

PRE-SCHOOL TRUST FUND – CHAIRPERSON (16/05/06)

(No. B/510) Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he will, for the benefit of the House, state if he has recently received representations in regard to the conduct of the Chairperson of the Pre-School Trust Fund and, if so, will he state the actions he proposes to take.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the hon. Member that I have received two anonymous letters and one letter from the President of the Mauritius Union of Pre-School Educators against the Chairperson of the Pre-School Trust Fund (PSTF).

The Union's letter related to representation against the participation of a PSTF officer in a course to be held in Réunion Island. However, the Union subsequently informed the Ministry that they no longer had objection to the participation of the officer in the said course. The hon. Member may also wish to note that the proposed course was later cancelled by the organiser and thus no officer actually took part in the course.

As regards the anonymous letters, it is not the policy of my Ministry to deal with anonymous letters. However, we have taken note of the nature of the allegations and if there is any need for inquiry, same will be conducted.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, on 05 April his Ministry requested the Chairman of the Pre-School Trust Fund to submit his views on this anonymous letter. Can we know from the Minister whether he has received the views of the management of the Pre-School Trust Fund concerning the point raised in the contention made by the public?

Mr Gokhool: This is an internal administrative matter, Mr Speaker, Sir, and the normal procedure is that my Ministry will write to the body concerned to get their views.

Mr Bhagwan: Can the Minister inform the House whether, following the reply made by the hon. Prime Minister concerning *l'ingérence* du part time Chairman in the day-to-day management of the Board, he met the parttime Chairman on that Trust Fund, to inform him of the Government policy concerning the day-to-day management and his duties as part-time Chairman?

Mr Gokhool: Concerning the first part of the statement of the hon.

Member, I do not agree that there is *ingérence* or whatever. As regards meeting the Chairman, this is the normal practice for any Minister to meet and brief the Chairperson or the Chairman of bodies to discuss the policy of Government.

Mrs Perrier: M le président, est-ce-que le ministre peut nous préciser quand il a reçu la lettre des syndicalistes informant qu'ils étaient d'accord pour que cet officer aille à la Réunion?

Mr Gokhool: I cannot remember the date, but all I have said is that a representation was received and, thereafter, another letter was received where the unions withdrew their representation.

Mrs Perrier: Can the Minister table the letter?

Mr Gokhool: I do not have a copy of the letter with me, but I can table a copy to the House.

Mr Bhagwan: Can the Minister confirm to the House that there is no mismanagement and that he is satisfied with the day-to-day running of this organisation through the part-time Chairman and the actual management?

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, if there is any representation by any employee, employees or officers to my Ministry, we will look into it.

Mr Bhagwan: Mr Speaker, Sir, representations have been made. Everybody knows what is happening there. I leave it to the Minister. I have done my job. I have raised the issue here and I hope the Minister will take the necessary decision.

Mr Gokhool: I have taken note, but I cannot consider anonymous representations.