

# PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

## PRIMARY

### SCHOOLS/TEACHERS

Year 2010

27/7/10  
80

**The Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member of Black River and Savanne had already raised the issue and I will convene definitely the plea of the hon. Member and his request to the Minister of Housing and Lands.

(10.30 p.m.)

(1) ALBION GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS – TEACHERS

(2) BARKLY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – CPE EXAMS

**Mr R. Bhagwan (First Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first problem concerns my good friend, the Minister of Education. Last time I raised the issue of Albion Government School. It is a brand new school and I even congratulated the Minister who had been there. There are some practical problems over there concerning teachers, discipline and so on. I think it is a bad start for that new school. Can I appeal to the Minister to remedy the situation?

I would also appeal to him concerning Barkly Government School. There are some infrastructural works which had been started since I raised the issue with him, but there are some practical problems in that particular area. Barkly is a very delicate region where at the last CPE exams, only two or three schoolchildren succeeded. I appeal to the Minister if he can convene, even in his office, all the responsible persons as well as the PTA. I think it is very important to convene the PTA and the head teacher and teachers of the school.

**The Minister of Education and Human Resources (Dr. V. Bunwaree):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am aware of the problem at Albion Government School. Many things are being done already, but I will call the stakeholders together to find the best solution. It applies to Barkly Government School also.

**The Minister of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping (Mr A. Bachoo):** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have taken note of the request of the hon. Member and I'll transmit it to the Minister of Housing and Lands.

(10.33 p.m.)

**SCHOOLS – STUDENTS - PER CAPITA SPENDING**

(No. 1A/98) Mr S. Obegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the students, he will state the latest available figures pertaining to the per capita spending by the State thereon in the -

- (a) state primary sector;
- (b) private non-fee primary sector ;
- (c) state secondary sector, and
- (d) private non-fee paying secondary sector.

**Reply:** The per capita spending by the State based on actual expenditure under the vote of my Ministry for Financial Year 2008-2009 is as follows in the -

- (a) State primary sector;
  - (i) Rs 25,000 (excluding Capital Expenditure on Buildings)
  - (ii) Rs 27,000 (including Capital Expenditure on Buildings)
- (b) Private non-fee paying primary sector: Rs 22,000
- (c) State Secondary Sector -
  - (i) Rs 33,000 (excluding Capital Expenditure on Buildings)
  - (ii) Rs 43,000 (including Capital Expenditure on Buildings)
- (d) Private non-fee paying secondary sector: Rs 43,000

3/8/10

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STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS - TEACHERS & HEAD TEACHERS -  
TRANSFER

(No. 1A/61) Mr S. Obegadoo (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the State Primary Schools, he will state the number of -

- (a) General Purpose Teachers in post, indicating the number thereof who have been transferred, since January 2010 to date, and
- (b) Head Teachers, including Acting Head Teachers in post, indicating the number thereof who have been transferred since January 2010 to date.

Reply: As regards part (a), the answer is as follows -

No. of Teachers/Senior Teachers in post	:	2320
No. of Teachers/Senior Teachers who have been transferred from January 2010 to date	:	342

As regards part (b) of the question, the answer is as follows -

No. of Head Masters (formerly Head Teachers) in post	:	167
No. of Acting Head Masters	:	46
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		<u>213</u>

No. of Head Masters/Ag Head Masters who have been transferred from January 2010 to date	:	58
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12/4/11  
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**POINTE AUX PIMENTS GOVERNMENT SCHOOL – INCIDENT – 25 MARCH  
2011**

(No. B/197) Mrs A. Navarre-Marie (First Member for G.R.N.W and Port Louis West) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether, in regard to the alleged case of a child being tied up by her mates at the Pointe aux Piments Government School, he will state if an inquiry has been carried out thereinto to find out the reasons why the children were left unattended during school hours.

**Reply:** My Ministry has carried out an inquiry on circumstances leading to the incident which occurred at the Pointe aux Piments Government School on 25 March 2011 involving 3 pupils of Standard V. The report from the school and Directorate of Zone 1 reveals that the incident took place at 8 30 a.m. before the start of classes at the back of Standard III Block in the school yard while they were playing hide and seek. According to the report, two boys of Standard V attempted to tie the legs of a girl pupil with a lace and to remove her blouse but she managed to escape.

It is the practice for many working parents to leave their wards early in the morning at school. School normally opens at 7.45 a.m. to enable ancillary staff to perform their chores, e.g. cleaning, opening of windows etc. On that day, two Caretakers and one General Worker were in attendance as from 7.45 a.m. and were busy cleaning classrooms and one of them was at the gate. They were not aware of the incident which took place in the school yard at the back of the Standard III block.

As soon as the Head Master was informed of the incident on his arrival, by a group of pupils, he immediately carried out a quick inquiry and spoke to the three pupils concerned in the presence of two teachers. The Head Master then called the Police-. The Police called at the school after half an hour and talked to the pupils.

My Ministry is following up this matter very closely with the Police as the case has been reported thereto. A social enquiry is underway. Police presence is being reinforced at school level and psychological back-up support is also being reinforced and extended to the children involved and their parents.

This incident has been to me, an eye opener.

Being given that parents leave their children early before the arrival time of Head Master and teachers, my Ministry has been working on a *modus operandi* for pupils to be under proper supervision within school premises and during school opening hours.

Instructions are being issued to schools to ensure that pupils, who come early, do stay in a given area within the school premises under the supervision of an Attendant. Moreover, Headmasters have been instructed to carry out regular inspection and supervision.

I have set up a committee at the level of my Ministry to look into all the issues regarding child care and supervision in the school premises during school opening hours.