

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS – REGISTRATION & FEES (15/07/08)

(No. B/880) 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 number thereof presently registered and
- (b) the minimum and maximum monthly fees payable in respect of each child.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that as at July 2008, there are about -

- (i) 839 registered private pre-primary schools and 181 PSTF-run schools in the island of Mauritius;
 - (ii) 29 registered private pre-primary schools and three (3) PSTFrun schools in Rodrigues; and
 - (iii) two (2) PSTF-run schools in Agalega,
- totaling 1,054 pre-primary schools in the Republic of Mauritius. The monthly fees payable in respect of each child ranges from a minimum of Rs200 to a maximum of Rs5,400 as agreed between the parents and the respective managers of private pre-primary schools.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: From the answer given by the hon. Minister, it would seem that negotiations have already been made by the Ministry of Education and private pre-primary schools for some 3,500 additional seats in January next year. May I ask from the hon. Minister which schools have been earmarked for such admissions?

Mr Gokhool: It is premature because the committee for the implementation of elimination of absolute poverty is looking into the modalities for the admission of these children.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask from the hon. Minister then whether the schools which are operating this year are doing so under capacity?

Mr Gokhool: I have indicated that the seats are available which means that they are operating under capacity and they should be in a position.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask from the hon. Minister whether there will be any criteria as to the fees payable to these institutions?

Mr Gokhool: As I said, the committee for the EAP scheme will have to work out the different modalities in terms of fees, transport and other services that have to be provided. They will have to agree with the private providers on the modalities.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask from the hon. Minister the sum earmarked for this particular project as far as pre-primary schooling is concerned?

Mr Gokhool: I think the sum has been earmarked in the Budget from the EAP scheme, that 5,000 children will be looked into.

Mr Spéville: Can I ask the hon. Minister out of the registered schools in Rodrigues how many are State-owned and how many are private?

Mr Gokhool: I just gave the answer. There are 29 registered privatepre-primary schools and three (3) PSTF-run schools in Rodrigues.