

SECONDARY

CONFSSIONALS SCHOOLS

17-10-00 (4)

CONFSSIONAL SCHOOLS - CLASSE II CLASSES

(No. B/75) **Dr. B. Hookoom (Second Member for Piton and Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will state if his Ministry is in presence of an application from the managers of confessional schools to run *Classe II* classes and, if so, will he make a statement thereon.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, I am advised that the term *Classe II* is not currently in use in the educational field and does not refer to any specific course of study or age group. I shall accordingly suggest to the hon. Member that the question be reworded to clarify its meaning and if put again, I will most certainly provide the information sought.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE/PÈRE LAVAL COLLEGE - DEPUTY
RECTOR/PRINCIPAL - QUALIFICATIONS

29/4/02
② (76)

(No. B/280) Mr X. L. Duval (Fourth Member for Curepipe and Midlands) asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will state if the newly appointed Deputy Rector of St Mary's College and the Principal of Père Laval College hold the minimum qualifications laid down by the Pay Research Bureau.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, I am informed that the basic qualifications prescribed by PRB for the post of Deputy Rector and Principal in the private secondary schools sector is A level + degree whereas in the State sector that is not so. This situation has given rise to representations from private secondary schools unions and the issue has been referred to the PRB for consideration.

With regard to the particular schools mentioned, I am informed that the PSSA has received requests for registration of a Principal and Deputy Rector for Père Laval and St Mary's colleges respectively, which applications have been rejected in view of the lack of the basic A level qualifications. I am further informed that the management of the schools has applied to PSSA for appointment as acting of the Principal and Deputy Rector pending the issue being sorted out by PRB.

However, according to the very latest information received this morning, the diocese has decided to re-advertise the posts in view of representations received.

**GOVERNMENT SECONDARY SCHOOL - MONTHLY
COST PER STUDENT FOR YEARS 2000-2002**

(No. B/408) **Mr X. L. Duval (Fourth Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will table a list of the monthly cost per student attending each Government secondary school for each of the financial years 2000/2001 and 2001/2002.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, the information requested is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the information is not available? As a matter of course at the Ministry, it has to be compiled.

Mr Obeegadoo: Yes, Sir. Because the question relates to each Government secondary school, including presumably both recurrent and capital expenditure, therefore this is a constantly evolving picture and the information is being compiled and will be made available.

**PRIVATE SECONDARY SCHOOLS/CONFESSIONAL
SCHOOLS - SUBSIDY PER STUDENT**

(No. B/409) **Mr X. L. Duval (Fourth Member for Curepipe and Midlands)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will table a list of the monthly subsidy per student met from public funds for each private secondary school including confessional schools for each of the financial years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

Mr Obeegadoo: Sir, the information requested for is being compiled and will be placed in the Library of the National Assembly.

Mr Duval: Mr Speaker, Sir, I don't want to be rude to the hon. Minister, but this information has already been submitted and is a subject matter of the last Report of the PAC. Therefore, I find it very hard for the Minister to say that it is being compiled. I was as polite as I could, but it was not apparently helpful. This is why I am saying I find it very hard to believe that this information is not available as it is already the subject of Section V of the last PAC Report.

Mr Obeegadoo: Let me try and make it easier for the hon. Member to comprehend. The hon. Member is perfectly right. This issue was raised at the level of the Public Accounts Committee in respect of one of the fiscal years mentioned in the question. Even for that year, Members of the Public Accounts Committee made some quite pertinent remarks as to the method of calculating those figures. We are so attentive to those remarks that we are looking again at the computation of those figures and for the other year, of course, we have to compute anew.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

B/179 The Honourable Third Member for Grand River North West and Port Louis West (Mr Armance)

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

Whether he will state the amount of money made available to the Bureau d'Education Catholique by way of loan and say when it was made available and the reason therefor?

Reply to PQ B/179 (Tuesday 13 April 2004)

Sir,

I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to loans granted by the Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM). I am informed that no loan has been granted by the DBM to the Bureau d'Education Catholique.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

I am also informed that five of the Catholic Colleges have contracted loans with the Development Bank of Mauritius as follows:

Schools	Date of Approval	Amount of Loan Approved (Rs M)
Loreto College (Mahebourg)	27.07.94	1.6
Loreto College (Mahebourg)	22.04.98	1.0
Loreto College (Port Louis)	27.08.97	3.7
Loreto College (Curepipe)	24.09.97	3.0
College de la Confiance	16.03.99	1.6
St Mary's College	22.12.00	2.5

The above loans have +been granted for the purpose of infrastructural upgrading of secondary schools.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES TO PQ B/179

On 11 June 2002, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (MOESR) and the Catholic Colleges for the conversion of existing colleges and departments into either Form I-V or Form VI colleges, to be financed through Development Bank of Mauritius (DBM) loans. The Catholic Colleges were requested to submit their projects to the Private Secondary Schools Authority (PSSA). Projects for the conversion of nine pre-vocational department with autonomous units offering Form I to V classes were submitted.

2. In October 2002, a Steering Committee comprising officials of my Ministry and the PSSA was set up to see whether the projects were in line with the philosophy of the MoU.

3. The Catholic Colleges initiated action to implement the 2003 admission as planned by Government which was successfully carried out. Claims relating to preliminary arrangements for infrastructural works estimated at around Rs 11.6M were submitted to the Ministry of Finance, and subsequently to my Ministry.

4. A team of officers of my Ministry and the PSSA examined the claim, which exercise involved site visits, scrutiny of documents and consideration of the provisions of the MOU. Following discussions between my Ministry and representatives of the Catholic Colleges, the figure was brought down to around Rs 10.4M.

5. In view of the uncertain situation that was prevailing, the Bureau d'Education Catholique (BEC) was made to understand that refund of expenses as laid down in the MoU could not be entertained. However, BEC was advised that the expenses be met through DBM loans under the scheme for upgrading of secondary schools.

6. The Ministry of Finance gave clearance to the above modus operandi for reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the Catholic Colleges. Cabinet was apprised of the arrangements being made. On 15 August 2003, BEC was officially informed to apply for DBM loans and the PSSA was informed accordingly.

7. I am informed that the Catholic Colleges have submitted applications to the DBM for loans totalling an amount of around Rs 10.4M. The applications are still being processed by the DBM and no disbursement has been made so far.

26/10/04 (5)

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UNREVISED ✓

SC/D33/P12/03

COLLEGE PERE LAVAL – MR JACQUES PEREIRA

(No. B/789) **Dr. A. Boolell (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Director of the PSSA as to whether he gave any firm guarantee to Mr Jacques Pereira that he was aptly qualified to be appointed as Rector of College Père Laval and, if so, will he ascertain the reasons of the delay in his being appointed.

The Minister of Training, Skills Development, Productivity and External Communications (Mr S. Fowdar) Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to inform the House that the last Director of the PSSA retired on 30 April 2004 and that institution has since been under the responsibility of an Officer-in-Charge. There is no record to the effect that the last Director gave any such guarantee as mentioned in the question of the hon. Member. For this part, the Officer-in-Charge has also stated that he has not given any such guarantee.

Be that as it may, it has not been possible, so far, for the PSSA to register Mr Pereira as Principal because of a strict interpretation of the qualifications required as at now.

On the other hand, I wish to inform the House that the hon. Prime Minister received a delegation of parents of students of *Collège Père Laval* on Thursday last and he has taken good note of their representations.

Mr Speaker, Sir, my colleague, the substantive Minister, will be back from overseas mission tomorrow. I have no doubt that the Prime Minister and my colleague, the Minister of Education, will find a solution to the satisfaction of one and all this week. In this respect, I understand that my colleague has preliminary consultations with the Union and other stakeholders on the matter before he proceeded on official mission.