

SECONDARY

REFORMS

YEAR 2023

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
2022 NATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION EXAMINATIONS -
FIRST COHORT OF STUDENTS
(28.03.2023)**

(No. B/38) 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 2022 National Certificate of Education Examinations, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate, the detailed breakdown of the results obtained by the first cohort of students of the Extended Stream, both in the State secondary schools and the private secondary schools and table copy thereof.

The Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology (Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun): Mr Speaker, Sir, the statistics of the NCE results 2022, subject wise, with respect to candidates of the Extended Programmes, both State and Private Secondary Schools, have been uploaded on the website of the Mauritius Examination Syndicate and are in the public domain.

The MES also prepares reports on the performance of students which are subsequently submitted to the respective schools. Mr Speaker, Sir, the educational reforms rest on the notion that the skills and competencies of all learners have to be developed to enable them to construct their future - a lifelong learning. The House would recall that the curriculum of the Extended Programme was meant to be covered over a period of four years. The strategy being to ensure that the students acquire the required knowledge and competencies over the four years. However, the first cohort of the Extended Programme learners because of the COVID-induced disruptions, did not benefit from the enhanced support as initially planned.

Furthermore, these students needed additional support and this was not possible. Nonetheless, Mr Speaker, Sir, it's worth noting that we have achieved the inclusiveness as

far as in the first cohort, 71 EP Students have been successful and have joined the Grade 10 Regular Stream. Some 487 are repeating the grade. We have also been informed that there are around 3,200 recruits admitted in MITD Centres and I-Tech Institutions and these include students of Grade 9 who have met the requirements for the NQF Level 2 and obtained their NCE Certificate as well as those from the Extended Programme Stream.

Dr. Gungapersad: Will the hon. Minister, after taking cognizance of the pass rate or high rate of failure of that Extended Programme first cohort - I would have liked if as Minister, you had cared for these kids because this is a maladapted curriculum for them. Hon. Minister, I am not saying that. It is the World Bank which, in its mid-term Report, says that the curriculum is not adapted to the needs of EP and the teaching and learning processes were not well tailor made for individual needs of those students. It is high time we review this pedagogical aberration, hon. Minister.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind the hon. Member that we have introduced the EP, the Extended Programme and we have been evaluating it periodically and right now, we have a team, a committee working on how to improve the system. I would like to draw his attention that between 2005 to 2014, the prevocational stream that we had, had never undergone any form of evaluation nor has there been any follow-up on what happened to those students whereas in our case, Mr Speaker, Sir, we have been following the students; we have been dealing with the World Bank and what he has been talking about the mid-term Report of the World Bank, it's something of the past. The World Bank is here right now. We are discussing with them and we are working towards improving the Extended Programme while making sure that these students are taken care of. This is what we have been doing, Mr Speaker, Sir, and it's totally unwarranted to talk about - *quel terme que le Monsieur a servi là?*

Dr. Gungapersad: Pedagogical aberration!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: 'Pedagogical aberration'- this is what he ought to think about because I would like to remind the hon. Member that when he was a Rector, he did not even accept to have prevocational students in his school. So...

(Interruptio

ns) No, I have no lessons to learn from him.

(Interruption)

ns) **Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members!

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: *Pe vine fer mwa la lesson !*

Dr. Gungapersad: She has misled the House!

(Interruption)

ns) **Mr Speaker:** Hon. Members! Hon. Members!

An hon. Member: I have a point of order, Sir!

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members!

An hon. Member: Don't shout!

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members, I am addressing the House! Keep your point of order!

Questions B/40, B/41, B/42, B/43, B/44, B/46, B/47, B/48, B/50, B/53, B/60, B/63, B/67, B/69, B/70, B/71, B/73, B/74, B/75, B/77, B/79, B/80, B/85, B/87, B/89, B/97, B/102, B/105, B/107, all these questions have been withdrawn.

(Interruptions)

Thank you for your silence! Time is over.

Dr. Gungapersad: I have a point of order.

Mr Speaker: You meet me in my office for your point of order!

(Interruptions)

Dr. Gungapersad: I challenge her! I challenge her! *Menteuse!*

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: So, now I will ask you to withdraw that word that you mentioned!

Dr. Gungapersad: I withdraw, but she will have to prove whatever she has said.

Mr Speaker: This is something else.

Dr. Gungapersad: Okay, thank you.

Mr Speaker: Thank you.