

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

MEETING OF 26 OCTOBER 1981

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

209 to 285

26.10.81

NO. 209 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Mr Speaker, will Government now publish the Alexander Howden Report and the proposals made by Ernest A Notcutt (Overseas) Limited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

No, Sir. The reports contain confidential information relating to commercial activities and are not suitable for publication. The Government will consider releasing such information in the reports as may be of public interest as soon as a decision has been taken on the insurance of its properties.

NO. 210 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government make arrangements so that Ad Valorem duty is not levied immediately on entry to Gibraltar in the case of motor cars that arrive in Gibraltar with passengers on board but that a reasonable time is given for the payment of same?

ANSWERTHE HON THE FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY

Sir, duty on motor cars is payable immediately before the Customs Officer permits its removal from the place of landing. However, it is proposed to authorise the Collector of Customs to defer payment if he is satisfied that immediate payment of duty would result in hardship to the person concerned.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 210 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, will the Government deal with this rather more sympathetically than appears to be the case from the answer of the Financial and Development Secretary? Does the Hon the Financial and Development Secretary really believe that people arrive in Gibraltar with £1,000 or £800 in cash to pay the Ad Valorem duty and does Government consider there is any danger at all that the duty will be lost if people who arrive tired from a journey across the Straits of Gibraltar and are met by Revenue Inspectors who refuse to allow entry to the passengers and their baggage until they pay Ad Valorem duty? Is it not really absurd, Mr Speaker, that people should be delayed, after a journey, entry in Gibraltar especially with the frontier closed, they cannot get away, can they?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, I think the Hon the Leader of the Opposition is pressing on an open door. I thought I had made it quite clear that we would authorise the Collector of Customs to defer payment if he is satisfied that there would be hardship. The present arrangement is that if a vehicle arrives with a family and luggage, they are allowed to proceed to wherever they are going to stay and then the car is brought back and duty is payable. However, I have authorised the Collector of Customs, to defer payment for up to seven days in cases where he thinks this is necessary or desirable and this reflects an arrangement which has recently been introduced in the United Kingdom and we shall require persons who receive this treatment to sign a declaration that they will pay the duty within seven days. This will require an amendment to the Ordinance but I am advised by the Hon and Learned Attorney-General that pending the amendment to the Ordinance, there is no legal objection to this procedure being carried out.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, I am glad that the law is to be amended, I did suspect that that was what was required having regard to the clear terms of the Import and Export Ordinance provisions on this but will the Financial and Development Secretary consider not leaving this matter to the discretion of individual Customs Officers and making it a rule of general application because does he not agree that the effect on persons arriving in Gibraltar from overseas to take up post in Gibraltar or Gibraltarians who have bought a car and coming back to Gibraltar, back to their home, the effect of being stopped and held up at the Customs at nine o'clock at night with young children is very traumatic and would he not agree, in view of the fact that motor cars have a habit of not being able to hide themselves in our streets for long, that the directive should be one of general application and not be left to the discretion of individual Customs Officers who may have different views on different kinds of people who arrive at Gibraltar?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the instructions that will be given to Customs Officers will be clear cut and will lay down adequate guidance for them. I really feel that this is being pushed a little far. In all territories this has been the practice, including the United Kingdom. If you are going into a territory, you have a car, you know that you have got to pay Customs duty on it, you find out what the Customs amount is and you have a cheque with you to pay it, this is the usual arrangement which one makes when taking the car into a country. However, the Government accepts that some change is desirable and are ready to make it.

NO. 211 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state the position as regards the revision and printing of the Laws of Gibraltar?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr Speaker, Sir John Spry has been appointed Commissioner to undertake the revision. A Bill containing the necessary enabling powers will be introduced at this meeting of the House. The Commissioner has already begun work on the revision and tenders are about to be called for printing and publication.

The Hon and Learned Member may recall that in answer to an earlier question on the reprinting of statutes, I said that it was proposed during the course of this present year to reprint up to twelve individual statutes. In point of fact, four such statutes will be reprinted this year but after discussion with the Commissioner, we have agreed that as the comprehensive revision will speak from 31 December, 1982, it would be unnecessarily expensive to reprint the remaining eight ahead of that date.

I shall be making a more discursive statement on the general revision of the laws on the second reading of the Bill that is to be introduced.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 211 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I am not quite sure I understand. The present eight or nine volumes that there are of the Laws of Gibraltar, will they remain rather a coveted piece and not available to practitioners or others who may wish to buy one? Will there be no reprinting of the statutes already in existence?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The reprints that the Commissioner is undertaking will replace the present sets of laws, the present general statement of the statute law of Gibraltar, it will completely replace it, and in calling for tenders, we will estimate to the best of our ability the market demand for the new statutes. They will be presented in place of the existing statutes as a new set of statutes.

MR SPEAKER:

I think what you are being asked is in the interim period will we have reprints of the existing laws which are not available?

HON A J HAYNES:

That is correct.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

I am sorry, Mr Speaker, I misunderstood. The short answer, I am afraid, is no except for the four I have mentioned because this is going to be a fairly costly exercise and with the reprint due to come out as at the 31st December, 1982 and probably I would think being available a month or two months thereafter, it would, in my view, be unnecessarily expensive to reprint laws in the meantime. If there were special cases of hardship perhaps it could be looked at but in the meantime there is no general plan to do so.

HON A J HAYNES:

This revision of the laws which will be completed by December, 1982, is this just bringing up-to-date the present statutes or will there be Bills before this House, ie, will the revised laws to be produced in December, 1982, incorporate our present statute law and the eight or nine individual volumes or will it mean a detailed study of the various aspects of the law and changes therein?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The reprint will state the law as at 31st December, 1982. It will be available, we anticipate, perhaps two or three months after that. It will be a complete statement of the statute law of Gibraltar including everything that is printed in the past up until that date.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, there is not great work involved in this in the sense that the law has been

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

£250,000 worth.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, am I right in assuming that what we are talking about is our present eight volumes or nine volumes of statute laws and thereafter the individual volumes that are published every year?

MR SPEAKER:

I think you have been given your answer otherwise we will be going round in circles. You have been told that the revised Laws of Gibraltar will be as at the 31st December, 1982, so anything on the statute book at that date will appear three months after in a combined set of volumes. I think that is the answer, is that right?

HON A J HAYNES:

Is the printing of these volumes going to be different in style and structure to the present ones, ie, is it going to be easier to insert additions and changes in the law or is it going to be the same system?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, I would like if I may just refer back to the previous supplementary put by the Member. It is not a small task, it is a very major task and if I may say so from my own experience, the time-table which the Commissioner has set is a record time-table for this sort of work. As to whether or not the style will be the same as the present style, as I said, I would like to speak at more length on this when the Bill is given a second reading but it will, in fact, be an entirely loose leaf system and the printing style will be looked at with a view to following what are accepted as contemporary printing styles through I think the present Laws of Gibraltar are in perfectly contemporary printing style.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is the index for 1981 going to be ready?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, yes, I hope so.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, is it the Government's intention to have the printing done in Gibraltar?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

The Government will invite tenders in Gibraltar and in the United Kingdom, I cannot comment further than that at this stage.

HON J BOSSANO:

Does the Government recognise in looking at the tenders the desirability of providing work in Gibraltar?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

NO. 212 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, can Government say how many stray cats and dogs have been humanely destroyed in the first nine months of this year, and how many were similarly dealt with during the corresponding period last year?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, seven hundred and forty-four cats and one hundred and sixty-four dogs were humanely destroyed from the 1st January to the 30th September, 1981. Eight hundred and fifty cats and two hundred and fifteen dogs were similarly disposed of during the corresponding period last year.

NO. 213 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, is Government satisfied with the system in use for house calls in the Group Practice Medical Scheme?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Yes, Sir.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 213 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Is Government aware of the delays that seem to occur in relation to persons who call for a doctor from the Group Practice Scheme?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, Government does not accept that there are any substantial delays involved on the question of house calls.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is it the position of Government then that house calls are dealt with expeditiously and without any delay in every case?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, Sir, the procedure of house calls is as follows. Calls received during clinic hours are transferred to the duty doctor who sees the patient and may either take the house call and visit the patient or request the latter to call at the Health Centre where he will be seen immediately. Calls received during the day but outside clinic hours, that is, during the lunch period, patients are requested to ring back during the clinic hours. In case of an emergency, the call is transferred to the nursing Sister who speaks to the patient and gives the patient the duty doctor's home telephone number. Between 5 pm to 8 am the Records Office telephone number, 2003, is transferred to St Bernard's Hospital, in fact, at precisely 5 pm when the Porter is advised of the duty doctor's name and telephone number. This information is passed on by the Porter to patients when calls are received, that is after 5 pm. Callers are then channelled onto the GPMS medical officer on duty and I will repeat my answer to the questions that yes, Government is in fact satisfied with this system.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 214 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Will Government look into the possibility of having a doctor on duty at nights to deal specifically with casualties at the St Bernard's Hospital?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, there is always a resident doctor on duty covering St Bernard's Hospital.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 214 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Yes but in fact, Mr Speaker, is it not the case that the doctor in question quite often is working during the day, is on duty during the night and is expected to work the next day?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, that is in fact not the case. The position is that the first line of defence in the Casualty Department, and we must remember the question refers to night time, there is always a house officer on duty. We, in fact, have three in our establishment and they do not carry on for 24 hours a day. Apart from that, there are three consultants who take it in turn on a rota system and they are always on call for any casualty which may require their attention during the night time.

HON J BOSSANO:

The Minister is not aware then of difficulties in doctors who have been working all day not being able to get any sleep at all during the night because they are called out on a number of occasions during the night and the fact that this system puts strain on the patients, on the nursing staff and on the doctors themselves, he is not aware that that happens?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, I think the Hon Member is confusing the house officers with the doctors at the GPMS. The doctors under the Group Practice Medical Scheme are not involved in work at the Casualty Department at night time at St Bernard's Hospital, that is done by the three resident house officers. I take the point that the Hon Member makes about the GPMS doctors but they are not involved with casualties.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, I am afraid the Hon Member is wrong in thinking I am confused. I am talking precisely of the doctors employed in St Bernard's Hospital and is he not aware that the confusion that he thinks exists in my question exists sometimes in the minds of the doctors themselves in that patients are sometimes told in the department that they should be calling on the services at night of somebody from the GPMS and the doctor from the GPMS tells them that they should be calling on the doctor that is on duty at the Hospital and the duty doctor in the Hospital tells them that he has been working all day, is he not aware that this situation happens quite frequently?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, I am not aware of that situation except to maybe add that we are talking here about the Casualty Department which, for example, would probably deal with traffic accidents at mid-night or at one in the morning, that is what I think the whole question is based on, on night work at the Casualty Department.

HON J BOSSANO:

If somebody is taken suddenly ill at night is he not, in fact, expected to go to the Casualty Department or where is he expected to go? If he calls an ambulance because he is ill where is he taken, to the Health Centre in the middle of the night?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, a case in that situation would be that there would be a house call and the GPMS doctor would be involved. As soon as that patient is taken to St Bernard's Hospital he comes under the umbrella of the three house officers plus the three consultants that are always on call. We have two consultants who deal with the surgical side and another consultant who deals with the medical side but let me add that I am not aware of any complaints from the doctors or from the nursing staff in this regard but if the Hon Member wishes I will look into it.

HON J BOSSANO:

Would the Hon Member then look into it and if in fact he finds that the system is not working as smoothly as he thinks it is, will he consider methods of improving it?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Mr Speaker, I will look again into the matter and I will report back to the Hon Member.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 215 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government now state what it proposes to do about the replacement of the Director of Medical and Health Services on his retirement and does Government propose to advertise the post and if so when and where?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Government has decided that when the Director of Medical and Health Services retires in June 1982, he will be replaced by a full-time Orthopaedic Surgeon with experience of general surgery and by a Director who should be a medical officer of Consultant status with administration experience in order that he should devote most of his time to the administration of the Medical Department.

The vacancy for the Orthopaedic Surgeon, who it is planned to have in post by March 1982, has already been advertised in the local and UK press.

The post of Director will be similarly advertised in late December or early January.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 215 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, I do not quite follow the Minister. Does it mean that if somebody is selected as Orthopaedic Surgeon he will then become the Director of Medical and Health Services or is it possible that there will be two posts?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I thought it was quite clear in the answer to the question. The Government has decided to replace the present post of DMHS, the Director, by two persons. One an Orthopaedic man with general surgery experience and a Director of Medical and Health Services who must be of a Consultant status.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 216 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government outline the circumstances that made the importation of additional generating plant necessary having regard to the statements that were made by the Minister at the time the existing skid generators were imported?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, the decision to hire a trailer-mounted generator for this coming winter has arisen following investigations of a fault sustained by Engine No 8 last winter. The fault occurred following the importation of the skid generators and obviously any statements made at the time that these were imported could not possibly have taken subsequent events into account.

Engine No 8 suffered propagation of an existing crack in the column. This crack had been previously metal-stitched and expert advice was sought on the feasibility of repairs by the same process. No guarantee was forthcoming on the effectiveness of these repairs and two courses of action were open. Firstly, to obtain a replacement column and rebuild the engine or secondly, to hire a generating set. The second alternative was preferred on grounds of cost and minimal increase in workload. It was estimated that the cost of rebuilding No 8 engine would have been of the order of £200,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 216 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Can the Minister state what was the generating capacity of No 8 engine, working normally, and what is the generating capacity of the new generating plant that is being imported?

HON DR R G VALIARINO:

Mr Speaker, the average generating capacity of No 8 engine was just over 1 megawatt. The generating capacity of the new engine is rated continuously at approximately 1.7 megawatts.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does that mean, Mr Speaker, that if any other generating plant of the ancient generating plant that is being used in Gibraltar due to bad planning, of course, in the past, if any many more plant expires we will have another skid generator brought to Gibraltar, where the Government will place it we do not know, but we will have some more, will we? Is there any chance of that between now and the new power station?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, there are two things on this I would like to answer. First of all, there was no bad planning and, secondly, there will be no further importation of skid-mounted generators.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is the Minister telling the House now, categorically, that there will be no need for any new skid-mounted generators? Is he giving us that assurance categorically or is that subject to unforeseen possibilities in the future?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, certainly it is not envisaged to get any further generating sets and as the Hon and Learned Leader of the Opposition well knows the new power station is going ahead full steam and we should have two major engines ready for the summer of 1982.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, the Minister will recall that when he announced the last skid generators that were imported he was confident that they would supply or they would boost the existing supply sufficiently not to make necessary any further generating equipment before the new power station was built and now we have the same situation arising less than a year later. Can the Minister say at what cost to the tax payer the new additional generating plant will occur, at what cost?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

First of all, let me answer the first question. There were two reasons for this, one was the breakdown on No 8 engine and secondly it was this coming winter this is why we felt that we needed additional generating capacity and the cost of the importation of the trailer-mounted generator would be in the region of about £120,000, everything considered, compared to well over the £200,000 that it would have cost us to rebuild No 8 engine.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, on the question of adequate generating power, does not the answer of the Minister now illustrate the point that I made earlier that Gibraltar will continue not to have sufficient power supply principally because the situations that could arise in the future had never been foreseen or not properly foreseen during the last four years?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, I cannot accept that statement on the part of the Hon and Learned Member.

HON A J HAYNES:

Can the Minister tell us whether the breakdown of engine No 8 came as a complete surprise?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, Sir, as the Hon Member well knows, engines do break down and certainly the fact that No 8 engine, that this particular column broke down, was a surprise.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, was this engine in the bloom of health or in the prime of youth, was it otherwise a perfectly sound engine or isn't it true, Mr Speaker, that in fact this engine had been written off some time ago or should have been written off some time ago?

MR SPEAKER:

I think the answer has been given in the original answer.

HON A J HAYNES:

No, Mr Speaker, what I am trying to make is that these engines do have a statutory period of life or whatever you call it, and this one had expired some time ago, I think it was 1974 or 1975 or maybe earlier, can the Minister make any comment on that?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, let me say to clear the air and reassure Mr Haynes that No 8 engine was the most reliable engine in King's Bastion South.

HON A J HAYNES:

That does not answer the question. Had it outlived its statutory period of life? Don't these engines have a time-span?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

No, Mr Speaker, as I said, if it is the most reliable engine in King's Bastion South, No 8 engine, then obviously it was the latest engine to be put in King's Bastion South and in fact it was the most reliable and gave the highest kilowattage.

MR SPEAKER:

There is another question which I think will give the Opposition opportunity to speak on this.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I have got supplementaries on this one as well.

MR SPEAKER:

But then you must be careful on your supplementaries on the next one, I think, because they duplicate. I do not mind but you are not going to have two bites at the cherry.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, we would like to find out information as regards the planning capacity and capability of No 8 engine.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, ask your question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, our question is quite simple. What is or what was the manufacturers' recommended lifetime for engine No 8, was it sixteen years, twelve years?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the answer to that is obviously no. The manufacturers certainly do not give us any information as to the life of the engines because everything has got to be taken into account considering running hours and all these sort of things. I am afraid the answer to the Hon Mr Haynes' question is no.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, doesn't Preece, Cardew and Rider have anything to say about this?

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to discuss the Preece, Cardew and Rider Report.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, the information that I have is that engine No 8 has been living on borrowed time for about six or seven years.

MR SPEAKER:

Well, ask that question.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, I object to that because engine No 8 has not been living on borrowed time, I think Mr Haynes has been living on borrowed time.

HON A J HAYNES:

As far as I am informed engine No 8 has been living on borrowed time and therefore I ask the Minister

MR SPEAKER:

The answer has been no.

HON A J HAYNES:

Can the Minister tell me whether the plant that we have got here to replace it has been bought, leased or hired?

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked how you are acquiring the new skid generator, is it on a hire agreement or is it on a straight out purchase?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, there are certain aspects of what Mr Haynes is asking which is not in the question at all and in fact I would be most grateful if he could put a question relevant to the questions he is asking at the moment. I shall answer that one, the new generator will be hired.

HON A J HAYNES:

Can the Minister give us the comparative figures for leasing and buying?

MR SPEAKER:

We are ^{not} going to quiz the Government on the pretext of one particular question, on any matter related to the skid generators, that is unfair and requires notice.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, might I therefore ask the Hon Minister what is the cost of hire?

MR SPEAKER:

£120,000 was the full cost of the operation.

HON W T SCOTT:

And for how long?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the full cost is £120,000 of which hire charges are £60,000, transport £15,000, ancillary equipment which means transformer and fuel tank £15,000, civil works £10,000, installation and commissioning £20,000, bringing the total to £120,000 and the contract is for a six month period.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, will the Minister not agree that it is a cause for some public concern that the loss of one megawatt generating capacity should require immediate importation and is that not an indictment on Government power supply policy that has not allowed for any spare capacity to deal with emergency situations in Gibraltar?

MR SPEAKER:

I will allow an answer yes or no and no more because that is a matter of opinion.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the answer is obviously, no.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 217 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government inform the House on the maintenance programme carried out at the Generating Station since last Spring?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, the mechanical maintenance work carried out in the Generating Station since last Spring can briefly be summarised as consisting of:

- (a) the completion of the rebuilding and commissioning of Engine No 11
- (b) a top overhaul of Engine No 9
- (c) a general overhaul and fitting of new turbo-chargers to Engine No 12
- (d) a top overhaul of Engine No 13, currently in progress
- (e) exhaust valve and fuel injector changes generally, at prescribed intervals.

It is also intended that a further overhaul on Engine No 10 will be completed before the end of December.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 217 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, can we therefore ask the Minister what capacity would be available to consumers this coming winter from those five engines that he has mentioned?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, it is simple. From those five engines he has only got to add 2.2, 2.2, 2.2, 4.6 and 2.2.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, is the Government satisfied that with 21.4 kilowatts which is what

MR SPEAKER:

No, I am not going to allow that question. The question asks can Government inform the House on the maintenance programme carried out at the Generating Station since last Spring. We are talking about maintenance, we are not talking about the supply of electricity, generally, otherwise we will never finish.

HON P J ISOLA:

Has the maintenance programme been carried out since last Spring exactly according to plan or has there been any drawbacks of any kind?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, the maintenance programme has gone according to plan except as the Hon Member well knows and I answered in my last question, the fact that we had the industrial action of the IPCS which meant we could not work overtime for a certain period but apart from that the programme of maintenance has been carried out as expected.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does that mean that the overtime was never necessary then? If it has been carried out according to plan despite the IPCS industrial action, is it correct to assume from that that the industrial action has not affected the maintenance programme?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It has.

HON P J ISOLA:

Well then how could it have been done according to plan?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

It is easy, Mr Speaker, for two reasons. First of all, we could not do overtime at the time but we certainly have been able to, after the IPCS strike action, we have been able to do more work on the engines especially by working nights where needed and therefore by catching up on the maintenance programme.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can I then ask, Mr Speaker, has this involved additional cost as far as the maintenance programme is concerned to that that was estimated and if so how much?

DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, I would require notice of that question from the Hon Member.

HON A J HAYNES:

Can the Minister give us the state of health of the engines which were part of that maintenance programme?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The Minister is not here in his medical capacity.

HON A J HAYNES:

Can he tell us the prognosis for these engines?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

No 5 engine has lumbago

HON A J HAYNES:

Are any of these living on borrowed time? Is the failure of any of these engines going to come as a complete surprise to the House in about a month's time?

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Ask a question seeking information.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, from the maintenance programme has the Minister been informed as to the likely lifespan for any of the particular engines that were maintained?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

No, Sir.

HON A J HAYNES:

You have not been informed or you did not ask? No, Sir, what?

MR SPEAKER:

You have asked whether he has been informed and he said no.

HON A J HAYNES:

Does the Minister know what the expected lifespan of these engines that were maintained is?

MR SPEAKER:

You are being asked whether you know now, after the maintenance of these engines whether you know what the lifespan of each engine is or whether you have been informed.

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Of course not, Sir, it depends on a variety of factors.

MR SPEAKER:

The answer is he does not know.

HON A J HAYNES:

If the Minister does not know how can he come and say it was a complete surprise that No 8 broke down?

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, can I ask the Government if it is satisfied and therefore can it assure this House that since we have heard just a few minutes ago that all these five sets have been substantially overhauled or at least have had their planned maintenance since last Spring, that we can look forward to a power cut free winter unless there are major problems outside of normal maintenance?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Yes, Sir.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can the Minister tell us whether the Preece, Cardew and Rider Report makes any reference to the lifespan of any of the engines in King's Bastion South or North?

MR SPEAKER:

Can you answer that question?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

No, Sir, and neither does it arise out of this question.

HON A J HAYNES:

The answer is no?

MR SPEAKER:

The answer is that the Preece, Cardew and Rider Report does not refer to the lifespan of the engines.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, can we just put it this way. Can the Minister assure the House that engines 9 to 13 have, as he has said, successfully gone through their maintenance programme and is the Minister satisfied that these engines will give service throughout the winter notwithstanding any other remarks that might have been made about them in the Preece, Cardew and Rider Report?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, yes, Sir. As I have said before the engines have been maintained, in fact, we have had No 13 engine out for almost two weeks now because it is undergoing overhaul and without any help we have had enough power on the grid to be able to do this, in fact, I remember that this used to be thrown at me that whenever No 13 engine was out we had power cuts but what the Hon Member asked is whether I was satisfied that with these engines we would avert the need for cuts, and apart from any major, as the Hon Mr Scott says because he is an Electrical Engineer and knows, apart from any major disaster the answer to that question is yes, we can look forward to a winter free of power cuts.

HON P J ISOLA:

And, Mr Speaker, can we look forward to this power cut free winter whether or not there is a heavy strain on the Dockyard power station?

MR SPEAKER:

Order, no, we are now expanding.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, the Minister has volunteered the statement that we will be power cut free.

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister has said that saving any major breakdown there should be no power cuts this winter.

HON P J ISOLA:

We won't mention the Dockyard power supply, we will keep quiet.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 218 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state their proposals for averting any risk of aural pollution at the new Generating Station?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES

Mr Speaker, Sir, to avert any risk of aural pollution as stated in the question is a technical and physical impossibility but the Hon Member may be assured that the matter has received very serious attention from all parties concerned and will be strictly monitored as works progress on site.

The tender document drew particular attention to this aspect of performance and effectively specified that at worst the noise level at the west side of Varyl Begg Estate should with one engine fully loaded be no higher than that of an average conversation. There is every indication that practical noise levels will be substantially below this, particularly at night.

The proposals for minimising aural pollution include:

- (a) composite fibreglass and plasterboard sound insulating lining in the Engine Hall
- (b) air intake silencing
- (c) exhaust silencing
- (d) two-speed and silenced radiator fans
- (e) engine foundations decoupled from the main engine hall structure
- (f) decoupling of potentially noise-carrying ductwork.

The contractors have engaged the services of consultant acoustical engineers to advise on the various design problems that will be encountered and a strict series of works tests on particular items is being carried out prior to these being accepted for shipment to Gibraltar.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 218 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, will any of these apparently far reaching proposals be applicable or be able to be converted to the use of the present King's Bastion Generating Station?

HON DR R G VALARINO:

Mr Speaker, first of all, with all due regard to Mr Haynes, it does not arise out of the question.

NO. 219 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will the Government give the figures it has available for the following categories:

- (a) the number of Apprenticeships finally offered by each of the Official Employers and the number taken up
- (b) the number of school-leavers who passed the Apprenticeship Training Examination but were not offered an Apprenticeship
- (c) the number of school-leavers under (b) above who were offered Training facilities at the Construction Industry Training Centre at Landport for one year, and
- (d) the number of school-leavers under (c) above who have taken up the offer?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

- (a) Sir, a total of 25 apprenticeships were offered this year by the Official Employers, as follows:-

Public Works Department	-	12
City Electrical Engineer	-	4
Telephone Department	-	3
PSA/DOE	-	6

All have been taken up. MOD have not yet decided how many they will be able to offer.

- (b) The number of young persons who passed either or both the Engineering and Construction Entrance Examinations was 113. In theory, therefore, there are 88 who could not be offered an apprenticeship, but it is relevant to observe that of those asked to attend for trade selection, 47 either failed to do so or declined an offer when their turn came, because they were not interested in the trades remaining.
- (c) and (d) Whilst it is the intention to offer training facilities at the Construction Industry Training Centre to those successful candidates who are not offered an apprenticeship with the Official Employers - the scheme has not yet been started as the MOD's decision on their intake of apprenticeships is still awaited. It is intended to introduce the scheme in January, 1982 or even before, if there is an earlier decision by MOD on the question of their apprenticeships.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 219 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, I remember very distinctly in this House that the target date that was set by the Minister, in fact, was September of this year for this new course to start in the Construction Industry Training Centre. Can I ask the Minister one question, the MOD still not having decided on how many apprenticeships are to be offered, can I take it that the balance of 25 apprentices still have not initiated their course?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Sir, I did indicate that we hoped to start in September but the problem arises because of the MOD, in a sense, Sir, that if we had started the scheme in September or this month, October, we would have found out later that the Dockyard could have offered 20 apprenticeships and the chaps already started in our own training course would have left us and we would have had to have brought in different people who would have had a different starting time for the course that we are running. We want to make sure that the people we bring into the course are going to stay with us during the whole of the year.

HON W T SCOTT:

Is the Minister therefore saying, Mr Speaker, that until such time as the MOD offer apprenticeships the course will not start?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

No, Sir. I have said it quite clearly that it is intended to introduce the scheme in January 1982 or even before if there is an earlier decision by the MOD on the question of their apprenticeships.

HON W T SCOTT:

Yes, it is conditional on the MOD making the decision, that is what I am asking.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I will read it again, Sir. It is intended to introduce the scheme in January 1982 or even before, if there is an earlier decision by MOD on the question of their apprenticeships.

HON W T SCOTT:

Will the Government therefore be approaching not only the 41 that are left out of the possible 88 that might have had this one year industrial training scheme offered to them but will they approach the 88 again because circumstances to these 88 individuals might well have changed?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Strictly speaking, Sir, when we discussed the motion at the last House of Assembly I did emphasise the fact that I did not have very much sympathy with people who refused apprenticeships and then want to take our own construction industry training but I am quite prepared that if we have the 88 we will consider taking all of them but we have limitations of space, of course, though I do not envisage that they are

HON W T SCOTT:

Will the Minister give way?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I have not finished my answer, when I finish my answer I will give way. We do not envisage that there are still 88 apprentices waiting to come into our course.

HON W T SCOTT:

I think the Minister mistook my question. He did say of the 88 who had refused apprenticeships but in fact we are talking about two different things, are we not? We are talking about a young man who is offered an apprenticeship, the 25 that were available, out of a total of 113 leaving a balance of 88 who are not offered an apprenticeship but they are offered industrial training which is a totally different thing.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

No, Sir, I will emphasise that 47 out of the 88 refused to accept any kind of apprenticeship.

HON W T SCOTT:

But it is not an apprenticeship, Mr Speaker, I think it was clear cut in the debate that the Minister was referring to in subsequent questions, it is industrial training for one year, not a four year apprenticeship course. I want the Minister to be absolutely sure of the distinction between the one and the other.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Sir, the spirit of the motion was that those who could not be offered an apprenticeship would go to industrial training. These 47 were offered.

MR SPEAKER:

We have a question on industrial training coming now.

HON J BOSSANO:

The Minister said, as I understand it, that the 47 people concerned were not interested in any of the 25 apprenticeships available, that is the distinction he is making, is it not?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

That is right.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is there any indication yet as to when the Ministry of Defence will make up its mind on this point? What is holding them up making up their minds?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

As a matter of fact I asked the General Manager of the Dockyard, I think last Monday, and he did not have a reply. Government has already made up its mind to what date we are prepared to wait. Quite frankly I do not want to make things easy for the Dockyard. I do not want them to say no. The more pressure we put on them the better it is, if we make life easy for them and we start putting up courses and creating our own things it is very easy for them to say: "Alright, no more apprentices". That is the attitude I have been adopting all the time. I do not want to make things easy for the MOD.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 220 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, is Government satisfied that the facilities offered by the Construction Industry Training Centre are being fully exploited?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, the Construction Industry Training Centre provides practical and craft training for construction trade apprentices throughout the first year of their apprenticeships and also for periodical training during their second, third and fourth years. The Centre is also employed on the trade testing of craftsmen as well as running supervisory courses on subjects such as scaffolding, safety and first aid.

However, the drop in the number of construction trade apprentices taken on during the last two years, has resulted in some under-utilisation of the Centre. Because of this it is possible to offer basic training facilities for those who were successful in the apprentice entry exams, but were unable to obtain an apprenticeship without the need to either employ more instructors or provide additional facilities. Also, space is being made available at the Centre for the training of trainee technicians and craft apprentices of the Telephone Department, who will be providing their own line supervisors as instructors.

26.10.81

NO. 221 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, can Government state what figures it has available for job vacancies as at 30th September, 1981?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, the number of vacancies available on 30th September, 1981 was fifty-four, covering thirty-five different occupations. Twenty-five of the vacancies were for skilled workers in the construction industry.

NO. 222 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, can Government confirm that the first twenty applicants in the Family Care Unit awaiting a report for Housing as at 1st August, 1981, had been waiting for more than twelve months for their reports, and will Government state the present waiting time to be expected in respect of a report requested as at today's date ie how long will the last person listed for a report be likely to wait?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, on the 1st August, 1981, the Department of Labour and Social Security had a list of eighty-seven requests from the Housing Department for social reports on applicants for accommodation. The first twenty on the list had been received between 18 September, 1980, and 17 December, 1980 - ie less than twelve months previously.

As a result of the recruitment of two Trainee Social Workers in July of this year it has been possible to step up the rate at which these requests could be investigated and reported upon, with the result that, although since 1 August, 1981, a further twenty requests have been received, the number now on the list waiting to be dealt with is sixty-four.

On the assumption that the workload of the Family Care Unit will enable this improvement to continue, it is expected that the present backlog will be cleared by about the end of 1981.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 222 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

And will the staffing at the Family Care Unit remain consistent and will the priority given to housing remain high or not? Can the Minister tell us whether after the backlog is cleared up whether another backlog will emerge or not?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, if I could predict the future I would not be here. I do not know what the next lot will be. I can tell you that what we have, if the present workload continues, we shall be able to deal with them by the end of 1981 which is only about two or three months away. Whether more backlog is coming, we will give the priority that is always given to this.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, the priority is not always given. We have cases here which have been waiting for eleven months, maybe not twelve but certainly very closely, from September to August. Mr Speaker, can the Minister confirm to this House his worry and apprehension at

the thought of social cases being left for eleven months and if that is the case will he then undertake to keep the staffing or manning level of the Family Care Unit high enough to cope with the housing reports that come to him? That is what I want to find out.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, I think from my answer it is obvious.

MR SPEAKER:

Precisely and the answer is yes. Next question.

NO. 223 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government state whether it has a set system, employed at regular intervals, for the inspection of school buildings especially during the long summer holidays?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, even before the recent difficulties concerning maintenance and cleaning were highlighted at Bayside School a system for regular annual inspections of school buildings had been agreed with the Public Works Department which involves visits to all schools during the Autumn Term in connection with the preparation of Estimates for the forthcoming financial year. Representatives of the Department of Education and Public Works Department are in the process of visiting all schools to assess the need and extent to which maintenance and minor works are required to enable sufficient financial resources to be included in the Estimates.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 223 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, the Minister said distinctly minor works but if it is included in one estimate in the Autumn term it will take a substantial amount of months before those minor works can be carried out. Surely there must be some provision for minor works to be carried out at regular intervals.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, requisitions come in regularly from the Headmasters of all the Schools.

HON W T SCOTT:

So other than that in fact there is no inspection of school buildings other than once a year, it depends entirely on the staff of the school on minor works at least to inform the Education Department of any problems that might arise. What is the speed at which these requisitions that are made by the staff of the school seen to?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

That, I am afraid, I do not control, Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

As all Government schools are in fact public buildings, is there no system at all under which the Public Works Department of its own initiative inspects school buildings as opposed to inspecting them at the request of the Education Department?

MR SPEAKER:

He has just said that they have instituted a system whereby schools are inspected regularly.

HON P J ISOLA:

As I understood the answer, in the Autumn the Department of Education together with the Public Works Department look at the thing and then there are requisitions. My question is if there is any system at all under which the Public Works Department independently of any requirements of the Education Department, regularly inspects the public buildings, ie the schools, in the same way as presumably it does its other public buildings, that is my question.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Sir, previous to this system which we have introduced there was no system, we would probably have had to employ more people.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does that mean that previous to the present problems at the Bayside Boys' Comprehensive School there was no system in existence under which the Public Works Department visited public buildings that were schools?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Sir, I will make two points. Before the difficulties were highlighted, the Department of Education with the Public Works Department had already instituted a system of annual inspection for all school buildings. The idea of the Department of Education and of the Public Works Department working together is in order that we can get our priorities right, the Headmasters will be able to say: "This is what I consider the first priority, the second priority etc", because the Public Works Department are dealing with all Government buildings and obviously there are limitations within the structure of the Public Works Department as to how much work they can do in one year and the money the Government can afford to spend during that year in maintenance so the idea of the Public Works Department and the Education Department working closely together is to get an order of priority. But there has always existed an element of inspection by the Headmasters themselves because the Headmaster when he comes to us to ask for money for the school he puts to us his request which we then in turn pass on to the Public Works Department and they have to consider the financial implications, labour manpower etc, etc. Before we did not have a regular inspection by the Public Works Department, by experts, now we have it. Before the thing was highlighted at my instigation I had meetings with the Minister for Public Works but there has always existed a system because when we are talking of estimates we have to have some knowledge of what the buildings are like but it was not done in a professional basis it was done more or less on what the Headmasters thought was required. I hope that will answer the Hon Member's question.

HON P J ISOLA:

I am glad, Mr Speaker, that the recent problems in the school have brought up obviously more efficient procedures and I am glad there was some sort of inspection before but if that was the case and it was done properly can the Minister explain how the Boys' Comprehensive School got into the state it did without any remedying during the summer vacations?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, that is a separate question.

HON P J ISOLA:

Will the Minister not agree that that is a natural question to ask from what he has said and the message of reassurance he has given to the House about procedures? It seems to me odd that the school after a long summer vacation should have to close down to have repairs done to it if these procedures were being properly carried out by the Department for which the Minister is responsible and by the Department for which his colleague the Minister for Public Works is responsible.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, there are specific questions which are related to repairs and minor works and maybe we could answer as part of those questions.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

One question, Mr Speaker. The Minister says that he has no control over the time it takes to have the requisitions for minor repairs carried out in schools. Is he satisfied with the time it takes to carry out those repairs?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, there is a question later on, I think it is No 227.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 224 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how many students was the Bayside Comprehensive School meant to cater for, and how many students does it house at present?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Speaker, the total school complex at Bayside was originally planned for 850 boys and the current roll is 878. However, the maximum capacity was made on what later proved to be an incorrect assumption that specialist accommodation in the building could also be used throughout the day as a class base. This incorrect assumption was highlighted at the time of re-organisation in 1974. It led to the acquisition of the temporary void accommodation in order to provide the necessary basic teaching spaces which would otherwise have been in specialist accommodation in the school in keeping with the original plans. A permanent extension of basic classrooms is now planned at Bayside School in order to replace the void accommodation. This project has been included in the development aid submission for 1981/86.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 224 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Is the Minister satisfied that these extensions, when and if they come about, will not only be able to cater for the excess number of students that we have at present but for the excess number of students which undoubtedly we will have over and above those by 1986?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Yes, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 225 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, has Government made adequate provision for heating at Bayside Comprehensive for the coming winter?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Speaker, I think the Hon Member is of the opinion that we only have one school, Bayside, everything I get is from Bayside.

At the beginning of each Autumn Term a circular is sent to all schools requesting information as to what work may be necessary to ensure comfortable working conditions during the winter. This exercise covers both maintenance work to doors and windows as well as the provision of and repairs to heaters. This information is then passed to the Public Works Department for any necessary action to be taken during the latter part of the Autumn Term so that all necessary work is completed before the cold winter period. This procedure has been followed for the coming winter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 225 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I can assure the Hon Minister that I do know that there are more schools than Bayside but apparently he seems to get all the trouble from Bayside that is why I am harping on it.

HON A J CANEPA:

You get all the information from Bayside.

HON A T LODDO:

Flippant even. Mr Speaker, then I can take it categorically that this winter we will not have another blankets protest by students because the school will be too cold for students and teachers alike to work in. Can I take that as categorical, that it won't be?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I never give any categorical replies. I think it depends on the thermal conditions prevailing at the time, Sir, we might get arctic conditions and Gibraltar is not equipped for arctic conditions. I think, Sir, that what I have said is something that I introduced myself, I introduced it last year in that the schools suddenly realised that it was cold and started switching heaters on when it became cold and they did not have the necessary sense I think to make sure that they were working before the winter came along and this is why we send a circular reminding them to check the heaters before the winter comes along and this is what happened last year, they did not check them.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, has the Minister consulted his colleague as to whether the Generating Station has the capacity for the heaters?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The heaters, Sir, last year fell into disrepair many times because they had been abused by the people themselves in putting books and things on the heaters with the result that they overheated and the thermostats fused. If the staff and pupils of the school look after their heaters then we do not envisage much trouble with them.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 226 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government ensure that there are sufficient chairs in the Common Room at Bayside Comprehensive?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Bayside again, Mr Speaker. It is a pity that the Hon Member has not got smaller children in other schools.

Mr Speaker, there are sufficient chairs at Bayside School for all boys entitled to use the 6th Form Common Room to have a seat. However, there would be insufficient room in the 6th Form Common Room for all boys to sit comfortably if this room were used by all the boys at the same time and consequently fewer chairs have been made available than the number of boys actually entitled to use the room. Not all boys wish to use the 6th Form Common Room and certainly all 6th formers do not use it at the same time. In addition the management of the school encourages the boys to use seating accommodation in study areas, like the Library, elsewhere in the school for much of the time.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 226 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I would like to assure the Hon Minister that there are definitely insufficient chairs particularly since this year more students have decided to stay on and I would ask him to ensure that there are sufficient chairs in the Common Room for the boys' use. The fact that they are supposedly entitled to use the Library is a myth because the boys in the 6th form are asked to leave the Library because that is also being used. The fact is that the school is overcrowded. Will he please ensure that there are sufficient chairs, Mr Speaker?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Let me assure the Hon Mr Loddo that this answer was prepared with the full cooperation of the Headmaster of the Bayside School and I have been assured that we do not require any more chairs, Sir.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 227 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how many requisitions for works were put into Government by the Administration at Bayside Comprehensive in the last five years, and how many were complied with before the autumn term 1981 commenced?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, copies of requisitions have been kept and logged by the management at Bayside School since July, 1977, only, a period of four years instead of the five that you are asking. During the period July, 1977, up to the commencement of the autumn term 1981 there were 275 requisitions submitted by the school through the Department of Education to the Public Works Department and at the time that the recent difficulties concerning maintenance at the school were highlighted at the beginning of the autumn term only five requisitions were outstanding.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 227 OF 1981

HON A J CANEPA:

You do not like the answer do you?

HON A T LODDO:

The answer is astonishing, five requisitions.

MR SPEAKER:

Order.

HON A T LODDO:

I hope the Minister is not answering tongue in cheek because it seems to me, Mr Speaker, and I hope I can clear this up, it seems to me that to have had the action that we did have at the Bayside Comprehensive

MR SPEAKER:

No, we are not going to go into that. You have asked how many requisitions were made by the Department of Education to the Public Works Department and how many have been complied with. You have been given the answer. It may be surprising but that is the position.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, may I ask the Minister then what where the five requisitions that were left outstanding because they could be a list as long as my arm for all we know?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Yes. The five requisitions outstanding were (1) construction of a litter room, (2) repairs to eleven toilets systems, (3) replacement of broken glass by plywood, (4) repair of window, (5) repair gate.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, did I hear repair of window? One window?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

One window.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, if all these requisitions were carried out except five and apparently they were not of all that significance, how can he explain, Mr Speaker, the fact that the school had to close and work had to be carried out at overtime? Was it perhaps that the jobs that were supposed to be done were done wrongly or indifferently and therefore they had to be done all over again, can the Minister explain?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, the procedure is that when there is a requisition for work and the Public Works Department go there, it is not considered as finished until the Headmaster or his representative countersigns that requisition saying that the work has been completed.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

So the Minister is saying therefore that all this business of the school being closed and all this business of people working overtime was due to the fault of the Headmaster not putting in the requisition?

HON A J CANEPA:

Has he said that?

MR SPEAKER:

He has not said that. That is a matter of implication and we must not ask that under this particular question.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I beg your pardon, Mr Speaker.

MR SPEAKER:

We must not ask that under this particular question. What we are trying to find out is how many requisitions for works were put to Government by the Administration at Bayside Comprehensive in the last five years, and how many were commenced before the autumn term 1981 commenced. You have had the answer on that and we must not go beyond that.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I think there is a great relevance between the requisitions being carried in the school and the school not being able to open because apparently it was in a very unsatisfactory state.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. If the Opposition wanted to know the reasons why the school was not opened they should have asked a question.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Perhaps we can follow that up another time, Mr Speaker. Coming back to the previous questions that I put to the Minister with regard to whether he was satisfied with the time it takes for the requisitions to be carried out. Apparently, he has no control, that is what he said. Is he satisfied with the time it takes for requisitions to be carried out?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Sir, I am satisfied that when the Public Works Department realise that there is a requisition of great urgency the Public Works Department cooperates fully and do it as quickly as possible. On other things which they might not consider quite so urgent, probably we would like it to be done quicker, but I am fully aware that the Public Works Department have other commitments to other departments, to other Ministries, in fact, to housing, and I have to accept this. Of course, if the Government start employing more people and spending more money etc, etc but apart from Bayside there are other schools too.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, I think we are talking very much on maintenance really unless we want to really narrow and bring it to the point in question but surely, Mr Speaker, if there is obvious dissatisfaction with the people who use the school, the Minister cannot say: "I can understand that there are other problems and therefore I am going to allow this to carry on".

MR SPEAKER:

Let us not go round in circles. The Minister has said that within the context of the requirements of the Public Works Department he is satisfied that they give reasonable attention to the requisitions.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

To the urgent ones, Mr Speaker, but with the others he was not all that satisfied but he understood, of course, that the Public Works Department have other things to do and what I am saying, Mr Speaker, isn't it time therefore bearing in mind what happened earlier this year when in fact the school did not open for quite a long time, that the system should be looked into and perhaps they could have their own maintenance team to carry out the whole maintenance? Isn't it time that an answer was found to the state of the schools? Could the Minister give an answer, Mr Speaker?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

No, Sir.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask the Minister, Mr Speaker, in view of the answer that he has given which obviously must raise a lot of doubts in Members' minds in this House as to the circumstances of the closure of the Bayside Comprehensive School at the beginning of this term, could I ask the Minister rather than go on debating the matter here, whether he will give us an assurance that the Report of the Committee that he set up to inquire into the Bayside Comprehensive School problems will be made public so that the public may know, Is there a question on this, I had not seen it, I beg your pardon.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

There is a question by the Hon Member which is down for answer by me.

HON P J ISOLA:

Is there really, Mr Speaker, I beg your pardon. Mr Speaker, you will be aware that I left Gibraltar before the questions and I have certainly been looking for it, it is there, is it? In that case, Mr Speaker, I will defer comment until then. I apologise for taking the House's time.

NO. 228 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, why were 5th year Spanish students at the Bayside Comprehensive forced to go without a Spanish Teacher during the latter part of the Summer Term of 1981?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Speaker, I would like to make it clear that the Government does not employ any Spanish Teachers at present. Following interviews in April, 1981, a member of the Modern Languages Department at Bayside School was appointed as an Executive Officer under the Government's graduate entry scheme. Arrangements were made by the Establishment Division for this teacher to take up his appointment at the end of May. This meant that the first year 6th form did not have the services of this particular teacher for the remainder of the term (ie two weeks of full-time and three weeks of part-time school). The Department of Education accepted this arrangement because the teacher concerned had by then completed his examination teaching with the 4th and Upper 6th pupils at the school and other teachers were available to cover for other parts of his time-table as all examination classes were then taking GCE 'O' and 'A' level Examinations.

NO. 229 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Is Government still requiring students who obtain grants to undertake further education in UK to return to Gibraltar to take up employment with Government?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND
LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Sir, Government still requires all students taking courses of further and higher education in the UK to sign an agreement that if offered suitable employment in Gibraltar on the successful completion of their courses they will return to work for Government. Steps are taken in the majority of cases to ascertain the extent to which suitable employment is available in Government Departments before students are due to return so that a clear indication can be given to them before the end of their courses whether there is likely to be suitable employment available to them. If suitable employment cannot be offered to students they are released from the terms of their agreement and the intention in future, is to give them advanced notice during the autumn term prior to completing their initial course.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 229 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, welcome as that improvement is, would the Member not agree that it is still a one-sided situation where a student is required to come back if the Government wants him to but is not guaranteed employment if the Government does not want him to?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

I agree it is a one-sided situation.

HON J BOSSANO:

Will the Government not agree that in the light, in fact, that there has recently been a move towards recruiting people in order to undertake University courses as Government employees and be guaranteed employment at the end, that that situation creates a two-tier system where some people are sent to University on the Government payroll, guaranteed a job at the end of it if they are successful and required to work for the Government, on the other hand other people are given smaller incomes, treated as students, have no guarantee of work and they have the same responsibility towards the Government as the Government's own employees. Does he not think that in the light of this recent innovation the situation becomes even less defensible?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Mr Speaker, smaller incomes in that the trainees are required to work during all their school holidays. Yes, I agree with you, it is a one-sided thing.

HON J BOSSANO:

Will he then consider reviewing Government policy on this matter in order to see the possibility of changing it for next year, Mr Speaker?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Certainly, Mr Speaker.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, would the Minister look into this matter and if at one stage along the course of the student it is obvious that that student is not going to find employment in Gibraltar, advise him that the requirement will not be forced upon him in order that he may be able to look for employment in the United Kingdom, Mr Speaker, where the situation is not as easy as it used to be before?

MR SPEAKER:

They have said in the answer that they are doing that now. They are specifically doing that and they are informing students.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I did not hear that, Mr Speaker. I cannot hear the Minister and perhaps he could speak a bit louder.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Shall I repeat the answer in a loud Sergeant-Major's voice?

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

No, Mr Speaker, but I would not like him to be silent when there is an important question like the one I asked before.

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Just give him a hearing aid, Sir.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, could I add one further suggestion in the form of a question. Would the Minister also consider in terms of planning for next year's educational opportunities in the United Kingdom, that people should be told when they are trying to make up their mind in Gibraltar what they are going to do in further education, what are the employment prospects? Will he consider ensuring that in future, I do not know whether it is happening already or not, but certainly my information is that a number of people have gone to the United Kingdom in the mistaken idea that choosing one particular course of education as opposed to another improved their possibility of employment on their return to Gibraltar and then have had the disappointment of finding that this is not the case, so will he consider introducing a system where people are told quite clearly on the basis of suggestions perhaps from the Labour Department of job opportunities in the future, which are the courses that enhance the chances in Gibraltar in finding employment so that people know before they study whether they are choosing something that appeals to them but they are unlikely to find work in Gibraltar, or otherwise?

HON MAJOR F J DELLIPIANI:

Yes, Mr Speaker, that is in fact my way of thinking since I came to the department in 1978. I think that that is up to counselling in school by Career Counsellors and the Youth and Careers Office. I myself, in fact, have tried this with different students. I have looked at certain posts and the age of certain people and have said to them: "Look, if you want to come back to Gibraltar make sure you go for this kind of post because that chap will be dead in five years' time or he has got to retire" but unfortunately students have still the right to choose whatever they want. If we were an autocratic system of Government like Singapore, Singapore at one time said: "We do not want any more history, philosophy, geography, we are going to have technicians because we are going to do this", and no one was given any more scholarships for anything except for technical courses. We do not want this situation to happen in Gibraltar but certainly I shall investigate that further counselling is given to those students who want to return to Gibraltar.

HON J BOSSANO:

In fact, Mr Speaker, what I am suggesting and what I would ask the Minister to consider, is something more technical, more sophisticated if you like, a projection by the Department of Labour for which he is also responsible of what is likely to be the demand in different fields at graduate level and then that those projections should be made available to people at a very early stage when they are deciding what further education they are going to go into.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 230 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government state what led to its change of policy in relation to traffic lights considering the answers given to Question 153 of 1981 and the subsequent assurances given by the Chief Minister to the tenants of Laguna and Glacis Estates as reported in the Gibraltar Chronicle of the 15th instant?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, there has been no change in Government policy in this matter. As part of the original plans to deal with traffic in an open frontier situation it was agreed to install traffic lights at Winston Churchill Avenue - Glacis Road. These plans subsequently went into abeyance and this accounted for the wording of answer 153. Now that certain parts of the traffic plans have been re-activated for possible frontier re-opening the question of installing the traffic lights is again being pursued.

NO. 231 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, is Government taking any steps to prevent the road leading to the 'New Marina' from becoming

- a) a dumping ground for derelict cars, and
- b) an unofficial trailer park?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the Police are as anxious to keep this road as clear of derelict cars and parked trailers as they are of all other public roads. Steps are in hand to remove certain derelict vehicles from the area of the new Marina but because of the need in certain cases to Gazette the vehicles, removal takes some time. Steps are also in hand to legally designate the existing lay-byes as official car parks within the Traffic Ordinance and when this has been approved the parking of trailers in these lay-byes will be an offence. At present it is not.

NO. 232 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how many derelict vehicles have been disposed of month by month during the first nine months of 1981, and how many during the corresponding time last year?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
January	32	113
February	-	85
March	49	56
April	35	42
May	3	34
June	58	74
July	81	39
August	70	135
September	38	96
Totals	<u>366</u>	<u>674</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 232 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Police on a very worthwhile exercise. It is a shame that cats and dogs have not followed the same pattern.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 233 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government make a statement on the use of Rosia Parade parking site by containers?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, at present no offence is committed by trailers or containers parked in this location. Steps are in hand to legally designate the parking site as an official car park within the Traffic Ordinance and when this has been approved the parking of a trailer or a container in the car park will be an offence.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 233 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, can I ask the Minister whether he has any idea when this will be because at the moment there are a lot of containers parked there and the weight is damaging the newly laid asphalt?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, perhaps I might answer that question. The matter is with me, there are a number of parking matters which need attention. All I can say is we will expedite them to the best of our ability.

HON W T SCOTT:

Might I ask the Government, Mr Speaker, also to look at other areas which have been traditionally used exclusively for parking which have been made use of over a number of years for the parking of containers as well and not to restrict oneself to Rosia Parade?

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

As I say, Mr Speaker, there are several parking matters which need looking at and they are with us for action.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, if you will allow my going at a slight tangent to the question, but in fact wasn't the creation of a container berth supposed to improve the situation? There seems to be as many containers littered all over the place as there was before we spent £ $\frac{1}{2}$ m in building that place for people to handle containers. I know it is at a slight tangent as a supplementary. Has it made any difference or do we have the same problem we used to have before with containers all over town?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the container berth, Sir, should tend to improve it but possibly it will be further improved when the unstuffing shed is there and then there will not be any real excuse to bring a container into town, they should be able to unstuff there.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask, Sir, on the question of the official car parks and designating Rosia Parade as an official car park, could thought be given to making certain official car parks illegal for parking not just for containers and lorries but also for commercial vans? It is not unusual to insist that a car park is for motor cars and not for motor vans and buses and so forth. One accepts that you have to make certain allowances in Gibraltar but there are surely certain areas where it should purely be motor cars, could consideration be given to that?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Most people use their vans for private purposes.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 234 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how many unlicensed vehicles are there on the public highway at the present time?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, without visiting every part of the public highway at the same time on a particular day it would not be possible to answer the question accurately. The Police have been giving increased attention to the matter in recent months and since 1 July they have reported 176 cases involving vehicle licensing offences.

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, may I preface the question by asking as to the health and/or whereabouts of the substantive office holder of Housing?

MR SPEAKER:

I beg your pardon?

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, this is a question directed to the Minister for Housing and I would like to ask after the Minister for Housing.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

A Minister will be answering the question. The fact that they answer questions to their department is of course much more practical. The Government collectively is responsible and everybody knows that the absence of the Minister for Housing is due to health reasons.

MR SPEAKER:

Will you ask the question then?

HON A J HAYNES:

Sir, there has been no statement to that effect.

MR SPEAKER:

May I say that under our practice there is no reason why any explanation should be given for the absence of any Member either from the Government or the Opposition from the House, that is the prerogative of the particular Member unless, of course, absences are for six consecutive meetings and then a decision would have to be taken by the Speaker but otherwise there is no requirement.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, I think my Hon and Learned Colleague's question was meant to be solicitous, enquiring after the health of the Minister. No public statement has been made as to the health of the Minister, it is rumoured that he is sick and he was really asking about his health. I do not see why the Government should be so sensitive about it.

MR SPEAKER:

Anyway, let us go on to the question.

THE HON A J HAYNES

Will Government consider substantially increasing the number of housing applicants now appearing in monthly lists?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

(In the absence of the Hon the Minister for
Housing and Sport)

Sir, as was last explained in reply to Question No 63 of 1981 it would not be practical to require members of the staff of what is already a hard pressed Department to produce long waiting lists containing information which is subject to daily fluctuation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 235 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, we have had various assorted types of answers to this effect to the questions we have asked periodically and generally the impression has been that it is impossible to give any list and yet since, I think it is August, we have had monthly lists which according to previous answers would have been impossible. It is also palpably obvious from the various lists that have been produced that the work cannot be so great since it is a matter to spot the difference between one month's list and the next. There are hardly any fluctuations in the names appearing, primarily the fluctuations are as regards the order in which they appear, it does not appear to me therefore to be an overburdened task to the department and I was asking whether or not it would be possible to increase those numbers.

MR SPEAKER:

Mr Haynes, with due respect, you are making a statement.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, the answer we have had from the Minister

MR SPEAKER:

But what are you asking?

HON A J HAYNES:

I am asking whether, given certain facts, they cannot increase the number.

MR SPEAKER:

That is the original question and you have been given an answer.

HON A J HAYNES:

But given the facts, Mr Speaker. The answer we have had is to the effect that the work is too great yet we also know that despite these protestations a list was produced and is now being produced on a monthly basis. We also know from these lists which have been made public that the

MR SPEAKER:

With due respect, you are making a statement, I am asking for the question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, but the point I am trying to make to save time in effect, if I could narrow the premise on which I am basing my question. We have heard before, repeatedly, that the workload is too great, now I challenge that statement and I would like to know when will the workload be

MR SPEAKER:

Mr Haynes, you have been up on your feet now for at least four minutes and you have not asked a question. We must not do that at question time, you have got to ask a question.

HON A J HAYNES:

Will the Minister give more specific reasons for not increasing the list? We have had the workload business before and that obviously is not valid.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, we are very grateful for the Hon Member's devious way in asking the state of health of the substantive Minister for Housing. I can only reiterate what he has said several times before, that the amount of work involved would be beyond the capacity of his department with its present staff. Is the Hon Member suggesting that the staff should be increased at considerable extra public cost to provide something which, possibly, will not be of all that great assistance?

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, may I start by asking the Minister to withdraw the statement that I was devious in my asking for the Minister for Housing, there was nothing devious in my statement and I would ask him to withdraw.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I see no reason to withdraw it.

MR SPEAKER:

The Minister meant not devious, I am sure, but not direct.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I would withdraw the word devious if you so wish, Sir, but I would comment that the way that I would, had I been a Member of the Opposition, wished to know about the health of the Hon Mr Zammitt, I would have said: "We notice Mr Zammitt is not here, we understand he has been ill, what is the state of his health?"

HON A J HAYNES:

There seems to be very little difference between that and what I asked, Mr Speaker, nothing in fact. I would like to know quite sincerely the position as regards Mr Zammit that is why I prefaced it. I was also prepared to withdraw these questions to a later date as we did in the case of Mr Abecasis when he was ill with flu as you remember in February or March of 1980, and yet the Ministers have reacted in this way without any indication that there was malice on my part. I was most aggrieved by this attitude, like the Chief Minister walking out.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I happened to walk out because I was called from the Secretariat on an urgent matter concerning the House and therefore I thought I ought to tell the House that the responsibility for answering questions was here just the same. I was not going out deliberately, if I were I would not have to apologise, I would do so. I happened to be called on the telephone, I did not go earlier because I wanted to hear the outcome and that is why I did so on the way out. But I would have thought that in a place of our size and in the circumstances of Gibraltar it would have come to the notice of the Hon Member that Mr Zammitt was taken ill very seriously about three weeks ago and had to go into Hospital and has gone away to convalesce for a few days in a very bad state of health. I would have thought that just one Member of the Opposition, Mr Bossano, went to visit him, not that other Members were expected, in fact, people were not encouraged to see him but I think it was generally known. If it has not been known to the Hon Member I am sorry that these questions have been put down, in fact, I was surprised, I will say that clearly now, I thought that the motion on housing, the substantive motion on housing for which we are prepared to deal with if necessary would be eminently suitable to be left for another meeting because of the absence of the Minister but I thought that the question, perhaps I have done the Hon Member an injustice, I thought that the questions were put in spite the fact that he knew that Mr Zammitt was ill or rather he knew that he would be away. I am sorry, if I have done him an injustice, I apologise.

HON A J HAYNES:

I have spoken personally, in fact, with the Minister for Public Works as regards the Hon Member and at the last meeting, as the Minister will confirm, he informed me that he expected Mr Zammitt to be here at the House.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

The other thing I would like to say why the Hon Member should have known, perhaps, that the Minister was not fit to be here is that I understand that he used to see him regularly every Tuesday on housing matters and that he has not been available for that.

HON A J HAYNES:

I have known that, that is one of the reasons why I spoke to the Hon Minister.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

No, I am saying about the knowledge of the state of health of the Minister.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, to clear this matter

MR SPEAKER:

Let us not go beyond this now.

HON P J ISOLA:

The only comment I would like to make on that, Mr Speaker, is that one would have expected some sort of official statement or something. The Chief Minister says it is known, it is not known let me tell him. I heard nothing about this in fact, I did not know the Minister was in England until my Hon and Gallant Friend told me in the airport that he was actually in England. There has been nothing in the press, nothing on the radio, nothing on television about this so all we can rely on, certainly as far as I am concerned, has been rumours that have reached my ears and I assure the Chief Minister there have been rumours, varying in degree of seriousness from almost off his head to he is having a rest. I think we ought to make that point clear.

MR SPEAKER:

With due respect, we must not personalise the issue.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

May I just add one thing and that is that we were advised, for his own sake, not to make any statement about the state of his health.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, may I just then say now, on behalf of the Opposition, that we wish the Minister a speedy recovery and back to health and we look forward to seeing him in the House. Mr Speaker, I have just one short supplementary to ask the Minister on this question. In view of the fact that the main argument has been the daily fluctuation of names on the top priority list, can the Minister reconsider his answer in view of the fact that, as I understand the position, or is it not a fact that with these five names on each category that have gone up the fluctuation has been minimal over the last three months?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The fact that the fluctuation may be minimal does not mean that a considerable amount of work does not need to be done with the variation in pointages. I am willing, however, to request the department to look into the matter to see if they could make the list a little longer but I do not promise that it can be made substantially of the length that the Hon Mr Haynes, I think, would require. Perhaps, we can make it twenty-five or thirty.

NO. 236 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government circulate the lists of the areas and location of the units that were declared in Question No 65 of 1981 and which in accordance to the answer given to Question No 147 of 1981 were to be circulated?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

(In the absence of the Hon the Minister for
Housing and Sport)

Yes, Sir. Arrangements have been made with the Clerk of the House to circulate these lists.

MR SPEAKER:

Perhaps I should ask a question. Does it mean that the lists are already in the possession of the House because we do not want any misunderstanding as to why they have not been circulated at a later stage.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, the lists will be supplied fairly shortly and then the Clerk of the House would circulate them in the normal way that he circulates other papers.

MR. SPEAKER:

Most certainly.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 236 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I understand it then that these lists were not ready at the time when the question was asked. The statement came about in answer to the question and the answer was: "I won't give you all the details, I will circulate the answer".

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The lists are ready, Sir.

HON A J HAYNES:

Are they up-to-date as at present or are they as before the question then?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I am afraid I do not know the answer to that question.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, I wonder if before I ask the question you will allow me to say precisely because of the matter that has been raised by the Chief Minister himself on the question of the acting Minister for Tourism, that it is my intention to raise the question of the Survey Report on Tourism, generally, on the adjournment and that although I understand that the Minister will not be here I think it is perhaps in the interest of everybody since obviously no vote will be taken on this for whatever points that I intend making to be taken note of and perhaps the whole issue at least will gain time as it will be sometime before the next meeting takes place and this being a question which I think of great urgency it should perhaps be taken up. I hope that the Chief Minister particularly will take it in the spirit that I am speaking at present and of course I wish the Minister a very speedy recovery.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is exactly the spirit in which we came to the House, that if questions were there we had to deal with them, if a problem is there it may not be dealt with as completely as if the Minister himself were here. My view about this matter is that you cannot say "we are not going to ask questions because there is nobody", somebody must be made responsible. I am sure the only thing that perhaps the Hon Questioner may have a little more leniency in supplementaries to the persons who are going to answer the questions than would otherwise be the case. But anyhow the answers are mostly of statistics and so on and they are all available.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I hope so, Mr Speaker. Of course if there is any point which I think is of substance that should be pursued I will, I think the Chief Minister will realise that that is necessary, too.

CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes, of course.

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Going back to the question, Mr Speaker. Can Government state what the hotel occupancy was for the months of July, August and September this year, and how does it compare with the same period in 1979/80?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, Sir, I regret I am unable to furnish hotel occupancy statistics for September 1981 as some hotels have not yet submitted their returns to the Government Statistician. Once these are available I shall send the questioner the details for September.

However, the comparative occupancies for July and August 1979, 1980 and 1981 are as follows:-

	<u>JULY</u>			<u>AUGUST</u>		
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Sleeper occupancy	71.8%	53.1%	40.2%	76.9%	64.9%	43.5%

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 237 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I suppose the Minister realises the importance of this and I have no doubt that perhaps we might have, if the Minister agrees, a chat with the Director later on this question since I do not want to press the issue any more here.

HON J B PEREZ:

I am prepared to answer any supplementaries that he would like to ask.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

To what extent is the Minister concerned about the very serious drop in the hotel occupancy this year?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the Government is obviously very concerned but I think the Hon Member must bear one or two things in mind which is what Government is doing and that is, first of all, the question of the recession that all other main European tourist resorts have in fact been experiencing throughout the last two years and, of course, we are not completely out of this, we are part and parcel and we are affected as other tourist resorts are, that is the first point. The second point that I must mention is of course that the number of seats available to Gibraltar have been reduced and I think there is another question on that but I think the Hon Member must bear these two points in mind and, of course, the Government is concerned.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But purely on the question of the recession and the effect on Gibraltar. Wasn't the trend very clear the year before where we had a drop of 12% already there in August, ie the previous year from 76.9% to 64.9%, 71.8% the previous month in July to 53.1%? Isn't that indicative that the situation was becoming serious and also isn't it a fact too that in 1980 if people leaving the United Kingdom for overseas have gone up by 16% and since obviously we get most of the tourists coming to Gibraltar from the United Kingdom, isn't that an indication that something must be radically wrong with our resort, the publicity we are making, whatever it is, our marketing strategy, since the drop has been so serious?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the first point is that Government cannot accept that there is something substantially wrong with our marketing. I think there is another question which the Hon Major Peliza will be asking as to what the Government is doing to make things better as far as tourism in Gibraltar is concerned and I will answer that at that stage but, of course, one must also bear in mind, Mr Speaker, that 1979 was in fact a very, very good year for Gibraltar and I think this must be borne in mind when we look at the figures but as I have already said, of course, the Government is concerned.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, I won't pursue this because obviously there is another question.

MR SPEAKER:

We must be careful because there is another question.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

That is why I will not pursue it.

MR SPEAKER:

Precisely.

NO. 238 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state the number of visitors who have come from Morocco in July, August and September this year and how does it compare with the same period in 1979/80?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, Sir, the overall number of visitors from Morocco increased in 1980 by 6% and dropped in 1981 by 22%. However, the number of excursion visitors from Morocco (Tangier) by air dropped by 16% in 1980 but increased by 32% in 1981 compared to 1980.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 238 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But totally as far as visitors are concerned, I know we have had the percentage but percentages can be very misleading in that 31% of 1 is very little whilst the percentage of 5 on 100 is obviously much more. Could the Minister state, without quoting percentages, visitors as such?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Mr Speaker. The actual number of visitors in 1979 was 19,262, in 1980 there were 20,454 and in 1981 we have had 15,895.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

So again on this question we see a very serious drop of 5,000 visitors. Can the Minister say what has been done because obviously I would imagine that in connection with Morocco something can be done fairly quickly to ameliorate the situation. Can the Minister say what action, if anything, what sort of first aid was taken to make sure that this did not carry on?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, this is one of the matters which I know the Tourist Department is in fact pursuing at the moment. The only reason that I can give at this particular moment in time is that I think the strength of the pound, the strength of sterling, does have something to do with this in the number of people that come over from Morocco because I think this particular catchment area is one which is very important for our economy and they come over in

fact to purchase from our shops but I would reiterate what I have already said and that is that the Tourist Department is looking at this in conjunction with the Financial and Development Secretary and the matter is being, I would not say kept under consideration, it is being vigorously looked into.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, again I won't pursue this because I think I can combine that with the previous one in the questions that follow.

NO. 239 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state if UK/Gibraltar flights availability is sufficient and is it a fact that insufficiency of seats is depriving more tourists from coming to Gibraltar?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Sir, the number of seats being offered on the route for winter 1981/82 is definitely insufficient to fill hotel beds. The indications are that potential visitors from whatever source are having difficulty in obtaining a seat of their choice to Gibraltar. The Government is gravely concerned and the whole question of the balance between schedule and charter services is being examined by the Gibraltar Air Transport Advisory Board.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 239 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is it perhaps, Mr Speaker, that this has something to do with the question of the reduction in tourists that we have had and not so much perhaps the depression in the United Kingdom, that perhaps travel agents cannot find seats in the plane or say that there are no seats in the plane?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I would agree that this has been a substantial contributing factor.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Also, Mr Speaker, when examining this matter will the Minister bear in mind the question of the family travellers between here and the United Kingdom who should not in any way be sacrificed for the sake of just bringing tourism, that that matter should also be taken into account not just the tourists when examining the whole question of seat availability but also the number of Gibraltarians and others who have connections in Gibraltar from the United Kingdom, that they also find seats on the plane?

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, Mr Speaker, this will be borne in mind.

NO. 240 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state who is responsible for cleaning the cafeteria area at the Air Terminal, and why are the floors and windows allowed to be in such a filthy state?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, responsibility for cleaning the cafeteria area at the Air Terminal rests with the concessionaires except for the glass frontage which is Government's responsibility.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 240 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Minister saying that because the concessionaires are responsible for the cleanliness, they are completely indifferent as to the state in which the cafeteria is and what have they done to put it right?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, what I attempted to do was to give the Hon Member an honest answer to his question. Now he has asked whether we are not concerned. Of course, the Government is concerned but the Hon Member must realise that primarily the concessionaires would clean before the people start rushing to the Airport and as the Hon Member himself should well know since he uses the facilities on very frequent occasions, that here in Gibraltar there is a tendency when a particular individual or a family is leaving for the United Kingdom that whole families, in fact, sometimes ten, twelve and up to twenty people go to see them off. Of course, if the cafeteria area is completely packed with people then if you go at that particular moment in time it will be in a dirty state but if he were to go before the rush starts or after it has finished he will probably find that it is not, and I say it is not as dirty as he thinks it is.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, I do not think I was really referring to glasses and perhaps odds and ends lying on the floor after use, I was referring to the amount of chewing gum stuck to the floor which has been there for quite a while and also to the state of the windows because I have made marks there before and have not been cleaned to my knowledge for two or three months. Doesn't the Minister have someone inspecting the area to see that things like that are put right?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, the first point I must make is that the windows which are Government's responsibility are cleaned once a week. As far as Government's responsibility is concerned, on the Monday all the windows and all glass surfaces of the arrival hall are cleaned. On Tuesday the departure hall and display recesses are cleaned. On Wednesday the main concourse and toilets are cleaned and on Thursday the cafeteria area is cleaned, that is done weekly by Government.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Well, Mr Speaker, maybe it is done but it is not properly done because I can see, and I am not talking about the exterior, I do not know whether the Minister is referring to the exterior or the interior, I understand that the exterior gets dirty very quickly and that I fully understand, you may get a strong levanter and the fumes of the cars and the engines of the aircraft may dirty them very quickly. I am referring to the interior where it is obvious that the place has not been cleaned for months and I would suggest to the Minister, unless it has been done since I put the question, that he should go and verify himself and find out if he has been given a proper answer to that question and obviously also the chewing gum on the floor I do not believe that that has been cleaned for some time either, not by the amount of chewing gum still there.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, may I ask the Minister on this point, I think it is a point of general application. Presumably the concessionaire has a contract with the Government at the Air Terminal and presumably under that contract he has got obligations and when the Minister talks of cleaning again it is under obligations whether it is the Government or anybody else. Is there anybody at all (a) who supervises the cleaning because it may be cleaned but if it is not done properly, what is done about it, and (b) as far as the concessionaires are concerned is there anybody who looks and sees whether he is carrying out the terms of his contract because it seems to me that in this case, as indeed in a lot of other cases, it is the lack of supervision, there seems to be no supervision at all in any of these areas, is that a fact?

HON J B PEREZ:

No, Mr Speaker, that is not a fact. The person responsible for supervising, who has overall responsibility, is the Airport Manager who is the Director of Tourism.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask the Minister to tell the Airport Manager of the great concern there is at the fact that the Airport Terminal building is in a filthy state and if he is responsible he should make sure it does not occur, surely?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I can assure the Hon Member there is no need for the Minister to tell the Airport Manager because the Airport Manager is listening to the comments that have been made.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 241 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what steps have been taken to review the price and competitiveness of Gibraltar, as a tourist resort, having regard to the statement made by the acting Minister for Tourism in the House of Assembly and in public?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, Government is at present considering this matter as far as its own responsibility is concerned. The pricing of a holiday, however, ultimately depends on tour operators, hoteliers and air carriers.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 241 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Yes, but it is obvious from the statement made by the Minister, the situation in Gibraltar with regards to wages and all the rest of it, that it appears from what I have heard from the Minister and others that it is just not possible to compete pricewise with other holiday resorts. Are we leaving the matter in the air or are we doing something to be able to attract tourists perhaps even at a higher price and if so what are we doing about it?

HON J B PEREZ:

First of all, Mr Speaker, on the question of what the Government is doing there is another question following this one and I will answer the Hon Member at that stage. As far as the second point on the question of competitiveness, the House will be pleased to know and I am sure the Hon Member also, that the latest summer brochure in our possession indicates that Gibraltar compares reasonably favourably with other competitive Mediterranean resorts. These are the brochures in our possession for this coming year but I think I must add one thing, Mr Speaker, and that is that the tour operators must use their commercial judgement and of course market forces must dictate the cost of holidays, this is unavoidable.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

So in fact we cannot go by what the Minister said here before that the place is uncompetitive pricewise, that has been changed now.

HON J B PEREZ:

I think, Mr Speaker, the Minister said that in a particular context.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

The acting Minister said it here very much in a debate when he stood very firm on that question and subsequently in an article in the Gibraltar Chronicle where he was questioned there and which I think I replied to the letter subsequently. I think there is no doubt at all about the statement of the Minister. What now is in doubt is whether he was correct when he made the statement or whether the situation has changed subsequently because other people have put up their prices.

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I do not think it is correct to say that the Minister was wrong in saying that at the time. The Minister was referring to special package offers which were being made in places like Bahamas and places like Spain. That is what I think the Minister was referring to but as I say the answer to the question is that the latest brochures in our possession show that we compare favourably and this is what we all want, surely.

NO. 242 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what progress has been made to the formation of the Tourist Advisory Board, to which the Government is committed to in the House of Assembly?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, there has been disagreement regarding one clause of the terms of reference of the Advisory Board. Informal discussions with the Hotel Association are at present in progress in an attempt to resolve the matter.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 242 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Isn't it a fact that this clause which may be one clause is very significant in that what the tourist trade is asking for is to be able to have a say and be listened to and that in fact one reason why they are demanding that the situation should remain that way is because the previous Travel Association would have had more responsible commitments to tourism under its constitutional arrangement with the Government than in fact the Minister is prepared to accept in the case of the Advisory Board?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, I hope the Hon Member does not misinterpret what I am going to say now but this is a matter which I will be looking into as soon as this House is over and I would not like at this stage to say what the hotels are saying, what the Government is saying because I think it would be untimely. All I can say to the Hon Member is that I will try and resolve this particular disagreement which exists and I hope that the Hon Major Peliza will leave it at that.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I am very pleased to hear that, Mr Speaker, from the acting Minister and I do wish him every success in doing that because I understand from the Hotel Association that they have already made three changes to their proposal and nothing has been forthcoming from the Government to meet their request.

NO. 243 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what the prospects are for the tourist trade this winter?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, initial reaction to our advertising response has been encouraging, an increase of 96% over a similar period last year. Indications from Tour Operators Bookings for the coming winter are higher than last year.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 243 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

I am very glad to hear that, Mr Speaker. I hope next time I ask the question, which I probably will at the next meeting, it can be confirmed.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 244 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what measures, if any, it is taking to improve the prospects for the tourist trade in 1982?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, in the first instance we have increased our total advertising and field sales budget by 33% from £150,000 to £200,000, the bulk of the increase having been devoted to direct advertising in the UK national press. Secondly, we have scheduled advertising in the Autumn (September to November) to promote winter 1981 holidays, in late December and January to promote summer 1982 holidays, and between February and April to attract late bookers and consolidate summer and possibly autumn holidays. We are also producing advertisements of sufficient size to achieve greater awareness and which include a coupon to ensure that the response pack reaches as many prospective customers as possible. Thirdly, we have just carried out a large scale trade promotion to include advertising in the local influential press in the Guildford area, which is a potentially lucrative catchment travel area. The promotion includes incentives from Travel Agents' window displays featuring Gibraltar promotional material. We shall continue with a series of trade promotions in the UK and after monitoring the Guildford exercise we intend to organise a further similar promotion on the Manchester areas.

Additional fees will be payable to our Public Relations Consultants to enable them to increase these activities.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 244 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Well, Mr Speaker, I see that the Government is beginning to wake up on this question. Has it done all this with the cooperation and blessing of the tourist trade organisations in Gibraltar, generally?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, since I was not the person who actually formulates this and carries it out I really cannot answer that particular question.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

With respect to Morocco, I do not think he mentioned Morocco, I think possibly what he was referring mostly was the United Kingdom.

HON J B PEREZ:

Yes, that is correct but I already informed the Hon Major Peliza, Mr Speaker, that the question of Morocco was being vigorously pursued because we were concerned.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

In concrete terms there is nothing that you can specify what the plans are?

HON J B PEREZ:

I cannot do that, I am afraid.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 245 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what is the situation with regard to flights from Gibraltar/Madrid/Gibraltar and Gibraltar/Faro/Gibraltar and is it a fact that a Gibraltar Airline has applied for the licence already in existence to become operative and what is the delay in consent being granted by the authority concerned?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

It is understood that an application has been made by GB Airways to the Spanish Aviation Authorities for a licence to operate Gibraltar/Madrid/Gibraltar and to the Portuguese Authorities for a licence to operate Gibraltar/Lisbon/Gibraltar. No reply has yet been received.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 245 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Minister aware that apparently these requests have been going on for quite a while, perhaps over a year, certainly months?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, again I hope the Hon Member takes this in the right spirit, I feel that the question is an untimely one and I would ask him not to press the issue at this particular stage.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

All I am saying is, is the Minister aware that this application has been standing for a long time, which I suppose he must, and what has the Government done to try and get him to get it?

HON J B PEREZ:

Mr Speaker, there is very little that Government can do to help a private operator to obtain a licence in a foreign country.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But if this is the licence that Gibraltar has already, surely it is the concern of the Government to make sure that an operator from Gibraltar gets the hearing that he deserves from the Foreign Office if necessary?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Can I give the Hon Member an assurance that everything that is possible is being done in this matter, not only now but for some time and particularly now.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Could the Chief Minister write to me as to what has been done, what have been the replies given? Could the Minister write to me telling me exactly what the position has been in the past, what the Government has done and what reply he has had, if any?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I am afraid I am not in a position to promise that because that is not directly my area but I will see that the Hon Member gets as much information on the matter as possible.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, it might not be directly in his area in that he is not obviously responsible for foreign affairs but, surely, Mr Speaker, he has every right to speak for Gibraltar in that respect and, hopefully, he must be in the position to get a reply from the Governor, if anything, as to what the state of play is and I would expect the Chief Minister in giving me the information to give me as much details as possible of what has happened.

NO. 246 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how long have the Gents toilets at the Air Terminal been out of order and when is it proposed to have them in working order?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, it is only the urinals of one of the toilets at the Air Terminal that have been out of order since the end of last month. New outlet plumbing has been installed and this entailed major repairs. The floor of the toilets and the outer pavements had to be dug up to the sewer mains. The repairs were completed on 22 October, 1981.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 246 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, I can assure the Hon Minister that although I am not a frequent user of the Air Terminal, I can assure him that these urinals have been out of order at the very least since the beginning of September. The reason I know this is because at that time I went to collect my son so at least they have been out of order for the whole of September and three quarters of the month of October. However, I am glad to hear that the matter is now in hand.

NO. 247 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state what is the present position as regards improving the facilities at the North Mole for receiving Cruise Liners and at Waterport for the ferry services?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

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

Mr Speaker, as stated in the reply to question No 170 on 17 July, 1980, the Government has no immediate plans for improving facilities at the North Mole.

As was pointed out by the Financial and Development Secretary in answer to question No 334 of the 17 December, 1980, passenger flows have been improved at Waterport Wharf and the system is working reasonably well.

Arising from the recommendations contained in the Port Study Report the Government has agreed that a modest cruise passenger terminal should be provided as an extension to the new Port Office to be sited at the north west corner of the North Mole. Progress on this project may however be dependent on the resiting of facilities in this area, which are presently occupied by:

- (a) MOD Degaussing Station;
- (b) Mobil Oil;
- (c) PWD Water Checker's Office and others.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 247 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

What does he mean, is there going to be any improvement or not?

HON J B PEREZ:

The answer, Mr Speaker, was that Government has no immediate plans for improving facilities at the North Mole.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, then why commission a Port Development Study if we are not going to implement their recommendations? Mr Speaker, on the ferry services. Do I understand that the Government is not going to do anything further than is already in existence there or is there also a plan for doing something with the ferry services which has not yet been implemented?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Mr Speaker, Sir, perhaps I could answer that one. There is a plan in the Port Study for improving facilities for the ferry services as part of a complete renovation of the whole area.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is there any idea as to when this might come about? Is there any indication as to whether any of it may be anticipated and commenced earlier than the total redevelopment?

HON FINANCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY:

Yes, Sir. As soon as we can get some money.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 248 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government state the position with regard to the Buena Vista Cottage proposed development and the Woodford Cottage Scheme?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the position as regards Buena Vista Cottage is that fresh tenders were invited on 12 October, 1981, for the development of the site. This followed the lack of response to the previous invitation. Government has now relaxed the previous constraints on residential development to the extent that proposals will be considered if these are based on the optimum capacity of the plot subject to the provision of parking facilities within the site on a one-to-one ratio.

With regard to Woodford Cottage the stage has been reached, following a series of meetings held by the applicants to clarify certain aspects of the scheme, where the appointment of an architect has been pursued and an initial contribution has been made to cover preliminary expenses in connection with the pre-planning stages of the scheme. Steps have also been taken to incorporate the Association under the Companies Ordinance.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 248 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, with regard to the Buena Vista Cottage, were there in fact no tenderers in the original tender?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The first offer for the Buena Vista Scheme, there were a number of tenderers and the winning tenderer unfortunately fell through because apparently he did not have the finances to carry out the scheme. The second offer for tender was not applied for by anybody.

HON P J ISOLA:

As far as the retendering of this scheme is concerned, am I right in interpreting the answer that the Government has allowed greater density in that area than originally envisaged and, if so, why, having regard to previous Government statements on density in that area?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, the previous tenders specified a minimum of twelve dwelling houses. Under the new tender no minimum is specified, the maximum number of dwellings which can now take the form of houses or flats will be dictated by the number of parking spaces which can be provided within the property. This may mean that the density may be increased, as long as the parking needs can be fulfilled.

HON P J ISOLA:

I appreciate that, Mr Speaker. I had understood and perhaps I am wrong, am I right in having understood previously that Government was determined to control density in that part of Gibraltar and if it is relaxing the rules as far as density is concerned as regards the Buena Vista Cottage Scheme, can it not do the same with regard to the Woodford Cottage Scheme and have a much bigger scheme that would alleviate the housing needs of the population of Gibraltar?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the position is not exactly the same insofar as the Woodford Cottage Scheme has progressed to a stage that it is already getting into full swing whereas the Buena Vista Scheme has not even got off the ground. The actual density may have been allowed to be increased slightly in the Buena Vista Scheme but of course subject to the parking. I think, if one looks into it very carefully, one will find that to be able to give the parking on a one-to-one basis will not increase the density very much over the normal density that had been stated for that type of area.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, I have got another question in fact which is closely related but if I could just on the Buena Vista Cottage Scheme. The situation is that when the land was put out to tender for a second time there were no tenderers, that is, none of the people who tendered and were unsuccessful the first time tendered the second time, is that the situation?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

That is correct, Sir, yes.

HON J BOSSANO:

And in fact is it that the conditions on which the land was put to tender the second time precluded people resubmitting the original scheme or not?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, they could have submitted the original schemes just as they had done before. Simply it was that apparently for some reason or other they just did not have the interest.

MR SPEAKER: /

Next question.

NO. 249 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state whether the total number of participants in the Woodford Cottage Scheme is now known and when work will be starting?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Fourteen persons have definitely committed themselves to the Woodford Cottage Scheme with three others still to decide whether to do so or not.

Work will commence when working drawings and designs have been submitted to and approved by the Development and Planning Commission. The Association are for this purpose pursuing the appointment of an architect and other professional advisers who will be responsible for preparing tender documents to go out to contract and for subsequent supervision.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 249 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Is the Government dealing collectively with the participants in terms of dealing with the Association or individually?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Collectively, Sir.

HON J BOSSANO:

And seeing that the development actually progresses once work is started will the Association be held collectively responsible for it or could one have a situation where somebody starts off with his own particular plot of land and then he does not have enough money to put on a second floor and that sort of thing?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, it will be collectively all the way through.

HON W T SCOTT:

Has Government therefore given up the idea of developing one, two or perhaps more of these plots themselves contained within the phase 1 and phase 2?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, Government has not given up the idea but if the total number who do decide to take part in the scheme is seventeen then Government will not need to take anything at all. If only sixteen or fifteen come forward then Government will most likely take up the other one or two.

NO. 250 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Is Government satisfied with the staffing situation at the Cemetery?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

The staff of the Cemetery has been under strength for some time following the resignation of one of the grave diggers and subsequently the dismissal of the two labourers who were exclusively engaged on weeding and cleaning. To that extent the position has not been satisfactory.

One labourer has already been engaged and a suitable candidate for the second vacancy is being sought. The replacement of the seventh grave digger is also being arranged following the resolution of the grave diggers terms of employment and consequent up-banding.

In addition I will be seeking financial approval next year to cover the cost of engaging two additional labourers to strengthen the labour force at the Cemetery and to cover the upkeep of other Cemeteries such as Witham's and Trafalgar.

NO. 251 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

When did the Cemetery Committee last meet?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

I assume that the question is in fact intended to refer to the Board of Visitors to the Cemetery, there is no such body as the Cemetery Committee.

The Board last met on 23 July, 1981.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 251 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, could I ask the Minister what were its latest recommendations to Government?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I am afraid, Sir, I would need notice of that but I am willing to send a letter to the Hon Member and let him know. I cannot remember them all off hand. One of them was, of course, that we should try and improve the cleaning of the Cemetery including, in particular, Witham's Cemetery.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, could I ask a supplementary on that. Does Government intend implementing that particular recommendation and any other recommendation that the Minister might not remember?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the previous question which I answered said that I would be seeking financial approval next year for two extra men. This will, of course, put into effect the need that that recommendation brings up.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, I also understand that the Board of the Cemetery recommended, and perhaps the Minister could confirm this, that a temple, an all-denominational temple be built at the Cemetery?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, I cannot recollect that that has been put up to me by the Board of Visitors to the Cemetery.

NO. 252 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government explain the reason for demolishing two of the properties on or near Arengo's Palace site?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, if the Hon Member is referring to Nos 3 and 4 Arengo's Palace Lane, these two properties were demolished in December 1980 having been reported to be in a dangerous condition due to serious cracks which had developed in the retaining wall at Castle Road.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 252 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, could I ask the Minister, are the other four or six properties in the same area, are they in a safe and sound condition?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, the dangerous part of the retaining wall which was at the south end was also demolished at the same time, the rest is in satisfactory condition.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, the way I understand it is that some of the floors in these other properties are in a dangerous condition. Would the Minister confirm that, in fact, they are not in a dangerous condition?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The reason that the two properties were demolished was due to outside reasons, not to the actual condition of the buildings themselves. If the floors in the remaining buildings are not in a good condition then that, of course, is another matter and I will look into it.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 253 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state why the children's paddling pool at Little Bay could not be used for long periods this summer?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, whenever there is a breakdown of the pump servicing the children's paddling pool at Little Bay, the pool is filled by using the PSA/DOE brackish water service system which supplies this area.

PSA/DOE have been undertaking extensive works to their supplies to the South area this summer and the water has been cut off on a number of occasions.

Unfortunately, some of the breakdowns of our pump this year have coincided with these cuts, and it has therefore not been possible to fill the pool.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 253 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, can the Minister say why it takes so long to have the pumps repaired, I would have thought that would have been a simple operation?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the pump is getting old and we are going to put in for a replacement next year.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Can we expect, therefore, to have a replacement before summer and for this paddling pool not to suffer the same fate as it did last time otherwise I suggest that the pool is scrapped?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

A replacement will be here before summer, Sir.

NO. 254 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what is the position with regard to the embellishment of certain areas of Gibraltar for which Government engaged consultants from the UK?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, Government engaged consultants last April for an urban design pilot scheme centred around the Old Command Education Centre.

The brief called for proposals in respect of the building site in question in the context of recommendations for the general environmental and visual improvement of the street scenes in the immediate and surrounding areas of the site details of which have been published by Government.

The consultants have visited Gibraltar on three occasions and during one of these visits a household survey as well as a shop owners' survey were carried out in order to identify the problems of the area and to encourage residents of the area to put forward their ideas for improvements. During their last visit in September the consultants presented reports to the Development and Planning Commission on their findings as well as outline alternative proposals in respect of the future of the Old Command Education site.

The next stage, envisaged for November, will be the presentation by the consultants to the Commission of a more detailed scheme with alternative variations to the scheme.

This will be the subject of a public participation exercise early in the new year.

Following this it is intended to invite tenders for the development on the strict guidelines set by the Development and Planning Commission after consultation with the consultants and utilising the feedback obtained from the public participation exercise. The exercise will include proposals for the improvement of the street scenes in the surrounding areas as well as possible suggestions for further pedestrianisation.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 254 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, firstly, can the Minister possibly let me have a copy of that report to start with and, secondly, is the Minister looking into other areas besides the Cornwall's Parade area bearing in mind that the product from the point of tourism is absolutely essential?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

If the Hon Member is in Gibraltar after the meeting of the House and he cares to come and visit me I can show him a copy but I am afraid he cannot take it away with him as it is the only copy I have got. Other areas have been looked at, in fact, he will see when he does visit me that they have looked at the whole area, I should say, from Castle Street up to Library Ramp.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

By when does the Minister expect to show some results for all these consultations and all this planning that is going on?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, as I have said we hope to have the public participation exercise in the early part of the new year which will be an exhibition probably at John Mackintosh Hall so the public can see what is proposed, make their comments and I would hope that some results will come following tender applications very shortly after that.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Cannot the Minister accelerate the situation so that at least by next summer Gibraltar has something attractive to show since it is obvious from the report that quite a number of people come to Gibraltar on recommendation of previous visitors and therefore it is absolutely essential for the tourist trade that our product should be improved and improved with a sense of urgency?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think Government is treating it with a sense of urgency, Sir, but it is very essential that with the Old Command Education Centre which is a vital area in Gibraltar we must get the thing right. Any haste or any hasty decision which afterwards would be regretted is something we would not like to see and though I agree with the Hon Member that one would like to have something ready by this summer I do not think with such a comprehensive scheme as is envisaged, it will be available by the coming summer. I should imagine that the whole scheme would take some eighteen months to develop.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But whilst that obviously is a major scheme as I can see, I am sure that the Minister if he put his mind to it, there must be quite a number of small things that can be done that does not require all that time in other areas of Gibraltar which would do a lot to improve the product of Gibraltar. Can he apply his attention to those small schemes which I think would do a lot to embellish Gibraltar?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

If the Hon Member suggests to me some ideas of the small schemes that he has got in mind, well, we will look at them.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, I will and perhaps at the adjournment I might be able to produce them.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 255 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state who is responsible for the up-keep and cleanliness of the Piazza at the centre of our city?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the Public Works Department is responsible for the up-keep and cleanliness of the Piazza, except for the cleaning of the section used by the cafeteria for which the lessees are responsible.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 255 OF 1981

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Bearing in mind that the Public Works office is almost overlooking the Piazza, what excuse can the Minister have for allowing the Piazza to be in the state it is particularly when most tourists congregate in this area? What explanation can the Minister give me?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, the Piazza is, as far as the side that the Public Works looks after, is swept daily and it is flushed at least once a week, during the summer it has been flushed twice a week and scrubbed down with some detergent. I am afraid the side used by the lessees has not been as well kept as we would like to see and we are chasing them up about it.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is the Minister really saying that he is personally satisfied with the state of the Piazza simply because it is washed once a week and it is swept perhaps once a day or whatever it is? Isn't he really upset by the neglect that is shown all round the Piazza, it is not just in the cleanliness but the upkeep of the place, where are the flowers, where are the shrubs? What is the state of the toilets? Can the Minister say if he is personally satisfied with all this?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think the plants and shrubs are quite well looked after, Sir. I would invite the Hon Member to have a look at the Piazza at 9.30 in the morning just after it has been swept, washed and flushed and I think he will find it is in a very good condition. The thing is it is so heavily used that it gets dirty very quickly again.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

If the Minister looks on the other side of the Piazza which I think is all part of the same thing he will see two litter bins which have been left there apparently by the department who was supposed to take them away and I understand they have been lying there for seven days, could the Minister look at that?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir.

NO. 256 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government state the latest figures it has available for the cost per housing unit, in the different categories, in a) the Modernisation Scheme, and b) new Housing Projects?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, of course, this is not part of the answer but I would mention they do vary to some extent between one site and another. However, I would state, Sir, that:

St Joseph's	£42,000 per unit (New)	£700 per square metre
Castle Ramp	£26,000 per unit (Modernised)	£580 per square metre

The above figures will, of course, vary depending upon location of site and site conditions.

The costs per square metre are projected to the completion date and settlement of final accounts on present ongoing projects.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 256 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

I think it was last year, Mr Speaker, that we were told that a new house might cost something of the region between £35,000 and £40,000 and a modernised one, the figure we were given then was £15,000. We find now there is no relation in the proportionate percentage rise between the one and the other and in fact the cost of a modernised unit is now approaching the cost of a new one.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I do not fully understand what the question is from the Hon Member but I would comment that the Castle Ramp modernisation is a rather difficult site, it is an area in which the contractor cannot get his materials and vehicles to very easily and this is one of the reasons why the cost has gone up. It will, of course, vary very tremendously between one area and another if you are doing modernisation on the site conditions and also on the conditions of the buildings being modernised.

HON W T SCOTT:

Yes, but I would have thought, Mr Speaker, for example, if one is going to talk about a virtually inaccessible area like Castle Ramp, there was another one in fact where perhaps figures have been available to the Minister and that is Lime Kiln Steps. Do we have any figures for that project?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I cannot remember the figures for Lime Kiln Steps offhand but I think if anything, they will be found to be as high or even higher than Castle Ramp because the conditions there are even worse, if anything, than Castle Ramp. I think in Tank Ramp the modernisation has cost somewhere between the £15,000 and £20,000 per unit.

HON W T SCOTT:

What I am really leading to, Mr Speaker, is a situation where a lot of money is being expended in the modernisation programme and it is virtually creating no new homes, it is just refurbishing old ones.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The situation, of course, is if one does not modernise these houses they would just collapse and fall into absolute dereliction, then Government must either demolish them and build new housing or perhaps put them out to the private sector for development.

HON W T SCOTT:

Which is exactly our point from the beginning, Mr Speaker, in demolishing old properties and within the area encompassed by those old properties building higher buildings with more flats available.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 257 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government give the figures and costs for water production from available sources for the months of June, July, August and September, 1981, and state what the stocks were at 30th September, 1981?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the figures and cost for water production from available sources for the months of June, July, August and September, 1981, are as follows:-

<u>Source</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>
	Amount m ³ (mg)	Amount m ³ (mg)	Amount m ³ (mg)	Amount m ³ (mg)
Rainfall	-	136 (0.03)	-	174 (0.04)
Wells	9238 (2.03)	9500 (2.09)	9221 (2.03)	8586 (1.89)
N F Distiller	3990 (0.88)	15486 (3.41)	14396 (3.17)	17501 (3.85)
V T E Distiller	-	22313 (4.90)	18111 (3.98)	10197 (2.24)
Importa- tion	28288 (6.22)	23314 (5.10)	14564 (3.20)	20540 (4.52)

Costs are as given in answer to question 176 of 1981.

Stocks on 30 September 1981 were 42667m³ (9.39mg). This included 5926m³ (1.30mg) owed to DOE.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 257 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, the production costs in each of the different categories seem to have gone up quite substantially, in fact, can we have an explanation for this?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

May I ask, gone up from when, Sir?

HON W T SCOTT:

From March 1981 which was the last time I asked the question prior to July of this year. In March 1981, for example, we were given the cost of rainfall at 0.37, the wells 0.51, NF Distiller 2.53, VTE Distiller 2.29 and imported 2.16 whilst in July of this year they have gone up, for example, rainfall from 0.37 to 1.12 and so on and so forth.

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Yes, Sir, I think there is a difference between the two figures basically because the figures given in answer to question No 176 of 1981 are the absolute costs which take in all considerations including the capital outlay, interest outlay on the different methods of production and also all the what might be called hidden charges which must really be put against the absolute cost of the production. At the same time, of course, there has been an increase in wages and to some extent oil fuel fairly considerably. I think the answer given on question 176 of 1981 are the most realistic figures we can produce.

26.10.81

NO. 258 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government give the costs to date of the repairs to the Tower Blocks?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, if the Hon Member is referring to the external repair works being carried out on part of the three upper storeys of Constitution House, the contractor has not as yet presented the first bill for payment. However, the total cost of this first phase of work is estimated at £45,000.

NO. 259 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government inform this House as to the latest situation on the Sand Project on the East side?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the consultants to the scheme have stated that they have concluded that a full length conveyor system is the most satisfactory means of obtaining consistent sand production from the top of the catchment. It would seem therefore that the consultants have now discarded the concept of a gravity chute which was an integral part of their scheme. The matter has been referred to the Attorney-General. It is Government's contention that all expenses incurred in attempts to make the sand winning project a viable scheme as well as losses and indirect extra expenditure resulting from the problems presented by the chute must be the responsibility of the consultants.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 259 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

I am grateful to the Hon Member for that answer, Mr Speaker, but can the Government assure this House that Government will not come to this House for any further sums of money to help with that project until such time as that project starts recouping sand in the proportion and the amounts originally envisaged and advised by the consultants?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir.

HON W T SCOTT:

No, it won't come or no what?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

You said can Government give the assurance and the answer is no, Sir, it will not give that assurance.

HON W T SCOTT:

Does that mean that we can expect Government to come to this House for more money?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

That is within the bounds of possibility.

HON W T SCOTT:

Taking into consideration that it was only a few short months ago, in fact, that this House was asked to vote in an extra, I think it was £70,000 odd, raising the value of the project I think to just over £½m?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

We are making no guarantees, Sir, what we are going to do in the future, the whole situation has been carefully looked at, if it can be made viable by a conveyor built system then, of course, that must be looked at very carefully.

HON P J ISOLA:

Can we have an assurance from the Minister we will not get into the catastrophic position we got into with the Varyl Begg settlement when we were informed by the Minister that the Government did not intend to pay for the roofs and it was a question for the architects, the consultants or the builders and eventually we ended up with a bill of over £1m? Can Government give us an assurance that this will not be repeated with regard to the sand scheme and that liability will go squarely upon those whose responsibility it was to advise the Government properly?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

The terms under which the Attorney-General has been asked to consider making a legal action against the consultants are very wide indeed and brings in every possibility that we can think of for recouping all losses.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, can the Minister state if the consultants in question were insured against such losses, will they have the means to pay?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I understand the consultants are a very big firm, I should hope that they have covered themselves for insurance, I do not know whether they have or not.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But that was not a condition of the contract?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Not that I know of.

HON P J ISOLA:

Are the consultants Robertson Research (1975) Limited which I notice is a Gibraltar Company, or are we in fact dealing with the English Company which presumably is the Company with the resources and the funds?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

We are dealing with the UK Company.

NO. 260 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government give details of the time spent and the costs incurred from 1st July, 1981, to 30th September, 1981, in building the pavement along Rosia Road?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, the works on this section of Rosia Road, which includes parking bays in addition to the paved area, were started on 1st July, 1981.

The recorded expenditure on this project between 1st July and 30th September, 1981, was £8,163 and the breakdown is as follows:

(a) LABOUR - £5,751.11

Week ending	3.7.81	- 5 men
	10.7.81	- 5 men
	17.7.81	- 4 men
	24.7.81	- 6 men
	31.7.81	- 9 men
	7.8.81	- NIL (Ramadan)
	14.8.81	- 5 men
	21.8.81	- 9 men
	28.8.81	- 8 men
	4.9.81	- 5 men
	11.9.81	- 6 men
	18.9.81	9 men
	25.9.81	7 men
	30.9.81	7 men

(b) MATERIALS - £2,382.70

Sand	£508.50
Aggregate	£630.00
Cement	£ 88.00
Bitumen	£ 42.00
Kerbs	£220.00
Channels	£ 50.00
Paving Slabs	£840.00
Bricks	£ 4.20
	<u>£2,382.70</u>

It should be noted that the works were interrupted by Ramadan and the Royal Visit when labour was not available.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 260 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

I am glad to see in fact that since more money has been expended there that there has been noticeable improvement in the progress of the laying of that pavement. Might I ask Government, if it has not already done so, to consider putting some access from the lower level of Rosia Road for the residents of Humphreys, some steps, so that those parking areas can be better utilised?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

We have not considered it but I am willing to do so, Sir.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is this a project that could be suitable for piece-work and is it being done that way or which way is it being done?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

It is not very suitable, Sir, because we allocate labour as and when we are able to do so with other jobs that we are doing, that is why you have noticed sometimes they have had 4 men, sometimes they have had 9 men. I think to put it on piece-work would only work to the detriment of other jobs which may have higher priorities.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

But bearing in mind that this is taking ages to be completed, I usually go round that place and I see this has been going on for months and months. Would it not have been, I think, a much more effective way of completing the task, perhaps at a much lower figure, to have done it piece-work once and for all?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

No, Sir, if we had done it by piece-work it would not have been a lower figure it would have been a higher figure.

HON A J HAYNES:

What was the estimated price for the work?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I do not think there was any specific estimate, I think it was one of the jobs that we said we would do as and when we can and its costing will be as it works out.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Then how can the Minister say that piece-work would have been more costly?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Because we have found whenever we do piece-work it is more costly.

NO. 261 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, further to Question 130 of 1981 can Government say whether it has now located the fault giving rise to the oil leakage from King's Bastion to the Harbour and can Government confirm that they have taken corrective measures to ensure that it does not happen again?

ANSWERTHE HON THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Sir, a claim has been made against the Government by a Solicitor instructed by the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club and the members thereof in respect of loss and damage alleged to have been sustained by the Club and the members by reason of an alleged leakage of oil from a pipe owned and maintained by the Government.

As the Government has denied all liability in respect of the alleged loss and damage, it would be inappropriate for me at this point in time to go further than the answer provided by my Honourable Friend the Minister for Municipal Services on the 7th July, 1981, in answering Question No 130 of 1981.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 261 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, the answer to question 130 seems to admit liability.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, with great respect to my Hon and Learned Friend I would dispute that.

HON P J ISOLA:

Where does the oil come from, does the Government know?

MR SPEAKER:

The matter is sub judice.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is there nothing they can tell us about the matter? Will it not happen again?

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Next question.

NO. 262 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, how many prosecutions for offences concerning the depositing of litter have there been since the last industrial action involving the collection of refuse?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, there have been no prosecutions for offences concerning the depositing of litter since the Refuse Collectors industrial action was terminated last May.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 262 OF 1981

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, can one take it therefore that there has been no depositing of litter or that there have been no persons found depositing litter?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

Sir, the Environmental Health Department reported eleven cases but these were vetted by the Legal Department who advised against prosecution because of the recent appeal case on this issue. The Police have had a similar experience.

HON A T LODDO:

Mr Speaker, does that mean then that the depositing of litter can continue in Gibraltar with impunity?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

I think if the Hon Member has read his Order Paper he will see that there is legislation coming up in the course of this meeting.

HON ATTORNEY-GENERAL:

Mr Speaker, may I assist by clarifying a point. The decisions which have been taken on the eleven cases mentioned were taken in consideration of the facts prevailing at the present time but, as my Hon Friend has said, there are measures being brought forward to ensure that future prosecutions may be brought.

NO. 263 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government give the number of housing units due for completion within the next twelve months?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

		<u>Completion Date</u>
St Joseph's	50 units	September 1982
St Jago's	26 units	March 1982
Flat Bastion Road	15 units	January 1982
Lime Kiln Steps Phase 1	7 units)	February 1982
Lime Kiln Steps Phase 1A	13 units)	
<u>Just over the twelve months</u>		
Castle Ramp/Road to the Lines	26 units	November/December 1982

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 263 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Are there any projects due for completion shortly after that date or is there going to be a gap?

HON M. K FEATHERSTONE:

The Catalan Bay scheme which has just been out to tender I should imagine will take about fifteen to eighteen months so that will come hard after that.

HON P J ISOLA:

But that is not for general allocation is it, that is for Catalan Bay? Isn't there a statute of independence there?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

They are people on the housing list.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, is there anything after Catalan Bay? The names that have been cited are quite familiar, we have not heard reference to any others in the past, is that the extent of the Government's housing project?

HON M K FEATHERSTONE:

That is the extent at the moment, we are currently hoping that the next development programme will be started fairly soon.

HON A J HAYNES:

We live from day to day, Mr Speaker.

NO. 264 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government make a statement with regard to its proposals for the canteen and other facilities for stevedores in the Port?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Mr Speaker, I would refer the Hon Member to Government's press release of the 8th October in which it was stated that three alternative proposals had been put to the employers, namely:

- (i) The incorporation of offices and welfare facilities within the unstuffing shed which is to be built at the new container area;
- (ii) The construction of a building at the cross-berth between nos 4 and 5 jetties to provide for the required facilities;
- (iii) The provision by the employers of suitable portakabins at sites to be provided.

The Port employers have opted for the second alternative and they will be submitting details of the proposed building for planning and other approval in order to ensure that the building complies with the building rules and other statutory requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 264 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Is there any date fixed for the completion or the commencement of these works?

HON A J CANEPA:

There is no date, Mr Speaker.

HON W T SCOTT:

Have the recent developments within the Port area over the last few days involving stevedoring and cargo handling company and another company changed these proposals in any way?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, Mr Speaker, because the Stevedoring Company were not one of the three employers involved in these discussions, they already had separate welfare and canteen facilities of their own.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, if they have welfare facilities of their own in the area and they are not going to continue in operation, isn't that something that needs to be looked at?

HON A J CANEPA:

I think the whole position is somewhat fluid at the moment, Mr Speaker, we will have to wait and see how events develop.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 265 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A J HAYNES

Sir, will Government state whether the Transit Shed in the Port poses any health hazard?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, no, there is no health hazard in the Transit Shed in the Port.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 265 OF 1981

HON A J HAYNES:

Is Government aware that the fumes from the various machines in the Transit Shed have no escape other than the main entrance and do cause some discomfort to the people working there?

HON A J CANEPA:

I am advised, Mr Speaker, that provided the doors at either end of the Transit Shed are open the ventilation is adequate but in order to cover the situation where it might be necessary to close one of the doors at the end, work is in hand in connection with the work which is currently being done in the Transit Shed, repairs in the Transit Shed, work is in hand to make improvements in the ventilation.

HON A J HAYNES:

Is the Minister saying the present position is that it is satisfactory or is it that he expects that it will not be a health hazard once the works have been completed?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, it is not a health hazard at present, it does not constitute a health hazard but since repair work has to be done to the Transit Shed the opportunity is being taken to provide ventilation other than by means of the doors at either end. The other point that I could add, which I think is useful, is that the Chief Environmental Health Officer has advised the Stevedoring Companies that progressively, as the forklift trucks which emit these fumes have to be replaced, they might consider replacing them by electrically operated ones.

HON W T SCOTT:

Mr Speaker, with respect to the Hon Minister, it is not only the forklift trucks that have access to the Shed, it is in fact the lorries both from the Transport Contractors and private businesses that go into this unstuffing shed and as like as not in fact most

of the engines remain on throughout the course of the time that they are in the Transit Shed if only because perhaps they cannot be restarted again so all those fumes are contained within that Shed.

MR SPEAKER:

We are not going to debate now whether in the opinion of the House it creates a health hazard. It has been asked and the Government has said no it does not create a health hazard.

HON W T SCOTT:

I am voicing, Mr Speaker, the opinion of a considerable number of people that work within that Shed, that was the object of our question.

MR SPEAKER:

Fair enough, I accept the reason but it is question time and perhaps it might be discussed at another time but I do not think we can go any further now.

NO. 266 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government explain why, knowing the delays that always accompany the submission of a development programme, it did not submit its five year development programme from April, 1981 to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before February of this year?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, the question seems to imply that there was delay on the part of the Gibraltar Government in submitting its proposals on the 1981/86 Development Programme to Her Majesty's Government. I would like to refer the Hon Member to the statement which I made to this House during the course of this year's Budget debate regarding the detailed, lengthy pre-planning of the programme when I stated, inter alia, "although we have been very closely concerned with progress on the current programme, the Government has been making early preparations for the next Development Programme. With this aim in mind, a Forward Planning Committee was set up towards the end of 1979. This Committee was charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all potential projects had been worked out in detail and costed. By November 1980, the Government had already completed its plans for the next programme..." The Aid Submission and the Development Programme were subsequently cleared in Council of Ministers and Gibraltar Council by mid-December 1980. The despatch to the Secretary of State, was drafted, discussed and finalised during January 1981. The submission was formally forwarded on the 9th February 1981.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 266 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Was the reason for the late submission then, Mr Speaker, the fact that the current Development Programme was behind and could not possibly be completed before 31st March, 1981, as had been envisaged by the Government?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, there has been no late submission. If the British Government had been minded to do so, having had our submission by mid-February, we could easily have held talks a month or six weeks later. The British Government does not appear, the Ministry of Overseas Development, even now they are not being categorical about when they will discuss the next Development Programme so whether we had submitted the thing in February, in January or December would have made no difference whatsoever and there is no connection between the date of submission and the 1978/81 programme.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, will the Minister not agree that the earlier it had been submitted the sooner could the Government begin to put pressure for aid discussions? Is it not a fact that aid submissions do not follow within a month of the submission of a programme, inevitably every time there is a delay and leaving it to February, approximately a month before the current programme was meant to terminate, was surely leaving it too late?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, Mr Speaker. In 1978 talks were held on the 1978/81 Development Programme in May, 1978, that was when Miss Judith Hart came out to Gibraltar. What would have happened, Mr Speaker, if we had sent in the submission earlier is that we would be even more frustrated than what we are now. Representations have been made by myself and by the Chief Minister in Gibraltar Council and they have been made to ODA/FCO officials throughout the year, to Mr Culver of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to Mr Peskett of the ODA who was here in December 1980 and then in July this year, to Mr Riley, Building Adviser of the ODA, and more recently to Mr Cox of the ODA and the Chief Minister sent a very strongly worded despatch in August this year following all that up at the time of the Defence Review in order to draw attention of the need of the British Government to divorce the two and not allow one matter to be overtaken by the other. The Gibraltar Government, Mr Speaker, has done its work, we are well ahead on our preparation work even now to go out to tender with a number of housing projects and I have no doubt that it is not the failure of the Gibraltar Government at all, it is not the fact that we submitted the aid submission in February that has got anything to do with it, if it were, why are we now in October and we still do not know when talks are going to be held?

HON P J ISOLA:

Could the reason for the British Government dragging its feet a bit on the matter, could one of the reasons be the fact that the 1978/81 programme has not yet been completed?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, when Mr Peskett was here in December 1980 he was speaking in terms of a moratorium of one year and I remember asking him whether the British Government was waiting for the frontier to open in order that they could then wriggle out of the commitment to give us aid.

HON P J ISOLA:

But is it not a fact, however, that at the moment we have not finished the 1978/81 programme?

HON A J CANEPA:

I think it has got nothing to do with it, Mr Speaker. Programmes dovetail one into the other, the Hon Member knows that perfectly well. I know he is just playing at politics, Mr Speaker, we must not blame the British Government we must blame the Gibraltar Government. Well, he is mistaken. The Gibraltar Government is not to blame and the British Government is to blame and he would be doing something good for the benefit of Gibraltar if he were to add his voice to ours.

HON P J ISOLA:

I do wish the Minister would not get upset.

HON A J CANEPA:

I do get upset because it is shameful to play at politics in this manner.

HON P J ISOLA:

I do wish the Minister would think that there are other people in this House who think of Gibraltar, it is not an exclusive province of the Government or of the Minister for Economic Development and if he cannot hold himself back when answering questions, Mr Speaker, I suggest he takes a bit of a hold of himself.

HON A J CANEPA:

What I suggest to the Hon Member is that he apportions blame where the blame lies.

MR SPEAKER:

Order. Next question.

NO. 267 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, will Government make a statement, and I tremble to ask this, as to the results of its most recent discussions with representatives of the Overseas Development Aid with regard to the 1981/86 Development Programme?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, no formal discussions have been held between the Gibraltar Government and the Overseas Development Administration with regard to the 1981/86 Development Programme. Apart from other representations, the Gibraltar Government took the opportunity of the recent familiarisation visit of Mr W T Cox, whose department at the ODA has direct responsibility for Gibraltar, to reiterate the concern at the delay in holding talks on aid for the next Development Programme.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 267 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

I think I saw in the press recently that there was to be a forthcoming visit to London to discuss the question of Development Aid, was that not a result of the visit of Mr Cox? Are there any fixed plans for a November visit, I got the impression that it had all been fixed up for November from a recent newspaper report in Gibraltar?

HON A J CANEPA:

We do not have any firm date, Mr Speaker, I think it is well-known that the British Government committed itself at the time of the Defence White Paper to discuss the implications of that with the Gibraltar Government and that on present form it is hoped that a delegation from the Gibraltar Government will be going to the United Kingdom perhaps at the end of next month for this purpose and also we are pressing to discuss quite independently of any financial aid which Gibraltar may get arising from the Defence Review, we are pressing for talks on the Development Aid Programme at the same time and also discussions on the Lands Memoranda.

HON P J ISOLA:

So is the position, Sir, that no date has been fixed for talks on the Development Programme 1981/86 but it is hoped to have a talk with regard to the United Kingdom Defence White Paper at the end of November, is that the factual position?

HON A J CANEPA:

It is hoped, Mr Speaker, to have talks on three matters, on the Defence Review, on Development Aid and on the Lands Memoranda.

HON A J HAYNES:

Mr Speaker, can the Minister tell us what he has got lined up for housing in these talks?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, that would be the subject of a separate question and I have already given information in this House precisely on that matter. If he will look back over either previous questions or during the Budget debate, I have given considerable information on that matter.

26.10.81

NO. 268 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government state when it expects to complete the development programme 1st April 1978 to 31st March 1981?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, in terms of the projects planned for the 1978/81 Development Programme, physical completion of the five remaining projects under the programme will be achieved by the summer of 1982, although some projects are of an 'on-going' nature (eg deep drilling, mains renewals, etc).

NO. 269 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state whether it has now had a reply to the 1981/86 Development Programme aid submissions first submitted in February this year?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, the Gibraltar Government is still awaiting a reply from Her Majesty's Government regarding the timing of discussions on the 1981/86 Development Programme. It is expected, however, that these discussions will take place before the end of the year, possibly next month. As I pointed out in answer to questions 199 and 200 of 1981, the Gibraltar Government is concerned about the continuing delay and has made further representations to this effect through the appropriate channels.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 269 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, will the Hon Member, in making the representations to Her Majesty's Government, point out that they are systematically helping to destroy the economy of Gibraltar by their delaying tactics in a way that they are supposed to be working contrary to in sustaining the economy of Gibraltar against the effect of the Spanish campaign?

HON A J CANEPA:

Mr Speaker, the representations which the Hon the Chief Minister made in August this year I think went even beyond that.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 270 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, what specific plans does Government have on Development after March 1982 with regard to the construction industry bearing in mind the grave consequences for Gibraltar in general and the construction industry in particular?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, the Government's Development Aid submission for 1981/86 is designed to inject capital expenditure into the building industry of at least equal magnitude to previous building and civil engineering works programme. No details can, however, be given at this stage of the composition of the Programme.

I will also be giving particulars of the Government's proposals to encourage private sector participation in the development of residential accommodation by the provision of a number of derelict Government properties suitable for modernisation or redevelopment. This initial programme is intended to be followed by other projects which will provide phased opportunities to strengthen the economy and use the resources of the building industry in the process.

I should also remind the House that a number of major schemes, notably Buena Vista and Woodford Cottage, and the Casemates multi-storey car park, are already in the pipeline. I should also inform the House that it is proposed to invite applications for a major reclamation and development scheme on the East Coast.

26.10.81

NO. 271 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, can Government state if there is any element of Modernisation in the proposed Development Programme 1981/86?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Yes, Sir. A substantial element of modernisation has been included in the draft Development Programme 1981/86. These proposals would result in at least 80 modernised units and complement the planned programme of new construction.

NO. 272 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Can Government state what the position is with regard to the proposed multi-storey car park at Casemates and does Government have anything further to report on the statement made on 7th July, 1981?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Tender documents are now being prepared and will be sent to the seven firms whose outline proposals were found acceptable, if suitably amended to meet the basic requirements that the car park should provide accommodation for not less than 400 cars. I have no other information to give at this stage other than what I shall give in my reply to Question No 276.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 272 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Sir, what will be the closing date for the tenders, does one know yet?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, Mr Speaker, I have not got that information at hand. I think considerable time must be given for a major project of this nature, I do not imagine that it will be less than about three months.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 273 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state how long the PSA stores depot at the entrance of Rosia Road have been unoccupied and what payment has Government made for the reallocation costs of this depot to the MOD?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

The land and stores on the south side of Ragged Staff were taken over by the Government on 26 May, 1981.

Government paid the Minister of Defence the sum of £73,581.25 for the buildings made up as follows:-

(i)	Continuing use value of buildings on site	£80,000.00
(ii)	less PSA/DOE relocation costs	£ 6,418.75
	Net cost	<u>£73,581.25</u>

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 273 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, as regards the time that the place has been unoccupied, does Government know how long it was unoccupied before May, 1981?

HON A J CANEPA:

Four or five months.

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, when is Government thinking **that** it will be in use by the Gibraltar Government, I believe they are going to move the Stores there?

HON A J CANEPA:

There is some allocation of funds to be made in order to carry out the physical moving from one Stores into the PSA Stores and as soon as that allocation of funds is made the PWD will get cracking.

26.10.81

NO. 274 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state whether payment has had to be made to MOD for the shed at No 4 jetty and if so how much?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, no payment has had to be made consequent on the transfer of the Shed on No 4 jetty to the Government.

NO. 275 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Has Government now made any decision regarding the latest proposals for the development of Maida Vale?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Government has made its attitude known to the potential developers as to the nature of the development that would be permitted on the Maida Vale site. This is, that the site can only be used for touristic development.

An early reply is now awaited from the developers following the general restatement of Government's policy with regard to this site before a general re-appraisal is undertaken of the position.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 275 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, didn't the Minister say the last time this matter was raised in the House that they were considering proposals for residential development?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, Mr Speaker, we had received proposals which entailed building of houses for resale, I think I said.

HON J BOSSANO:

And in fact when the Hon Member is talking about touristic development is he saying that it has to be used for the construction of hotels?

HON A J CANEPA:

Hotels or hotels cum holiday apartments but tourist orientated given the importance of the tourist sector as in the Input/Output Study and also the Port Development Study. I think it is generally accepted that it is tourism which offers the best alternatives for diversification of our economy certainly in an open frontier situation.

HON J BOSSANO:

But the Minister, I take it, agrees that in fact there is a tendency nowadays in the tourist industry to move away from hotels to self-catering apartments and that in fact residential blocks of flats have the advantage that they become available for either tourist use or non-tourist use depending on whether there is a demand for one or the other, would he not agree with that?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, there is this tendency and in fact a tendency which started some years ago and I seem to recall that there was a proposal from the potential developer at the time that they should be permitted to sell, I think it was two floors, two out of four or five floors and the rest would be holiday apartments, that was the proposal which at the time, I think I am speaking of 1977 or 1978, found favour with the Government but the latest proposals would amount purely to residential development for sale and that would not inject any input into the tourist industry and I think if we have waited all these years to try and get a hotel or holiday apartments built on that site I think it would be inopportune at this stage to do a U-turn.

NO. 276 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Has a decision now been taken by MOD regarding the reprovisioning of the seven married quarters at Casemates?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, the position as stated by MOD's representative at the beginning of September 1981 is that the married quarters will only be transferred upon reprovision as previously understood, as MOD's long term requirements for these quarters are unknown at this stage. There has been no change since then.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 276 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, did the Minister not say the last time that if the MOD would agree to the developer doing the reprovisioning this would accelerate the possibility of getting the development under way?

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, I think I said that arising from the question from the Hon Mr Isola, No 192. I think I did state that.

HON J BOSSANO:

My original question is aimed at finding out whether this has been put to the MOD and the MOD have either agreed to this or refused to agree to it.

HON A J CANEPA:

It has been put, Mr Speaker, and the other point that has been put was arising from the question of the Defence Review whether perhaps it was any longer needed and helpful noises were made at one stage but then the answer that came back was no, we still stick to our original condition at this stage. Whether that will change or not may emerge over the next few weeks, something may develop in that connection. On the one hand one hopes that it will because it will allow this project to get under way but if it does it is because something else is happening which one would not like to see happening so it is very difficult. I think arising from the talks that we shall have on the Defence Review we have to come back to the charge immediately after with regard to this project and get the position abundantly clear regarding these seven quarters.

HON J BOSSANO:

But it seems to me there are two different lines of attack, Mr Speaker, and perhaps the Hon Member would confirm that I am correct in my understanding of the situation. One is that in the light of a reduced MOD presence in Gibraltar there may be other property occupied, say, by UK based into which the people residing in Casemates could be moved in which case the need for reprovisioning would not arise. That is not known until we know to what extent there is going to be any movement. The other thing as I understood it was that if the developer was keen to get on with it and keen to take on the reprovisioning himself, then one would expect the MOD to be cooperative in this and I think that surely can be pursued irrespective of what is happening on the Defence.

HON A J CANEPA:

Yes, I think that can be but since we have not yet sent tender documents to the seven selected applicants and since when they are sent these documents, as I mentioned, they must be given a reasonable period of time, it may be even more than three months because it is a very complex and a very substantial development, the position by then may be rather more evident and if the position improves with regard to the requirement for reprovisioning then it will just be a welcome bonus as far as they are concerned.

26.10.81

NO. 277 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government state what further progress has been made in the development of the Buena Vista Cottage site?

ANSWER

THE HON THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Sir, I would refer the Hon Questioner to the answer I gave to Question No 248 where the information has already been given.

NO. 278 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON J BOSSANO

Can Government now state to what use it proposes to put the site of the Old Slaughter House?

ANSWERTHE HON THE MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE

Sir, it is Government's intention to use the Old Slaughter House site partly as a public car park and also for the building of a new motor vehicle testing centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 278 OF 1981

HON J BOSSANO:

Mr Speaker, has Government now looked at the fact that if they are putting out the East side to a possible large reclamation project, there might be a conflict between any of those uses and that?

HON A J CANEPA:

No, Mr Speaker, the East side reclamation project would extend from, roughly, where the Caleta Palace is or to be absolutely accurate, a line drawn in an easterly direction at the most easterly promontory below the Caleta Palace to the end of the Sandy Bay to where the lessees have the delineation, that is, the point of demarkation there.

HON J BOSSANO:

The Government in fact is not expecting reclamation in the area where the old refuse destructor and the Slaughter House are?

HON A J CANEPA:

Reclamation which the Public Works Department is carrying on on a piecemeal basis, yes, that will continue.

NO. 279 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON MAJOR R J PELIZA

Can Government state what importance is attached to the Foreign Affairs Committee Report, and what action has been taken to overcome the conclusions and proposals that are contrary to the views of all the parties represented in the House of Assembly, and therefore of the overwhelming majority of the people of Gibraltar?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, the Foreign Affairs Committee's Report on Gibraltar was published on 28 August. On that same day the Leader of the Opposition and I issued a statement expressing our preliminary reactions to the conclusions and recommendations in the Report which were all that were available to us at that time. Copies of the Report were available in Gibraltar on 30 August and on 9 September, the Leader of the Opposition and I sent a 38-page assessment of the Report to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office with the request that the views expressed by us be taken into account in the preparation of the British Government's response to the Report.

It had become apparent, even before the publication of the Foreign Affairs Committee's Report, that there was a need for a clear and simple re-statement of the views and position of the people of Gibraltar. This need had been met, to some extent, in the submissions made by the Leader of the Opposition and myself to the Foreign Affairs Committee itself. Copies of my submission were distributed at the time to some of the leading newspapers in Britain as well as to other appropriate quarters. The Leader of the Opposition and I have recently issued a joint statement of our views. This is not designed as a reply to the Report of the Foreign Affairs Committee as such but it naturally covers the main issues dealt with in that Report.

On the same day, 9 September, the Leader of the Opposition and I wrote a personal letter to the Secretary of State on the question of the Committee's Report. We also wrote on the subject to a number of Members of Parliament who have shown an interest in Gibraltar's affairs over the years.

We cannot say whether or not the Committee's Report will be debated in the House of Commons or when such a debate might take place. Steps are however being taken to prepare a very detailed commentary on the Report which will be sent to Gibraltar's friends in Parliament, as a supplement to the material prepared in anticipation of such a debate taking place.

NO. 280 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON W T SCOTT

Sir, will Government make a comprehensive statement with regard to the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Public Works Department with particular emphasis on the proposals and recommendations contained therein?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, the recommendations and proposals contained in the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Public Works Department are being studied. The Government is not yet in a position to make a statement.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 280 OF 1981

HON W T SCOTT:

Does the Government have any idea as to when its deliberations will be concluded?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It seems to me that we may well be in a position to make a statement at the next meeting of the House. It was necessary to obtain the detailed views of a number of Government Departments concerned with recommendations. Two of the main recommendations in regard to the Lands and Surveys Office and whether the Public Works Department should be a self-accounting department have been discussed by Council of Ministers who decided to refer them for further detailed investigation and discussion by a small mixed Committee of Ministers and officials and we shall be having a very early meeting on that.

NO. 281 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, has Government now formulated its ideas on the broadcasting of the proceedings of the House of Assembly and can Government state whether the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation is now in a position to broadcast proceedings of the House?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, as the Hon the Leader of the Opposition is aware, the question of broadcasting the proceedings of the House of Assembly has been discussed between us on various occasions. It is, of course, a matter for the House.

Mr Speaker, you recently passed on to me a copy of a letter from Mr Isola to you setting out the views of the Opposition on this matter. As I said in my reply to your letter, I intend to discuss the Opposition's proposals with the Hon the Leader of the Opposition at a meeting to be held as soon as this can be arranged.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 281 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, could I have an answer to the second part of the question, that is whether the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation is now in a position to broadcast proceedings of the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I beg your pardon, yes. GBC have stated that they are in a position to consider broadcasting the proceedings of the House. GBC now operate on frequency modulation, a second channel is available and the cost will depend on the extent of the broadcast.

NO. 282 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government make public the findings of the Committee of Inquiry into the disruption of the normal teaching programme at Bayside Comprehensive?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, this morning I would have said that the question had been put by the Leader of the Opposition, I thought he had but, anyhow, it was Mr Loddó.

The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the causes which led to the disruption of normal activities at the Bayside Comprehensive School in September, 1981, was submitted to His Excellency the Governor on the 16 October, 1981. The Government will consider the question of publication in due course.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 282 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, will the Government bear in mind the fact that work was disrupted at the school, a number of school days were lost involving expense, that the public in this particular case were very concerned about what occurred and that the public outcry only subsided when a Committee of Inquiry was appointed. Now that this has occurred, does he not agree that the public are entitled to have an explanation and certainly this House that is constantly voting funds for education and for the Public Works Department, is entitled to know the reasons why it became necessary to close the school for the number of days that they were closed and why it became necessary plus all this emergency work done at the school in question?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Sir, I think that though, of course, the Committee of Inquiry may have reassured people about the events, the main thing that really dealt with the situation was the emergency works that were carried out and the cleaning but, as I say, despite the fact that it is of a small item it is a rather voluminous report which Ministers have not yet read fully, I have not read it at all, I have just looked quickly at the last recommendation when I had time and until the Ministers consider it I cannot give an undertaking. It will be looked at with the intention of giving as much information as possible for the public good as consideration of it will allow.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is there any State secret in this report, Mr Speaker, that the Chief Minister cannot give an undertaking to this House that he will show the report to the Members of the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I cannot give an undertaking to disclose a report that I have not read myself yet.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Is a report/only submitted to this House when it suits the Government, Mr Speaker?

MR SPEAKER:

The Chief Minister has said that the report had been submitted to His Excellency the Governor, that he himself has not read the report so far and therefore until such time as they consider the contents of the report they cannot say whether it will be published or not.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

So it is not known, Mr Speaker, whether the Members of this House will be able to see the report or not.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Of course, it is a Government's Inquiry, it is not a House Inquiry. Despite the fact that it is now nine years that he left the short time he was in office he does not seem to realise or remember anything about the facts of Government and the fact that the Government has got the responsibility to take decisions in these matters.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, does the Chief Minister accept and agree that however much the Government has a responsibility to decide whether or not a report should be made public, in most cases unless there is a very, very good reason why they should not be made public particularly concerning

MR SPEAKER:

Order. It has not been said the report is not going to be made public. There have been reservations as to whether it is once they have been able to consider the contents. Let us leave it at that.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Mr Speaker, realising the number of reports that are submitted which are never made public one can suspect that this one is not going to be made public.

MR SPEAKER:

Next question.

NO. 283 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, can Government report any progress in relation to the Committee of Inquiry into the Electricity Department?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, Sir. As the House is aware, there was some initial difficulty in finding a suitable Chairman for this Committee. Furthermore, though enquiries were instituted in London as long as January this year about the availability of two other persons to serve as members of the Committee, it has only recently been possible to identify one other suitable person who could devote the time to come out to Gibraltar and engage in this task. Efforts continue to be made to find a third such person. As soon as this has been achieved - and I hope it will take no more than three or four weeks - the necessary appointments will be made.

NO. 284 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON P J ISOLA

Sir, has Government now decided who the new Chairman of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation shall be?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Yes, Sir. Sir Howard Davis has agreed to accept the Chairmanship.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 284 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, could I ask, is the appointment of Chairman of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation a matter for the Governor or is this a matter on which the Gibraltar Government gives advice?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

First of all, it is a matter for the Governor who takes advice and in fact, if I may say so, in every appointment that is made by the Governor in my experience, certainly by this Governor, he takes advice or he receives advice, it would be pre-empting to say that he takes advice, he seeks advice. Certainly, the appointment of a Chairman of the GBC has always been a matter of consultation between the Governor and the Chief Minister.

HON P J ISOLA:

Does the Chief Minister not agree that it might be better to start some new procedure where this is concerned in view of the fact that the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation is meant to be an independent Corporation rather than a Government controlled Corporation? Would it not be advisable that all sides of the political spectrum should be consulted before a Chairman of such an important Corporation is appointed and meanwhile, Sir, as far as the Opposition is concerned, we must certainly reserve our views on the matter?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Reserve their views on the first remarks or on the appointment?

HON P J ISOLA:

On the whole lot.

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On the whole lot, well, I reserve mine on the whole lot.

HON MAJOR R J PELIZA:

Does that mean that the Chief Minister might change his mind about the appointment if he is reserving his mind about the whole lot which includes the appointment?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

On the whole lot of the second part of the question.

HON P J ISOLA:

But does the Chief Minister not agree that it would be preferable, if the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation is to have an image of being an independent Corporation, that an appointment which is not really a political appointment, if it is going to have consultations with the Government it should also have consultations with other political parties in Gibraltar to try and maintain the independence of the Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation, certainly consultation with the parties in the House?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

It is a thought and no doubt by the time the present appointment expires a procedure may have been devised to do that. For one thing it is hoped that in the not too distant future the Corporation will be self sufficient, so we are told, and that will make it even much more interesting on the part of everybody but I would like to say that appointments which have been made either in my time, I do not know whether any fell to be given the advice of the Hon Major Peliza, that we have been fortunate in having persons of very independent views and we have always sought to look for persons of independent mind to govern the Corporation as the list of past Chairmen can well prove.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, there are a number of other vacancies in the Corporation, are these to be filled up by the same procedure and if they are could I ask that the Opposition be consulted on the filling in of the other vacancies in the Corporation?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

I would like to have notice of that, I cannot give an undertaking of that nature at this stage. There are already two or three names which have been submitted to the Governor for appointment.

HON P J ISOLA:

Could I ask the Chief Minister to represent to His Excellency the Governor our views on this matter, I shall certainly have to do so myself?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

Yes.

NO. 285 OF 1981

ORAL

THE HON A T LODDO

Mr Speaker, will Government give serious consideration to implementing 'Summer Time' next year, bearing in mind that 1982 is World Cup Year?

ANSWERTHE HON THE CHIEF MINISTER

Sir, as the Hon Member is aware, the desirability or otherwise, of introducing any daylight saving scheme or 'Summer Time', is kept under annual review. The decision to do so, at any time in the future, will be taken if and when, in the opinion of the Government, the circumstances generally warrant it. The fact that 1982 is World Cup Year should not, and will not, influence the Government in reaching a decision as to whether the scheme is introduced in 1982.

SUPPLEMENTARY TO QUESTION NO. 285 OF 1981

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, in view of the fact that this question is being put this year well in advance to enable the Government to seek out views of people well in advance, will Government in particular seek out views and see whether the people who were affected last year would seem to us on this side of the House to be a very small section of the community can so alter their arrangements and I am speaking mainly of flight schedules and Mons Calpe sailings and Hydrofoil sailings, could make arrangements to have the new times provided they got plenty of notice and could make arrangements and we do not have the excuse next year when we ask the question that all the schedules have already gone out and it is not possible to do anything. I would have thought, Mr Speaker, that generally speaking it was unquestionably in the interests of the social amenities of Gibraltar, of the comfort of its citizens, of the ability of people who do not have Government hours for working in the summer but have to work till 5 o'clock or 6 o'clock in the evening every day to have that extra hour of sunshine that will enable them to enjoy the pleasures that their more fortunate brethren in the public service enjoy. I ask the Government to try and get people involved in this matter, changing their schedules and so forth, so that everybody in Gibraltar can enjoy summer hours next year?

HON CHIEF MINISTER:

That is a very short supplementary, isn't it, to answer yes or no. I think it is a very unfair supplementary, Mr Speaker, because it has tended to indicate that Government makes up its mind only because the employees of the Government do not need summer time, I think that is very unfair. It is not a question of schedules, the matter comes up every year in September and why I said that is that in fairness to the questioner the question of the 1982 World Cup was not taken into account. Other factors

may compel us to do it without having to think more about it but on the advice that we received last year we had very strong representations if I remember rightly from the trade that it would prejudice trade considerably in the shopping hours of excursionists about which there were so many questions earlier on in the proceedings.

HON P J ISOLA:

Mr Speaker, but the questions of the trade, the reasons for it were mainly because, as I remember it quite clearly, the sailings of the Mons Calpe, the British Airways schedules, the Gibraltar Airways schedules to Tangier and the Hydrofoil all of which, of course, were fixed in advance but if the Government gives notice now, surely, that it intends implementing summer hours next year and I would ask the Chief Minister to consider seriously the suggestion of my Hon Friend Mr Loddó because if Gibraltar does not change its hours the World Cup Football match times will appear in Gibraltar an hour earlier and therefore people will not be working at four and five o'clock but will be watching the football instead because of the difference in hours and does not the Government agree that that is a very important consideration to take in mind especially as thankfully now, England appears to have a good chance of qualifying in the World Cup Finals?

MR SPEAKER:

Let us not get carried away. Next question.