

17.09.2019

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/818

The Honourable First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière (**Mr Bhagwan**)

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 Fact-Finding Committee set up in respect of the former Director of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care, Ms V. S., he will state if consideration will now be given for the tabling of copy of the Report thereof and, if not, why not?

REPLY

Madam Speaker,

As I stated in my reply to Parliamentary Question B/803 at the sitting of 16 October 2018, the Report of the Fact Finding Committee has been referred to the Independent Commission Against Corruption for further investigation as recommended by the Chairperson of the Committee himself.

I am informed that the inquiry at the ICAC is ongoing. As the Report of the Fact Finding Committee is in the hands of the ICAC, I am advised that, by virtue of section 81 of the Prevention of the Corruption Act, any inquiry carried out by the ICAC is subject to confidentiality provisions.

Madam Speaker,

Pursuant to section 81 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, officers and Board Members of ICAC have a duty of confidentiality in relation to

investigations carried out by ICAC. In fact, section 81(3) of the POCA provides that:

“81(3) Every member of the Board and every officer shall maintain confidentiality and secrecy of any matter, document, report and other information relating to the administration of this Act that becomes known to him, or comes in his possession or under his control.”

As a matter of fact, the rationale behind section 81 of the POCA is the protection of the integrity of ICAC investigations. The confidentiality aims at protecting the source of information or identity of informers so as to prevent any tampering with witnesses or with evidence so as to ensure the integrity of any investigation which the ICAC is carrying out.