

07.05.2019

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/279

The Honourable Second Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (**Mrs Selvon**)

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 Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to if consideration will be given for the advisability of increasing the number of channels thereof broadcasting in the kreole language?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

Section 4(a)(i) of the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation Act stipulates that the Corporation shall provide independent and impartial broadcasting services of information, education, culture and entertainment in Creole, Bhojpuri, French, English, Hindustani and such other languages spoken or taught in Mauritius as the Board may, with the approval of the Minister, determine.

I am informed by the Officer-in-Charge of the MBC that, in line with its mandate, the Corporation ensures that its broadcasting programmes cater for the aspirations, needs and taste of its audience.

In so far as television channels are concerned, the *Senn Kreole* on MBC Channel 17 is solely dedicated, (that is on a 24 hour 7 day basis), to

provide viewers with a variety of programmes in terms of entertainment and promotion of the Creole culture and language.

A daily Creole News Bulletin is broadcast on MBC 2 at 1900 hrs and simultaneously on *Senn Kreole*.

Moreover, with a view to reaching a broader audience, an appreciable percentage of air time is also allocated to a mix of Creole and other languages on the following TV channels, namely –

(i)	MBC 1	48 %
(ii)	MBC 2	39 %
(iii)	MBC 3	72 %
(iv)	Youth and Sports Channel	50 %

Madam Speaker,

In regard to radio channels, I am informed by the Officer-in-Charge of the Corporation that 50% of air time on *Radio Maurice* and 65% of air time on *Kool FM* are dedicated to Creole language.

Madam Speaker,

Since many of the channels are already broadcasting in the Creole language, it is not advisable, at this stage, to increase the number of channels on radio and television for broadcasting in Creole language. However, the MBC is currently working on the revamping and rebranding of its TV Channels including *Senn Kreole* with a view to providing innovative contents and an appropriate platform for Mauritian artists and those from the islands in the region to showcase their talents.