

## TERTIARY

### MAURITIUS INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

29 OCT. 02



DR/D31/W07/1

#### MIE - APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

(No. B/640) 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 information from the MIE as to the reasons why officers whose appointment for the post of -

- (a) Clerk/Word Processor;
- (b) Clerical Officer/Higher Clerical Officer; and
- (c) Office Attendant

which have been ratified by the Appointments Committee in March 2002 and approved by the Council in April 2002 have not so far been approved by his Ministry.

**Reply:** The MIE is in need of reforms.

As the hon. gentleman may be aware, several reports pertaining to the MIE have been submitted to the Ministry in the past years which together indicate the necessity of a redefinition of the MIE's objectives and the need to review the institution's organisational structure, staffing and operations in the light thereof. Accordingly, since early this year, the Ministry has been considering ways and means to proceed with reforms at the MIE and accordingly filling of posts have been restricted to the academic and senior administrative levels which are deemed essential for the day to day running of the institution.

The hon. Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle may wish to note that Mauritius is participating in the UNESCO experience on "National Capacity Building of Lead Teacher Training Institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa".

It is also noteworthy that my Ministry will soon initiate procedures for filling of post of Director and Deputy Director of MIE.

As regards the specific positions mentioned in question, further to representations made by the MIE Staff Association and in order not to cause any undue hardship to those concerned, my Ministry is considering the advisability of clearing the relevant appointments shortly.

**MIE – ACTING DIRECTOR – OVERSEAS MISSIONS**

16/3/04  
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(No. B/22) **Dr. B. Hookoom (Second Member for Piton & Rivière du Rempart)** asked the Minister of Education & Scientific Research whether he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain information as to the number of times the Acting Director of the MIE has travelled abroad since he assumed office and indicate –

- (i) the purpose of these trips;
- (ii) the sum spent on air tickets and per diem for each mission abroad; and
- (iii) the source of funding of those missions.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, the Acting Director of the MIE has effected seven missions abroad.

I am tabling the details of these overseas missions as communicated by the MIE.

**PGCE & B. ED COURSES 2004**

25/5/04  
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(No. B/472) **Dr. A. Boolell (Second Member for Vieux Grand Port and Rose Belle)** asked the Minister of Education and Scientific Research whether he will state if courses for Post Graduate in Certificate Education and Bachelor in Education have started in this academic year 2004.

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Speaker, Sir, for recall, the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is a professional qualification for teachers at secondary level holding at least a first degree. Until 2001, the PGCE course was offered as an exclusively in-service programme run over two years on a part-time basis. As from January 2002, at the request of my Ministry, a full-time pre-service PGCE programme of one year duration is being run in addition to the in-service course.

*mrl/d11p13.06*

*unrevised*

*(No. B/472 ctd.....)*

As regards the in-service PGCE programme, there is another very positive development in as much as the MIE has agreed to have a yearly intake as from 2004 as opposed to the two yearly intake of the past.

Attempts by my Ministry to ensure that training courses for in-service teachers including the PGCE Course be run outside normal school hours met with strong resistance from some trade unions and staff associations. As a result, a compromise had to be negotiated with all parties concerned for 2004. Hence, the delay in the start of the in-service PGCE programme which will now run as from the second semester instead of the first semester of 2004 at the MIE.

The Bachelor in Education (B.Ed) is an in-service training programme meant for practicing teachers of secondary schools holding Teachers' Diploma of the MIE. The course is run on a yearly basis by the University of Mauritius in collaboration with the MIE. As is the case every year, the courses begin with the opening of the academic year at the University of Mauritius. The B.Ed courses for year 2004 have been advertised on 17 May 2004 and will start in August 2004.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, enhanced training opportunities for teachers remain fundamental to the reform process in education and the House will be interested to learn that, at secondary level, the percentage of teachers professionally trained or undergoing training has risen from 30% in year 2000 to 44% this year. Further, graduates as a percentage of secondary school teachers represented 52% in 2000 and 59% this year.

**D11P14CO1**  
**PQ No. B/472 (contd)**

**Dr. Boolell:** Neither here nor there! Can I ask the Minister whether he had prior discussion with all the managers of secondary schools knowing perfectly well that the decision taken has disrupted the programme established by the managers with the end result that they have to reframe the whole programme?

**Mr Obeegadoo:** With all due respect I do not see the point of the hon. gentleman. Training facilities for teachers are being democratised in an unprecedented manner. As regards the Bachelor in Education the hon. gentleman is clearly misinformed, ...

*(Interruptions)*

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order!

**Mr Obeegadoo:** ...there was one intake every year. There still is one intake every year with courses starting in August.

As regards the PGCE programme which had a two yearly intake, now it is a yearly intake; and in addition to the in-service programme, we have introduced the pre-service programme for young people coming out of schools who intend to have a career in education to train and then have an advantage at the time of recruitment by the Public Service Commission. So, the figures are there and I quoted the figures : in 2000, 30% of teachers were either trained or undergoing training. In this year, within four years, the percentage has gone from 30% to 44%. So, what could be the problem of the hon. gentleman with what is being achieved?

**Dr. Boolell:** Is the Minister aware that this is the first time since 30 years that there has been disruption of the whole programme and this is not the first time that PGCE courses and B.Ed courses are being run? The Minister has deliberately chosen to disrupt the whole programme.

*(Interruptions)*

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Again, the hon. gentleman clearly does not master this file and maybe his neighbour could help him.

*(Interruptions)*

**The Deputy Speaker:** Order!



D11P14CO2  
PQ No. B/472 (contd)

**Mr Obeegadoo:** Mr Deputy Speaker, for years in-service programmes have been run during school hours causing enormous inconvenience both to students and to their parents. We decided that we had to put an end to this state of affairs. So, as from last year, a policy decision was taken so that all in-service training would be carried out outside normal school hours. There has been a lot of resistance from certain trade unions and staff associations. The move was strongly supported by managers, and rightly so. Unfortunately, because of the resistance from some unions, we had to find a negotiated solution, which, of course, never pleases either party entirely. But we found a solution allowing us to move forward this year and we shall go on moving forward in years to come so that teachers can be trained, but not at the expense of students, of children and their parents.

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**MIE – DIRECTOR – POST (15/05/07)**

**(No. B/369) Mr G. Lesjongard (Second Member for Port Louis North and Montagne Longue)** asked the Minister of Education and Human Resources whether he is aware that Mr P. P., former Director of the Mauritius Institute of Education, has resigned and, if so, will he, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Institute, information as to the reasons therefor.

**Mr Gokhool:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the former Director did not resign; he made a request to be retired, and this was agreed upon.

The former Director had been appointed in a temporary capacity in August 2004 by the former Government.

A call for applications for the post of Director had been made.

However, no interview was held. It was the former Prime Minister who appointed the former Director.

It is to be noted that the then Deputy Director, who had acted as Acting Director, was not considered for the post.

The new Government decided to terminate the appointment of the former Director in a temporary capacity with effect from 14 February 2007 in accordance with Section 113(4) of the Constitution and Section 37A of the Labour Act.

As I stated before, he decided not to go back to his substantive position, but preferred to retire.

He made a request to retire not as Associate Professor, his substantive post, but as Director. This was agreed.

**Mr Varma:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, can the hon. Minister confirm who is the Director now of the MIE?

**Mr Gokhool:** We do not have a Director now. We have an acting Director.

**Mr Varma:** May I know who is the acting Director?

**Mr Gokhool:** It is Mrs Thancanamootoo.

**Mr Varma:** Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, could the hon. Minister confirm when will the Director be appointed?

**Mr Gokhool:** I cannot confirm, but we are paying attention to this issue.

**Mrs Labelle:** Will the hon. Minister confirm whether Mrs Thancanamootoo has been acting Director in the past and for how long she has been working as acting Director?

**Mr Gokhool:** As I said, in the past - I cannot say exactly - she is the substantive Deputy Director and whenever the Director is absent, she acted as acting Director.

**Mrs Labelle:** What I wanted to clarify is whether Mrs Thancanamootoo was acting Director previous to the appointment of Mr P.P.?

**Mr Gokhool:** This is what I said. In fact, this is some kind of injustice that may have been done to the Deputy Director and acting Director and in a way, there is some kind of remedial action which has been taken.