

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS – ADMISSION (15/07/08)

(No. B/879) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne and Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the pre-primary schools, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Pre-School Trust Fund, information as to –

- (a) the present number of children who
 - (i) attended thereto in 2007
 - (ii) are attending in 2008 and
- (b) the expected number thereof for the January 2009 intake.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that the number of children attending pre-primary schools in Mauritius for the year –
(i) 2007 was 36,016 of which 29,788 attended private pre-primary schools and 6,138 attended PSTF-run pre-primary schools, and
(ii) 2008 was 33,301 of which 31,406 attended private pre-primary schools and 6,225 attended PSTF-run pre-primary schools.

The expected number for January 2009 is 36,786.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask from the hon. Minister where will the extra students be attending school?

Mr Gokhool: There is another question of the hon. Member on preprimary schools. I will reply to it at the same time.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: My question relates to the number that the hon. Minister has just mentioned, namely that for next year, he is expecting some 36,786 to be attending pre-primary institutions. Following the budgetary decision to provide assistance to people so that they may attend pre-primary schooling, may I ask from the hon. Minister where he expects to send these students?

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, for the purpose of accommodating the additional 5,000 students, there are already 1,718 seats which are available in the 181 pre-primary units attached to the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority. As regards the provision for the remaining ones, around 3,500 seats have been identified in private pre-primary schools.