

**UNIVERSITY STUDENTS - STUDENTS FREE TRANSPORT  
SCHEME – REPRESENTATIONS (13/06/06)**

**(No. B/729) Mrs F. Jeewa-Daureeawoo (Third Member for Stanley and Rose Hill)** asked the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping whether, in regard to the Students Free Transport Scheme, he will state if he has received representations from the University of Mauritius students Union for the extension of the bus passes of University Students which expired on 31 May 2006 as they would be attending the University for examination purposes up to 31 July 2006 and, if so, the remedial measures he proposes to take.

**The Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Infrastructure, Land Transport and Shipping (Dr. R. Beebeejaun):** Mr Speaker, Sir, the University of Mauritius has informed that examinations for all the faculties and centres ended on 31 May 2006, except for the Faculty of Agriculture. The examinations for second year students of this Faculty have, exceptionally, been extended up to 16 June 2006 in order to allow them for better preparation for their exams.

I wish to point out that the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed last August between Government and bus operators provides for students to benefit from free travel from residence to educational institutions and back on school days exclusively. On the basis of information provided by the University of Mauritius, school days, as construed in the Memorandum of Understanding are –

(a) from 23 January to 31 May for the 1st semester, and

(b) from 15 August to 20 December for the 2nd semester.

It has, unfortunately, not been possible to make any adjustment in respect of the second year students of the Faculty of Agriculture in view of the short notice. Nevertheless, the students concerned can travel during their exam period against payment of student fare upon production of the Student Identity Card which is valid up to 31 July 2006.

**Mrs Jeewa-Daureeawoo:** May I know from the hon. Deputy Prime Minister the number of students facing the problem?

**The Deputy Prime Minister:** Unfortunately, the correspondence has only been this week. It is very recent. It is probably not more than 20 to 30.