

SECONDARY

P.S.S.A

YEAR 2021

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS - EDUCATORS (11.05.2021)

(No. B/326) 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 educators in the private secondary schools, she will state if changes to the registration thereof have recently been introduced and, if so, give details thereof.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, the Private Secondary Education Authority (PSEA) has been entrusted with the registration of Teachers under Section 4(g) of the PSEA Act 2016.

Consequently, the PSEA carries out the registration of potential teachers and issues the Eligibility to Teach Certificates, commonly known as the Teacher's Licence, to those who fulfil the qualification requirements for teaching, and who desire to take up employment as teacher in Private Secondary Schools.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with a view to ensuring parity between the State and Private Secondary Schools, the Board of the PSEA approved, in 2017, that –

- (i) an Eligibility Certificate to Teach would be issued to applicants who hold a degree or a joint degree in the subject to be taught in the Private Secondary School, except for some specific subjects for which a degree or joint degree with the same appellation does not exist, and
- (ii) no Eligibility Certificate will be issued to those who hold a degree/ joint degree or a Diploma in a subject which is not taught in the Private Secondary Schools.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in September 2020, a Technical Committee was set up at the level of my Ministry comprising, *inter alia*, representatives of the PSEA, the Mauritius Institute of Education (MIE) and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI) to look into issues relating to the eligibility criteria and make recommendations with a view to harmonising the requirements for the recruitment of Educators in State Secondary Schools, the MIG and Private Secondary Schools.

Pending the finalisation of the report of the Technical Committee, Eligibility Certificates to teach have been issued to prospective Educators as per the Board decision taken in year 2017.

Dr. Gungapersad: Thank you, hon. Minister. You must have realised why I came forward with this precise Parliamentary question. You must be aware that there are several degree holders...

Mr Speaker: No, just put the question!

Dr. Gungapersad: It is coming, Sir.

Mr Speaker: Put the question!

Dr. Gungapersad: Yes. There are several degree holders who formerly could teach in Private Secondary Schools, but now, are not eligible. What is the way forward, hon. Minister, for these young graduates, who are graduates from University of Mauritius?

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House that teachers who are already teaching in secondary schools will be allowed to carry on with their teaching. However, there are certain teachers who were not teaching, who were there in cases where, we say, there is a scarcity area, who have left the school after some time, and then, they are trying to get re-recruited in other schools. So, we are dealing with these situations and, as I have said earlier, those who were already in the teaching profession will be allowed to continue.

Dr. Gungapersad: Thank you, hon. Minister. We will submit to you a list, a long list of degree holders who are now barred from having that eligibility to teach at the end of the session.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, that there are many cases where the teachers are not being re-recruited not

because of their qualifications, but because there is an over entitlement in the colleges where they are. So, we cannot mix up the issues.