

UNREVISED

PRE-SCHOOL TRUST FUND -
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 1995-1996 - 2000-2001

(No. B/701) Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information from the Pre-School Trust Fund as to -

- (a) whether financial statements for the years 1995-1996 to 2000-2001 have been finalised, and
- (b) the date when each statement was submitted.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is to be noted that the Pre-School Trust Fund (PSTF) was not able to submit financial statements for the period 1995-2000 for the following reasons -

- (i) there was no Officer-in-Charge appointed by the PSDF from 1995 to year 2000;
- (ii) the Board, itself, was without a Chairperson from January 1996 to December 1997;
- (iii) even when the new Board was set up, no Officer-in-Charge was recruited. The Liaison Officer of the Trust acted as Head until his departure on retirement.

When the present Government came into office, the Ministry proceeded with the renewal of the Board in May 2001, with a view to reorganising the Trust Fund and to ensuring appropriate internal audit control.

The new Board appointed a private accounting firm to prepare the final accounts for the 1995-2000 period and the firm completed its assignment in December 2001.

The final accounts were submitted to the Director of Audit on 04 April 2002.

.....

D34/P05/mv/7

UNREVISED**(No. B/701) contd.**

The office of the Director of Audit has now completed the audit of the accounts of the Trust Fund for the financial years 1995-2000 and has issued its certificate on 21 November 2002.

Based on the audited accounts of the previous years, that is, 1999-2000, the final accounts for the year 2000-2001 are now being prepared as they are premised finalisation of accounts for the previous accounting period.

Arrangements are being made for the audited financial statements of the PSDF for the period July 1996 to June 2000 to be tabled in the National Assembly shortly.

Sir, for many years now, the PSDF and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research have been the object of adverse criticism by the Director of Audit's office on account of late submission or non-submission of audited financial statements of PSDF. The Pre-School Trust Fund, based on the findings of the previous Audit Reports has taken the following steps -

- (i) the strengthening of the administrative structure through the recruitment of competent personnel, and
- (ii) the introduction of new accounting systems and procedures.

The hon. Member may rest assured that I shall personally monitor developments in that regard and wish to reiterate my trust in the present Board of Trustees of the PSDF, which is doing the needful to re-establish the good reputation and proper functioning of the institution.

Mr Dulloo: The hon. Minister has referred to the Officer-in-Charge who was not there for the year 1995-1996. May we know whether he has got the information as to who was the Officer-in-Charge prior to 1995 and the date he was removed and why?

Mr Obeegadoo: I don't have such information at hand, Sir, but if the hon. Member would come back with a substantive question, we'll provide the answer.