

396/09

39

EDUCATIONAL TOURS – STUDENTS - FREE TRANSPORT

(No. B/706) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the students, he will state if he will consider the advisability of allowing them to travel freely on presentation of a special letter issued by the management of the institution when proceeding on educational tours approved by their respective institution.

Reply: Free transport for students at all levels of schooling has been implemented as part of this Government's Programme since September 2005. Provision of free transport to students accordingly aims at alleviating the financial burden of numerous families, thus encouraging them to send their wards to schools.

As regards educational outings organised by schools, the institutions concerned negotiate at their own level with the bus providers for a concessionary rate.

The House may wish to note that generally, schools have an existing mechanism that takes on board the needy students not only for such outings but also for the provision of textbooks. Whenever, there is a problem of means, schools make special arrangements to provide financial support and relief to students.