

SECONDARY

ADMISSION

29/6/10 (35)

SCHOOLS - FORM VI – ADMISSION

(No. 1B/171) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to admission to Form VI, he will state if Government is proposing to lower the eligibility criteria.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in line with the announcement made in the Government Programme 2010-2015, we are working towards the establishment of new and innovative pathways for students who have successfully completed the o-level/School Certificate either in the academic or technical/vocational stream, in order to improve access to upper secondary education.

The overall aim of this measure is to ultimately improve such an access without sacrificing the quality of education. Hence, it is not intended, per se, to lower the current eligibility criteria in any way, but to review these and provide more opportunities to students having passed the School Certificate by introducing a form of flexibility for their promotion to the Lower VI stream taking into account their diverse aptitudes and inclinations.

Such flexibility to facilitate movement to an upper grade will allow for possible consideration of -

- 1) A broad subject combination than what currently prevails; hence implying a wider choice among the subjects in line with the student's predilections;
- 2) Allowing students to take only two subjects at Principal Level and two at Subsidiary Level, and
- 3) Offering Professional HSC as an option at school.

In this regard, a Technical Committee has been set up to look into the implications of the new scheme and make recommendations for the implementation modalities.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the idea of new path ways as opposed to reducing entry requirements for a Higher School Certificate, but I would wish to ask the hon. Minister in this regard, whether there has been assessment of the practice over the last few years, of allowing students with only three credits at SC level to go on to the traditional HSC?

Dr. Bunwaree: In fact, the idea of coming up with this project is based on what has been happening in the last few years. I, myself have asked for an assessment, I do not have the result already with me, but it is being looked into.

Mr Obeegadoo: Will the hon. Minister consider questioning the very concept of group certificates, since Mauritius is one of the few countries which still have group certificates SC and HSC, whereby you need to pass at one and same sitting on a number of subjects. Will the hon. Minister consider the possible advisability of replacing same for instance by 'O' and 'A' Levels as was done by the UK and many Commonwealth countries years ago.

Dr. Bunwaree: This matter has also been taken up. In fact, there is a Committee working on that.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, five long years ago, the idea of alternative pathways was mooted by the MSM/MMM Government with polytechnics along the Singaporean model. Do we understand that this is one of the possibilities now being envisaged?

Dr. Bunwaree: Yes, as much as the Foundation Programme also which has already started.

27/7/10 36

SECONDARY EDUCATION – ENROLMENT RATIO

(No. 1A/44) Mr S. Obegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to Secondary Education, he will give, for each of the years, from 1999 to 2009, the –

- (a) net enrolment ratio for
 - (i) lower secondary education, and
 - (ii) upper secondary education
- (b) number of students enrolled in the pre-vocational stream, indicating the completion rate, and
- (c) number and names of educational institutions catering exclusively for pre-vocational students.

Reply: As regards part (a) (i) and (ii), Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) for Lower Secondary Education and Upper Secondary Education, Republic of Mauritius (1999-2009) –

(Academic and Prevocational)

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009

NER (Lower Secondary: FI to FV)(%)	61.4	61.7	62.5	63.6	65.6	66.5	69.9	71.2	72.4	71.9	72.1

NER (Upper Secondary: Lower VI to Upper VI)(%)	54.3	57.2	58.6	60.2	60.9	58.6	59.1	62.5	63.2	62.7	64.2

(Academic only)

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NER (Lower Secondary: FI to FV)(%)	57.0	57.3	58	57.9	58.9	58.7	60.9	61.7	63.5	63.9	64.4
NER (Upper Secondary: Lower VI to Upper VI)(%)	53.4	55.8	57.5	59.6	60.3	58.4	59.0	62.4	63.0	62.5	63.8

Note:

$$\text{NER for Lower Secondary} = \frac{\text{Enrolment in Secondary aged (11-15)}}{\text{Population aged(11-15)}} \times 100$$

$$\text{NER for Upper Secondary} = \frac{\text{Enrolment in Secondary aged (16-17)}}{\text{Population aged(16-17)}} \times 100$$

As regards part (b), Pre vocational - Enrolment and completion rate, Republic of Mauritius,
1999 – 2009 –

	Enrolment	Completion rate (%)
1999	4,489	na
2000	4,695	49.4
2001	4,919	45.4
2002	5,966	47.1
2003	7,326	63.5
2004	8,488	70.2
2005	9,845	74.6
2006	10,424	79.3
2007	9,573	77.7
2008	8,495	71.2
2009	8,033	77.6

na – not available

$$\text{Completion Rate} = \frac{\text{Enrolment in Grade III, Year } t}{\text{Enrolment in Grade I, Year } t-3} \times 100$$

As regards part (c), number and names of educational institutions catering exclusively for pre-vocational students in 2009 -

1. Goodlands SSS (V)
 2. Riv. Du Rempart SSS (V)
 3. Immaculée Conception SSS (V)
 4. Gandhian Basic School
 5. Colonel Maingard SSV
 6. S. Murday SSS (V)
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(37)
9/11/10

ACADEMIC YEAR 2011 - PUBLIC & PRIVATE NON-FEE PAYING

(No. 1A/128) Mr S. Obeegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to resumption of studies in academic year 2011, he will state –

- (a) if there will be any changes in the number of
 - (i) public, and
 - (ii) private non-fee paying, secondary schools in operation and, if so, state the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of seats available at Form I Level in
 - (i) State National colleges;
 - (ii) State Regional schools;
 - (iii) non fee-paying secondary schools, and
- (c) the list of institutions offering pre-vocational classes.

Reply: Concerning part (a) (i) of the question, with regard to public schools, there will be no change in the number of State Secondary Schools in operation for the resumption of studies in 2011.

As regards part (a) (ii), as far as grant-aided private secondary schools in Mauritius are concerned, the number of schools will decrease from 87 in the year 2010 to 85 in 2011. Two

schools namely Byron College and Grand Bois College will no longer be registered as grant-aided private secondary schools in 2011 for the following reasons -

- (i) these two schools have a very low student population (which is below the minimum threshold of 150 students in mainstream) thereby increasing the cost per student to an unreasonable level. As at October 2010, Grand Bois College and Byron College had the following student population in the mainstream –

	Number of students in mainstream
Grand Bois College	95
Byron College	80

- (ii) the perennial strained industrial relations prevailing in the schools.

As regards part (b) (i) to (iii), the number of seats available at Form I for the resumption of studies in academic year 2011 is as follows –

	Number of seats in Form I in 2011
(i) National Schools (State)	1,715
(ii) Regional Schools (State)	6,025
(iii) Private Aided Secondary Schools	10,603

As regards part (c), the list of institutions offering pre-vocational classes in 2011 –

STATE-OWNED SCHOOLS	
ZONE 1	
1.	ADOLPHE DE PLEVITZ SSS
2.	B. RAMLALLAH SSS
3.	GOODLANDS SSV
4.	IMMACULEE CONCEPTION SSV
5.	FRANK RICHARD SSS
6.	LADY S. RAMGOOLAM SSS
7.	PAILLES SSS

8.	PAMPLEMOUSSES SSS
9.	PORT LOUIS NORTH SSS
10.	PROF. HASSAN RAFFA SSS
11.	R. PRAYAG SSS
12.	RIV. DU REMPART SSV
13.	TERRE ROUGE SSS
14.	TRIOLET SSS

ZONE 2	
15.	CAMP DE MASQUE STATE COLLEGE
16.	BON ACCUEIL STATE COLLEGE
17.	B. AIR RIVIERE SECHE SSS
18.	BEAU BASSIN SSS
19.	EBENE SSS
20.	GANDHIAN BASIC SCHOOL
21.	MANILALL DOCTOR SSS
22.	QUARTIER MILITAIRE SSS
23.	R. GUJADHUR SSS
24.	SEBASTOPOL SSS
25.	SMT INDIRA GANDHI SSS
ZONE 3	
26.	RIV. DES ANGUILLES STATE COLLEGE
27.	DHUNPUTH LALLAH SSS
28.	FLOREAL SSS
29.	FOREST SIDE SSS
30.	M. SANGEELEE SSS
31.	ST AUBIN SSS
32.	SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SSS
ZONE 4	
33.	BAMBOUS SSS

34.	LA GAULETTE SSS
35.	PALMA SSS
36.	QUATRE BORNES SSS
37.	PHOENIX SSS
38.	SODNAC SSS
39.	SWAMI SIVANANDA SSS
40.	VACOAS SSS (HOLLYROOD)
41.	VACOAS SSS(ST PAUL ROAD)
42.	MURDAY SSV

PRIVATE SECONDARY GRANT-AIDED SCHOOLS	
ZONE 1	
1.	BHUJOHARRY COLLEGE
2.	BRADLEY COLLEGE
3.	COLLEGE DU BPS FATIMA
4.	COLLEGE IDEAL
5.	COLLEGE PERE LAVAL
6.	COSMOPOLITAN COLLEGE (BOYS)
7.	COSMOPOLITAN COLLEGE (GIRLS)
8.	DAYANAND ANGLO VEDIC COLLEGE (Morcellement St André)
9.	DAYANAND ANGLO VEDIC COLLEGE (Port Louis)
10.	FRIENDSHIP COLLEGE (BOYS)
11.	FRIENDSHIP COLLEGE (GIRLS)
12.	INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
13.	ISLAMIC CULTURAL COLLEGE (Port Louis)
14.	LORETO COLLEGE (Port Louis)
15.	MADAD UL ISLAM COLLEGE
16.	MEDCO-ALEX BHUJOHARRY SECONDARY SCHOOL
17.	MEDCO CASSIS SECONDARY SCHOOL
18.	MEDCO TRINITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

19.	MERTON COLLEGE
20.	PORT LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL
21.	SOONDUR MUNRAKHUN COLLEGE
22.	ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S COLLEGE
23.	UNIVERSAL COLLEGE
ZONE 2	
24.	COLLEGE DE LA CONFIANCE
25.	COLLEGE DES VILLES SOEURS
26.	COLLEGE DU B.P.S (Beau Bassin)
27.	DARWIN COLLEGE
28.	LORETO COLLEGE (Rose Hill)
29.	LORETO COLLEGE (St Pierre)
30.	LYCEE DE BEAU-BASSIN
31.	MAYFLOWER COLLEGE
32.	MODERN COLLEGE
33.	NEW EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE
34.	NELSON COLLEGE
35.	NEW DEVTON COLLEGE
36.	PATTEN COLLEGE (GIRLS)
37.	QUARTIER MILITAIRE COLLEGE
38.	ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE
39.	SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
ZONE 3	
40.	AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
41.	CUREPIPE COLLEGE
42.	HAMILTON COLLEGE (BOYS)
43.	HAMILTON COLLEGE (GIRLS)
44.	KEATS COLLEGE
45.	LORETO COLLEGE (Bambous Virieux)
46.	LORETO COLLEGE (Curepipe)

47.	LORETO COLLEGE (Mahebourg)
48.	MAURITIUS COLLEGE (BOYS)
49.	MAURITIUS COLLEGE (GIRLS)
50.	NOTRE DAME COLLEGE
51.	RENASCENCE COLLEGE
52.	SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
53.	THANACODY COLLEGE
54.	UNITY COLLEGE
55.	WINDSOR COLLEGE (GIRLS)
ZONE 4	
56.	COLLEGE DU ST ESPRIT (Rivière Noire)
57.	COLLEGE DU SAINT ESPRIT (Quatre Bornes)
58.	ISLAMIC CULTURAL COLLEGE (Belle Rose)
59.	LE LYCEE MAURICIEN
60.	LORETO COLLEGE (Quatre Bornes)
61.	MEDCO CLAIRFONDS SECONDARY SCHOOL
62.	N SADDUL COLLEGE
63.	PATTEN COLLEGE (BOYS)
64.	ST HELENA'S COLLEGE
65.	ST MARY'S WEST COLLEGE

RESIDENCE CANDOS - ABANDONED CONCRETE HOUSE

(No. 1A/129) Mr K. Ramano (Second Member for Belle Rose and Quatre Bornes)

asked the Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes, information as to the—

- (a) existence of an abandoned house in a derelict state belonging to the N., Family representing health and security hazards to the inhabitants, and
- (b) remedial measures that will be taken, if any.

Reply: I am informed by the Municipal Council of Quatre Bornes that following a site visit effected near Residence Candos, it has been noted that there was an abandoned concrete

YEAR 2011

(38)
22/3/11

HSC – ENTRY REQUIREMENT

(No. B/51) Mr S. Obegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the Sixth Form classes and the HSC course of study, he will state -

- (a) the reasons behind the decision for lowering the entry requirement thereto, indicating when the decision was announced, and
- (b) whether GCE “A” Level in two subjects is now being considered as an alternative.

Reply: As the House is aware, the Government Programme 2010-2015 underscores the need to improve access to upper secondary education through the establishment of new and innovative pathways either in the academic or technical/vocational stream for students who have successfully completed School Certificate/GCE ‘O’ Level.

The implementation of this measure involves the provision of new opportunities for a greater number of students to access upper secondary and post-secondary education, by introducing more flexibility in the system without compromising on the quality of education and its outputs.

Prior to 2011, the criteria applicable for promotion to Lower Six and which were based on 4 credits at School Certificate/G.C.E ‘O’ Level was a constraint to many students who were denied the possibility of having access to H.S.C/G.C.E ‘A’ Level Studies, in our secondary schools. However, under the previous formula, students having 3 credits at S.C/G.C.E ‘O’ Level were exceptionally allowed to be promoted to Lower Six only in the following circumstances -

- (i) in the event of a repeat at Form V level, they would thereafter be disqualified by virtue of their age for promotion to Lower Six that is, they should not have reached the age of 19 on 01 January in the year they are admitted to Lower Six;
- (ii) in case they have already repeated Form V and because of internal rules, they cannot repeat more than once.

This constraint faced by many students having 3 credits had to be addressed holistically in as much as seats were available in both State and private secondary schools in the relevant subject combinations offered.

The criteria had therefore to be reviewed such that all students having passed SC/GCE 'O' Level with 3 credits be allowed to join Lower Six, subject to their satisfying the requirement for subject combination as well as the age criterion.

In parallel with this strategic decision, we are advising students to further improve their 'O' Level qualification by sitting for the SC/GCE 'O' Level exams preferably while being in Lower Six.

As Members may be aware, a policy announcement was made in early 2010 on the provision of increased opportunities for students to follow HSC. programs. Following a Government decision on 28 January 2011, the new criteria were formalised.

This measure will further facilitate access to education at post-secondary and tertiary levels in line with our vision to have a Gross Tertiary Enrolment Ratio (GTER) of 72% in 2015. It is worthwhile mentioning that most universities accept admission with 2 'A' Levels and it is increasingly becoming a worldwide trend. I am pleased to inform the House that this new measure has benefited more than 1500 students having less than 4 credits and who have been promoted to Lower Six.

With regard to part (b), the major concern is to obviate the wastage of precious human resources and improve efficiency in the system. We have come across a number of cases whereby students, despite having met the minimum requirements for promotion to Lower Six, are not eligible for any subject combination in their school by virtue of their results.

As a result, under the previous conditions these students would have had to repeat Form V or else, leave the school in case they had already repeated the class or were over-aged.

With a view to offering such students the opportunity to obtain 'A' Level qualifications in a minimal number of subjects, it has been decided to review the current practice and allow

them exceptionally to join Lower VI with 2 subjects at 'A' Level, 2 subjects at Advanced Subsidiary (AS) level and General Paper.

These students are being allowed to sit for at least 2 subjects at Principal Level. As for students who have passed in 2 subjects at GCE 'A' Level, their qualification is equivalent to the same 2 subjects offered at HSC Level.

The House would appreciate that, failing to usher in this measure, would have deprived many of our students with three credits of the opportunity to follow HSC classes and ultimately have access to post-secondary or tertiary education. We believe that the majority of these students come from deprived areas or from needy families. Education is in fact their major leverage to ensure upward social mobility. Hence, denying these students the possibility of promotion to Lower Six may further push them deeper into poverty instead of empowering them which is the primary mission of education.

I wish to reiterate, that the criteria for having a minimum number of credits, is not per se a requirement of Cambridge. It was rather a decision taken administratively years ago in view of a limited number of seats available in Lower VI in those days.

Today, the situation has changed, and now that we have more than enough seats, there is no reason why students, especially the needy should be deprived of such opportunities.
