

SECONDARY

REFORMS

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS GRADE 10 STUDENTS - PROMOTION - CRITERIA (13.07.2021)

(No. B/646) **Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the private and state secondary schools, she will state the criteria established for the promotion of students to Grade 10 thereat.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, the criteria for the obtention of a National Certificate of Education are as follows –

- 1) Numerical grade 6 in six core subjects including English, French and Mathematics in at least intermediate level in two non-core subjects, or
- 2) Numerical grade 6 in seven core subjects including English, French and Mathematics in at least intermediate level in one non-core subject, or
- 3) Numerical grade 6 in eight core subjects including English, French and Mathematics.

Schools have been informed of same by way of a Circular in 2020.

Mr Speaker, Sir, however, the criteria applied for the promotion to Grade 10 for students who sat for the NCE assessment this year is at least numerical grade 6 in six subjects, including English.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also wish to inform the House, that exceptionally for this year, students who were in quarantine or treatment centres and were unable to take the NCE assessment in 2020-2021 have been promoted to Grade 10.

Dr. Gungapersad: Hon. Minister, how many students who have been promoted to Grade 10 after this change in the criteria of promotion whereby the students without that numerical grade 6 in French or Mathematics have been able to be promoted in Grade 10?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not have this figure but all students having obtained a numerical grade 6 in French and Mathematics have been able to move on to Grade 10.

Dr. Gungapersad: Hon. Minister, I have a case here of a student of Petit Raffray, who goes to an SSS in Goodlands, who is from the extended stream, who has been successful in the NCE. She has been seeking a seat in Grade 10 and she has been refused same by the PSEA and by the Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology, and she cannot be promoted to Grade 10 in the school where she is admitted currently as an extended stream student. Will you look into the matter because this child has made a lot effort in order to succeed her exam?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what are the results of this student because when we set a criteria, the criteria applies to all students.

Dr. Gungapersad: The child fully respects the criteria laid on.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Dr. Gungapersad!

An hon. Member: *Don detail la!*

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: You have another supplementary?

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REFORMS

ACADEMIES – INFRASTRUCTURAL EQUIPMENT

(30.03.2021)

(No. B/94) **Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the Academies at the secondary school level, she will state if those which were formerly single gender schools, are now infrastructurally equipped and ready to run as mixed schools.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, out of the 12 academies, one namely MGI Moka is already a co-educational school with all necessary facilities. Actions have already been initiated by my Ministry to complete all infrastructural works related to the conversion of the 11 single gender schools into co-education institutions before the resumption of the next academic year in 2021. The main infrastructural works involved the provision of separate toilets facilities, additional sick rooms and changing rooms.

Dr. Gungapersad: Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister confirm that all the academies at the resumption of studies next school calendar, students will be able to take subjects like Food & Nutrition and Design & Technology?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, we all agree that the new set up with coeducational schools is such that we would allow all students to take all the subjects offered. We know that because of COVID-19 some of the works have been delayed, but we expect that all specialist rooms will be ready by the end of the first term and this would give time for the students to start the subjects, start the theory before going on to practical.

Dr. Gungapersad: I will request the hon. Vice-Prime Minister to cross- check the information because, according to me, in some schools, specialist rooms are not ready and students have been advised not to take that particular subject or subjects.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: This is not possible, Mr Speaker, Sir, because the exams are on right now, students’ results will come afterwards and then only students will be identified to

move on to their academies. Now, the second thing because the hon. Member is asking me to ascertain, let me say that out of the 11 academies, in 8 of them, all the infrastructural works have already been done. I am talking about 11 because MGI is already ready. I am talking about 8 academies where the works have been completed and I know that for two academies, work is in progress and we are expecting that all specialist rooms would be ready by the end of the first term.

Dr. Gungapersad: Hon. Vice-Prime Minister, there must...

Mr Speaker: Last question!

Dr. Gungapersad: It is a case of clear discrimination then, if for academies, everything has been done. I am referring to a letter....

Mr Speaker: Put your question!

Dr. Gungapersad: I am referring, “kindly note that for combination of subjects for Grade X for the academic year 2021-2022, approval has not been given to any regional girl school to offer Design & Technology or Design & Communication or to any regional boy school to offer Food & Nutrition.

Mr Speaker: Question!

Dr. Gungapersad: My question is, isn't it a clear case of discrimination against the students of these regional schools, as compared to the academies?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, this is not correct because we do not even know who are the students. Students are not asked to determine right now what are the subjects that they are going to take. We have asked all students to sit for the exams, we will select the best students, and then, once they are admitted to their college, they will opt for their subjects. Right now, no student has been asked to decide upon the subjects to be taken once they are admitted in the academy. So, this information is not correct.

Mr Speaker: Next question!

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REFORMS

YEAR 2021

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS SECONDARY SCHOOL - ACADEMIES (23.03.2021)

(No. B/17) Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the Academies at the secondary school, she will state -

- (a) if those which were formerly single gender schools are now infrastructurally equipped and ready to run as mixed schools, and
- (b) the nature of work that has been carried out to accommodate students of both genders.

(Withdrawn)