

PRIMARY

INFRASTRUCTURE

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HENRIETTA GOVERNMENT SCHOOL - PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

(18/04/2023)

(No. B/235) Ms S. Anquetil (Fourth Member for Vacoas & Floréal) asked the Minister of National Infrastructure and Community Development whether, in regard to the Henrietta Government School, he will state if consideration will be given for the installation of pedestrian crossing located on the main road in the vicinity thereof, especially, to enhance the safety of the students attending same.

The Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade (Mr Ganoo): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am advised that the Henrietta Government School is situated on a side road which branches out from the main road. Pedestrians including students have to cross along the main road to access the school through the side road. Unfortunately, the geometry of the Henrietta main road, at that particular locus, includes a sharp bend which is dangerous. I am advised that the installation of a pedestrian crossing thereat is thus not recommended from a road safety point of view.

Mr Speaker, Sir, however, I am informed that my Ministry would carry out a traffic survey at the Henrietta main road to explore other traffic and road safety measures to be implemented thereat for the safe and convenient movement of pedestrians including students.

Ms Anquetil: M. le président, comme l'a si bien dit le ministre, les écoliers de la Henrietta Government School traversent la route dans un *dangerous curve* tous les jours. Peut-on savoir du ministre combien de temps cela prendra pour que la TMRSU ou autres départements, pour qu'une recommandation soit faite assez rapidement, sachant que piétons, vélos, bus, voitures s'y croisent parfois à vive allure? Merci.

Mr Ganoo: Indeed, Mr Speaker, Sir. As I said, one important factor before providing a crossing facility along any public road is that there should be adequate safe stopping distance that is, pedestrians must be able to see and be seen by the approaching traffic.

In view of the topography of the location which we are talking about and having listened to the hon. Member, I can assure the House and the hon. Member that the Office, the TMRSU, will carry out a traffic survey to ascertain whether all the elements will be met before we initiate an appropriate action to provide either for a crossing facility some way further from the school or other measures which we can take for the safety of the crossing pedestrians.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if it will not be possible to provide for a crossing facility along Henrietta Branch Road, I can assure the hon. Member that the TMRSU will explore other traffic measures to cater, for example, for a low speed zone along the stretch of Henrietta Branch Road and take other measures and explore other possibilities for the benefit of road safety, especially in the interest of the school children thereat.

Ms Anquetil: M. le président, il y va de la sécurité des écoliers. Le ministre, serait-il prêt à intervenir personnellement auprès des autorités afin que cette démarche soit traitée avec urgence. Je vous remercie.

Mr Ganoo: The hon. Member is rubbing it in, Mr Speaker, Sir. I have already answered the question.

Mr Speaker: Next question !