

CAMBRIDGE SC EXAMINATIONS – SECOND ATTEMPT – EXAMS COST

(No. B/353) Mr N. Bodha (Second Member for Vacoas & Floréal) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the Cambridge School Certificate Examinations, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate, information as to the number of students taking part for a second time in the examination to be held this year, indicating the cost to be incurred by the parents therefor.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate that there are as of date 3,156 entries that have been received in respect of students taking part in the Cambridge School Certificate examinations for the second time. This exercise started on 6 May and will last until 17 May 2024.

As regards the second part of the question, I am further informed that the fees payable for the year 2024 will be as follows –

(i) For six subjects: Rs15,699;

(ii) For seven subjects: Rs18,236, and

(iii) For eight subjects: Rs20,773.

Mr Bodha: I thank the hon. Minister for the answer. In view of the fact that a majority of students did not get four credits and they are sitting a second time; about the cost of this second exercise, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government can consider some sort of subsidy to the parents who are going to bear the brunt of it because the least is Rs16,000 and at most, it is Rs20,000 and it is a total burden on most of the parents?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, for parents who are on the SRM register, the Ministry of Social Security pays the fees for a second attempt and in fact, for the past four years, we have noted that there are around Rs8 million which have been provided by Social Security to parents having their children sitting for a second time.

Mr Bodha: May I ask the hon. Minister, how many of the students fall under this category?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I do not have the figure but it should be around... for the past four years, it would appear to be around 1,000.