**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 1261**

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**1261. Mr G R Davis (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) With reference to her reply to question 835 on 20 April 2016, (a) who will pay for the costs of training the 100 South African teachers to be trained in Mandarin in each year for the next five years and (b) what amount has been budgeted for the training in each specified year;

(2) (a) who will pay for the 100 South African teachers to travel to China in each year for the next five years for purposes of methodological and cultural enrichment and (b) what amount has been budgeted for this purpose in each specified year;

(3) (a) what criteria will be used to select the 100 South African teachers for Mandarin training, (b) will the specified teachers already be proficient in Mandarin and (c) how long will it take for the specified teachers to be (i) proficient in Mandarin and (ii) able to teach Mandarin;

(4) (a) what criteria will be used to select the 500 schools at which Mandarin will be rolled out in the next five years, (b) who will pay the salaries of Mandarin teachers at the specified schools, (c) how many learners currently take Mandarin as a second additional language in each province and (d) will action be taken against any selected school if they refuse to offer Mandarin;

(5) has her department undertaken any empirical studies to ascertain the demand for Mandarin as a second additional language at schools; if not, why not; if so, what were the findings of each such study? NW1409E

**RESPONSE:**

1) (a) The People’s Republic of China will pay for the training.

(b) This information has not been made available to the Department of Basic Education as the budget is located with the People’s Republic of China.

2) (a) The People’s Republic of China will fund the tuition fees and accommodation. However, the flights will be borne by each participant.

(b) This information has not been made available to the Department of Basic Education as the budget is located with the People’s Republic of China.

3) (a) The basic criteria are proficiency in Mandarin, a University qualification and pedagogical versatility.

(b) Yes, the proficiency level of teachers is one of the crietria for participation in the training.

(c) (i) Teachers selected for participation in the course must satisfy the minimum level of proficiency as dictated by the Chinese language authorities. Their participation in the course should assist to improve proficiency levels.

(ii) Once these candidates have completed the course and have passed the Mandarin proficiency test at a specified level, they will be able to teach Mandarin.

4) (a) It is envisaged that the five hundred schools will be recruited on a voluntary basis.

(b) Salaries will be paid by the People’s Republic of China.

(c) Currently the learner statistics that are available are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PROVINCE** | **LEARNER NUMBERS** |
| Eastern Cape | 136 |
| Gauteng | 602 |
| Western Cape | 249 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | 13 |

*Source: Information provided by Provincial Education Departments*

Note: The current statistics are tentative and will be reviewed during the survey that will be conducted by the Department of Basic Education, in collaboration with the Chinese advisor.

(d) The selection of schools is on a voluntary basis. Hence it is not envisaged that there will be refusal from schools to participate.

(5) There are no studies conducted as yet, but the Department of Basic Education is working with the Chinese advisor to conduct a survey on the demand for Mandarin in schools.