convey an Adviser?

The Chief Commissioner: Because the Executive Council has approved it, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Is the Chief Commissioner aware where this vehicle is used for personal matters for example it is used to transport certain football teams in Rodrigues.

The Chief Commissioner: I'm very glad, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I'm glad, very glad if for some conveniences some footballers have traveled from these vehicles. I'm very glad if this has happened.

Mr. L.D. Baptiste: Are you still glad when this is used as a bar at Montagne Cabris?

The Chief Commissioner: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I don't know what the Member means a government vehicle being used as a bar. You just buy a camera of filming and take video tape and take them, Member. Bring it; go to the ICAC and to the Director of Audit. Do your job. Don't come and say it here. Do it and come with a tape with photo with a recording or with some beer they have drunk there and share it.

ORANGE SPORTS COMPLEX

(No. B/113) Mr. L. D. Baptiste (Second Local Region Member of Grande Montagne) asked the Commissioner responsible for Youth and Sports & Others as regards the Orange Sports Complex, he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether any construction materials have been stocked thereto, and if so;
- (b) who delivered these materials there, when and for what purposes;

- (c) give descriptions of all the construction materials stocked there together with details related to the types and quantity?

The Commissioner for Youth & Sports (Mr. J. C. AGATHE): Mrs. Chairperson, Madam, every member of this House must know all the history behind the Orange Sports Complex. It is surprising to see the member of the Minority Group asking questions about this complex.

Previously, there was a changing room on the complex which was pulled down by the previous regional government during the realignment of the road leading to Vainqueur and which has not deemed it necessary to arrange for the construction of the cloakroom.

Today, due to several complaints from the villagers and members of the Sports Community in the vicinity of Oranges, as Commissioner, I have taken the policy decision, in March 2009, to construct a cloakroom at the Sports Complex in the locality with the objective to offer the appropriate changing and toilet facilities to the volleyball players during their training sessions and volleyball competitions.

In view of this pressing need, my Commission has liaised with the Commission for Public Infrastructure for the execution of the construction work in-house. As regards to part (a), Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I am informed that construction materials are deposited at Oranges Sports Complex for immediate use to construct the cloakroom.

As regards to part (b), according to procurement procedures, several suppliers quote for construction materials. The successful bidders upon advice of the officer responsible for the execution of the works order that the materials be deposited on site for immediate use.

As regards to part (c), the information is being compiled since the question is vague and refers to all construction materials.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I would like to know when are works scheduled to start?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the work has already been displayed.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: But, I understand that information has not been compiled and it was quite surprising to see that these materials are delivered

there and there was no watchman on that day. May I know from the Commissioner why this was the case?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, he has got the wrong answer, the wrong information. There is a watchman on the site.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Commissioner, Madame Deputy Chairperson, Madam, under what conditions the materials stored there?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I want to know, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, what materials is referring to?

Mr. N. Lisette: The materials that are going to be used for the construction of the cloakroom.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the materials which are going to be used are being placed in a safe custody inside the complex.

Mr. N. Lisette: Has there been so far, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, any spoiling of materials of any time as at now?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: The answer is no.

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I have been to Orange Sports Complex the next day these materials were delivered and I personally entered there because everybody was there in fact there was no watchman at all. And I saw all the different types of construction materials including cements which were led down on this floor. I would like to know whether some of these cements have been spoilt.

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the answer is no.

Mr. N. Lisette: I would like to know, Madam Deputy Chairperson, Madam, whether any materials has been removed from the site since it has been deposited there?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I want to know what type of materials is mentioning, Madam?

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I know I have seen on Friday and Saturday, two days after this question 400 pockets of cements have been removed from the Orange Complex, I don't know to which

place. Can the Commissioner inform this House why these cements have been removed from this place if works are to start immediately?

Mr. J. C. Agathe: I must admit here, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam that the cement was placed nearer on the side because at Orange there is a mini market just adjacent to the complex the cement ought to have been placed in the market but unfortunately the supplier has placed it in the

Mr. L. D. Baptiste: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I have seen personally this movement from the complex but at the same time I also saw that tiles were removed from a private house just next to the complex together with the cement. May I know why tiles were also stored at

Mr. J. C. Agathe: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I not aware if such is the case I will ask the Member to go to the Police.

MALE WARD – QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL

(No. B/114) Mrs. M. A. Perrine Bégué (First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Health & Others, as regards the male ward at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital he will, for the benefit of the House, state:-

- (a) whether any nauseating smell is being felt thereto, and if so;
- (b) the reason thereof;
- (c) whether any corrective measures have been/will be undertaken to solve the problem?

The Commissioner for Health & Others (Mr. J. A. L. Emilien): Mr. Chairperson Sir, during several inspections carried out by the Public Health Officer at the Male Ward of Q.E.H, no nauseating smell have been noticed there apart from characteristic smell inherent to a hospital Male Ward Section.

No official complaint has been received either from staff of Q.E.H or members of the public relating to such problem.

I wish to inform the House, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, that there is a team at Q.E.H comprising of a Works Inspector, a Gangman, a Sanitary Attendant and General Workers to cater for any problem that may crop up.

Moreover, a Hospital Administrative Assistant is posted at Q.E.H to ensure the smooth running of Hospital Services.

As everyone may be aware, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, since the 19 May, 2009 a team of four Charge Nurses is posted to the Male Ward at Q.E.H and one of their responsibilities is to ensure cleanliness of the ward under their responsibility. And so far, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, no complaints whatsoever have been registered from any one of them, in this respect.

As a matter of fact, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, part (c) of the question does not arise.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, in fact of the 18th, Sunday before I went to the hospital myself along with some families at the verandah of the male ward and there was highly nauseate smell which were smelled there to the extent the members of the public were putting their handkerchief on their nose and the Commissioner comes to say information was being asked, I asked the information with some persons working around, I won't tell you whom because I know may be problems and they were saying that possibly this may have to do with the toilet which is not properly aerated. Can the Commissioner confirm that the toilet in the male ward do not have proper openings and at some particular point in time the problem of smelling at the verandah.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, may be what the respected Member is saying other there is true because she knows perfectly well who build these toilet blocks but anyway, I am not aware, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam. Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam let me tell the House, it may happen that at times there is like everywhere, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, there may be such a smell because at times on rainy days the emptier cannot have access to the dumping area of Grenade may be on such occasion the cannot perform its work as normal three times a week this exercise is being done at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital may be I say on rainy days thehasn't been able to do perform this work there may be but when I refer to the question it would seem that this is the continuous problem which recur every now and then but such is not the case I have not been in the presence of any official complains as I say earlier, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: En tout cas, it seems that you are halfly admitting but you may know the problem is I confirm with our specialist *maison en matiere* health and he absolutely confirm that this is the case and he goes

there more often that you do and Mrs. Deputy Chairperson is the Commissioner aware that just next to this male ward and the toilet block, does the catering unit and some persons were putting other alternatives to the toilet problems to the fact that some of the persons working at the catering are going to ease themselves just at the back of the kitchen where there are stores because they don't have the necessary in a place that it should be hygienic because this is where food is being cooked and there are so many requests that have been made is it true that there have requests that have been made so that may have a proper place to work and not to go and ease themselves just next to the male ward.

Mr. J. A. L. Emilien: Is it easing , Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, that if you don't have a suitable place for ease yourself, you go *dans le petit coin là, vous descendez votre culotte pour faire vos besoins*. This is not fair Mrs. Deputy Chairperson. If somebody is earring this is another film. Is somebody is ill this will create nauseating smell at the hospital? Be honest. No, Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I have enquired. You know at times, Deputy Chairperson, Madam, the manhole between the parking area of the male ward is uncovered for cleaning purposes. It may happen that on these occasions there are these smell but it's not all the year round this is completely false.

FOOD SECURITY FUND

(No. B/115) Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué (First Local Region Member of St. Gabriel) asked the Commissioner responsible for Agriculture & Others, as regards the Food Security Fund he will, for the benefit of the House state:-

As regards the Food Security Fund he will, for the benefit of the House state:-

- (a) whether the envelope of Rs 187 million allocated to Rodrigues has been reduced in value following the recent National Budget exercise; and if yes, by how much;
- (b) whether the fund will still be operated by the Rodrigues Regional Assembly or by any other agency;
- (c) the amount of Fund disbursed from that Fund in Rodrigues since its inception and the type and number of projects which have been benefited there from; and
- (d) table the names of the beneficiaries and their respective projects?

The Commissioner for Agriculture & Others (Mr. L. A. Pérrine): As I have already informed the House, a sum of rupees one hundred and eighty seven million rupees (Rs 187 million) has been earmarked for the Commission of Agriculture and Natural Resources Rehabilitation following the submission of twenty-one (21) projects for financing under the Food Security Fund which covers the period 2008 – 2011.

I am informed by the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security that the answer as regards to part (a), is **NO**. There has been and there will never be no reduction in the amount earmarked for Rodrigues.

With regards to part (b), Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the fund is managed by the Food Security Fund Committee as per the Finance and Audit (Food Security Fund) Regulations 2008, GN No. 97 of 2008. The island of Rodrigues is represented by Mr. Jerome FELICITE, the Acting Officer in Charge of the Agricultural Services on the Committee.

Furthermore, Madam Deputy Chairperson, my Commission is the implementing agency for the projects approved for Rodrigues under the Food Security Fund.

Madam Deputy Chairperson, with regards to part (c), my Commission has already opened a special bank account and disbursement to the tune of Rs 6.7 M is being processed for purchase of materials such as of galvanized poles, cement, pine planks and galvanized fencing. The projects concern the rehabilitation of Baie Malgache Valley with the construction of 2.5 km of track roads, fencing of 6 km of land and rehabilitation of 6 km of drains.

Moreover, fencing of 22 km of land in onion growing areas namely St. Francois, Gravieres, Port Sud Est, Mourouk, Anse Ally is also concerned.

With regards to part (d), Madam Deputy Chairperson, the information is not available for the time being and same will be tabled once the various projects have been implemented.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, I like to ask the Commissioner how come that only Rs 65. M is being disbursed out of Rs 187 M which has been given after more than one year that has elapsed?

Mr. L.A. Pérrine: Madame Deputy Chairperson, first of all I must say that the amount of Rs 187 M is for three years; 2008-2011. We were informed officially of the project at the end of last year and we have to prepare a project which had to be evaluated by various Committees. 12 Technical Committees

were set up and it was only in April that we submit tenders to prepare tenders documents and also the plan submitted. I must say the process for disbursement is a bit long. We have several Committees. First we have the Management Committee, we have the Financial Committee and then we have the decision of the Ministry of Agriculture before funds is to disbursed, that's why it takes a bit long time.

Mr. N. Lisette: May I ask the Commissioner for Agriculture with respect to the implementation plan, whether the project is within the time frame and the forecast are set up formerly, I means the time frame there is an implementation plan there, whether as regard I will stand right now whether all the projects that are to be implemented are within the limits of the time frame set and the forecast or there is still any delay in the project.

Mr. L.A. Pérrine: I must say that for the first year much emphasis has been laid for infrastructure, land rehabilitation. I must say there has a slight delay in the onion production because we were proposing that we fence all the areas where onions are being planted before plantation season start. But for this, I think it will be a little bit later we will have it let's say mix season but I think as far as the end of June, July or beginning of August the project relating to fencing onion areas will be completed. But as I've said it is for the first February project it concerns mainly land rehabilitation, drain rehabilitation, terraces, fencing which you know we have up to October to deal with this.

Mrs. M. A. Pérrine Bégué: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, we see in his speech in the budget national budget the Minister for Finance spoke of the setting up of an antenna of saving job and fund and at the same time the Food Security Fund what does that imply being given that the Commissioner is responsible actually of this funds in Rodrigues.

Mr. L.A. Pérrine: Mrs. Deputy Chairperson, Madam, I think the Minister is referred to other projects that may submitted to the fund becoming from stakeholders, from individuals but as far as projects that my Commission have submitted to the Government it has been approved for a global sum of Rs 187 M, this is to be implemented by the Commission for Agriculture. There will be no reduction in that fund. I think the Minister is talking about individual or association that will be called upon to submit projects in case of loan or something like that of production and in the coming future. I myself I will have to get information from the Ministry of Agriculture because for talking or giving much information on that.

Mr. N. Lisette: Madame Deputy Chairperson, Madam, if I refer once again on the budget forecast for Rodrigues from July 2008 to July 2009 there

was a forecast of Rs 6 M namely for the implementation of aquaculture development - Rs 3 M . You have the construction of three community kitchen which is of Rs 2 M and the construction of one onion curing house which is of a value of Rs 1 M. May I ask the Commissioner as regard to the project which was supposed to be completed or partly completed with respect to the budgeted amount where does matter stand?

Mr. L.A. Pérrine: Madam Deputy Chairperson, whenever there is a project in a document it does not mean that the project will be completed. We have initiated action as will be construction in plan and then also call for tender, for design. For instance the onion curing station we must discuss its location, we must have its design and then we must launch the contract, it takes time. Whenever it is in the project, it does not means that it will have to be completed by the end of June 2009, we have to go up to 2011.

The Assembly suspend for five minutes

STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONERS

BUDGET OUTTURN FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2008-2009

The Chief Commissioner (Mr. Johnson Roussety, GOSK): With your permission Mr. Chairperson Sir, I would like to make a statement on the Budget Out-turn of the Rodrigues Regional Assembly for Financial Year 2008 - 2009 for the information of the house.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, let me start with the Recurrent Budget.

RECURRENT EXPENDITURE

As regards to the Recurrent Estimates for Financial Year 2008 -2009, an amount of Rs 1,133,658,032.96 (Rs 1,133 M) has been spent.

The expenses by economic categories are as follows:-

(a) Staff costs,	Rs 627,426,826	(Rs 627M)
(b) Other goods and services,	Rs 183,453,360	(Rs 183M)
(c) Contributions and benefits,	Rs 322,777,847	(Rs 322M).

RECURRENT REVENUE

As regards the recurrent revenue In the Estimates of Recurrent Revenue and Recurrent Expenditure of 2008-09, the Revenue was estimated at Rs 30 M. The

actual Revenue collected to date is Rs 18.9 M generated mainly from Rental of property, Receipt from public services and Licenses. The deficit of Rs 11.1 M is being attributed to a shortfall in expected Revenue from Registration Fees. Unfortunately, we could not introduce the Fee on the basis of advice obtained from the State Law Office to the effect that the levy from Registration is imposed by Parliament and should be deposited into the National Consolidated Fund.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, the Central Government contribution as budgeted for meeting recurrent expenditure was Rs 952,000,000 and an additional amount of Rs 163,000,000 was provided for:-

- Salary adjustment and compensation associated with the implementation of PRB 2008;
- Payment of sick leave; and

New rates for Social benefits as from 1st July 2008.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

As regards capital expenditure/capital projects, Mr. Chairperson Sir, I am glad to inform the House out of a total provision of Rs 300 M under the Capital estimates, expenditure on acquisition of financial and non-financial assets i.e expenditure under the capital account, under the capital vote of the Regional Assembly out of Rs 300 M has amounted to Rs 299,999,897.78. *L'argent resté*, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is Rs 102.20 Mr. Chairperson, Sir, contrary to what has been said by some people in the press including in the budgeted debates at the National Assembly, my team has been able to meet its target and to spend the Rs 300 M save for the Rs 102.20 which you agree with me is infinitive decimal compared to amount. We have been able to fulfill our mission again, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

In addition to what I just said a sum of Rs 50 M has been earmarked under the Additional Stimulus Package mainly for infrastructural works and this is not budgeting, it is up to December 2010. I am again pleased to inform this house that to date an amount of Rs 26.4 M has been fully committed and funds is being released by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment, mainly for the bridge as you can see the foundation has been laid and for the construction of Corail Petite Butte to Riviere Coco road which you are aware is under completion.

I wish to point out that many projects have been executed during the financial year and new ones have been initiated. Major projects such as the construction of the Port Mathurin Market and the Secondary School at Terre Rouge are in design or tendering stage. We are indeed laying the foundation stones of the Terre Rouge Secondary School tomorrow. Tenders have been awarded for the dredging of the channel at Pointe Monier and the one from Port Mathurin to Oyster Bay. The dredger I informed has been shipped on the coming boat expected to Rodrigues in the following hours.

Mr. Chairperson, Sir, allow me to mention some projects that have been completed during this financial year:-

- Upgrading and extension of the road network
- Refurbishment of Community Centres
- Upgrading of public beaches and provision of amenities and minor works in villages
- Provision of building materials for the needy and vulnerable groups
- Provision of medical equipment (hi-tech medical equipment) to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) and the major Health Centres
- Upgrading of the Sports Infrastructural Network including Mr. Chairperson, Sir, spectacular organization of the games of Rodrigues
- Improvement of the water storage and distribution network, the work Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the spectacular work at Cascade Pigeon, the results are here. The reservoir at Riviere Coco, at Montagne Patate, the Water Company and its starting. Desalination is a reality today within our mandate, this year we have paid. We are cautious to save the money last year, putting it in a deposit account which some people have been saying we have stole the money, go and have a look at the desalination plant at Songes. We are providing 500 m3 per day.
- Extension and upgrading of the Educational Institutions. Tomorrow we are inaugurating the pre-primary school unit at Terre Rouge. We have improved many schools. Look at Don Bosco at Citron Donis, go and see the results, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

In addition, the following projects are nearing completion

- Extension to MBC building
- Rehabilitation of Cascade Pigeon dam

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have promised a policy of transparency and judicious allocation of public funds for the benefit of our population. The expenditure figures reveal sound financial management of the budget as all funds provided for the development of the island have been used in conformity with the RRA Act and the relevant financial regulations, even though at times because of technical and other tendering constraints we have had to reallocate money from projects which will now start with other financial year.

Mr. Chairperson Sir, I have just led a mission to Australia and Tasmania in the field of renewable energy. Today Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Petite Butte Fisheries Post is being supplied with electricity from a windmill stall, experimental windmill installed at this Government facilities. Energy facility for this building is being generated by a windmill. We have purchased and installed there on an experimental basis and we will keep it in this space. We believe that there is potential for Rodrigues to reduce its dependency on fuel imported, fossil and get more out of wind energy. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the budget absorption rate has been 100% i.e. we have had good marks. We are now, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, in the phase of finalizing our preparation of financial operations for the next six months and will again come with tangible results, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

(Applause)

The Chairperson, Sir, I wish to make a second statement.

As Regional Government we have done our utmost to protect the social safety nets and to promote the economic growth. However, as you are aware, the world economic crisis has cropped in adversely affecting one of the most promising engines of growth for Rodrigues; the tourism sector. At the same time arise in the food items or the imported goods had adversely affected the Rodriguan population. This has resulted in theof purchasing power of households. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodrigues must turn as once against all odds. This is why I am calling the population of Rodrigues to be cautious and to get prepared for our future. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an analysis of the state of public finances of the nation Central Government of Mauritius has rightly stated by Central Government is gloomy and in certain areas alarming. Many Government departments or departments are in deficit and one main indicator, public debt has reached unprecedented level. As we are aware, the total quantum of financial resources allocated to Rodrigues depends on the state of public finances in Mauritius. This is why Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the Rodrigues

Regional Assembly has to act as far as management of these finances is concerned in a responsible manner. I have already issued directive for cost saving to all Commissions including, I am sorry, Office of the Clerk for the next six months financial period. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, we have been invited by the Association du Tourisme Reunie to study the possibility of introducing a Motion to request Central Government help for a Rs 200 M stimulus package for the tourism sector which I explained formerly is in a severe crisis. Unfortunately, there is no consensus of political parties on this issue despite the lobbying of the tourism operators. We are agreeable to this Motion and ready to support it but the Minority has apportioned its responsibility and they are not here even today as I said they will not support such a Motion. I have spoken today to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment who has invited my Office to send representatives on a Committee at his Ministry to look into the ways to lower the air ticket price to Rodrigues. The main measure being contemplated is the possibility to waive the fuel surcharge amounting to more than Rs 1500 per trips to Rodrigues. I do hope that tangible results will materialize out of the process. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, the problem between Government in Mauritius and the Regional Assembly and the stakeholders in Rodrigues is thata short of challenge. In Rodrigues we want more because we feel we should get more, in Mauritius they think they don't have the means, etc, etc. I must say for my part that I feel some negligence because for my personal point of view I think that the Republic must be *solidaire* with Rodrigues. We should legitimately get the attention we need for our development process. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Rodriguan people can. This is why I invite people in Rodrigues once more in line and with our five years plan to think about alternatives. To think about how to improve, how to produce, how to export, so that Rodrigues can stand one day by its own merits. We have had, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, an enormous devolution of powers to Rodrigues in 2002 which unfortunately, on my personal point of view is either not fully in place or which is not being respected. The long term it is disagreeable that we need a true economy capable of supporting the needs of the population and integrates Rodrigues in the regional and world economy. In these times of difficulties and administrative many people have been studying options, the only available options, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, is not to follow this stream and to keep on with the same recurring problems. Mauritius has to listen to the voice of Rodrigues. Rodriguan people have accepted to form part and to be integral part of the national territory of Mauritius and as an island with its own characteristics, its culture and ways of doing things. This is why our autonomy is destroyed upon Rodrigues. Today, some part of this autonomy in my opinion is not being requested. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, it seems to me that Government in Mauritius raptly some Members of may be against the powers devolved by Constitutional amendments and the Rodrigues Regional Assembly Act to Rodrigues. This situation is very much frustrating for us elected

representatives of the Regional Assembly. We have had to go to court because funds appropriated by the National Assembly are not being released to the purpose intended for. This is not autonomy. Mr. Chairperson, Sir, such non-respect of the autonomy will in the first instance creates hunger and secondly intensify the thoughts of some people about available alternatives. I have despite As a people Rodriguans should not be afraid to fight in pacific means for respect, for recognition and for the right to determine its future. This right Mr. Chairperson, Sir, will only be acquired if we are able to support ourselves. If we are able to produce, to export and to generate revenue jobs for our progression. I thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir.

Applause

The Chief Commissioner: Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I move that the Assembly adjourned to Tuesday 28 July 2009 at 10.30 a.m.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner rose and seconded.

(At, the Assembly was, on its rising, adjourned to Tuesday 28 July, 2009 at 10.30 a.m.)