

CHAMAREL - PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL – CONSTRUCTION (15/11/11)

(No. B/891) Mrs J. Radegonde (Fourth Member for Savanne & Black River) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the proposed construction of a pre-primary school in Chamarel, he will state where matters stand.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker, Sir, a first tender exercise for the construction of a new preprimary unit at Chamarel was launched in January 2011. Bids were invited by the Ministry on 10 January 2011 on an Open Advertised Bidding mode, via newspapers and websites of the Ministry. 18 bidders purchased the bidding documents. The closing date was 22 February 2011.

11 Bids were submitted and necessary evaluation was carried out.

I am told that it was a long and laborious exercise, which lasted some eight months. The Solicitor General had to be consulted over legal issues, which arose during the evaluation process. At the close of this process, none of the bidders was found compliant. As a result, the exercise had to be cancelled on 21 October 2011.

The Ministry is presently putting up new bidding documents in view of a new bidding, which would be launched anew by the end of this month and hopefully the contract may be awarded by March next year. Works will be of a contractual duration of 9 months and should everything proceed smoothly, the pre-primary Unit is expected to be operational for school resumption in January 2013. I must seize this opportunity, Mr Speaker, Sir, to reassure the House that the delay has in no way hampered the smooth running of the pre-primary classes in Chamarel.