

## **BUILDINGS - PATRIMOINE NATIONAL (20/10/09)**

**(No. B/978) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the buildings listed as *patrimoine national* which have been renovated since 2005 to date, he will state if any of them has had its original structure modified and, if so, indicate the –  
(a) reasons therefor, and  
(b) purposes thereof.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am informed that apart from a specific case concerning the Dr. O. Beugeard Government School which was partly demolished in 2007, none of the buildings listed as National Heritage which have been renovated since 2005 to date, has had its original structure modified.

The Dr. O. Beugeard Government School, also known as Edith Cavell Government School, will be restored and refurbished to preserve its original characteristics. Works will be conducted under the supervision of the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping in close collaboration with the National Heritage Fund which has already approved all the drawings and proposals for the renovation.

**Mrs Martin:** I thank the hon. Minister for his answer. May I ask him, when I speak of modification of the existing buildings, I also speak of the interior of the building, has there not been any building listed as *patrimoine national* where the inside of the building has been modified, not the exterior, but the inside?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Which building?

**Mrs Martin:** I am asking precisely the hon. Minister...

**Dr. Bunwaree:** If a proper question is put on one specific building, I may come forward with it, because, generally speaking this is the reply that I have given.

**Mrs Martin:** Can the hon. Minister say whether the list of the existing buildings is updated and, if yes, at which frequency?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I can mention because there are not too many buildings which have been renovated since 2005 and then if the hon. Member has specific questions she can come next week with them. Martello Tower, La Preneuse, Government House, Port Louis, General Post Office, Aapravassi Ghat, Dongeon, St. Louis and Citadelle. These are the lists of buildings which have been renovated since 2005. Now to go into the details of the interior and so on, if specific questions are put on one of these building, I will reply with pleasure to the House.

**Mrs Martin:** The Minister has just mentioned La Citadelle and he has said that the interior has been modified. Can I ask the hon. Minister, before modifying the structures, whether the stakeholders have been consulted and whether they agree to this?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I don't know whether they have been consulted or not, but they must have been aware. In fact, for La Citadelle, additions have been made to address the issue of water leakage within the stone walls of La Citadelle. These, I am informed, are reversible.

The National Heritage Fund which has the responsibility of overseeing all these additions has authorised the additions and has made a detailed documentation of the site before they started the works and will carry out another similar exercise after completion of the works.

Concerning the question of all stakeholders, whether discussions have taken place, I will have to look into the matter, but I am almost sure, they must have been made aware.

**Mrs Martin:** The interior, for example, of La Citadelle has been modified also to accommodate commercial shops, I believe. Can I ask the hon. Minister whether this does not, in fact, put into jeopardy, the original cachet of La Citadelle itself?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I will have to transmit this question to the National Heritage Fund, but I can give the assurance to the House that they work with seriousness, they know what they are doing. But if there is a particular point that is being raised by the hon. Member, I will take it into consideration and see what has been the outcome.