

PRIMARY

INFRASTRUCTURE

Year 2009

Debate no 35 of
01/12/09

PRIMARY SCHOOLS – TOILETS – UPGRADING WORKS

(No. B/1280) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the primary schools, he will state the number thereof where the toilets have been upgraded, since 2008 to date.

Reply: Since 2008 to date, upgrading works in toilets have been carried out in 39 primary schools.

Moreover, I would like to inform that for the same period, new toilet blocks have been constructed in 13 primary schools.

A total sum of Rs82 m. has been spent for these works.

I am accordingly tabling the lists of these schools.

Year 2010

14/12/10
112

CHITRAKOOT GOVERNMENT SCHOOL - LAND EROSION - STUDY

(No. 1B/784) Ms A. Perraud (Fourth Member for Port Louis North & Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Chitrakoot Government School, he will state the date on which the study that was commissioned to look into the land erosion problem thereat started, indicating the conclusions thereof.

The Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to answer this question.

The contract for a preliminary phase of geotechnical investigations at Chitrakoot was awarded in September 2005. The investigations comprised the drilling of boreholes in order to acquire critical data and to enable determination of the scope for a further phase of investigations.

The contract for the second phase of investigations was awarded to Sotramon Ltée on 05 February 2007. The scope of works under the contract included the drilling of 18 boreholes, installation of piezometres, that is, instruments to monitor ground water level, soil testing and installation of instrumentation for the monitoring of ground movements, both at ground and sub-surface levels.

The investigations have been completed. The report being highly technical, action is being taken to examine and interpret the report by geotechnical experts and thereafter identify and design stabilisation measures, implement stabilisation works and carry out post stabilisation monitoring and analysis.

In the meantime, corrective measures have been taken to restore damaged infrastructure and the works have already been completed.

Constant monitoring is being carried out and according to on-site visual data collected by my Ministry, it has been observed that there have been no signs of further ground displacement despite adverse climatic conditions including ex-Lola flooding.

Mr Obeegadoo: Without being a specialist, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I ask the Minister to provide some explanation as to why this study which he rightly said was initiated by the MSM/MMM Government in 2005 has not yielded any concrete action six years later?

Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just mentioned this is a monitoring exercise which is being conducted, it is a highly technical issue and in Mauritius we have hardly one geo-technical expert. We have approached the Japanese authorities for the past so many years and, unfortunately, till now we have not received any such expert. Ultimately, what we have decided, now, we have gone towards India, we have advertised the post to recruit a geo-technical expert and I hope that once we get the experts we will be in a position to assess the situation and if we can go a bit faster than that.

Mr Lesjongard: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, can I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware that some of the houses located within the danger zone of the soil erosion have still not been vacated?

Mr Bachoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have made proposals and that dates back to 2005/2006. Since that time onwards, we had been requesting them to vacate. If I am not mistaken, we have offered them alternative sites. The PPS of that region is fully aware of the situation. We had gone to them, we had spoken to them and we had requested them to vacate. We had given them alternative sites, but they want to stick to the same place and, unfortunately, that is very costly; we will not be able to afford to take any corrective measures there.

Year 2011

12/4/11 116

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - RENOVATION WORKS/RECONSTRUCTION

(No. B/206) Mr M. Seeruttun (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port & Rose Belle) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the buildings housing primary schools and standing for 40 years or more, he will state -

- (a) the names of the schools, indicating, in each case, the school population thereof, and
- (b) if surveys thereof have been carried out with a view to identifying cases thereof in which renovation works/reconstruction are warranted and, if not, why not and, if so, indicate -
 - (i) the schools concerned;
 - (ii) if works will be carried out during financial year 2011;
 - (iii) the scope of works thereof, and
 - (iv) the start and completion date thereof.

Reply: With regard to part (a) of the question, I am tabling a list of buildings housing primary schools standing for 40 years or above with their respective school population.

In regard to part (b) of the Question, I am informed that, in the wake of an incident due to plastering falling from a classroom ceiling at Mohan Parsad Kisnah Government School at Piton in 2006, my Ministry decided to put up a comprehensive plan of action for urgent maintenance works in all primary schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport & Shipping. In this context, a national survey was carried out from November 2006 to March 2007 and subsequently the MPI submitted a list of 162 primary schools where remedial works were called for.

Furthermore, the Technical Unit of the four Zone Directorates and the Infrastructure Management Unit of my Ministry and the MPI, carry out surveys regularly, as an ongoing exercise, in schools to attend to any urgent infrastructure issue.

As a result of these surveys, my Ministry in collaboration with the MPI work out an Implementation Plan for infrastructural and maintenance works in respect of each financial year, taking into account the funding available for (i) construction and extension of schools and (ii) upgrading of schools.

With a view to adopting a proactive and preventive approach, my Ministry has also worked out in 2009 a Primary School Renewal Project (PSRP) which aims at -

- (i) providing quality infrastructure in all primary schools;
- (ii) promoting a cost effective and judicious planning with focus on the long term;
- (iii) reducing security risks, health hazards and inconvenience for the school community, and

- (iv) improving the physical environment of schools and create conditions most conducive to teaching and learning.

This project is being implemented in a phased manner and some 17 primary schools in all 4 Zones were identified as being in such an old state as to warrant a complete demolition of blocks of classrooms and construction of new blocks of classrooms. Two projects have been completed in 2010 and the remaining 15 will be implemented this year. During Phase II of the project to be implemented in 2012, it is proposed to undertake major infrastructural works in 10 schools.

I am tabling a list of works to be carried out during this financial year with funding available for -

- (a) construction and extension of schools, and
 - (b) upgrading of schools including the Primary School Renewal Project.
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12/4/11

16ÈME MILE VILLAGE – PRIMARY SCHOOL - CONSTRUCTION

(No. A/81) Dr S. Boolell (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the 16ème Mile Village, he will state if consideration will be given for the construction of a primary school thereat, if so, when and, if not, why not.

Reply: It is not proposed to construct a primary school at 16ème Mile Village for the time being given that the present primary school going population does not warrant same.

My Ministry is closely monitoring the population growth in the region and if need arises in the years to come, viable consideration will be given to the construction of a primary school thereat.

Some 110 school pupils residing at 16ème Mile Village are presently attending the two nearest primary schools namely the Midlands Government School and the James Toolsy Government School, where there is spare capacity to cater for them. With a view to avoiding any hardship to students going to Midlands Government School, transport arrangements are provided by my Ministry.

1822-CUTTINGS

114
12/4/11

**CHARLES TELFAIR PRIMARY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – UPGRADING
WORKS**

(No. A/73) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the project for the upgrading works, water proofing, the resurfacing of the tarmac, upgrading of the blockwall, the replacement of the chain link fencing of the Charles Telfair Primary Government School and of the football playground thereof, situated at Chemin Grenier, he will state where matters stand.

Reply: The evaluation of tenders for a project for upgrading works at Charles Telfair Government School has now been completed. These upgrading works comprise the following -

- (i) upgrading of boundary wall;
- (ii) replacement of chain link fencing around children's playground; and football playground;
- (iii) construction of shelter;
- (iv) resurfacing works, and
- (v) concrete repair works.

Clarifications are presently being sought from the responsive bidder, following which, should everything proceed smoothly, the contract will be awarded by end of this month. Works may start by mid May 2011 to be completed by mid September 2011.