

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

PRIMARY

SPECIAL SUPPORT SCHOOL/ZEP

512/4/11

STUDENTS (ORPHANED) - SCHOOLING

(No. B/79) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for GRNW & Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to orphaned students above the age of 18, she will state the measures taken by her Ministry to help them pursue their schooling.

Reply: As far as my Ministry is concerned, under the National Pensions Act, a Basic Orphan's Pension of Rs2,888 per month is payable in respect of all orphans up to the age of 20 who are in full time education. In addition, a monthly Guardian Allowance of Rs 691 is paid to a person looking after orphans.

On the other hand, the Social Aid Regulations provide for payment of a Social Aid of Rs639 per month in favour of an orphan aged between 20 and 23 years and attending a full time course at a tertiary institution. Furthermore, a Guardian Allowance of Rs546 per month is paid to a person looking after the orphan. This is a means-tested benefit which takes into account the income of the orphan.

An orphan also benefits from payment of SC/HSC/GCE and IVTB examination fees as per Social Aid Regulations, which is means-tested.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources also makes provision for a Book Loan Scheme for needy students at the Secondary school level (State Secondary Schools and private schools). My Ministry is responsible to carry out social enquiry to determine eligibility under the Scheme.

It is to be noted that under the Human Resource, Knowledge and Arts Development Fund operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, provision is made for the award of scholarship to orphans attending Post-Secondary institutions in Mauritius. Such students should belong to families where the household income does not exceed Rs10,000 per month.