

PRIMARY

SCHOOL POPULATION/ADMISSION

07-11-00 (1)

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - STANDARD I ADMISSION - CATCHMENT AREA

(No. B/196) Dr R. Beebejaun (Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will make a statement on the measures which have been taken by his Ministry to ensure that children living in a catchment area and around are given priority for admission to Standard I in all primary schools.

Mr Obegadoo: Sir, section (10) of the Education Regulations 1957, as subsequently amended provide that "no pupil shall be admitted to either a Government primary school or to an aided primary school unless:

- (i) he has attained the age of 5 years on or before 31 December in the preceding that in which he seeks admission; and
- (ii) he lives in such catchment area as may be drawn up by the Minister in relation to the school to which admission is sought and as may be published in the Gazette".

In line with this policy, every year, my Ministry issues a press communiqué informing parents of the procedures for admission, which require that parents should register a child in only one school, and parents should produce the acquitted bills/receipts of CEB and CWA for three consecutive months preceding registration. The applications are then processed and classified in three categories by the head teacher, that is:-

- those living in the catchment area with proof of residence;
- those claiming to live in the catchment area without all proof of residence;
- those outside the catchment area.

A provisional admission list and list of children diverted to other schools are drawn up by the Regional Directorate and are posted in the respective schools.

This year, the exercise of registration of applications was carried out from 2 to 19 May and parents were requested to produce the acquitted original bills of both the CEB and the CWA for the months of December 1999, January and February 2000.

From 19 to 21 September, a provisional list of pupils to be admitted in Standard I in January 2001 was displayed in all primary schools and parents

In the case of high demand schools, where demand is higher than the school's capacity, some children are diverted to neighbouring schools. Under section 36 of the Education Regulations 1957, provision is made for a class size to be made of not more than 40 pupils at a time. However, provision also exists for special dispensation to be granted by the Minister for a class size to exceed 40 in special cases where demand is very high.

As regards RCA schools, admission of pupils is carried out in line with the provision of the Education Act, namely that priority of consideration is given to children living in the school's catchment area and who have genuine proof of residence. Remaining vacancies are filled by the *Bureau d'Education Catholique*.

As regards the two Hindu Aided Schools, namely Pandit Cashinath Kistoe Aryan Vedic school at Vacoas and R. Ramguttty school at Laventure, Flacq only the former is a high demand school and the same principle as for RCA schools applies.

**MONT ROCHES GOVT. SCHOOL -
INTAKE 1998-2000, SCHOOL POPULATION, ETC.**

(No. B/185) Mrs F. Labelle (Second Member for Beau Bassin and Petite Rivière) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to the Mont Roches Government School, he will state -

- (a) the intake during each of the past three years;
- (b) the number of classes run as prevocational basic secondary school;
- (c) the number of pupils who have attended and who are attending these classes;
- (d) the number of children who have attended and who are attending the preprimary unit, and
- (e) if he proposes to upgrade the school and, if so, when.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, as regards part (a), the students intake for the past three years at Mont Roches Government School was as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Pupils</u>
1997	20
1998	25
1999	28

No pupils were enrolled this year and my Ministry has not received any request for admission there for 2001.

Concerning part (b), there are currently 12 prevocational basic classes run.

With regard to part (c), 312 students are attending the prevocational classes at the school, with 97 in Form I, 107 in Form II and 108 in Form III.

As regards part (d), no request for admission in the preprimary unit of the school has been received for the last four years.

Concerning part (e) since the school population is constantly falling, my Ministry will look into the whole issue and a decision will be taken eventually as to the fate of the primary school and as to the advisability of upgrading the school.

Mr Obeegadoo: Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not aware that the parents would have been discouraged. What I do know is that the school was opened in September 1958 and that when Roches Brunes Govt. School was opened in 1978, the school population of Mont Roches fell by 40%. In 1996, the school population fell further to 140 students and, in 1990, 15 parents applied for the admission of their wards to Mont Roches Govt. School. Only 15 parents applied for January 2000. And I am told that in the course of year 2000, parents of 22 Std VI pupils have applied for the transfer of their wards to Roches Brunes Govt. School. So, I acknowledge there is a serious problem, there is under-utilisation of existing infrastructure. I am already liaising with stakeholders and will be holding discussions with the three Members of Parliament of that constituency, including the hon. lady, so that we can find an acceptable solution.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS – ADMISSION – JANUARY 2001

(No. B/190) **Mr M. Dowarkasing (Third Member for Curepipe & Midlands)** asked the Minister of Education & Scientific Research whether he will make a statement on the measures he intends to take before the 2001 resumption of studies, in respect of (a) excessive demands for admission into pre-primary units (b) inadequate number of classrooms (c) upliftment of toilets and schoolyards (d) out-of-date school furniture (e) pupil-teacher ratio and (f) supply of textbooks.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, allow me to state that as Minister of Education, I share the preoccupations of the hon. Third Member for Curepipe/Midlands.

In fact, as is well known, there are two critical moments in the academic year from an administrative perspective. Firstly, the end of year examinations and secondly resumption of studies.

Now that the examination period is reaching the end, my Ministry's attention is increasingly focussed on the arrangements for admissions to schools and all issues related to the resumption of studies next year.

As the question put by the hon. gentleman has a very wide ambit, I am circulating the correspondingly long answer. **(Appendix III)**.
Submitted.

I would, however, like to point out that because of time constraints, the administrative arrangements for next year will be practically the same as those which were made in January 2000. But the whole procedure is already being reviewed to identify shortcomings and ensure the timely adoption of remedial measures.

Mr Dowarkasing: Sir, is the Minister also considering the fact that out of our 222 primary schools only 125 have a proper library or reading-room?

Mr Obeegadoo: Certainly, Sir. In fact, within the effort to review the primary school curriculum more emphasis will be placed on efforts to inculcate the basic skills in terms of literacy and numeracy and, therefore, we are considering all the infrastructural prerequisites for the introduction of the new curriculum.

Mr Dowarkasing: Will the hon. Minister also consider the fact that the reasonable ratio rate for books/pupil is 5:1 and actually the ratio rate is 2.8:1? Could he also see to it that additional books be given to all our schools and

libraries?

Mr Obeegadoo: I assure the hon. Member that the matter will be actively looked into.

Dr. Chady: Sir, with regard to repairs, is the Minister going to act on the same basis, that is, his Ministry will be undertaking the repairs or will he revert back to public infrastructure because this seems to be the reason why this has not been done in certain schools?

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, I am surprised that since the hon. gentleman was aware of where the problem was in the past, he did nothing about it as he was Minister of Public Infrastructure. In any case I share the hon. gentleman's dissatisfaction with what pertained in the past as regards arrangements for the proper maintenance and upkeep of our school buildings and we are now reconsidering the whole issue.

Dr. Chady: As a matter of fact I regret it because the Deputy Prime Minister, at that time was the person who did put that idea forward that repairs and maintenance should be transferred to respective Ministries instead of Public Infrastructure. That's why I put that question.

Mr Obeegadoo: As the hon. gentleman is surely aware the question is not just one of transfer but of adequate resources and means for the follow-up of such arrangements.

Dr. Chady: Sir, the Minister will agree with me that the Ministry of Public Infrastructure is much more equipped than any other Ministry to carry out any repairs, to undertake evaluation or design. I am shocked that he is talking in terms of adequate resources.

Mr Obeegadoo: All I can say, Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, is that it stands to reason that both Ministries must collaborate closely having regard to educational establishments. At this stage I would not wish to prejudge the conclusions of the exercise. As I said there is an ongoing exercise to review the existing system.

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Parliamentary Questions

B/190 The Honourable Third Member for Curepipe and Midlands (Mr Dowarkasing)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Education and Scientific Research:-

Whether he will make a statement on the measures he intends to take before the 2001 resumption of studies, in respect of

- a) excessive demands for admission into pre-primary units.
- b) Inadequate number of classroom
- c) upliftment of toilets and schoolyards
- d) out-of-date school furniture
- e) pupil teacher ratio and
- f) supply of textbooks?

REPLY FOR 5 NOVEMBER

Sir,

- (a) There is no indication yet regarding excessive demands for admission to Government Pre primary units. A communiqué was issued in the press on 25 October inviting Parents to register their wards between 30 October and 3 November. For admission to Government Pre-Primary

and supply of seats in secondary schools, it is forecast that we shall dispose of more seats than is required for the 2001 admission exercise. In fact the exercise shows the availability of 18,330 seats against an expected demand of 18,200.

(c) Mr Speaker Sir,

I am informed that there has not been a global comprehensive policy for the upliftments of the state of toilets and school yards. Cases have been dealt with on a priority basis while reckoning with the yearly budgetary allocations. I am perfectly aware that poor and defective toilet blocks are a source of nuisance to the school population. I am informed that priority is given to the most delicate cases and necessary works are undertaken. For example, over the past months, new toilet blocks have been provided to 10 schools for a total sum of R35.6 m. Besides, toilets in 11 schools are presently being upgraded for an amount of R4,386,000. There are also ongoing projects for the provision of new toilet blocks in 6 schools for a total contract price of R 11.05 m. According to the program which has been established, new toilet blocks will be provided shortly to 12 other schools. To avoid toilets falling into a decrepit state, the Regional Directorates have been requested to ensure that proper maintenance works are undertaken at the level of the school, and, if need be, to source out such works. Coupled with this measure the Regional directorates have been requested to henceforth put to more productive use the maintenance teams which will pay a special attention to the condition of toilets in the schools.

(d) It is a fact that the situation in schools regarding replacement of old, broken and unserviceable furniture has to be urgently looked into. I am informed that an exercise has started on 29 September with a view to assessing the requirements in terms of school furniture islandwide. The exercise is over and procedures are being completed for the procurement of the items required. Funds do not permit that all the items asked for be supplied. The priority is to replace the unserviceable ones. The exercise to be conducted will allow for the most important items to be supplied. I would wish to point out that this replacement exercise will be an ongoing one.

(e) (i) Regulations made under section 38 of the Education Act in 1997 provide that the teacher/pupil ratio in a pre-primary school should be 1 to 30.

(ii) As per the Education Regulations 1957, as amended, the number of pupils per class in a primary school should be 40. The teacher/pupil ratio is therefore 1 to 40. However, it is a fact that in some high demand schools, pupils exceed 40 per class. It is equally true that in some low population schools there are as few as 10 pupils or less per class.

YEAR 2002

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - STD I - AGE OF ADMISSION (09/04/02)

(No. B/114) Dr. R. Beebeejaun (Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to age on admission to Std I in primary schools, he will -

- (a) state Government policy thereon, indicating when that new policy was announced and made operational, and**
- (b) since its inception to date give the number of requests for admission in this new category, the number of children accepted and the number turned down, together with their names and the schools concerned.**

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Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, my Ministry has received many representations from parents whose children were born in the hours, days or weeks of the year arguing that their children would, according to the present arrangements, be unfairly treated and will have to wait for a full year, that is, until they were practically six years old to get admitted to Std I. It is indeed factually correct that up to the present time, the practice has been to admit into Std I in State primary schools only children having turned five on or before 31 December in the year preceding that of admission to schools to Std I.

Accordingly, a new policy was devised in order to ensure greater fairness of treatment to all, as exceptions to the general rule children who were deemed to be physically and psychologically ready for primary schooling might be admitted into Std I if born in January of the year of admission. This new policy which was approved by Government in November 2001 was, I repeat, not meant to be of general application, but only concerned exceptional deserving cases.

Being given that this was a new measure, there was need to develop a *modus operandi* for the implementation. Thereafter, a communiqué was issued in January 2002 inviting applications for admission.

663 applications for admission to 189 schools were received. A first selection was based on (i) the catchment area; and (ii) the availability of vacancies at the school where admission was sought.

After this exercise, 305 applications for places in 124 schools were retained. In parallel, panels were set up comprising a representative of the Primary School Inspectorate, the Head Teacher of the school in question and most importantly an educational psychologist and the panels were required to assess the psychological and psychomotor aptitudes of each applicant.

Despite all the efforts put in by way of resources and logistics, the exercise was only completed at the end of February last due to the unavailability of child psychologists and other practical difficulties encountered.

A careful assessment of the state of affairs indicated that there were four subsisting problems:-

- (i) since the beginning of the year, a number of organisations or individuals have expressed strong reservations concerning the whole scheme on the basis of both pedagogical and organisational considerations;
- (ii) the parental perception, despite all information provided by the Ministry, remains that all children turning five in
- (iii) January, will be admitted which is clearly an unsustainable proposition;
- (iv) highest demands have been expressed for schools where classes are already oversubscribed and would have justified redirection to another school; and
- (v) implementation of the scheme in March would have unduly penalised the children concerned the more so has the transition from home or pre-school to Std I is particularly sensitive.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration, it has been decided to defer the exercise to allow for a proper debate within public opinion and in particular as amongst educationists. May I point out that the age of admission to schools has always and everywhere been a hotly debated matter as indicated by the recent experience of the Republic of South Africa. And that is why we have decided to reconsider the whole matter.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - STANDARD I PUPILS (21/05/02)

(No. B/322) Dr. R. Beebeejaun (Second Member for Port Louis South and Port Louis Central) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether, in regard to Standard I pupils in –

- (a) Government;

(b) private schools, he will for each category, give -

- (i) the number of pupils registered;
- (ii) the total number of classes, and
- (iii) the number of classes with -
 - (A) 25 pupils or less;
 - (B) 26 to 30 pupils;
 - (C) 31 to 35 pupils;
 - (D) 36 to 40 pupils;
 - (E) 41 to 45 pupils, and
 - (F) 46 or more pupils.

Mr Obegadoo: Sir, I am informed that for Government primary schools, the situation is as follows -

- (i) the number of pupils in standard I is 15,134;
- (ii) the total number of classes is 444;
- (iii) the number of classes with -
 - (A) 25 pupils or less is 55;
 - (B) 26 to 30 pupils is 59;
 - (C) 31 to 35 pupils is 107;
 - (D) 36 to 40 pupils is 122;
 - (E) 41 to 45 pupils is 92, and
 - (F) 46 or more pupils is 9.

It is presumed that the information sought in respect of private schools relates to State aided private schools, that is, RCA & Hindu aided Schools, where I am informed that the situation is as follows -

- (i) the number of pupils in standard I is 3,876;
- (ii) the total number of classes is 116;
- (iii) the number of classes with -
 - (A) 25 pupils or less is 21;
 - (B) 26 to 30 pupils is 22;
 - (C) 31 to 35 pupils is 13;
 - (D) 36 to 40 pupils is 55;
 - (E) 41 to 45 pupils is 2, and
 - (F) 46 or more pupils is 3.

Dr. Beebeejaun: I am not sure why the hon. Minister has chosen the State aided schools. I asked for private schools; he should have the figures for private schools.

Mr Obeegadoo: Private schools in the primary sector are of two types, Mr Deputy Speaker. There are the State aided schools where schooling is free. Those are the ones I mentioned - RCA or Hindu aided. Then there are the completely private in the sense of being fee-paying schools for which we have some figures, while others are being compiled.

Dr. Beebeejaun: May we have the figures available once they are compiled?

Mr Obeegadoo: Certainly, Sir.

YEAR 2006

ARYAN VEDIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – STD I – ADMISSION (18/04/06)

(No. B/303) Dr. R. Hawoldar (Second Member for La Caverne & Phoenix) asked the Minister of Education & Human Resources whether in regard to the Pandit Kisto Aryan Vedic Primary School in Vacoas, he will state –

- (a) the criteria used for admission in Standard I, and
- (b) the maximum number of pupils accommodated in each class in Standard I.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with section 10 of the Education Regulations 1957, the criteria used for admission to either a Government Primary School or to an aided primary school are as follows –

- (i) the pupil should have attained the age of five years on or before 31 December in the year preceding that in which he seeks admission,
- (ii) he lives in such catchment area as may be drawn up by the Minister in relation to the school to which admission is sought, and
- (iii) the school capacities.

Admission in aided primary schools is made based on two lists – a Government list which includes all the children living in the catchment area of the school satisfying all the above-mentioned criteria, and the Manager's list which includes all children who have applied to the Manager of the school, but who may not necessarily live in the catchment area of the school.

Priority of admission to Std I in aided schools is given to the Government list and the remaining vacancies are then filled by pupils from the Manager's list.

In line with the above, the admission to Std I in the Aryan Vedic Primary School, an aided school is made as per the criteria mentioned above.

As regards part (b) of the question, to date, the maximum number of pupils accommodated in each class in Std I at the Aryan Vedic Primary School is as follows –

- (i) two classes of 42 each,
- (ii) two classes of 40 each, and
- (iii) one class of 41.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS – ADMISSION – FAKE CEB BILLS (18/07/06)

(No. B/1011) Mr J. C. Barbier (Third Member for GRNW and Port Louis West) asked the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence & Home Affairs, Minister of Civil Service & Administrative Reforms and Minister of Rodrigues & Outer Islands whether, in regard to the recent cases of false documents being submitted for the purposes of the admission of children in

primary schools, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Commissioner of Police, information as to if these cases have been reported to the Police and if so,

- (a) obtain details as to the number of -
 - (i) schools involved;
 - (ii) parents involved, and
- (b) if the inquiry will be extended to the other schools.

The Ag. Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, on 23 June 2006, the Central Electricity Board reported to the Police that suspected fake electricity bills had been used by some parents to seek admission for their children in January 2007 to standard I in Hugh Otter Barry Primary Government School at Curepipe.

In the process of the verification of the bills, the Central Electricity Board found that, in some instances, the names and addresses used on the bills were falsified; in other cases, the account numbers were simply invalid.

As at now, fifty fake bills have been submitted to the Police for inquiry. Out of the fifty parents involved, twenty have been arrested on a provisional charge of “making use of a forged document” and have been subsequently bailed out.

Inquiry in the other thirty cases is still being pursued.

I wish to inform the House that the Central Electricity Board has carried out an in-depth investigation with a view to identifying any internal weakness in its process flow linked to electricity bills. In a report, prepared on 12 July 2006, various weaknesses have been highlighted regarding the movement of bills, including blank bills and access to these bills. The Central Electricity Board has, therefore, tightened the process flow linked to electricity bills in order to provide more security and better auditing in its billing system.

Moreover, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources has requested all Heads of Schools to verify anew the documents submitted by parents and to report any case of suspected falsification to the Police.

Mr Bérenger: May I ask the hon. Ag. Prime Minister whether anybody at the CEB is involved in the inquiry at this stage?

The Ag. Prime Minister: At this stage, it is very suspicious. The answer is yes, but the inquiry is ongoing.

Mr Bérenger: May I ask the Ag. Prime Minister whether he will ascertain that, indeed, CEB bills are requested from anybody as far as entry to those schools are concerned and that no other documents, in particular, the so-called rent books are used?

The Ag. Prime Minister: We will look into that. I may be mistaken, but both are used, sometimes one or the other, and I think we will have to tighten the procedures.

Mr Barbier: M. le président, est-ce que le Premier ministre par intérim serait d'accord avec moi que l'action de ces parents est le résultat direct et les conséquences de la contre-réforme dans l'éducation qui encourage, encore une fois, les parents à essayer par tous les moyens d'obtenir le collège de leur choix. Étant donné la situation, est-ce que le gouvernement propose-t-il de revoir certains aspects de la contre-réforme dans l'éducation?

The Ag. Prime Minister: Can the hon. Member repeat the question, please?

Mr Barbier: M. le président, est-ce que le Premier ministre par intérim serait d'accord avec moi que l'action de ces parents est le résultat direct et les conséquences de la contre-réforme dans l'éducation du gouvernement? Vu la situation, est-ce que le gouvernement va considérer la possibilité de revoir certains aspects de la contre-réforme?

The Ag. Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to sort out the question from the comments. I draw the attention of every Member in this House that this sort of operation, I am sure, has been going on for quite a while, in the previous Government as well as the present Government. It is thanks to the effort of this Government that we are putting order.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker: Order!

Mrs Labelle: I would like to ask the Ag. Prime Minister whether the director of a pre-primary school has been arrested in this particular case and whether any charges have been retained against her?

The Ag. Prime Minister: The answer is yes, and a provisional charge of conspiracy has been retained against her.

Mr Lesjongard: When a CEB bill is issued, is it not linked to the serial number of a meter? Does the hon. Ag. Prime Minister have the information?

The Ag. Prime Minister: Yes, it is.

Mr Lesjongard: If this is the case, then, it is a network within the CEB which is giving those fake CEB bills.

The Ag. Prime Minister: Mr Speaker, Sir, more than that, some of these numbers are fake.

Mr Naidu: May I ask the Ag. Prime Minister how far back into the past will the inquiry go?

The Ag. Prime Minister: We had a specific complaint and we are looking into it. We have asked the other schools to look into it as well. It would be difficult to go back in the past.

Mrs Dookun-Luchoomun: May I ask the Ag. Prime Minister whether measures are going to be taken to remedy the situation in view of ensuring that other students living in the immediate vicinity of the school and who have been disadvantaged by this malpractice, be taken on board?

The Ag. Prime Minister: We can only do this for this year and for admission of 2007, but it will certainly be completely relooked at.

**HUGH OTTER BARRY GOVERNMENT SCHOOL –
ADMISSION – FORGED CEB BILLS (18/07/06)**

(No. B/1041) Mr P. Jhugroo (Third Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue) asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he is aware that some parents have submitted forged bills of Central Electricity Board and of other parastatal bodies to obtain admission of their wards in Standard 1 at the Hugh Otter Barry Government School and, if so, will he state –

(a) if these cases have been reported to the Police, and

(b) the measures he proposes to take to prevent such practice.

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, the answer is in the positive. I wish to inform the House that on the first days of registration of pupils for admission to Standard I students for the intake of January 2007, the Head teacher of Hugh Otter Barry Government School had doubts on the authenticity of the utility bills submitted by some parents and some parents had drawn the attention of the Head teacher on the fake CEB bills on 22 June 2007.

As regards part (a) of the question, on 23 June 2006, the Head teacher reported the case to the General Manager of the CEB.

On the same day, the General Manager of the C.E.B who checked the database kept in his office, found the bills to be fake. He subsequently referred the case to the Police, and the Ag. Prime Minister, answering Parliamentary Question B/1011 has given the details.

As regards part (b) of the question, the measures proposed to be taken to prevent such practice are as follows -

(i) all Heads of schools have been directed to re-verify documents and to report any cases of suspected falsified documents to the Ministry and the Police;

(ii) I wish to draw the attention of the House that all parents are required to fill in and sign a declaration form at the time of registration with a clause which stipulates, I quote –

“I understand that this is a criminal offence to willfully furnish to the Minister of Education, or any officer of this Ministry, false or misleading information in connection with an application for the admission of a pupil to a Government, or aided primary school.”

Furthermore, for admission to Standard I for future intakes (2008 onwards), the press communiqué which the Ministry issues annually prior to the registration exercise will also include the *proviso* stating the legal implications in case of fake documents.

It is hoped that all parents will draw the lessons from the case in point and refrain from resorting to illegal practices.

In the medium and long term, the objective of my Ministry is to improve the quality of education in all schools so that there is no need for parents to resort to such practices.

Mr Bérenger: Mr Speaker, Sir, I put the same question to the hon. Minister that I put to the Ag. Prime Minister. From the reply we have just heard, it seems that it is a standing request that parents, when they make their application, that it be accompanied by a genuine CEB bill. Have there been many cases where instead of using the CEB bill, rent books or so-called rent books have been used?

Mr Gokhool: Mr Speaker, Sir, as per the requirements, they have to provide documents which are CEB bills and CWA bills. There is no requirement to submit rent books.

(Interruptions)

But that is for secondary schools.

(Interruptions)

Mr Speaker, Sir, these are specific to the primary schools.

Mr Bérenger: Mr Speaker, Sir, can I ask the hon. Minister, therefore, whether for secondary schools, rent books or so-called rent books are acceptable to the Ministry?

Mr Gokhool: I think this is what I said in my reply to which the hon. Member is referring. But these regulations which I am citing refer to primary schools.

Mrs Hanoomanjee: Mr Speaker, Sir, given the special circumstances of Hugh Otter Barry Government School, can I ask the Minister whether he considers it fit to have a pre-primary unit based at Hugh Otter Barry Government School?

Mr Gokhool: I take note of this suggestion.

Mr Speaker: This does not arise from this question.