

## **SECONDARY**

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

### **SSS - FOOD & TEXTILE STUDIES & DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – SPECIALIST ROOMS**

**(25.05.2021)**

**(No. B/480) Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the proposed construction and upgrading of 58 specialist rooms in the State Secondary Schools for the teaching of Food and Textile Studies and Design and Technology, respectively, she will state where matters stand, indicating -

- (a) if same have been completed;
- (b) the project costs thereof, and
- (c) the names of the contractors therefor.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, in line with the NYCBE Reform, new subjects have been introduced for greater relevance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century realities. Thus, the introduction of Food and Textiles Studies in boys’ schools and Design and Technology subject in girls’ schools is meant to embrace a gender neutral approach providing equal chances to both genders.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to highlight that the Food and Textile Studies and Design and Tech subjects are already being taught in all regional schools since 2017 and these subjects have been taken by the first cohort participating in the NCE Examinations. Concurrently, action has been taken to enhance facilities either by converting and upgrading existing space or by construction of new infrastructure.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to part (a) of the question, conversion works in 21 specialist rooms have been completed. Works in 6 schools are expected to be completed shortly. Tender documents for 16 schools are in the process of being launched. For the remaining 15 schools, tender documents are being finalised and are expected to be launched by next month.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in regard to parts (b) and (c) of the question, for the respective project costs and the names of contractors, I am tabling the following documents –

- (i) the list of schools in which conversion works have been completed, and (ii) the list of schools in which works are in progress.

I am also tabling the list of schools in respect of which the tenders are either in the process of being launched or are being finalised.

**Dr. Gungapersad:** Mr Speaker, Sir,, it is in the Budget Speech 2019-2020, under the heading ‘Conducive Learning Environment’, Item 241, that provisions for funds were made for these 58 specialist rooms. Now that, as you are saying, some of them will not be ready, will you inform the House whether Design and Tech is being offered in girls’ regional schools and Food and Nut is being offered in boys’ regional schools in Grade 10 in June 2021?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, after the results are out and considering the requests and demands from students in each of these schools, the Ministry will take necessary steps.

**Dr. Gungapersad:** It is good that we are catering for these subjects for Grade 10 in regional schools. Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister inform the House if provisions and arrangements for specialist rooms have been made for boys and girls in Private Secondary Schools to facilitate the teaching and learning of Food and Textiles, Design and Tech in Grade 10 in June 2021?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact, all schools have been requested to do same. And I have been informed that even in Private Secondary Schools, certain specialist rooms are being set up.

**Dr. Gungapersad:** Will the hon. Vice-Prime Minister confirm whether specialist rooms in academies will be functional for the resumption of studies in June 2021?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Mr Speaker, Sir, in reply to a PQ set by the hon. Member himself, a few weeks back, I informed that the specialist rooms are ready and would be functional by the end of the first term in most of the academies.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question!

# SECONDARY

## INFRASTRUCTURE

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*YEAR 2021*

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### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### **STATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS - MULTI-PURPOSE HALLS**

**(06.04.2021)**

**(No. B/165) Dr. M. Gungapersad (Second Member for Grand’Baie & Poudre d’Or)** asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the construction of multi-purpose halls in the six State Secondary Schools, scheduled to start during financial year 2016-2017, she will state the –

- (a) initial cost thereof, and
- (b) reasons for the non-completion thereof as at to date.

**The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact the provision made in the 2016-2017 Budget was meant for the planning and preparation fees for gymnasium projects in six State Secondary Schools. As such, actual construction works were expected to start in the financial year 2017-2018.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in fact bids for two projects, namely Goodlands SSS and Floreal SSS, were launched in January 2017. However, no responsive bids were received. Two additional bidding documents for Sodnac SSS and Ebène SSS were submitted to the CPB in 2018 for launching. However, since no responsive bids were received during discussions held between CPB, representatives of the Ministry of National Infrastructure and Community Development and my Ministry, the CPB advised to proceed with a traditional mode of procurement.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the second reason for the delay in the implementation of the multipurpose hall projects was that the Ministry of National Infrastructure emphasised the need for geotechnical investigations to be carried out and these investigations were not factored in the initial timeframe.

This involved further delay for procurement procedures with respect to the geotechnical investigations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, another reason for the delay is the expansion of the scope of works. Initially, the project consisted of only the provision of a gymnasium. However, as the decision was taken by the Ministry to proceed with a traditional procurement at the level of MNI, this provided us with the opportunity to include other facilities which would provide long-term benefits to the school users and community in the vicinity. New features such as outdoor playgrounds, football grounds, volleyball pitches, bus lay-bys, parking bays and new access facilities were added to the Project. As at date, the bidding documents have been finalised for two projects, namely Goodlands SSS and Ebène SSS, and will be launched shortly. The remaining four Projects are at the design stage at the MNI and it is expected that the latter will require at least eight months to finalise all designs and bidding documents for the same to be launched.

**Mr Speaker:** Next question!

**Dr. Gungapersad:** May I know from the hon. Vice-Prime Minister, what is the amount representing liquidated damages for delays that have been imposed on the contractors causing unnecessary delays?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I am sorry, Mr Speaker, Sir, the awards were not done yet, so, no liquidated damages!

**Mr Speaker:** Next Parliamentary Question!