

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF 4 NOVEMBER 1980

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

224 to 325

4.11.80

NO. 224 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government give the same consideration on Tax Allowances to parents of students receiving full time private education in Gibraltar as they give to parents of students receiving full time private education in the United Kingdom?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Sir, the Government will consider this proposal in the context of an in-depth study into all aspects of income tax legislation which is currently in hand. Members may recall that the Government's intention to undertake this study was announced by the Chief Minister during the course of the last Budget Session of the House. It is expected that the study will be completed in time to enable the Government to take the necessary decisions in connection with the 1981/82 Budget.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 244 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Will the Hon Member confirm that the in-depth study, as far as it relates to this point, will also be looking at whether there is justification for giving tax allowances even to parents who have got their children studying full-time in the United Kingdom?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the in-depth study will take account of all aspects including that mentioned by the Hon Member.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

4.11.80

NO. 225 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state whether it has now reinsured its own insurance risks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the existing arrangements for the insurance of Government property are currently under review, following a recommendation of the Crown Agents. The review includes consideration of a comprehensive report produced by Alexander Howden Brokers Limited following their survey of the properties involved. The report suggests a number of options for the insurance of Government property, including reinsurance through the operation of a Government owned captive insurance company which would have to be established for that purpose.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 225 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, how long has the report been available to Government?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

The report was received on the 25th of September, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

4.11.80

NO. 226 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government consider the introduction of legislation to provide for the control, licensing and regulation of Amusement Arcades?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Yes, Sir, the criteria for control are being examined as a matter of urgency.

4.11.80

NO. 227 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what is the estimated expenditure so far in connection with the anticipated removal of the restrictions by Spain?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, of the £250,000 voted by the House under Head 104 of the Improvement and Development Fund £80,879 has been spent. A further sum of £11,288 has been spent from the Consolidated Fund by the Police and Customs Departments.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 227 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Does Government anticipate spending the whole of the £ $\frac{1}{2}$ m that was laid down in the Improvement and Development Fund in the current financial year?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Not at present.

4.11.80

NO. 228 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, is Government satisfied with the present facilities at the Arrival Hall at Waterport?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, with your leave I would like to reply to questions Nos. 228 and 229 together.

NO. 229 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Is Government aware of the chaos that invariably ensues with passengers disembarking from the Tangier Ferry and is Government taking appropriate action to provide adequate arrangements for Customs and Immigration procedures so that particularly tourists do not get a bad impression of Gibraltar from the moment they step on the Rock?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

No, Sir, Government is not satisfied with the facilities available for passengers disembarking from ferries at the Waterport. The facilities have recently been improved by structural alterations and the introduction of a modified clearway which has speeded up the clearance of passengers without baggage. Additional minor improvements are possible and will be made. But adequate facilities can only be provided at a new and larger ferry terminal. The width of the present jetty and size and nature of the building which is not purpose built limit the scope for improvements. The provision of a new ferry terminal and the cost is being studied by the Port consultants.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NOS. 228 AND 229 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Since this will probably take a decade, if not more, before we see that, couldn't Government do something to really make it easier than it is now for tourists to get through to Gibraltar? Mr Speaker, I wonder whether the Government which obviously says they are not satisfied with what is going on there now and obviously this has been going on for a number of years, Mr Speaker, can't they really get down and do something?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, one of the problems is that the present building is not wide enough to take more than the four customs benches for examinations and when you get in a ferry with a lot of passengers with baggage, you cannot take more than four lines. If we had a wider building we could take up to eight which is what we would like to do. We must examine the baggage of passengers coming through, mainly because of drug smuggling.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But surely, Mr Speaker, couldn't the procedure be done in some other way instead of people rushing down all at once? Perhaps it could be arranged that a number of people would come down from the ship at a time, something like that, to prevent the chaos, or are we going to wait, Mr Speaker, until there is a change of Government for that to be put right?

MR SPEAKER:

What you are being asked is a simple question. Can Government take any action to ameliorate the situation.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said in answer to the original question, the Government is looking at additional improvements that we can make but to get a major improvement we need a new Customs Hall.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is it suggested that in order to have major improvements the actual jetty will have to be widened to house a new Customs Hall?

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to get involved into how the matter is going to be resolved.

HON P J ISOLA:

Well, Mr Speaker, it is arising out of the statement by the Hon Member that it was going to be referred to the Port Committee.

MR SPEAKER:

The answer has been a simple one, the matter has been referred to the Port Consultants and they will come up with a solution, that is all that has been said.

HON P J ISOLA:

What I am asking, Mr Speaker, is what other solution is there to a wider Customs Hall in the restricted area than widening the jetty and if the Government intend to give that consideration, Mr Speaker, would that not be an absurd waste of public funds?

MR SPEAKER:

Order, we are not going to deviate, that will have to await the report from the consultants.

HON G T RESTANO:

Does Government not agree that part of the chaos is because passengers disembark from the vehicular exit rather than through the passenger gangway and if this is so could that practice not be stopped?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, that is a matter for the shipping company. The Government has from time to time had words with the shipping company and we will pursue it further. This is all part of the additional modifications which we have in mind.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does not the Government agree that what is really required is advice from the Customs and Immigration Authorities in England rather than advice from Port Consultants?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have all the advice we want from Customs and Immigration in the United Kingdom.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state if the perfumery shop haphazardly set up in the Departure Lounge at the Air Terminal was put up for tender and if Government has any plans for making it into a proper shop?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the temporary duty-paid sales outlet in question was not put out to tender but allocated to the three licensees of the existing shops in the hall on the basis of a joint venture.

The plans of the proposed extension to the Air Terminal building will provide for two small cubicles in the enlarged Departure Lounge for the sale of a limited range of duty free goods. One of these will be put out to tender. The temporary counter will be removed when the permanent facilities have been provided.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 230 OF 1980

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Isn't it, Mr Speaker, a very bad precedent for a shop of that nature to be allowed to operate without first putting it out to tender and perhaps when the matter comes to tender considering all the aspects of the people tendering?

MR SPEAKER:

Do I understand that this is a duty-paid shop, not a duty-free?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

It is duty-paid, Sir. The three firms engaged in the joint venture which have this small stall at the moment, had been operating in the Air Terminal since 1959 and with the opening of a duty-free shop within the Air Terminal itself, it was found that their trade fell off enormously because many persons were under the impression that the duty-free shop within the Air Terminal included such things as perfumery, watches and the like which one can get at an ordinary Air Terminal before departure and in the circumstances it was agreed, as an exceptional measure and a short term measure, that the three shops could form a consortium to go within the Air Terminal.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, whilst I don't necessarily disagree with the reasons for granting the permit to whoever may be operating there now, my question still is, Mr Speaker, isn't it a bad precedent and shouldn't the whole matter be considered when the tender was considered, not before, and isn't it really arbitrary in some respects?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, that is a matter of opinion.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, could I have an assurance from the Financial and Development Secretary that when the new Terminal Building is built, that it will be for tender, the people who can sell in the Departure Lounge, can we have that assurance first?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think I said that it would provide for two small cubicles, one of these will be put out to tender and the second will be rented to the present consortium at the same rent as the one which is put out to tender, ie the highest rent from those put out to tender.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, if this is going to be a duty-free shop, Mr Speaker, doesn't the whole aspect of the trading change completely and doesn't the rent

MR SPEAKER:

Order, we are not going to go around in circles. I think the explanation has been given as to why it is now a duty-paid shop. The Hon the Financial and Development Secretary has said that due to loss of trade by the existing shop they have allowed the people who got the concession to sell duty-paid until such time as the matter is put right. We have been given an explanation.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, will the Financial and Development Secretary not agree that the Government has been a party or is a party to what is basically deception of the travelling public who are now buying perfumery in the Departure Lounge in the mistaken belief that it is duty-free goods that they are buying?

MR SPEAKER:

I am not allowing that question. The original question has been a very explicit one, was it put out to tender, no more no less, and that is what we are talking about. Next question.

NO. 231 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government explain fully the position with regard to the sale of perfumery and beauty products from the Airport Departure Lounge?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, the counter in the Departure Lounge is a temporary sales outlet for certain duty-paid goods and is operated by the licensees of the three shops in the main concourse. Permission to do so was given in reply to their representations that their sales had been seriously affected over the years and had reached rock bottom since the introduction of duty-free facilities at the Air Terminal which led outgoing passengers to believe that they could make all their purchases in the Departure Lounge.

This temporary arrangement will come to an end as soon as the proposed extension to the Air Terminal Building has been completed (or earlier if the works so require).

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 231 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Government not agree that passengers would normally assume that the goods sold within the Departure Lounge would be duty-free instead of duty-paid?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is a saying, if I may use it in the House, caveat emptor, every buyer in every area where you go and buy things you've got to make sure what you are buying and this is for the travelling public.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, is this the only Airport in the whole of Europe that has a duty-paid shop within the Departure Lounge of an Airport?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

I have no idea, Mr Speaker, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

What I would like the Government to do, Mr Speaker, in order that passengers may not be deceived is that a sign be put up over that shop making it quite clear that it is duty-paid goods which are being sold and not duty-free.

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have noted the Hon Member's suggestion.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, this is a very important matter for the good name of Gibraltar. This is the only Departure Lounge in the world that has a duty-paid shop.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, I will not allow statements.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can we have, Mr Speaker, an assurance that they will not continue to be a party to deception of the travelling public by putting a notice in the Departure Lounge warning travellers that the goods being sold there are duty-paid goods and not duty-free?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government is not a party to deliberate deception and as I have said we have noted the points made by the Hon Members.

HON MAJOR R J PELTZA:

Mr Speaker, isn't it very probable that any person leaving Gibraltar through that Air Terminal will naturally assume, as this is the practice in every other Airport, that what he is buying there is duty-free?

MR SPEAKER:

Order, next question.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, may I ask the Financial and Development Secretary and indeed the Government, is their position that they are not prepared to give the assurance that I have sought on this matter?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, we are prepared to look at it, we are not prepared to give assurances every time Hon Members opposite ask for them.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does not the Chief Minister agree that this is a matter of the good name of Gibraltar and not just the individual's benefit?

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Government agree, Mr Speaker, that in fact whether the goods sold in the Air Terminal in Gibraltar or in any other Terminal is duty-free or not, the price charged by the people who sell those goods does not necessarily reflect the price at which the goods are bought duty-free?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, I agree entirely with what the Hon Member has said.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Government further agree then, that if there are goods to be sold duty-free in order to give the advantage to the travelling public and ensure that they are not deceived, there should also be price control to ensure that the benefit of not paying duty is passed on to the customer and not retained by the person owning the shop?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, yes, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

4.11.80

NO. 232 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Can Government state how many television licences remained unpaid for the years 1978 and 1979 and what proportion this was of the total number of television licences in Gibraltar?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Mr Speaker, Sir, all licences expire on the 30th September of each year. For the years ended 30th September 1979 and 30th September, 1980, the number of licences remaining unpaid are 19 and 398 respectively. This represents 0.3% and 5.92% of the total number of licences payable for these years.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, is Government satisfied that the law preventing minors from entering Cinemas to view X-Films is being properly enforced?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Yes, Sir. The category allocated to the film is displayed on posters and included in press notices that advertise such films.

It is the duty of the cinema management to ensure that minors are not admitted to cinemas when the classification prohibits their admission. Police observation does not reveal any flagrant breaches of the law. No complaints have been received from the public in recent months.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 233 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, what sort of vigilance is kept by the Police?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, obviously the Police do not keep the cinemas under constant vigilance because the law provides that it is the primary duty of the management, but they do keep it under observation from time to time and one of the indications, I think, as to whether the law was being complied with and whether or not greater vigilance would be necessary would be the number of complaints and there have been, as I have said, very few complaints.

HON G T RESTANO:

I am surprised at that, Mr Speaker, because from my information there is a certain amount of this going on. Does the Government at any time have consultations with the management of those establishments?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Frankly, Mr Speaker, I don't know but if anybody has a complaint the correct thing to do is to make the complaint to the Police.

4.11.80

NO. 234 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, has Government decided whether or not to introduce legislation to prevent young children from handling speedboats unless they are accompanied by adults?

ANSWER

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

Mr Speaker, the Government has already decided, in principle, that there is a need to introduce legislation controlling the use of speedboats by children. It is hoped to enact the necessary legislation before next summer.

4.11.80

NO. 235 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government state how many professionals employed full-time by the Public Works Department have applied and how many have been given permission to undertake private work and on how many occasions?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, during the last ten years, three professional officers have applied for such permission.

One has applied several times (the latest occasion being this year) to write articles for the press. On each occasion permission was given.

The second officer who also applied this year, subsequently withdrew his application.

The third officer applied for and was granted permission in 1972 to undertake a specific task of a professional nature.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 235 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, is Government satisfied that these are the only professionals who are, in fact, carrying out private work?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, Government has no specific knowledge of any other professionals who are doing so. The question of the enforcement of the General Order and the Regulation which cover this topic has been under consideration and, indeed, a new General Order has been drafted. It is with the Union for consultation and it is intended to enact it shortly.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, does that mean that the Department itself have no knowledge of professionals carrying out private work?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, no, Sir. There have been complaints from time to time by the public but the Department has no specific complaints relating to professional officers in the Public Works Department.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, is the Hon Attorney-General therefore saying that the Government is not aware of any professionals within the Public Works Department undertaking work other than those three instances?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I think I have made myself clear. The Government has had no specific complaints. I should think the fact that the Government was examining the General Order in the manner I have indicated and was redrafting it with a view, I might add, to enforcing the requirements rather more strictly, would indicate that in general terms Government is concerned that there should be a tightening up.

NO. 236 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government give consideration to amending the Pensions Ordinance to allow the years of service of Mr Clive Power, ex-Environmental Health Officer, to count as pensionable service in the light of the circumstances surrounding his break in service?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

No, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 236 OF 1980

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, is the Hon Member aware that the break in service of Mr Clive Power was only two months and that when he did have his break in service he was under severe emotional mental strain?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

No, Sir, I am not aware of that. The evidence I have is that Mr Power when he resigned was quite well aware of what he was doing, indeed, some efforts were made to dissuade him from resigning and the consequences were explained to him and he was quite aware of those consequences.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, does not Government consider it rather unfair that where a man caught up in the circumstances of Mr Clive Power, where his break in service is, perhaps, weeks, having served already in the Government for a substantial number of years, being re-employed by Government in another capacity, when he becomes of pensionable age, in essence, he will have served perhaps 30 years of service with a break of three weeks in between but, effectively, he will have served his 30 years and yet only 15 of which will be accountable as pensionable? Isn't there any morality there?

MR SPEAKER:

No, it is a matter of opinion and you do not have to answer that.

HON W T SCOTT:

Will Government change its policy? If this is the stated policy of Government, would Government change its policy?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The legislation reflects the policy and I take one of the purposes of the policy to be to encourage continuity. The Government will not change its policy. I may add that I question, not as a matter of the business of the House but as a matter of policy, whether individual cases like this should be really discussed while the officer is still serving.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the position then that if somebody who has done 30 years of total service to the Government he will be deprived of a pension merely because of two months break in service during that time? Is that Government policy and is that moral, that is an opinion I am asking for?

MR SPEAKER:

No, you are not entitled to ask that.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I cannot give an opinion, Mr Speaker. but that is the law.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I ask, is that Government policy then, I will drop the last bit?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I can only say that is the law.

HON P J ISOLA:

And that is Government policy then, is it?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

As I have said before, that is the law.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, isn't it possible to legislate for one particular pensioner and in view of the circumstances couldn't something be done in this particular case?

MR SPEAKER:

You have been told that it cannot be done. This has been the original answer. Next question.

NO. 237 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Has Government now considered the case of Sister Cruz with a view to introducing amending legislation to allow some of her years of service to reckon for pension purposes?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, the Government has considered this case. The House was informed of its decision in answer to question No. 132 by the Hon Member at the Meeting held in July this year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 237 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member confirm that the final answer to a long list of supplementaries was that the matter would be considered again and can he tell me what happened since July?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I don't think it is quite correct, if I may say so, to say that the final answer was that the matter would be considered again. I think the record will show that the answer was; "No, but of course matters are always open to reconsideration".

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, if it is always open to reconsideration, can he say whether he has used that opening to reconsider the matter?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, the Government sees no reason to reconsider this case.

HON J BOSSANO:

Well then, Mr Speaker, if the Hon Member says that the Government sees no reason now to reconsider this case, can he tell me how he saw a reason in July when he said that the matter was always open to reconsideration?

MR SPEAKER:

Government in July said that it would be prepared to reconsider the matter and the answer is that they have reconsidered it and they are not prepared to do anything.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, the answer is that they have not reconsidered it, that is the answer.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, if I can clarify the position. In July of this year the Government said no. If the Government said no there was no reason for passing that legislation and the person who stood in this place said that of course the matter could always be reconsidered. There was no commitment to reconsider and the Government sees no reason for reconsidering this case.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member confirm that in July, in answer to a final supplementary asking the Hon Member whether he would give further consideration or whether it was still no, the answer given at the time was that at the moment it was still no but it could still be reconsidered from time to time and in answer to a further question, Mr Speaker, where I said whether the answer was a qualified yes, I would point out that your own interpretation of the events was that that depended on whether one was an optimist or a pessimist but if the House will recall and if the Hon Member will confirm, the situation, I think, was left with an impression created that a second look would be taken at the case. It would appear from what the Hon Member is telling me now that a second look has not been taken at the case and that the situation is unchanged since July.

MR SPEAKER:

I think the answer that the Hon Member gave to a supplementary from Mr Bossano was, after having said no several times; "The answer as far as I am concerned at the moment is still no but, of course, matters can always be reconsidered from time to time".

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, the operative word is 'can'. There wasn't a commitment to reconsider but, in fact, I am quite happy to say why.

MR SPEAKER:

As a matter of fact Mr Bossano then said; "The answer is a qualified yes, I take it" and I said; "That depends on whether you are an optimist or a pessimist".

NO. 238 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state whether they are satisfied that the Traffic (Motor Vehicles) (Construction and Use) Regulations comply with EEC directives and regulations?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The Traffic (Motor Vehicles) (Construction and Use) Regulations were made in 1958.

I am aware of at least one Community Regulation and 43 directives that bear on the construction or use of motor vehicles, although my Hon and Learned Friend may be aware of others. They deal with a variety of matters including safety of occupants and environmental considerations.

Strictly speaking, as he will appreciate, a Community Regulation applies directly in Gibraltar. Our own regulations must be read subject to it. It would however be good drafting practice, for the sake of clarity and convenience, to express our legislation so as not to have the appearance of a conflict.

I cannot say that I am satisfied that our regulations comply in all respects with Community directives. Given our resources, we would have to rely heavily on United Kingdom precedents in implementing the directives.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 238 OF 1980

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, do I understand correctly that, in fact, when one reads the Traffic Ordinance one ignores it and one interprets in its place the EEC directive?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, not in the case of a directive but in the case of a regulation the effect of any Community regulation is that it applies directly in the territories concerned and so the law must be read subject to it but in the case of a directive it lays down a course of action which it is for the territory to implement by its own legislation or by its own needs.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I am not sure I quite understand it. If one reads therefore that an exhaust pipe should point to the rear, say, according to Gibraltar law, then in fact it doesn't mean that at all, you just refer to an EEC directive or regulation which you don't have at hand and you have got to work out that it has got to point at some other direction. Is that a satisfactory state of affairs, or not?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, can I make two points. First of all, the Hon Member must distinguish, and I'm sure the Member is capable of distinguishing between a regulation and a directive. The second point I would like to make, Mr Speaker, is that I have given my view as to whether it is a satisfactory state of affairs.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, if one has to distinguish between directives and regulations then when one has referred to the particular section in the Ordinance then one has to work out whether the EEC regulation or directive is of a mandatory or an optional nature and then decide whether Gibraltar law is applicable, and who on earth is going to enforce this?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I have already said that obviously it is good practice for clarity and convenience, for our regulations to be in harmony with the EEC requirements.

HON A J HAYNES:

This sounds very plausible from the Attorney-General but is he aware that the man involved in implementing this law totally disregards EEC directives and regulations and in my opinion they have told me that though they know of their existence that they ignore them because they are not Gibraltar law and this implies to me, Mr Speaker, that either these men have not been informed by the Attorney-General on this complicated way of approaching our law or that this is just a new turn of affairs.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of that. I did not actually take the question to refer to the practice in the Traffic Ordinance. Obviously it is in the public interest that the law should be in harmony with the Community laws. The point I have made and I think you must make allowances for it, is that it is a very big task and we have limited resources.

HON A J HAYNES:

If I can refer to Question No. 167 of the last Meeting of this House when I asked the question: "Will Government state whether they are satisfied with the regulations and does Government not agree that these should be revised to bring them up to date?"

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to argue, with due respect. You have asked whether Government is satisfied and you have been told that Government is reasonably satisfied.

HON A J HAYNES:

But I was also told last time that they were satisfied that these regulations had been looked at with all due

MR SPEAKER:

What are you asking?

HON A J HAYNES:

Does not Government agree, for once, that some can be changed without any major task, like an exhaust doesn't have to point to the rear, that is a fairly minor amendment, and yet the non-implementation of such an amendment, I suppose, Mr Speaker, will the Government not agree, involves considerable cost

MR SPEAKER:

We must not make statements.

HON A J HAYNES:

Will they agree that some parts of that Ordinance can be changed with great ease and without any cost?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I agree that one should work towards implementing these regulations. I think one would have to work according to priorities but I will give no commitment whatsoever, with my present resources, as to how quickly that can be done.

4.11.80

NO. 239 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government give a full and detailed explanation of the agreement which it has recently reached with the consultants and the contractors of Varyl Begg which will lead to the repair of the roofs and consequential faults of the Estate?

ANSWER

THE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, I propose to make a statement concerning this matter during the course of the present Meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 239 OF 1980

MR SPEAKER:

Does that mean that you will give full details when you make your statement to the extent that you will be asked supplementaries as if it were a reply to the question? In other words, you are not replying to this question because you will do so when you make your statement and you will be asked questions then.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I have given notice that I wish to make a statement on the subject of the legal position concerning the dispute at Varyl Begg. I would make a statement which would answer to the extent that I will be prepared to answer this question and if there are points for clarification I will be happy to answer them. I did say, Mr Speaker, that the statement would answer to the extent that I would be prepared to answer this present question.

MR SPEAKER:

Certainly. Next question.

NO. 240 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state when it proposes to provide for the Clinical Instructor post in the Medical Department?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, the provision of the Clinical Instructor post is being dealt with by the Government in conjunction with a general re-appraisal of the staffing needs in the nursing grades. This has necessarily delayed the creation of the particular post but I am assured that the reappraisal will soon be completed and the results implemented without delay.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 240 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Government aware that a commitment was given to the staff side that the post would be filled without delay when the Tutor post became vacant in the early part of this year?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I am not aware of this commitment which the Hon Member refers to. I knew he was going to raise it, I tried to check it up but I cannot give him any satisfaction. Let me reassure the Hon Mr Bossano that I share the same concern as he does in connection with this particular post and that as I have replied to the original question, I will do my utmost to ensure that it will be done as soon as possible.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member look further into the original commitment and into the reasons why, in fact, the staff side felt that the filling of this post was more important, in terms of providing a necessary gap in the education of student nurses, than in fact the Tutor post if one had to choose between the two? Will he look into that aspect which is the crucial point of filling this post and take that into account?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I already looked into that particular point raised by the Hon Member and it appears that what he is referring to is that at the staff meeting between the official side and the staff side in connection with the setting up of the other post which Mr Cumming took over and is now in Manchester, I have looked into that but the Establishment Officer does not confirm the commitment. However, let me reassure the Member that this matter is being dealt with without any further delay.

NO. 241 OF 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, has Government now considered whether specimens for analyses can be taken at the Health Centre and then sent to the Laboratory?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Yes, Sir. My enquiries have revealed that the present system of taking samples at St Bernard's Hospital is satisfactory. The Government is convinced that the taking of specimens at the Health Centre would not materially improve the service to the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 241 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, on what assumption or on what basis does the Hon Member say that the service would not be improved if this were done?

HON J B PEREZ:

I can explain that quite easily, Mr Speaker. Let us suppose that Mr Restano were to go to the Health Centre to a particular doctor, whereby the doctor would say that he required an analysis or blood sample to be taken, let us say, for cholesterol or for sugar content in the blood, that sample cannot be taken there and then for the simple reason that when you take a blood sample you have to be, not on a diet but a sort of a fast, so therefore in the case of Mr Restano you would be asked, in fact, to go back the next day early in the morning, not to have anything to eat and then a sample would be taken, so that is why it is useless since it has no real improvement to the public.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Minister not agree that the Health Centre is much more accessible than St Bernard's Hospital and it is much easier for people to come back and have their specimens taken at the Health Centre rather than having to go all the way up to St Bernard's Hospital?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, I can't agree with that because it would benefit slightly people living in the Laguna Estate area or Catalan Bay but one must also consider the people at Flat Bastion Road and Moorish Castle Estate. There is another point which I think I must mention and that is that I believe that the whole thing should be centralised, as it is, at St Bernard's and that is my answer.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, when the Minister mentions Flat Bastion Road, is he not taking into account that the Health Centre is much more central for the three largest building Estates in Gibraltar, Varyl Begg, Laguna and Glacis?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 242 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government not agree that the Laboratory at St Bernard's Hospital is lacking in some modern essential equipment?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, Government does not agree that the Laboratory at St Bernard's Hospital is lacking in any modern essential equipment.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 242 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, would the Minister not agree that a new flame ~~ph~~^{fl}otometer is required?

MR SPEAKER:

Is anyone technically qualified to answer that question?

HON J B PEREZ:

All I can say in reply to the Hon Member is that I did not know he had involved himself in the medical field but the point is that I have to rely on the advice I am given by the Director and in fact the Head of that particular Department, the Pathologist and the City Analyst. The advice that I have had from them is no, that they have got very good equipment. I can look into the flame ~~ph~~^{fl}otometer or whatever it is.

HON G T RESTANO:

Is the Minister aware that the flame ~~ph~~^{fl}otometer is well over 20 years old and often does not work?

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, I think it is important.

HON J B PEREZ:

I will look into the flame ~~ph~~^{fl}otometer.

MR SPEAKER:

The important thing is to know whether the Laboratory is well equipped and you have been told it is. We are not going to go into individual items of equipment.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, a piece of equipment which is 20 years old can hardly be the subject of self congratulation, can it?

HON J B PEREZ:

I have not accepted that this equipment is 20 years old.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, the Minister has said that there is no essential equipment lacking, is there a coulter counter?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I did look that one up for the Hon Member before coming to the House and the advice that I have from the Director and from the Pathologist and City Analyst who after all is the man who works there and I think knows more about it than I do or the Hon Member on that side, is that it is not an essential piece of equipment.

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, was there a coulter counter not once upon a time ordered by the Department?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I really don't know. All I can tell the Hon Member is that it is not an essential piece of equipment.

HON G T RESTANO:

I agree, Mr Speaker, the Minister doesn't seem to know anything at all about the Laboratory or the Health Centre.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Next question.

4.11.80

NO. 243 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state why the Hospital Laundry was closed down several years ago, and will it carry out a feasibility study of the operation once again of such a Laundry?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Hospital Laundry was closed down on the 30 September, 1969, when the service provided was found to be both unsatisfactory and uneconomical.

The answer to the second part of the Hon Member's question is yes, Sir.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Sir, will Government state why there is no Family Planning Clinic in Gibraltar and furthermore whether there are Doctors qualified to do Family Planning in the Health Centre?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, Government does not consider it essential to include a Family Planning Clinic as part of the Medical Services provided under the Group Practice Medical Scheme. The answer to the second part of the Hon Member's question is yes, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 244 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Mr Speaker, the Minister has said that he doesn't consider this service essential but will he not consider

MR SPEAKER:

No, the Minister has said the Government does not consider it essential to have a Clinic.

HON G T RESTANO:

I thought he said essential, I thought he used the word essential.

MR SPEAKER:

"Government does not consider it essential to include a Family Planning Clinic as part of the Medical Services".

HON G T RESTANO:

I was coming on to that. He says it is not essential but would he not agree that it would be a good thing to have such a Clinic?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

Can we have a reason, Mr Speaker?

HON J B PEREZ:

I don't think it is essential, I don't think it is justified. I think we have a very stable population in Gibraltar and there is no cause for concern.

HON G T RESTANO:

Is this not a service which normally is available in most Hospitals in the United Kingdom?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, one thing is the service which is being provided and another thing is a Family Planning Clinic, let us get the two things correct. I do not agree that a Family Planning Clinic is essential in Gibraltar.

HON G T RESTANO:

The question was, Mr Speaker, would he not agree that there is a Family Planning Clinic in every Hospital in the United Kingdom?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, I cannot agree to that.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is the Hon Member saying that a Family Planning Service, as opposed to a Clinic, is already being provided?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Mr Speaker, there is no objection to patients getting advice from the doctors at the Health Centre on Family Planning matters, what I don't think is essential is to set up an actual Clinic for Family Planning.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

4.11.80

NO. 245 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government explain why doctors at the Health Centre do not have telephone connections in their personal offices?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, attempts in the past to have telephone connections in the doctors' personal offices have proved negative owing to failure among the doctors themselves to reach unanimous agreement. Unanimity was, however, achieved recently and the matter was referred to the Telephone Department on 15 October.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 245 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Has the Minister any idea when the Telephones will be installed?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

Can he find out, Mr Speaker?

HON J B PEREZ:

I have already told the Hon Member that the matter was referred to the Telephone Department on 15 October and we are just awaiting the Telephone Department to instal it.

4.11.80

NO. 246 OF 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, would Government confirm whether appointments can be made at the Health Centre by telephone?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Yes, Sir. This was proposed by doctors at a meeting recently with the Director and implemented approximately four weeks' ago.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 246 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Is it possible, Mr Speaker, to advertise that service so that the public is aware that they can telephone for appointments?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the setting up of the appointments by telephone was in fact on a trial basis because we may have problems with the staff, we are not sure if the present staff can cope with all the appointments being made by telephone and that is why during the first few months it is being spread by word of mouth in order to enable us to be able to see how we can cope with this situation.

HON G T RESTANO:

Can I take it then, Mr Speaker, that sometime in December the Government will have made a decision as to whether or not to leave that service on a permanent basis?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, it also happens that the present set-up at the Health Centre is shortly due to be staff inspected as well. It may be December or it may be before but I really cannot give you a commitment as to time. All I can say is that it is really on a trial basis and so far it is working quite well but there is a question of staff involved, obviously.

4.11.80

NO. 247 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Will Government investigate the possibility of including dental treatment as part of the Health Service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, this matter has already been partially looked at and I am continuing investigations.

However, it should not be overlooked that dental treatment is already provided for children of school age and persons on Supplementary Benefits. Currently a second Dental Surgeon is being recruited.

4.11.80

NO. 248 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Will Government investigate the possibility of extending the District Nursing Scheme to all patients within the Group Practice Medical Scheme who may require this service?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, the District Nursing Scheme caters for patients in receipt of Supplementary Benefits and Government has no plans to extend this service.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 248 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is Government aware of the anomaly that exists in a situation where a patient requiring nursing care at home is unable to obtain it because in fact they have got sufficient income not to qualify for Supplementary Benefits but not necessarily are any better off than someone on Supplementary Benefits?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have not received any complaints of this nature. Let me add one thing for the benefit of the Hon Member and that is that the door is not closed and if he should like to meet me and make representations to me I will be very pleased to meet him and consider the matters he may raise.

4.11.80

NO. 249 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Does Government consider that 6 Doctors are sufficient for the Health Centre?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Sir, the provision of an additional doctor is currently under consideration.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 249 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

When will Government come to a final decision on that?

HON J B PEREZ:

I cannot give an answer to that question, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

Will it be this year, will it be next year, will it be in three years time?

HON J B PEREZ:

I cannot give him a time.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is it under consideration because the Government considers that 6 doctors are insufficient for the Health Centre?

HON J B PEREZ:

The matter has not yet gone to Council of Ministers for a decision.

HON P J ISOLA:

Who has decided that it is worthy of consideration?

HON J B PEREZ:

I have.

HON P J ISOLA:

Therefore, does the Minister agree that 6 doctors are not sufficient for the Health Centre?

HON J B PEREZ:

There are certain aspects of this particular question, whether 6, that crops up in this particular question. There are certain problems in connection with prisoners and I am also considering whether it would be beneficial to the health service as a whole to have 7 instead of 6 but the initiative has come from me.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, since obviously the Minister considers that there might be a need for this and this is so much connected with the well being of the people of Gibraltar, couldn't the Minister give a target date by which time he will have decided?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I am surprised to get that question from the Hon Member since he was at one time Chief Minister and he knows what the procedure is for papers to be submitted to Council of Ministers.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Surely, Mr Speaker, it should not take more than three months at the most?

HON J B PEREZ:

I have not said whether it is going to be three months, a year, or two, all I have said is that I cannot give a time.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will the Government not agree that for the Opposition to ask this Government for target dates in any matter is quite unreasonable?

MR SPEAKER:

Order, next question.

4.11.80

NO. 250 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, are discharge summaries on patients admitted to St Bernard's Hospital sent to the Doctors who referred them there in the first place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Yes, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 250 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

In every case, Mr Speaker?

HON J B PEREZ:

As far as I am aware, yes, Sir.

HON G T RESTANO:

Well, that is certainly not my information, Mr Speaker. I would ask the Minister to look into this.

HON J B PEREZ:

Any cases where this has not been done should be brought to my notice and I shall be very happy to investigate.

4.11.80

NO. 251 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

In view of the many applicants on the waiting list for telephones and the many more on the housing waiting list does Government not consider that to provide for only 2,000 new extra lines is serious underestimation?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

No, Sir. 1,500 spare lines are available at present. It is expected that these will have been taken up by 1983 when, on the completion of the new extension to the telephone exchange, 2,000 spare lines will become available. If the present rate of applications for new connections continues, and there is no reason to suppose otherwise, these 2,000 lines will have been taken up by 1987/88 by which time further extension is planned.

4.11.80

NO. 252 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government inform this House as to the reasons why the City Fire Brigade has not issued the relevant certificate for the Cottage for Handicapped Children in Montagu Place?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Fire Inspection Officer, after inspecting the premises, recommended that the ceiling, which is lined with three ply boards, should be re-lined with an incombustible material. This work is being done and a certificate will be issued by the Secretary of the Development and Planning Commission once the Chief Fire Officer is satisfied that his recommendation has been complied with.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 252 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

Does Government have any idea when this will be effected?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, no, this is a private undertaking and Government has no idea as to when this will be done.

HON W T SCOTT:

This is important, I think, Mr Speaker, can Government confirm that had that building been occupied by Government and had it not been a private concern, those fire prevention requirements would not have been necessary?

MR SPEAKER:

No, that is a hypothetical question. Next question.

4.11.80

NO. 253 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, what progress can Government report on the solar panel intended for installation at the Boys' Comprehensive School?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, brackets are under production for the panel and ancillary equipment but the erection and installation will only be commenced on receipt of the Thermo Relay from UK.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 253 OF 1980

HON W T SCOTT:

When does Government expect receipt of the thermo relay?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The thermo relay has been on order for some time, we hope it will arrive shortly.

HON W T SCOTT:

Can the Government say, Mr Speaker, whether in answer to question No. 150 of 1980, the Hon the Minister for Public Works said that he was expecting the results of a feasibility study in Malta which he had asked for, has he, in fact, received that yet?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, this has not yet come.

THE HON G T RESTANO

Mr Speaker, will Government state how many hours of power cuts there have been in the different districts during the months of July, August, September and October this year?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Yes, from July to October the total number of hours during which each district has had the supply of electricity curtailed are as follows:-

DISTRICT	HOURS	MINUTES
1	45	50
2	43	41
3	48	10
4	51	50
6	38	30
7	43	38
8	48	11
9	47	09
10	23	37
11	49	16

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 254 OF 1980

HON G T RESTANO:

Would the Minister not agree that this is a deplorable state of affairs?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, there is a motion on this later on in this meeting and I believe this is simply just a matter of opinion.

MR SPEAKER:

You have been asked a question which you may answer but there is no reason why you should.

HON G T RESTANO:

I would like an answer if I may, Mr Speaker. I will repeat it, does Government not consider that this is a deplorable state of affairs?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, certainly this is regrettable but it has been necessary.

HON P J ISOLA:

What was it that made it necessary, Mr Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

We are not going to discuss that now. Next question.

NO. 255 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state if the purchase of the four skid-mounted generating sets figured in the Preece, Cardew and Rider Report?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Sir, with your permission I will answer Questions 255, 256 and 257 during the course of the debate on the motion of which notice has already been given.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 255 OF 1980

MR SPEAKER:

On statements one is allowed to do that, on a motion, that is a completely different matter. You are being asked questions, if you want to give an answer you are free to do so but not otherwise. It is one thing to say that you are going to make a statement and therefore you are prepared to answer supplementaries on the statement as if they were the answers to the questions you are being asked, it is another matter to say that you will deal with the subject of the questions in the debate, that is your prerogative in any event, but questions are being asked and you are not required to give an answer but you are required to reply as you think best.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, as I have said in reply to this particular question, these questions will be answered

MR SPEAKER:

No, we will now deal with Question No. 255, that is what you are being asked and you will give whatever answer you like to this question.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sir, I would like to say that it was certainly my view whether there is a directive or not, that it would anticipate a very wide ranging debate to start giving particulars at this stage and therefore it would be much neater and better if all the matters could be dealt within the debate. On that basis I have advised the Minister not to answer the question.

MR SPEAKER:

The answer the Minister gives to the question is another matter. If he says he will not answer this question because it is going to anticipate, he is quite free to give that answer.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr. Speaker, is not the Hon and Learned Chief Minister, with the long experience he has in this House, is he not departing from precedent in refusing to allow a Minister to give information in answer to a question and say; "Well, you are going to have it in the debate". Supposing the motion on the debate was withdrawn, what would happen then?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Well, if we get notice of withdrawal we will immediately this afternoon answer the questions with full details.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, we are not going to discuss the matter of procedure and practice, that is my prerogative. It is the prerogative of Members in the Opposition to ask questions and it is the right and responsibility of Government to answer them. The manner in which they answer questions is a matter for Government exclusively. Whether it is a satisfactory answer it is for the Opposition to decide and to take action on but they are not bound to give the information if they do not choose to do so.

HON P J ISOLA:

Yes, Mr Speaker, but if the Government takes that attitude the Opposition has to take an attitude as to whether there is any use in their attending meetings of the House called by the Leader of the House if the Government refuses to give a simple answer. This question can be answered by a simple yes or no and the Chief Minister refuses to allow his Minister to give that answer, that is unconstitutional and against established principles.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, in the first instance the Chief Minister has not refused to do anything, he has given an answer himself, secondly, there is nothing unconstitutional, that I can vouch and rule on.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Mr Speaker, the same logic cannot apply to the next question where we are asked to say; "Will Government make a full and comprehensive statement covering the events leading to the acquisition and installation of the four skid generators and including cost". The element of time in this House is of essence, too. If we are going to have a full debate on the question of the motion which has got three prongs to it and we are going to give full account of that, first of all we would be wasting time here giving that information and, secondly, it would take away the essence of the debate in order to anticipate all this.

MR SPEAKER:

Gentlemen, I am not going to agree or disagree with either of you.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am giving the reasons for the suggestion that this is unconstitutional. It is perfectly proper, it is not unconstitutional, it can only impress the people who don't know anything about that to say that it is unconstitutional, it is nonsense.

MR SPEAKER:

No, it is not nonsense but it is not unconstitutional either.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, the Hon and Learned Chief Minister has said it is proper but it is perfectly improper, Mr Speaker, may I say why in a moment, because the Chief Minister is giving his reasons which have no foundation whatever. In a debate on a motion, Mr Speaker, one speaker will only have one chance to speak and therefore it will not be possible to question the Minister on aspects of the events leading up to the installation of the skid-mounted generating sets.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. The indications of the attitude taken by Government are for the Opposition to gauge and to judge and to act upon but we are not going to debate the rights or wrongs of the attitude being taken. We will now call the next question.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can I ask the Minister to state categorically whether he is not prepared to tell this House at this stage whether the answer is yes or no? He is refusing to do this, is that the position?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, for the reasons given by the Chief Minister I will answer Question 255, as I have already said, during the course of the debate.

MR SPEAKER:

No, you will not answer Question No. 255 during the course of the debate, you will deal with the matter raised in the question during the debate.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, is the position then that the Government will only answer questions that suits them to answer, is that the position? If that is the position, Mr Speaker, there is not much point in us staying here.

MR SPEAKER:

Order, may I ask the Opposition to consider their position before they are tempted to walk out of the Chamber which is, of course, their prerogative. Questions will be called and if the questioner is not here to ask that question the matter will be dealt with according to the procedures and practice of this House. Next question.

4.11.80

NO 256 OF 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government make a full and comprehensive statement covering the events leading up to the acquisition and installation of the four skid generators and including costs?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

(Answered together with Question Nos 255, 257).

THE HON G T RESTANO

Does Government still intend to purchase a 5 mgw generator for the Electricity Department which, according to the Chief Minister's statement of the 1st November 1979, was supposed to arrive on about May 1981, and if so, when will that set arrive in Gibraltar and furthermore where will it be installed?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

(Answered together with Question Nos 255, 256).

4.11.80

No. 258 of 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government not agree that the method used for the recruitment of cleaners for the Department of Education was unusual and will Government make a statement?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

The Hon Member is no doubt referring to the recent meeting held at the John Mackintosh Hall where a ballot was held to draw up a list of supply charwomen. In view of the number of ladies who were interested - 63 - the method used was considered to be the fairest and so did most of the women who attended the ballot.

4.11.80

NO 259 OF 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Will Government consider granting the same subsidy to all children in respect of school transport?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

At the present time it is Government policy to subsidise school transport for children who live in designated areas and who have to travel longer distances to school than the majority of children. Subsidised transport applies to Catalan Bay children of middle and secondary age, Varyl Begg children who attend Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School in the first two years only, secondary boys attending Bayside Comprehensive School who live south of a line from the bottom of Witham's Road to the Casino and children of all ages living at North Gorge following the temporary transfer of families from the town to the old Philipino Hostel. A subsidy is also provided for a small number of children who attend St Christopher's School at Europa Point under the sponsorship scheme. It is not felt justifiable to extend subsidised school transport to other areas of the town where the children have to travel relatively short distances to school.

4.11.80

NO 260 OF 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Can Government confirm that pupils of the Boys' Comprehensive School are not using the sporting facilities at the Victoria Stadium and can Government give an explanation?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

"The School is now using the Victoria Stadium. The Stadium was being re-surfaced and the works took ten days longer than anticipated. All the facilities (except the hockey pitch) were available as from 25 October and the school was to revert to using the Eastern entrance to the playing fields. A problem then arose about access to the stadium from the school. This was discussed at a meeting held last week at which agreement was reached on access, on the early provision of a zebra crossing and on ways of increasing the time allocated to this school."

4.11.80

No. 261 of 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Can Government say when the figure of 267 teachers as constituting the full complement in the teaching staff in Government schools will be arrived at?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

The total number of teachers employed by the Department of Education at present is 279. The Government and the GTA agreed in 1978 that the aim should be to achieve a complement of 267 qualified Teachers. This is likely to occur by 1982 when students currently in training return to Gibraltar.

4.11.80

No. 262 of 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

What provision has Government made for nursery education in future?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

At the present time there is one Government Nursery School with a full-time equivalent of approximately 25 children on roll. This Nursery School is located on the ground floor of the Teachers' Centre building at Hargrave's Ramp and it is planned to extend the nursery facilities as soon as alternative accommodation can be found for the Teachers' Centre.

In addition it is planned to open a new nursery unit in accommodation on the Varyl Begg Estate currently used by St Paul's First School pending completion of their new building. It is hoped that this can be brought into operation by about Easter 1981.

Further plans for the extension of nursery education will depend essentially on accommodation and/or financial considerations.

4.11.80

NO 263 OF 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Is Government making any provision for nursery teachers as distinct to nursery assistants?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

At the present time there is one nursery assistant at the Government Nursery School and one other student still in training in the UK. Qualified Nursery Teachers are available already in our first schools and the present provision for teacher training will enable young girls leaving school to take up teacher training courses in the UK with a special emphasis on nursery teaching. It is hoped that the teachers in charge of Government Nurseries in the future will all be qualified nursery teachers with the additional help being provided by nursery assistants.

THE HON A T LODDO

Will Government make a statement with respect to its policy to reduce grants to students undergoing teacher training?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Maintenance grants to all students undertaking higher education courses in the UK have now been brought into line with the Educational Awards Regulations. In the past at a time when there was an urgent need for people to train as teachers the old teacher training scheme was established and based on maintenance grant levels related to the Technical Co-operation Scheme administered by ODA. Over the years fewer and fewer teachers have been financed under the TC scheme although the maintenance grants provided by Government have remained the same as those of the scheme. There is no longer an urgent need for students to train as teachers and consequently it was felt appropriate to make the same financial provision for all students in Gibraltar and teacher training is now a part of the Educational Awards Regulations.

NO. 265 OF 1980THE HON A T LODDO

Does Government not consider it highly advisable that Gibraltar be provided with an Educational Psychologist?

WRITTEN ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

It is highly desirable to have available the services of an Educational Psychologist but on the UK ratio of Educational Psychologists to pupils in school which is 1 : 10,000, there would be need for only a part-time appointment for our schools. At the present time there are two students who are due to complete the long training process in 1983 and 1984 respectively and it is hoped that they will then provide the Educational Psychologist input required in the future although this may be on the basis of a joint appointment as Teacher/Educational Psychologist. In the meantime the Community Paediatrician has already offered to help wherever he can and in addition the services of an Educational Psychologist from the UK can be used in conjunction with regular visits of specialist medical staff.

4.11.80

NO 266 OF 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Will Government confirm that no hot showers exist at the Girls' Comprehensive School and will Government take steps to instal same?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

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

THE HON A T LODDO

When will the posts of Principal and Senior members of staff for the Technical College be advertised?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Government is due to consider a detailed report on the future organisation of further education within the next week or so and it is hoped that the posts of Principal and senior members of staff for the new College of Further Education can then be advertised later in November.

4.11.80

NO. 268 OF 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Will the Technical College continue to have access to the sea once handed over to Government?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

The Technical College has never had a right of access to the sea as the waterfront has always been MOD property. At the time that the site and building were being examined with a view to the transfer of the Technical College to Government and its re-organisation as a College of Further Education, which is now to take place in September 1981, MOD felt it necessary to clearly demarcate the site of the Technical College as opposed to the water front and in subsequent negotiations there has always been a clear distinction made between the site of the Technical College and the water front in relation to access to the sea.

4.11.80

NO 269 OF 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state whether or not Casola Building has been condemned as unfit for human habitation?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING & SPORT

This building has not been declared to be unfit for human habitation. Four tenements have recently been declared unfit by the Public Health Department. The tenants of two tenements declared unsafe by PWD were decanted.

4.11.80

NO. 270 OF 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state the number of people housed in Tank Ramp, Willis's area, White Stores, and Lime Kiln Steps before the modernisation projects?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING & SPORT

The number of families who were housed and have subsequently been decanted from the undermentioned areas in connection with the modernisation programme is as follows:-

Tank Ramp	11 families
Willis's Area	13 families
Lime Kiln Steps	19 families

2. White Stores were administered by the Department of Labour and Social Security as a hostel for foreign workers and no decanting by the Housing Department was required.

4.11.80

No. 271 of 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state the number of people to be housed in the 57 units to be completed by the end of December, 1980, and listed in answer to question No 156 of 1980?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Out of the 57 units scheduled to be completed before the end of December 1980, 3 have been completed and occupied at 1/3 Willis's Passage, 5 at 23/25 Willis's Passage and 2 at Lime Kiln Steps (Phase 1). A total of 27 persons have been accommodated therein.

It is expected that the 16 new units at the White Stores and the 6 modernised units at Tank Ramp will be ready for occupation in December 1980 and the new units at Tank Ramp in March 1981.

Of the remaining units at Lime Kiln Steps (Phase 1) 8 should be ready by December 1980 subject to work required to sewage system and the other two will not be available until phase 1A is ready in February 1982.

It is however impossible to say exactly how many people will be accommodated until these units are actually occupied.

4.11.80

No. 272 of 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government reveal the latest waiting list figures for housing, and will Government publish a list of the first hundred applicants in the various units of housing?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

There are approximately 1700 applicants in the Waiting List. A card is kept for each applicant, which contains all the information related to his case, pointage and requirement and these are contained in different boxes according to requirement. Waiting lists are not kept for the simple reason that pointages fluctuate from day to day and could well tend to mislead people. Waiting lists would have to be drawn up almost daily in order to convey the exact position and correct information.

4.11.80

NO 273 OF 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government state the reasons behind the refurbishing of several unoccupied units in the Town Range Transit Centre?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING & SPORT

To accommodate families which the Housing Advisory Committee has recommended should be accommodated in pre-war accommodation, on social grounds.

NO. 274 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Mr Speaker, can Government state when the Housing Allocation Committee is next due to meet and when the last meeting took place?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Yes, Sir. The Housing Allocation Committee last met on the 26 August, 1980, and the next meeting has been convened for the 18 November, 1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 274 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, can the Hon Member say whether the timing of meetings of the Housing Allocation Committee is primarily determined by the availability of housing or are there other considerations affecting the timings?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

All in all, Sir, the meetings of the Housing Allocation Committee is, of course, the prerogative of the Chairman of the Housing Allocation Committee which meets, obviously, for the allocation of houses when available but there are, of course, other considerations that the Housing Allocation Committee has to meet for. For instance, the final implementation of the Housing Special Powers Ordinance or a revision of the Housing Allocation Scheme but normally they do meet on allocation of houses.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister not agree, Mr Speaker, that it would be desirable, in view of the fact that some housing applicants are told by his Department that they have to await a decision of the Housing Allocation Committee that there should, if possible, be prior notice of when the next meeting is likely to take place so that people, in fact, are not kept calling the Department from week to week to find out whether the Committee has met or not?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I would certainly agree that there are problems of course because the Housing Allocation Committee consists of members who are there on a voluntary basis and it is not infrequent to find that for one reason or other in their own personal activities it is sometimes impossible to group them together at a given time. Their work is very commendable and I think they do meet as regularly as is required. However, I am not very sure if the Hon Member is accurately informed as to whether the advice is from the Housing Allocation Committee or the Housing Advisory Committee.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, subject to my information being accurate, would the Hon Member agree with me that if in fact a housing applicant is told that his case is awaiting a decision of the Housing Allocation Committee, it would be preferable if, after consultation with the Committee, the system would be that some indication can be given to the applicant within what time this is likely to take place in order not to keep the housing applicant anxiously calling the Department almost on a daily basis to see whether the Committee has met? Would he not agree that it is in everybodys interest that this change should be introduced if it is possible for the Committee to do so when he consults it?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

I think I am convinced, Sir, that the Hon Member does now refer to the Housing Advisory Committee because the Housing Advisory Committee is a Committee that meets possibly every 15 days or every month but as the Hon Member is fully aware, we receive some 300 medical certificates monthly, on average, and it is that that has to be referred to the Housing Advisory Committee for the granting of several points. I do not think that people are told that their housing decision is ultimately in the Housing Allocation Committee purely because there isn't the allocation that I would tend to gather from the information the Hon Member is offering at this stage, so I think it is the Housing Advisory Committee and I would say, Sir, that they do meet every 15 days or so, again when convenient, because one of the members happens to be a doctor who is quite busy.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member agree then that if I obtained confirmation of the accuracy of the information, he will investigate the matter along the lines that I have suggested?

HON H J ZAMMITT:

Very much so, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

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

(POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HOUSE)

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Will Government give details of the contract of sale and installation with the company supplying the figures for the Gallery, the Moorish Castle and St. Michael's Cave, indicating particularly the terms of payment?

WRITTEN ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING & SPORT

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

The Government's initial cost of the permanent exhibitions at St Michael's Cave, Upper Galleries and Tower of Homage was £20,000, payable as follows:

£2,500 on signature of contract (14.1.80)
£7,500 on delivery of the models (9.6.80)
£10,000 payable by 31. December 1980

Extra charges on the entrance fees to the sites were introduced when the exhibitions were installed, and once the £20,000 is recouped (estimated to be about mid January 1981) the firm which supplied and installed the exhibition will partake as follows:

First year	35% of the extra charges
Second year	30% of the extra charges
Third year	20% of the extra charges
Fourth year	15% of the extra charges

After the fourth year all profits from the exhibition will revert to Government.

The firm will also participate on a 5% commission basis on the net profit made by Government on the commercialisation of souvenir articles produced in connection with the exhibition after the £20,000 has been recouped. A tender for this commercialisation was awarded to a local firm, and it is expected that these items will be on the market in the near future.

The Gibraltar Tourist Office is responsible for all administration in running the exhibition, including publicity, and the name of the firm is to appear on all publicity and merchandising material pertaining to the exhibition.

A maintenance agreement will be entered into after the four year period with Bermans providing the personnel (travelling expenses for the Gibraltar Tourist Office Account).

4.11.80

No. 277 of 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

In view of the historic and natural beauty of Lower St Michael's Cave, a veritable part of the heritage of Gibraltar, will Government make appropriate representations to ensure that there is proper control of the Cave and thus prevent any further vandalism of which Lower St Michael's Cave appears to be a constant victim?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

(in the absence of the Minister for
Tourism and Postal Services)

Lower St Michael's Cave is presently under Ministry of Defence Management and is not the responsibility of the Government. I will however bring your question to the notice of Fortress Headquarters.

4.11.80

NO 278 OF 1980

THE HON R J PELIZA

Will Government install stamp vending machines at the Post Office in Main Street to provide a 24-hour service and to reduce the length of the queues at the stamp counters during peak sales hours?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

There are, already, two stamp vending machines installed in the foyer of the Post Office in Main Street and they are accessible to the public on a 24 hour basis. These machines were installed early in 1977 and they replaced the old coil-stamp dispensers which had been in service for many years. Each machine consists of two mechanisms which allows for the vending of booklets of separate values. One machine dispenses booklets of 20p value and the other of 10p and 30p. Each storage column holds stacks of 180 booklets. The machines, which are very much used by the public, are replenished frequently during the day. They are restocked at 5.00pm each day. During weekends, officers of the Post Office ensure that the machines are stocked. At least three calls are made on Saturdays and Sundays (and on Public Holidays) for that purpose, on payment of minimal overtime i.e. one hour for each day. In order to offer an improved service two additional stamp-vending machines are being acquired. Quotations were asked for in April, 1980 and delivery is expected in December.

4.11.80

NO 279 OF 1980

The Hon A T Loddo

Will Government state why the Victoria Stadium outdoor playing facilities were not available in Mid-October this year as in previous years?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

The outdoor playing facilities were not available in Mid-October this year because major resurfacing was being carried out to all the playing areas.

4.11.80

No. 280 of 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Will Government not admit that by not allowing the GFA to charge for admittance until the impasse recharges is resolved, it is losing revenue?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

Sir, Government has decided that until the question of charges at the Victoria Stadium Sports Centre has been finalised, the playing facilities will be made available free of charge but no association using the facilities will be allowed to charge for admission other than for international events.

In the case of the GFA, the only association who charged spectators for admittance to local competitive matches, the loss of possible revenue to Government averages out at some £18 per week during the football season.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Will Government make arrangements for lorries and trailers to be parked in specified areas and not allowed to park in places where they obstruct traffic and spoil the amenities of the area?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING & SPORT

There are no specially designated parking places for lorries and trailers in Gibraltar. Lorries and trailers are specifically prohibited from parking in designated car parks and thus the only places they can park are on private land or the public thoroughfare. Owners and drivers are encouraged to park their vehicles sensibly by not causing obstruction or danger, and leave them facing in the right direction so at night reflectors are visible.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what definite plans they have for coping with the expected increase in vehicular traffic if and when the frontier gates are opened by the Spanish Government?

WRITTEN ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

If and when the frontier gates are opened by the Spanish Government, the Gibraltar Government plans to take the following action to meet the increase in vehicular traffic:

- (a) Traffic lights will be installed at the junction of Sir Winston Churchill Avenue, Smith Dorrien Avenue and Corral Road. The latter will be a one-way road from below Smith Dorrien Bridge in a northerly direction.
- (b) Traffic lights will be installed at Waterport roundabout.
- (c) There will be road markings around the Sundial roundabout at Sir Winston Churchill Avenue and into Devil's Tower Road and Bayside Road to facilitate traffic movement.
- (d) The northerly direction side of the dual carriageway from the Sundial to the frontier will be marked in two lanes, ie, traffic travelling to Spain and traffic travelling to the Airport, into British Lines Road and into the RAF housing complex at Western Beach.
- (e) Holding areas will be provided at British Lines Road for :
 - (1) 4 queues of private vehicles travelling into Spain totalling some 200 vehicles.
 - (2) A bus holding area
 - (3) A taxi holding area.
- (f) Large Pullman type coaches will not be allowed to traffic within the City Walls.

4.11.80

NO. 283 OF 1980

THE HON P J ISOLA

Do films shown in Spanish in Gibraltar undergo any censorship in the same way as films in English do?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

At present powers exist under the Entertainments Ordinance to ask for a preview only of those films classified 'X' by the British Board of Film Censors.

However by way of agreement with local exhibitors there are occasions when a Spanish film is viewed and, again by agreement, the film may be withdrawn.

4.11.80

No 284 of 1980

THE HON P J ISOLA

Does Government not consider that some posters advertising "X" films in Gibraltar are offensive and obscene and is Government powerless in the matter?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING
AND SPORT

Exhibitors normally exercise control over the posters of "X" films and those concerned with allowing such films often impose a condition that certain posters should not be published. I should point out however that Under (Part 8) of the Criminal Offences Ordinance any person publishing any article which is considered offensive and obscene may be committing an offence.

4.11.80

NO. 285 OF 1980
THE HON P J ISOLA

Now that there can be no doubt that Government has broken its promises to the Tenants of Varyl Begg that work on the roofs of the Estate would commence at first in Spring and then in Summer, will Government make a clear and concise statement of the position in relation to the Varyl Begg situation and inform the House as to the reasons why no work has yet commenced on the pitched roofs?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The Attorney General will be making a detailed statement to the House on this subject.

NO. - 286 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what delay, if any, there is in the completion of the Lime Kiln Steps modernisation project?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Yes, Sir. This scheme has been extended to include a second phase. Twelve out of the fourteen units in the first phase were completed in June, 1980, but four of these cannot be occupied until services sewage and electricity are laid and the remaining six until Phase 1A of the works are complete. Two flats are at present occupied.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 286 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, when is the second phase likely to be completed so that the ones that have been ready since June can in fact be taken into occupation?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I should think, Sir, about February, 1982, Sir.

HON J BOSSANO:

1982, Mr Speaker. Doesn't the Minister consider that it is a long time to have houses completed and not available for occupation and wasn't this taken into account in the original planning of the two phases?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The position is two-fold, Sir. First of all, it is a very difficult site and to do phase 1A all the scaffolding tends to interfere very considerably with the approaches to the first phase. At the same time there is quite a lot of dust and nuisance value and the scaffolding also means you can't even open the windows. The second point, Sir, is that when we started this modernisation, we did not know to the full extent what was the condition of the buildings and we have found that they are in a far worse condition than we had anticipated, so much so that some of the buildings have actually had to be demolished and be rebuilt from scratch. This has put back the period of getting everything ready by six months or so and that is why we do not think we will be finished before February, 1982.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Minister not agree that in view of the lack of work in the construction industry, generally, it would be opportune to try and get the contractor to put extra labour on this particular project and accelerate it so that he can make use of the houses he has already got completed?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I see that there is some consideration for that to be done but I think the site is so difficult that you cannot put very many more people onto the site by the actual physical constraints. The actual passageway up to the top part where they are working and if the Member would like to come and visit the site with me sometime I would be happy to take him round, does make it very difficult. If you put a lot of extra men there they are really not going to be able to do very much more than is being done at the moment.

4.11.80

NO. 287 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state when the bedsitters under construction at Prince Edward's Road are now expected to be completed?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

In December 1980, Sir.

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what is the cost of reclamation per square foot of land produced:

- a) next to the Viaduct Distiller,
- b) in the new container base?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, with regard to the area:-

A) Next to the Viaduct Distiller -

The cost is of the order of £0.46 ft² of unconsolidated ground, only suitable for very light temporary structure at this stage, or more permanent building if piling or heavy raft construction is used.

The above relates to present conditions. Reclamation in deeper water and changes in the availability of debris can significantly alter these costs.

B) At the new container Berth -

The cost is of the order of £14.80 per square foot if the berthing structure is included, but £7.40 per square foot for land created without any containment or protection.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 288 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Hon Member agree that if the order of costs next to the Viaduct Distiller is in the region of the figure he has mentioned or slightly above that figure, there is a case of Government considering having a permanent reclamation programme and investigating what other areas can be reclaimed to produce land at what must be considered a relatively cheap price?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, I quite agree, Sir, but I think this area next to the Viaduct Distiller which can extend right out to the Varyl Begg Estate, will keep any tipping that is available going for at least the next 5 to 10 years.

4.11.80

NO. 289 OF 1980

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Is Government satisfied that there is no danger of landslide from the manner in which sand is being removed by the Gibraltar Quarry Company?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the sand is being removed with care, with the ultimate intention of road widening.

The present excavation is exposing an old or original face as evidenced by the markings cut into it. Hence the situation is reverting to a form which possibly existed before the road was built.

A careful check is being maintained on the exposed face and it is unlikely that a landslide will occur.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 289 OF 1980

HON J BOSSANO:

Will the Hon Member not agree that the question of the likelihood of it happening is not enough to reassure completely people on the area and that it would be desirable that there should be a guarantee from him that the Government will keep a constant watch on the situation to eliminate every possibility however unlikely?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, I am happy to give that guarantee. A constant watch is being maintained all the time now. What is actually being removed is loose sand that has slipped down and has covered the old face, so they are not actually cutting into the solid face at all.

THE HON W T SCOTT

Is Government satisfied with the trading position of the Gibraltar Quarry Company Ltd as reflected in the accounts laid on the table and, if not, what steps does Government intend taking to substantially improve its trading position?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Government is fully aware of the problems which the Gibraltar Quarry Company has been facing and of its trading position as reflected in the Company's accounts which have been tabled earlier in this meeting. The sand-winning project, funded by ODA grant aid, has so far failed to operate in the manner envisaged by the consultants. Government is looking to the consultants to put matters right at their own expense and this is being done.

The Gibraltar Quarry Company, in taking over an operation that was not working effectively, has incurred substantial expenses in the process of supplying sand which would not have arisen had it been handed over as a going concern. The Consultants have assured Government that they will succeed in getting the sand to slide down the chute from the top right down to the hoppers at the bottom and when this is done the Company's trading position will be improved to the extent of making it a financially viable venture, which is what the Consultants had undertaken to do in the first place.

4.11.80

No. 291 of 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Is Government now in a position to sue the consultants appointed by them for the sand reclamation project on the east side?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The Government has taken legal advice on the matter, and has further action under consideration.

4.11.80

NO. 292 OF 1980

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government act promptly in getting the area of the Boys' Comprehensive School cleaned up and embellished so that the students feel pride for their school premises, if for no other reason?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

There have been a number of works in progress in this area recently, ie the new Marina, Bayside Pumping Station, new sewer and water mains. These works are now nearing completion and a general clean up of the area including the removal of numbers of derelict vehicles in the vicinity has commenced. Reinstatement of excavation damage to the road has almost been completed and laying of a pavement in the North Side is due to be started next week. A scheme for embellishing the access roads is also being prepared for inclusion in next year's Draft Estimates. Final resurfacing will not be carried out until the Marina Project is finished, otherwise heavy construction traffic might damage the wearing surface.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

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

(POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HOUSE)

No. 294 of 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government give a full and detailed account of the repairs or works recommended to be carried out during the last two years by the Environmental Health Department with respect to Casola Buildings?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

This is a matter on which I will comment during my intervention in the debate on the motion on Casola's buildings of which notice has been given.

NO 295 OF 1980THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government give the figures and costs for water production from available sources for the months of July, August and September 1980 and state what the stocks were at 30 September 1980?

WRITTEN ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The figures for Water Production from available sources for the months of July, August and September are as follows:

SOURCE	JULY M ³	AUGUST M ³	SEPTEMBER M ³
RAINFALL	-	-	-
WELLS	(1.73) 7898	(1.92) 8739	(2.22) 10086
NF DISTILLER	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE
VTE DISTILLER	(4.86) 22100	(4.60) 20924	(5.07) 23040
IMPORTATION	(6.57) 29867	(6.65) 30248	(8.51) 38679

Stocks at the end of September were 44,263m³ (9.73 million gallons).

At present the estimated operating costs are as follows:-

RAINFALL	£0.37/m ³
WELLS	£0.51/m ³
IMPORTATION	£2.16/m ³
NF DISTILLER	£2.53/m ³
VTE DISTILLER	£2.29/m ³

4.11.80

No. 296 of 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government confirm that water is still being abstracted from exploratory boreholes in the deep drilling operation and can Government state when it envisages it will be in a position to determine whether water of good quality can be economically abstracted and can Government also state the total cost to date of this deep drilling operation?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

After the initial short duration pumping test no further water has been abstracted from the exploratory boreholes. It is envisaged that long term pumping tests will begin in late November or early December when special apparatus, being prepared by the Institute of Geological Sciences for monitoring various tests parameters, is expected to arrive. In the meantime an interim report of the deep drilling operation has been received and a programme for catchment study and analysis of water seeping through various tunnels is in progress. The bulk of the costs of the exploration is due to the actual drilling operations which has already been concluded. The total cost to date is £259,899 thanks to ODA Development Grant.

4.11.80

NO 297 OF 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

What further progress can Government report on the barrier at Cornwall's Lane having regard to the information given to this House in July, 1980?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND SPORT

The time allowed by the Nuisance Order expired on 22 September and, as is customary, a warning letter informing the owner that further legal proceedings would follow if nothing was done to repair the roof in question was sent on 17 October.

Since the risk of a masonry fall still exists, the barrier is being maintained until effective repairs are carried out.

4.11.80

No. 298 of 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government state what is currently being undertaken by the Public Works Department at the Piazzella at Governor's Parade and at what cost?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

At the request of the residents living in the properties surrounding the Piazzella at Governor's Parade, Government agreed to construct two small benches and a flowerbed in an attempt to stop the area being used as a football ground. "No Ball Playing" signs have also been erected.

4.11.80

No. 299 of 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Is Government now in a position to state when the water cistern at Anderson House will be emptied and cleaned?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Work on the emptying and cleaning of the water cistern at Anderson House is presently being carried out and is expected to be completed by next week.

4.11.80

NO 300 OF 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

What further progress can Government inform this House on with respect to the paving of Rosia Road?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The paving and other works at the east side of Rosia Road is being undertaken in stages. The first stage of paving was commenced last year when a token vote of £1,000 was provided in the estimates. A further token sum of £2,000 was provided in the 1980/81 Estimates of which £1,022 has been expended to date.

A scheme has been prepared for the construction of parking bays on the wider sections of the pavement to the south of the present works. It is intended to include the scheme in the 1981/82 Draft Estimates.

4.11.80

NO 301 OF 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Will Government consider paving the west side of South Barrack Road, opposite the Barracks, and provide better public lighting along that stretch?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

In 1977/78 some new paving works were carried out on this stretch of road in conjunction with the extra parking bays provided outside South Pavillion. This new pavement was carried northwards from South Pavillion to a point where the road became too narrow to continue with the pavement and allow for two way traffic.

The City Electrical Engineer has a scheme under consideration for improving the street lighting but unfortunately there are several schemes with a much higher priority.

4.11.80

No. 302 of 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government now state whether the Public Works Department Garage is completed with respect to the information given to this House in July, 1980?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

This project has been troubled by delays caused by late shipment of essential materials and fittings, difficulties in the supply of concrete and the Contractor encountering problems with recruitment of skilled labour/tradesmen. It is now hoped that it will be handed over to Government as substantially complete next month.

4.11.80

NO 303 OF 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government explain why tenders for the extension of the Air Terminal have not yet been advertised?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

It is anticipated that this project will be put out to tender in January 1981. Structural and working drawings prepared by PWD are completed as far as possible.

Drawings by steelwork, roofing and cladding specialists are now being finalised. The PWD project architect held a co-ordination meeting on 7 October in London with the Contractors involved to expedite this matter.

Bills of quantities are well under way but delayed due to information awaited from finalisation of specialist drawings.

Various items, however, have now been ordered or are in the process of being ordered to minimise material delivery delays during the contract period.

THE HON A T LODDO

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

(POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HOUSE)

4.11.80

No. 305 of 1980

The Hon Major R J Peliza

Can Government make a special effort to clean and tidy up Gibraltar commencing by instituting an effective system for disposing of derelict vehicles?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The Chief Minister is making a statement on the first part of the question with regard to derelict cars.

The system for disposing of them has already been improved and 63 vehicles have been removed during October and up to the time of preparation of this reply. The intensive campaign continues. A total of 470 has been disposed of so far this year.

4.11.80

NO 306 OF 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

Is Government satisfied that No. 5 Jetty is sufficiently solid to withstand the continuous vibrations of a Generating Station?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The foundations of the new generating station will be designed by the successful contractor, subject to approval by the Consultant. The load from the generators and the vibrations during operation will be transmitted into the engine bed and through piling to the underlying strata.

Only the loading of the power station building other than the engine beds will be carried by the jetty structure.

4.11.80

No. 307 of 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

What are Government's plans for the small area south of the new Casemates Development Project?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The land to the south of the Casemates Development Project is part of the area leased to the developers. Its use is limited to providing a private car park for the tenants of Casemates House.

4.11.80

NO 308 OF 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state when development at Catalan Bay will commence?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

It is intended to commence the development at Catalan Bay consisting of 12 flats in January 1981.

4.11.80

NO 309 OF 1980

THE HON W T SCOTT

Can Government give a breakdown of unemployment figures in the different categories as at 30 September 1980?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

The figures at the end of September 1980 were as follows:-

BRITISH:			TOTAL
Adults	Males	59	96
	Females	<u>37</u>	
Juvéniles	Males	24	67
	Females	<u>43</u>	
ALIENS:			
S	Males	76	78
	Females	<u>2</u>	
			<u>241</u>

4.11.80

NO 310 OF 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state whether the persons in charge of the present Attendance Centre are properly trained or qualified persons?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

I am not aware that it is necessary for a person in charge of an Attendance Centre to have any specific training or qualifications.

4.11.80

No. 311 of 1980

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Is Government conscious of the fact that tourists disembarking from cruise liners become disillusioned with their visit to Gibraltar with their first and last impression of the disordered state of the wharfage area they have to pass on their way to the Town Centre and on their return to their ship and do they propose to put this matter right?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

The fact that cruise liners berth at the commercial port, where commercial activities are undertaken must necessarily mean that the area cannot be made as attractive as one would wish. The present exceptional situation, which the Hon Member refers to as "disordered", and which is confined to the commercial port area, is of course due to the extensive development of the port now being undertaken and which all will recognise as essential. I should point out, however that the whole length of the roadway from the Flying Angel Club to town is clear of obstructions and eyesores.

The situation generally will be greatly improved when the development is completed. The Consultants carrying out the Port Feasibility Study have been asked to look into the question of a passenger terminal.

4.11.80

NO 312 OF 1980

THE HON G T RESTANO

Will Government state for how long empty beer barrels have been allowed to be stacked in the Port area?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

Empty beer barrels have always been stacked within the port area prior to shipment. They were previously stowed at the southern end of No 1 Jetty, out of the public eye. Owing to the re-shuffling of berths required as a result of the development of the port, it has been necessary to allow barrels to be stowed between berths 3E and 4. Once the new container terminal is in operation, it should be possible to re-site the storage area for the barrels out of public view. Allowing barrels to be stacked in the Port area shortly before shipment enables ships to turn around more quickly.

4.11.80

NO 313 OF 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state their reasons for allowing the conditions at the Port to deteriorate to such an extent that working conditions have become dangerous?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

I do not accept that the Government has allowed the conditions at the port to deteriorate in the manner suggested. Certain unavoidable difficulties have arisen as a result of the port development at present being carried out which, as I have previously said, all concerned surely recognise as essential and which will be overcome when the development is completed.

The question of working conditions is one of the many aspects of the port being examined by the Consultants carrying out the Port Feasibility Study.

4.11.80

NO 314 OF 1980

THE HON MAJOR R J FELIZA

Could Government give urgent attention to providing adequate parking space for taxis at Waterport when waiting for the arrival of tourists?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

Arrangements are being made to transfer Gibraltar Underwater Contractors Limited from their present Waterport site to within the Revenue enclosure wharf. This will provide additional space for the parking of taxis.

In addition, the matter is being studied by the Consultants who will report on the future development of the Port, including the question of ferry services.

4.11.80

NO 315 OF 1980

THE HON P J ISOLA

Why has Government not yet prepared plans and put out to tender a site for development as a multi-storey car park?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

The preparation of plans for a multi-storeyed car park and invitation to tender must necessarily be governed by the availability of a suitable site. As the House is aware from my reply to Question 214 at the last sitting of the House, Government has been considering designating the site of the Married Officers Quarters at Casemates for this purpose but this was dependent on the reprovisioning of seven quarters before the site could be released by the Ministry of Defence. I am glad to say that the MOD has agreed to the site being advertised as a preliminary to the selection of a suitable developer and it is expected that once the potential disposal of the site has been formally approved in accordance with Section 75 of the Constitution an advertisement will appear in the press within the next few weeks, possibly later this month.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

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

(POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HOUSE)

4.11.80

NO 317 OF 1980

THE HON P J ISOLA

What plans does Government have for the development of the Old Command Education Office, Cornwall's Parade situate as it is in a prime position in the City?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

Various proposals have been considered over the past for the redevelopment of the Old Command Education Centre in terms of optimum benefits consistent with good planning principles. The options are restricted by the property's location in a densely built-up residential area and the desirability of retaining a rather attractive facade to Cornwall's Parade.

This property is extensively dealt with in "The Approach and Proposals" section of the Gibraltar City Plan in terms of conservation within an area of quality and character requiring protection and enhancement.

The Development & Planning Commission is currently considering development proposals for the conversion of the property into Government offices. This would entail the demolition of the buildings damaged by fire together with the complex of single storey structures at the rear of the site and the retention of the main building fronting Cornwall's Parade.

4.11.80

No. 318 of 1980

THE HON. W. T. SCOTT

Will Government explain its policy with respect to the recent official notice advertising tenders for three plots of land near Buena Vista for private development?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

The policy of the Government has always been and continues to be to encourage and facilitate development in the private as well as the public sector. Where land is involved, priority of allocation must necessarily be accorded to public needs but provided these needs are not prejudiced land is also made available whenever possible to private interests for residential or other purposes for which there is a demand to supplement Government's own development programmes.

The Buena Vista Cottage site was such an occasion and should result in the erection of a limited number of houses without any cost to public funds.

THE HON A T LODDO

What are the plans for the area known as Maida Vale?

(POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HOUSE)

4.11.80

NO 320 OF 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Has there been any penalty imposed on the developers of Maida Vale for the non-development of this property?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

Sir, I propose to answer this question together with Question No. 319. The site at Maida Vale has a long and chequered history. It was originally put out to tender in March 1957 as the result of an application made by a local firm for the land. The tender was on the basis of a 99 year lease preceded by a building licence.

No tenders were received and direct negotiations then proceeded with the Company which had initiated the proposals to build an hotel on the site. An agreement was eventually entered into with this firm in March 1958 on the same conditions as in the tender notice. This provided that failure to erect the hotel as approved within the period stipulated would enable the Governor, as landlord, to re-enter upon the site and terminate the agreement. In that event the landlord would, if he decided to complete the hotel, pay compensation equalling three quarters of the amount spent by the Company on the site.

The Company was unable to comply with its obligations and was allowed to assign its interest subject to the payment of a penalty of £2,000 and to a new completion date fixed for 31 December 1963. This new Company, in turn, was unable to discharge its obligations (having inter alia paid only a half of the penalty) but the Administration was unable to take advantage of its power to resume possession as it was not in a position to meet the Company's claim for compensation which amounted to £50,000.

The assignees eventually went into liquidation but the site continued to be occupied by the first Company as the main or sole creditors of the other Company.

These are the bare bones of a complicated sequence of events. The position was, however, not allowed to rest inactive and attempts continued to be made over the years to reach a satisfactory conclusion which would ensure that the hotel was completed.

This has been Government's main concern but, understandably, financial and other factors over the last few years have militated against an early or facile solution. The latest position is that the developers engaged a leading firm of consultants last year to undertake a feasibility study on the prospects for a self-catering apartment hotel in line with modern trends. As is to be expected the current cost of erecting such a building must be considered in terms of economic viability and, in the light of the uncertainties as to the future, any quick decision on the part of the developers must unfortunately be ruled out. Further approaches by the developers to Government are expected.

I am sorry that it has been necessary to give this rather long answer but I felt that without such a recital it would not have been possible to give the information required.

4.11.80

No. 321 of 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

What is the present position as regards the development of Engineer House?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

The development of Engineer House has been included in the draft Development Programme for 1981/4. This project will consist of the construction of 36 flats for allocation by the Housing Department.

NO 322 OF 1980THE HON A HAYNES

Can Government state what were the Public Health requirements that justified the allocation by the Government to a private company on the North Mole of a substantial additional area to their premises which now seem to comprise double the existing area previously held by this company?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

Notice was served by the Chief Public Health Inspector (as he was then styled) on Gibraltar Cold Stores Ltd in September 1978 indicating that certain provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations were being contravened. These breaches included an item relating to the fabric of the building and read as follows:-

"Portions of the insulation to the walls and ceilings of the Chambers have fallen and hence they are not in good order, repair or condition. The floor to one of the Chambers is not in good order, repair and condition."

The condition of the building, which included cracks in the roof membrane, therefore called for major repairs requiring the closing down of the bulk of the store with a consequential loss of 75% of the available storage area and a considerable reduction in the stocks of refrigerated foods in Gibraltar.

The reason for the allocation of the additional seventy feet was therefore twofold. Firstly, it would enable the Company, without affecting local stocks, to:-

- a. defrost its biggest Chamber, to repair the floor and renew the insulation;
- b. comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Secondly, and in the longer term, it would provide the Company with more storage accommodation to cope with increased demands for frozen foods which could not be met with its existing storage capacity.

4.11.80

NO 323 OF 1980

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government state the present position as regards their efforts to obtain Jetty No 4 from MOD?

WRITTEN ANSWER

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

The Government expects that No 4 Jetty will come under the jurisdiction of the Port Department at the end of the year, or possibly before then, subject to satisfactory negotiations of the terms of transfer. It is my understanding that the shed on No 4 Jetty has been virtually vacated by PSTO(N) in anticipation of this event. It is also expected that the Jetty will come over to the Government without incumbrance so that the extra berths which will thus be at the disposal of the Captain of the Port will be available for the discharge and handling of cargo which is the overriding pressing need at the Port.

4.11.80

No. 324 of 1980

THE HON A T LODDO

Is Government now in a position to allocate accommodation at Wellington Front to Youth Associations and other clubs and will Government proceed to do this without further delay so that on the final vacation of Wellington Front by GBC the premises are put to good use without delay?

WRITTEN ANSWER.

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

Government is not yet in a position to allocate the remaining accommodation at Wellington Front, the bulk of which is still occupied by the Public Works Department and by GBC. There is a considerable number of possible candidates for the rooms available including the Telephone Department. In view of the nature of the accommodation and the lack of sanitary facilities the difficulties which these have presented to the Development and Planning Commission have made it necessary for further investigations to be carried out before recommendations can be made to the Government. I may add that the Commission has been informed that the accommodation occupied by GBC cannot be released until early next year whilst the ability of the Public Works Department to release their vaults will depend on their being able to implement the planned centralisation of their stores. I naturally agree that it would be desirable for the allocation to be completed before the accommodation becomes available and the Commission has this very much in mind.

4.11.80

No. 325 of 1980

THE HON P J ISOLA

Can Government give any explanation for the delay in the transfer of the Radio Station at Wellington Front to Broadcasting House and can Government state what is holding things up?

WRITTEN ANSWER

THE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Tests have revealed that the existing structure of the building in the area of the Radio Studio, is not as soundproof as had been expected. Steps are being taken to put in hand improvements, but as these involve the importation of special acoustic materials, there has been some delay, and present indications are that these will not arrive in Gibraltar before the end of the year.

Every effort is however being made to expedite matters.