The Honourable Second Member for Port Louis Maritime and Port Louis East (Mr Ameer Meea)

To ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, External Communications and National Development Unit, Minister of Finance and Economic Development –

Whether, in regard to the Build Mauritius Fund, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the amount of funds available therein as at to date, indicating the amount contributed thereto from the price of diesel and petrol by the State Trading Corporation since June 2016 to date and disbursed therefrom, giving the list of projects (a) undertaken and (b) earmarked for implementation thereunder?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

The Build Mauritius Fund was set up by way of the Finance and Audit (Build Mauritius Fund) Regulations 2013. The objects of the fund are to contribute to the financing of -
a) The Mauritius Light Rail Transit (MLRT) Project;

b) Other Infrastructure projects or development schemes aiming at more fluid traffic flows and improving the quality of the land transport system and service;

c) Consultancy, preparatory or advisory services in relation to MLRT and land transport projects; and

d) Such other infrastructure project or development scheme related to the Build Mauritius Plan.

Madam Speaker,

The Build Mauritius Plan focusses on -

a) Regular supply of water and electricity at competitive prices;

b) Efficient and safe public transport;

c) More fluid traffic flows; and

d) Infrastructure for greater connectivity with the rest of the world.
Initially the Fund was set up with Government funds to the tune of Rs 4.7 billion comprising Rs 4.3 billion as a loan and Rs 0.4 billion as grant. In June 2016, part of the loan, i.e. an amount of Rs 2 billion, was converted into a grant to the Fund.

As at 07th April 2017, the balance of the Fund stood at Rs 5.3 billion.

Since June 2016 to date, the total amount received from the State Trading Corporation on the levy imposed on the price of diesel and petrol amounts to Rs 1.56 billion. Out of the total amount collected, Rs 1.17 billion is for financing water projects and Rs 0.39 billion for the replacement of buses under the Bus Modernisation Scheme.

Madam Speaker,

I am informed that over the same period, some Rs 1 billion has been disbursed from the Build Mauritius Fund in respect of the following projects and schemes -

(i) Water Sector Projects Rs 291 million
(ii) Water Tank Scheme Rs 19 million
(iii) Land Drainage Projects Rs 191 million
(iv) Road and Land Transport Projects Rs 317 million
(v) Bus Modernisation Scheme Rs 182 million

With regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question, I am informed that the amounts available in the Fund will be used to meet obligations under on-going projects and those earmarked for implementation as follows –

**Water Projects**

(i) Construction of the Cut-off Wall for the Bagatelle Dam;

(ii) Feasibility Study and detailed design for the Rivière des Anguilles Dam;

(iii) Replacement of old and defective pipes in 20 different regions across the island including Beau-Bassin, Rose Belle, Rivière du Rempart, Lallmatie, Roche Bois, Plaine Verte and Surinam; and

(iv) Construction of 5 service reservoirs at Cluny, Riche en Eau, Balisson, Riviere Dragon, and Alma.

Madam Speaker,
I also wish to inform the House that since June 2016 to date, 3,842 low income households have benefitted from the Water Tank Scheme.

**Land Drainage Projects**

The Build Mauritius Fund has also financed the construction of drains around the island by the National Development Unit.

**Road and Land Transport Projects**

The road and land transport projects funded under the BMF are as follows -

(i) Reparation of the embankment failure on the Terre Rouge - Verdun Link Road;

(ii) Landslide stabilization works on the Terre Rouge - Verdun Link Road;

(iii) Remedial works on the Ring Road Phase 1;

(iv) Re-construction of the Jumbo - Phoenix Roundabout;
(v) Construction of the A1 – M1 Bridge between Coromandel and Soreze; and

(vi) Consultancy Services for the preparation of the Metro Express Project.

For the period June 2016 to date, the renewal of 182 buses has been partly financed from the grant offered under the Bus Modernisation Scheme.

P.K.J