

BOIS CHERI PRIMARY SCHOOL – PRE-PRIMARY WING (03/06/03)

(No. B/403) Mr V. Baloomoody (Third Member for Rivière des Anguilles and Souillac) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will state when the primary school of Bois Chéri will have its pre-primary wing.

Reply: Sir, I wish to thank the hon. Member for this question which affords me an opportunity to spell out the current policy of my Ministry with regard to Pre-school Education in Mauritius.

At present, pre-school education is provided by the private sector, some local authorities and the PSTF, a statutory body operating under the aegis of my Ministry and which operates 174 pre-primary units within Government primary schools.

My Ministry will, in the near future, release its policy proposals for reforms in the pre-primary sector. As a prelude to these reforms proposals, I wish to state that the policy is not to nationalize pre-school education, but on the contrary to encourage private sector initiative as long as there is proper access of all children aged between 3-5 to a suitable pre-school. However, Government will contribute towards the process of opening access to pre-schools education on a strict needs basis, particularly in respect of disadvantaged children in regions of greatest social need.

As regards the village of Bois-Chéri, I am informed that there are already three private pre-primary schools with an enrolment of 82 pupils for the current year as well as one pre-school run by the Grand Port Savanne District Council with an enrolment of 20 pupils.

It is, therefore, felt that the opening of a pre-primary within the Bois Chéri Primary Government School is not justified at this stage. However, if the hon. Member strongly feels that there is a case, I will invite him to submit proposals to me for consideration.