PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAMME

The Minister of Education & Human Resources (Mr D. Gakhoo) said:

Mr Speaker, Sir, following PQ No. B/1113 “whether, In regard to the Primary School Supplementary Feeding Programme, he will state if parents have been requested to fill a form and, if so, will he state the date on which this exercise was carried out and the outcome thereof”, I stated that my Ministry has not asked parents to fill any form.

The hon. Third Member for Vacoas & Floreal, Mrs Labelle, had laid on the Table an option form which was circulated at Reunion Government School asking parents whether they wish to continue to have a loaf of bread for their wards.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as I stated in my reply, I wish to reiterate that parents were not asked to fill an option form by my Ministry. However, the Directors of Zones were requested, in a letter dated 05 July 2006 issued by my Ministry, to “consult the PTA’s to come up with suggestions/proposals to identify those needy students who would like to continue benefiting from a loaf of bread”. Thereupon, the Head Teacher of Reunion Government School took the initiative to devise an option form whereby parents were asked to choose whether or not they would like wards to continue to benefit from a loaf daily.

It is clear that there has been a misinterpretation of the letter of the Ministry as none of the other Zone Directors (i.e. 1-3) have issued an option form. They had instead consultations by way of meetings or telephone calls with the PTA’s.

The case of Reunion Government School is an isolated case and should be treated as such.

With this precision, I stand by my reply to PQ No. B/1113.

Thank you, Sir.