

**COLLEGE TECHNIQUE ST GABRIEL, STE CROIX - STUDENTS -
FREE TRANSPORT (18/07/06)**

(No. B/1060) Mrs B. Juggoo (First Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he will state if he has received any request from the *Collège Technique St Gabriel* of Ste Croix for the issue of passes for free transport to its students and, if so, will he state where matters stand.

Reply: The answer is yes. In my previous replies to various PQs related to the issue, I have already provided information with respect to the criteria according to which education institutions benefit from Free Public Transport. The existing criteria do not apply to institutions like College Technique St. Gabriel.

I am informed that College Technique St. Gabriel of St. Croix has, in a letter dated 18 November 2005, requested for the issue of bus pass to students enrolled with that institution.

The request was transmitted to the National Transport Authority, which is still having working sessions with stakeholders. Besides, a Consultant from International Development Partners Ltd. has been appointed to review the whole Free Transport Scheme and make recommendations.

The Terms of Reference of the Consultancy will also look into the eligibility of other educational institutions such as MQA registered ones, to benefit from the Free Transport Scheme or otherwise the report of the Consultant is expected by the end of August 2006.

I would also wish to refer the hon. Member to my replies to PQs B/312 and B/536 of 12 April and 16 May 2006 respectively and also to the Press Communiqué issued by the National Transport Authority on 19 October 2005 which has already been tabled.