

LE MAURICIA INSTITUTE – SC EXAMINATIONS –
ENGLISH LITERATURE PAPER

16/12/08
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(No. B/1476) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether he is aware that some students of Le Mauricia Institute who sat for the November/December 2008 Cambridge School Certificate examinations for the English Literature paper have been provided with two examination papers instead of three and, if so, the reasons therefor.

Dr. Bunwaree: Mr Speaker Sir, I am informed by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) that there was only one question paper for the 2008 School Certificate Literature in English examination. Candidates were required, however, to answer four questions from two sections out of three, namely, Drama, Poetry and Prose. The questions should have been attempted from either three or four different set books.

On the examination day, i.e 24 October 2008, five candidates of 'Le Mauricia Institute', a fee paying private secondary school registered with the PSSA, reported to the centre supervisor that they could not answer any question from section B (Poetry) of the question paper as they had studied only 'Selected Poems by Coleridge' which did not appear on the paper. Subsequently, the Director General of 'Le Mauricia Institute' informed the MES that 8 candidates from his school sitting for the Literature in English paper could not attempt the Poetry questions as they were not prepared for the appropriate set text.

An enquiry carried out by the PSSA on 12 November 2008, at the request of my Ministry, has revealed that the subject teacher had committed a gross mistake in teaching 'Coleridge Poetry' to the students although the textbook was not prescribed for study this year.

I should inform the House that it is not the first time that such cases have occurred and even for the 2008 Cambridge Examinations apart from the case of the 'Le Mauricia Institute', there are two other reported cases where schools have wrongly prescribed books for students for Literature in English. Of course, I am not satisfied with this state of affairs and I am looking into ways and means to make such event no longer to happen. *En 2002 il y avait eu un.*

MES has referred the matter to the University of Cambridge International Examinations for due consideration being given that, in all these cases students are not at fault.

Mr Lesjongard: *M. le président, c'est inacceptable!* There is one question that I want to put to the hon. Minister: since it has already happened in the past, has anything been done to redress the situation and in the present case what is going to be done to redress that situation?

Dr. Bunwaree: I have just taken the responsibility of this Ministry and I am looking into the matter. I thank the hon. Member because I was not aware of the nitty-gritty of what is happening inside. But there are responsibilities at various levels where we hear the gross mistake on the part of the teacher who is responsible, who has the responsibility to decide on the text. But then, I don't believe that it should stay with the teacher only. We have to look into all the other aspects also.

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HSC EXAMINATIONS – ACCOUNTING SUBJECT – ERROR

(No. B/1279) Mrs L. D. Dookun-Luchoomun (Third Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Human Resources whether, in regard to the errors found in the Paper 4 of the Accounts subject for the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examinations, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Cambridge and the Mauritius Examinations Syndicates, information as to the measures taken to ensure that the students who took part therein, be not penalised.

Reply: My Ministry has been informed by the Mauritius Examinations Syndicate (MES) that there was an error in Question No. 2 of the HSC Accounting Paper 4 which was examined on Wednesday 11 November 2009. The Net Cash Flow in the “November” column should have, in fact, been \$6500 instead of \$64500.

After having ascertained the error, the MES reported the matter to the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) and CIE confirmed the error. In order to ensure that the different courses of action taken by the candidates are detected and dealt with fairness, the CIE has instituted a study of the scripts by a team of senior examiners to identify the impact

and the scale of the problem and the students affected. It will take all necessary actions to ensure that the examination results are fair and no student is disadvantaged due to the error.

On the basis of the above information obtained from CIE, the MES issued a Press Communiqué on 17 November 2009 to inform all students and parties concerned that no candidate will be unduly penalised by the CIE as a result of the error in the Paper. I am tabling a copy of the press communiqué issued by MES on 17 November 2009 to that effect.