

16/5/06

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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

**B/541 The Honourable Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands
(Mr. Dowarkasing)**

*To ask Dr the Honourable Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of
Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping:-*

Whether, in regard to the free transport scheme, he will
state the rate per passenger at which bus companies and
private bus operators are being paid per month?

REPLY

Sir,

The computation of the allowance paid to bus operators on account of the free travel scheme for students, old age pensioners and the disabled persons was based on an assumed proportion of beneficiaries making use of public buses as well as the number of days of travel over a given period, according to patterns of travel recorded by the NTA.

In the case of students of the primary sector, it was assumed that 20% of a primary student population of 120,000 make use of public transport of which;

- (i) 40% travel a distance of less than one stage;
- (ii) 50% travel a distance of less than 2 stages; and

- (iii) 10% travel more than 2 stages

For the secondary sector which has a student population of 120,000, it was assumed that 80% travel by bus of which:

- a. 10% travel less than 2 stages;
- b. 35% travel less than 6 stages
- c. 30% travel less than 14 stages; and
- d. 15% travel more than 14 stages

Moreover, it was also assumed that 10% travel in 2 legs.

Regarding the post secondary and tertiary sectors with a population of about 5,000 students, it was assumed that

- (i) 10% travel a maximum of 6 stages;
- (ii) 45% travel less than 14 stages;
- (iii) 25% travel over 14 stages; and
- (iv) 20% travel in 2 legs.

On the other hand, the allowance payable in connection with the Old Age Pensioners and the disabled persons was based on the assumption that some 72% of a total number of 125,000 make use of public transport and the frequency of travel of such category of commuters was three times a week..

Based on the assumptions I have just mentioned, the NTA came to a figure of Rs1,100 per day/bus for students (for Mauritius & Rodrigues) and Rs7,500 per month/bus (for Mauritius) and Rs7,000 per month/bus (for Rodrigues) for the old age pensioners and disabled persons.

As the House will appreciate, there is no uniform rate per passenger applicable as the patterns of travel differ significantly from one sector to another.