MISSION ABROAD

YEAR 2004

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH - OFFICERS - MISSIONS ABROAD

(No. B/449) Dr. R. Becheejana (Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will give -

(a) the names of officers of his Ministry who have proceeded abroad on mission, conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. during period 01 January 2001 to date, indicating -
   (i) their status
   (ii) the purpose of mission, and
   (iii) the costs involved, and

(b) the names of officers in the technical cadre above the grade of Principal Assistant Secretary who have not proceeded on mission during the same period and the reasons therefor.

Reply: The information asked for is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly as soon as possible.

However, I wish to inform the hon. Member that being one of the largest Ministries, my Ministry has relations with many regional and international organisations. It was, therefore, imperative to set up an International Relations Desk three years ago to deal with these issues.

There is a certain degree of specialisation at the level of my Ministry which explains why in some cases the same officers have to be nominated as they are specialised in that sector.

Illustratively, one of them is the Director for International Relations who is also the Secretary-General of the National Commission for UNESCO in Mauritius. As such a number of meetings are organised at sub-regional and regional levels for Secretaries-General of the Africa region that this officer is called upon to attend.

Further, a number of invitations are received for training purposes and workshops. In these cases, the criterion of age is used to earmark eligible officers.

Such an age factor has debarred some officers from attending the workshops.