

# SECONDARY

## INFRASTRUCTURE

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### RENGANADEN SEENEEVASSEN SSS – BUG INFESTATION – STUDENT PROTEST – MEASURES

(20.06.2023)

(No. B/799) Mr Osman Mahomed (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether she will state the measures being undertaken by her Ministry following the protest of students at the Renganaden Seeneevassen State Secondary School on Tuesday 06 June 2023 as a result of the bug infestation thereat.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that on 06 June 2023, the presence of bugs at the Renganaden Seeneevassen State Secondary School was reported to the Port Louis Health Office. Following a survey conducted by the Vector Biologist Control Division of the Ministry of Health and Wellness on 07 June 2023, a spraying exercise was carried out the next day, in the whole school.

Upon advice of the Health authorities, the school was closed on 08 and 09 June 2023 and a general cleaning of the school was effected on Friday, 09 June 2023 and Saturday, 10 June 2023.

On Monday, 12 June 2023, bugs were again detected in four classrooms. Accordingly, arrangements were made for disinfection of these four classrooms.

I am informed that another exercise of spraying of insecticides will be carried out for the whole school by the third week of June 2023 and a third session of spraying has been scheduled on 07 July 2023.

My Ministry is also planning to extend the insecticides spraying exercise to all schools especially those in areas which are more prone to infestation due to climate conditions.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have read the analysis made by Mr Arvind Bhojun, President UPSEE, in the light of the problem that happened at Reganaden Seeneevassen State Secondary School. He says that the problem will persist because the desks

and the chairs are very old and they harbour bugs. Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether mere spraying can be a solution or the whole furniture must be changed in the course of time?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I have to depend on the advice provided by the health sector and by the people over there. In case the furniture is really bad, we will need to replace but as for now, all advice we have received has been for the spraying and constant spraying and monitoring of the situation in the school.

**Mr Osman Mahomed:** Similar problems were found island wide, again, the request made by Mr Arvind Bhojun. Can I ask the hon. Vice-Prime Minister whether it can be envisaged during each school holidays, just prior to commencement of classes, to have this disinfection exercise conducted routinely under the supervision of the headmaster or the rector?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, this is what we do normally. Before school re-entry, we have a school readiness programme and Heads of schools are supposed to do all that. But as I have just stated in my reply, we are planning to carry out an extensive spraying exercise in all our schools during the holidays.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, who is also proceeding on mission abroad, has requested his questions to be taken out of turn. So, I am acceding. I will now ask hon. Mrs Foo Kune-Bacha to put her question!

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### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### PRIMARY & SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS –

#### WATCH & SECURITY SERVICES – CONTRACTORS' LIST

(06.06.2023)

(No. B/691) **Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand'Baie & Poudre d'Or)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the watch and security services in primary and secondary public schools, she will give a detailed list of the contractors whose services have been enlisted therefor since January 2015 to date, indicating the terms and conditions therefor.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, watch and security services are provided in primary and secondary schools as per two contracts namely one for night watch and security services and the other for day time watch and security services. The procurement exercises that are carried out by my Ministry are through competitive bidding exercise based on approved specifications.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in respect of watch and security services, I am tabling the list of contractors as well as the terms and conditions of their contracts.

**Dr. Gungapersad:** Thank you, hon. Minister. Mr Speaker, Sir, given that millions of public funds are spent in the watch and security services, will the hon. Minister inform the House if cases of theft were reported in primary and secondary schools and to indicate the items stolen and the value of same?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am aware that there has been a number of cases where tablets have been stolen from schools and I am also told that they are normally replaced by the service provider, those responsible for night services or day time security services. I don't have the exact value right now but I will be pleased to inform the hon. Member once I get the values.

**Dr. Gungapersad:** Thank you, hon. Minister. Mr Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister inform the House the number of contracts, if any, which have been terminated as a result of their failure to respect the terms and conditions and what steps have been taken to ensure that the watch and security services provided to primary and secondary schools are satisfactory for the welfare of students, staff and other stakeholders?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that there is a monitoring service, monitoring system at the level of the Ministry. If I find it, I will table the information to the hon. Member.