



Ministry of Education
Response to Question#72
By Senator Hazel Manning
Minister of Education

In the Senate
Red House
Port-of-Spain

Tuesday July 3, 2007

Question No. 72

Question 72 reads as follows:

“(a) What number of students in primary schools have repeated standards 1 and 3 based on the National Primary Schools Assessment Examination, in the academic year September, 2005 to July, 2006?”

(b) What number of students will repeat the S.E.A. in 2008 as a result of the non-availability of school places? and

(c) How many students who sat the 2007 S.E.A. Examination had the experience of repeating any prior academic years?”

RESPONSE:

Madam President, I am to inform this Honourable House as follows:

With respect to Part (a) of the question, on the number of students at primary schools who have repeated standards 1 and 3 based on the National Primary Schools Assessment Exams; Madam President, the National Test is an academic assessment administered annually to pupils of standards 1 and 3 in all public and private primary schools in the country.

The National Test is administered near the end of the academic year, usually in June and the subjects tested are English Language and Mathematics.

The Test serves as a benchmark and provides data on the performance of the education system at the primary level. This information is used in policy formulation and for feedback to schools.

The National Test was administered to public and private primary schools for the first time on 22 June, 2004 (Academic year September 2003 to July 2004).

In the academic year September, 2005 to July, 2006, 17,410 standard I pupils and 17,883 standard 3 pupils wrote the examinations on June 27, 2006. Of those who sat, 651 or 3.7% of standard 1 pupils and 641 or 3.6% of standard 3 pupils were repeaters from the previous academic year 2004-2005.

It must be noted that pupils will only repeat the National Test if they repeat the standard I or standard 3 classes.

Part (b) of the question asks for the number of students who will repeat the S.E.A. as a result of the non-availability of school places. Madam President it is not possible to say at this time how many children will repeat the S.E.A. in 2008. However, the Government has ensured that there are sufficient places for all pupils who sit the S.E.A., including repeaters.

Our information at the Ministry shows that approximately 18,093 are eligible to write S.E.A. in 2008. On the other hand there are at least 18,093 spaces available in secondary schools for placement of S.E.A. pupils. It is clear therefore that no student in Trinidad and Tobago will be required to repeat the S.E.A. because of the non-availability of places.

Madam President, Part (c) of the question asks for the number of students who sat the S.E.A. in 2007, who had the experience of repeating any prior academic years. Information is only available on the number who have repeated standard 5 and in so doing repeated the S.E.A.

This year 2007, of the 17,804 pupils who wrote the S.E.A, 568 pupils or 3.2% repeated the examination. Of the 8,841 girls who wrote the examination, 311 or 3.5% repeated and of the 8,963 boys who wrote, 257 or 2.9% were repeaters.