

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SCHOOLS - CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES - SEXUAL ABUSE

(05.07.2022)

(No. B/754) 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 sexual abuse of children with disabilities in Special Education Needs schools, she will state the number of complaints thereof received since January 2015 to date, indicating the number of cases referred to the Police for inquiry. *(Withdrawn)*

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION AUTHORITY - BOARD - COMPOSITION

(05.07.2022)

(No. B/753) Mr P. Armance (Third Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the Special Needs Education Authority, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the –

- (a) composition of the Board thereof, indicating the quantum of fees paid to each member thereof, and
- (b) criteria used for the selection of the officer in charge thereof, indicating the salary drawn.

(Withdrawn)

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS SCHOOL – PHYSICALLY DISABLED MINORS – SEXUAL ABUSE

(05.07.2022)

(No. B/741) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (Fourth Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology whether, in regard to the alleged cases of sexual abuse on physically disabled minors in a Special Education Needs School at Beau-Bassin, she will state if her Ministry has conducted an inquiry thereinto and, if so, indicate the outcome thereof.

(Withdrawn)

PRIMARY & SECONDARY
SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN)

YEAR 2022

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION – DECENTRALISATION SERVICE –
MEASURES
(05.07.2022)

(No. B/733) Mr R. Doolub (Third Member for Mahebourg & Plaine Magnien) asked the Minister of Health and Wellness whether, in regard to oral health, he will state the measures taken by his Ministry for the promotion thereof, indicating the measures taken, if any, for the decentralisation of the service therefor.

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Speaker, Sir, oral health is a key indicator of overall health, well-being and quality of life. A bad oral health encompasses a range of diseases and conditions that include dental caries, periodontal disease, tooth loss, oral cancer, orodental trauma, and birth defects such as cleft lip and cleft palate. Oral lesions for certain general illness like autoimmune illness, autoimmune deficiencies and infections are frequent and help to diagnose those general illnesses.

My Ministry is committed to the improvement of oral health, primarily in children through the prevention of oral diseases. In this connection, the Prime Minister has launched a five-year National Action Plan for Oral Health (2022-2027) on 01 June 2022, with the objective of reducing the incidence and prevalence of oral diseases. The action plan is guided by the recommendations made by the World Health Organisation and aims to transform the oral health services from a disease-based curative model towards a preventive model. Moreover, the formulation and implementation of this action plan and a robust surveillance system for oral diseases will reinforce towards achieving a universal health coverage.

Mr Speaker, Sir, in the context of the Oral Health Month held in June 2022, my Ministry has organised a promotion campaign and it has conducted the following activities –

- (i) Distribution of 76,000 oral health kits to all primary schools students, including SEN schools, that is, the Special Education Needs schools and ZEP schools, *Zone d'Éducation Prioritaire* schools in Mauritius, which has already started and will last for the next 6 months, and distribution also in Rodrigues will be soon organised;
- (ii) oral health talks are being organised in schools by a Dental Surgeon and a Senior Dental Assistant along with proper tooth brushing techniques and broadcasting of oral health clip to sensitise the population about the importance of good oral hygiene, and oral health talks are being conducted by Dental Surgeons.

Mr Speaker, Sir, with regard to the measures taken for the decentralisation of the dental services, I wish to inform the House that the new dental clinics have recently become operational at Baie du Tombeau Community Health Centre, Ste Croix Community Health Centre, and a second dental clinic has been opened at Goodlands. To further improve accessibility of oral health care to the population, new dental clinics will soon be set up at Stanley, Bel Air, Coromandel, and Quartier Militaire Medi-Clinics.

In line with the Budget 2022-2023, funds would be provided for the construction of 4 Area Health Centres at Henrietta, Cap Malheureux, New Grove, Plaine Magnien, and 2 MediClinics at Chemin Grenier and Grand Bois, which will include a dental clinic.

Moreover, my Ministry will send a mobile dental caravan every month at Chamarel Community Health Centre to provide dental services to the inhabitants as from 18 July 2022. By August 2022, most of the part-time dental clinics will be operational on a full-time basis.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Doolub: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Can the hon. Minister inform the House about the different services currently offered concerning oral health in the public health sector? Thank you.

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Speaker, Sir, the free health services in the public sector is to fully strengthen and enhance the quality of care. It is an emphasis being placed as a patient-centred service. So, the Ministry offers a comprehensive oral health package which includes the oral health promotion, that is, the preventive side; the general oral health services, this includes diagnosis, extraction, temporary and permanent fillings, scaling, application of pit and fissure

sealants; and specialised dental services, that is, oral surgery, orthodontics and endodontics. They are all free of users' cost.

Mr Doolub: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. Can the hon. Minister inform us about the number of Dental Surgeons and Assistant Dental Surgeons currently working in the public health sector?

Dr. Jagutpal: Mr Speaker, Sir, the number of Dental Surgeons in the public sector is 60. The number of Dental Assistants is 76. There are in the different regions, Regional Dental Superintendents, that is, in the five regions we have 5.

Mr Speaker: Any other question? So, we move to the next question!