

INDIVIDUAL BUS OWNERS – FREE TRANSPORT (13/06/06)

(No. B/770) Mr S. Naidu (Third Member for Beau Bassin & Petite Rivière) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land transport & Shipping whether, in regard to the allowance paid to individual bus owners for the free transport of school children, old age and handicapped passengers, he will state if he intends to revise the amount thereof and, if not, why not.

Reply: The Government had decided that the current free travel scheme will be extended up to the end of December 2006 on the same terms and conditions as laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding signed between my Ministry and the bus operators. Bus companies, as well as the individual bus operators, have agreed to this proposal. As such, the question of revising the existing terms and conditions does not arise at this stage.

I would seize this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to the vast majority of bus operators who have responded positively to Government's proposal. This shows their commitment and dedication to support the Government in its endeavour to provide free transport to the students, old age pensioners and the disabled persons. To the few bus operators who need to improve the quality of service, I would appeal to them to act in a responsible manner.