

EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS – FIRE CERTIFICATE HOLDERS

(No. B/337) 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 286 educational buildings, she will give a list of the number thereof holding a valid fire certificate as at date.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that 12 educational buildings have obtained their fire certificates and a total of 103 educational institutions have already submitted their applications for a fire certificate while the remaining institutions are preparing themselves to submit the applications.

Dr. Gungapersad: Hon. Minister, we have 286 educational buildings. As far back in 2017, the Mauritius Fire and Rescue Services had informed your Ministry to do the needful. So far, only 12 out of 286! How soon will our educational buildings be equipped with and be compliant with fire prevention and fire safety requirements?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I have just mentioned, it is a process which is ongoing and right now, 77 institutions have already undergone fire drills and we are expecting that by the end of August 2024, all the institutions would have gone through fire drills. Furthermore, we have already ensured that all the schools have safety signages and fire extinguishers, and we have Occupational and Health Safety Officers posted at the Ministry who go and do the follow-up with these institutions concerned.

Dr. Gungapersad: Hon. Minister, so this means that many of our institutions – we are talking about educational buildings, staff and students which are not following section 75 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2005 so far.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I have just learned that a number of institutions have just got their fire certificates amongst which RTI, the institution where the hon. Member was himself the Rector, has just got the fire certificate two weeks back.