

**SUGAR ESTATES – EMPLOYEES’ CHILDREN
- FREE TRANSPORT**

(No. B/1469) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North) asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to whether the amount of money that was previously spent by the sugar estates for the refund of transport in respect of the children of their employees is now being spent on their welfare.

Reply: I am informed by the MSPA that the Government decision to grant free transport to students going to school was a measure taken for the benefit of all Mauritian students. The sugar companies used to provide free transport to the children of their employees and they have thus been benefited to some extent from this measure.

Savings realised by the sugar industry in the current context is contributing to bring down the production costs and improving the competitiveness of the sugar industry.

I wish to point out that the sugar industry has agreed to open up the field of study under the Blue Print and VRS in order to enable a larger number of beneficiaries to take full advantage of the scholarships being offered by the MSPA. This matter is being taken on board by the SIE (Amendment) Bill currently before the House.