

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF 17 DECEMBER 1980

QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS

326 to 406

17.12.80

NO. 275 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Will Government give a breakdown of how the £150,000 in the Tourist Office vote of the 1980/81 Estimates, Head 24, Sub-Head 14, are being spent and if any supplementary provisions are in mind to counteract the expected decrease in the number of tourists coming to Gibraltar this winter season?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 293 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Will Government sponsor District Committees to embellish our town which is giving a greater impression of decadence month by month?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 304 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, having regard to the recent tender notice on the refurbishing of the Middle School at the Old Grammar School site, will Government confirm that it still envisages part of this school to be ready for occupation in March, 1981?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, it is anticipated that the Phase 1 project at Sacred Heart School, ie the repairs and minor alterations to the South Wing, together with the provision of a temporary toilet block which has already gone out to tender, will be ready for occupation after the Easter Holidays.

17.12.80

NO. 316 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state if there are buildings in Old Naval Hospital Road which were given planning permission on condition that they provided a specified number of garage spaces and has this been complied with and are these spaces being put to their intended use?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

NO. 319 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, what are the plans for the area known as Maida Vale?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Speaker, the Maida Vale site was originally made available by the Government in 1958 for hotel development. Work commenced in 1962 but came to a stop some time later due to changes in the economic climate at the time which affected the financial position of the company undertaking the development. Their successors in title continue to hold the land for this purpose and last year engaged a firm of consultants to advise them on the economics of their proposals for a modern, self catering apartment hotel. The contents of the consultants' report were subsequently discussed with the Financial and Development Secretary. No decision has yet been taken but the matter is expected to be discussed again when the situation has been clarified.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 319 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, presumably this re-appraisal will not take another 22 years because I have noticed it has taken 22 years for these developers to engage consultants.

HON A J CANEPA:

I can undertake, Mr Speaker, that we will not allow this to go 22 years. I think that it should be possible to re-appraise the situation in the next few months having regard to the outcome of talks on the next Development Programme, on the one hand, and perhaps having regard to the rather more delicate matter of the re-opening of the frontier. I hope that the frontier will not take 22 years to reopen, but there we are.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, is any time condition imposed on this Company?

HON A J CANEPA:

I am not aware that there is a time condition, no.

HON G T RESTANO:

Is there any way that Government can impose a time condition?

HON A J CANEPA:

I think we would certainly ensure that if sufficient progress is not made then the right which this Company have is terminated and the site perhaps put out to tender again but there are certain conditions under which the Government could, in the past, in which it could have stepped in and taken over and I think I provided some details in the answer to Question No. 320 which I think was given as a written answer as to what the state of affairs was in the past.

HON G T RESTANO:

Can I take it then, Mr Speaker, that there is a firm commitment of Government that if development is not proceeded with sufficiently fast or doesn't commence within a specific period of time, Government will take action and take over the site?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, I think we will have to take action, we will do our best to expedite the matter.

17.12.80

NO. 326 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, has Government taken a decision to put up a prominent sign in the Departure Lounge at the Airport making it clear that the perfumery and beauty products being sold there are not Duty Free?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, Sir. Two signs will be put up in the Departure Lounge. One will read "Duty Free" and will be fixed over the counter selling wines, spirits, cigarettes and tobacco. The second sign will read "Duty Paid" and will be fixed over the counter selling perfumery and beauty products.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 326 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

I am grateful for that, Mr Speaker. Can the Hon Financial and Development Secretary say when these signs will be put up?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I saw the signs yesterday and they have just got to be screwed in. I should think they will be up within the next day or so.

NO. 327 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state which commitments will be covered by the recent £1m loan bearing 10% tax free interest?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, as stated in the prospectus issued by the Government on 13th November, 1980, inviting applications for subscriptions to this loan, the proceeds will be applied towards the financing of development schemes generally. The loan moneys will be credited to the Improvement and Development Fund to enable it to meet commitments on the 1978/81 Development Programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 327 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, are there no specific areas which the loan will cover, areas of development, that is?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is extremely difficult to say that this or that project will be funded from this or that money. What one does is to prepare a list of projects showing what funds are required to complete them and then to work out how much is required and where the funds can come from and it is not usual to hypothecate any individual sums to specific projects. As money is required for a project it is taken out of the Improvement and Development Fund.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government amend the existing legislation so that Scooters off yachts visiting Gibraltar which do not require to be registered in their country of origin can land in Gibraltar?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

No, Sir. The Government does not consider such a change desirable.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 328 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Minister say why?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

For a number of reasons, Mr Speaker. Vehicles using our roads must per force conform to minimum basic safety standards, this is to safeguard the interest of the general public. Indeed, it is for this purpose that all motor vehicles using our roads require to be insured against Third Party risks. There cannot be any discrimination or preferential treatment in this matter. Moreover, our regulations have to conform with our obligations under the Geneva Convention on roads and motor transport.

HON G T RESTANO:

Will the Minister not agree, Mr Speaker, that the facility for scooters landing off yachts in, I would say, the majority of ports catering for yachts at least in the Western Mediterranean are there? Yachtsmen can unload their scooters, they do have this facility, they have this facility, I am told, very nearby in Spanish ports, they do also in French ports. Why cannot those yachtsmen have the same facility in Gibraltar?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Sir, the position in the law is that the Traffic (International Circulation) Regulations state that no motor vehicle, which definition includes a motor cycle, may be used in Gibraltar unless it is licensed in any other country or in Gibraltar. The longest uninterrupted period a vehicle can remain in Gibraltar with foreign registration is 180 days. The vehicle must display registration marks and international signs of the place of registration and must be insured against Third Party liability with an authorised insurer. The Motor Vehicles (Temporary Importation) Rules, booklet 5, requires adequate security to provide for the payment of import duty on default or breach of these regulations, there are also Customs connotations.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I agree that the vehicles should be insured and I think in most cases they are insured but it is not a question of insurance, it is a question of registration. A yacht may arrive in Gibraltar only for a 2 or 3 day visit and the normal facilities are that they can use their scooters in the area provided they are insured but not in Gibraltar, I ask again, why?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

They can use their vehicles, Mr Speaker. Provided the vehicle is insured and the vehicle is registered, of course, they can use their vehicles in Gibraltar provided that they fall within the laws of Gibraltar that require that a vehicle is insured with an accepted insurer. There is nothing at all to stop them landing their motor cycles in Gibraltar.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, surely the position must be that if a yacht or even a car arrives on the Mons Calpe with foreign registration plates or even without plates as far as the yacht is concerned as long as it can be identified as coming from a yacht, surely, as long as it is insured the Gibraltar Government should not put difficulties in the way of owners using their vehicles in Gibraltar because I would have thought that the evils that the Minister has spoken of can be very adequately catered for because it is so difficult to get them out once they are in. It should not be difficult to check up, surely, on foreign vehicles in Gibraltar, there are not that many.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

The question of landing a motor cycle off a yacht, Mr Speaker, if the motor cycle is registered in a country of origin which no doubt it would be, if it has an insurance policy, then of course there is nothing to prohibit that vehicle entering Gibraltar but if a motor cycle is not registered in any country and does not have an insurance policy then of course it cannot enter Gibraltar or for that matter any vehicle coming off the Mons Calpe cannot enter Gibraltar.

NO. 329 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government say what sort of response it has had to the 10% Tax Free Loan recently put on sale?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, Sir. The response is encouraging, the total amount subscribed to the 12th December, 1980, was £754,100. The latest figure at close of play last night was £791,600.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 329 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Will the Government consider the possibility of increasing the amount of loan stock available in view of its needs to raise money for development in, in fact, it looks as if the original £1m is going to be exhausted?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Sir.

17.12.80

NO. 330 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what provisions are being made for a customs control post at Marina Bay?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the original intention was to have the reporting station at the Marina Bay, but this was found to be impractical on further consideration. It is now proposed to set up a reporting station at the Commercial Wharf to clear all yachts arriving at Gibraltar from foreign. This would meet Customs, Immigration and Port requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 330 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Will this, in fact, involve any additional staffing requirements for the customs control?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

No, Sir.

NO. 331 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, would Government consider introducing TV Licence Saving Stamps?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

(In the absence of the Hon the Minister for Tourism and Postal Services)

Mr Speaker, Sir, since October this year the Government has been considering introducing TV Licence Saving Stamps and alternative means of enabling the public to have to meet the cost of Government issued licences in Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 331 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, the Government has been considering this since October, what is the position now?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

The position, Mr Speaker, is that the matter has been looked at, there has been some correspondence with the Accountant-General in this matter and there are certain aspects of value of stamps and possibly the issuing or the preparation of several cards for various licences, car licences is one, television licences the other that one can think of off hand.

HON W T SCOTT:

Electricity bills.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I doubt that very much, Mr Speaker, because that comes on a monthly issue and therefore we would have to have £20 stamps. It could well be a £5 stamp, a £1 stamp or an ordinary postage stamp affixed to a particular card, but so as not to provide the difficulty of change back into money which may be done, I don't know, we are thinking on the lines of being able to produce a card that may give you 20 weeks at £1 to cover a TV licence or whatever other licence we feel could be paid in this manner.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, will the Minister say that, in principle, Government has accepted to adopt this scheme and all that is awaited is the particular administrative arrangements and that the people of Gibraltar can look forward to that in the near future?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, this was brought to my attention, as I say, in October but I understand from the Chief Minister that this has been under consideration for some time. The only thing we are looking at now, Mr Speaker, is do we print new stamps for this, do we use our own postage stamps for this and such details and to see what complication, if any, could arise from doing this but certainly I think the people may be able to look forward to this venture.

17.12.80

NO. 332 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government state what monies spent under the different heads of expenditure in the Improvement and Development Fund between 1st April, 1980, and 30th November, 1980, have emanated from local sources and which from United Kingdom aid funds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I will deal with this Question and Question No. 333 at the same time.

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, Can Government state the amounts actually spent on the development programme under the different heads of expenditure in the improvement and development fund numbered 101 to 113 head by head between 1st April, 1980, and 30th November, 1980?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, recorded expenditure from the Improvement and Development Fund to 30th November is:-

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>ODA FUNDS</u>	<u>LOCAL FUNDS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	£	£	£
101 Housing	1,122,959	603,581	1,726,540
102 Schools	1,117,521	103,758	1,221,279
103 Tourist Development	28,483	-	28,483
104 Miscellaneous Projects	246,152	313,945	560,137
105 General Services	111,782	109,813	221,595
106 Government Official Buildings	-	111,545	111,545
107 Port Development	541,387	195,083	736,470
108 Marina Development	-	27,072	27,072
109 Public Lighting	-	6,630	6,630
110 Electricity Service	1,638	198,858	200,496
111 Potable Water Service	129,341	70,468	199,809
112 Telephone Service	-	330,752	330,752
	<u>3,299,303</u>	<u>2,071,505</u>	<u>5,370,808</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 332 AND 333 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can the Financial and Development Secretary say whether there is any chance at all of the Government figure for expenditure for this year on development of £10,157,000 being reached having regard to the fact that the total spent to 30th November, although obviously an improvement on last year, is still just over half that amount?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the basis of present monthly performance of expenditure, we think that there is every likelihood of the total expenditure on the Improvement and Development Fund reaching the £10.15m which is projected in the estimates.

HON P J ISOLA:

That will involve spending in four months over £4½m.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Mr Speaker, what I would point out is that the actual expenditure on on-going projects at the moment is running at about £0.8m a month and that in addition to that we have some fairly heavy expenditure to pay out for ECGD funds at the beginning of 1981, in either January or February, depending upon the date on which we sign contracts for projects.

HON P J ISOLA:

There is, of course, no truth, is there, Sir, in what one has heard that especially in the case of the new Girls' Comprehensive School which seems to be slipping a bit, that there is quite a lot of under-spending, that the contractors are being asked to submit bills as quickly as possible by the Government, is that so?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have certainly not asked the contractors for the Girls' school to submit any bills as quickly as possible although I would say that in general I do like bills submitted quickly and paid quickly.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask, in view of the fact that Government hopes to spend the whole of the £10m forecast for the year, am I to understand from this that the United Kingdom cash limits on spending on the development programme has been lifted or is the Gibraltar Government making up?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, if we were to spend the £10.15m, the amount chargeable to ODA funds would be some £5.3m and we have been discussing during the past 10 days with the representative of ODA a lifting of the cash limit to enable us to receive that full amount.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does that mean that if the cash limits are not raised then the £10m will not be spent?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

No, Mr Speaker.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does it then mean that the Government will provide this from their own resources and will those resources be the Consolidated Fund?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the arrangement would be that we would pay out the funds and put it against an advance account for ODA to be met within the beginning of April, 1981.

HON P J ISOLA:

Has Government received assurances that if it does do that the money will be reimbursed and not made part of the new Development Programme? Did Government receive any assurances on that score because would not that be the possible result of such a move?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the only discussions that we have had is how to fund this amount of money which we expect to require this year. We have asked for supplementary provision to give us the amount of funds required. As a fall back to this and in the event of that not being agreed, and we have no reason to believe that it will not be agreed, but if it were not agreed, then we have made arrangements at the official level that we would set off the amount outstanding as an advance against ODA. That is the only discussion that we have held.

MR SPEAKER:

We are expanding the scope of the question.

HON P J ISOLA:

This is of importance, Mr Speaker, this is, in fact, the most important aspect of the economy of Gibraltar.

MR SPEAKER:

I have no doubt but it is question time.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I therefore ask, is the present position that if the United Kingdom cash limits are not raised the approximate £2m left on that particular side of hopeful receipt, the whole of the £2m will be met or is there still some money that can be met from United Kingdom aid funds at the moment during the current year?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

We have not exhausted United Kingdom aid funds at the moment for this year. The amount available is £4.4m and we have only disbursed some £3.3m on these figures.

HON P J ISOLA:

So that really, Mr Speaker, the amount that is being withheld is approximately £700,000, is that right, on the United Kingdom cash limits?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

It is £0.9m, Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, on housing, I notice that the amount still to be spent is £1,100,000 if the amount estimated is to be completed by 31st March, 1980. That is a substantial amount, can the Financial and Development Secretary say whether there has been any slippage in the Housing Development Programme?

MR SPEAKER:

I will allow an answer of yes or no but if the answer is yes I will not allow discussion as to why, otherwise we expand the scope of the question.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I am not sure, Mr Speaker, whether the question is directed to me or to the Hon Minister. On one or two projects in housing there has been some slippage, on others they are going at a faster rate than was expected.

HON J BOSSANC:

The question of the cash limit, in fact, is as regards the availability of the amount of money from the ODA, but is there any implication at all that there has to be a limit on what the total spending should be or are we completely free to spend as much as we can?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, no, Sir. The cash limit is on the amount of money which ODA is prepared to make available in development grants this year, not only to Gibraltar but to every country that receives aid but there is no question of their restricting our spending on projects.

17.12.80

NO. 334 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government give details of the proposed additional improvements for the Arrival Hall at Waterport referred to in the answer to Question 229 of 1980?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the separation of passengers into those with and those without luggage, has considerably speeded up clearance through Customs. It is now proposed to erect a screen inside the hall in a north/south direction and to channel large groups of passengers without luggage into the hall through the door on the north side of the building.

The screen would shield persons whose luggage is being checked from the view of the other passengers awaiting their turn and would permit passengers to wait under cover during inclement weather.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 334 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

I am glad to see some progress at last, Mr Speaker.

NO. 335 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government state whether there is a document actually signed by the parties that enshrines the terms of settlement arrived at between the Government, the contractors and consultants in relation to the Varyl Begg Estate and will the Government make such document, if existing, public or at least available to the Members of the Opposition?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, the comprehensive terms of settlement with the contractor, and the terms of settlement with the consultant, will be incorporated into formal agreements with each party. These are in the process of being finalised. The Government will make the agreements available for perusal by any Member of the Opposition who wishes to read them when they have been executed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 335 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, rightly, works are being carried out and are going on in the Varyl Begg Estate. Would Government ensure that it does not get into the position that it spends money, it pays out money, without having had a signed document and thus prevent problems arising in the future as to what has been agreed or what has not been agreed, so can the House have an assurance that this agreement will be signed in the very near future?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, some work has already been commenced on the Estate but there is preliminary work. I can give an assurance that every effort is being made to finalise this agreement as quickly as possible and that by the time the substantive work proceeds on the Estate, there will be written agreements, formal documents covering the work and the payment will be made in accordance with those documents.

17.12.80

NO. 336 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government amend the Entertainments Ordinance so that Spanish films are made liable to censorship in the same way as English films and to provide guidelines for classification of Spanish films?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, Spanish films currently being exhibited in Gibraltar carry a Spanish certificate broadly equivalent to those given by the British Board of Film Censors. In practice, film exhibitors are now voluntarily indicating on the billboards at the cinemas the classification so given and are enforcing the requirement that young persons should not be allowed to attend the showing of films which in Spain have been classified as unsuitable for them.

Although legislation has been enacted that would impose legal control, the Government considers that the arrangement is being adequately observed and does not consider that it is at present necessary to bring the legislation into operation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 336 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, does this mean, therefore, that Spanish films are being treated differently to English titled films that are classified insofar as there is a Committee, I understand, which looks at English films when it wants to and so forth but apparently does not do so in respect of Spanish films and is this fair to the industry in general and the public?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I am sorry I cannot give a direct answer to the question but I see no reason why the Committee could not look at films from more than one country of origin. I cannot say whether or not they do, I don't know.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, as I understand the written answer that was given to me on this matter, it was possible to do so with English films and not with Spanish films, that is how I understood the answer that was given to me and that is why I have asked this particular question. Is the position different then to what was given in the written answer to me?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, the position is different to the extent that Spanish films are not received in Gibraltar early enough. They do not arrive here as do other films that have been given a certificate by the British Board of Film Censors which need not be English films, naturally, they can be American or they can be Greek or Danish films or German films, but all those have been given a certificate by the British Board of Film Censors. Spanish films are not given such a certificate because they are not shown in the United Kingdom and therefore they do not come under the British Board of Film Censors. The procedure is that, by and large, the Government guides itself as to the suitability of an 'X' film being shown or not by reputable synopses of literature that is available and if in doubt as to the suitability of the film, then a pre-view is requested and as such films are usually in Gibraltar for a considerable period of time beforehand, arrangements can be made for these to be pre-viewed. In the case of Spanish films the position is not that straightforward. We have been asking for advance notice from the film exhibitors as to the programme of films that they have and for as much literature on these films to be provided and what has happened in cases where we are in doubt has been that arrangements have been made by some members of the Committee to go down to the early evening performance the first evening that the film is being shown to judge for ourselves, at least to monitor the situation as to what extent the film is suitable or not, this is as far as we are able to take it. At present it is an arrangement which I think, by and large, works and members of the Committee who have from time to time seen these Spanish films are satisfied on the whole that, by and large, the films are no less suitable for exhibition to adult audiences than are the generality of other 'X' films that are shown in Gibraltar.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask then, Mr Speaker, the Minister to get an assurance from the film exhibitors of Spanish films that even though they are not compelled under the Entertainments Ordinance to ask for a pre-view of films classified 'X', for example, as English films are, that they will voluntarily submit themselves to the same regulation and if not then will the Minister not agree that the law should be amended to treat everybody the same who are in the cinema business?

HON A J CANEPA:

They are doing this, Mr Speaker. This is being done by a voluntary arrangement and the position has been facilitated in the last few months by the fact that now the Spanish films themselves, right at the beginning of the film, do have some indication as to the certificate which they have received in Spain. This was not the case 6 or 9 months ago but since the summer this is the case and therefore the film exhibitors are now able to put on a billboard some indication as to the suitability of the film. Let me also add in fairness to them that their lives have not been made particularly easy in the past by parents, of all people, insisting in some cases in taking children in to see films which the film exhibitors themselves did not consider to be suitable.

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, has the Attorney-General considered taking proceedings under the Criminal Offences Ordinance in respect of posters of 'X' films which are clearly offensive and obscene and have any prosecutions been brought in this respect?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No, Sir, I have not. No such cases have been referred to my Chambers for consideration and no prosecutions have been brought.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 337 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, can I ask the Hon and Learned Member then to give instruction to the Police to keep their eyes open in respect of certain posters that are clearly obscene and offensive?

MR SPEAKER:

I am sure they do as we all do.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask the Hon and Learned Attorney-General to ask the Police to keep their eyes open and to bring to his notice the concern that I am sure must exist among Members of the House at the offence that is given to the public by these obscene and offensive posters that appear from time to time in our streets?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, of course, I will take note of the concern expressed by the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition. The position really is that any person who complains at the publication of obscene material should make their complaint to the Police and if he does the matter will be investigated but as I say I take note of the concern expressed by the Hon Member.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, that answer by the Hon and Learned Attorney-General worries me because does he not agree that the Police do have a responsibility in this case as indeed in other cases as, for example, when rubbish is in the streets, to take action themselves and not wait for members of the public to complain about a dog doing something in the street or rubbish or an obscene picture, they have an obligation, do they not, to initiate without complaint?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I think in a matter of this nature, a matter of an obscene publication, much depends on the fact that offence is given, that it causes offence to the general sense of propriety and I think people should be prepared to make complaints to the Police if they feel the law is being broken as indicative of the degree of offence that is taken. I will convey to the Commissioner of Police the fact that concern has been expressed in the House about the incidence of these publications.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, does the Hon Attorney-General then accept that we are plastered with obscene and offensive posters which certainly I haven't noticed but I suppose I have not gone out looking for them. Does the Hon Member accept that this is indeed the case?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

What I accept, Sir, is that there has been some concern expressed that some posters in town may give rise to offence. I am not going to say that I think that they are at this stage obscene, I do not form such views unless and until I receive a case which is put up for prosecution.

HON P J ISOIA:

Doesn't the Hon and Learned Attorney-General agree that there is some inconsistency if certain magazines are prohibited from being brought into Gibraltar and yet at the same time offensive posters are allowed to be looked at by everybody, young and old alike? I don't know whether the Hon and Learned Chief Minister enjoys his daughters watching these posters when they appear, I certainly wouldn't like it if I had young children.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, perhaps the Hon Leader of the Opposition could tell me where I can see them?

HON P J ISOLA:

Then I shall make my complaint, Mr Speaker, to the Chief Minister when I see one and rely on his judgement.

17.12.80

NO. 338 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, is Government now in a position to state whether the posts of Principal and Senior Members of staff for the Technical College will be advertised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No, Sir. The Government is first discussing with the Ministry of Defence, the terms on which the College will be transferred and hopes to reach early agreement on this.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 338 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, the way I understand it these posts should have been advertised in September, is this another case of slippage?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

No, Sir, this is not a case of slippage, this is a case of the Government seeking to reach satisfactory agreement with the Ministry of Defence on the terms on which the buildings will be handed over to the Government.

17.12.80

NO. 339 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

In view of the delay in the general review of pensions since December, 1978, can Government state what steps have been taken to consider separately the question of part-time service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, Government has already agreed in principle to consider separately the question of allowing part-time service to qualify for pension under certain conditions.

The Government has been in consultation with United Kingdom Authorities as to the practice there and the last correspondence was received on the 8 December, 1980.

Officials are now in a position to make a recommendation on the matter and it is expected that a submission will be made to the Government shortly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 339 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Can the Hon Member give some indication when, in fact, the Government's own views will be available for consultation with Staff Associations which presumably will take place?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Sir, at this stage it is a matter in respect of which the Government wish to take time to consider the submissions made by the Officials.

HON J BOSSANO:

Wouldn't the Hon Member agree that the Government having accepted the principle two years' ago should now be in a position to say when they are likely to be able to make some concrete proposals to the Staff Associations on this matter who have been waiting with, I would have thought, rather patiently for two years to hear from Government?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I am sure, Mr Speaker, the Government will move expeditiously but it will require time to consider the submissions.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, I welcome the Hon Member's unjustified optimism on this question but could he say then whether there is a likelihood that the matter will be settled within the next month or two or not?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

No, I am sorry, Mr Speaker, I can't stipulate a time.

17.12.80

NO. 340 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Will Government consider altering the system of recruitment of nursing staff so as to eliminate the delays at present being encountered in their engagement because of the processing by the Public Service Commission?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No, Sir. The processing by the Public Service Commission does not cause undue delay.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 340 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Is the Hon and Learned Member aware, in fact, Mr Speaker, that there seems to be a time-lag affecting both new recruits, new entrants and people seeking re-engagement who have been previously in the Service and that, generally speaking, the Department is under establishment because of the gap that there is between the interviewing and the actual starting time?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, my understanding is that recruitment normally takes from 2 to 3 weeks from the date the candidate has been interviewed. There is only one case I know of which has taken longer.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Hon Member not agree that it would be preferable to have a system where people are able to start as soon as a vacancy occurs and that, in fact, it is undesirable that potential recruits to the Department should be lost to other employment because they are kept 2 or 3 weeks out of work?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I don't think there is any serious shortage caused by the time taken to recruit nursing staff.

HON J BOSSANO:

Is the Hon and Learned Member aware that this point has been represented to the administration on a number of previous occasions and if he is not will be investigate to establish that this is indeed the case?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

As I have said, Mr Speaker, it is my understanding that there is not any serious problem caused by the process but I will certainly make inquiries.

NO. 341 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, what further steps is the Environmental Health Department taking with respect to the owners of the property at 143 Main Street in relation to the conditions of the roofs, ceilings and general state of the property?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Environmental Health Department has recently held a meeting with the owners in respect of premises No 143 Main Street, with a view to causing the Section 39 Order to be complied with, in the course of which the owners were informed that either works were put in hand within the next month or the Government would act in default as provided by the Public Health Ordinance, without prejudice to the Government's right to proceed back to Court.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 341 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

So the Government fully intends that unless that Order is complied with within 30 days or a month, it has every intention of effecting the repairs necessary and presumably charging the landlords for the costs involved?

HON J B PEREZ:

That is correct, Mr Speaker.

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, I welcome this statement and is this the policy that Government is going to pursue in the future where public health notices are not complied with by owners, of proceeding themselves in default and thus preventing the serious and dangerous public situation that arose recently in another property in Main Street?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think it is correct to say that the policy that Government will adopt is the one that I have outlined in answer to the question but I must make it clear that this would be in situations where you are dealing with a Section 39 Order, with dangerous premises. Obviously, Government has not got either the manpower nor the time to go and do non-compliances with nuisance orders but we definitely do intend to take strong action against non-compliances in connection with dangerous premises.

HON W T SCOTT:

Presumably, Mr Speaker, the action that the Government would propose taking because as the Hon Minister has just said the Public Works Department might not have sufficient labour or the capability to undertake the extent of the work, it would go out to tender supervised by the Government itself?

HON J B PEREZ:

That is the matter, Mr Speaker, that we are in fact considering.

HON W T SCOTT:

But whatever decision is taken there will be no further delay within the month as previously stated?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, as far as this particular property is concerned if the landlords do not comply with the Section 39 Order within a month, we will move in.

NO. 342 OF 1980

ORAI.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, is Government satisfied with the filing system at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Government is never satisfied and is always looking for improvements. This applies to the filing system at St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 342 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

What improvement is the Minister considering implementing in that system?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the problem is that due to increased work and to the increased volume of files, we have the problem of a lack of space. We are looking to see if we can move our Records Office to an alternative site within St Bernard's Hospital and also we are looking at the possibility of improving the present filing system. May I just add, Mr Speaker, that in no way is this a reflection on the person at present in charge of the records.

NO. 343 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Are Charcuterie and Meat products imported into Gibraltar by yachts subject to inspection by the Environmental Health Department and are fees charged?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, charcuterie and meat products imported by yachts into Gibraltar and intended for sale for human consumption, in common with all other foodstuffs similarly intended, are subject to inspection by the Environmental Health Department either at the time of entry if prior notice is received, as is the case with major importers, or at the retail end in the course of routine inspections of food premises in the case of smaller, less well-organised, importers. No charge is, at present, made.

These arrangements are not considered satisfactory by Government and legislation is already in the process of preparation in order effectively to control imports.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 343 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Do I take it then, Mr Speaker, that charges under the new legislation will be levied?

HON J B PEREZ:

This is one of the factors that is included in the draft legislation, the question of fees.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, will these charcuterie and meat products be subject to the same conditions as other edible products are in that they must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate?

HON J B PEREZ:

This is what is, in fact, being proposed in the draft legislation.

NO. 344 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, does Government intend amending existing legislation in order to ensure that doctors employed in the Group Practice Medical Scheme must have had a minimum and specified period of experience?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, the answer to the Hon Members question is no, Sir. I can however assure him that every precaution is taken to ascertain the suitability of each candidate's experience and qualifications before a selection is made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 344 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, may I point the Hon Minister in the direction of the law in the United Kingdom which is the National Health Service Vocational Training Regulations which will, in fact, become operational in February of next year and would he investigate the possibility of introducing legislation similar to that in Gibraltar?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the point raised by the Hon Questioner but the problem is that if we introduce something on those lines in Gibraltar, I am of the opinion that it will be unduly restrictive on our own local students who qualify in the United Kingdom and wish to return to Gibraltar. Let me, however, add that in the past, I am told, doctors who have been recruited into the GPMS invariably have been people with experience of 2 to 3 years although this is really a matter for the Public Service Commission, but in the case, for example, of Dr Correa and Dr Borge, if we were to place these restrictions I don't think we would encourage our local people to return to Gibraltar because they would therefore be staying for 2 to 3 years elsewhere and they may feel inclined not to return and I think that is a pity and it is contrary to my belief of what I would like to see with the GPMS.

HON G T RESTANO:

I don't think, Mr Speaker, that the Minister is very much aware of the law in the United Kingdom. Those three years are really a training programme so that doctors become experienced, the two years in the hospital and one year as training practice, and if the law is not introduced into Gibraltar we could get into the position where doctors who don't get a job in the United Kingdom because they haven't done their training, try to get employment in Gibraltar and we would be lowering the standards of the medical profession. For that reason, Mr Speaker, I would ask the Minister to investigate the possibilities.

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the Hon Member, although I have given the answer as no, nevertheless I am prepared to look at it again.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is the Minister saying, in effect, that in order to help local students to return to Gibraltar to practice medicine, the Government is prepared to employ people in the GPMS, not of Gibraltar, who have not had the experience required in England and can he not deal with the Gibraltarian position by giving them jobs in the hospital as house doctors and not in the general service?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Hon Leader of the Opposition confuses the issue when he says to employ our local doctors as house doctors. The question seeks a change in legislation, the question that the Hon Mr Restano has raised. The present legislation is that contained in the Medical and Health Ordinance of 1973 which provides that any person, I am not going to quote the section I will explain what it is, any person who wishes to practice in Gibraltar or anybody who is suitable for recruitment for the GPMS, must be a doctor who is registered and able to practice in England, it is not a house doctor. After a student completes his studies he then has, compulsorily, even in the United Kingdom, to do a year as a house doctor in any case. It is after he completes that one year as a house officer that he is entitled to enrol in the United Kingdom, he is entitled to be registered. The answer is that in my view I do not think there is any need to change the law.

17.12.80

NO. 345 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Has Government now decided to leave the system of telephone appointments for the Health Centre on a permanent basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, an ever increasing use is being made of this facility and it is apparent to me that it is here to stay. My only concern is that an increase in staff may be required and one must await the results of staff inspection in this respect.

NO. 346 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will the Minister for Municipal Services state when it is proposed to instal telephones in the personal offices of doctors at the Health Centre?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, recommendations have now been received from the Telephone Department and these are currently being discussed with the doctors at the Health Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 346 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Will the Minister expand on the recommendations that have been received?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the Hon. Questioner will recall that in my answer to Question 245 of 1980, I informed him that we had referred the matter to the Telephone Department on the 15th October. The proposal at the time was that the doctors wanted jack points to be put in each and every office. The information we have received from the Telephone Department is that it would be better, instead of having the jack points that we should rent a PABX 2 x 6. This system would enable the Department to have

MR SPEAKER:

Let us not expand too much otherwise we will start debating the issue. You have been asked whether you have accepted the recommendations or not exclusively. Isn't that right?

HON G T RESTANO:

What I asked was if he could expand on the recommendations received from the Telephone Department.

HON J B PEREZ:

We have been recommended instead of the jack points that were mentioned before, that we adopt a new PABX 2 x 6 and this proposal by the Telephone Department, in fact, if my information is correct was brought to the notice of doctors yesterday by the Director of Medical and Health Services and as soon as the doctors agree or disagree a decision will be taken and the Telephone Department will proceed accordingly.

HON G T RESTANO:

Does the Minister have an idea, if the doctors agree to this proposal, how long it will take for the PABX to be installed?

HON J B PEREZ:

The only thing I can say, Mr Speaker, to the Hon Member is that once a decision is taken by the Medical Department it is immediately communicated to the Telephone Department and then it is up to them.

HON G T RESTANO:

That, in fact, Mr Speaker, is precisely why the question was put to the Minister for Municipal Services.

17.12.80

NO. 347 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government confirm whether 3 washing machines were recently purchased for the new Nurses Home and if so were tenders published for these purchases?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, yes, Sir. A Government Notice inviting tenders for the items in question was published in the local press as well as in the Gibraltar Gazette of the 18 September, 1980.

THE HON G T RESTANO

In view of the fact that since the reply of the Minister for Medical and Health Services to Question 250 of 1980, a doctor in private practice has stated that in nearly 98% of cases where patients have been referred by his practice and admitted to St Bernard's Hospital, no discharge summaries have ever been received, would the Minister explain why he stated in his reply to Question 250 that as far as he was aware discharge summaries were sent in all cases?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, I refer the Hon Member to my answer to Question No 250 of 1980 in which I stated the Government's policy on the question of discharge summaries. The doctor in question has been asked to substantiate his allegations and the matter will be investigated.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 348 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, since the allegations have been made has the Minister himself not done any research?

MR SPEAKER:

I think it is a fair answer to a fair question. We must not preempt what can happen as a result of the investigation and the fact that the doctor is going to be asked to substantiate his allegations.

HON G T RESTANO:

But, Mr Speaker, since there has been this allegation, would the Minister not make

MR SPEAKER:

No, I think the inference in the answer to the question is clear, that since there has been an allegation they have to satisfy themselves that it is correct before they do anything else.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask the Minister. When he answered Question No. 250 of 1980, did he in fact have before him the number of discharge summaries that had been sent out by the hospital and can he give us that figure as at that date?

HON J B PEREZ:

The answer is no, Sir, I did not have the number of discharge summaries sent out. I have to act on the advice of the Director of Medical and Health Services and this is why I say that we will investigate the matter but it is no good just making a blank statement saying in 98% of cases. Once we are informed of the individual cases the matter will be investigated.

HON P J ISOLA:

I would like to clear this one up because it is a question of departmental responsibility, I suppose. The position is that as far as the Minister was concerned he relied entirely when he gave that answer on the information that he had been given and saw no figures as to numbers of discharge summaries and was provided with no figures, is that the position?

HON J B PEREZ:

That is the position. May I just add one very minor point, if I may. In fact, the invitation to investigate was made by me when I answered a supplementary question in November. I did say that if the allegations were made I would investigate, up to today I have yet not received any information and I am still waiting.

17.12.80

NO. 349 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Would Government make a comprehensive statement on the present position with regard to the possible merger of St Bernard's and the Naval Hospitals?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Yes, Sir. I shall be making a statement at a later stage in the proceedings.

17.12.80

NO. 350 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Has Government appointed a Consultant Education Psychologist from the UK on a part-time basis?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Mr Speaker, arrangements were made in April for a visit in November. This, however, did not prove possible. Financial provision has been made in next year's Estimates for regular visits by a Consultant Educational Psychologist.

17.12.80

NO. 351 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, can Government state on how many occasions has the Community Paediatrician been consulted in relation to students in need of paediatric treatment?

I am sorry, Mr Speaker, but this is not how I phrased the question, I meant students in need of psychiatric treatment.

MR SPEAKER:

I am informed that it was a typing error when you submitted your question. You can ask the question you intended to ask but, of course, the Minister may not be able to answer.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister cannot be expected to answer it. In fact, he could not understand the question.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, the question I intended to ask was: Can Government state on how many occasions has the Community Paediatrician been consulted in relation to students in need of psychiatric treatment?

MR SPEAKER:

Is the Minister in a position to answer?

HON J B PEREZ:

I regret I am not, I had a feeling that the Hon Questioner wanted information on how many schoolchildren from the school health service had been referred to Dr. Benady and in fact that is the information I have with me. I am sorry but I will have to look into the matter which the Hon Questioner really wanted to ask about.

17.12.80

NO. 352 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Does Government intend taking any action, as reported in a local newspaper, on the exhibiting of caged wild birds?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Preliminary investigations of the newspaper reports on the exhibiting of caged wild birds indicate that the birds in question were either bred in captivity or imported from stocks also bred in captivity and they are, therefore, not strictly wild birds. In the absence of adequate proof that the birds in question are 'wild' or that they were captured within Gibraltar's jurisdiction, the Government is unable to take legal action. It will, however, continue in its efforts to protect wild life locally and enforce existing laws whenever necessary and possible.

17.12.80

NO. 353 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Is Government aware of the difficulties encountered by the Medical Department in the prompt and accurate payment of salaries and allowances?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

The Government is not aware that salaries and allowances are not paid promptly and accurately as and when due. However, if the Hon Member is referring to the payment of arrears of salaries and allowances whenever these are reviewed, it is to be expected that because of the diversity of grades employed in the Medical and Public Health Department, it is inevitable that a reasonable measure of time has to be taken by the staff in question in the preparation of the necessary calculations needed to arrive at the sums payable.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 353 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, can the Hon Minister say whether the back payment due to the implementation of the 37½ hour week in April of this year is likely to be paid this month? Will he consider that a reasonable lapse of time?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, this is a matter which I already looked at before coming to the House today and in fact I have instructed the people concerned to do their utmost to ensure that these payments be made within the next few weeks.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Hon Member aware that the Staff Side in the Medical Department have made representations previously suggesting that the payment of salaries and allowances should be transferred to the Treasury rather than being undertaken by the clerical staff in the Hospital who are required to do a number of other clerical duties and consequently do not acquire the expertise that the Treasury has because they are concentrating on just this task all the time?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am aware of these representations due to the fact that the Hon Mr Bossano has informed me about them and it is something that we are looking into.

17.12.80

NO. 354 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state whether the appointment of a seventh doctor at the Health Centre has been considered by Council of Ministers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 354 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Is there any indication as to when Council of Ministers will be considering this subject?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am afraid that I cannot give a date to the Hon Member.

17.12.80

NO. 355 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government consider giving greater priority to improving the public lighting along South Barrack Road, opposite the Barracks, in order that the potential danger of an accident occurring is minimised?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Government has already in hand a number of schemes in order to improve public lighting in other areas and consideration will be given to this area in the next financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 355 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, Sir, in answer to Question 301 of 1980 the Minister for Public Works already informed this House that the scheme was under consideration. My question now is whether Government will give that particular section of road which Government admits requires better lighting, to give that section of road better public lighting precisely in order to minimise the potential danger of an accident?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have already said before the funds for this year are already catered for and it will be considered in the next financial year.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I very sincerely hope that no accident occurs between now and the time that the Government decides to implement it.

17.12.80

NO. 356 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state how many hours of power cuts there have been in the different districts during November?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Power Cuts - November, 1980

District	1	-	11 hrs	17 mins
"	2	-	10 hrs	44 mins
"	3	-	7 hrs	58 mins
"	4	-	9 hrs	58 mins
"	5	-	NIL	
"	6	-	8 hrs	28 mins
"	7	-	8 hrs	46 mins
"	8	-	11 hrs	40 mins
"	9	-	10 hrs	30 mins
"	10	-	7 hrs	7 mins
"	11	-	9 hrs	43 mins
"	12	-	NIL	

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 356 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I take it that the Government is dissatisfied with the situation?

HON DR R G VALARINC:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is not satisfied with the situation as long as power cuts continue but on the other hand power cuts during the month of November have shown a definite improvement on power cuts during the month of October.

HON P J ISOLA:

How do the power cuts in November compare to the powers cuts we have had in December? Is December an improvement on November or is it more or less the same?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, that is a completely different question. I was not asked for any figures about power cuts in December and I need notice of that question.

THE HON G T RESTANO

At what cost have the Christmas Lighting in Main Street been installed, how does such a cost compare with the installation of the past four years and furthermore what daily electricity in kilowatts, it is estimated will be consumed?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The cost of installing the Christmas Illuminations is expected to be of the order of £4,900.

Cost of installing Illuminations in 1979/80	£4,088.82
Cost of installing Illuminations in 1978/79	£3,644.99
Cost of installing Illuminations in 1977/78	*£1,490.94
*Wage bill reflects salary as at 1.10.76	
Cost of installing Illuminations in 1976/77	£2,105.83

The lights will be switched on daily between 6 pm and midnight except for Christmas and New Year's Eve when they are on until the following day. The total electrical load of the Illuminations is 86.265 kilowatts and the daily consumption is expected to be 517 units. This consumption is equivalent to the consumption of 6 cookers for similar periods.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 357 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Six cookers for a similar period during the hours of 6 pm and midnight. When we have so many power cuts and continue to have power cuts, is this not an unnecessary wastage of electricity?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, this is mere conjecture on the part of the Hon Member. I think that six cookers is a relative amount of electricity used for the benefit that these illuminations provide, especially to Main Street and the traders and for the children as well. I think it is a worthwhile exercise.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the Government aware that the best Christmas cheer they can give the people of Gibraltar and the children and so forth is to give them a continuous supply of electricity?

THE HON G T RESTANO

What is the present position with regard to the tenders for the new Generating Station and the 5 mgw Engine?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The closing date for tenders was the 29th October, 1980, and these are being evaluated by the Consultants and the Department.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 358 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, does the Minister have any explanation for the enormous variance between the two tenders received? Were the two tenders received for exactly the same amount of work or was there any difference?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, it would be wrong of me to comment on the difference in tenders in these two particular tenders. This is up to the Tender Board and not up to me.

HON G T RESTANO:

I am asking whether the two companies that tendered did so for the same thing?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, obviously we made the specifications and the two companies tendered for the same thing.

HON G T RESTANO:

Is there any indication as to when the decision will be taken?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, yes, the validity of tenders is up to the end of February. Evaluation should be completed in the new year, Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

Have the consultants given the Government an indication as to what time they require for the evaluation of the tenders in terms of weeks, months or years?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the City Electrical Engineer has spent two weeks in the United Kingdom in consultation with our consultants Messrs Preece, Cardew and Rider evaluating the tenders and clarifying certain points with the tenderers and as far as Preece, Cardew and Rider is concerned the evaluation will be produced when they are ready to produce the necessary documents.

HON P J ISOLA:

I know that obviously the evaluation will be produced when the consultants are ready to produce it but the question I am asking is has the City Electrical Engineer or the Minister been told by the consultants the period of time they require to evaluate the tenders? It is a simple question.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to have to repeat my answer which I have given before. I have said that evaluation should be completed in the new year and that validity of tenders will end before the end of February. Therefore, it shall be done within this period of time.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, the new year is twelve months. What I am asking the Minister is a short and simple question. He may not be able to answer it because he has not got the information. I am asking him simply, have the consultants informed his Head of Department the period of time that they are likely to require for the evaluation of the tenders? That is the only question I am asking. Can I have an answer to that?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, yes, it has to be completed before the end of February.

HON P J ISOLA:

Have the consultants told the Government that they will produce an evaluation before the end of February?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the implication is there. If the decision has to be taken before the end of February they must receive their advice from the consultants before that date.

HON P J ISOLA:

May I ask the Minister another question? Will the Government make a decision by the end of February if they haven't got the evaluation of Preece, Cardew and Rider by that date?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Sir, it is not Preece, Cardew and Rider who have to give the evaluation, the Government will get the evaluation before the end of February.

HON P J ISOLA:

How far, can the Minister state, if the evaluation is given by the end of February, the contract says sixty weeks, have the consultants indicated to the Government whether that period of sixty weeks can be met by the contractors having regard to the tenders that they have submitted?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, surely this will be in the evaluation of the tenders received.

HON A J HAYNES:

Who prepared the specifications for the tenders?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

The specifications were prepared by the consultants, Preece, Cardew and Rider in conjunction with the Department.

HON W T SCOTT:

Has the Minister had an assurance from both tenderers to this project that their prices offered in August or September will hold good until February?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Sir.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government give a full explanation of Capacity figures made in a Government statement and published in the Gibraltar Chronicle of the 5th December, 1980, and furthermore give the name-plate and actual output capacity of all the engines at the Generating Station?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The Government statement of the 4th December, 1980, published subsequently in the Gibraltar Chronicle of the 5th December, 1980, gave an available capacity of 14.5 mw, this would rise by an additional 2mw when the remaining 3 skid-mounted generators were connected to the system.

The plant in service consisted of sets 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13 and skid No. 1.

Whereas it is a simple matter to provide the name-plate rating of each unit, this is not so with regards to the in-service capacity which can vary. The capacity of any set depends on various factors since output may have to be limited in order to maintain certain operational parameters such as temperatures and pressures within prescribed limits.

Output also depends on the number of operational hours which a set has run between overhauls, therefore only average figures for in-service capacity can be given.

<u>ENGINE NO.</u>	<u>NAME-PLATE RATING (KW)</u>	<u>IN-SERVICE RATING (KW)</u>
4	750	600
5	800	650
7	800	650
8	1200	1100
9	2650	2000
10	2650	2200
11	2800	*-
12	2800	2200
13	4960	4500
Skid-mounted 1.	650	600

*This is presently out of commission due to a broken crankshaft.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 359 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

First of all, Mr Speaker, what on earth has happened to Engines Nos. 1, 2 and 3?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, 1, 2, 3 and 6.

HON G T RESTANO:

I asked for 1, 2 and 3. No. 6 was scrapped about eight or ten years' ago.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

No. 6 was scrapped in 1970 during the IWBP Government when there was an accident and they never bothered to replace that engine, but, of course, the Hon Member will not question that. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 have now been scrapped because they were totally unreliable, they were producing only 400mw and they have been replaced by the skid-mounted sets which are much more reliable than the old engines which were in King's Bastion South. Let me say that any parts which are available from Nos. 1, 2 and 3 engines will be cannibalised and used for 5 and 7 engines.

HON G T RESTANO:

When were these three engines scrapped?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Engine No. 2 was scrapped in 1980 and Engines 1 and 3 were scrapped subsequently when the skid-mounted sets were brought into operation.

HON G T RESTANO:

In other words, all three were scrapped this year?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

All three have been scrapped this year because they had been totally unreliable, they give us very little power, they are highly expensive to run and spares have been tremendously difficult to get hold of.

HON G T RESTANO:

What was their capacity?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, their capacity was round about 400 for each engine. No. 6 engine's capacity was slightly higher.

HON G T RESTANO:

That means that 1.2 or 1.3 is what we have lost and we have gained the skid-mounted generators. In the Government statement we were led to believe that the skid-mounted generators produced 3mw each, how is it then that three only add up to 2mw?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the four skid-mounted generators running at peak will produce 750 but certainly what we try to do with most engines is to run them below their peak rating and they are running somewhere in the region of 600 to 650 for each skid generator. The Hon Mr Restano is trying to give a little turn to the situation. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Engines were totally unreliable, for most of the time they were out of commission and were producing nothing at all.

HON G T RESTANO:

All I can say, Mr Speaker, is that that is certainly not the information that I received in front of the Minister when I visited the Generating Station last year.

HON P J ISOLA:

When the Government announced the importation of skid generators to improve the generating capacity of the station, can I ask why they did not announce that in fact Engines Nos. 1, 2 and 3 which have a 1.2mW capacity, had become useless and were no longer available to the public. Why was that not announced?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Engines 1, 2 and 3 were practically useless, they had given us very, very little help.

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked a simple question, why did not Government announce the fact that the three engines had been scrapped?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, it was certainly not relevant to the announcement.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask the Minister then another question. Did the Preece, Cardew and Rider Report recommend the scrapping of engines Nos. 1 to 8?

MR SPEAKER:

No, I will not allow that question.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can I put it another way. Does the Government consider it a satisfactory situation for Gibraltar, with a peak demand of 14.6mW when it is really cold, that with the skid generators the generating capacity should only be 16mW, having regard to the fact that when a gasket slips a bit of fluid or something goes wrong we are all subjected to power cuts, does the Government consider that a satisfactory situation for the people of Gibraltar to be in?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

As I said before, at the moment we have 14.5mW. We shall get an extra 2mW from the other skid-mounted engines and apart from this we have No. 11 engine which has been out of action due to a broken crankshaft. It is in the process of being re-assembled and it will be in commission from the middle to the end of January and this will produce another 2.2mW. This will mean a spare capacity from the point of view that the Member was talking about, of roughly, 4.2mW.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the position, as far as Gibraltar is concerned, that if Engine No. 13, which carry our best wishes at all times, if Engine No. 13 stops, is not the position that there must then inevitably be power cuts if it is cold and it is winter? From the figures given by the Government in the Gibraltar Chronicle would not that result in a drop of generating capacity of 4.9mW?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are various answers to this. First of all, as I said before, No. 11 is coming back, the skids will be in operation and not only that there is, as you well know and I have mentioned before in the House, a reduction of voltage which gives us extra power so should No. 5 go out and should No. 13 go out the others should be able to compensate for No. 13.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask the Hon Minister another question, the answer to which we will listen to very carefully. Can the Minister confidently inform the people of Gibraltar, once the skid generators are working, that they will get no more power cuts of an hour or an hour and a half? And if he cannot give us that promise, is that not because, basically, the Government has not got enough generating capacity for the needs of the population and for the needs of providing them with continuous power supply which we are all entitled to?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the Opposition are as unpredictable as women.

HON P J ISOLA:

The Minister should know.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

The Hon Member is talking about No. 13 but we could be able to cover No. 13 but that does not mean to say that another engine could be out at the same time and this could mean a shortfall in the electricity produced and therefore I cannot give the Hon Member the guarantee that he is asking for.

HON P J ISOLA:

In other words, will the Minister state that the position will not be as it was, for example, in 1976 and 1977 when power cuts, except in relation to industrial disputes, were unthinkable and did not occur. Am I right in asking the Minister that all he can give assurances to the people of Gibraltar is that the Government will do what it can to keep a continuous supply but of course Gibraltar must recognise that that is not possible in the circumstances of Gibraltar, that guarantees are not possible because the Government does not have enough generating capacity to provide for breakdowns in their various engines?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the Government will do all in its power not to have power cuts but in no system can any Government say categorically that there are not going to be any power cuts and that engines are not going to develop faults. This is impossible.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is Government proud of its record?

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17.12.80

NO. 360 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government explain why the skid-mounted generators are as yet not operational given the fact that Government predicted that they would be soon after their arrival?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The first set of the skid-mounted generators has been operational since 24th November, 1980. The other three sets and transformers were sited on the 17th November, 1980. Preparatory work for final operation involved the control and protection wiring to the main switchboard at King's Bastion, the laying and connecting of fuel and fuel return pipe lines and the connection of the main power cables.

Some of this work was put in hand soon after the sets were brought on to site but industrial problems arose which delayed the work so that actual running and commissioning could not commence until the 11th December, 1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 360 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, this industrial action that the Minister speaks of, was no planning done with the workers at the Generating Station when the sets were ordered in order to avoid this sort of situation, were they not consulted in any way?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, I think it would be grossly unfair for me to go into an industrial dispute which has been solved, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

What I asked was, was there no planning done through the committee which has been set up in the Department in order to avoid problems, was this committee not consulted when the skid-mounted generators were acquired?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Neither the Department nor I can foresee any possibility that arises and any twist that can arise in the conditions.

HON G T RESTANO:

Is the Minister then saying that there was no consultation with the staff?

MR SPEAKER:

Let us not digress from the subject matter of the question.

HON P J ISOLA:

How much rent has been paid so far in respect of generators that are not operational?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, there are two things I would like to say. I would like to say that skid No. 1 is already working, skid No. 4 started working two days' ago and producing 600/650, skid No. 2 started working two days' ago and producing 600/650, skid No. 3 should be working today. The second part of the question, this is a completely different question, it has nothing to do with the original question and I need notice of it.

NO. 361 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

In view of the length of time before the new Girls' Comprehensive School is completed, would Government consider installing Instant Shower Heaters in the St Joseph's Annexe at the John Mackintosh Hall as a temporary measure?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

As the Girls' Comprehensive School is likely to be transferred to new premises in 1982 it is not felt appropriate to put in hand at this stage the installation of a hot water supply to the existing shower facilities in the St Joseph's Annexe at the John Mackintosh Hall.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 361 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I was merely asking for an instant shower heater. There is no hot water supply, it uses the same cold water and the water is only heated because there is an element in the heater. I am not asking for a whole installation. Would Government consider these temporary instant shower heaters?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

The Government will not consider it. The Girls' Comprehensive School has been like this for the past 14 years during which part of the time the Hon Leader of the Opposition was the Minister responsible for the Department of Education.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the Minister not consider progress as part of his duties in a Department?

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17.12.80

NO. 362 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Can the Minister for Education state how many qualified Nursery Teachers there are in our First Schools?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

There are sufficient numbers of Burnham qualified teachers who have specialised in the education of reception class children to teach all the classes of 4/5 year old pupils in our First Schools. Qualified Nursery Teachers (ie Nursery Nursing Education Board qualifications) can be employed only in Government Nursery Schools as they are not qualified in the sense of the Burnham Report for appointment in schools.

THE HON A T LODDO

Will Government consider granting the same subsidy to all school-children who are at present in receipt of subsidised school transport?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Subsidised transport is now based on public transport rates and in all cases, except Catalan Bay children of Middle and Secondary age and secondary boys attending Bayside Comprehensive School living south of a line from the bottom of Witham's Road to the Casino, parents are paid by cheque at the beginning of each term the equivalent of two out of the four journeys which need to be undertaken by pupils each day. In the case of the secondary boys attending Bayside School, Government pay for just one journey out of the four which need to be undertaken by pupils each day and a coach is hired at Government expense for the middle and secondary age children at Catalan Bay. It is intended, however, to provide for a 50% subsidy based on public transport rates to be paid to parents in the future in respect of all entitled children.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 363 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr. Speaker, why should certain children be treated differently?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I presume that the Hon Member refers to the Catalan Bay children. This is an acquired right going back to the landslide days when we did not have a road there and this is why we intend to bring the whole question on the same basis.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the answer that everybody is going to be the same in the future or not?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

This is what we intend to do.

17.12.80

NO. 364 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Considering that the Adventure Play Leader has now been in Gibraltar for 7 months, can Government state when he will be engaged in the actual adventure playground?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Following the Adventure Playleader's arrival in April, the first three months were spent in making all the necessary preparations and plans for the establishment of the adventure playground. After it was decided not to relocate the project at an alternative site, permission to proceed with the development of the original site was obtained at the end of July. Since that time the Adventure Playleader has been actively engaged in developing the site, acquiring essential equipment, tools and materials, fencing, storage accommodation, insurance and other requirements. At the beginning of September he started to work on a regular basis at the adventure playground and during the Autumn Term the playground has been operating for six days each week after school hours and on Saturdays. Average attendance during this period has been approximately sixty children per session. The Adventure Playleader is currently engaged in progressing the project by the acquisition and construction on the site of a suitable building for use as a play centre and by developing all other areas of work associated with the site, management and future development of the adventure playground.

17.12.80

NO. 365 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Can Government say how many teachers there are at present in the following categories:

- a) Qualified Teachers
- b) Unqualified Teachers
- c) Part time Teachers
- d) Full time Supply Teachers, and
- e) Contract Teachers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

At the present time there are 279 teachers employed in schools by the Department of Education of which 244 are qualified in the sense of the Burnham Report and the remaining 35 are unqualified. Of the total of 279 teachers, 11 are part-time, and 8 are full-time contract teachers. There are currently 4 full-time unqualified supply teachers.

NO. 366 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government take the necessary steps to ensure that those cleaners who had a record of employment with the Education Department and who were recently excluded due to the method of selection chosen, are re-instated?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

As stated in the written answer to Question No. 258/1980, the method used to draw up the list of supply char-women was considered to be the fairest way of dealing with the matter in view of the number of ladies who were interested at the time. However, I am prepared to look into the possibility of adding to the list the names of those ladies who were previously excluded due to the method of selection chosen at the time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 366 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

I am grateful to the Minister and I hope that once he has considered this he will find that he will be able not only to include those cleaners, 6 or 7, that were excluded, to include them in the list but also, perhaps, include them and categorise them in a way that they should be categorised, say, from 6 to 12. I hope the Minister will have due regard of this.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I have said that I am prepared to look into the possibility of adding their names to the list, I shall do it the way I want to do it and not the way Mr Scott wants to do it.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask the Minister if it is his intention or the Government's intention to perpetuate the system of selection of people in the public service by casting lots? Is that to be part of Government policy in the future?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, I do not think the Hon Leader of the Opposition is quite aware of what we are talking about. We are not talking about permanent people working in our schools, we are talking of people who are on a waiting list to supply when someone goes on leave or is sick. We are not talking of employing people on a permanent basis.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will this system be used, for example, with supply teachers? If there are more people who want to be teachers on supply than there are vacancies, will the Minister follow the same course or will the Director of Education use his discretion?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

My Department would consult with the GTA just as they consulted the TGWU with regard to the charwomen.

HON P J ISOLA:

May I ask the Minister that if the GTA should agree on a method of selection for supply teachers by lot, whether the Department will implement it?

MR SPEAKER:

That is a hypothetical question.

HON W T SCOTT:

Will the consideration which the Minister hopes to make be made earlier rather than later, can the Minister say that?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I always make my considerations earlier rather than later.

NO. 367 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

What areas are being refurbished to accommodate families which the Housing Allocation Committee has recommended should be housed on social grounds and furthermore what is the total number of units and how many families have been so categorised?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

21 units are being provided at 49/51 Town Range, commonly known as the ex RASC Bakery, to accommodate families on the social cases list.

There are 46 families on this list at present.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 367 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Does the Government intend refurbishing any other premises to house, on the figures that the Minister has just given, the balance of 25 people on social grounds?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Government does not intend to provide particular premises or construct or refurbish, what Government will do is that on the vacancies arising of pre-war accommodation, those remaining social cases will be hopefully accommodated as and when vacancies arise in the pre-war category.

HON W T SCOTT:

Does the Minister have any idea what other areas might be available in the short term to Government precisely to refurbish them for people of this nature?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I have no idea of the area, Mr Speaker, what I can say to the Hon Member is that as houses become vacant normally we end up at the end of the exercise with pre-war accommodation which is suitable for social cases.

HON A J HAYNES:

Can the Minister give some indication of the length of time spent waiting classified as a social case of the longest standing members of the 47 you said are listed?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I have not got with me information to give the exactitude as to how long people on the social cases have been on the list. I would remind the Hon Member that it was about this time last year that we gave out 41 units at the Filipino Hostel so I would assume that the people we are talking of possibly could be people who have been on the social list for 2 or 3 years but I would not wish to be pegged down to that because there could be the odd cases who have been longer and have not wanted the Filipino Hostel.

HON A J HAYNES:

Surely, Mr Speaker, when somebody is classified as a social case or someone who needs housing on social grounds, there is a sense of urgency in that and will Government ensure that people who are classified as social cases and are recommended for housing on those grounds, that those people find somewhere as soon as possible?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, we do our utmost to try and accommodate not only the social cases that are 2 or 3 years waiting but even people who have been waiting for much longer periods and are not social cases. However, we do try to accommodate them as best we can but there is a housing problem.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state whether the modernisation programme at Tank Ramp, Willis's Area and Lime Kiln Steps will house more people than before?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Yes, Sir, it will.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 368 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

How many?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Sir, in answer to Question 270 it was stated that the number of families housed and subsequently decanted in these areas was 43 ie, 11 from Tank Ramp, 13 from the Willis's Area and 19 from Lime Kiln Steps. The number of families which will be accommodated after modernisation is 54, made up as follows:- 16 at Tank Ramp, 9 in the Willis's Area, and 29 in Lime Kiln Steps.

HON A J HAYNES:

How many of these 54 families will be two-member families in the bedsitters?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

That, Mr Speaker, I cannot say and I will remind the Hon Member that you cannot say that two bedrooms is for two members. There are instances where a family, husband and wife and two children of equal sex would obtain 3RKB, on the other hand the same amount of people with a different sex would be 4RKB. One cannot specify exactly the number of people, it will be the number of families housed adequately.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, since one can say of a two-bedroomed house that maybe it will house two people or maybe it will house three, depending on the composition of that family, you can say that that flat will not be given to a family with more constituent parts.

MR SPEAKER:

That is a hypothetical question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, when one builds a house which has got three rooms it is fair to assume that since it is designed to have one bedroom or two bedrooms or whatever, one can safely say we will allow either a 3-person family or a 5-person family to live here. What I am asking for is the 54 units must have an optimum maximum number and also a minimum number and if they are, what are those two numbers? Can he give me an indication as to whether these 54 families are 54 10-person families or 54 small families?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I don't think the Hon Member understood what I said earlier on. One cannot say that and I repeat it and I hope I make myself understood. There are instances where a 2-bedroomed flat which is a 3RKB, we are talking of bedrooms but a family is entitled to have one or two people sleeping in the same bedroom. Two people of the same sex can share a bedroom but in instances if they are of different sex then they require a single bedroom each so therefore you can have a family composition of, say, four, ie husband, wife, son and daughter, they would require a 4RKB, whereas a husband, wife, two daughters and one son would be 4RKB. Probably if the Hon Member can come to my office I will explain in detail.

HON A J HAYNES:

I find the term '54 families' as opposed to 43 families may be misleading.

MR SPEAKER:

The answer you are being given is that due to the conditions under which the houses are going to be allocated to families of different composition he cannot give you the information you have asked for.

HON J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister confirm, in fact, that the whole question of the housing list is treated as family units so that the number of housing applicants is not related to the number of individuals in the family? We are talking about the number of units required and the number of people on the waiting list, we are not talking about individuals but family units.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the position then that instead of 43 housing units there would be 54 housing units so that these developments that have taken and continue to take a long time are going to improve the housing stock of Gibraltar by 11 units and is the Government satisfied with this performance?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Government is very satisfied, Mr Speaker, and I would ask the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition to pay a visit to the areas that have been modernised and to see what were previously slums turned into very attractive housing and people are very satisfied with the return they are getting.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, that may be so but it hardly helps the position of the large number of people on the waiting list.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, let me preface this question by saying that I should declare an interest since subsequent to asking this question I have been approached to handle some cases which do seem to be similar to the one I am referring to.

Will Government undertake to have a full report made by the Family Care Unit before issuing legal proceedings for eviction in order to avoid any repetition of the case involving Mrs Sookraj?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

The Housing Department requests reports from the Family Care Unit of the Department of Labour and Social Security on alleged social cases, and these, when received, are considered by the Housing Advisory Committee who make recommendations to the Housing Allocation Committee and/or the Minister for Housing.

In the case of Mrs Sookraj (nee Bebeagua) and her four children, the Housing Department was informed by the Police, on 6 August, 1980, that they had recently arrived from UK, and were at 33A Town Range-4.

As Mrs Sookraj was not an authorised person to reside in these premises a Notice under Section 223A of the Criminal Offences Ordinance was served upon her on 12 August, 1980, requesting and requiring her to leave the premises within 24 hours after service of the Notice. Mrs Sookraj failed to comply with the Notice so the case was referred to the Law Officers' Department for necessary action.

An Order for Possession was obtained in the Supreme Court on 12 September, 1980, but in view of the particular circumstances of the case it has not yet been enforced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 369 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, that does not really answer my question, what I am saying is if the Police do come and inform the Housing Department that there is a squatter or they allege there is a squatter then before the Housing Department gives notice to the Attorney-General, shouldn't they go to the Family Care Unit to enquire because we are talking about making people homeless and Government is not a landlord without a social conscience.

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked whether before any action is taken to evict people whether a report from the Family Care Unit should be sought.

HON A J CANEPA:

As the Minister responsible for the Family Care Unit I should warn the House that it may not be a straightforward matter for the Family Care Unit to prepare a report at the drop of a hat, they are involved in investigating many social cases. I do not know whether what the Hon Member is proposing is that they should drop the work that is being carried out on all the other social cases and investigate this one to the detriment of the other social cases who may be waiting for an investigation for 6 or 7 months.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, it is apparent to me that the Government are not satisfied with the machinery which took Mrs Sookraj to the brink of eviction and that is why, having gone through all the process of getting an Order to get her out, they have not acted on it.

MR SPEAKER:

We are debating and I must not allow that to happen. You must ask a question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Let me repeat the question, I believe that there may be some difficulties as outlined by the Member but I believe that there is a need to consider proposals along these lines and I ask the Government at least for some measure. I have now two cases which are going in exactly the same way. I only hope that as in the case of Mrs Sookraj they will be stopped.

MR SPEAKER:

We are debating and we must not do this at question time.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I am baffled, quite honestly, by the Hon Mr Haynes' attitude because if in the case of Mrs Sookraj

MR SPEAKER:

I must make the same observation to you as I made to Mr Haynes. You are being asked whether you are prepared to get a report from the Family Care Unit, yes or no? It is as simple as that.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

With respect, Sir, it could be yes or no. In these circumstances all social cases are investigated by the Family Care Unit but if somebody comes from the United Kingdom and goes into premises and it is brought to our attention

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked whether before taking a decision to evict or not to evict, whether you are prepared to get a report from the Family Care Unit?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, as Minister for Housing I am not prepared to do it. I do not think we can allow people to come, take up accommodation, and expect sympathy when other people in similar circumstances are not being afforded housing.

HON P J ISOLA:

I think what my Hon and Learned Colleague is trying to ask the Government is to use a bit of compassion in this type of case. Will the Government not put the machinery of eviction automatically into process without making some sort of inquiry as to the circumstances for the situation that has arisen in the same way as the Government does, I believe, in a lot of other areas in Gibraltar?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the answer is no. I cannot allow people to take the law into their own hands. I am not prepared to accept that.

17.12.80

NO. 370 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government ensure that every effort is made to find an alternative site/s for clothes lines at Varyl Begg?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Representations have been received from tenants at Varyl Begg and the matter is being considered.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 370 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Did not the Government envisage this problem on the Varyl Begg Estate and did they not make any contingency arrangement for clothes to be hung by the tenants of the Estate?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, Mr Speaker, there are other Estates that have not got drying areas, not that I say that Varyl Begg Estate should not have them but the matter is now being brought to light and it is being considered.

HON P J ISOLA:

That contingency did not come into the consideration of the Government until the tenants have started shouting about it, is that the position?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, Mr Speaker, this matter was considered. We knew very well that the pitched roofs would be depriving the tenants of drying areas and the matter is being looked at to try and alleviate the situation.

HON P J ISOLA:

But the position is that although the Government knew that the tenants would be deprived of drying areas they nevertheless did not address their attention to providing them with alternative drying areas until they have started shouting at the fact that they have been deprived, is that the position?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, our main priority was to try and stop the leaking roofs, the drying areas were secondary in our consideration.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state whether or not the Housing Department are consulted as to their housing composition requirements in respect of Housing projects to be undertaken by the Public Works Department and what is the nature of such consultation?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

The Housing Department is consulted by the Public Works Department in respect of the desirable mix at the planning stage of housing projects, and there is good liaison between the Public Works Department staff and the Housing staff on this matter before plans are put forward for approval.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 371 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I cannot believe that this is so. This comes back to supplementaries to Question No. 368 which we have just discussed earlier on. I am asking whether, though Mr Bossano talks about families and not people, I think that it is important when one talks of families

MR SPEAKER:

We must not make the subject matter of each question a debate.

HON A J HAYNES:

What is the optimum family number that the Housing Department try and have? What numerical composition is the most common in families?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

It depends entirely, Sir. If houses are being built in a particular area, the liaison between Housing and Public Works Department is that if we want to decant another building so that the modernisation programme can continue then, of course, we look at the new building to try and house what we are trying to decant. This is the way it goes. If it is not going to be used for decanting purposes then one would look as to whether we require more bedsitters, do we require in a given area three rooms, four rooms, and that is the kind of liaison that we have.

HON J BOSSANO:

Is it in fact the case that the Housing Department knows how many units of each size it requires for the number of people on the waiting list and is this information made available to the Public Works Department when they plan the houses they need to build? That, I think, is the information the Hon Mr Haynes is asking for.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I think I have answered that in my general reply, Mr Speaker.

NO. 372 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Can the Minister for Sport say what made him accept elected representatives to his Sports Committee as opposed to nominated ones?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

During my visit to UK I called upon the Department of the Environment (Ministry for Sport) and the Sports Council.

I was advised that the setting up of a Gibraltar Sports Council could only be achieved by:-

- i) The nomination of members by the Minister for Sport
- ii) Members should be completely independent of any sport.

Under the circumstances and requirements of Gibraltar the advice given was for the formation of a Committee, which should not be called "Sports Council", drawn up of members either nominated by the Minister for Sport or elected representatives of Associations having direct concern with facilities afforded by Government.

With this in view a meeting was held with the Chairman of the Gibraltar Sports Federation and it was agreed that the Executive Committee of the Federation (7 in total) would be nominated to serve on the Gibraltar Sports Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 372 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I just ask the Minister whether the Government proposes to introduce a motion in the House to revert the decision of the House at the last meeting on the issue of the Sports Committee? The House has resolved the sort of Sports Committee we should have.

NO. 373 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Why cannot students from the Boys' Comprehensive School use the showering facilities at the Victoria Stadium?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Students from the Boys' Comprehensive School using the indoor playing facilities can and do use the showers available to users of the indoor facilities at the Victoria Stadium Sports Centre. Students using the outdoor playing facilities use the showering facilities within the school. In order that students could use the 'outdoor' showers at the Stadium, as from 9 am, it would be necessary to rearrange the cleaning schedule, change the cleaner's conditions of service and engage one additional part-time cleaner.

The school is studying the positioning and cost of additional showering facilities within the school premises and proposes to request that provision be made in the 1981/82 Estimates.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 373 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

But why should they make provision in the school when you have already got provision in the Victoria Stadium?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the Hon Member referred to the Stadium staff as the "empire" and if the Hon Member wants to inflate the empire more then we have to change the cleaning duties of this particular cleaner in the outdoor facilities and engage another part-time cleaner and have to change their conditions of service, ie from 7 to 9 am, then from 2 pm to 4 pm and from 4 pm to 5 pm so as to allow the facilities to be used not only by schools but by consecutive sport that commences at the Stadium after 5 pm and thereby enlarging the empire at the Stadium which is so highly criticised.

HON W T SCOTT:

I would have thought, Mr Speaker, that on this particular question the priority of Government would have been to make as much use of the Stadium as possible?

MR SPEAKER:

We are not discussing that.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does not the Minister accept that if there are showering facilities there and there are people using the Victoria Stadium, they should be allowed to use the showering facilities and is not the position that the Minister should arrange the allocation or disposition of the staff to enable that to be done?

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister has said that but he says that he needs extra funds and until such time as they are voted he cannot implement it. That is the way I have read the answer.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I said that the "empire" at the Stadium had been so highly criticised that here is one case that if a service is wanted it has to be provided at the expense of being called a "kingdom" or an "empire".

NO. 374 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Why cannot schoolchildren make use of the Stadium facilities during all the school hours?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

It is not possible for schoolchildren to make use of all the Stadium facilities during all the school hours because essential maintenance has to be carried out to the playing facilities. It is considered necessary, practicable and more economical to carry out weekday maintenance during normal working hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 374 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

One would think, would not the Minister agree, that since school starts at 9 am it would seem a bit silly to have the sporting activities at school start at 10 am instead of at 9 am? I know I am again pressing on his empire but I would like an answer. Doesn't the Minister agree that it would be more reasonable to start sporting activities in school at 9 am considering that the Sports Stadium was primarily focussed on the use to be made of it by school children?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, Sir, for the information of the Hon Member, the Stadium is open to schools as from 9 am. The outdoor playing facilities are available from 9 am. The indoor playing facilities are available as from 10 am. This is on account of the cleaning requirements because the Stadium is used until very late at night and accordingly it has to be cleaned up between the hours of 8 am to 10 am but the outdoor playing facilities are available to the schools as from 9 am.

NO. 375 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government introduce breathalyser tests for drivers suspected of being under the influence of drink?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

At present there is no evidence to suggest a need for this type of test equipment in Gibraltar but the matter is under constant review.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 375 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

I think, Mr Speaker, since the question was drafted, and reading today's Chronicle, it should perhaps be not breathalyser tests but electronic breath testing machines. I am surprised with the answer of the Minister that there is no need. I think there is always a need for certain preventive equipment to stop drivers driving under the influence of drink. Would the Minister not consider introducing electronic equipment? One would not need to buy too many of them.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the information I have is that from 1st June to 1st December this year there were 27 cases involving arrests as a result of driving under the influence of drink or drugs. Out of the 27, 19 cases were taken to court, out of those 19 cases, 6 resulted in being acquitted, 1 is awaiting trial and 12 convicted. I do not think one can say that there is a need to have to bring any kind of machinery to test one's incapability of being able to drive. I would say that the situation of the law as it stands in Gibraltar is, to my mind, quite satisfactory at this stage.

HON G T RESTANO:

I would have thought, Mr Speaker, and perhaps the Minister would give me an answer to that, that this depends very much on how active the police are on this matter.

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are now debating.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, the Minister has said that there is no need and I am questioning that. On the evidence that he has before him, he says 27 have come up in the last twelve months but surely the reason that there may only have been 27 cases is that the police may not have been actively engaged in stopping people who are driving a bit suspiciously, would the Minister not agree with that?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, Mr Speaker, I cannot agree with that at all. If the Hon Member is aware, the powers of arrest under the breathalyser system is what is known as contributory power of arrest, in other words, the police can only use a breathalyser in the United Kingdom when something has been seen to be wrong in the method of driving. It is not that they can use the breathalyser when people walk down the streets, there must be some circumstances warranting that. In Gibraltar the circumstances are that a person can be under the influence of drink or drugs to such an extent as not to have proper control of the vehicle. The difference between a breathalyser and our test is that you could be stopped with a breathalyser after having had one whisky and have positive results in the breathalyser but you are still not incapable of having proper control of the vehicle. In Gibraltar whether you have had a milk stout or thirty whiskies the question is, is that person able to have proper control of the vehicle and a medical examination takes place and the evidence is given in court and, of course, people are convicted or acquitted.

HON G T RESTANO:

Surely, the Minister must be aware of the comments of the Stipendiary Magistrate who said in a case where he had to acquit a person, that he felt that such type of test would be of great benefit to him when they were brought in front of him by the police.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

This came to my attention but I am told that the Stipendiary Magistrate, although making a comment, was not really pressing for that particular test other than making a passing remark but I think the Hon Attorney-General may be able to enlighten us further on that issue.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

What the Stipendiary Magistrate said was not to suggest the introduction of a breathalyser test. My information is that he was comparing breathalyser testing with our law which is the driving under the influence of drink or drugs law. He was not indicating a preference for the one or the other.

HON G T RESTANO:

Would the Government consider, now it seems to be electronic equipment which does not require the blood and urine tests, would the Government seriously consider now amending the law and using this type of equipment?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Government will always consider any legislation which is to the benefit of the community but I must emphasise that I do not think that Gibraltar's history of driving under the influence is as bad as to warrant a drastic change in our laws.

HON G T RESTANO:

One final question, Mr Speaker. Would the Government, before the next House and perhaps at the next House, inform the House how much this sort of equipment would cost if it were purchased, in other words, make an investigation and let the House know at the next meeting?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Yes, I think I can commit myself to find out what the expenses involved would be.

HON A J HAYNES:

Did the Minister say in his original answer that he had no evidence to show that the present state of the law is unsatisfactory?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, I did not say it was unsatisfactory, what I said was that the circumstances in Gibraltar of being able to establish if a person is under the influence of drink or drugs is slightly different to that of the United Kingdom.

MR SPEAKER:

The original answer was that at present there is no evidence to suggest a need for this type of test.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is the House aware that the British Medical Association in England at the time when the English law was similar to ours, held that the clinical test which is the test that we have now, was unsatisfactory?

MR SPEAKER:

I think we are talking at cross purposes. The Minister said that there is no need for this type of test equipment in Gibraltar, not that the evidence is insufficient.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is the Minister aware of the BMA findings on the clinical tests?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, I am not aware of the BMA tests at all, Sir.

HON A J HAYNES:

It might be of some help, since they emphatically state that the clinical tests must be carried out in full and is not sensitive enough to definitively state that somebody is drunk unless that state of drunkenness is quite extreme. Unless you are rolling drunk the clinical tests cannot be 100% sure of finding you to be drunk and that, Sir, I submit, is unsatisfactory and if the Minister agrees that it is unsatisfactory then, perhaps, he will press the matter with more urgency.

HON H. J. ZAMMITT:

I could not possibly say that I agree it is unsatisfactory. My experience in the past is one of coordination, that Doctors have examined individuals, but as I say it is not that one has to be drunk it is under the influence and not to have proper control of the vehicle. One could exaggerate and say that one could be completely drunk and yet have control of the vehicle but that is the evidence that the court must be afforded by the medical officer carrying out the particular test and it is up to the court to accept or refuse the evidence afforded by the medical profession.

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, I am quite aware of the legal position as to whether somebody is capable or incapable of driving a car. The court obviously . . .

MR SPEAKER:

If you want some information you are free to ask for the information. This is question time and if we want to debate the question as to which particular test is needed for Gibraltar we can debate that in a motion but at question time we must limit ourselves.

HON A J HAYNES:

Would the House consider it satisfactory to know that as a result of fairly arbitrary medical measures, some people might be convicted innocently and since the offence carries a statutory period of one year's loss of licence, I would ask the House to consider the matter more thoroughly.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I think, if anything, the evidence as afforded today under our Traffice Ordinance, if anything it goes very much in favour of the person who is pretty well under the influence of drink but it is difficult to substantiate it.

17.12.80

NO. 376 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state why it is not possible for Government to designate selected places for the parking of trailers and why they allow derelict trailers parked in public thoroughfares?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 377 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

What permanent arrangements does Government intend to implement so that: a) access to the hospital is made absolutely free for doctors and hospital staff, and b) sufficient parking facilities are made available to the general public visiting St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Due to absence of space it is not possible to provide additional or further parking facilities to either staff or visitors to St Bernard's Hospital. Since the recent increased police activity, hospital staff have expressed satisfaction at the position. The unsatisfactory position in early November was caused by lack of consideration by visitors to the hospital who were parking vehicles with total disregard to the convenience of others.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 377 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

I take that point but does Government have absolutely no idea as to parking spaces being made available for visitors?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the Hon Member may recall that Government provided more than 50 parking spaces behind Arengo's Palace.

HON G T RESTANO:

Does the Government think that this is sufficient?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the answer has been made very clear, due to lack of space it is impossible to provide additional parking facilities. Next question.

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government state what further legal action it can take with respect to the barrier at Cornwall's Lane having regard to the proceedings it has already instituted?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

In the case of the Cornwall's Lane barrier no legal action is necessary as works to comply with the Nuisance Order in question are already in hand.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 378 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Is there a time limit imposed, Mr Speaker, to effect the necessary work?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I do not know about a time limit, Mr Speaker, all I can say is that the next step in the situation when no action follows a Nuisance Order or a warning letter is to proceed again to the Magistrates' Court under Section 85 with a view to obtaining conviction and a fine. I do not know if it is a month or three weeks. I am told that the work is in hand.

HON W T SCOTT:

The point is that we have had Nuisance Orders of this nature so, I understand, many times before and that certain landlords comply only to a very minor extent and thus procrastinate the time element involved. I am looking for a time period within which the repairs can be effected.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I am afraid I haven't got the information, Mr Speaker, but I will find out and I will inform the Hon Member.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Perhaps I could assist. A Nuisance Order would have a time limit specified in it. If one reached the point where and one does not always reach the point, but if one did reach the point where the Magistrates' Court proceedings were not efficacious, there is power to go to the Supreme Court as we have done in the past but that is a step we would take if we thought it was necessary on the facts of the case.

17.12.80

NO. 379 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state why the Post Office needs to rent or hire transport to carry out its services and how much this is costing?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 380 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

In view of the obvious need of good political public relations for Gibraltar in the United Kingdom will Government consider extending the activities of the Gibraltar Office in London in this direction?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 381 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what it is estimated will represent in money the commission due to be paid to Bermans in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year respectively after the £20,000 already paid to them have been recouped?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 382 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state how much in cash the 5% commission to be paid to Bermans on the sales of souvenirs is estimated will amount to yearly and for how long will Government have to carry on paying this commission?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 383 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state how much Government will be paying Bermans for the maintenance of the exhibitions at St Michael's Cave, Upper Galleries and the Tower of Homage and how many persons will be travelling how many times a year at Government expense to carry out the maintenance?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 384 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state judging by hotel occupancy so far how the
Tourist Trade is doing this winter?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 385 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what is the forecast from the Tourist Trade this coming summer based on the bookings received up to now?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

17.12.80

NO. 386 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can the acting Minister for Tourism state if he has made any progress in connection with the formation of a Tourist Advisory Board?

QUESTION WITHDRAWN

NO. 387 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government consider re-defining the parking areas available to the residents of Schomberg by altering the angle of these parking bays with a view to increasing the number of these bays?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the existing standard parking bay must be able to accommodate both large and small vehicles, it is doubtful whether, by adjusting the angle of parking, extra spaces will be achieved, bearing in mind that vehicles must have sufficient room to manoeuvre into and out of the bays.

Furthermore, in case of emergencies, fire etc, the access lane must be wide enough to allow a quick escape. The adjustment of the angle of parking to accommodate more cars would reduce the width of the access road and would give rise to a lowering of safety standards.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 387 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Minister did say it was doubtful. Would the Minister take steps, in fact, to ensure either the one or the other, that there is no doubt, that there is room for more parking spaces or that there is not room for more parking spaces, that is what I am asking the Minister.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

As I have said it is considered that it will give hardly any extra room and this will be considerably offset to the detriment by the lack of manoeuvrability and access space. I am still willing to look at it further but I don't think that very much will come out of it.

17.12.80

NO. 388 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government confirm that the water cistern at Anderson House has been cleaned and is now operational?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the underground cistern at Anderson House has been cleaned and was certified ready for use on 14th November, 1980. The electric water pump has been repaired and is now functioning.

17.12.80

NO. 389 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, what further progress can Government report on with respect to the completion and handing over of the new Public Works Garage?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, a Partial Completion Certificate was issued for the 28 November, 1980. This covered the Main Building only and was subject to the completion of outstanding items.

It should be noted that partial handover of areas of the building were effected in August to allow Public Works Department to instal plinths and bases for machine tools and erect work benches - this is continuing.

It is anticipated that full completion will be in mid January when the external area will be completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 389 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Will the Minister confirm to this House that the delay in the completion of the Public Works Garage will not adversely affect the completion of the Girls' Comprehensive School?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I should think it will not make any difference.

NO. 390 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government state the cost of constructing the two small benches and the flowerbed at Governor's Parade and will Government consider reprovding this historical 'ball-playing' area elsewhere within the same vicinity?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the works at the small Piazza, Governor's Parade, included the manufacture of two replica concrete seats to match the existing ones, a small flowerbed and repairs to the surrounding paving including the replacement of a defective manhole. On completion, all the seats in the Piazza were painted.

The works were charged to the General Road Maintenance Vote but from records of labour distribution, the order of cost was £350.

The works were undertaken after the residents of the properties surrounding the Piazza complained about the misuse of the area. Consequently, the reprovision of the 'ball-playing' area is not under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 390 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, I understand from my Hon Colleague on my right who is a resident that he didn't complain. Am I to take it that the Government has been selective in listening to complaints?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

We were given a letter which a reasonable number of people had written in complaining that that area was being used, in their view, to its detriment for the playing of football etc, and they asked that something might be done to prevent it by notices or whatever you would like to do, being put up to stop ball playing. If the Hon Mr Restano enjoys ball playing there then I am afraid he will have to go somewhere else instead.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, this area has been used precisely for that purpose and other playing purposes, in fact, by children historically now for generations and I think that Government should have considered this point.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I would not say that it has been used for generations. Since it was made, a little Piazza it was never intended to be a ball playing area, it was intended to be a beautiful little area in Gibraltar perhaps with open air cafes. I don't think the idea of open air cafes and a ball playing area are very compatible.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, but since there isn't any cafe or any other area does not Government

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are not going to debate whether the place should be used for a ball playing area.

HON P J ISOLA:

What we are asking is whether he should reprovide it. Did the Minister consult with the Childrens' Union?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The Childrens' Union did not make any representations.

HON G T RESTANO:

The Minister did say that the cost was £350. Is this the overall total cost of just the materials or the materials used and labour?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Materials used is not very great, Sir, it is only a small quantity of cement for the actual making. It is basically the labour, I should say it is about £300 labour and £50 material.

HON G T RESTANO:

I wonder whether the Minister is correct there because I think they were working there for at least a month and I can't see two people working there full time for a month at least only getting £300. Would the Minister make inquiries about that because on top of that you have got the materials cost.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, my figures are taken from the work sheets. I do not think it is accurate to say that two men were working there full time for a month. There was a considerable period of time in which no work was being done, they had all cleared off for Ramadam but, of course, there was the hole in the centre of the Piazza.

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what defects have been found in the completed works at Casemates Hostel?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, certain defects have been found in the completed works at Casemates Hostel. These can be split into 4 headings:

- (a) Those defects caused either wholly or partially by the Contractor.
- (b) Those caused as a result of unforeseen circumstances.
- (c) Those caused by the occupants themselves.
- (d) Those caused by vandalism.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 391 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, can the Government say what is being done about the defects caused by the Contractor, are these being put right by the Contractor?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, the works by the contractor in the dormitories, there was flaking paint of the ceilings and walls, this is actually being contested at the moment between the Public Works and the contractor. If appears that it was caused by rain water percolating through the roof structure to the upper dormitories and both rain water and salt water percolating through the balconies at first floor level. The contractor maintains the problems in the upper dormitories is through inherent dampness within the roof structures which has resulted from several years of rain water penetrating the exposed roof areas. Public Works partly agrees with this but also believe that some of the rain water has percolated into the structure since the constructor has been in possession of the site. The flat roof was completely exposed between August, 1979 and January, 1980 due to late arrival of the roof sheets. Welded floors lifting in isolated areas of the vynl sheet flooring, this is being repaired. The plastic laminate is lifting to some of the work tops in the kitchens, doors and windows are sticking and require easing and adjusting. Slight leaks on water pipes have been found and these are currently being repaired by the contractor under the maintenance period.

HON J BOSSANO:

In fact, Mr Speaker, can the Hon Member say what sort of inspection there is in completed contracts before the Government accepts it because we seem to be facing situations, the Hon Member would agree, that we seem to have a situation where there is tendency for Government contractors to apparently finish work that is not up to the standard the Government requires.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The normal situation, Sir, is that work is taken at its face value for a certificate of completion but there is usually a one year or at least a 6 month maintenance period and if any faults arise in that time they are then laid at the contractor's door and the onus is on him to replace or repair anything that is wrong. It is obvious, for example, that certain things will appear at face value to be alright on day one but because the workmanship has not been as good as it should have been, perhaps, by day 80 or 90 then the faults begin to appear. They are then laid at the contractor's door and under the maintenance arrangement he has to repair them at his expense.

17.12.80

NO. 392 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government give an explanation for the inordinate delay in executing the present road works at King's Yard Lane?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, King's Yard Lane is now open to vehicular traffic. Delays in completion occurred as a result of the complexity of existing services which were encountered during the course of the excavations for the new sewer. *Some of the existing service pipes were very old and fractured, when disturbed, so that repairs were constantly having to be made as the work proceeded, resulting in an over-run to the original period of 18 weeks envisaged and as arranged for the road closure. The finished surfacing will not be laid until settlement of the excavations has taken place - normally a period of about 6 months. It is not in the Question, Sir, but I don't think there is any inordinate delay.

NO. 393 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government undertake to clean and restore the historic pathway to the Upper Rock from Devil's Gap Steps?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Yes, Sir, it is proposed to clean up this area before Christmas. Further repairs required will be carried out early in the new year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 393 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Why has Government allowed it to become so dilapidated and even dangerous?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

There are many areas in the Upper Rock, Sir, which are in need of repair and it is not possible, with the rather limited labour force that we have, to do all of them all the time. This is the reason that some of them fall into disrepair but we try to keep up as best we can.

HON A J HAYNES:

Would not the Government agree that it is cheaper to maintain something tidy which has not been destroyed rather than having to go through the expense of refurbishing it completely once it has gone to ruin?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think that is a question that might be debatable, Sir.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government give an account of the works undertaken at Casola Buildings since 16th November, 1980?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Yes, Sir, the works undertaken at Casola's Buildings since 16th November, 1980, are as follows:-

- (a) Placing of 14 in No. new tarpaulins on the roof.
- (b) Empty flats have been sealed off.
- (c) Make safe measures have been carried out to all corridors in danger.
- (d) Partial rehabilitation of communal toilets to allow for sanitary use.
- (e) Due to strong gale winds on 8th December, 1980, all tarpaulins on the roof had to be refixed.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 394 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

No internal work, I take it, has been done, then? Is any envisaged?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The communal toilets, I don't know if you want to call those internal and the corridors in danger also might be considered internal. There were representations by one tenant and an inspection with a view to effecting repairs for the kitchen and corridor was carried out. However, the tenant later declined to allow for these safe measures to be taken.

HON A J HAYNES:

When these abandoned flats were sealed were they emptied of rubbish first?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

That I couldn't say, Sir. I will inquire and let the Hon Questioner know.

17.12.80

NO. 395 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, can Government state what figures it has available, as at 30th November, 1980, for job vacancies?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Speaker, on 30th November, 1980, the Department of Labour and Social Security had 23 notified job vacancies. By 10th December three of these vacancies had been filled, six cancelled and a further five opened, leaving a balance of 19.

NO. 396 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, can Government give a breakdown of unemployment figures in the different categories as at 30th November, 1980?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, unemployment figures as at end of November, 1980, were as follows:-

<u>BRITISH</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
Adults	:	Males 64	
		Females 42	106
Juveniles	:	Males 13	
		Females 28	41
			147
<u>ALIENS</u>			
Adults	:	Males 107	
		Females 14	121
			<u>121</u>
			<u>268</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 396 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

I see that there is quite an increase, Mr Speaker, particularly in the figures for the adult males. The figures from February were 38, figures for May 23, September 76, it shot up, and then again it shot up to 107. Can the Government state what particular reasons other than the more obvious ones there have been on the moratorium for this very sharp increase since May?

HON A J CANEPA:

There are two main reasons, Mr Speaker. The first is due mainly to the further redundancies resulting from the recession in the construction industry and the second one, and to a lesser extent, is due to the seasonal laying off of hotel workers.

HON W T SCOTT:

What period of time would Government expect these unemployed aliens to remain in Gibraltar and be subject to the supplementary benefits or unemployment benefits?

HON A J CANEPA:

They are entitled to receive unemployment benefit for 13 weeks and it is only fair and reasonable that they should be allowed to remain in Gibraltar for at least those 13 weeks. Subsequent to that the action taken may well depend on their employment prospects. Thus, depending on the time of the year, if there were to be a number of people unemployed, say, in June, and they are hotel workers, their employment prospects are very much brighter with the imminence of the summer season and then the Department of Labour and Social Security would exercise its discretion to see whether they should be allowed to remain another week or two beyond the 13 weeks to see whether they can get a job but normally it is 13 weeks.

HON W T SCOTT:

I see also, Mr Speaker, that on the British adults for females, that has also gone up slightly, not very much, by 4 since February of this year. Can Government give some reason for this?

HON A J CANEPA:

I don't think there is a particular problem. There is no serious problem, there is a fair turnover, it is a case of some people taking up a job for limited periods of time, giving it up and then perhaps taking on a job later on but there is none of what I would call underlying seriousness involved here, there isn't any.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Member agree, in fact, with the allegations that the real unemployment figure is something like 500 because there are that many more people who do not register?

HON A J CANEPA:

I don't think that that is the case any longer, I think it used to be the case about 5 years ago but that is not the case any longer. I have no evidence to indicate to that. I imagine that among aliens there are a few people who do not register because perhaps they do not wish their presence in Gibraltar to go documented, shall we say, but all the indications that we have in the Labour Department are that the problem is not a great deal more serious than these figures would tend to indicate. Five years ago, yes, I would agree that our records did not reflect a very accurate picture, I think they do now.

HON J BOSSANO:

Can the Minister say whether people can continue to register even if they are not entitled to unemployment benefit?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, they can, in fact.

HON J BOSSANO:

And such people would be included in the figures that he has made available?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, that was not the case previously. Up to about five years ago only those people actually in receipt of unemployment benefit were recorded in the figures for unemployed, now regardless of whether they are getting unemployment benefit, supplementary benefit or no benefit at all, they are recorded as unemployed.

HON J BOSSANO:

Can I ask whether in fact, apart from the unemployment created in the construction industry of which we are all aware, the seasonal numbers out of work is higher than average for this time of the year?

HON A J CANEPA:

It is certainly higher than last year because last year was a particularly good year for the hotel industry including the winter and virtually no workers in the hotel industry became unemployed but compared to previous years I would say that the pattern is not greatly different and since the Hon Member has asked about the average I would say it is pretty well the same.

NO. 397 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government state what progress has been made with the other Official Employers with respect to the amended motion passed at the last meeting of this House dealing with industrial training?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, it is intended, in the first instance, to discuss the matter with the other official departments in the forum of the Gibraltar Official Employers Apprentices Board at its next meeting in the new year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 397 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Sir, would Government have any indication whether a final decision would be reached in this forum to make the scheme available to prospective apprentices at the next entrance examinations which would be presumably immediately after the summer? Would Government work towards this target?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes; we can certainly work towards that target. I think at the first meeting what is likely to happen will be that there will be a preliminary exchange of views from the various employing departments, including the UK Departments, on this matter. Having been acquainted as they have been with the substance of the motion I would also hope that it might be possible by the time that the Board next meets that a Hansard of the debate might be available because I think that that would also be useful to the members of the Board and then I imagine there will be a preliminary exchange of views and, perhaps, some reference back to the employing departments before the matter crystallises.

HON W T SCOTT:

We look forward to that date, Mr Speaker.

NO. 398 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Is Government aware that the moratorium on construction work for the UK departments has been replaced by a policy of severe constraints which to all intents and purposes has the same effect?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Yes, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 398 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, then in view of the fact that one of the main reasons given by the Government in a motion in the last House of Assembly was that the moratorium was being lifted, will they reconsider their position since they are now aware that it has not been lifted, it has simply been renamed?

HON A J CANEPA:

The position as we understand it, Mr Speaker, is that in practical terms the policy of severe constraints means much the same as the moratorium which it has replaced. Our information is that existing contract arrangements on work for the United Kingdom Departments can be proceeded with but no new works will be started or additional expenditure incurred at least until the end of the present financial year, in other words, until the end of March. The position, Mr Speaker, is that the Government also will be putting out to tender two substantial projects early in 1981, there is the extension to the Air Terminal and there is modernisation of housing at Castle Road, Road to the Lines, a project which is going to cost about £ $\frac{1}{2}$ m. Another major project, of course, is the new power station in respect of which we expect the main contractor and the sub-contractors to be drawing up their labour requirements in the first half of 1981 and therefore I would say that these three projects, taken together, should absorb a great deal of the labour that is now redundant.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Minister then keep the situation under review in the light of what he has said and if he finds that it is failing to provide sufficient work for the industry, will he consider what additional measures should be taken?

HON A J CANEPA:

I can undertake to do that, Mr Speaker. By then we should also have some indication as to what the position will be about the next development programme.

NO. 399 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON. P J ISOLA

Sir, in view of a recent statement by Government that possession of a site for development as a multi-storey car park will not actually be available to a developer for a period of three years ought not the Government to consider an alternative site for a multi-storey car park that can be built upon more speedily?

ANSWER

THE HON. THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, the siting of a multi-storey car park has been carefully considered by the planning authorities. The specialised nature of this type of building calls for a site of considerable size and its location must be related to other factors: a project of this nature would not be economically viable otherwise. These requirements limit the choice of sites that could be considered for this purpose. The conclusion which the Development and Planning Commission therefore came to after prolonged study was that there was no other suitable site readily available.

I may add that the Commission would naturally consider any practical suggestion for an alternative site.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 399 OF 1980

HON. P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, does not the Minister agree, having regard to the terms of the Government announcement and having regard to the time in which a developer has to build under the proposed licence that the Government will grant, that in fact the completed multi-storey car park will not be available for use till 1987 and is that going to give any comfort for the alleviation of the serious car parking problems that we have in Gibraltar?

HON. A J CANEPA:

I am not going to argue about the date of 1987, Mr Speaker, one thing that I can say is that no multi-storey car park is going to be built at Casemates within the next three years and that in itself is not going to give comfort or relief in respect of a car parking problem, we are aware of that, of course, we are aware of that and there is no use kidding ourselves about it, but there is no other site available in Gibraltar where, in addition to the need for a substantial number of car parking spaces, you could also have the supporting commercial development by way of offices and shops that is also necessary to ensure that such a project becomes a viable proposition. For instance, only last Friday, as a result of the proposal coming from a certain quarter and I won't mention where the quarter was from, the Development and Planning Commission considered whether a multi-storey car park should not be built on Alameda Grand Parade which is the one large remaining open space

for the enjoyment of the people of Gibraltar. A consideration there, quite apart from other aspects about the fact that this is an open space which is used for religious processions, for military parades, for a fair, hopefully, some day and so on, quite apart from that, one of the considerations about the viability of such a project is whether offices and shops, commercial development, that is what we are advised by the National Car Parks Association people, whether office accommodation and shops would be of any interest to commercial developers in that area, in the South district. The conclusion that we came to was that that is hardly likely to be the case so unless the Hon Member can identify, which I would be very grateful because it would be for the general benefit of Gibraltar and not just of the Government in office, any site which can be made readily available, I am afraid that the position is that we are stuck.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, where does the Government get the idea that in order for a multi-storey car park to be viable, the Hon Member has mentioned the National Car Parks, you need a commercial area? There are many instances of car parks run by

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister has said that they had been advised by the National Car Parks Association.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the Government accept that sort of advice in a place like Gibraltar where there is no comparison anywhere in England to the sort of demand in Gibraltar except the city of London?

HON A J CANEPA:

I will go further. The advice that we have is that there is virtually nowhere in Europe where a multi-storey car park can be built in isolation without sustaining very substantial deficits, that is the information that we have, it may be wrong.

HON P J ISOLA:

But is not the answer, Mr Speaker, in a place like Gibraltar, for the Government to put out a site for tender without any commercial development purely as a multi-storey car park and see what happens because is the Minister confident, for example, that he will get takers who have to start off with reprovioning seven quarters which the Government has estimated at £300,000 but if we take the Government estimates for Woodford Cottage it is

MR SPEAKER:

Order. We must not have speeches.

HON A J CANEPA:

Let the Hon Member not bring Woodford Cottage into it because he is not in possession of the facts. It is an important factor, Mr Speaker, which I think is relevant and that is the question of reprovisioning.

MR SPEAKER:

I stopped him on the question of Woodford Cottage and I do not want you to elaborate on it.

HON A J CANEPA:

No, I am not talking about Woodford Cottage I am talking about the cost of reprovisioning the seven married quarters at Casemates. Betterment has to be taken into account. The cost of reprovisioning seven married quarters is not something that has to be met from scratch, only the extent to which there is no betterment. The difference between the betterment factor in rebuilding seven married quarters and the cost of those quarters, that is what would have to be met by the developer. It is a severe constraint, I accept it, yes.

HON P J ISOLA:

That is what I am asking the Minister. Is he at all confident that putting out a site for tender which puts the developer into paying, I would say, at a conservative estimate, £300,000, is the Minister confident that such a developer will come forward and do this sort of thing?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, people have shown interest with considerable financial backing. I only wish the site could be made available next month and not in three years time.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, could I ask the Hon Member why it is that it cannot be made available earlier than in three years?

HON A J CANEPA:

It could well be that if the developer were able to reprovide the seven quarters beforehand, I am sure that the Ministry of Defence would consider the matter but the fact is that the Ministry of Defence themselves who, having regard to the commitment that the Government has given in regard to reprovisioning, have included those seven married quarters in their next build for married quarters, they themselves cannot provide them within three years but if the developer could do so before then, then I think the Ministry of Defence would accept that.

HON J BOSSANO:

So in fact the three years is because that is the earliest time within which the Ministry of Defence themselves can reprovide the quarters?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask, Mr Speaker, is the position then that the site for these seven married quarters is now available for building upon?

HON A J CANEPA:

The position, Mr Speaker, is that the Ministry of Defence have included that in their feasibility study for the next build of 70-plus married quarters.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can the Minister tell us what, in his view, would be the earliest date for this development to be completed? Is the estimate of six years from now not an unreasonable one?

HON A J CANEPA:

I would not hazard a guess, Mr Speaker, I am not an expert really.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, if it is going to take so long to have a multi-storey car park at Casemates, why is it not possible to build a multi-storey car park opposite Ocean Heights where one, I think, some time in the past was envisaged?

HON A J CANEPA:

For a start, Mr Speaker, I would say that the area in question is rather small, it is not very large, secondly, there might be serious town planning objections because of the City Walls, that could be a constraint.

HON A T LODDO:

Has Government considered the Old Command Education Centre?

HON A J CANEPA:

The Old Command Education Centre is currently the subject of very serious consideration by the Development and Planning Commission. I think I indicated as much in a written answer that I gave to the Questioner at the last meeting of the House including for a multi-storey car park purposes but its access to that area right in the centre of town is also an inhibiting factor.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, the Hon Member said, in fact, that the reason why the possibility of a multi-storey car park at the Alameda Parade, quite apart from anything else, would be that it would not be commercially viable because it would not be attractive for development as offices and shops as well. Without finding out whether anybody would be interested in this, how is he able to judge this?

HON A J CANEPA:

The members of the Development and Planning Commission, who are not infallible, consider that the indications are that the demand that there is for office accommodation and for shops is not in that part of town. There is a great demand for office accommodation in the centre of town, near Casemates, for instance, or in Governor's Parade. We have identified the present Fortress Sergeants' Mess as a site that would be very suitable for that purpose. These are the indications that we have and therefore that is why we consider, we may be wrong, that people would not be interested in having offices or shops at Alameda Grand Parade to support the multi-storey car park apart from any principle as to whether that is the correct use to which to put that plan.

17.12.80

NO. 400 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government now confirm that the Naval Hockey Ground will not be used for car parking and can Government further state on what terms the Ministry of Defence agreed to release the Naval Hockey Ground for parking of motor cars?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, insofar as the first part of the question is concerned I have nothing to add to the statement made by the Chief Minister during the course of a debate on this matter at the last meeting of the House.

With regard to the second part the MOD's agreement to relinquish the grounds in question was conditional on the reprovisioning of the existing facilities in other areas as soon as possible both on an interim and long-term basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 400 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask, was that to be the reprovision of these facilities for the MOD?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, there is a continuing MOD requirement for such sporting facilities.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does Government have another area to reprovision them on an interim basis?

HON A J CANEPA:

There was another area under consideration up at Europa. On a long term basis there was also talk which the MOD have accepted, in principle, that the two Football Naval Grounds could be reprovisioned on a long term basis on the foreshore of HMS Rooke through further reclamation, they would accept that in principle.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, but the reprovisioning of the Naval Ground at Europa, was that going to be paid for by the Gibraltar Government and does the Government know the cost of that?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, we did have a figure about the cost of that, £80,000, and it would have been paid for from the proceeds of a paying car park.

HON P J ISOLA:

Was that the area that the Government had envisaged to give school children who were playing in Naval Ground in the town area, that is where they were going to play, at Europa? Did the Government have plans for transporting them there or are they going to walk?

HON A J CANEPA:

I accept the difficulty and also the Naval authorities also have objections for the same reasons. They require for their sailors to have these facilities available and they were not particularly happy about having to transport them all the way up there. Yes, it was a problem.

HON P J ISOLA:

So that in truth and in fact, am I right in thinking that the use of the Naval Hockey Ground for parking was a little more than a dream on the part of the Government?

HON A J CANEPA:

Not as much of a dream as the opening of the frontier.

NO. 401 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government not agree that there has been slippage on the construction of the Air Terminal Extension and will Government inform this House on the steps it is taking and will take to accelerate this development?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the Airport Terminal building had to be completely redesigned due to the high apron reprovisioning costs required by MOD for the 45' - 0" eastern extension planned.

The working drawings and contract documents for the re-planned northern extension are now being finalised and it is hoped to go out to tender during January next year.

To accelerate this project, materials and equipment have been pre-ordered, eg, steelwork, cladding and roofing, baggage handling equipment, baggage weighing machines and floor finishes.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 301 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

When does the Government envisage, if it is going out to tender in 1981, when will it be placed in a position to award the tender and when does it anticipate the contract being completed and the extension of the Airport being functional?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I should imagine that the tender will have a four-week life, there will be 3/4 weeks evaluation so work should probably start in March, it will probably be a six to nine month job.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Sir, can Government state what has caused the slippage in the proposed development at Catalan Bay?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the slippage in the proposed development at Catalan Bay has been caused by a change in the original decision of developing the site as an extension of Medview Terrace by adapting existing contract drawings and documents of the prototype design.

At the request of the Catalan Bay Committee, consideration was given for an alternative design which would still be in keeping with the architectural character of the village but which could provide 12 units in the first phase, incorporating a housing mix that would relate to the demands set by the family composition of those at the top of the housing waiting list, this is obviously the housing waiting list at Catalan Bay.

In consultation with the Catalan Bay Committee, it was decided to proceed with such a scheme. This has of course led to a need for a new design and the production of new contract drawings and documents with the consequent delays in a starting date.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 402 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, how much, in fact, does it cost the Government to have the new bills of survey, the contracts and so on done again because, presumably, the Government went ahead with the scheme without consulting the villagers, then they were told afterwards having spent the money on doing all the projects and now they have got to do it again because, presumably, the villagers were not consulted in the first place. What is the cost of this?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, there was no question of doing anything again, the question was that Medview Terrace was built some time ago and the idea was to take the actual designs as they were and build another block with the same design, so no costs were involved whatsoever in that at all. Costs have only been involved in the designing of the new block, so there is no question of money having been spent and then thrown away and wasted because there was a change of mind, it was simply that the change of mind meant that we were not getting something gratis.

HON G T RESTANO:

When, in fact, did the villagers make their representations for a change of plan?

HON P J ISOLA:

At election time.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the Hon Mr Isola is wrong, the change of mind was some-
time in September, 1979, and we had the new ideas ready by about
December, 1979.

HON P J ISOLA:

Were those the plans that were shown to the villagers?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I have many more questions to ask on this but I must
do some research and I will reserve the right to ask further ques-
tions at the next meeting of the House because I am not absolutely
convinced at the Minister's answers.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I am very pleased to answer any questions the Hon Member cares to
put.

MR SPEAKER:

Provided they can be asked within the six months rules, not other-
wise.

NO. 403 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government say what is the total number of housing units it proposes to include in the 1981/84 Development Programme?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, the Government is in the process of submitting its proposals for the next Development Programme to HMG covering a five-year plan period between 1981 and 1986. At this early stage therefore I regret that I cannot state the number of housing units which the Government proposes to include in the next programme. I will say however that housing will continue to carry the highest priority in line with the Government's commitment given in its Election Manifesto and subsequently in this House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 403 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, I assume that the Hon Member is not willing to make information available in case, in fact, the thing does not materialise. It isn't that the Government doesn't know how many houses it would need in the next five years to resolve the housing problem I take it?

HON A J CANEPA:

There are doubts about the number of houses that are actually required to solve the housing problem. I can say this, Mr Speaker, that there is a total of around 13 housing projects or phases which are currently earmarked for development in the next plan period.

HON J BOSSANO:

In fact, Mr Speaker, are we talking of a five year programme of the order of, say, 100 houses a year? Are we talking about 500 or 600 houses or are we talking about the sort of experience we have had in the last 4 or 5 years where the output has been considerably below what was the average for the decade from 1970 to 1980?

HON A J CANEPA:

I think we are aiming at the sort of figures that the Hon Member has mentioned.

NO. 404 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state whether the proposed new prison will have facilities for an Attendance Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 404 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Why Not?

HON A J CANEPA:

I understand, Mr Speaker, that it is the general practice not to use penal establishments other than for the custody of offenders, persons awaiting trial and civil prisoners. It would not benefit the prospects of rehabilitation of the juvenile to carry out his attendance periods in a custodial environment.

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, since we have already heard that this Government doesn't do everything that is desirable or everything that is desirable but not essential, since they have the opportunity to look into the Government facilities for offenders, they should avail themselves of the opportunity of larger spaces to provide an Attendance Centre though albeit I accept that most prisons don't have one, surely it would be a good opportunity to make advantage of the space?

HON A J CANEPA:

What the new prison will, of course, provide, Mr Speaker, will be calls for juveniles who are actually detained, certainly, there will be better provision for that than what there is in the existing prison but it runs against all established practice to even contemplate having an Attendance Centre in any way connected or linked or adjacent to a prison.

HON A J HAYNES:

Surely, it is possible, I believe, to have an Attendance Centre which is isolated even though it is in the same area. Is it not possible to have it isolated from the prison itself?

HON A J CANEPA:

Apart from the fact, Mr Speaker, as to whether it is the right thing to do, in principle, and I disagree with the Hon Member, I think there must be no suggestion whatsoever, having regard to what an Attendance Centre should be providing, that it should be in the same environment as the prison. Quite apart from that, I can tell the Hon Member that the area that may become available in the Governor's Cottage Camp is not that extensive.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 405 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Since the Victoria Hotel is recognised by Government as suitable accommodation under the Labour From Abroad (Accommodation) Ordinance will Government conduct an investigation into the complaints of long term residents of this Hotel?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, the Government recognises the Victoria Hotel as licensed hotel accommodation and, as such, accepts it as accommodation for foreign workers, who choose to reside there, in order to facilitate their stay in Gibraltar and hence allow them to be able to take up employment locally.

The Labour from Abroad (Exemption of Premises) Rules 1974 expressly exempts the Victoria Hotel from the provision of the Labour from Abroad (Accommodation) Ordinance. This means that no complaints in connection with this Ordinance can be investigated. However, the residents of this Hotel are given the protection offered by the Public Health Ordinance and all other ordinances enforced by the Environmental Health Department and which are applicable to these premises and this has been the case throughout.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 405 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, surely the exemption is not intended to have the effect of providing lower standards in Hotels than are required in Hostels.

HON J B PEREZ:

That is correct.

HON J BOSSANO:

Therefore, Mr Speaker, would the Hon Member not agree that it is legitimate to expect an Hotel that doesn't have to comply with the standards laid down by Hostels to be able to provide its residents with a type of accommodation and the sort of services that they would at least expect to get in a Hostel?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the Government has and is still considering ways of applying the Labour from Abroad (Accommodation) Ordinance and Rules to the Victoria Hotel but there is a risk that if the premises cease to be exempted, the owners will not seek registration under the main Ordinance with the result that it will then be illegal for the premises to be used as accommodation for foreign labour with the obvious adverse effect on the contracts of employment and hence permits of residence of the residents of this Hotel. Coming directly to the point which the Hon Questioner

raises, that I accept, but if I may draw his attention to the fact that throughout the years the Environmental Health Department has in fact taken action against the owners of the Hotel and I can give him details. In 1978 there was one abatement notice, 1979 two notices, 1980 there were five notices, one of the notices was in respect of 12 items and in connection with the restaurant on 7th November, 1979, 7 summonses were taken, a fine was imposed by the Court of £80 and on 12th March, 1980, 8 summonses were taken and fines totalling £650 were imposed but the basic idea with the Victoria Hotel is that it is supposed to be temporary accommodation to enable alien workers who come to Gibraltar to obtain employment but the problem is that some of them bring their wives over with the resultant problem that the Hostels do not cater for women.

HON J BOSSANO:

I accept that, Mr Speaker, but would the Hon Member not agree that a place that is exempt from the requirements of the Ordinance nevertheless should be subject to some sort of investigation and control by Government to make sure that it provides accommodation of a standard that is considered to be acceptable to Government in respect of Hostels? If it is exempt from the direct control as Hostels are nevertheless it must be considered the equivalent of a Hostel, I imagine, and would the Minister not agree that it is desirable that Government should be in a position to exercise some control over immigrant labour living in these places as it has over immigrant labour living in other places?

HON J B PEREZ:

I agree with the Hon Member. The only thing is that I would reiterate the problem and the simple answer is that the Victoria Hotel should not be exempted, that is the simple answer, and let the full Labour from Abroad (Accommodation) Ordinance apply but if we do that the landlord would not register and therefore we will have to reaccommodate the Moroccan workers. The workers remain at the Hostel but what do we do with the women and that is the problem that we have.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government state whether it intends to perpetuate the situation whereby the Mayor of Gibraltar is not an elected Member of the House of Assembly and furthermore would Government not agree that such a situation is against the spirit of the Constitution?

May I add, Mr Speaker, that there was an oversight on my part in the drafting of this. Of course, you yourself are not an elected Member and, of course, you are eligible to be Mayor. Perhaps, it should have read: "is not a Member of the House".

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, the answer to the first part of the question is no. As to the second part, I would prefer to put it the other way about, and more positively, ie that it is the spirit of the Constitution that the Mayor should be a Member of the House.

I am surprised that the Honourable Member has not been kept informed by the Leader of the Opposition. Earlier this year I agreed with him that the spirit of the Constitution was that the Mayor should be a Member of the House of Assembly and stated that it was my intention that a motion for the election of a Member as Mayor should be put to the House of Assembly in due course.

I have since kept this matter under review but the serious accident suffered by Mr Abecasis has put an undue strain on the work-load of other Ministers and this has been an important factor.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Serfaty for the excellent job he is doing as Mayor, as he did for so many years as a Member of this House.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 406 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I would like to associate myself with those last remarks of the Chief Minister. I think that Mr Serfaty has been a very good Mayor. However, the reason why the question was put was that to my mind it was certainly a breach of the Constitution and it is no reflection on Mr Serfaty but, of course, I feel that if the Constitution says that the Mayor should be a Member of the House of Assembly, he should be a Member of the House of Assembly and, in fact, the question has not been put before because we have realised the difficulties and we have gone along with it and it is now, I think, high time that a change was made and I would ask the Chief Minister whether he intends to make that change in the near future?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said that I agree that it is in the spirit of the Constitution that he should be an elected Member. Equally, I am advised that it is not contrary to the Constitution that the person who was an elected Member continues until somebody else is appointed and I have stated the reason why somebody else has not yet been appointed.

HON G T RESTANO:

May I just ask for clarification, Mr Speaker. When Mr Speaker was Mayor I believe that after every election he was re-elected Mayor, is that not correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I don't know.

MR SPEAKER:

It is not for me to answer questions but simply to give the information if the House wants it.

HON G T RESTANO:

Certainly, I remember that was the case.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does not necessarily follow that if he had not been re-elected he would not have continued to be Mayor.

HON P J ISOLA:

May I say, Sir, that I have, of course, kept my Hon Friend informed of what happened at my meeting with the Chief Minister back in March of this year. May I say that if the spirit of the Constitution is, as I have no doubt about it that it is, that the Mayor should be a Member of this House and the matter is raised in the House as it has been, may I ask the Chief Minister that in those circumstances he should really be proposing a motion in this respect in the not too distant future otherwise the Constitution could be brought into disrepute and I am sure the Chief Minister as indeed other Members of this House, would not like that to occur.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I do not accept that the Constitution will come into disrepute, I have given the reason why I have not make an earlier appointment, I have said that I have kept the matter under review and I will not go any further.

HON J BOSSANO:

Can I ask the Hon and Learned Chief Minister whether he would not agree that one should consider the possibility of debating the desirability of continuing to have such a requirement, that it should be an elected Member of the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I entirely agree but that, of course, is in the Constitution and amending the Constitution involves many other amendments and I think that that is a major task but it is a comfort to know that that is the feeling of some Members. Apart from not being against the letter of the Constitution because there is no provision as to the ceasing of being a Mayor, I think that in the circumstances that I have explained the matter must remain there for the time being and if Members opposite want to bring a motion of censure they can do so any time they like.

HON P J ISOLA:

No, Mr Speaker, it is not a question of a motion of censure but may I say that from this side of the House we will have no part with a breach of the spirit of the Constitution, if not the wording of the Constitution. We will play no part, if Mr Bossano wants to play the game, well, he is welcome to it but we on this side of the House are not prepared to accept the situation which involves a breach of the Constitution or even the spirit of the Constitution.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are many things that Members on the other side of the House do that we would never take part or try to associate ourselves with but we do not bring them here.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, the Chief Minister has said that it is not a breach of the Constitution. I would just like to clarify that.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If the Hon Member will give way. I did not say that it was not a breach of the Constitution, I said that I was advised that it was not a breach of the Constitution.

HON G T RESTANO:

Fair enough, that he was advised that it was not a breach of the Constitution. Surely, when the House is dissolved, all the parties therein and all those who held office during the term of the House, their jobs finish, is that not correct?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Neither the Speaker, Mayor or Ministers.

HON G T RESTANO:

Until such time as there is an election.

HON A J CANEPA:

No, until a new Government is appointed.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Anyhow, the advise I have is that the Constitution is completely silent as to the ceasing. It only refers to the appointment of a Mayor who has to be a Member of the House, it doesn't say anything more.

17.12.80

NO. 407 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

When will Government be making financial provision for the payment of retrospection to GBC staff?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, financial provision for this purpose already exists under Head 27 - 1980 Pay Settlement. The necessary re-allocation of funds has already been approved to enable the early payment of arrears to be made.

NO. 408 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Committee set up to inquire into the Public Works Department has stated that from his Committee's point of view he sees no objection to the report that his Committee will submit to the Governor being made public, will Government agree in advance of the report to make the same public?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, the Government will consider the question of publication when the report is received.

I will say at this stage that I am in principle favourably disposed to publication but I cannot commit the Government now.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 408 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is the Chief Minister aware of the danger now, having said what he has said, that if he refuses to make public the report, that the reasons for refusing to make them public will be suspect?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There are many things that are suspect in this world and I am not prepared to make any further comments.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does this mean, Sir, that the Chief Minister is once more going to ask this House to vote a considerable amount of money, I think it is coming up in the proceedings of this House, and giving no satisfaction as to the publication of a report which the public are being asked to pay for?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I said I was favourably inclined, I note the Hon Member's views and I will take them into consideration.

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, is the Chief Minister aware that the Members of the Opposition have been asked by the Committee to cooperate with the Committee and give their views on the Public Works Department and would he not agree that it would be unfair to expect the Opposition to cooperate with the Committee without having any assurances that at least they will be able to see the report once it is made public and would the Chief Minister prefer that the Opposition do not cooperate with the Committee?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The last question is absolutely superfluous. I was asked whether it would be made public beforehand and I said no.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the Chief Minister expect the Opposition to continue to cooperate with the Committee, giving them the benefit of their views, without having any assurances that at least the Opposition will be allowed to see the report that this Committee which is said to be independent and which we believe is independent is going to make?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Certainly, anything that arose in the report in which the cooperation of the Opposition had taken part would certainly be available to them in any case. I am not going to go the whole way to say that it will be published before I know what the report says but certainly anything in which the Opposition have cooperated will be made public and I hope their cooperation will be available because what we want is a better Public Works Department for the future for Gibraltar.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, that is obviously the reason why we have agreed and have spent already some time with the Committee of Investigation. Do I have it from what the Chief Minister has said that in matters which we raise with the Committee and discuss with the Committee that any part of the report that deals with those matters will be made available to the Opposition?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It does not mean the whole spectrum and I am not prepared to say that. I say any matter on which the views of the Opposition have had any bearing on any part of the report, certainly, but I am not going to say that because it would be very easy at the next meeting for Members opposite to come with a whole spectrum and say: "Well, I got the undertaking, I have got it all now", it is not as simple as that as I am sure the Hon Leader of the Opposition should appreciate that by now. I am certainly prepared to say that any recommendations of the Opposition that are relevant or come into the report, certainly, and I am just trying to safeguard my position. I said initially that I am inclined for publication.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can the Chief Minister reassure us a bit more on this. It is not a question of just letting us have little bits of what we said with which the Committee might agree, it is a question of allowing people who contribute to the work of the Committee to see the report. I have no doubt that Heads of Departments of the Public Works Department and other officials who contribute to the work of

the Committee will be allowed to see the report. We will certainly have to consider our position in this, in cooperating with the Committee, unless we can have clear assurances that the report that comes out will be shown to Members of the Opposition.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I have said I am favourably inclined to publication, generally, and therefore more inclined to give it to the Opposition. I think we may be arguing about nothing now.