

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF 17TH JULY 1980

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

121 to 223

17 7 80

NO. 121 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Will Government consider the introduction of amending legislation so as to make it compulsory for drivers of vehicles to have their blood groups recorded on their driving licences?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission I will deal with this Question and Question No 126 from the Hon A T Loddó at the same time.

The format of the Gibraltar Driving Licence follows the Model Driving Permit as set out in Annex 9 of the United Nations Convention on road traffic. This does not provide any information on blood groups and distinguishes the different categories of vehicles which the holder is authorised to drive. If the UN format were changed the Government would clearly consider similar changes in the Gibraltar form of licence.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 121 AND 126 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I fully accept that perhaps they want to stick to the format, but would Government consider encouraging drivers to have something with the licence which could give details such as blood group and perhaps if they have any heart condition and things like that which would be very, very useful in case of an accident, particularly, I think, if the frontier opens and they find themselves across the border.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, certainly the Government would be prepared to consider this but it would have to be a voluntary matter and not a matter that persons are required to do.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Perhaps, Mr Speaker, if it cannot be made compulsory perhaps it could be encouraged.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the information as to the law as promulgated by the United Nations but my point in raising this question is that the law in the United Kingdom, on which we like to base ourselves, is that a holder of a 'B' licence is entitled to ride a moped or a similar vehicle under 50 cc capacity and not only that but any holder of a learner's licence, a provisional licence, as from the age of 16 is allowed to drive an under 50 cc. Would Government consider changing the law here in Gibraltar?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I discussed this question with the staff responsible, the Motor Car Examiners, and it is considered that in the traffic conditions in Gibraltar that a separate test for a moped is necessary. We considered it very carefully and on balance this is the view accepted by the Government.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I would have thought, Mr Speaker, that in England it is much more necessary than in Gibraltar.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, but we are not going to go into that. Next question.

NO. 122 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, can Government estimate what loss in revenue results to the Gibraltar Government and to commercial interests generally as a consequence of the Shell bunkering lighter being withdrawn from service for three weeks?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, no. I regret that it is not possible for the Government to provide the information requested by the Honourable Member. It would be necessary to establish how many ships if any do not call at Gibraltar because of the absence of lighter facilities. This information simply cannot be ascertained.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 122 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I do take it that Government is aware that it does result in loss?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Sir, there is a certain loss both to Government in terms of the bunkering fees loss and also, of course, to Shell.

HON A J HAYNES:

But if Government is aware that it is incurring the loss, surely it should do something to prevent it in the future?

MR SPEAKER:

We must not go beyond the scope of the question. It is not Government's responsibility to provide the service. The question has been allowed because it relates to the loss of revenue and on that score you can ask what you like but no further.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is not the majority of bunkering in the Port taken from lighters? Is the Financial and Development Secretary aware?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, my understanding is that quite a proportion of vessels come in and take the fuel alongside, or can come alongside, in an emergency they can do so. The problem here in ascertaining the information required is that a notice is put out to Lloyds that for a certain period bunkering will not be possible here because the bunkering vessel is being renovated and we have no idea how many ships that would have come in, in fact, go past Gibraltar.



HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, as this is, I would have thought, a vital service that the Port gives, should not the Government approach the company concerned to have a replacement lighter available for what amounts to almost 1/12th of the year in view of the repercussions it has on the Port, generally, as a Port that gives service and prides itself on giving excellent services to shipping. Is this not rather like, I would suggest, Gibraltar Airways when it withdraws its aircraft from the Tangier run for a month? Is it not the case and in most parts of the world other facilities are given by the company that has it? Does not Government consider it essential to ensure that that service is available to the Port throughout the year and will Government take some action on the matter?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, we understand from the company concerned that a relief lighter is not easily obtainable and that the cost would be so high that it would be uneconomic to bring it in for so short a period.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, it is not a question of buying one, it is a question of chartering one for the period in question, I would have thought, and if it proves a little more expensive than not having a lighter at all, should not the company concerned consider the fact that it has a monopoly in the Port and that as a monopoly holder of a service in the Port it owes a duty to the Port?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am afraid that the Hon Leader of the Opposition misunderstood my reply. I did not say that acquiring a second lighter but that a relief lighter, ie the cost of bringing a lighter from elsewhere into Gibraltar for three weeks would be so high that it would be uneconomic.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, that doesn't really answer my question which is that the company concerned, should it not consider the fact that in view of its unique situation it should provide this service throughout the year even if it costs money to provide it in view of the fact that it has the compensating benefit of having a monopoly situation throughout the year?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I note the point made by the Hon Member and we will discuss it with the company.

NO. 123 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Can Government now state the final figures for recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure for the year 1979 to 1980 and can the Government state the actual balance on the Consolidated Fund as at 31st March, 1980?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the accounts for the year ending 31st March, 1980, have not yet been closed and it is therefore not possible to state the final figures for recurrent revenue and recurrent expenditure or the actual balance on the consolidated fund on that date. However, the latest figures available, which are still subject to adjustment and audit are:-

Recurrent revenue	£31,971,093
Recurrent expenditure	28,780,242
Balance of consolidated fund	4,035,596

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 123 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, am I right in saying that the recurrent revenue fell short by about £200,000 to that estimated, that the recurrent expenditure also fell short to that estimated? I cannot understand the final figure.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, may I possibly assist the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition. Recurrent revenue was down by £188,000 on the revised estimates. Recurrent expenditure was £640,000 below the revised estimates and the balance of the Consolidated Fund was £400,000 above the revised estimates.

HON P J ISOLA:

The reason why I asked, Mr Speaker, is that in page 5 of the approved estimates recurrent expenditure is put £28,221,700 and the figure the Hon the Financial and Development Secretary has given is £500,000 in excess to that, £28,780,242, and therefore I couldn't understand how he had his Consolidated Fund figure of £4,000,000. Perhaps the approved estimates are wrong, I don't know.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, the revised figure in the recurrent expenditure 1979/80 £28.221m and the recurrent expenditure where it probably arises is that the figures that I have quoted include budgetary contributions for potable water and housing fund, this will make the difference.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 124 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Mr Speaker, will Government take action to alleviate the position of MOD pensioners resident in Gibraltar whose MOD pensions suffer tax both in the United Kingdom and in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Sir, under Section 30 of the Income Tax Ordinance all tax payers, including MOD pensioners, ordinarily resident in Gibraltar who receive in Gibraltar income accruing in and derived from the United Kingdom are eligible for relief on any tax paid in the United Kingdom.

The relief is the lower of the two rates of tax on the income.

In effect the amount of tax actually paid by the tax payer is the higher of the two tax rates. If the Gibraltar rate is higher than that of the United Kingdom the relief given is the amount of tax paid to the United Kingdom authorities. If the United Kingdom tax is higher than that in Gibraltar, no tax would be payable in Gibraltar.

NO. 125 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government state the final amount actually spent on the development programme under the different heads of expenditure in the Improvement and Development Funds numbered 101 to 113 head by head between 1st April, 1979, and 31st March, 1980?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the accounts for the year ended 31 March, 1980, have not yet been closed. Final figures are not therefore available. However, subject to any adjustments and audit the figures now stand as follows:

	£
HEAD 101 Housing	1,367,800
102 Schools	445,959
103 Tourist Development	39,316
104 Miscellaneous Projects	896,674
105 General Services	223,000
106 Government Offices and Buildings	273,878
107 Port Development	687,613
108 Marina Development	29,294
109 Public Lighting	6,576
110 Electricity Service	127,119
111 Potable Water	206,379
112 Telephone	136,622
113 Police	-
Total	<u><u>4,440,230</u></u>

17 7 80

NO. 126 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

· Would Government consider amending the law so that holders of a 'B' licence are allowed to drive a moped or similar vehicles under 50 cc capacity?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

(Answered together with Question No. 121 of 1980).

NO. 127 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, can Government state the amounts in electricity, water and telephone bills which have been outstanding for over 12 months?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, I regret that the information requested cannot be readily provided until such time as all billing is computerised. The computer would then need to complete a normal cycle of 12 months before it could produce the information. To produce details in respect of non-computerised accounts would be time consuming as well as expensive in terms of labour. What is more important, it would slow down the rate of progress on the whole computerisation exercise and also the follow up of unpaid bills.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 127 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, has Government no idea at all how much money is owing to it by consumers who have not paid their bills for over 12 months? Is there no monitoring of unpaid bills?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Sir, there is monitoring of unpaid bills and we know the amounts outstanding but we do not know the amounts that are outstanding for a year, because when the amounts outstanding were put on to the computer from the card that we used previously, a total sum was put in and it is not possible to break that down.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I seem to remember the Honourable Member saying that reminders were sent out to people who had not paid their bills after 3 months and possibly after 6 months action might be taken. Well, if there are accounts outstanding for over 12 months, what is the Government doing about it to try and recoup that money?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Sir, the Accountant-General has been in touch with persons who have bills outstanding for a long period, not necessarily up to one year, and has warned them that unless bills are paid then the supplies will be cut off. In fact, as a result of this we have had a large number of payments on outstanding bills.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, have in fact any accounts been closed because of non payment of bills?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

No, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.



17 7 80

NO. 128 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, is Government aware that electricity and water bills for charges covering from February have not been sent to some consumers?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the electricity and water bills for February, March and April, 1980, have been issued. The bills for May, 1980, are now being processed.

Certain bills may not have been issued because the consumer was not at home when the meter reader called. Such consumers receive a note asking them to complete details of the latest reading or to contact the billing section to arrange a mutually convenient time for the meter reader to call again.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 128 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, are there many of such accounts?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't know.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I don't know if this question is entirely in order or not but can the Government state or confirm, in fact, that if bills for February are in receipt in July, what is the usual period that they take for bills to be sent? Are they sent within 3 weeks, 2 months, 3 months?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I think, Sir, that the answer to that question was implicit in the first part of my reply. The bills for May, 1980, are now being processed, in fact, they will go out in July. Once we have all the bills on the computer we should be able to issue them within a week of the end of the month.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 129 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, is Government aware that some electricity bills sent for the months of March and April did not have the date of reading on the bills and that the FCA rate was not inserted although charged for?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the computer has been programmed to insert the dates of reading and FCA rates in the electricity and water bills. This accounts for 70% of all electricity and water bills issued. On the non computerised bills the dates of reading and FCA rates are inserted by hand. I regret that the odd bill may have slipped through without these details having been included. In such cases the relevant information will be provided by the billing section on request.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 129 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, would Government ensure that this does not occur again because it seems to me that if bills are received without having this information all it leads to is perhaps a delay in payment and certainly even more work to the department concerned?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give the assurance sought by the Hon Member but there is a factor of human error where we have very young clerical assistants completing these bills in difficult circumstances of work and one cannot say that it will never happen again. Clerly we will try to avoid it.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 130 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, would Government ensure that provisions are included in the new Banking Ordinance prohibiting banks from charging fees for effecting standing Bankers Orders from and to accounts within their own bank, bearing in mind that such a service is not charged for by UK banks when the recipients have accounts in their banks?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Sir, the new banking legislation will be designed to safeguard the interests of depositors and of the community as a whole, and to cover the broader aspects of banking business generally. It is not considered appropriate for the Government to intervene, by way of legislation, in the level of charges raised by banks for their services.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 130 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, Would the Government be prepared to approach the banks and ask them if they would waive these charges in these particular circumstances?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, if the Government considered that the charges were inordinate it would be prepared to discuss with the banks.

HON G T RESTANO:

No, Mr Speaker, the point was not whether the charges were inordinate or not but that they certainly do not conform with the practice in the United Kingdom.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, unfortunately we have been unable to obtain by the date of this meeting particulars of United Kingdom bank charges. The point is that even when a Bankers Order is within the same branch there is a cost, an administrative cost, there is the cost of making changes in the ledger, of writing to both the person who has made the order and the receiver of the funds informing him that the money has been transferred. This is done by post so there is a postal charge as well. Furthermore, when a bank takes on a responsibility for a Bankers Order it also becomes liable for any effects that may flow if the Bankers Order is not based on the United Kingdom .....

MR SPEAKER:

I hate to interrupt but we must not get too involved with the workings of the bank, it is a matter of whether the charge should or should not be made or whether the Government is prepared to do something about it.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Hon Member not confirm whether under existing legislation of Consumer Protection, in fact, this is not an area that should be as subject to examination as any other area where a service is being provided and should not be overcharged for?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 131 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, would Government consider introducing legislation to prevent young children from handling speed boats unless they are accompanied by adults?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, the Government does in fact have under consideration the question whether there should be age restrictions on persons in charge of speed boats. Although so far there have been very few complaints about the handling of speed boats by young persons, the numbers of such craft are increasing, particularly for water skiing and it is felt that some controls may be desirable.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 131 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, when will this consideration be given? When will the legislation be brought to the House?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The matter is under consideration. As to when the legislation will be ready, I am afraid at this stage I cannot say.

HON G T RESTANO:

Will it cover this summer period, Mr Speaker?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

No, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 132 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Will Government give consideration to amending the Pensions Ordinance to allow some of the years of service of Sister Cruz RMN to count as pensionable service in the light of the circumstances surrounding the break in service?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, the answer is no. Miss Cruz resigned voluntarily from Government service in March, 1956. She was employed again by the Government from 1 March, 1960. Regulation 16(1) of the Pensions Regulations only allows for continuous service to reckon as qualifying for pensionable service and specifically provides that any break due to voluntary resignation shall be disregarded. Miss Cruz has given meritorious service to the nursing profession in Gibraltar but I nevertheless regret that it would not be proper to amend the Pensions legislation to suit an individual case in this respect, particularly where these provisions have been applied in all similar cases of voluntary resignation and subsequent re-employment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 132 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member confirm that Miss Cruz was not paid a gratuity in 1956 when she resigned and she has been offered in 1980 the money she would have received in 1956 had it been paid at its due moment when the value of that money is significantly less than it was, is the Hon Member aware of that particular detail?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, it is regretted that the situation is as the Hon Member has said.

HON J BOSSANO:

And is the Hon Member also aware that during the period that he mentioned of break, 1956 to 1960, Sister Cruz in fact was training in UK and had her passage to UK paid although the training in UK was not at Government expense, is he aware of that?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, Government is aware of that situation.

HON J BOSSANO:

And is the Hon Member aware of the fact that there has been previous individual amendments to the Pensions Ordinance because of particular circumstances and is this not a case that is creating a precedent and will he in the light of that be prepared to give

some consideration to perhaps making provision for some of the years if not all, in view of the two elements that I have mentioned, Mr Speaker, which I think are unique?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, each case is considered on its merit and each case has to be looked at within the context of its particular facts. In the same way as other special legislation has been done in respect of other persons the matter will be considered in the case of Miss Cruz.

HON J BOSSANO:

I think the answer is that they will give further consideration to the matter or is it still no?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The answer as far as I am concerned at the moment is still no, but of course matters can always be re-considered from time to time.

HON J BOSSANO:

The answer is a qualified yes, I take it.

MR SPEAKER:

That depends on whether you are an optimist or a pessimist.



17 7 80

NO. 133 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how many cases of contravention of the Animals and Birds Ordinance in respect of wildlife preservation have come up in Court within the last five years?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, four cases are known to have been taken to court during that period, one each in 1976, 1978, 1979 and 1980.

Convictions were obtained in all four cases.

Fines of £10 were imposed in the first three cases and £40 in the fourth case.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 133 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, would the Hon the Attorney-General state what the cases were for actually, was it birds, stealing eggs or what was it?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I am afraid at this stage I cannot say.

17 7 80

NO. 134 OF 1980

GRAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

What is the present position concerning Nos 197/201 Main Street?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, the Hon Member will recall that after the Government obtained a Supreme Court nuisance order last year, the owner took steps to demolish the property to first floor level thus minimising the immediate danger, and that subsequently a stoppage order was served on him after he sought to carry out unauthorised building works.

No further building work was undertaken by the owner. The premises were however inspected by a structural engineer and an environmental health officer who consider that it remains a nuisance.

The owner has submitted plans for further work for Government's approval. These are being considered.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 134 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

If there is still a nuisance there, is Government doing anything to ensure that it is abated within a reasonable time or are we in for another 2 years of that horrific sight?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I cannot answer that question, I will require notice.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, but if it is a nuisance surely it has to be abated.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Yes, and I am sure that the Chief Environmental Health Officer has got his eye on it but what the stage of play is I don't know.

17 7 80

NO. 135 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Can Government state why it is that the Companies Registry and Supreme Court are under-staffed and is Government taking any action in this respect?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, the workload in the Supreme Court, including the Registries, has been examined by Staff Inspection, as a result of which the staffing of the Department is to be increased by one Higher Executive Officer, one Executive Officer and one Clerical Officer.

NO. 136 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state whether professionals employed full-time with the Public Works Department are allowed to undertake private work and if so under what conditions?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, all Civil Servants, including the professional staff employed in the Public Works and other departments, are required under the Government's General Orders to seek the Government's permission before undertaking paid employment in a private capacity.

All applications received are considered on their merits within the guide-lines laid down by the General Order which provides that permission will not be given to Senior Officers except in very exceptional circumstances, and that the work to be undertaken is not of an undignified nature or likely to prejudice the performance of the officer's official duties.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 136 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, may I know how many professionals have been given permission by the Government to undertake private work?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I would require notice of that.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I would have thought that arises quite clearly out of the question.

HON W T SCOTT:

Can Government state if it has received any application which it has subsequently refused?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Again I require notice.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask the Hon and Learned the Attorney-General, in respect of professionals in the Public Works Department is permission given generally to do private work according to their profession or is it necessary for them to apply in respect of each assignment or each job or private work that they are asked to undertake?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

It must be in respect of each job that they are asked to undertake.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 137 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, will Government report their decision as regards modernising the Maternity Department at St Bernard's Hospital, and what will the modernisation if implemented consist of?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, as I stated in my answer to question No. 38 of 1980, the modernisation of the Maternity Department is still under consideration in connection with the 1981 development programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 137 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can we have an indication as to when this consideration is likely to be?

MR SPEAKER:

With due respect, did you say No. 38 of 1980?

HON J B PEREZ:

No. 38 of 1980.

MR SPEAKER:

I think that No. 38 of 1980 does not refer to this.

HON J B PEREZ:

No. 31, Mr Speaker.

HON A J HAYNES:

How long does Government plan to leave it in a sort of cloud of it is being considered? Is there any indication that it is going to be decided or what?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the next Development Programme commences in April of next year and we have as yet no date for the talks to be held.

HON A J HAYNES:

Does that mean that you won't consider it until April of next year or that plans will be ready by April?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I said the matter is being at present considered but no final decision has yet been taken.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I think the Hon Minister said Question No. 31. I think he was mistaken yet again, I think he is referring to Question No. 35.

MR SPEAKER:

I did not question the fact that it could be Question No. 31 because it did refer to the Medical and Health Services and I wasn't prepared to read all the answers and supplementaries. What number did you say it was?

HON J B PEREZ:

It is Question No. 35.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can the Hon Member say whether the Government has decided as a matter of policy to modernise the Maternity Department and to put plans forward in the 1981 Development Programme or is it still considering whether it does or does not modernise the Maternity Department as part of the 1981 programme? I would have thought they would have come to a view about this already, if not there is bound to be slippage in the 1981 Development Programme.

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, the matter is being considered at present by the forward planning committee.

HON P J ISOLA:

Therefore the Government has not yet made up its mind whether it will modernise the Maternity Department or not?

HON J B PEREZ:

I have already stated, Mr Speaker, that no final decision has yet been taken.

HON P J ISOLA:

So it has not made up its mind, is that the position, it may not be included in the Development Programme of 1981?



HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, I am the Chairman of the forward planning committee so perhaps I can throw some light on this. The position is that the Working Party of technical officials who are working on the costings and on the plans for the next Development Programme have not yet costed the modernisation plan in respect of the Maternity Wing. When the cost is known, if it is found to be considerable, the Government would consider including it in the Development Programme to be discussed with Her Majesty's Government before April, 1981. However, if the figure involved were not to be very high the Government might decide to fund it locally under the Improvement and Development Fund. So until we have a figure as to the cost involved, which I hope to have after the summer, we will not be in a position to take a final decision. At the moment it is in the draft programme and it has been assigned some priority but no final decision has been taken.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, is the Member in a position to answer the second part of my question which is what will the modernisation, if implemented, consist of?

HON A J CANEPA:

That is for my colleague to answer.

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, no final decision as such has been taken on what type of modernisation will be involved as a whole. We have just put draft proposals, eg, new waiting room and reception areas, but all these are being costed at the moment.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, if I have an idea of what it is they have in mind for the Maternity Department then I will wait patiently but if I feel that what they have in mind anyway is not satisfactory, I would rather start complaining about it now and not wait until some time in 1990 or whatever.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 138 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

What success has Government met with in pressing for an alternative hoarding to be erected outside premises 197/201 Main Street?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, since service of the stoppage order, the owner has not yet proceeded with remedial works. He has however submitted plans for such works to the Surveyor and Planning Secretary which are being considered.

At present it is considered that the temporary barrier is both adequate and an improvement on the previous arrangements but the Government will take steps to require more suitable hoarding to be erected before further demolition or building work proceeds.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 138 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Does Government believe that this time they are going to be successful?

MR SPEAKER:

Are you asking a question as to whether the repairs are going to be adequate because we are talking about the hoarding and nothing else.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Very well, Mr Speaker, I will limit it to the hoarding.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I see no reason why we should not be successful.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Since the Government has failed in the past is it not more reasonable to believe that they will be unsuccessful?

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 139 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Can Government say whether there has been any increase in the number of patients making use of the Physiotherapy Department?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, no, Sir. There has been no increase.

17 7 80

NO. 140 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, is Government satisfied that the present premises occupied by the Physiotherapy Department are adequate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is perfectly satisfied that adequate coverage is being given to the present physiotherapy requirements in the premises currently occupied by that department.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 140 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, Government is obviously also aware that the workload in the Physiotherapy Department has increased over the last year by 25% and the Physiotherapy Department still is the same size, so how can they be satisfied with the present premises when the staff is not?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, all I can say is that Government is perfectly satisfied with the present premises.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 141 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, would Government state whether it levies any charge on visiting specialists using the facilities of the Hospital and its staff when attending their private patients?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, no, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 141 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Government consider making a levy for the use of the hospital facilities by the visiting specialists?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I will inform the Hon Member that charges although not levied on the visiting specialists are in fact levied on the private patients themselves which accounts for a substantial amount of revenue to Government at the end of the year.

HON G T RESTANO:

I would like an explanation of that, Mr Speaker. If a private patient sees a specialist surely he pays the specialist and not the Government?

MR SPEAKER:

We may be talking at cross purposes. What the Minister says is if the result of the consultation is that the patient has to go to hospital, then the patient pays the hospital fees.

HON J B PEREZ:

It also includes things like X-rays and laboratory fees.

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked whether any charge is made to the specialist for consultancies which have been held in the hospital premises, irrespective of any other charges you would have made for any services as a result of the consultancy?

HON J B PEREZ:

I have said, no, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

I have asked the Government would they reconsider and make a levy?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir; I do not see the need to reconsider this position. The Government is quite satisfied with the present arrangements that the Government has with visiting specialists and let me say, Mr Speaker, that the work is of extreme value to Gibraltarians and we are very happy with the work that the visiting specialists are carrying out in the hospital.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I think the principle here is that somebody is making money privately on Government premises. I have nothing to say against what the Minister has said in praise of the specialists but I think, in principle, Government should not allow its premises to be used without levying a charge to somebody who is going to charge privately.

HON J B PEREZ:

Let me just add, Mr Speaker, that the agreement reached with the specialists is that they have in fact the same facilities like all our other consultants.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 142 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government make arrangements so that one doctor at the Health Centre is available daily to deal exclusively with patients in urgent need of assistance?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, there are six doctors available at the Health Centre daily and despite the appointments system, urgent cases are seen as necessary.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 142 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, that is not my understanding. Would the Minister ensure that all persons who go to the Health Centre for urgent cases, that have not had the time, obviously to make an appointment are seen immediately?

HON J B PEREZ:

That is, in fact, the case today, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.



NO. 143 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government consider installing a telephone at the mortuary at St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

No, Sir. There is a telephone at the Porters' Lodge for the use of visitors to hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 143 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Government not consider that the relatives of a deceased person who need to make arrangements, funeral arrangements and so on, and who at the same time would want to accompany their relatives in the mortuary, would it not be compassionate for the Government to let them have a telephone next to the mortuary rather than having them go all the way round to the Porters' Lodge?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is precisely for the reasons given by the Hon Member, for compassion and understanding of relatives, that I do not consider that a telephone should be placed at the mortuary.

HON G T RESTANO:

So this is the Minister's own personal opinion, Mr Speaker, or has he taken advice from anybody who has been affected?

HON J B PEREZ:

Let us put it this way, the Government does not consider it necessary to provide a telephone at the mortuary, there is one at the Porters' Lodge.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 144 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Would Government implement a system whereby cardiograms and analyses can be taken at the Health Centre?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, facilities for cardiograms are available and utilised at the Health Centre. Analyses are invariably carried out in the Laboratory at St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 144 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

But would it not be possible for the analyses to be collected at the Health Centre where the patients go in any case and be sent by the Government up to the laboratory?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the point is that the word analyses is extremely wide and I was not sure what the Hon Member was referring to by analyses. If he has a particular point in mind he can ask me now and I will give him the information later, such as collection of specimens, eg. Some are collected, in fact, at the Health Centre but obviously the tests are carried out at the laboratory at St Bernard's Hospital.

HON G T RESTANO:

Well, Mr Speaker, for example, blood tests. A person who needs a blood test is told to go to the Hospital by the Health Centre. He goes to the Health Centre and then he is told that he needs a blood test and he is told to go up to the Hospital. Would it not be an added service for that patient to have the blood tests taken at the Health Centre?

MR SPEAKER:

Let us clear this point so that we do not talk at cross purposes. What you are saying is that the specimen should be taken at the Health Centre with a view to being sent to the laboratory. It is not being suggested that the actual analyses should be done at the Health Centre.

HON J B PEREZ:

As I said, Mr Speaker, I will look this matter up on what the Hon Member has said and I will provide him with the answer.

17 7 80

NO. 145 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government explain how patients records are kept at the Health Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, a separate record of each patient is contained in an indexed envelope filed in numerical order and cross-referenced alphabetically.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 145 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Is it not a fact, Mr Speaker, that some of these records are indexed by doctors?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Sir.

17 7 80

NO. 146 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

How many stalls at the Public Markets are either empty or being used as stores and how many persons are on the waiting list for stalls?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, only two daily poultry stalls and one double fruit and vegetable monthly stall are empty, out of a total of twelve daily and 35 monthly stalls. Five single fruit and vegetable monthly stalls and a single charcuterie stall for which there are no applicants are being used as food stores.

There is only one application on the waiting list and this is for a flower stall of which there are two and both are in use.

17 7 80

NO. 147 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Has the report of the British Post Office Consultants on the introduction of International Subscriber Dialling now been received and if so would Government state what recommendations were tendered?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, I gave notice on 4 July that I would be making a statement on this matter and I shall be dealing with this question in that statement.

MR SPEAKER:

On the clear understanding that supplementaries will be asked when the statement is made as in question time.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Sir.

NO. 148 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Is Government satisfied that there is sufficient fire fighting equipment at the Yacht Bunkering Station?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Government is satisfied with the amount of fire fighting equipment at the Yacht Bunkering Station.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 148 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Can the Minister say what equipment is there at the moment?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, the fire fighting equipment at the installation is 1 X 180 feet hose reel, 4 X 20 pounds dry powder extinguishers and 1 cubic yard of dry sand.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, how can the Minister say that he is satisfied that the fire fighting equipment is sufficient when it was insufficient to put out a fire in a yacht there fairly recently?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, let me say that the requirements under Section 11 of the City Fire Brigade and Fire Services Ordinance 1976, abatement of fire hazards, were issued to Shell on the 1st August, 1978. These requirements were complied with in full and the first petroleum licence was issued on the 21st July, 1979. It was renewed on the 1st April, 1980, after being inspected on the 21st February, 1980, when all conditions of the existing licence were in order.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I am very grateful for that reply but of course that reply has nothing to do with the question that I asked.

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister has said that the person giving the service is complying with the requirements of the law as far as fire fighting is concerned and therefore he is satisfied with the fire fighting equipment at the Yacht Bunkering Station.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can the Hon Member confirm that the yacht mentioned by my friend was in fact dealt with by fire fighting equipment other than that available at the Bunkering Station?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I believe there was some assistance mainly in taking the yacht away from the proximity of the Shell Bunkering Station.

HON G T RESTANO:

Does that not imply, Mr Speaker, or indicate that the fire fighting equipment at the Bunkering Station was not adequate?

MR SPEAKER:

No, I am not allowing this supplementary. The Minister has given an answer to your question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I'm not certain that the answer is clear. Was fire fighting equipment, other than that at the station, used? "I'm not questioning whether, in fact, other people came in to help, I want to know whether other fire fighting equipment was used on that occasion?"

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, with all due respect to the Hon Member, this is a completely different question and I require notice of the question before I can answer it.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, I entirely agree. Next question.

NO. 149 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state what are the times available to the general public to book trunk calls at the City Hall?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, a Hall Porter is on duty at the City Hall every day from 08.00 to 21.00 hours for the booking of trunk calls. However, bookings are only accepted till 20.30 hours, to allow the operator time to connect the call(s) before the City Hall closes. After 21.00 hours, urgent calls may be placed from the Police Station at Waterport.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 149 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, is this not a departure from last year when the Hall was open until 11.30 pm?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, yes, this is a slight departure because my last answer to the question which Mr Restano put on the 26th February, 1979, which was Question 77 of 1979, said that the last call could be placed at 11.30 pm so that the call would be in by 12.00. Unfortunately, we have found out that the demand is not there between 9.00 pm and 12.00 o'clock at night, the men who are well over 60 are reluctant to stay there alone during this period of time and there is at the moment a shortage of staff.

HON G T RESTANO:

When was this new procedure implemented, Mr Speaker?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not quite sure of the actual date of the implementation of the procedure but if the Hon Mr Restano is willing I can find out and let him know as soon as I have the actual figure.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Minister aware that, in fact, some persons have been turned back at 5.45 pm and told that at 6.00 pm the City Hall is closed for trunk calls? Would this be an exceptional case or would this be a regular case?



HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, Sir, this could well be an exceptional case depending on sick leave of the individual which is sometimes unavoidable at the time, but the fact still remains that if there is an urgent call this can be placed from the Police Station at Waterport.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will Government consider keeping the City Hall open to its old hours of 11.30 pm on days when visiting naval ships are in Gibraltar on which occasions I understand there are long queues for calls by visiting sailors in ships to their families in the United Kingdom? Is there not a case for keeping the City Hall open late on occasions when visiting naval ships, especially when there are a number of them coming to Gibraltar?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, as the Hon Member quite rightly points out the Government will look into it. Unfortunately, there are large numbers of security problems involved as these members of the public generally tend to be somewhat under the weather, not to say drunk, and this is late at night and there is an elderly man having to deal with 20 or 30 men of this type. Certainly I shall look into this and I shall let the Hon Member know.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 150 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government undertake a study to determine if the use of solar energy can be economically employed in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, the most successful application of solar energy hitherto has been in the field of water heating and a number of brand products are already in service in many parts of the world.

The space required to install the solar panels can present problems in high density and high rise buildings and this would certainly be the case in Gibraltar.

Nevertheless, the Government through the Public Works Department have already obtained the equipment to set up a pilot solar water heating installation at the Boys' Comprehensive School, where it can be monitored to establish its performance under local conditions.

One difficulty already envisaged is the fact that solar water heating requires to be backed up by electrical power. Quite logically more electrical power will be required in the winter and the widespread use of solar heating, while beneficial for energy conservation, could adversely affect load factors of electricity generating plant to an unacceptable extent. This could create further problems.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 150 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

I am much pleased, Mr Speaker, to hear that the Government have taken measures to introduce a pilot scheme but I must take exception to what the Hon Minister has just said in increased load because the increased load we have nowadays in any case even with water heating. Surely, the introduction of solar energy by heating panels to water heaters would surely diminish that load and in any event, Mr Speaker, could I ask the Government if indeed that pilot scheme which presumably they are going to implement very shortly at the Boys' Comprehensive School, if they find that it is of benefit to Gibraltar given the problems that we have with power generation, they would seriously consider implementing some form of solar energy even if it is exclusive to water heating in the 1981 development programme in particular to housing should it be acceptable in areas of less density.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I thank the Hon Member for his comments and though I take some of them I would like to let him know that in the United Kingdom the introduction of communal water heating by solar energy using an underground tank at a housing development was abandoned. This project was abandoned as this was of no use and certainly did not produce enough heat. It may be that under different conditions, ie Gibraltar, different results may arise. Finally, let me say that the electrical power generation from solar energy is in its very early stage and will take many more years before it becomes a viable proposition.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, is this pilot scheme in the Boys' Comprehensive the only study on solar energy in Gibraltar at the moment?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, we have considered the use of solar energy for our distilling plant and we understood that Malta was using it. I got in contact with the Minister of Public Works in Malta and I was informed that they did a feasibility study and found that it was not practical. I have since written to them and asked them to let us have a look at their feasibility study to see if anything can be used from it for Gibraltar but it does appear that if Malta which gets perhaps more sunshine than us find that it is not practical, it is probably not practical in Gibraltar as well.

17 7 80

NO. 151 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government make a comprehensive statement with respect to its future policy on the education of children for whom they are responsible outside Government schools and in particular the education of local children in MOD schools?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Sir, during the Autumn Term 1979 Government considered a recommendation contained in the Third Report of the Expenditure Committee that the sponsorship scheme, which provides for non-entitled children to attend Services Schools at the expense of Government, be phased out commencing in September, 1980. A final decision was deferred, however, pending consideration of representations made to Government on the matter and an examination of a possible agreement between MOD and Government on the provision for the education of protestant children, following the opening of the Services Schools in 1969 and 1971 respectively. After detailed consideration of the background to this matter it has been agreed that the sponsorship scheme should be continued after September 1980 in accordance with an original agreement between MOD and the Government dated February 1966 in which MOD undertook to make provision for a maximum of 90 children in the Services Schools to be admitted at the expense of Gibraltar Government as part of a controlled sponsorship scheme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 151 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, we welcome that statement because the Minister will recall that at the Budget meeting of the House we were concerned on this side of the House that the Government was welshing on an agreement it had made and was not honouring an agreement it had made with regard to children from the Church of England, residents who wished to continue their education in MOD schools. I note the agreement was dated 1966, can we take it therefore that this policy which was announced before of phasing out the education of local Church of England children residents in Gibraltar in the MOD schools is no longer policy and that we are back on the agreement of 1966, is that the position?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, the policy has been phased out.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 152 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, is Government satisfied with the staffing position in the schools for September, 1980?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Sir, with the exception of just one outstanding appointment, all teaching vacancies which have arisen for September 1980 have now been satisfactorily filled either by local students returning from training, by the appointment or extension of appointment of contract teachers, or by the recruitment of suitably qualified staff locally. An advertisement has been placed locally for a qualified teacher of English at secondary level and it is hoped to make a suitable appointment shortly. It is not envisaged that there will be any staffing difficulties in our schools when the Autumn Term commences in September, 1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 152 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask on that, Mr Speaker, is the satisfactory staffing position in September, 1980, due partly to the fact that people who wish to complete the B.Ed course in England are being made to return?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

That has nothing to do with it, it is the people who are actually coming back to Gibraltar.

NO. 153 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government review as a matter of urgency its policy in relation to B.Ed completion courses for Gibraltar students studying in the UK?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Sir, all teacher trainees undertaking formal courses of teacher training in the UK now complete a B.Ed degree. Entry to the old Certificate in Education Course has now been phased out entirely. There is also provision, however, for the B.Ed degree to be converted into a B.Ed (Hons) degree, as an additional year over and above the basic three-year course. This fourth year B.Ed (Hons) course is essentially academic in nature and present Government policy has been determined, therefore, with the specialist teacher in mind. This approach is entirely in accordance with the present policy of ODA on this matter where teacher trainees are financed under the Technical Co-operation Scheme. It is considered far more appropriate for teachers who intend to specialise and who in the main will work at secondary level to be given the opportunity of doing an academic fourth year of training and students who have clearly indicated throughout their course of training that they intend to teach in a specialised subject area up to 'A' level have consequently been given priority in terms of financial support for an additional year of training. It is not felt appropriate to review this policy at this stage.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 153 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, actually what I was trying to point out or draw out is the position of graduates, University graduates. Are they being allowed to do that extra year to get their B.Ed, not teacher training.

MR SPEAKER:

I am not quite sure, if they are graduates they must have their B.Ed. Next question.

THE HON A T LODDO

Can Government state the scope and extent of the work undertaken by the playleader and can Government state whether it has appointed a trainee playleader?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

The playleader recruited in the UK for a one-year contract period in Gibraltar is essentially here to advise Government on the provision of an adventure playground and to supervise the planning and establishment of the facilities, including the necessary requirements to train a locally appointed Youth and Community Worker who will eventually have responsibility for the Supervision of the playground facilities in due course as part of his/her overall responsibilities within the Youth and Careers/Community Office. There has been some delay in the planning of the adventure playground due to the consideration now being given to the siting of this facility but it is hoped to progress the matter as soon as a decision on the site has been made and an advertisement for the appointment of the local Youth and Community Worker will then appear in the press.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION No.154 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, then I take it that it is not going to be for a trainee playleader but for a Youth and Community Worker and the playleader part is only part of the responsibility of this post?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

The post which will be advertised for the locally entered chap when the UK contract finishes is to give the Youth and Community Officer more flexibility because there will be periods when the playground is not used during school hours, for example and therefore we have the flexibility to move him into other areas of work within the Youth Community Service. If we employ him purely on the playground thing then he won't be working for 8 or 9 hours of the day.

HON P J ISOLA:

How long has the play leader in fact been here and is he fully employed without an adventure playground to work on?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Yes, Sir, he had been here for about two months and he is employed in studying the project and also in fact doing community work. He is a very experienced man and he does community work at night with our own Careers Officers.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I understand that but he was brought here mainly to start off the adventure playground. Can the Minister tell us what changes there are that he will in fact start the adventure playground before his year is terminated?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Yes, before he leaves he will start training youth and if it is necessary we might extend his contract.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the Minister envisage that need arising because it does seem to me odd that the Government brings a playleader to start the adventure playground and he goes without the adventure playground site even being known.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

He hasn't gone yet.

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked whether the adventure playground will be available within the period of time envisaged.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I have said so already.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.



17 7 80

NO. 155 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, now that Gibraltar students have achieved parity in fees level with the UK has Government considered bringing into line the Gibraltar system for grant allocation and the determination of parental contribution with the UK?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Mr Speaker, I gave notice on 9 July that I would be making a statement on Educational Awards Regulations and I shall be dealing with this question in that statement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 155 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, no doubt my asking the question prompted the Minister's reply.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, I had no idea of the Hon Member's question when I gave you notice of my statement.

NO. 156 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government publish a list of the number of housing units to be completed this year, giving details of the type of accommodation ie 2 person bedsit or 2 bedroom flat etc and a list of their whereabouts?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the number of housing units expected to be completed this year is as follows:-

TANK RAMP Total 16

Modernised units

2/2RKB

3/3RKB

1/8RKB Completed November,  
1980New Units

1/1RKB

3/2RKB

6/4RKB

WILLIS'S AREA

Modernised Units total 9

1/3 WILLIS'S PASSAGE17 WILLIS'S ROAD

2/3RKB

1/4RKB

13/15 WILLIS'S PASSAGE

2 B/S

2/2RKB Completed August,  
1980

1/3RKB

23/25 WILLIS'S PASSAGE

1/2RKB

WHITE STORE New Units Total 16

8 B/S

8/3RKB Completed August,  
1980LIME KILN STEPS PHASE IModernised Units Total 12

5 B/S

2/2RKB Completed October,  
1980

5/3RKB

LIME KILN STEPS PHASE IA

2/3RKB

2/2RKB Completed December,  
1980

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 156 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Can you give me the overall total of units?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

57, Sir,

HON A J HAYNES:

Can you state how many people those 57 units will ideally occupy?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

That will depend entirely on the family composition, eg, a bed-sitter might be for a single person or it might be for a married couple, I can't really say.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I understand when you've got a 2 bedroomed flat you are talking of one double bedroom for two people and the other bedroom, a single bedroom for one person.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I'm afraid I couldn't give that information, Sir, eg the 8 RKB might take 9 people it may take 15 people, I have really no idea, Sir.

HON A J HAYNES:

Do I understand then the Government designed these flats without having any idea of what the optimum number for a flat was?

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are not going to go into these details now. It will also depend on the way that the allocation is made and that is not his responsibility. You are asking a question to which you have been given an answer, the number of units and when they are going to be completed and their whereabouts. You have been given the answer to that.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I take that but unfortunately I am not very good at mathematics and all the rest, Sir, and I haven't had time to work out from the answer.....

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, but you must not expect Government to do your work.

HON A J HAYNES:

No, but the point is, Sir, surely if Government knows how many units there are to be completed and we know the composition of the units.

MR SPEAKER:

You have been given the composition, you can do your computation yourself. Information readily available should not be asked.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does not the Minister agree that only 16 new housing units of which 8 are studios is an extremely small number of housing units for his Department to complete in the course of one year? Can I take it that there will be a great other number of new housing units that possibly will not be completed by the 31st of March, 1980, but which will be very near completion by that date?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I have taken this year, Sir, to mean by the end of December, 1980.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, but even by the end of December, 1980, can I ask the same question, does he not consider it a very small number of new housing units to produce by that time considering that 8 of them are studios?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The number of new units actually, Sir, from what I said was 26 not 16. There are, of course, many other on-going projects but they will not come to fruition before December, 1980.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is there not a difference between the figures quoted for the units to be completed this year and those quoted earlier on at the Ceremonial Speech of the Chief Minister and so forth?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think you will find that the number quoted in the opening speech was 57.

HON A J HAYNES:

But, Mr Speaker, is Government not aware that if one talks of building 80 units and in the past these units will almost all take at least a 2-children family, then if Government is building flats which are bedsits and are not designed to take a couple with their two children and they say they are building 50 units, the impression the public gets is that they are getting 50 families off the waiting list and surely Government wouldn't want to mislead people to think that those units are all going to take a family.....

MR SPEAKER:

We must have a question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Well, doesn't Government think it is advisable to make it crystal clear how many people are going to be catered for when they give a list of housing to be completed in one year?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think, Sir, that we should have had separate notice for a question of that complication but I would point out that as far as Public Works are concerned they consult with the Housing Department to see what make-up of housing is required and, of course, where a bedsitter is being provided this can often accommodate a single person or perhaps a married couple who at the moment are occupying a larger flat of 3 or 4 rooms, then that larger flat becomes vacant and can take a family with children etc. It doesn't mean to say that because you are making a bedsit you are going to cram in a family with 2 or 3 children into it.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, could I ask for enlightenment on this. As I understand the answer of the Minister, there were 16 new housing units at White Stores, can he tell us where the other 10 housing units are?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, I said at Tank Ramp there were 1/1RKB, 3/2RKB and 6/4RKB.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is that not Tank Ramp development, is that not modernisation?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, it's partly modernisation and partly new construction.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can I refer the Minister to the Ceremonial Opening speech at page 5 where in the penultimate paragraph the Chief Minister said: "With the coming financial year we have to finalise construction of 66 units".

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, that is why I specifically stated that I took the end of this year to be December, 1980, the financial year end in March, 1981.

HON A J HAYNES:

So you've got till March to complete another 12 or 13.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, it would appear that out of the 57 new units, there are 26 new ones leaving a balance of 31 modernised units. What is the extent of the number of homes or units existing prior to modernisation that will now be occupied by 31 housing units?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I may be able to give the Hon Member some information. In the case of Tank Ramp we decanted less people than we will be eventually permitted to put back into houses that will satisfy them according to their family composition, it has been a benefit in that instance.

HON W T SCOTT:

That really doesn't answer my question, Mr Speaker, because before a question was refused to be answered asked by my Hon Colleague on my right as to actual people, the composition, how many people per unit. I'm asking the question of per unit not people. How many units have the 31 modernised units replaced, units not people?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

That is a very difficult one to answer off the cuff, I would need separate knowledge of that question, I can only comment that when you do a modernisation, in some instances you cannibalise what you have got but depending on what you actually provide in the end, you may start with 4 three-roomed flats and you might finish up with 5 bedsitters and 3 two-roomed flats, it varies around. Obviously, the new flats have far better facilities than the old ones such as bathrooms and reasonable kitchens, etc.

HON W T SCOTT:

Yes, I am aware of that, Mr Speaker, but what I am really trying to get at is where if in remodernisation we are actually diminishing the housing problem.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, we are.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 157 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, what plans does Government have for the development of Town Range for new housing and how far as these advanced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, Government has no immediate plans for the development of Town Range for new housing.

There are sufficient sites elsewhere in Gibraltar that can be used for new housing for the next four years.

NO. 158 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, Will Government reveal the latest waiting list figures for housing and will Government reveal the figures of homeless people in Gibraltar?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Mr Speaker, Sir, There were 1800 applicants on the waiting list as at the end of June, 1980.

There are several social cases claiming 'homelessness' which the Department or the Housing Scheme cannot accept as such, some of these being families that moved into a hotel with full advance knowledge that they had to vacate the accommodation by a given date. In other instances homelessness is by way of voluntary departure. Homeless cases as such are those who find themselves homeless by way of disaster or who are evicted by a Court order for which they are not to blame.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 158 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

It doesn't answer the question, Mr Speaker, what is the figure?

HON H J ZAMMIT:

Of social cases?

HON A J HAYNES:

Of homeless people?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

There are no homeless people as far as Government is concerned.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, the Hon the Minister for Housing said there were 1800 applicants. Are there 1800 application of 1800 individuals?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Applications.

HON W T SCOTT:

We are now talking about 1800 families?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Yes, not applicants.



HON A J HAYNES:

Has there been a down trend in the waiting list figures in the last 4 years?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, Sir, there has been a increase and in fact we are finding that more and more people who were normally residents in UK now wish to come back and there is an increase, if anything.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can I have a fuller explanation as to why the figure isn't going down?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Well, the figure isn't going down for a number of reasons. First, that people obviously aspire to a better standard of living, young families want their independence, and rightly so, and therefore the demand is always greater.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, Will Government state whether all the flats at Varyl Begg Estate have now been allocated and if not, then why and will Government give a list of those unallocated flats at Varyl Begg?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Yes, Sir. The 29 flats in question at Varyl Begg have not yet been offered as they are not ready for occupation. However all prospective tenants have received letters explaining that they have qualified for one of these flats which will be offered to them when ready.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 159 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

What stops them being ready, Sir?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

There are not ready, they have defects.

HON A J HAYNES:

They have been built?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Of course they have been built, they have been standing there since 1973 or 1974.

HON A J HAYNES:

I see, so we've got defects going back to 1973 or 1974 and prospective tenants waiting that long?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, this is at Varyl Begg, no, Sir, not waiting that long. These people were informed of their allocation in the last few months.

HON W T SCOTT:

Is Government saying, Mr Speaker, that these 29 homes have defects and they haven't been given out and the ones that have been given out do not have any defects?

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are not going to go into that under any circumstances.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I understand then that these flats were built in 1973/74?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, I refer, of course, to Varyl Begg, Mr Speaker, that there are 29 flats in Varyl Begg all round the different blocks.

HON A J HAYNES:

29 flats at Varyl Begg which are empty?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Unoccupied.

MR SPEAKER:

Available for allocation.

HON A J HAYNES:

And these have been available for allocation since 1973?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, Sir.

HON A J HAYNES:

Could you clarify this?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I think I ought to. There are some of these houses, it may be recalled - The Hon Member was not then a Member of this House - some of these houses on the top floor of the 4 blocks which we held vacant for some time pending the Consultants' report, we were advised subsequently that we could allocate these houses but attempt to retain the top floor flats vacant as some of these suffered severe water penetration. Notwithstanding that, Mr Speaker, although we have not told individual people that they have been offered or they will be moving in to, for argument sake, say, 21 Royal Sovereign House, it is earmarked and the houses at Varyl Begg have all been now allocated to these 29 people who have so been informed.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, if I can refer the Hon Member back to question No 64/1980. In the supplementaries at page 1, Major Peliza said: "Will he consider the empty houses which are lying there for months on end not an important matter?". And the Member said: "There are no houses lying empty for many months, Mr Speaker". Major Peliza then answered: "Well, that does not seem to be the opinion of the general public if I may say so". Then the answer was: "The general public must be misinformed".

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Was that referring to Varyl Begg?

HON A J HAYNES:

The question asked for a list of flats which were subject of transfers, temporary or transit homes, etc. and the answer being: "Mr Speaker, Sir, it is regretted that there is not enough staff available to undertake this time-consuming operation when everyone in the Housing Department is fully occupied revising all the housing applications prior to implementation of the revised Housing Allocation Scheme". And then I asked: "Sir, will they not consider giving a list for a shorter period?" And the answer was: "I don't think that we can entertain anything which entails unnecessary work to an overtaxed Department". So when the question from Major Peliza was brought in as to empty houses lying for months there had been no reference to Varyl Begg.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, but what is the question?

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, is there any discrepancy between what the Minister was saying then is that there are no houses lying empty for many months and that the general public must be misinformed and the information we have now received that there are 29 which have or haven't, I am not sure yet, been lying empty since 1973/74?

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister has made it quite clear that these houses have not been lying empty since 1973/74.

HON A J HAYNES:

Have any of them been lying empty for months?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Certainly.

HON A J HAYNES:

Well, how many?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, there have been instances where we have had to bring people out of these particular flats in some cases because of penetration of water or flooding and they've had to be moved to alternative accommodation at Varyl Begg, that could be an instance that could have occurred 6 weeks ago. The top floor flats, of course, have never been occupied. It will be recalled that the Phase 6 of Varyl Begg, the last 4 blocks at Varyl Begg, should have been allocated in September, 1976, which I think all Members are fully aware of. They eventually were occupied I think some time in October/November, 1979. Those are the ones that have been held back

because of the eventual fixing up of the pitched roofs and were advised not to put people at the top floor flats because we didn't know exactly what was going to happen with the repair of the flat roofs there. The top floor flats invariable have water penetration!

MR SPEAKER:

Let us talk about figures and dates. How many flats have been unoccupied and how long for, that is what we are interested in.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

In Varyl Begg there are 29 flats. I would, of course, like to refer the Hon Member to the question he has referred to from the Hon and Gallant Major Peliza. I think the question then was how many flats in concerning modernisation were lying dormant, not Varyl Begg.

ME SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 160 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, Is Government now in a position to publish a list of all Government houses and flats which were allocated in the last two years excluding transfers or allocations to temporary or transit homes?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Sir, 12 Bedsitters at Glacis plus 42 other post-war flats have been allocated to tenants who had to be decanted under the requirements of the Modernisation Programme during the past two years, and 30 flats at Rosia Dale (Phase 1) to applicants on the medical and priority lists.

NO. 161 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, why has Government seen fit to deny any financial assistance to the Gibraltar Junior Football League?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Mr Speaker, Sir, this is not the case, the G.J.F.L. has received financial assistance from Government over the past years as follows:

1975/76 - £115

1976/77 - £200

1977/78 - £300

1978/79 - £300

1978/80 - £300

Grants will be considered for 1980/81 when applications are called for The G.J.F.L. should apply to the G.F.A., the Governing Body of Football, to whom an annual grant is invariably made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 161 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is not the Minister begging the question here because is it not a fact that the Gibraltar Football Association is dissatisfied with the size of their grant so they are hardly in a position to give any money to the G.J.F.L. and is the Minister not obviously aware of this fact and does the Minister not consider it a great tragedy that a venture of such great importance to our young people in Gibraltar going to New York should have received from the Government nothing more than a letter from the Chief Minister with a plaque?

MR SPEAKER:

We are talking about financial grants and nothing else.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I was written to about their going away and I wasn't asked for one penny and it was as a gesture, because they informed me, that I told them that they might be taking a plaque. I think that has done more harm than good to the people who want to support these people to stay and throw the question of the plaque into this matter.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, it is not relevant in any case.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is it not a fact that the Chief Minister presides over a Government that has collective responsibility and is it not a fact that the Minister for Sport was asked for financial assistance for this venture as long ago as 3 months and that the Gibraltar Junior Football League got no reply except an oral reply at a dinner dance and is that a satisfactory situation?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Let me start by saying, Mr Speaker, that I am somewhat surprised because the question as framed did not ask me at all as to why Government had not assisted the Gibraltar Junior Football League on its American trip. I have been asked as to why they had been denied financial assistance and I have proved that Government has not denied financial assistance. Mr Speaker, the question raised by the Hon Leader of the Opposition as to how can the GFA being dissatisfied with the grant that Government provides it was quite a volte face of what I heard here some years ago when I was accused of only helping football and ignoring all other sport. However, Mr Speaker, let me just remind the Hon Leader of the Opposition that football since 1974 to 1979/80, excluding, of course, this year's vote, has been afforded the sum, that is including grants and underwriting losses out of public funds, the sum of £18,818, and if I may, by way of comparison, that the football allege that the hockey get everything, hockey have taken away £17,763. Mr Speaker, I would say this much, that the GFA have never ever complained to me of lack of co-operation from Government on financial assistance. This has only become evident in the past couple of years due to a Member of .....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, we are not going to make speeches. You have given your answer to the question.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, is it not a fact that the majority of the funds given to the GFA has been underwriting losses in respect of teams who were brought to Gibraltar at the instigation and with the active assistance of the Minister? That is one question. The other question is, does the Minister not consider that there is a great difference between the G.F.A. and helping young people who are school children under the age of 16 to do a trip to New York ? Does he not consider there is a great difference?

MR SPEAKER:

I entirely agree with the Leader of the Opposition and that is why all these supplementaries are completely and utterly out of order. Let us come back to the original question and any supplementaries which are relevant. If there are any questions to be asked on financial assistance to the Gibraltar Junior Football League they are completely in order, not otherwise.



HON P J ISOLA:

I am going to ask why the Government has not given financial assistance to the Gibraltar Junior Football League which was sought from the Government 3 months ago in writing and to which the Government never bothered to reply except for an oral reply at a dinner dance?

MR SPEAKER:

Let us have an answer to that.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the Gibraltar Junior Football League applied in February this year saying that they were going to New York to attend a football tournament organised by the Hicksville American Football Club. I am fully aware and I was fully aware that the invitation had come from a gentleman who was sponsoring through a local company in Gibraltar every single penny, that is, air trips, including may I say dressing up from blazers right the way through to overnight stay in London, to being put up at Holiday Inns in America .....

MR SPEAKER:

Order, I will not have it. You have been asked a simple question. Did you receive an application for assistance and did you give any assistance?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Very good, Sir, I will reply to the question very briefly I did not agree and it is Government's policy that we do not provide financial assistance for teams be they young, old, hockey, football, or anything else, to people other than those who obtain admission into a tournament organised by an international governing body. There have been many teams leaving Gibraltar and they have not asked for financial assistance, they go because they want to go not because they have to go, Mr Speaker.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, the Minister has not answered my question which is why he did not give a reply for three months to a written application?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, it is not so that they did not get a reply, I told the Chairman that the matter had to be considered by a Committee and the Committee was not formalised as yet and therefore his annual grant will be considered by the Committee in conjunction with the G.F.A. but certainly not for a trip to America.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is it because the Minister was against the trip to America?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I would like to inform the Member that I instigated the trip to America.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker could I ask the Minister, in view of the fact that he instigated the trip to America, could I ask the Minister if he is not aware that apart from a generous donation from a very generous firm who helped considerably, trade in Gibraltar helped considerably, people, parents and so forth and does the Government not consider that the tax payers would have willingly agreed for a grant to be made by Government?

MR SPEAKER:

No, order. You have been given a straight answer which I think is a very clear answer. Government will not consider applications for teams representing Gibraltar and not sent by private institutions and individuals, it is as simple as that.

HON P J ISOLA:

May I then state on this side of the House that we thoroughly disagree with the policy of the Government that obviously does not encourage young people in Gibraltar to compete outside Gibraltar.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I would like to say something to the Hon Minister. It would appear, rising in value from 1975 right up to 1980, from £115 to £300 has been given annually particularly to the Gibraltar Junior Football League. So I understand from the Minister's answers there is no question of this year and in subsequent years of money being given directly to the G.J.F.L. I wonder, being consistent with the Minister's statement, I think it was in the estimates or debate on the budget, of his idea of introducing a Sports Council which I understand has not only not been constituted but obviously has not met, why this decision not to give money to the G.J.F.L. has been taken because I would have thought that that was a decision to be taken by the Sports Council and not by the Minister.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I have to answer this in two parts. Firstly, this policy decision was not taken purely by Government it was a decision taken by the Committee appointed to consider financial assistance to sporting organisations, it was taken 2 years ago, and in fact, the G.J.F.L. was so informed that they had to apply to the governing body of sport. That was not Government but I don't think, Mr Speaker, that any Government or any Minister or any member to do as they wish, I am not trying to insinuate anything wrong, without responsibility and that is where he who pays the piper calls the tune, Government lays its policy down and administers its money because it has to answer to the people as to how the money is spent.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, with due respect to the Hon Member, I don't think he has really answered my question.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, he has most certainly answered your question.

HON W T SCOTT:

May I ask another one?

MR SPEAKER:

I will tell you how he has answered your question. He has said that a decision not to grant direct aid to the Gibraltar Junior Football League was taken by the Committee that considers grants and not by them guided by Government policy. That has been the answer.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask, Mr Speaker, whether the Minister can assure us that the £300 for 1977/80 were actually paid to the Gibraltar Junior Football League?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Yes, Sir,

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government reconsider its policy for charging fees to users of the Victoria Stadium?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Mr Speaker Government has given serious thought to the need to introduce charges for use of playing facilities at the Victoria Stadium as is done in Sports Centres in the United Kingdom.

It is intended to introduce these charges on or about 1st October 1980. Government does not consider it necessary to reconsider its policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 162 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, can we have a more specific answer as to Government policy?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

They will have to pay for the facilities.

HON W T SCOTT:

The actual charges that are going to be levied and so forth?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No as yet, Mr Speaker.

HON W T SCOTT:

When will Government be in a position to do this prior to October?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

The moment the Sports Council is constituted we will make that public, Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will the Government take the views of the Sports Council into account in relation to charging users?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

We will certainly listen to their views, Mr Speaker, and I think the following question which refers to the terms of reference of the Sports Committee will, of course, be sought but I would remind Members that in previous questions on this subject I have said that the then Sports Advisory Committee were certainly consulted.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, when does Government intend constituting the Sports Council and can Government state what its terms of reference will be?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Mr Speaker, The Gibraltar Sports Committee will be constituted in the very near future. Its terms of reference will be:-

- (i) To advise the Government on the improvement of sporting facilities in Gibraltar generally.
- (ii) To receive and consider representations from sporting organisations in Gibraltar with a view to such improvements.
- (iii) To consider applications for financial assistance from sporting organisations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 163 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA;

Will it be part of the duties of the Sports Council to allocate funds provided by the Government to sporting associations without interference from the Minister?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

The Minister will be chairing this Committee and as it is tax payers money there will be Government policy as to the issuing of public funds.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, Mr Speaker, the Government will decide what funds are made available to the Council but will the Council have the right to determine, as a Council, with the Minister having a vote, how those funds are allocated to sport otherwise it is a farce.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Yes, Mr Speaker, otherwise there would be no Committee, it would be the Minister alone.

HON P J ISOLA:

Well, is the answer yes?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Of course, Mr Speaker, part of the terms of reference is to consider applications for financial assistance from sporting organisations.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, who will be included in the Sports Council?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the members of the Sports Committee, as is done in UK, have been invited to participate by myself, they have accepted, Sir, and the list is now in Secretariat with Establishment or the legal side in drafting the terms of reference.

HON G T RESTANO:

Did the Minister say that the different associations have been invited to send nominations?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, not send nominations, no, they are appointed by me. Members are appointed by the Minister for Sport as is done in UK. I would like to say, Sir, that every single member on that Committee is concerned one way or another and in some instances in more than one way with the functioning and the facilities afforded particularly at the Victoria Stadium.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is it not a fact that in the United Kingdom the Minister before appointing members to the Sports Council consults the associations involved and the sports involved as to the particular people they would like to see nominated to the Council, is that not the usual procedure in all Government Committees in the United Kingdom and in Gibraltar?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

According to a letter which a very prominent Member of the D.P.B.G. wrote to the Sports Council, I think you will find that the Minister for Sport appoints and in fact it goes further and that is why I am not calling it, Sir, a Sports Council but a Sports Committee because in a Sports Council the members are not drawn from sporting organisations, they are absolutely independent and have nothing to do with sport.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the Minister telling the House that he has not had consultations with the different sporting associations in Gibraltar as to who should be nominated to the Sports Council, is that what he is telling us?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I am not saying that I have not had consultation with the

Sports Associations. I had consultations with the then Sports Advisory Committee on which there was a representative of every single association.

HON P J ISOLA:

But does not the Minister consider that it is the wrong footing to get a new Sports Committee going if all he is doing is getting advice from the previous one? Does he not consider it desirable and eminently reasonable that he should have consulted the various sporting associations who are involved in sport today as to the sort of people they would like to see on this Committee or is this going to be another dictatorship?

HON H J ZALMITT:

Mr Speaker, as I said earlier on every single member of the now defunct Sports Advisory Committee represented an association and in some cases more than one association. They have all been consulted Mr Speaker.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can I ask then what is the purpose of a new Committee when all he has done is consult the defunct Committee?

MR SPEAKER:

No, next question.



THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, has Government now considered other seating arrangements for the Victoria Stadium which would be less susceptible to vandalism?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Yes, Sir, Government has already considered alternative seating for the Grand Stand at the Victoria Stadium. It is thought that wooden benches would be less susceptible to vandalism.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 164 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, when will these wooden benches be provided?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr. Speaker, the question is, has Government considered and the answer is we have considered, it is certainly not in this year's estimates.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the Minister not agree that these benches should be operational before you start charging people for using the facilities at the Victoria Stadium?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Sir, probably if we would have charged for the facilities we would have found that vandalism at the Stadium wouldn't be so severe.

MR SPEAKER:

Next Question.

THE HON G T RESTANO :

Mr Speaker, what reduction in rents were made in the Rosia Dale development to compensate for floor tiles not having been laid?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Sir, rents are assessed on living area and no reduction in rents has been made because these floors were not covered with tiles. Notwithstanding this, Rosia Dale rents are still subsidised.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 165 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, that is indirect contradiction with what the Minister for Public Works replied to me in March, when he said .....

MR SPEAKER:

Which question?

HON G T RESTANO:

It is question No 74 of 1980 on the question of the tiles. When I asked the Minister what sort of differential in rent he was talking about, he was talking about compensation depending on the means of tenants but to some extent the tenants is compensated in the rent.

MR SPEAKER:

Yes, but I think that referred to bedsitters only.

HON G T RESTANO:

To those that had not had floor tiles.

MR SPEAKER:

"An exception to the above condition was made by Government in the case of bedsitters where the question of hardship was taken into account."

HON G T RESTANO:

It referred to those flats which had not had floor tiles laid and the Minister said that "the tenant is compensated in the rent that

is charged which is probably a little lower without tiles". Now the Minister for Housing says that there is no difference, can I know who is accurate and who is not accurate?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I think, Mr Speaker, one cannot take in isolation a sentence. What was said generally there was that the added increase of cost in laying tiles and I seem to remember that we had explained that our experience was that where we had laid grey tiles, people wanted pink tiles, where we had laid pink tiles people wanted grey tiles. Living area is how Government assesses its rent, not whether we have wooden roofs or tiles or carpet or lino.

HON G T RESTANO:

Again a complete contradiction from the other Minister who said that "the rent is based to some extent on the actual cost of construction". I still want to know, Mr Speaker, whether in fact what I was told last time was correct ie. that the rent is probably a little lower without tiles or whether it is not correct which is what the Minister for Housing is now saying.

MR SPEAKER:

I think one must assume that it is lower due to the fact that the cost of construction is less.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, some of those flats I think were not tiled and some were.

HON H J ZAMMITT:

No, none of them were tiled.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 166 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how long has the barrier in Cornwall's Lane been up and given the fact that this is one of the busiest intersections of our City, can Government say when this lane will enjoy a free flow of traffic?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Mr Speaker, Sir, on the 15 February, 1980, the Public Health Department informed the occupiers of 9 Cornwall's Lane that there was a danger of falling masonry due to a faulty roof. On the 9 April, Public Health Department sent a warning letter to the occupiers to carry out repairs. They failed to carry out such repairs and they were summonsed. The Company was fined £20 on the 11 July 1980. and the Court ordered that repairs be carried out within 45 days.

Traffic is flowing along that part of Cornwall's Lane.

The scaffolding is 23 feet long. The width of the road left for the flow of traffic is 7'9" at one end and 6'8" at the other end.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.166 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

It does not give much room if there is a pedestrian as well as a car, does it, Mr Speaker, to go through?

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government state whether they are satisfied with the Traffic (Motor Vehicles) (Construction and Use) Regulations or does Government not agree that these Regulations should be revised to bring them up to date with United Kingdom and European standards?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Mr Speaker, Sir, the revision of certain aspects of the Traffic (Motor Vehicles) (Construction and Use) Regulations is currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 167 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, for how long has this been under consideration?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I don't know, I wouldn't like to give a particular date, about a year or so.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, is the Minister aware that the changes in European and English Regulations took place about 8 years ago?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I don't know Mr Speaker, that in Europe it was changed 8 years ago. I cannot even recall if Britain was in the Common Market 8 years ago. Normally we are in line with UK not with Europe.

HON A J HAYNES:

There are EEC directives on the matter and I know of one which states that the exhaust cylinder should be pointing down to the ground which is what they've discovered is the best for pollution dispersant as opposed to pointing to the rear and a measure to change something like that doesn't that take 8 years surely, Sir?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, the question was very wide and one didn't know exactly what particular section or requirements the Questioner had in mind. The traffic (Motor Vehicles) (Construction and Use) Regulations deals with bits and pieces of a motor vehicle to its actual disposal

and removal. It is quite extensive, Mr Speaker, and therefore it was impossible to be able to decipher with clarity what the Honourable Member wanted answered. I can assure the Honourable Member that, of course, we are looking at these things, such as falling in line with European requirements.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government explain the shortage of 12p stamps and why these can no longer be purchased over the counter?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

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

Mr Speaker, Sir, the shortage of 12p stamps was foreseen by Government, but taking into account that a review of postal charges will become operative on 1 August 1980, it was considered advisable not to order a reprint of these stamps which would not only have created additional and unnecessary expenditure but could also have an adverse effect among collectors.

Limited quantities of 12p stamps may still be obtained over the counter. I propose to make a statement about the review of charges later in the proceedings, Mr Speaker.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 168 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask in connection with the review of charges that the Honourable Member is going to make, will there be stamps available for those charges over the counter?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Mr Speaker, I think it is implicit that we haven't got 12p it is because we have made provision for the necessary increase.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO. 169 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, have any approaches been made by Government to any Associations to arrange Fun Fairs this summer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

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

No, Sir, but as I said in answer to Question No.67 of 1980 at the meeting of the House on 25 March, 1980, Government would help any organised festival as was done last year. Indeed, the sum of £3,000 was granted towards the organisation of the Gibraltar Song Festival held last May.



THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, has Government any immediate plans of providing facilities for tourists arriving on Cruise Liners at North Mole and if so then what type of facilities are envisaged?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

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

No, Sir, Government has no immediate plans for providing such facilities. I would, however, like to refer to my answer to a similar question (No 69 of 1980) at the meeting of the House on 25 March, 1980.

This matter will be considered in conjunction with the Port Development Study now being conducted.

NO 171 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government do something about the sewers in Camp Bay which seem to emit dangerous and unhealthy smells throughout the area?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, during desilting works on the Main Sewer in the Camp Bay/Rosia, it was necessary to leave certain manholes open to allow ventilation of the sewer before work can commence. These works have now been suspended until the Autumn. This is the procedure followed in previous years.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.171 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker this smell is present at the moment. Is the Government doing anything about it, just closing the sewers up and that is it?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

As far as I know there is no smell at the moment but I will look into it if you assure me there is.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Is it a fact that some public toilets in the City have been closed down and what is the reason for this?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, one public toilet, by the Theatre Royal, has been closed. This toilet required almost complete re-building and it was felt that the use made of it by the public did not justify the expense plus the added annual cost of an attendant.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.172 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Minister aware that will the possible influx of thousands of visitors there would be in need for such facilities if the visitors are going to think highly of Gibraltar?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

There are plenty of toilets at the Piazza and the distance is not all that far.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

So the Minister feels that there are enough toilet facilities even if the visitor population of Gibraltar is increased to the number that the Government seems to foresee?

HON M K FEATHERSONTE:

I know when one is hard pressed one would like a toilet at every street corner but I think the number of toilets in Gibraltar is quite adequate and possibly greater than in the United Kingdom.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Is Government taking any action to put right and repair the great number of pot holes all over Gibraltar especially in Main Street?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, sections of Main Street have already been resurfaced and further sections are programmed once certain paving and kerbing works are completed. In the meantime these areas are regularly patched until the complete resurfacing works can be undertaken.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION No. 173 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Minister satisfied with the progress of patching and resurfacing?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I know the roads section tries to keep up with this, sometimes we are rather short of manpower but we are keeping it as much under control as we can.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Minister satisfied with productivity and not just manpower?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state whether the Public Works Department Garage is now completed having regard to the statement made in the House by the Minister in March, 1980?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, work on this Contract is not yet complete. The Contractor has suffered delays in supply of materials from UK, and has also had difficulties in obtaining Craftsmen.

There have been certain extensions to the contract in a number of items - outside toilet, extra windows/ventilation, compressed air line - at the request of Union representative. These have caused further delay.

It is now hoped that the main handover will take place in August.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 174 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

When, if the Minister can answer this question will demolition start?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The demolition of the other one will take place as soon as the equipment in the old garage has been transferred to the new one, this should take approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

NO 175 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, In view of the fact that Spring has now passed can Government explain why no work has commenced on the roofs at the Varyl Begg Estate and when does Government now expect that work will commence and has Government yet appointed contractors to do such work?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, plans and specifications for the construction of pitched roofs at the Varyl Begg Estate have been completed, and the Government has been advised on their cost. Up to date schedules of consequential damage to and other defects in the buildings have also been supplied to the consultant, except in the case of a small number of apartments to which, as yet, my department has been unable to obtain access because of the absence of the tenants when calls have been made. The Government's consultants and contractors have been and are conferring on the costs of and programme for the construction of the pitched roofs. Steps have been taken to expedite delivery of materials. The Government has not appointed a new contractor.

These matters have taken longer than was anticipated. I am not yet in a position to give a specific date for commencement of work at the estate. Although the matter has proceeded more slowly than Government would have wished, progress is being made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 175 OF 1980

MR SPEAKER:

May I remind Hon Members that there is a motion on this subject and we must not anticipate. I am, of course, not saying that no supplementaries should be asked.

HON P J ISOLA:

I am not going to anticipate the motion Mr Speaker but does the Minister not realise that he is not really answering my question having regard to what was said by the Hon and Learned Attorney-General in March, what was said by the Government itself in January and what was said by the Government itself in December in public statements. Why is it that the Government is still not in a position to commence works on the pitched roofs despite the assurances it gave in December, January and March?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think, Sir, as I already said, the matter has proceeded more slowly than Government would have wished. This has not been entirely in Government's hands it has been in the hands of the consultants and the contractors and it has not gone as fast as we would have wished but progress is being made.

HON P J ISOLA:

If this is the case can the Minister state why these assurances have been given in this House and is he not making a mockery of the House, if assurances are made about when work will commence and then not even contractors have been appointed? Who is going to do the work, can the Minister say that?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, it is not a question of making a mockery of the House, far be it for me to ever indulge in such a sort of thing, but I do think, Sir, that we are making rather a mockery of the procedure of the House if we are going to anticipate at question time everything that is going to be said in the debate.

MR SPEAKER:

No, you are being asked a straight-forward question. As the House has been given assurance on different occasions, why have these assurances not materialised.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The assurances were made in good faith on the information supplied to Government at the time. If that information has subsequently proved wrong it is not really to be laid at Government's door.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can the Minister, if he is to defend his assertion of good faith, can the Minister tell this House today July the 17th, not who is going to pay for the work but who is actually going to do the work on the pitched roofs?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I would think, Sir, that the way all negotiations are going it is going to be the contractor who originally did the roofs wrongly.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is the position then that the Government will not proceed with the work on the pitched roofs until the question of liability has been worked out?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

Well, if that is the case, Mr Speaker, what stopped the contractor starting work today, can the Minister tell us that?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

There has to be before the contractor is given the 100% go-ahead at least agreement between the consultants and the contractors on what the cost is going to be otherwise you are giving a blank cheque to a contractor. I think at the moment there is some difference between the consultants' estimate of the cost and the contractors' estimate.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does that mean, Sir, that the Government still doesn't know despite statements it has made to this effect in the House, still doesn't know the cost of the remedial measures that have to be carried out?

HON A J HAYNES:

Can Government, after making this assertion that the time limit was made in good faith, can he explain how they expected to start in June without appointing contractors, whether the information was investigated fully to make sure that it was not just a white elephant? How can they defend that position?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Very simply, Sir, If you have a consultant and you are speaking to him in February or January and you say "what has got to be done before we can start work?" and he says; "We have to do the drawings, we have to cost them and we have to agree the cost with the contractors", and you say to the consultant; "And how long will this take?" and he says; "three months", then you accept his word and if, in fact, it turns out to be 6 months you have accepted his word in good faith and have passed that information on.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, may I ask what was the reason for the delay?

MR SPEAKER:

It has been given.

HON G T RESTANO:

The Minister says that the reason was beyond his control, what was the reason?



HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the reason has been that the preparations of the working drawings and the calculations of the cost has taken longer than was anticipated.

HON A J HAYNES:

Weren't we given in March of this year an assurance that the plans had been finished?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think in March this year we were still talking that it had to be costed.

HON P J ISOLA:

The Attorney-General did say that the plans and specifications had been prepared and were in the process of being costed, that is what he said.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON P J ISOLA

Mr Speaker, can Government state what progress, if any, has been made in the apportionment of liability in respect of the remedial measures that have to be carried out to Varyl Begg Estate and is Government in a position to state the total cost of these remedial measures?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr Speaker, as stated in answer to question No.175, the Government has been advised on the cost of erecting pitched roofs at the Estate and schedules of known consequential damage and other defects are with the consultants for advice. These matters are being discussed between the consultant/the contractor. The apportionment of costs for the remedial measure has not yet been determined and the Government is not ready at this stage to state the total cost of the remedial measures.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 176 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Am I right in thinking then, Mr Speaker, that work is not likely to commence until liability has been apportioned and the total cost of these remedial measures have been agreed with the contractors who are an interested party in the negotiations, is that the position?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

No, Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

Well, can the Hon and Learned Attorney-General tell us whether there has been any agreement of any kind, in principle, to any apportionment of liability since this started in 1976?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

The matter is in the course of without prejudice consultations between the consultants and the contractors and at this stage I cannot comment further on the apportionment of liability.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can the Hon and Learned Attorney-General say how Government proposes to commence work on the remedial measures without apportionment having taken place? Has Government got ideas on this?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

One will have to wait for the outcome of the exact total costs which are assessed.

HON P J ISOLA:

But is the Hon and Learned Attorney-General aware that his predecessor in this House in March told us that work would commence in June? Is it not a fact, therefore, the Government is no more ready to commence work in June than it was in March than it was in January than it was in December; and when will it be ready to commence work?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

The Hon the Minister for Public Works has explained how in good faith one gives dates on the information given to one by consultants. The consultants' estimated time has not proved good but that really is no fault of ours.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is it the position that now that the electoral pressures are over, we are back to the good old days as far as Varyl Begg Estate of talk and talk and talk and no action?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

No, Sir, there is a continued without prejudice negotiations going on all the time.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can the Hon and Learned Attorney General identify to the House the period of time since these without prejudice negotiations commenced?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Not exactly.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is it not a fact that he goes back some four years and does Government not consider this an inordinate time to delay procedures?

HON ATTORNEY GENERAL:

No, Sir.

NO 177 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Will Government look into the possibility of planting some areas in the Glacis Estate in consultation with the Tenants' Association in order to improve the appearance of the Estate?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Some areas of Glacis Estate along Winston Churchill Avenue have already been planted this year though unfortunately some of these plants have since been vandalised. The possibility of planting other areas within the estate has been discussed with the Tenants' Association and is scheduled to be done progressively in the coming months.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.177 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, can the Minister say once the areas are planted does the Government retain responsibility for the upkeep of the areas or is this something that the tenants are expected to do?

HON M K FEATHERSONTE:

Sir, the Government will maintain the responsibility but, of course, they would request the Tenants' Associations to help as much as possible to see they are not vandalised etc.

NO 178 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state whether the bedsitters at Prince Edward's Road are on schedule and if not the reason for the delay?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the contract at Prince Edward's Road should have been completed in the first week of December 1979.

The contract is now estimated to be completed by the first week of October 1980 - 42 weeks after original completion date.

The contractor for the site is Whatlings (Overseas) Ltd.

Of these 42 weeks' delay the contractor has been awarded extensions of time amounting to 29 weeks  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days. This has been awarded for factors outside the control of the contractor. These are as follows:

Water main and Sewer diversion which had not been anticipated.

7 weeks

Redesign of foundations due to unforeseen soil conditions

14 weeks

The remaining 7 weeks  $1\frac{1}{2}$  days have been due to such factors as

- inclement weather

- Diversion of Electricity mains

- Additional work to North Gable

- delay in gaining access to rear of site

- Deeper excavations required

- Delay in supplying setting out drawings.

NO 179 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, is Government now in a position to inform this House as to when the final treatment to the Tower Blocks will be applied and the cost thereof?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the matter is now being thoroughly investigated and it is hoped that specialised treatment to the Tower Blocks will commence in 1983. The cost at present is not known.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 179 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

May I ask the Minister, Mr Speaker, why it will take as long as 1983 before any effective measures will be taken?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

We are not quite sure yet which method will be done but the schedule actually is that two floors will be done possibly next year in the materials that should be approved. This will then be given one winter to see how it works. If that is satisfactory then a whole face will be done the following year and if that is satisfactory then the whole of the Tower Blocks will be done in the third year.

HON W T SCOTT:

I would have thought, Mr Speaker, that the Government having solicited the advice of three specialist firms in this, would have been able to have come up with a solution without necessarily waiting further until such time as a field test can be carried out on two floors.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

We are at present in contact with the Building Research Establishment analysing various solutions to the problem which have been put forward by firms specialising in the treatment of rain penetration. We have already sent one of our engineers to England and Scotland to view areas, Tower Blocks in particular, which have been so treated and the result has not been what one might call 100% but they are being evaluated and we will then eventually come to the decision as to which method we will try in Gibraltar, but it has been suggested by the specialist firms themselves that it should be done in the three stages that I have mentioned. We have applied Flinkcote to the Tower Blocks so they should be reasonably good until 1983 anyway.

HON W T SCOTT:

When does the Government expect that it will have a projected final cost for this operation?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I would think that with the different analyses being done by the building cost when we determine on a specific firm we will then know what it is, I should hope within 3 to 4 months.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, did not the Minister estimate the cost at £1m per block?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, I did say £1m, in fact, one of the firms that did supply an estimate to us gave us somewhat around that figure but since we are projecting until 1983, I don't want to be too accurate.

HON G T RESTANO:

In other words, because the works are not being done soon, if the estimate of £1m per block about 18 months ago stated by the Minister was a correct figure we may well be getting into £2½m per block if we leave it until 1983. Would the Minister say whether this is a correct estimation or not?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I would think that would be an over exaggeration, Sir. The estimates that we have got at the moment from one firm, and I've mentioned there are two other firms in it, was a period up to 1983 and it came to just over £1m including the whole of the future projection but of course the other firms may come up with different figures.

HON G T RESTANO:

I think it is very important. That £1m quotation was estimated until 1983?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, it was thought that the three stages put together would total something just over £1m.

HON G T RESTANO:

With the work commencing when, Mr Speaker?

3.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

With some of the work commencing on two floors next year, a whole face the following year and the rest in 1983.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.



17 7 80

NO 180 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government now say whether it is prepared to lay the first six months accounts of the Gibraltar Quarry Company Limited on the table for the information of Members?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Yes Sir, after perusal by the Board of Directors, the accounts will be presented at the next meeting of the House of Assembly.

17 7 80

NO 181 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Is Government now in a position to determine whether water of good quality can be economically abstracted from deep drilling operations?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, drilling operations at the last exploratory borehole were completed on Saturday 12 July 1980.

In order to determine accurately whether water of good quality can be economically abstracted from those exploratory drilling sites where water has been found, it is necessary to carry out prolonged pumping tests over at least a year to cover all seasonal variations in water level and quality. Catchment studies will also be carried out during this time in order to ascertain the rate at which the aquifer is replenished.

So far tests show that the water obtained has double the maximum permissible amount of salt and can, therefore, only be used for blending.

NO 182 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, can Government state what is the position with regard to the water cisterns at both Coelho House and Anderson House?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the position of the water cisterns at Coelho House and Anderson House is as follows:-

COELHO HOUSE

In the course of converting wash-house into bedsitters four years ago, it was found necessary to discontinue the water supply service from the underground water tank.

ANDERSON HOUSE

The water cistern at Anderson House has to be emptied and cleaned. There is a backlog on this type of work and Anderson House is now 4th on the priority list.

17 7 80

NO 183 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government consider the installation of a communal aerial system at Coelho House and Anderson House?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the installation of communal TV aerial system at Coelho House and Anderson House has been studied in depth and is not considered practical.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.163 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Is Government aware of the particular nature of the housing units at both Coelho House and Anderson House where the tenants are access to the roof thereby not making television aerial installations available to them?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, Government is aware of that but it is still possible to put television aerials outside windows etc as has been done in many other blocks. I would also mention that in areas where we do have communal aerials, firstly, they don't give very good results, secondly, people afterwards go and put their own aerials to get second channels, Morocco, VHF and what have you.

17 7 80

NO 184 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government state what roads have been resurfaced since February/March of this year?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the following roads have been resurfaced since February 1980.

Corral Road (Part)

Main Street (Cathedral Square to Convent)

Cross of Sacrifice

New Marina Ring-Road

Car Part at Eastern Beach

Over 800 tons of asphalt have been manufactured and laid by hand.

NO. 185 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir will Government confirm that sand is still being imported into Gibraltar and does Government not think that the extent of the originally planned winning of sand from the Upper Rock as undertaken by the Gibraltar Quarry Company Limited, a public Company, falls short of the targets envisaged?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Yes, Sir, sand is still being imported. I would remind the Hon Member that in a statement in the House I said that the Gibraltar Quarry Company would not have a monopoly in this commodity.

To the second part of the question, it is agreed that the extent of the sand obtained at present falls short of the targets envisaged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 185 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

What measures does Government propose to take to ensure that the production of sand does not fall short of that originally envisaged?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, Government is dealing with the consultants with a view to a satisfactory solution that would then enable the Quarry Company to carry out operations as envisaged by the consultants in their original report.

HON W T SCOTT:

For how long has this on-going consultancy been taking place since the original construction of that sand winning plant?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the basic position is that the Quarry Company expected to be handed over a going concern. That has not yet taken place and the consultants are still investigating to see how they can make it give the results that they had originally promised.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Can the Minister state where the fault lies, why it is that the system doesn't seem to be working?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Where the fault lies basically is that the sand does not come from top to bottom down the chute. It seems to be the impression of Government that the consultants did not investigate the situation sufficiently before they proposed the chute in the position and at the angles at which it has been erected.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Will the consultants therefore have to foot the bill for the extra work and delay in the availability of the sand?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I have been in touch with the Attorney-General who informs me that it is very possible that we will have to sue the consultants in due course.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Will the matter be dealt with a little bit faster than the Varyl Begg affair?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I sincerely hope so.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 186 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, can Government give an assurance to this House that the area known as the wasteground at Laguna Estate will not be used for a car or coach parking if and when the frontier opens?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the question whether the waste ground at Laguna Estate is to be used as a coach parking area is still under consideration by Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 186 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Why does it take so long to consider these matters? I would have thought it was a fairly simple issue.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, the issue is so simple that the friends across the way have not yet decided when they are going to open the gates so that we will know how many coaches are actually going to come in. When they do make up their minds, if they ever do, and if the gates actually do open and the number of coaches coming in can be calculated and ascertained then Government will be in a stronger position to say; "Yes, there is need of this area for a coaching car park, or no, there is no need for it".

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the position then that whether it is used for coach parking or not will depend on whether coaches come in and is that not begging the question that that area should not be used for parking but should be used for leisure purposes?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the Hon Member is quite right when he says that it is a question of whether coaches come in or not, yes indeed, it is the question.

HON P J ISOLA:

So is the position of the Government that if coaches come in the area will be used for parking?



HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Not necessarily. One needs to know how many coaches are going to come in. If only a very small quantity come in that can be accommodated somewhere else then obviously another place may be found for them but if, as has been anticipated by some people, the number of coaches may be in the range of twenty to thirty per day then that would seem to be a prime area for this.

HON P J ISOLA:

In other words what the Government is saying is that if the coaches come into Gibraltar that area will be used as parking.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the Government has said that when they are in a position to gauge the requirements for parking areas for coaches then they will have to take a decision as to whether to use this particular area for parking.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, there are a number of considerations if the frontier were to open and a quantity of coaches were to come in. The first consideration, of course, is that one doesn't want to be very unco-operative and say coaches have got to park themselves so far away that people have to walk an inordinate distance to get into town. On the same terms one doesn't want the coaches to come right into the town area where they will create considerable traffic and other problems so one has to find a happy medium to the two situations. This area does seem to be one of the more suitable areas that might be available but until such coaches do come Government does not yet wish to make its mind up definitely that that area will become a coach parking area..

HON P J ISOLA:

It is not clear from the line of answer of the Minister that the Government will use it as a parking area and cannot Government consider the idea of the coaches travelling along Queensway and dropping passengers near the town and then carrying on to Rosia and park there, what is the problem there?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

This is one of the considerations that has been put but it has been very strongly felt by all the authorities that to have coaches going past Waterport Fountain, going along Queensway which is going to be a very congested road, much more congested than it is already and it is already reasonably congested, and to go all the way to Roasia, will be an extremely difficult thing to do and should be avoided if possible. If the Honourable Member will assure me that twenty-five coaches will be coming then Government would be in a quicker position to make its mind up but until they do come the situation must remain under consideration.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will the Government bear in mind that there is extremely strong feelings, justifiably so, that present leisure areas in the community of Gibraltar should not be in any way diminished for this purpose even if as a result there may be a certain amount of inconvenience to certain authorities or others, that the governing factor in Governments' mind should be not to give up the leisure spaces which are open and easy to convert but do a bit of thinking and determine to use other spaces?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think one of the things that is motivating the Government's mind is the whole question of the economical and political survival of Gibraltar and all things have to be taken into account not just one point which is quite a valid point that the Hon Member mentions.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will the Government bear in mind that the economic, social and political survival of Gibraltar depends fundamentally on the provision of reasonable leisure areas and social areas for the people of Gibraltar within Gibraltar?

MR SPEAKER:

Let us not expand the orbit of the question.

HON G T RESTANO:

Doesn't Government consider it highly undesirable to have a coach park in the middle of a housing estate?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I wouldn't say that it is in the middle of a housing estate and I often wonder to myself that if before that area had become a tentative adventure playground it had been thrown open as a general car parking area whether it would not have been filled by cars possibly by the very residents of that estate.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, that seems to be a question answered by another question because the Minister is asking what would have happened if, but I am saying that that site is surrounded, is in the middle of a building estate, in fact, two building estates, it has the Glacis on the one side and the Laguna on the other side with the road in between, and if that is not in the middle of two housing estates, and I repeat the question, does the Government not consider that it is highly undesirable to have coach parks in the middle of housing estates?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Perhaps it might be less desirable to have the same coaches going all the way through town, disturbing every area of town that they would go past on their way to Rosia.

HON G T RESTANO:

Well, may I ask, Mr Speaker, what disturbance there would be for these coaches to go down Queensway?

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are not going to go into that.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I would like to ask another one relating to my Honourable Colleague on my right and that is if it might not be in the middle of a housing estate, surely, it is adjacent to a Junior and Middle school?

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, before we carry on. I am rather worried that it has taken the Spanish Government 11 years up to now to decide to open the frontier if it takes another 11 years will this wasteground not be put to any use at all for 11 years?

MR SPEAKER:

That is another question.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I don't think my question has been answered.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I thought it was a rhetorical question and I wasn't taking any further notice of it.

HON W T SCOTT:

Could I ask it again, Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER:

No, I don't think you are going to get an answer.

NO 187 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, when was the plastic grass removed from outside the Health Centre, and does Government intend doing anything to embellish this area?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the Plastic grass was remove just over a year ago. Government intends to landscape the area in question. Work is already in hand on the renewal of the adjoining pavement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 187 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, seeing that the project is under way, could I make a suggestion, and that is that some park benches be provided along that place considering that it is the entrance to town?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The suggestion is fully taken up, Sir, and we will look into it.

NO. 188 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government give the figures and cost for water production from available sources for the months of March 1980, to June, 1980, and state what the stocks were on the 30 June?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

MONTH	MARCH 1980 PRODUCTION 3 M	APRIL 1980 PRODUCTION 3 M	MAY 1980 PRODUCTION 3 M	JUNE 1980 PRODUCTION 3 M
Rainfall	14131	2766	6784	513
Wells	14053	11633	9130	8658
N F Distiller	9858	15875	8947	Annual Maintenance
VTE Distiller	Annual Maintenance	5044	23444	31005
Imported	13865	13115	19634	34215

Stocks of Potable Water on 30 June 1980 stood at 56,593 cubic metres (12.45 million gallons).

There is no change in the estimated operating costs for water production from those given in answer to question No 92 of 1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.188 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, can the Hon Member say why there seems to be an improvement in the production of the VTE Distiller?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

There has been a very considerable improvement in the production of the VTE Distiller which is now working at any where between 75% and 85% of its rated efficiency. This, I think, has been due to efforts of the engineers and all the staff at the VTE Distiller in effecting a number of modifications and I think they should be congratulated for their good work.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO.189 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker is Government aware that all public clocks are either in need of refurbishing or not keeping proper time or both and does Government propose to do anything about this?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Public clocks are wound twice weekly by Public Works personnel. The clocks at Market Place had not been wound recently as the special ladder used was broken and a replacement was being obtained. However, the clock has now been wound with the assistance of ladders provided by the City Fire Brigade.

The maintenance of public clocks is carried out by a private firm and we are advised that with the exception of the Market Place clock, the rest are keeping proper time. Now that it has been wound, this clock, the rest are keeping proper time. Now that it has been wound, this clock should also keep good time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.189 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I will assure the Minister that the clock of the House of Assembly Building is 3 minutes slow; that the clock at Moorish Castle, which has 3 faces and not 4, is not only 5 minutes fast but you can't read the numbers on the clock face and the clock at the Market Place might now be keeping time but the hands of the clock resemble those of a windmill more than those of a clock unless they were straightened out at the same time that the clock was wound up.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Well, Sir, if the 3 minutes slow are added to the 5 minutes fast perhaps they will compensate. I will inform the firm that checks this to see if they can get them to keep exactly the time as given by our good lady in the Telephone Department and I will try to see that the Castle clock's hands are made a little more distinct.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, this is of vital importance because if the frontier opens the tourists coming in will be confused enough with the one hour's difference without having to tot up the minutes.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 190 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Mr Speaker, Sir, what steps does Government intend taking to reduce the health hazard at the lower level of Keys Promenade emanating from the rainwater outlet pipes?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, PWD is not aware of any health hazard at Keys Promenade due to rainwater outlet pipes, especially since very little rain falls during the summer bathing season. Perhaps the Hon Member is referring to the DOE distiller outlet, which is on the MOD section of the promenade and not under PWD control. DOE have already been contacted in this respect.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.190 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

I am referring, Mr Speaker, to the shoreline below the Keys Promenade, that lido, and on the wall behind the lido there are pipes which unfortunately the users of the lido in the summer months appear to deposit some of their rubbish. This leads in time, particularly in the summer months, to vermin, cockroaches, and so forth.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think those are the DOE distiller pipes but we will check on it and we will approach DOE once again to see if they can be kept clean.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.



NO 191 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

What is Government policy towards the removal of chicken runs in populated areas?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, Government policy has been and still is to remove chicken runs in populated areas. For this purpose a sum of £2000 has been approved in the current financial year. The matter is of grave concern to the health authorities and an attempt is being made in consultation with housing Tenants' Association to remove them.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 191 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Government considering taking preventive action so that we haven't got to spend £2000 perhaps every year to remove them?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Sir, this is being considered.

NO 192 OF 1980

.ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Considering that it is now thirteen months since the Air Terminal extension project was due to have commenced, can this House be informed how soon it will be before the project is commenced?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the Air Terminal Extension had to be completely redesigned from an apron front extension eastwards to a northwards linear extension due to high MOD apron reprovisioning costs.

The new design is now finalised and agreed with all departments, working drawings and structural drawings are in hand and Bills of Quantities proceeding. Structural steelwork, cladding and roofing have been ordered, a letter of intent has been issued for the baggage racetrack and quotations have been received for the perimeter glazing and ventilation equipment. The anticipated tender date is hoped to be September 1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION No 192 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Has the Minister in the new plans for this terminal building included a rotary luggage collection in it or something better than the present system which is awful.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, that is the thing that I commented was a baggage reactrack. It's a round and round caroussel similar to the ones that one sees in London Airport.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 193 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Mr Speaker, will Government explain why it has not implemented a one way entry system into the Varyl Begg Estate?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the existing entrance road to Varyl Begg Estate was designed as a two-way road and is perfectly adequate for two-way traffic provided cars are not parked on the double yellow lines at the entrance of the Estate.

With the proposed re-sitting of the Police/Customs post to a new position at the present Port Office, this section of Waterport Road would be outside the Customs controlled area.

The temporary contractors' northern entrance to Varyl Begg has very poor visibility, and would be inside the new Customs area, which is undesirable.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 193 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, Sir, in answer to a question asked by me in March of the year the Hon Minister for Housing and Sport said that a detailed survey had already been carried out by the Police who had recommended that the western road leading into the estate would be entry only and that the eastern road should be exit and on further questioning the Hon Mr Zammit said that this would be implemented very shortly within the next month or so, that is Question 59 of 1980.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, it is agreed that that was said but I think due account had not been taken by the Police at that time of the requirements of the Customs authorities who obviously would not like to continue having Varyl Begg Estate inside a Customs control area.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 194 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Having regard to statements made recently by the conservationists, has Government any plans to put the area known as the Jungle to better use than at present and has Government made any progress in obtaining the release of adjacent land from the MOD?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, Government as early as January this year was looking into the possibility of making use of the area known as the 'Jungle'. Preliminary investigations and costings have already been carried out, including the annual recurrent costs. A decision will be made in time for the 1981/82 Estimates. All the land involved is already the property of the Gibraltar Government.

NO 195 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government consider the amendment of the Town Planning Ordinance so as to make it obligatory for the Development and Planning Commission to give public notice of matters it will consider which affect the public interest so that re-presentation can be made by groups or parties affected prior to the hearing of the application for planning permission?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE ANDLABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer questions 195 and 196 jointly.

Sir, the Government is prepared to consider amending the Town Planning Ordinance in order to allow greater public participation on specific building applications. I should point out that public participation in the overall City Plan was provided for in 1976 and will also feature in the revision of the Gibraltar City Plan in 1981.

I should however make the reservation that there may be practical and administrative difficulties, as well as disagreements as to what constitutes the public interest.

As regards the suggestion that the DPC should sit in public it is important to bear in mind that planning committees in the UK consist of members of all political parties represented in local Government, whereas that is not the case in Gibraltar, despite invitations issued by the Government in the past to Opposition Members.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 196 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, I think I welcome that answer, I think it is a move in the right direction. Obviously, would not the Minister agree that it would be for the Development and Planning Commission to make a judgement as to what is clearly a matter of public interest and what is really a matter of private sectional interests and although I appreciate the problems this might involve, does he not consider it desirable that that responsibility should remain square on the shoulders of the DPC?

HON A J CANEPA:

I am very grateful for that question, Mr Speaker, I am glad to see that the Hon Questioner is stressing the fact that ultimate responsibility should lie with the Commission and on that basis I think we might be able to make progress.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO 196 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government consider amending the Town Planning Legislation so as to make it obligatory for the Development and Planning Commission to sit in public when considering applications that are clearly of public interest?

ANSWER

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

(Answered together with Question No.195 of 1980)

NO 197 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state the present position as regards the improvement of passenger facilities at Waterport?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Sir, the improvements to the Customs Hall at Waterport should be completed by early next week. They include not only renovations and repainting of the Hall but also improved facilities for the clearance of passengers.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government consider forming a Committee to advise them on the need of an attendance centre for juvenile offenders or some other type of rehabilitation centre for Gibraltar?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE ANDLABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, as will have been gathered from my replies to the Hon Member's question No 94 of 25.3.80, and supplementaries thereto, to answer is 'No', Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.198 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, if I can detail those supplementaries. When asked whether it would be desirable to create an Attendance Centre the answer was: "A lot of things are desirable, Mr Speaker, but they are not essential". Do I take therefore that only essential things are done by this Government?

HON A J CANEPA:

Sir, the policy is that having regard to the incidence of Attendance Centre orders, namely, none in the past 2½ years, the use of a building exclusively as an Attendance Centre with a need to engage suitable staff is not warranted at present.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, which came first the chicken or the egg? How can a Court send you to an Attendance Centre when there isn't one?

HON A J CANEPA:

There is one, Mr Speaker, the Honourable Member is ignorant of the fact that the City Fire Station is the appointed Attendance Centre.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I am well aware of this and this is what he told us last time. Does the Hon Member think a part-time Fireman is going to really answer the needs of society today? There are some people who require attendance and as such I wouldn't like Government to commit themselves to spending the money now but I would ask them at least to appoint a Committee to find out whether it is desirable. Why should the Minister decide on the spur of the moment that it is desirable but not essential? Why doesn't he leave the committee to decide?



HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, I don't decide on the spur of the moment. I am elected to exercise certain functions as Minister for Labour, I have a number of advisors in the Department of Labour and Social Security who are to a greater or lesser extent experts in the field of social problems and it is on the basis of that advice that I act accordingly and I advise the Government accordingly and I formulate with the help of the Government policy.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, was there not at one time a Committee working along these lines in the 1960's?

HON A J CANEPA:

I was a teacher in the 1960s, Mr Speaker, I think the Hon Member was a young man in very short pants and the answer is that I don't know.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, what are in fact the facilities at the Fire Station for this type of juvenile offenders?

HON A J CANEPA:

The procedure, Mr Speaker, is that the City Fire Station is appointed Centre for the reception of persons who are aged between 12 and 20 and it is the Chief Fire Officer who is designated as the officer in charge of the Centre. He could require the offender, however, to carry out supervised activities at some other place and for this purpose the Youth and Careers Service has been designated in the past and could be in certain circumstances a rather more adequate venue having regard to the facilities there and to the greater expertise in social work of the staff of the Youth and Careers Office, but the fact remains that for 2½ years no attendance orders have been made. It is not the Department of Labour and Social Security that makes an attendance order it is the Court that make attendance orders and I am not aware that the Chief Justice or the legal profession as such, the Magistrate or Members of the Bar as such, as an association, consider this to be a pressing need.

HON G T RESTANO:

Just one very quick question straight away, Mr Speaker. Since the Minister has said that should certain duties be assigned to the offender by the Chief Fire Officer, these offenders must go to a more adequate, I think, was the word that he used.....

HON A J CANEPA:

No, if the Chief Fire Officer should consider that in any particular

case the kind of supervision that can be exercised at the Fire Station might not meet the circumstances of that particular young person, then he can designate the Youth and Careers Office as rather more suitable.

HON G T RESTANO:

I will go back to the original question. What in fact are the facilities there, what is the form for any juvenile offender who is sent to the Fire Station?

HON A J CANEPA:

The young person would be required to report there on appointed hours and do work under supervision and involve himself in the activities at the Fire Station, work and recreation, leisure activities as well. The intention is to keep him in a supervised environment.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Chief Fire Officer in any way trained in this sort of work? Certainly there are officers in other departments who are specifically trained. Is the Chief Officer trained and if so in what way?

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to go beyond the scope of the question. The question reads "Will Government consider forming a Committee to advise them on the need of an Attendance Centre for juvenile offenders or some other type of rehabilitation", and now we are going into the present system.

HON G T RESTANO:

May I just ask this, Mr Speaker, because the answer to that question was no because there were facilities at the Fire Station.....

MR SPEAKER:

The answer was that there is no need and then as a result of that it was asked what happens now when someone is sent to the Fire Station.

HON G T RESTANO:

All I am asking is what training is there at the Fire Station to look after these offenders?

MR SPEAKER:

And the answer has been that he is given general work under supervision.

HON G T RESTANO:

With training or without training, Mr Speaker, that is what I am trying to find out?

MR SPEAKER:

I will allow a quick answer and nothing else.

HON A J CANEPA:

I am not aware that the present Chief Fire Officer, I say that advisedly because I think his predecessor has a particular interest in this field, I am not aware whether the present Chief Fire Officer has any particular training but his predecessor certainly had.

NO 199 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government disclose the present berthing capacity of the Camber and will Government state whether there has been any improvement in its capacity in the last 12 months and if so when?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE ANDLABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, When the Camber was handed over to the Gibraltar Government in January 1978, 120 boats were officially moored there. There are now 206 boats with approximately another 40 berths still to be allocated. This has been made possible through a programme aimed at approximately doubling the berthing capacity. Berths are allocated 5 or 6 at a time, and once the boats have been properly moored another allocation is made.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.199 OF 1980

HAN A J HAYNES:

When were these berths made available?

HON A J CANEPA:

I cannot specify dates as to when 5 or 6 berths are made available and when another 5 or 6 are made available. I have been able to deal with the question in broad terms and point out that over a period of just over 2 years the berthing capacity at Camber has been progressively doubled.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON A J. HAYNES

Sir Will Government give a full explanation of the Port development feasibility study?

ANSWER

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

Sir, I will refer the Honourable Member, to the statement that I made during the last Budget session when, inter alia, I explained that the Government of Gibraltar was preparing to commission a firm of suitably qualified consultants to make detailed recommendations for the phased development of the Port up to the year 2000. The study would cover all important aspects of the Port and its role in the development of the economy by way of industrialisation plans, potential projects, the possible establishment of a free trade zone, the planned development of utilities, particularly power and water, the future development of tourism, the potential for freight transshipment and the Port's position vis a vis Spain and the EEC. The study would also entail the forecasting of external trade patterns, shipping movements, the type and size of vessels calling, the demand for Port Services and the effect of competition from other Ports. The Consultants would also look at existing buildings, equipment and infrastructure, the size and structure of the existing labour force and the administrative arrangements at the Port.

I can now further inform the House, that, since then, PEIDA (Planning Economic Industrial Development Advisers) in association with Wallace Evans and Partners have been appointed as consultants for the study. As I mentioned at a Press Conference on 4th July, 1980, the Government has been working on detailed plans and proposals in connection with preparations for the next Development Programme and the Port has commanded serious attention and high priority. The possibilities and the alternatives for development of the Port are wide ranging and likely to involve substantial capital expenditure. The study will emphasize the economic and planning aspects and these, in turn, will determine the engineering solutions. Finally, I should add that the study is being financed by the Government, (it will be noted from the schedule of supplementary estimates No 1 of 1980/81 that the cost is £90,000) and it is envisaged that it will be completed over the next six months and a final report submitted by January 1981.

NO 201 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, is Government satisfied with the general state of the Port especially as regards the manner in which container and beer barrels are at present being stored or parked?

ANSWER

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

Mr Speaker, the short answer is 'No, Sir'. Having appreciated the problems connected with containerisation and the limited space available for commercial operations the Government has undertaken the present Port Development programme, whereby the space between Jetties No 2 and 3 is being filled in to provide a stacking area for containers.

Because of this project, which it is expected will be completed at the end of the year, the area of the Port has been further reduced temporarily. However although conditions at present are far from satisfactory, the Government believes that the resultant gain in stacking space will considerably alleviate the present situation. With regard to empty beer barrels, these are stacked out of the traffic flow between No 1 Jetty and the Western Arm awaiting shipment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 201 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

But is Government certain that the best use of space has been made?

HON A J CANEPA:

We think so, Sir, we have no reason to believe that we are not making the best use of the limited space available.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, may I ask why is it that nowadays beer barrels are stacked in the Port? In the past they were not stacked there, they used to be loaded at the last moment and not left there for weeks on end. Why is it that now they are allowed to be stacked there?

HON A J CANEPA:

I don't know when that policy was introduced, Mr Speaker, I don't know whether the position was ever different in the past. As I said in my main answer they are really there awaiting shipment. I can look into it but I don't know that it would be a better solution to bring them back again. I doubt whether that would be any more convenient particularly having regard to the problems at the Viaduct Bridge, I wouldn't think so.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, it is not a question of bringing them in to take them out again. Those beer barrels, presumably, are empty beer barrels, they have already been imported, they have been used and now they have been stacked in the Port area awaiting shipment. In the past from what I understand and what I remember, too, beer barrels were only taken to the Port at the time of shipment and not just allowed to be stacked for weeks on end after they have been used in town. Perhaps the Minister could have a look at that and give me a reply.

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I will have a look at that.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Is it a fact that Old Age Pensioners who may require to use the ambulance service for going to Hospital for treatment are charged for this service?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH  
SERVICES

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 202 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

The Minister has said no, Sir. Is the position then that any old age pensioner who requires the ambulance service is taken to hospital free of any charge?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Sir.



17 7 80

NO 203 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, Now that GBC have moved from Wellington Front will Government proceed actively to allocate areas in Wellington Front for Youth Clubs, Associations and other organisations in need of premises?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE AND

LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, the allocation of Wellington Front is being actively considered by the Development and Planning Commission now that GBC are moving from Wellington Front. The Commission has requested that a study that was carried out just over a year ago to identify the requirements of Youth Clubs and other associations should be brought up to date. Once this has been submitted, the Commission will make recommendations to Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 203 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, would not that be for example an ideal proceeding for the Development and Planning Commission to hold in public to hear views of affected parties and so forth?

HON A J CANEPA:

We certainly have to hear views because there are very many prospective applicants. There are a lot of people particularly those in the old Command Education Centre, who are after those premises. This is why I say that the matter has to be updated because the position has changed in the last year or so, I think there is now even greater demand.

NO 204 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what arrangements have been made to pay Social Security Benefits to Campo Area pensioners?

ANSWER

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

Sir, In order that the Department of Labour and Social Security may be able to cope with the large number of Campo Area pensioners who are expected to come to Gibraltar to collect their social insurance benefits when the frontier opens, Government is making available additional offices on the ground floor of the Key and Anchor premises (the Old Garrison Recreation Rooms) for which some additional staff will be required.

This is intended as a temporary measure until the permanent requirements can be assessed in the light of experience over a period after the opening of the frontier.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 204 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

What I would like to know, Mr Speaker, is in fact what arrangements have been made between the Government of Gibraltar and the Spanish Government for paying Social Security Benefits?

HON A J CANEPA:

That would be telling.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the answer then that no arrangements have been made or that Government has made arrangements but is unwilling to divulge the nature of those arrangements?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, the fact is, Mr Speaker, that once the frontier opens regardless of any discussions on the wider issues of the old age pensions of Spanish nationals, the fact of the matter is that people living in the vicinity of Gibraltar in the Campo Area will be able to come in to Gibraltar and apply, if they meet the necessary conditions, apply for an old age pension and that application will have to be investigated and assessed and there is nothing to stop that happening once the frontier opens and these people are allowed in and I think we have to be ready to meet that situation and that has got nothing to do with the other wider and more fundamental issues.

HON J BOSSANO:

So the fact is then, Mr Speaker, that the Government is acting on the assumption that it may be faced with a number of applications but it isn't that there have been specific arrangements to make payments to a certain number of people?

HON A J CANEPA:

That is correct.

HON J BOSSANO:

And can the Government say just how big they estimate the potential demand could be?

HON A J CANEPA:

The number of pensioners expected could be up to 4,000.

HON J BOSSANO:

And is this on the basis of their employment record in Gibraltar prior to the closing of the frontier?

HON A J CANEPA:

It is on that basis and on the basis of benefits payable pre-1969.

HON P J ISOLA:

What is the cost of the work that has been done at the Key and Anchor premises?

HON A J CANEPA:

The adaptation of the premises is estimated at just over £6,000. The provision of office furniture about £1,700.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could the Government not have found a slightly better site than an area which is part really of a leisure and recreational complex, for this?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, this has been the subject of very close study. The General Division, Government Secretariat, together with the Department of Labour and Social Security have really been looking around very carefully for premises to meet the situation. We certainly would not be able to cope at College Lane and we were looking for premises perhaps in a more northerly direction but the fact of the matter is really that there are none available and what

we are endeavouring to do in using these premises is to make sure that the work that is done there is really minimal and does not in any way destroy the character of what I agree with the Hon Member is a rather beautiful building which has great potential and we want to make certain that this doesn't happen so we are providing just the bare minimum facilities which are going to be the provision of counters, neon lighting and toilet facilities and nothing else, we are not going to alter the character of those rooms at all.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, may I ask the Minister. The people who will be able to claim these benefits, will they be able to claim them from a current date or will they be able to claim the benefits for all the period that they have not been able to come to Gibraltar because the frontier has been closed?

HON A J CANEPA:

The law provides for payment to be made to those people who are entitled to benefits over the previous twelve months. In other words, that meets the situation of a pensioner who may be slightly over 65 when he first applies for an old age pension he may be 65 years and a few months, well, he can have it back-dated up to the time when he was 65 in that case, should he be, say, aged over 66 he will be entitled to payment of benefits for the previous 52 weeks.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 205 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Mr Speaker, will Government consider bringing into line those elderly persons, living on their own and in receipt of Old Age Pensions or Elderly Persons Pensions, with the benefits given, such as help with telephone rentals, with elderly persons living on their own and in receipt of Supplementary Benefits?

ANSWER

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

Sir, I do not understand in what way - other than with assistance towards telephone rentals - the Hon Questioner is suggesting that all elderly persons should be brought into line with those in receipt of Supplementary Benefits.

With regard to telephone rentals, I have already explained - in reply to Question No 98 of 25.3.80 - that elderly persons living on their own and in receipt of Supplementary Benefits receive an allowance of half of the rental. I cannot see my way to extending this also the persons in receipt of Old Age Pension or Elderly Persons Pension, as these pensions are payable irrespective of income. Unless elderly persons qualify for Supplementary Benefits it must be assumed that no real hardship exists. In many cases, such pensioners could well be better off than wage-earners with family responsibilities.

Sir, once again I would ask the Hon Questioner to try to be more specific as to his intentions when asking about matters of this nature.

NO 206 OF 1980

ORAL.

THE HON W T SCOTT

Mr Speaker, is Government aware of the inordinate queues that elderly persons are subjected to when collecting their pensions and what does Government propose to do to alleviate this situation?

ANSWER

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

Sir, the Hon Member does not specify who are the pensioners whom he has in mind, or where the queues are.

If he is referring to the Department of Labour & Social Security, I can say that Government is aware that queues do form up of pensioners calling to collect their social security pensions. I feel, however, that by using the words "inordinate" and "subjected", he may be over-stating the case.

In fact, much of the trouble lies in that most pensioners want to collect their pensions on the first or second day of the week, and early at that within a peak period of about 2 hours, so that unless there was a small army of paying cashiers (and this is assuming that there was space for them, which there is not) some queues are inevitable at these peak periods. At other times the queues, if any, are no longer than one would sometimes find at say a bank.

In fairness to the young lady cashiers, I must say that the complaints occasionally received from those who have had to queue up are far outnumbered by the complimentary remarks received on the quickness and efficiency with which they pay out the pensions.

If, on the other hand, the Hon Member is referring to those persons in receipt of pensions paid by the Treasury, I am informed that of a total of 721 pensioners, 183 receive payment through the banks. Payment of the remaining 538 is staggered as follows, in order to avoid their having to wait unduly;

200 Police and industrial-grade pensioners are paid at the Statistics Office one working day before the normal day of paying other pensions:

138 other Government pensioners are paid at the end of the month, also at the Statistics Office;

176 Pensioners paid on behalf of H M Government are paid at the Treasury cash office; and a further 24 ex-City Council pensioners are paid weekly, also at the cash office, on Fridays.

I am not aware that any of these pensioners are subjected to inordinate queueing-up, but it is well known that a number of them like to queue up outside the paying office well before opening time. There is nothing that anyone can do to prevent this, which is really quite unnecessary and which may have given a wrong impression to the Hon Questioner. In any case, I should point out that any pensioner who wishes to avoid having to queue up at all has only to ask the Accountant General to pay him through the bank, where no doubt he may have to queue even longer.

NO 207 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Mr Speaker, Sir, has Government recently allocated any land to commercial enterprises in the Port area?

ANSWER

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

Sir, the only land recently allocated to a commercial enterprise in the Port area has been to the Gibraltar Cold Stores Ltd in respect of an area 70 ft. in length to the south of their existing premises on the Western Arm of the North Mole. The allocation was made necessary in order to allow the lessees of the existing building to comply with certain Public Health requirements which have been outstanding for some time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO.207 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Is there any truth in the rumour that certain areas within just West of the Queen's Stores have been given to another commercial enterprise?

HON A J CANEPA:

I did not take the Queen's Stores or the Bonded Stores, Mr Speaker, under the definition of land. The Bonded Stores could be regarded more as premises and not land, this is why I limited my answer to the Gibraltar Cold Stores Ltd.

HON W T SCOTT:

Is the Minister able to answer that question or would he require notice?

HON A J CANEPA:

I will answer it, Mr Speaker, yes. The other premises which have been recently allocated in the Bonded Stores are part of the Stores which will become surplus to the Revenue Department which it is intended in fact, it has been earmarked for them, for allocation to the Gibraltar Underwater Contractors for a term of 30 years on completion of major structural alterations. There is also a smaller area measuring approximately 3,000 sq ft. which has been offered to Mobil Oil (Gibraltar) Ltd. on the basis of a lease for 21 years and in both cases they are firms which have very strong Port connections.



HON W T SCOTT:

Does Government not think it advisable that this land should have gone out to tender rather than negotiated it with one particular commercial concern and in any event, Mr Speaker, the experts undertaking the Port feasibility study might well decide that this is not consistent with their recommendations?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, as regards the latter point, the feasibility study, this is a matter which has been in hand well before that. As regards other interests I think I should point out that we are dealing in both cases with firms which are giving an important public service. The Gibraltar Underwater Contractors I think are an important element in the economy of Gibraltar and they are giving up other premises which they now have and which is going to enable their site to be cleared and to put by the Government to alternative use. In the case of Mobil Oil Gibraltar Ltd, they have succeeded on the basis of this offer in having the Port of Gibraltar upgraded in status by Mobil Oil Ltd which will be of great economic benefit to Gibraltar because ships will be able to come and be supplied with oil, fuels and lubricants which otherwise they would not be able to provide. As I say, Mr Speaker, they are two firms which have got strong and long connections with the Port and important elements, I would say, in the Gibraltar economy and for these reasons the Government considered in the public interest that it should make these allocations.

HON W T SCOTT:

Has the Government charged the commercial rent in this arrangement?

HON A J CANEPA:

Very much so; Mr Speaker.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Hon Member saying that the Gibraltar Underwater Contractors have been offered storage space for the next 30 years for all their derelict vehicles and scrap that they have at the entrance to Ventry Begg?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, they have been offered this space for the development of their business and for which they will have to spend a great deal of money. I can assure the Hon Member the question of clearing the area is very much of a sore point.

HON P J ISOLA:

Would Government give an assurance to the House that it will not allocate any more land or areas even to the Algeciras Ferry, if it comes on, in the Port area except on a very, very temporary basis till they find out the results of the feasibility study on which they are spending £100,000?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, I think I can give that assurance having regard to the fact that we expect to have the feasibility study within six months, but, of course, the Government cannot bind itself not to have to make allocations may be even direct allocations in the Port area if that is in the public interest.

HON P J ISOLA:

Ye, but the Minister has noticed that I have said "except on a very temporary basis."

HON A J CANEPA:

I think the Honourable Leader of the Opposition is making a valid point and I can fully go along with that.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

No 208 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Mr Speaker, can Government give a breakdown of unemployment figures in the different categories as at 31st May 1980?

ANSWER

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

Sir, the figures at the end of May, 1980, were as follows:-

<u>BRITISH</u>				<u>TOTAL</u>
Adults	Males	60		
	Females	<u>33</u>	93	
Juveniles	Males	7		
	Females	<u>26</u>	33	126
 <u>ALIENS</u>				
Males	:	23		
Females	:	4	27	<u>27</u>
				<u>153</u>

NO 209 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, Can Government give a full explanation of its policy with respect to the development of Parson's Lodge for the construction of an hotel involving as this does in the process the inevitable demolition of an historic site?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE ANDLABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, Parson's Lodge was earmarked as a site for an hotel in 1969.

The Victorian battery on the site is not included in the schedule of ancient monuments of the Museum and Antiquities Ordinance.

The Gibraltar land use map of March 1969, Drg No TP/53/69G, which was available to the general public, designated this site for an hotel.

The land use proposals of the 1976 Gibraltar City Plan designated this site for residential and seafaring activities. The 1976 Gibraltar City Plan was exhibited to the public for the period of two months. No objections were then raised by any individual or society to the proposed land use at Parson's Lodge. In proceeding with negotiations for the building of an hotel in Parson's Lodge Government is therefore pursuing the policy which has been consistently followed as from 1969. Insofar as the 18th century fortification walls are concerned, the DPC has laid down a requirement that these should be preserved.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 209 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I agree with the Minister that no representations were made by any society at the time, the reason being that there wasn't a Conservation society at the time but surely the fact that there is an awareness now, an awareness that didn't spring up overnight, over Parson's Lodge, an awareness of our heritage, if it wasn't taken into consideration before because it wasn't there now that it is there it should be taken into consideration.

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, my information is that successive Chief Planning Officers over the years have not considered the Victorian Battery at Parson's Lodge to be part of our heritage to the same extent as other historical sites and buildings.

HON A J HAYNES:

Did the Minister say that it is desirable to have historic preservation but not essential?

HON A J CANEPA:

Is he really expecting an answer, Mr Speaker?

HON A T LODDO:

Were the Planning Officers who were not concerned about Parson's Lodge and this type of Battery any authority on historical monuments or were they more interested in building a concrete jungle?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, the Museum Committee where I think that there are a number of people who over the years have been very concerned about the heritage of Gibraltar and who although they are laymen have acquired a certain expertise in this field through their interest in these matters over a long period of time; have not pressed very strongly for the inclusion of Parson's Lodge as a historic monument other than recently when they submitted Parson's Lodge in a list of 148 items which they would like to see now included in an amended schedule to the Ordinance. The Development and Planning Commission was able to agree to 146 of these items and there was a commitment in respect of another site to consult the Museum Committee if further consideration was given to the development of this other site but with regard to Parson's Lodge, as I think the Hon Member will have gathered from correspondence in the newspapers, the Museum Committee as a whole do not feel very strongly about Parson's Lodge and I am not aware that this kind of Victorian architecture has been very highly rated until very recently. For instance, you could not compare, I understand, and I am not an expert here but I have to take advice, you could not compare Victorian architecture, say, with Regency architecture and it is only recently that Victorian Societies have been formed and are agitating in the United Kingdom for certain conservationist policies to be adopted which in the past people were not very bothered about because the Victorian era was not an era that was particularly marked as being progressive in the field of architecture. That is my understanding as a layman of the situation and these are the considerations, I think, that as Chairman of the Commission I have to weigh up with other factors.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I am not an architect either but the way I understand it, Parson's Lodge is Victorian in military architecture and is only one of two remaining batteries of its kind in the world. I can understand for us pressing for the other battery wherever it is to be demolished so that we would have the only one but I cannot understand for us to want to demolish our own.

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to debate this matter.

HON A J HAYNES:

What is Regency architecture?

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are not going to have a session on architecture.

HON G T RESTANO:

The Minister said that the Museum Committee had put forward a list of 148 items to be included in the ancient monuments list and that only two had been left out, presumably Parson's Lodge was one of them, can I have confirmation of this, and if so did Government refuse to include Parson's Lodge in this new list by the Museum Committee because it had committed itself to development with the Developers?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, I think it is fair to say that it was the Commission because the question of the inclusion of Parson's Lodge or otherwise in this list has not yet been put to Government, it is the Commission only what have been looking at these proposals and they have not yet been submitted to Council of Ministers.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is it not a sorry state of affairs that the man in charge of preserving our historic heritage talks of Regency architecture and so forth?

MR SPEAKER:

I beg your pardon, what was the question?

HON A J HAYNES:

Does the Hon Member consider himself in any way qualified to decide what is historically worth preserving?

MR SPEAKER:

No, next question.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I haven't quite finished on that one. Was this project ever put out to tender, Mr Speaker? Was the hotel development project ever put out to tender?

HON A J CANEPA:

Ever, yes.

HON G T RESTANO:

On what date, Mr Speaker, when?

HON A J CANEPA:

Well before my time in the mid-60's, I believe.

HON G T RESTANO:

I take it then, Mr Speaker, that these present developers were those who tendered in 1960 and were presumably given a tender, then, is this what the Minister is saying?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, there were no takers at the time.

HON G T RESTANO:

So the tender was left open is that the answer? May I ask why it was not put out to tender?

HON A J CANEPA:

Once, Mr Speaker, something is put out to tender and no tenders are received, I understand it is the practice subsequently if approached by interested developers and you can investigate and negotiate their interest, to go ahead and proceed on that basis. It has been done with other developments in the past in Gibraltar, notably, Both Worlds.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, a difference of 20 years is what we are talking about and I think it is absolutely ludicrous for the Minister to get up and say that because a tender was put out 20 years ago and nobody took it up at that particular time when in those days, of course, the frontier was open and the circumstances in Gibraltar were quite different, I think it is absolutely ludicrous.

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, if the Hon Member will give way. I did not say 20 years ago I did not say 1960 I said in the mid-60's after the frontier restrictions started.

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to debate this question.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, can I ask whether in fact the situation is that there is now a specific commitment to that development and a time limit to it or are the developers going to be allowed to keep that place for as long as they want without developing it?

HON A J CANEPA:

The position, Mr Speaker, is the Government has given the developer a letter of intent and conditions have been specified. I am anticipating really an answer to a question that is to come. He is being given a limited period to produce a feasibility study to satisfy the Government about his sources of finance and so on and a number of other conditions which the Government has to be satisfied with, quite apart from the planning aspect of it, before the matter will go any further.

HON MAJOR F J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, the Minister said that round about the middle 60's it went to tender. Would the Minister state when, in fact, they were approached by this company?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, I would need separate notice of this question.

MR. SPEAKER:

You are being asked whether you know the date of the approach made by the present developer.

HON A J CANEPA:

The present developer?

MR SPEAKER:

Yes.

HON A J CANEPA:

The present developer and another developer, expressed an interest about 2 or 3 years ago and both of them were given an opportunity to submit proposals within a limited period of time and one of them did not and he fell out and the present developer has continued to show an interest. Subject to correction I would say this was about 2 years ago.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Bearing in mind, Mr Speaker, that obviously there was a renewed interest for that site since two developers were interested, wouldn't it have been, I think, fairer to put this site to tender?

HON A J CANEPA:

That is a matter of judgement, Mr Speaker, having regard to the closed frontier situation 2 years ago and having regard to the fact that for over a decade no one had expressed any interest, if 2



people come along and show an interest you give them an opportunity to see to what extent they can follow up their interest and come up with something definite.

HON MAJOR R J FELIZA:

If there is no way of reversing the situation, will the Minister make sure that we haven't got a repetition of Engineer House?

HON A J CANEPA:

The situation is not the same at all, Mr Speaker, Parson's Lodge is Government's property, Engineer House never has been and it will become now shortly we hope as a result of the funds that we are voting for later on in this proceedings. The Chief Minister is making a statement about Engineer House, the two are not comparable.

HON MAJOR R J FELIZA:

Well, all I am saying is that I hope we won't have a repetition, that's all.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 210 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how long ago was permission granted for the development of the Maida Vale as an hotel?

ANSWER

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

Sir, the plan for a proposed hotel at Maida Vale were first approved in July 1962.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 210 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, presumably this is a case of mid-60's as well and may I ask why is the hotel not being built?

HON A J CANEPA:

I understand, Mr Speaker, that the proposals never materialised owing to the sudden change in the economic climate which was brought about by the Spanish restrictions.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, has there been any penalty imposed on the developer for the non-development of this property?

HON A J CANEPA:

I do not have that information, Mr Speaker, I would require separate notice.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, what are the plans for that area?

HON A J CANEPA:

It's impossible, Mr Speaker, we are not computers. The Chief Minister has been in Government for longer than I have, he cannot remember and he has a fairly good memory for these things. I honestly don't know what the Hon Members opposite expect.

MR SPEAKER:

The answer is that you require notice.

HON A J CANEPA:

One requires notice. If they want to put specific questions on all these other side issues they will be answered, but they must give notice.

HON P J ISOLA:

With respect to the Hon Member if a question is asked, "How long ago was permission granted for the development of the Maida Vale as an hotel?", the obvious next question is going to be why hasn't it been built. I would have thought he would have had some information on that.

HON A J CANEPA:

I have given the answer Mr Speaker.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, but surely the Government should have handy what the land position is, does it belong to the Government?

HON A J CANEPA:

The position at the moment is that the matter is presently under negotiation.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the land belong to the Government now or does it belong to somebody else?

HON A J CANEPA:

Whether they were given a lease, I honestly don't know what the position is.

HON G T RESTANO:

If the Government propose to ensure that development was made there hasn't Government got any powers to do so? Under what conditions was permission granted for the development of Maida Vale?

HON A J CANEPA:

I think that in the present negotiations that is a matter which is being looked into in respect of the latest proposals which they have submitted and which have been approved, in principle, by the Development and Planning Commission.

HON G T RESTANO:

So new proposals have been put for Maiãa Vale, I see.

HON A J CANEPA:

Well, originally, in fact, there was another company which entered into an agreement for a lease before the days that I have given, on the 1st of July 1961, and their licence expired but in the case of the current negotiations it is the same company which has had that land for some years.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 211 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, when awarding a tender for development does Government take into account the origins of the capital to be invested in the project and did the Government take this factor into consideration when taking its decision in respect of the development at Parson's Lodge?

ANSWER

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

Sir, before awarding a tender for development, Government looks closely into the commercial viability of a project and will wish to satisfy itself that the proposed source and method of financing are satisfactory.

In the case of the development at Parson's Lodge, the developers have been asked to submit within a period of six months a feasibility study for consideration by Government.

The result of this study will be considered carefully by Government and if it is not satisfied with the sources and method of financing and other related factors it will be at liberty to deal with the site as it may deem fit.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 211 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, can the Minister inform the House of the origins of the capital?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, I am not involved in the negotiations with the developer, the Financial and Development Secretary is, and I don't know whether he has ascertained as yet the origin of the capital.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, may I ask the Hon Financial and Development Secretary whether he can acquaint this House with the origins of the capital to be invested in this project?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

The origins of the capital have yet to be disclosed to the Government. One of the requirements in the letter of intent was that when the developer comes back to Government he should satisfy that he has the capital to develop it and he will have to disclose where it is coming from.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, were the origins, in fact, not published by, I think, a representative of the developers in a local newspaper?

MR SPEAKER:

That is another matter. The Government can only answer on the information that they have.

HON J BOSSANO:

Is this developer a local company, a company registered or incorporated in Gibraltar or is it an outside company?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

As far as I am aware, Mr Speaker, it is a local company. Exactly who the directors are or who owns the share capital, I don't know.

HON A J CANEPA:

Development Security Ltd are a local company.

HON J BOSSANO:

And if that Company was being used as a vehicle to invest Spanish capital in Gibraltar I take it the Financial and Development Secretary would be in a position to find out, wouldn't he?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the developers will have to disclose where they are borrowing money, which banks are behind it and all thing being equal one would be able to tell where the money is coming from. On the other hand it is not unusual for loans to pass through a number of hands and it might be difficult to ascertain exactly where the money is coming from.

HON J BOSSANO:

I am talking about control and ownership rather than money, Mr Speaker. I am talking about capital being up because after all if it is a question of borrowing money then obviously the money can be borrowed here and the person doing the lending here can borrow some where else. I think in terms of investment one talks really of if not a controlling investment certainly the type of investment that can exercise pressure on policies rather than simply loans that have to be repaid.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think that I can assure the House that before any lease is granted that Government would look carefully at the ownership of the company.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government state what it is proposed to do with the Old Grammar School Building?

ANSWER

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

Sir, the Old Grammar School building is being converted to accommodate St Mary's Middle School which is on split sites at Johnstone's Passage and Castle Road.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 212 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, when will the Middle School be ready for occupation?

HON A J CANEPA:

The conversion is going to be carried out in phases, Mr Speaker. I cannot give a date, if the funds are very substantial it may have to be included in the next development programme.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, since this project has been in hand since 1978 when in fact the Government said that it would be for a Middle School and nothing seems to have been done about it, may I ask again, when will we be able to see some form of occupation for Schools?

HON A J CANEPA:

The project has not been in hand since 1978 in the sense that funds have been allocated for it, Mr Speaker, it doesn't figure in the current development Programme which runs from April 1978, to March 1981, we propose to include it in the next development programme. This is the intention at the moment, it is there, it is being studied and if it is done in phases, if the total cost involved again is not very great, the Government will have to decide depending on the expense of financial assistance from the United Kingdom whether it should be funded locally or whether specific provision should be made in the next development programme. It may depend on the policy of the United Kingdom with regard to provision of funds for schooling and so on.

HON G T RESTANO:

Does that mean, Mr Speaker, that until at least 1981 onwards we shall see no progress or no works at all being carried out at the Grammar School? Will it be left derelict?



HON A J CANEPA:

Well, having regard to the fact, Mr Speaker, that if you miss the boat, as it were, in September of one year then you are virtually committed to September the following year and certainly there isn't any chance, I understand, that even the first phase will be put in hand before September, 1980, so I think the Hon Member is probably quite right.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, is the Minister aware that a number of parents of children who will be attending the school have already been advised by the Headteacher that they are to take their children to Sacred Heart Terrace on the 2nd of September?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, on Tuesday afternoon at Catalan Bay the Headteacher informed me accordingly. She also informed me that she had spoken to the Hon Mr Loddó about it.

HON A T LODDO:

Precisely, and the Hon Mr Loddó then obviously knows what he is talking about. The Headteacher, Mr Speaker, was assured that the school would be ready for occupation in September and not only that but she was told to pack all the equipment and have it ready.

MR SPEAKER:

Now you are making a statement. What are you asking?

HON A T LODDO:

Is it a fact that the Headteacher was told that the school would be ready for occupation in part - the South wing - and that she was told to get all the equipment and books packed and ready for removal?

MR SPEAKER:

It doesn't arise from the question but if you want to give a quick answer you are free to do so.

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, I am not in charge of the Education Department and I don't know what the teacher was told.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, perhaps the Minister for Education could answer that one?

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 213 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, has Government shown any interest in acquiring the old Line Wall School building?

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

Sir, Government has not shown any interest in acquiring the old Line Wall School building.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 213 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, considering what the Minister was saying a few moments ago about his lack of success in finding the right sort of accommodation for the payment of Social Security and so on and that he had to take up this leisure site, the old Garrison Leisure Centre, the Key and Anchor Club, surely a building in the middle of Gibraltar when the Government seems to be so lacking in space would have been obvious for the Government to acquire. May I ask why the Government hasn't shown any interest in acquiring this place?

HON A J CANEPA:

Sir, we are talking of a property which is held on a free-hold basis by the Christian Brothers and which I think is likely to be the subject of competitive tenders. It is a trust property and I think the property as a whole is likely to be put out to tender and it may command a very high price.

HON G T RESTANO:

But perhaps when it was first acquired it may well have been acquired at a very low price.

MR SPEAKER:

No, it happens to be private property.

HON G T RESTANO:

Yes, Mr Speaker, but in answer to what he has just said that it will command a high price I think perhaps it may have been acquired at a very good price because it was going to go for education in Gibraltar but that apart, surely, even the Government might consider tendering for that site.

HON A J CANEPA:

When the time comes, perhaps, the matter can be considered.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the building being put to any use at all?

HON A J CANEPA:

I am informed by the Chief Minister that at present there is a caretaker living there and virtually occupying half the building and there are problems in moving him out and this is why it hasn't been put out for sale.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Government not agree that notwithstanding the fact that the property may be privately owned, in a place as small as Gibraltar the Government has got an overall responsibility to see that the available buildings and spaces are put to good use and not simply left empty for years on end because they happen to be owned by somebody?

HON A J CANEPA:

I would agree with that, we cannot nationalise the building and we have taken some measures in this House to try and prevent this sort of situation by at least ensuring that the people concerned pay rates and so on which was not the practice in the past.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, have the Landlords been approached in any way by the Government?

MR SPEAKER:

No, they have said they have shown no interest. Next question.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Can Government state whether they have received an indication from the MOD as to when the Married Quarters Site at Casemates will be handed over?

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

Sir, the MOD have agreed to hand over the Married Officers Quarters site at Casemates subject to the reprovisioning of the 7 quarters which are presently in occupation. These have been included in the first phase of the MOD building programme but it is not known at this juncture when the first phase will commence.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 214 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

So since the Government has a proposal to build a multi-storey car park there, has it no idea when such a project can begin to be built?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, because it is dependent on when the MOD get the go-ahead from the United Kingdom Treasury, when the funds are provided, for them to build their own Quarters in order to vacate those seven Quarters. In fact, I can inform the Hon Member the matter was discussed last Friday in the Development and Planning Commission and the Regional Estate Surveyor was not able to give any firmer indications than that.

HON G T RESTANO:

As I take it, the position has changed slightly since about a year ago when I think we were told that the Government, if they wanted to take over this site, would have to reprovide the six or seven quarters there.

HON A J CANEPA:

The Government will have to make itself responsible for reprovisioning, that doesn't mean that the Government will pay. A developer who could be interested in developing that site would have to meet the cost of reprovisioning.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the Minister saying that the person who redevelops or the Government will have to meet the cost of what the MOD decides to spend on seven quarters when it decides to spend it?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, Sir, that will not be the situation because the extent of betterment, a betterment element will have to be taken into account in arriving at the cost of reprovisioning because the likelihood is that the MOD will in the next building programme build seven quarters which will be of superior quality to the ones at Casematés.

HON P J ISOLA:

And the Government have to pay for the cost.

HON A J CANEPA:

Not the Government, the Government would only have to pay for the cost if it did not succeed in finding a developer that was interested in actually taking over that site, for instance, to use those seven quarters as housing but I don't think we would do that, what we would want would be a developer to move in, develop the site as has been indicated beforehand and make himself responsible for reprovisioning to the MOD less the betterment element.

HON P J ISOLA:

What stops the Government now from inviting tenders for the redevelopment of that site subject to those conditions?

HON A J CANEPA:

That is a very good question, Mr Speaker. The go-ahead from the Ministry of Defence is a matter which I recall distinctly the Chief Minister put to an Under Secretary who was here three months ago. It was a point that was put to them that it would be of great assistance, of great help, if they were able to give us a firm indication because then we would be in a position to put the site out to development subject to these conditions and with a definite time-scale but they are not in a position to indicate when the first phase will actually commence. The indications are that it might be within the next 12 or 18 months but who can say with the changing economic situation in the United Kingdom?

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, it is a very big site, of course, inside. In the meantime would it not be possible to make use of all the space which is not used in there, on a temporary basis, of course, for a car park?

HON A J CANEPA:

It would be possible if the Ministry of Defence said yes but if only the Hon Member were to know the problems that we are having in acquiring sites from the MOD for car parking, he would think again.

HON G T RESTANO:

Is the Minister saying that he has asked to use this area as a temporary car park until such time as the Government will take over the whole area?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, we have asked for other areas and I am not going to go any further.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 215 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

What plans does Government have for the Key and Anchor Club both in the short and long term?

ANSWER

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

Sir, as I have already explained in answer to Question 204, in the short term it is proposed to use part of the Key and Anchor Club for the payment of pensions to persons in the Campo Area. The first floor is presently being used as an extension to the Bishop Fitzgerald School and the use of the remainder of the accommodation at ground floor level, where library books are at present stores, is under consideration. The long term use of this building is still to be determined.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 215 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, in what Committee or in what place is the matter being considered at the moment in the long term?

HON A J CANEPA:

The long term use of this I think will be a matter for the Development and Planning Commission to make recommendations to the Government.

HON G T RESTANO:

Will this also be considered as a matter of interest which the public should be informed about before any decision is taken?

HON A J CANEPA:

I think it is a matter of great interest. The Key and Anchor Club as a whole is a lovely building, I think it has enormous potential touristic, recreational and it is, of course of great interest but we are not in a position really to take a view at this moment because we anticipate, for instance, that the school will be requiring the premises they are occupying there for some time and we are in no position really to make any recommendations to Government.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO 216 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Is Government aware whether at any stage the Spanish Government have indicated that they expect Spanish Trade Unions to be allowed to operate in Gibraltar in the event of the restrictions being lifted?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, with your permission I will deal with this question and with question No. 220 at the same time. Mr Speaker Sir, the details of the discussions between the British and Spanish Governments since the Lisbon meeting on 10 April, concerning all of which the Gibraltar Government have either participated or have been kept fully informed, are and must remain confidential, at least for the time being. I cannot therefore answer either of the two questions.

In so far as Question 216 is concerned, however, I would say that the views of the Gibraltar Trades Council and of TGWU Headquarters in Britain on the question of Spanish Trade Unions operating in Gibraltar, which, broadly speaking, are shared by the Gibraltar Government, are, of course, well known to the British Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 216 AND 220 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Hon and Learned the Chief Minister saying that that because he considers the discussions surrounding the Lisbon Agreement to be confidential, he cannot say whether the Spanish Government wish Spanish Trade Unions to be operating in Gibraltar or is he saying that he doesn't know whether they wish it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I say that I cannot give any information of what has happened. It would be very easy fishing for answers in putting hypothetical questions some of which might hit the target but if one is going to be able to continue to be consulted in this matter for the time being at least it is impossible to give any information.

HON J BOSSANO:

Regarding Question 220, in fact, the Hon and Learned Chief Minister will no doubt be aware that it has been publicly denied by the Foreign Office that Lord Carrington, in fact, had indicated that he would not hold meetings with Señor Oreja about Gibraltar until after the removal of the restrictions. Is the Hon and Learned Chief Minister saying that he is not in a position because of the confidentiality to either confirm the denial of the Foreign Office or deny the denial of the Foreign Office?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If, in fact, there have been a denial by the Foreign Office I don't see why I should be asked a question here, the Foreign Office know better.



HON J BOSSANO:

I see. Would the Hon and Learned Chief Minister agree that if other people in Gibraltar have been given this information there is no reason why it shouldn't be made available to Members of the House of Assembly and, indeed, to the public at large if it is indeed the case that other people in Gibraltar besides himself have been told this officially?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

As far as I am concerned the information which is given either to me and or the Leader of the Opposition and the Members of Gibraltar Council are not disclosed to anybody else.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Hon and Learned Chief Minister agree with me that if indeed it is the case that the subject matter of Question 220 has been communicated to other people in Gibraltar then there is no reason why it should continue to be cloaked in this confidentiality to which he attaches so much importance?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

If it has been communicated to somebody else in breach of confidence then as far as I am concerned I am not responsible for it. If it has been communicated in confidence and has been repeated, again, I am not responsible, all I can say is that the information I have which is confidential cannot be disclosed by me.

HON J BOSSANO:

I accept that, Mr Speaker, but I am asking him if in fact it appears that information like this can be made available to whoever the authorities in Gibraltar think fit or the British Government think fit, would the Hon and Learned Chief Minister not agree with me that either something is being told to him in confidence and being kept away from the rest of us, or there should not be privileged groups who share his confidence and are very limited in their range, would he not agree with that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a highly hypothetical question and I think under the Standing Orders you do not answer hypothetical questions.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, then will the Hon and Learned Chief Minister state whether if in fact he is able to establish, that is not a hypothetical situation, if he is able to establish that other

people besides the Government of Gibraltar and the Council of Ministers have been made aware.....

MR SPEAKER:

I will allow a question to be asked to the Chief Minister as to whether he is aware that this particular information has been disclosed but no further.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not aware. If the Hon Member has any information which I don't know has been passed to somebody I don't know has passed I would be very happy to know.

HON J BOSSANO:

Well, Mr Speaker, if I make the Hon and Learned Chief Minister aware of this would he then consider that perhaps the confidentiality need not necessarily cover this item because it is already beyond the limits which he described before of himself and the Council of Ministers and would he perhaps then reconsider whether he would then be in a position to make public what information he has on the subject matter?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

But if it has been made public it is no use my making it public and if in fact other people know about it, well, they know about it. The point is that if I make any comments on it shall also give an indication in case the hypothetical is just hypothetical, he would be able to get some information and I think he knows me better than to try and get it in that rather subtle way.

MR SPEAKER:

I do not think we are going to get any further on this.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, perhaps if you would allow me to give a hypothetical example to elucidate the question I'm trying to get the Hon and Learned Chief Minister to answer. Would he agree with me if, for example, he discovers.....

MR SPEAKER:

No, that is hypothetical. If you can say to the Chief Minister and give him that piece of information, is it a fact that the information was disclosed to Mr so and so, then that is not hypothetical.

Next question.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state what security measures are taken to prevent foreign pleasure or other craft from landing at Gibraltair without permission and will Government further state if it is satisfied that such precautions are sufficient?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, foreign craft are normally met on arrival by Customs and Police and Port Officers and are cleared inwards. There is an obligation on such vessels to meet these requirements.

The Police maintain a 24 hours a day patrol of the coast line by police launch and also maintain land patrols on the coast line by patrol cars and motor cycles. The Customs Department also patrols the Waterfront and the Port Department lookout keeps the Police and Customs informed of movements. The public also play a useful role in alerting the Police to landing by foreigners.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 217 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, if the precautions were as satisfactory as the Hon Attorney-General would have us believe, then we would not have unauthorised landings which have even given rise to comment of the Magistrate in the Court, so that answer about the satisfactory situation cannot possibly be accurate.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Given Gibraltar's position and coastline, it is not possible to prevent every unlawful landing but up to the present time the measures in force have been adequate.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Does Government intend making the area adjacent to the north face distiller available to caravans permanently?

ANSWER

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

Sir, the possibility of making available part of the Slaughter House site to a local caravaning and camping club has been favourably considered by the Development and Planning Commission. No final decision has as yet been taken pending the outcome of other developments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 218 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is this in any way related to the area above Catalan Bay?

HON A J CANEPA:

Above Catalan Bay, no, Sir. The Slaughter House site is the area to the right at the entrance of Eastern Beach.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Yes, what I mean is are the caravanners, shall we say, related to that site?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, not at all.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

It is not a way of decanting the area above Catalan Bay which I suppose the Government will very soon want to make use of?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, Sir.

NO 219 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government state on what grounds and on whose advice and request was the responsibility for the security of HM Dockyard handed over from the Gibraltar Police Force to the Gibraltar Security Police?

ANSWERTHE HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, in view of the increased tasks which would fall on the Gibraltar Police following the prospective re-opening of the frontier, the Government asked the Ministry of Defence in late April to agree to take over responsibility for static guard duties carried out for the Ministry of Defence by the Gibraltar Police, from the date of the reopening of the frontier. The Ministry of Defence subsequently decided, in May, to resume complete responsibility for policing the Dockyard and other MOD installations in Gibraltar, and to use the Gibraltar Security Police for this purpose.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 219 OF 1980

HON P J ISOLA:

Would the Hon and Learned Attorney-General not agree that the decision made as early as April was, perhaps, a little ill-advised having regard to the cost to the Gibraltar revenues of such a move which I understand to be from the estimates in the region of £850,000, and would it not have been wiser to have made that decision or made that request once the frontier opened?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

That may be a matter of hindsight really. Of course, the figure of £850,000 is a very bold figure but does not include the positive side of things which are saving on overtime, pensions which the Ministry of Overseas Development will continue to pay and perhaps related matters which my Friend the Financial and Development Secretary is in a better position to give to this House.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, this is not a matter of hindsight. Is it not a fact that before taking a decision which involves inevitably quite a serious financial loss to the revenues or serious financial cost, that decision should perhaps have been held back a bit, not hindsight but normal practice or normal prudence would have demanded it should have been held back until one knew that the extra Police let loose especially in the higher echelons of the Police were going to be used.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, if I may answer that question. First of all, I

would like to make it clear to the House that it was open to the Ministry of Defence at any time to end the agreement entered into between the Ministry of Defence and the Government in 1947 whereby the Government provided Police at the Dockyard. Secondly, when the question of possibly relieving certain of the posts at the Dockyard was raised, the Ministry of Defence carried out a wide survey of their needs and costing and they themselves decided that they wished to bring the arrangement to an end. It is true as the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition has said that £850,000 in the revenue estimates is the Ministry Overseas Development share of the Police. Of this amount we shall still continue to receive about £100,000 a year, possibly more, in respect of pensions of police and also we shall have savings in the order of £150,000 a year on overtime, it could be higher than that, it is still difficult to work the exact figures out but of course in the event of the frontier opening then the whole of the Police will be taken up and we shall be back into a situation where the Police will be working overtime. At the moment Police overtime has come down and all overtime for parades, rest days, public holidays, special events, etc., has been finished and the only overtime being worked now is six hours a week by the Force and we are aiming to reduce that in consultation with the Police Council to four hours a week by the end of this month. However, I would re-emphasise that this is a matter for the Ministry of Defence; they could at any time having discussed it with Government, end the agreement.

HON P J ISOLA:

But, Mr Speaker, this, apparently, was requested by the Gibraltar Government and what is the position, may I ask, with regard to senior staff in the Police Force whose responsibility it was to supervise the Dockyard area, what are they doing now?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I think perhaps the answer given by the Hon and Learned Attorney-General may not have been appreciated on the other side. When the Government asked for certain static posts to be replaced so that we would get a handful of policing that really had nothing to do with subsequent events when the MOD decided to take it all away.

HON P J ISOLA:

But was not the request made by the Gibraltar Government to the Ministry of Defence to take over responsibility for the security of the Dockyard?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Only a handful of static posts.

HON W T SCOTT:

Can the Hon and Learned Chief Minister or the Hon Attorney-General define what is meant by static posts?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

In very rough terms those posts which are of a sentry nature, in other words, they are not on the beat, the policeman is not patrolling but is rather in a cubby hole ie. at the entrance to the tunnels, etc., which is certainly not what a policeman has been trained for.

HON P J ISOLA:

But the fact is that the request from the Gibraltar Government is involving us in additional expenditure of £600,000.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am sorry but I must clear up this matter because it is not the case. One, in the question of obtaining a few policemen more in anticipation of possible arrangements and civilianisation of some posts in order to save public funds, the other thing was the decision taken later by the Ministry of Defence to bring to an end the agreement of the amalgamation of 1947. That was not sought by the Government.

HON J BOSSANO:

If the Government required more policemen because the frontier was going to open and the policemen that the Government had employed on MOD duties were being paid for by MOD, there was nothing to stop the Government employing more policemen.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The point about that is that first of all there had been talks a little before about the fact that these static posts really having regard to the relative salaries of policemen could be more easily supervised by less trained people and, secondly, that what we wanted was a small number of already trained policemen to get into the Force, but that is one item which would have made very little difference to the estimates, it would have been a matter of four or five posts. The decision to withdraw from the amalgamation was a decision taken by the Ministry of Defence.

HON J BOSSANO:

But, Mr Speaker, surely the explanation the Hon and Learned Chief Minister has given does not in fact explain the decision to reduce the number of policemen allocated to MOD duties which is

apparently the decision that initiated the process whereby in the end the MOD said it did not want the police at all because .....

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is not the case.

HON J BOSSANO:

Was the first move made by the Gibraltar Government or by the MOD?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, this has been a year ago before there was any question of the opening of the frontier, in the process of civilianisation. A year ago it was thought that we wanted some more Policemen in the Force and the MOD thought that they could take over the static post which didn't require any trained people. That has nothing whatever to do with the subsequent decision of the MOD to replace the whole of the Police Force in the Dockyard by Security Police.

HON P J ISOLA:

I would not be fair to the Chief Minister if I didn't say that my information on this comes from a very high source in the Ministry of Defence that the request, in fact, came from the Gibraltar Government, I don't know whether it was the Governor or somebody else, but from the Gibraltar Government and that following the request four days later an advert was put in the newspaper by the Ministry of Defence for Gibraltar Security Police. That is my information.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Gibraltar Ministers have had nothing to do with that decision.

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, may I say that I am very surprised about that in view of the fact the Gibraltar Ministers and this House is responsible for what is spent out of the funds of Gibraltar.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am as surprised as you are.



HON P J ISOLA:

I hope the Chief Minister does something about it because the net result is that it costing us £600,000 a year.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can the Chief Minister state whether in fact they tried to resist the effort of the MOD to undo themselves of the Police?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am not prepared to disclose more than is absolutely necessary not to carry the can for what I am not responsible.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is this confidential as well? I am prepared to make my information available in exchange for the one everybody else has got, Mr Speaker. Is the Chief Minister going to investigate, in fact, the accuracy for the information the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition has given.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course, I will, very much so.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

17 7 80

NO 220 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state whether they were informed prior to June 9th that Lord Carrington would hold no further meetings with Senor Oreja until after the removal of the Spanish restrictions against Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

(Answered together with Question No.216 of 1980).

NO 221 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government consider changing GBC-Radio transmission to the VHF/FM wavebands?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, with your permission I will answer Questions 221 and 222 together. Before doing so, I must point out that the Board of GBC is responsible for the policy to be adopted by the Corporation in providing sound and television services. I think we must be careful to avoid creating a situation in which it might appear that the Government is answerable to the House on matters which are the responsibility of the Board. To do so could well be held to prejudice the independence of the Board.

2. I must qualify this by adding that, when a policy decision made by the Board involves the provision of additional funds, the Government, and indeed the House, must clearly consider, on its merits, any request for such funds. This consideration is relevant to Question 221 insofar as the provision of VHF/FM service requires additional funds for a transmitter. The Government has already agreed to a request by GBC that funds should be made available for this service. It is expected that transmissions on the VHF/FM waveband, in stereophonic sound will commence in September or October in addition to the existing transmissions of the AM waveband.

3. Insofar as Question 222 is concerned, no request for funds has been received from GBC. The Hon Member, as indeed any member of the public, is, of course, free to approach GBC with any suggestion he may wish to make about the services it provides.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 221 AND 222 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

I am much obliged, Mr Speaker, and perhaps I will make myself available to GBC, particularly on the Radio side since I have certain information that perhaps this House might not be aware of which perhaps might not be advisable to disclose at this stage.

HON P J ISOLA:

On the question of GBC, may I say to the Chief Minister in answer to the general principles that he has referred to and the question of the independence of GBC, may I say that we do feel from this side of the House that GBC should be independent but for GBC to be truly independent it must be able to exist on a fixed sum given to it by the Government and must not be coming to the Government every so often for extra funds to meet this or to meet that. Would the Chief Minister not agree that its very independence is then very much in question relying if it must do on the good will of the Government in the first instance and of the House in the second instance?

MR SPEAKER:

When I was considering whether to allow these questions or not I had to bear in mind one particular principle on the asking of questions. I am not so much concerned as to whether GBC is independent but as to whether Government is responsible to answer the question which is being asked. Questions can only be addressed to Government on matters for which they are responsible so we must not look at it from the independence of the GBC as to whether Government is responsible to answer questions on GBC. To the extent, and I entirely concur with what the Chief Minister has said, to the extent that funds are voted in this House for the purpose of enabling GBC to operate, I think it is proper that Government should be answerable to questions but one must draw a very fine distinction at times.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, I think, perhaps, my answer may have been misinterpreted by the Hon Leader of the Opposition because, in fact, the provision of subsidies to GBC is worked out at the time of the estimates between the Treasury and the Management of the GBC and the elected Government have nothing to do with the matter other than to look through them after they have been worked out and approve them. In the case of the particular item of the VHF/FM, additional funds being required, these have been used out of surplus funds from last year and they have been authorised to expend money that was surplus in last year's accounts so that they have not really come for money, they have told us that they were buying this.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, if there are surplus funds from last year why should they require to get the authorisation of the Government to use it?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Because they are refundable to the Gibraltar Government because what we have to pay is the difference between their income and what we provide and if their income is more than was anticipated that money should go back into the coffers of the Government as I hope Members opposite will agree.

HON P J ISOLA:

Well, Mr Speaker, in those circumstances how can it be said that this service can be independent, it cannot be independent.

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to debate that now. Next question.

17 7 80

NO 222 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, Does Government not consider it advisable that where possible, both technically and financially, news programmes from the BBC other than its world service programme should be relayed by GBC-Radio?

ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

(Answered together with Question No 221 of 1980).

NO 223 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, taking into account Government's subsidy to GBC would it undertake to ascertain that GBC is not contravening its charter by the sale, in competition with local traders, of T-shirts?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is advised that GBC is not contravening any statutory provisions by its sale of T-shirts.

2. It had, however, been reported to me that GBC might lose advertising revenue as a result of its sale of T-shirts and, because the finances of the Corporation are, of course, a matter of concern to the Government, I wrote to the Chairman of the Board on 19 June asking him for information about the expected proceeds of the sales and about any financial loss which might be suffered as the result of a withdrawal of advertising.

3. In order to clarify this matter, I wish to inform the House of the main points in the Chairman's reply.

4. 200 T-shirts were bought from a local trader at market prices and no profit was made. There was no attempt to compete with local traders. The object was to achieve publicity for GBC, in a manner similar to that adopted by other Broadcasting organisations in order to augment its audience and, in particular, to promote the new GBC Logo. The BBC, among others, regularly carries out promotion campaigns of this nature with the object of reducing their dependence on public funds. The question of the sale of T-shirts was raised with the GBC by the Board of the Chamber of Commerce who, the Chairman of the Board of GBC informs me, fully understood and accepted the Corporation's motives and explanations.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO 223 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, can we have an assurance that there will not be a continuous repetition of this sort of operation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER

I can give no such assurance, it is a matter for the Board.

HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, will the Hon and Learned Member not agree that if we are all so concerned that GBC should be self-financing maybe they can become self-financing by selling T-shirts.