

TERTIARY

MAURITIUS COLLEGE OF THE AIR

66

22/5/01



UNREVISED

KV/10/P13/3

MCA - CONSTRUCTION WORKS - ADDITIONAL COST

(No. B/423) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether he will, for the benefit of the House, and in regard to the construction of the MCA, obtain information as to:

- (a) why the initial project for same was modified;
- (b) the additional cost incurred and
- (c) the name of the successful contractor.

Mr Bachoo: Sir, initially, the project consisted of the construction of a four-storeyed building with a basement to house the Media Resource and Education Centre of the Mauritius College of the Air.

Following Central Tender Board's approval, the contract was awarded on 14 May 1996 to Messrs Nundun Gopee & Co. Ltd., the lowest tenderer, for a sum of Rs62,392,271.

When the initial project was nearing completion, the Ministry of Education & Scientific Research asked on 13 November 1997 for the construction of two additional floors to house the Tertiary Education Commission.

As Messrs Nundun Gopee & Co. Ltd. were still on site, the approval of the Central Tender Board was sought and obtained on the principle of appointing the same contractor for the second phase of the project. Subsequently, the contractor was requested to submit a quotation, which was analysed, evaluated and submitted to the Central Tender Board for approval. The contract for the additional works was eventually awarded on 12 November 1998.

The additional cost incurred for the putting up of the two additional floors amounted to Rs15,414,766.

Mr Dowarkasing: May I ask the hon. Minister whether, during the disruption period, there has been any claim made by the contractor for loss and expenses? If yes, what was the amount claimed?

(Contd)

UNREVISED

KV/10/P13/4**NO B/423 (CONTD)**

Mr Bachoo: Yes, Sir. The decision of the Ministry of Education to add two floors led to a disruption of the works from November 1997 to November 1998 when a second contract was awarded. Such a disruption resulted in the contractor being entitled to loss and expenses. On 22 March 2001, the Central Tender Board approved the payment of loss and expenses amounting to Rs12,660,612.23 to the contractor.

Mr Dowarkasing: Mr Speaker, were there any other additional fees paid to architects and quantity surveyors on account of that period of disruption?

Mr Bachoo: I don't have the information, Sir.

Mr Dowarkasing: Mr Speaker, Sir, the new building is meant for the MCA. We all know that the prime objective of the MCA is to produce films for educational purposes. Can the hon. Minister inform the House whether the studio is fully operational? According to my information, it is not at all operational because nothing has been done in terms of acoustics and sound protection.

Mr Bachoo: I would request the hon. Member to come with a substantive question.

MES – TELEPHONE BILLS – REFUND (26/06/12)

(No. B/371) Dr. R. Sorefan (Fourth Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Director of the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Syndicate, information as to if the Director has been refunded the sum of Rs18,362 and Rs13,218, respectively, for his telephone bills for March and April 2011 and, if so, why.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am informed that the Mauritius Examination Syndicate has settled the telephone bills in respect of the mobile of its Director for an amount of Rs18,362 and Rs13,281 for the months of March and April 2011 respectively.

The Director was, in fact, on overseas mission for period 28 March to 05 April 2011 when he attended the Annual Review Meeting held at the Cambridge International Examinations in the UK. During his mission, he has also had discussions with the School of Asian and African Studies regarding collaboration with the University of London with respect to translation and moderation of all Asian papers.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Director of an Organisation such as the MES is called upon to be in regular contact with his Office even when he is on mission overseas, for purposes of queries and other matters pertaining to examinations. His official mobile phone was, therefore, on international roaming during the period of his overseas mission. As such, all incoming and outgoing calls as well as emails were chargeable by the Mauritius Telecom. I am informed that the relatively high cost of the telephone bill was due to incoming and outgoing international calls and the blackberry service.

I would like to add, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, that the claims have been settled with the approval of the Board of the Syndicate.

Dr. Sorefan: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir. I heard the hon. Minister saying 'his official mobile phone', but the document that we have -2585261 is his private phone number which he is claiming and I have a document which I am going to table.

(Interruptions)

I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Director has written a letter to the Financial Department of the MES asking for refund of this money?

Dr. Bunwaree: I said it was approved by the Board. He gave all the explanations.

The hon. Member, himself, met the Director for a personal problem and a request that he asked.

(Interruptions)

He knows well what type of man he has in front of him.

Dr. Sorefan: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am Dr. Sorefan. There are 15 Dr. Sorefan in Mauritius. I never met him!

(Interruptions)

Dr. Bunwaree: *Pena manière! To ouler mo répéter...*

(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Next question, hon. Mrs Ribot!

Mrs Ribot: He has not finished yet.

The Deputy Speaker: You have supplementary questions; please go ahead.

Dr. Sorefan: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister if he can table or place a copy of the Minutes of Proceedings of the Board in the Library and whether the director was present on the Board?

Dr. Bunwaree: No, Sir, I won't do that.

(Interruptions)

Dr. Sorefan: Sir, I am tabling the documents.

The Deputy Speaker: Next question hon. Ribot!

(Interruptions)