

## PNQ ON EDUCATION

### **MITD - ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE (21/05/13)**

**The Leader of the Opposition (Mr A. Ganoo)** (*by Private Notice*) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the alleged case of sexual abuse at the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, he will -

(a) for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if -

(i) disciplinary measures have now been taken against Mr Y. S., for failing to act on the report Mrs P. B. submitted thereto, in November 2011;

(ii) Mr Y. S. apprised the then Director, Mr R. D., of the matter in December 2011 and, if not, why not;

(iii) Mr Y. S. was instructed to report the alleged case of conspiracy and forgery against Mrs P.B. and Mrs S.S. to the police and, if so, by whom, indicating the documents he produced to the Police in support thereof, and

(b) state the flaws noticed in the report of the Fact-finding Committee, if any.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Speaker, Sir, as the House is aware, in my statement of Tuesday 09 April 2013, I informed that the Fact-finding Committee which was presided over by a Senior Magistrate to look into the case of alleged abuse of a former minor student of the MITD by an ex-Instructor, had submitted its Report on Friday 29 March 2013 after carrying out an in-depth enquiry.

I highlighted, *inter alia*, the main findings of the Report which were as follows –

a. No independent evidence has been adduced to support the allegation of abuse, and

b. In view of the medico-legal report submitted to the Fact-finding Committee, it has been found that the issue of sexual intercourse between the Instructor and the minor cannot stand. The Fact-finding Committee had found that this medical evidence is crucial to put an end to speculations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, however following the report, the MITD is initiating such action as necessary, on one hand, to prevent its image from being tarnished due to speculations and, on the other hand, initiate disciplinary measures against those employees who have been involved directly or indirectly and causing prejudice to the minor whose rights ought to have been defended.

With regard to part (a)(i) of the question, I wish to inform the House that, following a report submitted by the Psychologist of MITD in November 2011, both Mr Y.S. and an Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) had dealt with the matter. Mr Y.S. chaired a meeting on 07 November 2011 in the presence of the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) and the minor denied the allegations. The Psychologist Mrs P.B. was then called in the meeting and the minor still denied

the allegations in her presence. The minor had then to sit for examinations which were scheduled to take place between 14 to 22 November 2011, and for this reason the Psychologist was requested by Mr Y. S. and the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) to call a meeting with the minor and parents in the presence of the Training Centre Manager after her examinations.

The outcome of this meeting was not communicated to Mr Y.S. or the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I was personally made aware of the Minutes of that meeting, chaired by the Psychologist in the presence of an instructor Mrs S.S., only when it was tabled at the National Assembly by the then hon. Leader of the Opposition. In fact, the presence of Mrs S.S. at that meeting is not understood. In fact, until today the Management of the MITD still has no reason to explain her presence in that meeting.

Mr Y.S. has himself stated that he did not get a copy of the Minutes referred to above.

Hence, the question of disciplinary measure to be taken against Mr Y.S., as at now, on the basis of information available, does not arise.

With regard to part (a)(ii) of the question, I am informed that it was the Assistant Manager (Training Delivery) who had apprised the then Director Mr R.D. of the matter in December 2011. And I have been informed afterwards that the Minutes referred to above – that is, the Minutes I have just mentioned - were in the custody of the then Director.

Regarding part (a)(iii) of the question, following articles published in the Press and information aired on private radios during the weekend, contrary to the allegations in the media, Mr Y.S. did not give a statement to the CCID under his own will, but did so pursuant to a decision of the Institute to that effect. As a matter of fact, it was following a meeting held in the office of the Officer in Charge of the MITD on the morning of 19 April 2013 that the Chairman of the MITD, the Assistant Manager HR, Mr Y.S. and a Legal Adviser called at the CCID at Line Barracks, Port Louis.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it follows that it was in his capacity as Acting Divisional Manager MITD, responsible for the Training Delivery Division, that Mr Y.S. was duly mandated by the MITD to give that statement to the CCID on its behalf, in the presence of the above-mentioned persons.

I am further informed by the MITD that a number of documents, which include Minutes of meetings and a document supposedly to have been signed by the

mother of the minor who is denying having signed that document, were produced to the CCID.

With regard to part (b) of the question, Mr Speaker, Sir, the Fact-finding Committee had made a number of recommendations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to state in no uncertain terms that I have never stated that I have found flaws in the report and should not be understood to have ever said that the report is flawed, though the report has identified flaws in the system.

Government, Mr Speaker, Sir, has set up a high level Inter-Ministerial Committee to examine the Report and look into the implementation of the recommendations of the Factfinding Committee.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee will be chaired by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Energy and Public Utilities and comprises the Minister of Education and Human Resources, the Minister of Tertiary Education, Science, Research and Technology, the Attorney General and the Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

Mr Speaker, Sir, appropriate action as may be deemed necessary would be taken in the light of the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as it may be noted from the above, in spite of the submission of the Report of the Fact-finding Committee, further action on the findings and recommendations are in the pipeline at the level of the Police and the CCID, as well as at the level of the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The MITD is also conducting an enquiry.

We should, Mr Speaker, Sir, let these institutions pursue their work and respect their roles and responsibilities as such.

**Mr Ganoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the first part of the question concerns the fact that Mr Y. S. when he was made aware of the report of the psychologist, did not inform either the Officer-in- Charge, Mr P. G., or the then Director of the MITD when the report was transmitted to him by mail by the psychologist. This is the point of this question and this is the crux of the matter.

Therefore, what I want to know is: why did not Mr Y. S. therefore inform his immediate superiors of the report, and on the contents of the psychologist relating to the alleged sexual abuse of the minor student?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I think I have replied to this question in the past, but the thing is that when the matter was reported to Mr Y. S. and another person in the

management, as I have mentioned, they took the matter in hand - cases do happen - and they called the child who denied forcefully and even in the presence of the psychologist, who was brought in the meeting, the child continued to deny and I have been told there that were no signs of trauma and the child had her examinations on the following days, as I have mentioned. So, they said that as soon as the exams are over, they are going to see the child again and the parents of the child in the presence of the Manager of the Centre, and then was expecting the matter to be followed up and, as I have said, the Minutes of that meeting were tabled here in the Assembly many months later and has never been found - at the time when the PNQ was on and even after that - in the files of the MITD. But, as I have mentioned, later on, we were made aware that it was in the custody of the then Director. So, it must have gone to the then Director at some point in time.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the law states that the superior officers, including Mr Y. S, should have reported that matter to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Child Development for an enquiry to be opened? This is the crux of the matter. The law protects children, so that any officer, be it part of a medical, para-medical or school staff, should report the matter to the superior officer, who in turn has imperatively to report the matter to the Ministry of Child Development. This was not done in this case. Mr Y. S. kept the report sent to him in his drawer somewhere.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** No, not that. There were other things that happened. This is why I always said in this matter, and I am making an appeal to the Opposition also to understand that there is the future and the destiny of a child. That is what has been taken ...

*(Interruptions)*

If you consider this as a flaw, we can look into the matter, but things like this happen at schools.

The Ag. Manager, Mr Y. S, is a high level officer of the institution, and he took the matter in hand. He was expecting that to come back to him, but the report has been sent, as I said, to the Director of the institution, and the Director took that in hand.

**Mr Ganoo:** This is why, Mr Speaker, Sir, I put it to the hon. Minister that even the hon. Prime Minister, last Tuesday, when this point was made to him, conceded and said - "That is probably one issue that could be argued upon, but although they looked into the matter, they did not refer it to the PS straightaway."

...which means, therefore, that this is a matter which should have been done. Now, I come to the Director, Mr Dubois. Is the hon. Minister aware that the then

Director, Mr Dubois, had to send an email to Mr Y. S. seeking explanation from the latter about why he did not inform him of the allegations made by the student?

**Dr Bunwaree:** Mr Dubois, first of all, was on holidays for some time. At the same period, Mr Y. S. had his father who passed away – you know in the Hindu families, how this goes on for days. Other people have also been involved in that. If you come and tell me why Mr Y. S. did not respond, there are so many reasons! But there is not only Mr Y. S.! When something does not work, you have to go to the other one. But I am saying again that the Minutes of the second meeting of the psychologist was never sent to Mr Y. S. or anybody at the MITD, except that it was in the custody of the then Director.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that the explanation given by Mr Y. S. to Mr Dubois, explaining why...

**Mr Speaker:** Don't mention name, please!

**Mr Ganoo:** The explanation that Mr Y. S. then gave to the then Director was that his email had been hacked and that he had given declaration to the Police. The email sent to him had been lost, had been hacked, and this is why he did not send the email to then Director.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** The matter is in the hands of the Police. He said it, and the matter has been referred to the Police. Let the Police look into that. This is why I say that we have to respect institutions.

**Mr Ganoo:** Did I understand the hon. Minister to say that he only became aware of the report of the psychologist when the former hon. Leader of the Opposition raised the matter in this House?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** No, I am sorry; I am sorry. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has not understood me. There are two reports of the psychologist. We were aware of the first one, and we responded to that. Once the report of the psychologist was sent to the MITD - let me take it again -, the MITD looked into the matter, that is, Mr Y. S. called the child in the presence of someone who works in the MITD - because the child is a minor and had to be accompanied – and the child denied once, twice, many times. Then, Mr Y. S. called the psychologist in the meeting, and said that the child was denying; and the child continued to deny in the presence of the psychologist. That was the first report sent to the MITD, and after that first report, Mr Y. S. and the other Manager told the psychologist 'Look here! The child is denying and denying, in front of you also. Now she has her examinations. Let her go through the examinations, and immediately after you -

the psychologist - are going to call the parents of the child in the presence of the Manager of the Training Centre, and from there, there will be follow-up.' But that second meeting was concluded by a Minutes of the meeting, which remained in the custody of the then Director - as I have said, and I am repeating. I don't know at what time it went to Mr R. D., that is, the then Director - as I have said in public, *farouchement gardé*, never seen anywhere. Therefore, he took in charge the rest of the enquiry. This is what happened in fact.

There have been two things: one, the report of the psychologist, which has been looked into, and then, after some time, the Minutes of meeting, which only the then Director was aware of. We have seen the Minutes, but much later. I heard of it for the first time when it was deposited here.

And it is accompanying those Minutes, that that paper was laid on the Table of the Assembly by the then hon. Leader of the Opposition, whereby it was said - and you know, the then hon. Leader of the Opposition, *sa verve etc...*

*(Interruptions)*

...which I respect.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** You have to understand! So many things have been said!

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, address the Chair!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, please. I was saying that the Minutes were in the hands of the then Director, and from there Mr Y. S. - I won't say not involved - was not directly having the responsibility of the enquiry. So, we have to put questions to the then Director. But the then Director is no longer Director, and we cannot call him at any time. It is not correct to say what the hon. Leader of the Opposition has said. I got the Minutes, myself, for the first time here, when it was deposited. I was shocked. I must inform the House also - you know how it goes.

As soon as we go out of the Parliament, we go to our officers - that I called them and asked 'what is that?' How could I not have that Minutes of Meeting?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Don't say 'Ah', please! This is very serious. As I was saying, on that paper, there is a signature. Supposedly, the mother of the child had signed.

The then hon. Leader of the Opposition was hitting on that, and until now that mother is denying. She has gone to the Police to make a declaration that she had never signed that paper. She has been to the Ombudsperson for Children, and the same thing was taken up there. She has been asked many times by many people. She has been and is still adamant. That has been to the Police. The hon. Prime Minister gave the information last time that it has been looked into by the Police, and you know what has happened. This is the real story.

**Mr Ganoo:** I take it that the hon. Minister was aware of the report. I am not talking about the Minutes of Proceedings. Was the hon. Minister aware of the report?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, I was aware of the first report.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware, therefore, that, in the course of that meeting, the minor child confessed that she had a close relationship with Mr C., that they had sexual intercourse on eight occasions in a *pensionnat*, and that all this was said in the presence of the psychologist and the mother of that minor student?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I hope this will be the last time we are going to hear this because it is being taken up by the Police. Let me read to you ...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Vous avez demandé une enquête, on vous a donné. Vous avez demandé d'aller à la police, on vous a donné ! Mais, qu'est-ce que c'est maintenant ?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Order, please!

Personne de l'autre côté de la Chambre, aucune de ces honorables dames n'a porté intérêt pour aller voir cet enfant dans sa demeure, voir comment elle vit, quels sont les problèmes. C'est la honte !

*(Interruptions)*

L'enfant me l'a dit. Personne ! C'est la honte!

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Speaker, Sir, let me read what the child has written to her lawyer, in a letter which has been transmitted to me: "*Ce jour-là (...). Elle parle de la visite de routine à l'école de la psychologue P.B. "Ce jour-là (...)"*".

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Ganoo:** On a point of order!

**Mr Speaker:** Yes.

**Mr Ganoo:** This is a conversation between somebody and a lawyer. Isn't this a privileged information, which should not be divulged to the public?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I have said that I have been given this information....

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, refrain ...

**Dr. Bunwaree:** ... and I have been ...

**Mr Speaker:** Refrain from this course, please!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Pardon!

**Mr Speaker:** Refrain from this course!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, but I am saying what I know that the child has said. The child has said: "*Ce jour-là, la prof (...)"*".

*(Interruptions)*

*L'enfant ....*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, I am speaking to you! What happens between that child and the lawyer is privileged.

**Mr Mohamed:** On a point of order, Mr Speaker, Sir, would you agree that, however, if the child waives that privilege then there is no more privilege?



*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence! I am on my feet!

*(Interruptions)*

Now, the hon. Minister of Labour is saying that, if. This House is not concerned with any hypothetical question.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Well, I am not going to quote from there, but this has been mentioned many times by the child, even to me.

**Mr Speaker:** I have said: refrain from this course!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** No, I am not mentioning this, but I am saying that the child has deposed in the Fact-Finding Committee.

**Mr Speaker:** Okay!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** There is a report of the Fact-Finding Committee ...

**Mr Speaker:** That's enough!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** I said no interruptions! Yes, proceed, hon. Minister!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** She has mentioned that many times, to many people in fact, that it was one of the instructors in the school who had forced her to say certain things.

*(Interruptions)*

It is privileged information, of course, but obtained from the family and the child, and which has been deposed at the level of the MITD as well. And she further went on to say: "Mrs S. S.", she said, "once told her that Mrs S. S was in love with N. C." This is what is mentioned in the *déposition* of the child.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No, no, no! Silence!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** They want to hear only what they only want to hear.

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Minister, there is a question which is quite clear, which has been put to you, just limit yourself to the question.

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the hon. Minister aware that so far, in spite of the fact that the Fact-Finding Committee has completed its work and produced its report, no Police Officer has recorded any statement from the suspect, the child and the spouse of the suspect?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** This is the work of the Police, it is for the Police to decide. I am the Minister of Education; I hope the hon. Leader of the Opposition is sufficiently educated to know that.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Jugnauth!

**Mr Ganoo:** Allow me one last question, Mr Speaker., Sir.

**Mr Speaker:** We will give you the last question.

**Mr Ganoo:** This is a direct one. Regarding the allegation of forgery against Mrs P. B., is the hon. Minister aware that Mrs P. B. the psychologist was never asked to give any specimen of her handwriting in the course of the Police enquiry or in the course of the Fact-Finding Committee and everybody wonders how the expert could have come to the conclusion that this lady had allegedly committed a forgery? No specimen writing had ever been taken from her during the Police enquiry!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Leader of the Opposition! I am speaking to the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I have to remind the House that the purpose of a question is to seek information and to press for action but, unfortunately, the hon. Leader of the Opposition is giving information.

So, this question is not allowed. Hon. Jugnauth!

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Ganoo:** I am asking the hon. Minister whether he is aware that no specimen has been taken from Mrs P.B!

**Mr Speaker:** Yes, it is in the form of a question, but its content is information given to the House. I have ruled. Hon. Leader of the Opposition, you put a proper question, but refrain from giving information.

**Mr Ganoo:** Then, I ask again to the hon. Minister if he is aware that no specimen has been taken from Mrs P.B.

**Mr Speaker:** Answer!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I don't know how the Police is operating. What I know is that two people have already been arrested and bailed out.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Hon. Jugnauth!

**Mr Jugnauth:** The hon. Minister has said that at the meeting of the 07 November 2011, Mr S. chaired that meeting in the presence of Mr L. and another Officer of the MITD and the minor. And, he said that the minor had denied everything. I put it to the hon. Minister that the minor, in fact - and this was reported by Mr L. - had admitted during that meeting that she was going out with the suspected pedophile ...

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the hon. Member. Is he giving information or putting a question?

*(Interruptions)*

Then put the question!

**Mr Jugnauth:** The minor admitted...

**Mr Speaker:** This is what I do not appreciate ... while giving a different turn to a statement ... in fact, the hon. Member puts it in the form a question when, in fact, he is giving information. He should put his question because he is here to seek information, not to give information.

**Mr Jugnauth:** I ask the hon. Minister whether, he is aware that Mr L. has reported, during that meeting, that the minor was going out with the teacher on Tuesdays, on Saturdays, and you know for what reason, that the Physical Instructor was helping her in her Mathematics.

And let me go further, there is now...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No, no! I am sorry. The first part is a proper question, it is allowed; but, the second part is giving information, this I don't allow. The first part, let the hon. Minister answer!

**Mr Jugnauth:** Then, is the hon. Minister aware that there is a recording of the conversation of Mr L., who was present in that meeting, now in the hands of the Police?

**Mr Speaker:** Okay!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But, the recording by whom?

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** No, the hon. Minister has no right to put a question.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I don't know which recording.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** The hon. Minister has no right to put a question. Are you aware or you are not aware?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But the question...

**Mr Speaker:** Are you aware or you are not aware?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Yes, I am aware....

*(Interruptions)*

No, I have not finished. I have to reply to the question. I am aware and well aware of what is being mentioned, but I can say that there are many allegations in that question. Let me tell you that that was not the same meeting which the hon. Member is talking about. There have been two meetings where Mr L. was involved.

*(Interruptions)*

He says no, he knows better!

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry. Try to be brief, hon. Minister, because time is up. I will allow only two questions. One to hon. Dr. S. Boolell ...

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Time is up!

**Mr Speaker:** Wait! I am on my feet! Just try to be brief. I have two more questions, one to hon. Dr. S. Boolell and the last question to the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Let me tell you there were two meetings with Mr L. and what is being mentioned is in regard to the second meeting, and I have in my hand a letter which has been given to me by Mr L., because he has been put questions, because his name has been mentioned in the press, in the weekend, and he is saying, let me quote: "He never requested Mrs S. S. to record the short meeting..." This is why I was putting the question. "... to record the short meeting which she had..." *Enn specialist de recorder partout senela!* "...which she had with me together with the minor V. A. some time in November, 2011.

This meeting was held on the request of Mrs S. S. who told me that the minor V. A. wanted to talk to me." This is why Mr L. held the meeting and during that meeting "Mrs S. was the one who was prompting minor V. A. to relay (...)."

This is an official letter.

*(Interruptions)*

What happened between the latter and her teacher - if you want me to continue I can continue.

**Mr Speaker:** No, I don't want the hon. Minister to continue.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But this is what is happening there.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence, please! I say order. Hon. Boolell!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Minister, order!

**Dr. S. Boolell:** Mr Speaker, Sir, considering that part of the answer of the Minister

referred to is a medico-legal examination, I would like to know under whose authority this medico-legal examination was conducted, especially in view of the fact that the case had not been referred to the Police initially?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** I think the Police was enquiring at one point in time, but the examination was held by the Chief Medical Officer of the Police, Dr. Gungadin.

**Mr Speaker:** Last question to the hon. Leader of the Opposition!

*(Interruptions)*

Silence!

**Mr Ganoo:** Is the Minister aware, Mr Speaker, Sir, that neither the Chairman of the Board of the MITD nor the Officer in Charge gave their consent to Mr Y. S. before the latter went to make his statement at the Central CID and, in fact, it was two advisers of the Minister who conspired with Mr Y. S. before he went to give his declaration...

**Mr Speaker:** I am sorry hon. Leader of the Opposition, I said...

*(Interruptions)*

Please, I am on my feet! The question has to be clear. The hon. Leader of the Opposition puts a question and he gets into the habit of giving information.

**Mr Ganoo:** My question was whether the Minister is aware that neither the Chairman of the Board of the MITD nor the Officer in Charge of the MITD gave their consent, their authority, for Mr Y. S. to go and open up this declaration and it was, in fact, before meeting two...

**Mr Speaker:** No, but the fact ...

**Mr Ganoo:** Is he aware that it was before meeting two advisers of the Minister that Mr Y. S. then went to Central CID to open up this enquiry and this was because Mr Y. S. is known to be a political protégé of the Minister?

**Dr. Bunwaree:** How can you talk of political protégé! Mr Y. S....

**Mr Speaker:** Please, answer the question!

**Dr. Bunwaree:** But he has mentioned that I can't allow this to go.

**Mr Speaker:** Answer the question.

**Dr. Bunwaree:** Mr Y. S. has been working there since 1993. So, if he was a political protégé, it must have been by these people who were there at that time, not me! When I came to the MITD, he was already there. Now, what is being mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition is false because the Chairman of the MITD and a few other Members of the Board were together with the Director – I have said it in my reply – they had a preparatory meeting for Mr Y. S. to be briefed to go there and he went there at the level of the MITD...

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence, please! Time is up!

*(Interruptions)*

I want some order! Questions addressed to the hon. Prime Minister!

*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Jhugroo, I have said questions addressed to the hon. Prime Minister! You have got your question.

**Mr Jhugroo:** *Malpropre*, dirty Minister, step down! B/315!

**Mr Speaker:** Wait, wait! Hon. Jhugroo, you have to withdraw whatever you have said.

*(Interruptions)*

Whatever you have said you have to withdraw.

*(Interruptions)*

Silence!

**Mr Jhugroo:** I withdraw.

**Mr Speaker:** Now, you may proceed with your question.

**Mrs Ribot:** Mr Speaker, Sir, on a point of personal explanation!

**Mr Speaker:** Is the hon. Member raising on a point of order?

**Mrs Ribot:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir.

**Mr Speaker:** No personal explanation, point of order!

**Mrs Ribot:** M. le président, j'aimerais m'élever contre l'accusation gratuite du ministre de l'éducation.

*(Interruptions)*

Il vient d'affirmer à l'effet que les honorables dames de l'Opposition n'ont jamais rendu visite à la victime alléguée. M. le président, c'est précisément...

**Mr Speaker :** I am sorry to interrupt you, hon. Member, it is not a point of order.

You are explaining.

*(Interruptions)*

This is not a point of order, you are explaining. You may have the chance afterwards to come to this.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Speaker:** Silence!