

WOMEN PRISONERS – MINORS – PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS (04/07/06)

(No. B/879) Mr S. Lauthan (Third Member for Port Louis Maritime & Port Louis East) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to minors aged between three and five years old living with their mothers in prisons, he will state if they will continue to benefit from the facilities put at their disposal jointly by the prisons authorities, the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, the Lions Club of Curepipe and the *Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Pré-primaire* (local branch) to allow these children to attend pre-primary schools.

The Prime Minister: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Acting Commissioner of Prisons that arrangements already exist with the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill for children aged between three and five years living with their mothers in the Women Prison at Beau Bassin, to attend the Municipal Pre-Primary Schools.

There are at present two children aged three and four years who were living with their mothers in the prison. The first one is attending the Municipal Pre-Primary School at Mont Roches. The other one came to stay with his mother on 02 June 2006, following the death of his father. The Prisons Authorities have made arrangements with the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill and the child will be admitted in a Municipal Pre-Primary School shortly.

The Acting Commissioner of Prisons and the Municipal Council of Beau Bassin-Rose Hill have confirmed that there will be no change in the existing arrangements for admission of these children to the Municipal Pre-Primary Schools.

I am further informed by the Lions Club of Curepipe, a service club, and the *Organisation Mondiale pour L'Education Pré-primaire* (OMEP), an NGO, that they are no longer involved in the project since the last two years.