

## **EARLY CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT – TRAINING (10/05/11)**

**(No. A/113) Mrs F. Labelle (Third Member for Vacoas and Floreal)** asked the Minister of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions whether, in regard to early child care and development, he will state if her Ministry proposes to recruit trainees therefor and, if so indicate the –

- (a) number of trainees who will be recruited and
- (b) details of the training which will be provided, including
  - (i) who will dispense same
  - (ii) the duration thereof and
  - (iii) the scheduled starting dates thereof.

**Reply:** Under its Child and Family Empowerment Programme, the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) intends to set up some 10 Day Care Centres in vulnerable regions. Further, after a survey indicating an acute shortage of qualified personnel in existing Day Care Centres, a Training and Placement Programme was mounted by the NEF in 2010 with the objective of providing training to some 275 Assistant Care Givers, over a period of one and a half years.

With regard to part (a) of the question, a first batch of 60 trainees, the majority being holders of CPE and coming from underprivileged regions, was enrolled in a 8-month “Foundation Course for Child Day Care Givers”, which started in September 2010.

A second training programme started on 20 January 2011 with 115 trainees and is expected to be completed on 20 September 2011. A third group of 120 trainees has been enrolled as from 03 May 2011 and the programme will end in December 2011.

With regard to part (d) of the question, the formal training is dispensed by the Mauritius Institute of Education and is conducted on two week days, spread over a three-month period. It consists of a 60-hour course comprising of two modules on “Managing Child Day Care Centres” and “Child Growth, Development and Care” of 30 hours each. On the other three days, the trainees are placed in Day Care Centres for practical sessions under the supervision of qualified Child Day Care Givers. The trainees also followed a mandatory “First Aid Course” delivered by the Red Cross Society of Mauritius.

At the end of the three-month course, the trainees undertake a formal examination in theory and practice and they are afterwards placed on a full-time basis in a selected Day Care Centre for five months. A monthly stipend of Rs4,000, inclusive of transport costs, is provided to each trainee by the NEF and the latter also meets the cost of the course, amounting to Rs4,000 per trainee. On completion of the placement and training, the trainees can be employed as “Assistant Child Day Care Givers”.