

WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER, 2014

The Parliament resumed at 9.50 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

MADAM SPEAKER took the Chair and read the Prayer.

PRESENT

All honourable Members were present, except the honourable Prime Minister and Minister for *iTaukei* Affairs and Sugar and the honourable Commander J.R. Cawaki.

MINUTES

HON. LEADER OF GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT. – Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

That the Minutes of sittings of Parliament held on Tuesday 9th December, 2014 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

HON. S. PATEL.- Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Speaker, just a clarification. As we know, the Sevens issue is creating a lot of interest and concern in this country. We were told yesterday, Madam Speaker, that IRB had consented to the sharing of feed in Gold Coast, yet, we are provided with a letter from World Rugby saying:

“For the sake of absolute clarity, World Rugby did not consent to the sharing of the feed by HSBC Sevens.”

Can we get clarification on this, Madam Speaker?

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- I rise on a point of order, Madam Speaker. What is the relevance of the issue raised by the honourable Member in the adoption of the Minutes?

MADAM SPEAKER.- Are you referring to a particular paragraph?

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- It is an amendment to the Minutes, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Your point of order is noted, and we will bring that up again in the course of today's Agenda. For the time being, I am still asking if there is any opposition to the motion.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Acknowledgment of Visitors

MADAM SPEAKER.- I welcome all our friends in the public gallery. Thank you for your support in coming to be with us this morning. You are all invited to join us for refreshments at tea break.

POINT OF ORDERAbsence from sittings of Parliament – Honourable Prime Minister

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order under Standing Order 141. It has become glaringly obvious that the honourable Prime Minister has deliberately absenting himself from the sittings of Parliament, so as to avoid questions and scrutiny from this side of Parliament. Madam Speaker, this also happens to be the same duration as this session of Parliament and could have and should have been scheduled to occur after the session ended or before it began.

Whilst touching base with the Fijian community and Fiji Diplomats in Sydney is commendable, it does not justify the honourable Prime Minister being absent from Parliament as he has done on this occasion. This is his Party's first budget and he does not consider it important enough to be here with his team to defend it, but instead takes the easier path of being absent mainly as always and leave it to the honourable and learned Attorney-General to do the fighting for him.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of transparency

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Point of order!

MADAM SPEAKER.- Can we just hear the point of order before we continue with

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- What point of order?

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM.- Madam Speaker, my question is, what is the point of order? The honourable Member is making a statement, he has not come to the point of order. Point of order is on a specific issue, what is the specific issue regarding his interjection into the proceedings of today?

MADAM SPEAKER.- Please continue and we will hear further.

HON. RATU I.D. TIKOCA.- Yes, I am coming to that. I am about to finish as well.

Madam Speaker, in the interest of transparency and in fairness to the honourable and learned Attorney-General, who is really the one on that side who makes all the decisions while the others are merely supporting him, I request that something with regards to a letter written to be tabled here, to justify the absence of the honourable Prime Minister.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Thank you, the point of order is noted. We have that recorded and it will be responded to at an appropriate time.

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, I rise in reply to the supposedly point of order raised by the honourable Whip from the other side. We, on this side, are baffled at the points that are raised by the honourable Whip in terms of what is the matter in the point of order. We do not know yet, he wriggled on about a statement that did not really say anything, so we needed to reply to that and at least have a say in what he has to say.

MADAM SPEAKER.- As I had mentioned, we will be dealing with that point of order at a later time and after clarification of exactly what the issue is.

HON. RATU N.T. LALABALAVU.- *Vinaka.*

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS

HON. V.R. GAVOKA.- Madam Speaker, I rise with a petition, which I know everyone will support in this Parliament, to introduce a service fee to be charged to all guests and clients' bills for the purposes of supplementing the incomes of tourism industry workers in Fiji.

In accordance with Standing Orders 37 of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, I, Viliame R. Gavoka do hereby present this petition for Parliament to consider that a service fee to benefit tourism industry workers is levied on guests and clients of these prescribed services:

- i) Hotels and all types of operators providing accommodation;
- ii) Rental car operators;
- iii) Inbound tour operators
- iv) Recreation, entertainment, cinema, eateries;
- v) Bars and night clubs located within an area recognised as an integrated tourism on-clave;
- vi) Event management operators;
- vii) All water sports;
- viii) Under water activities;
- ix) Skydiving;
- x) Hot air balloon rides;
- xi) River safaris; and
- xii) Charter flight services.

This petition, Madam Speaker, is calling for bi-partisan support from all honourable Members of Parliament of Fiji for the introduction of such a fee in accordance with Standing Order 37(5), the petitioners will cause the Speaker to refer the petition to a Standing Committee on Economic Affairs for due consideration and recommendation to Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I have here 690 signatures from the tourism industry workers in Suva, Coral Coast, Nadi, Denarau and the Mamanucas to support this petition. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER.- I would like to ask, with your indulgence, to hand the petition over to the Secretary-General.

Under Standing Order 37, I will refer this petition to the relevant Standing Committee once the Committees are formed. In this regard, we are in close collaboration with both parties to have this Committee formed as soon as possible.

URGENT ORAL QUESTION

MADAM SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, I have accepted an Urgent Oral Question under Standing Order 43 from the honourable Ratu Kiniviliame Kiliraki to the honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. This question was delivered to the Secretary-General under the guidelines required by Standing Order 43. As required by the Standing Orders, I am satisfied that the question is of an urgent character and relates to a matter of public importance. As required by Standing Order 43, this will be the first oral question for today.

Broken Waste Water Conveyance Pipe
(Question No. 01/2014)

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI, asked the Government, upon notice:

Could the honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Transport explain what immediate measures will be put in place, to address the contamination of waterways and stench, as a result of the collapse of the waste water trunk line that carries untreated waste from the greater Suva area to the Kinoya Waste Treatment Plant?

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA (Minister for Infrastructure and Transport).— Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Ratu Kiniviliame Kiliraki for the urgent question. The question relates to the broken waste water conveyance pipe that broke amid the flood that we had in the last few days. This pipe lies next to the Cunningham Bridge, which is the bridge immediately next to the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Nabua. During the flood, the water rose to such a high level that the bridge came down and gathered alongside the structure that held the pipes together, and through the process, with the surge of the water, the structure that held the pipes together collapsed, and as such we have the situation that we have today, Perhaps, the negative outcome of that is the sewerage is not travelling to Kinoya, and part of it is now being upward into the Cunningham River.

Now with this particular system Madam Speaker, the piping itself and the structure is more than half a century old. I think it brings across the point in terms of where Government's intention is in upgrading and building capacity within, not only portable water capacity in the whole of Fiji, but also the management of waste water.

I only learnt on the day Madam Speaker that, that particular waste water system is the only one that conveys waste water from the peninsula of Suva into the treatment plant in Kinoya. There is no other redundancy. There has been no factor of any redundancy in the last 50 years to add to that capacity that is already there.

Also, I learnt that all that was carried out in the last 50 years was only general maintenance of the structure that held the parts. Now that brings me to my point again, Madam Speaker, is that this year, in terms of the Budget that has been passed, that makes this very, very significant contribution to asset management within Water Authority and waste water in particular, is going to benefit Fiji in such a way that it gives redundancy to systems like this. In fact, I have already directed Water Authority to make sure that that is now going to be one of our priorities.

So, what are we doing about this issue at present, Madam Speaker, is that as you would know, there is a pump that gives the final push of the water through that sewer line into Kinoya. This pump is located next to the roundabout in Nabua, opposite Nivis Motors, along Jerusalem Road.

We have in that area an underground tank that receives the waste water coming in from the Peninsula. We have deployed sewerage trucks that is conveying the waste water from there to Kinoya. Obviously this is a very, very expensive operation and we hope it is not going to take any longer than it needs.

Now unfortunately, by the same token, there are other sewerage pipes that fit into the system after the pump in Nabua, and those are all the pumps that are coming in from around Ratu Sukuna area, Ratu Sukuna Secondary School, the areas of the Army Camp and also from Cunnigham. So that explains the water that is presently seeping out of the pipe into the river and is creating that odour.

We are also adding some chemicals to the pump area around the roundabout to be able to manage the stench that comes out the other end when it gets into the river. We have a temporary solution that the engineers are working on, unfortunately it is going to take a few days. It will be about two weeks from today to get something up, that is to repair the pipe and put a temporary structure on to hold that pipe. The engineers are now working together to design something that will take us forward, and

hopefully in the next 100 years. Now that we have reviewed our Asset Management Plan for water, we have a programme within the next 100 years to make sure that it does not come to this again, so that it will hold out the structure even better, which means that there will be routine maintenance of this particular structure, and set maintenance to make sure to extend the structural or engineering life of this structure. By the same token as well, we are going to work hard to get a redundancy plan in place, a Plan B, so that in case something happens, we can turn that off and open the other one.

Madam Speaker, I also want to acknowledge at this time the work that has been done by Water Authority of Fiji, in managing the site at the bridge because with water, it is pouring and about 10 per cent of the water that usually comes out of that pipe is going into the river. In managing the stench and to get to repair the pipes and structure, we need people in the water. The Water Authority of Fiji are also making a lot of sacrifices for all of us, and I want to record before the Chamber our appreciation in terms of people working very, very hard to try to get this system working. We know this is a major risk and the urgency of the matter is why we work very hard, day and night to try to fix it.

Madam Speaker, I know it is a very long way to go, but I think it is urgent enough that we should give the people of Fiji the answer they deserve with regards to this matter at Nabua. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. RATU K. KILIRAKI. – A supplementary question, Madam Speaker. I thank the honourable Minister for his detailed answer to the question. However, I have a supplementary question in relation to the considerable spillage of raw water into the river, and the consequential effects on the lives, the environment and the biological impact, especially in the Laucala Bay area with effects of the tidal and the inshore currents that will bring the spill over to the greater Suva area on the shores.

I would ask the honourable Minister, what is his plan or strategy to be able to rope-in all the stakeholders, which includes health because it will relate to internal and external skin diseases, and those who use the sea shore as well as the ecosystem being the food chain, the crabs, prawns, shrimps, mangroves, as well as the bio-logical effect on the reefs in the greater Suva area. Whether you have any strategy to bring in the Department of Environment, Ministry of Health, as well as the experts at University of the South Pacific (USP) the marine science to be able to make an analysis so that we can at least know what are the impacts of this - the occurrence of the spillage in our environment in the short-term, the mid-term as well as the long term. Thank you Madam Speaker.

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA. – Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for his supplementary question to his urgent question. When this matter arose, it was managed through a whole of Government response to disaster management, and because this was a consequence of the flood, Natural Disaster Management Office, which is the whole of the Government's effort to manage disaster became involved. Obviously then, that means the whole of environmental analysts, the Ministry of Health and everyone that would have been responsible for it sat down and gave their contributions in terms of how to manage a sight such as that and what has been happening. We are continuously involving the Ministry of Environment and their experts to see what are the effects right now and what is going into the river.

Madam Speaker, mind you, the Cunningham River is not a free contaminated area. This is an area that is fairly known to have been contaminated for as long as history knows, and people there have always been discouraged to swim or fish, but when necessary, people fish along that river and have suffered from food poisoning, to the extent that people also felt a bit edgy about buying fish from Laqere because they all assume they are catching the fish in that river. So, it is so much of a sprinkling water but nevertheless, I admit that whatever has happened now is adding some level of contamination and we have that under control.

We had made a press release at the beginning, Madam Speaker, to tell the people firstly, not to fish in the water and secondly, not to swim in the water and in the immediate areas. Because this is a disaster that is being managed at site level, we also have the capacity, even though right now we are trying to manage our water in our hospitals, but if people do not get into the water and try and eat what could have been crab or fish from that water, it will definitely reduce their chances of getting sick from the food that they would have taken, both as shellfish and fish and other living creatures that are in the water.

We do have Government effort that is looking at that, and I want to assure the honourable Member that that is something that we have under control and the Ministry of Environment with their own expertise, coupled with expertise from the Fiji National University and other areas, I know you are suggesting USP, that also has the capacity and we are all working closely together to be able to monitor that. We will only realise the full capacity of the extent of this damage after we have contained this, but we are gathering the information that will lead us to get a more accurate assessment of what the extent of the damage is.

HON. N. NAWAIKULA.- A supplementary question, Madam Speaker, this is a health-related matter, and therefore, it is supplementary. Does the honourable Minister know that the water was cut off yesterday for most of the Delainavesi area, as well as the CWM Hospital, and if he does, what measures are there to ensure that this does not happen again?

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, I think that supplementary question is far-stretched from the initial question. However, for the benefit of the honourable Nawaikula, yes, I was aware. We had contingencies in place and at a point, we were considering the plight of CWM Hospital.

Water trucks were carting water to these areas. Obviously, there is a disruption of the normal water reticulation system, so we ask our people to be patient. We know we are building capacity, particularly in the Delainavesi area. I had said that within six months of next year, we will get that sorted. It has to take time, unfortunately, this has happened. It is not that we are sitting on our seats and not addressing it. We are definitely taking water to these areas for the benefit of the honourable Member.

MADAM SPEAKER.- I thank the honourable Minister for answering a question which really was not related to the original question.

HON. S.D. KARAVAKI.- Madam Speaker, a supplementary question; I thank the honourable Minister for his explanation. The measures they have already taken, especially in publishing in the dailies and advising the people what not to do in that river because of the high level of pollution, my question is; whether he sees fit to also engage people who are to supervise the usage of the river for people not to do exactly what they are advising through the dailies not to do?

This is very serious, Madam Speaker, because people will tend to take that kind of notice lightly, but the consequences will be very grave. That is why the question is asked, to be responsible for these sort of things.

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for his supplementary question. I would love to believe that we are responsible people in Fiji, educated people around the areas of Nabua, Rewa and particularly around the Laucala Bay area. I believe there is absolutely no need for someone to be rowing a boat in the middle of stench water. Obviously, people have lived along that area down to Laucala Bay for ages, Madam Speaker, and I do not think any

amount of persuasion is going to get them out of there. I think we have made enough coverage in the media, for the benefit of the honourable Member, that everyone is informed enough about the situation. I do not think there is any immediate need to supervise or send patrols along the river so that people do not fish or swim.

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES

Vatuyalewa Water Request (Question No. 32/2014)

HON. S.V. RADRODRO asked the Government, upon notice:

Would the honourable Minister explain as to what is the progress with the “Vatuyalewa Water Request” as conveyed to him via my letter dated 27th October, 2014, which also has remained unanswered?

Madam Speaker, may I also add that there has been a criss-cross of communication and I thank the honourable Minister for the response but I will still table the question, and kindly request if the honourable Minister could narrow down his response to a specific timeframe whereby the people of Vatuyalewa can expect their water to be connected?

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA (Minister for Infrastructure and Transport).- Madam Speaker, I rise to answer the question posed by the honourable Member with regards to the Vatuyalewa project and I also note her comments if I could restrict my answer to how soon they will be receiving water from this proposed project that we are doing.

Madam Speaker, to be fair on our side as well, I believe that we need to give our side of the story because we have been engaging with the honourable Member on this matter for quite a while since the time she raised the matter with us. Because the question specifically makes mention of correspondences that were made to my office, which I believe I had made replies to immediately after I had received them, deployed teams now that are working on it and it is an issue that is not new.

I believe the Vatuyalewa Community lives above the hill from the Tovata Reservoir, so the question of gravity will always apply. We are procuring pumps that will generate water from this tank. Obviously, this tank has been there forever so no one has considered in the last 50 years to give it to them either, we are the only one that is doing it now, procuring the pump and building the tanks to give them water. So it is unfortunate that it is only being raised now. As we said, we have plans to bring water to everyone. This project is funded for the supply of water in 2015, Madam Speaker, and we will procure it and done for them as early as possible. Obviously, to build a tank will take some time – within the first six months of 2015.

HON. A. RADRODRO.- Madam Speaker, a supplementary question. As a matter of public importance, can the honourable Minister assure this august Chamber that given the high volume of water disruptions, the necessary water cutting schedule on the affected areas will be disseminated on the radio, local newspapers and TV during the period of disruptions?

HON. M. VUNIWAQA.- A point of order, Madam Speaker. The supplementary question does not emanate from the original answer.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Please rephrase your question which is to be relevant to the water request.

HON. A. RADRODRO.- The relevancy, Madam Speaker, is the water disruptions.

MADAM SPEAKER.- The question should be relevant to the request that was made via a letter, so your issue does not apply here.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I seek clarification with respect to the questions that have been asked to the honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, in light of the inclusion of the urgent oral question, each Minister is restricted to two questions. This will now be the third question for the honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Transport.

Secondly, we are just seeking clarification from you, Madam Speaker, that upon the inclusion of an urgent oral question, Standing Orders 43(2) means that the last question on the list gets excluded. We are seeking clarification on that.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, we will be dealing with that. In fact, the last question will be excluded.

HON. F.S. KOYA.- The Standing Orders dictates that each Minister is permitted to be asked two questions, Madam Speaker, and in light of the inclusion of the urgent oral question, the honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Transport is now answering a third question.

HON. M. VUNIWAQA.- Madam Speaker, Standing Orders 41(4) says that a member may not give notice for more than one question for oral answer or two questions for written answer....”

MADAM SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, since the first question was an urgent oral question, that I agreed to be included and the two questions have been approved by the Business Committee to be asked today. My ruling is that, we will still ask the second oral question as per the order of the day.

Cost of Upgrading Roads - Ratu Cakobau Park to Nausori Airport.
(Question No. 33/2014)

HON. RO T.V. KEPA asked the Government, upon notice:

How much has the road between Ratu Cakobau Park and Nausori Airport cost so far and when will it be completed?

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA (Minister for Infrastructure and Transport).- Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for her question, but before I further delve into her question, could I just table some issues raised yesterday, I thought I had some answers to give to Parliament.

Yesterday, we were very well looked after at Navaka, Noco in Rewa and we had a look at the tank that was referred to by the honourable Leader. This particular tank was constructed around 2004 – 2005, since then it had no water. The need of the tank is really not so much to supply the water but just to add pressure to the water that is coming from Raralevu.

We have a capacity whereby a structure was built and there was no water. Water could not get to it because of capacity issues, but Madam Speaker, I want to assure the Parliament and the honourable Member who raised that question that there is an investment of about \$8 million for Raralevu and the

Rewa Depot. This would allow for the water to fully flow into that tank between 11 to 12 months. So that will be the end of 2015 and that is allocated in the Budget. Hopefully, by then the whole area from Wainibokasi and the areas where that tank services is, is going to get water after the commitment made in the Budget for 2015 is completed.

Madam Speaker, also in response to the honourable Salote Radrodoro's question about the boats that are going to Lau made yesterday, I just want to note here that to Yasayasa Moala, to the ports of Matuku (Lomati and Qalikarua); Moala (Naroi, Cakova and Keteira) and Totoya (Udu and Tovu), which is serviced by *M.V. Lady Sandy* is going to go on 8th December, 2014. On 12th December to Southern Lau to the ports of Kabara (Naikelayaga); Fulaga (Muana-i-Cake), Ogea, Vatoa and Ono-i-Lau, this will be done by *Leahona*. On 19th December, to Southern Lau to the ports of Vanuavatu, Lakeba, Oneata, Komo and Namuka, which will be serviced by *Lady Sandy*. So, those are the places that the boats will be going to. I also have details of when the boats are coming back, in time for children to get to school and to work, but I am not going to cover that now. I will provide them for the benefit of the honourable Member.

Also by the same token, we have the Government Shipping Services vessel, *Sigavou* which is currently on standby for the officers of the Commissioner Eastern to Southern Lau covering Ono-i-Lau, Vatoa, Ogea, Komo and Moce and also going to Northern Lau – Avea, Boitaci and Dravuvalu respectively. Madam Speaker, those are some of the issues raised by the honourable Member, in terms of boats schedule for Lau.

Madam Speaker, on the matter of a substantive question by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, with regards to the road between Ratu Cakobau Park and Nausori Airport, as you know part of Government's commitment is to try and get the best roads, particularly the entry points to our country. This particular road is so special because it deals with Nausori Airport and it is in Nausori Town. There is a famous line, Madam Speaker, of a very famous group in Toganaqavoka which says, "Nausori is a town in Tailevu but it belongs to Rewa", which means that we will try all our best to try and service this road and give it the best look for people when they get in from the airport.

At the moment, in terms of the cost of the project, the contract payments to-date is \$5,295,450.46 of which utilities allocation is \$17,003, engineering fees \$909,000, land purchase \$245,000 and FRA personnel in terms of cost is \$23,000. The cost of the project to-date is \$6,747,243 and this project is due for completion on 2nd November, 2015.

HON. RO T.V. KEPA.- A supplementary question. Firstly, I would like to thank the honourable Minister for Infrastructure for treating that matter urgently, and going down to visit the people of Navaka in terms of the water that they have been asking for. Also, on behalf of the people of Wainibokasi, Nacevuku, Tokatoka, Nakelo, Noco, Dreketi and Burebasaga, who this time next year will be enjoying that water, we thank the honourable Minister for making that promise.

On to my supplementary question on the road, because before the General Elections, we were told that it was going to be a four-lane highway, and now we see that it is a two-lane highway with very wide footpaths which we are very grateful for, because sometimes at night it is very risky walking along that road, especially when they have late-night lights into and out of Nausori Airport. Madam Speaker, is there any place along the road from Ratu Cakobau Park to Nausori Airport where they will have this four-lane highway?

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Leader of the Opposition for her supplementary question. The four-lane highway is not going to be on the same side as the two-lane that we are improving at the moment. The plan is to build the four-lane highway

along Vuci Road, and there is a road that leads that to the back of the airport today. Our long term plan is to move the whole of the Terminal Building to this side of the Airport, through Nadali. That is how the four-lane is going to get in there, because that is going to come in time. We want to make that look beautiful, so we are sticking to the two-lanes in that area with footpaths, as it were, as you would see, Madam Speaker.

HON. RO. T.V. KEPA.- A supplementary question again, Madam Speaker. So that four-lane highway is going to be on Tailevu side and not on the Rewa side.

(Laughter)

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Member for that question. In fact, that four-lane highway is constructed in Tailevu, but it belongs to Rewa.

(Laughter)

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- A supplementary question

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- *Sa tolu na taro!*

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- The construction of this four-lane road to the airport, this is the same as in Nadi.

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- It is not the same, it is similar!

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- It is similar, but what I am trying to ask, Madam Speaker is, what is the purpose of constructing a four-lane road from the Nausori to Nausori Airport because after that, it is a bottle-neck again. Who are we to impress? I think we should look at the whole roading network, not just for short distances.

HON. LT. COL. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, this is yet another supplementary question, I believe that does not relate to Ratu Cakobau Park and Nausori Airport, but for the benefit of my honourable Member from Tailevu North, I will answer that question.

Madam Speaker, the four-lane highway is from Suva to Nausori Airport, not only from Nausori Airport to the bridge. The contracts are already there, awarding four-lanes all the way to Suva, Madam Speaker, and the benefits of that I do not have to tell this august House. I think that is apart from giving works to architects and land surveyors, which I am sure the honourable Member may be benefitting from in due course. It is of great significance to the nation, so I thank the honourable Member for his question.

MADAM SPEAKER.- That is the last of the supplementary question. Honourable Members, we will now take an early break for refreshments.

The Parliament adjourned at 10.35 a.m.

The Parliament resumed at 11.15 a.m.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Thank you very much, honourable Members. We will continue with the order of the day, and the next item on the Agenda is the question from the honourable Prem Singh.

Bills to be Introduced to Parliament
(Question No. 34/2014)

HON. P. SINGH asked the Government, upon notice:

Can the honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice inform this House, when will the government introduce Bills in Parliament with a view to enacting the following legislations pertaining to accountability as per Chapter 8 of the 2013 Constitution:

- (i) Code of Conduct as per section 149(a) of the Constitution;
- (ii) Accountability and Transparency Commission as per section 149(b) of the Constitution; and
- (iii) Freedom of Information as per section 150 of the Constitution.

HON. A. SAYED-KHAIYUM (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice).- Madam Speaker, I thank the honourable Prem Singh for this question, because no doubt these important institutions that will be set up and laws have a direct impact on our level of creating transparency within public office holders, and indeed access of information to members of the public.

The long and short of the answer is, it will be introduced in the new year. However, Madam Speaker, let me elaborate somewhat. We, at the moment are working with the United Nations. We had reached out to the United Nations, its Head of the United Nations in the Pacific (Ms. Osnat Lubrani) earlier on in respect of (we only have a draft) ensuring that the Draft Law when presented to Parliament contains a lot of best international practice. Regarding, for example, the Accountability and Transparency Commission, that Commission is actually created under the Constitution itself, but there are various rules and procedures that need to be, of course drafted. They may not necessarily come by way of a law per say, but in terms of international regulations that may come under it. But, there is no doubt as you know, that the Code of Conduct was in fact required for public office holders. Even under the former (1997) Constitution, no Parliament had seen it fit to bring in place a Code of Conduct legislation regarding that. We will be doing that in the new year.

Madam Speaker, also for the honourable Member's information, you will note from the Budget, (unfortunately he was not here when we were debating it, and I know he did leave somewhat reluctantly) that the Accountability and Transparency Commission has been allocated approximately \$635,000, and Freedom of Information approximately \$100,000 to ensure that the functions of these Offices carry on when the law is actually put in place.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Points of Order

MADAM SPEAKER.- Over the last few sitting days, numerous points of order have been raised. So I take this opportunity to remind honourable Members that points of order should only be used to

seek clarification from the Chair on the interpretation of a Standing Order, or bring to the Chair's attention when a Standing Order is not being followed. Honourable Members should not use points of order to raise matters that should be debated during questions or debates.

With regards to the point of order raised by the honourable Ratu Tikoca, I advise the Parliament that honourable Members not present during a current sitting period have advised me of their absence, as required by Standing Order 141.

I thank you all for your presence today and this sitting is now adjourned until 9.30 tomorrow morning.

The Parliament adjourned at 11.23 a.m.