Mr Osman Mahomed (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. I have an issue that I would like to address to the hon. Minister of Arts and Culture, but I see he is not here. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Education to kindly convey to him; it is regarding the ex-Onesipho Beaugeard Government School which has been vested from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Arts and Culture. It is regarding the terrible state that the school is in right now. It is being used as a dumping ground and, more importantly, it poses a security issue to the people living in the locality, because drug addicts do their va-et-vient there. The more so, the new Supreme Court is just a stone’s throw away distance from that place now.

Can I ask the hon. Minister of Education to kindly convey to his colleague to look into this state of affairs at the earliest possible convenience? Thank you.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L.D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will certainly refer the matter to my colleague.
Mrs J. Tour (Third Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue): My query is addressed to the Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, hon. Mrs Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun. It has been brought to my attention that Mohabeer Foogooa Government School in Montagne Longue, which is a star school, is facing several problems, namely their toilet blocks, ICT room, library, leakage in the ceiling amongst other issues. I would kindly press on the Minister to look into the matter for the security of the students within the school premises and ensure that they are able to study in a safe, comfortable and best learning environment. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Minister!

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me first of all thank the hon. Member for having raised this matter and for having given me advance notice of same. I have thus obtained some information from my officers at the level of the Ministry and I have been informed that two visits were carried out by the officers of the Infrastructural Management Unit of the Ministry on 07 July and 16 July. And following that visit, they noted that certain works needed to be done with regard to discharge pipes for wash basins, replacement of panel locks in classrooms, new fencing at the back of the school, repair of the fencing near the office and the lopping of trees and branches.

So, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been told that on 31 July, there was another visit in the presence of the PPS, hon. Ramkaun and two hon. Members from the Constituency, hon. Mrs Tour and hon. Mrs Luchmun Roy and a number of additional works were requested to be done. I have been informed that removal of furniture stacked in the backyard of the school has already been done. Concrete spooling repair works in the corridors have been effected, tiling, painting and wiring works have been started and it is expected that by 08 August, the repair works would be done.
Furthermore, during the last visit, a number of requests have been made with respect to the demolition of block of classroom and the purchase of new water tanks. These have been processed through the e-procurement system.

That will be all, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir.
(No. A/46) Mr F. Quirin (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the Allocation of Digital Tablets Project to students of the primary and secondary schools, she will state where matters stand as to the implementation thereof.

Reply: With regard to the allocation of tablets to pupils of primary schools, I wish to inform the House that all pupils of Grades 1 to 4 in public and grant-aided schools are provided with tablets for use at school.

As for secondary schools, there is no project for the allocation of tablets to students at the level of my Ministry.