

# PRE- PRIMARY

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*YEAR 2019*

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## **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION AUTHORITY - CHAIRPERSON (24.09.2019)**

(No. B/882) **Mr R. Uteem (First Member for Port Louis South & Port Louis Central)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the Chairperson of the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority, she will, for the benefit of the House, obtain therefrom, information as to the name of the incumbent, indicating the –

- (a) qualifications held;
- (b) terms and conditions of appointment, including fees, allowances and benefits drawn, and
- (c) number of overseas missions undertaken, indicating the aggregate costs thereof.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, the Chairperson of the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority is Mrs Fawzia Toorawa. She is the holder of a BA Honours English, MA English, Masters in Education or Leadership and Management, and also holder of a certificate in the teaching of English to speakers of other languages, a certificate in English language teaching to adults.

As for part (b) of the question, Madam Speaker, Mrs Toorawa has been appointed of the ECCEA in line with section 6 subsection 1(a) of the ECCEA Act 2007.

The incumbent draws a monthly allowance of Rs28,500 plus travelling in accordance with the provisions of the PRB 2016.

With regard to part (c) of the question, I wish to inform the House that Mrs Toorawa has not undertaken any overseas mission since her appointment as Chairperson of the Board.

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Uteem!

**Mr Uteem:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. According to the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority Act of 2007, members are appointed for a period of two years. May I know from the hon. Minister : is there any reason why her appointment keeps on being renewed?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, it is a matter of policy and the Ministry has decided to renew her contract.

**Mr Uteem:** Is the matter of policy of the Minister entrancing anyway by the family ties which this lady has to various people in Cabinet and Mr Ahmad Jeewa who just crossed over to your party?

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, I refuse to make any comment on such statements which I consider to be totally irrelevant.

**Mr Uteem:** I mean I don't understand the hon. Minister. We have been criticised by Transparency International for the high rate of nepotism. This lady happens to be the niece of a senior member of Cabinet. Does not the hon. Minister find it necessary to justify to the public why another case of nepotism is being paid with taxpayers money.

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** Madam Speaker, I believe that what the hon. Member is saying right now...

*(Interruptions)*

**Madam Speaker:** Hon. Jhugroo!

**Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun:** I believe that the hon. Member should have stated earlier – when we appointed the lady - that this lady was also the daughter of a member of the MMM party.