

**FREE TRANSPORT SCHEME - STUDENTS - FAKE PASSES (18/04/06)**

**(No. B/344) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the free bus transport scheme for students, he is aware that -

- (a) non-students are using fake student's passes to benefit from the scheme;
- (b) students are using multiple bus passes to travel from their home to different destinations, and
- (c) bus owners refuse to collect students before 9.00 a.m. and after 3.00 p.m. and, if so, what remedial measures he proposes to take.

**Reply:** With regard to parts (a) and (b), I am informed by the National Transport Authority that it has not received any complaint from bus operators or any other concerned party to the effect that non-students are using fake bus passes or are using multiple passes to travel between their home and different destinations.

As regards part (c), it is a fact that complaints have been received from educational institutions as well as students that buses of mainly individual bus operators fail to pick up students both in the morning and in the afternoon.

The NTA inquires into all the complaints and the cases are referred to the Authority for disciplinary action. Pending disciplinary action, the NTA effects a deduction of Rs5,500 which is equivalent to 5 days' allowance payment. So far, deductions have been made in 15 cases.