

BUS PASS – REPLACEMENT – COST (15/07/08)

(No. B/868) Mrs M. Martin (Second Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping whether, in regard to the bus pass, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the National Transport Authority, information as to the number of students who have requested for a replacement, following the loss thereof or a change of address, since January 2006 to date, indicating if any fee is charged therefor and, if so, the quantum thereof.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport & Shipping (Dr. R. Beebeejaun): Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed that, since 2006, the National Transport Authority has received 3,473 requests from students for replacement of their bus pass following loss thereof, and 2,024 requests for a new bus pass following change of address.

A fee of Rs300 is charged for the replacement of a bus pass to cover the administrative costs. I am reviewing the policy of fees for a change of address or school or amendments to the particulars on the bus pass.

Mrs Martin: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister the rationale behind the payment of such bus pass, especially when it concerns change of address?

Dr. Beebeejaun: Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said, there are administrative costs. But, I am reviewing for the change of address. I think Rs300 is unfair, and it will be less.

Mrs Martin: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister to which company the contract for the producing of these cards has been awarded?

Dr. Beebeejaun: Mr Speaker, Sir, I cannot say offhand. But, I will look into it. The fees claim is not just for the bus pass. It is for the administrative costs as well, which are quite heavy.

Mrs Martin: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Deputy Prime Minister how long does a student who has submitted a request for replacement of card have to wait in order to obtain it?

Dr. Beebeejaun: Mr Speaker, Sir, usually it is within 15 days or less. But, it depends on the time of the year.

