**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2187**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 14/10/2016**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 30/2016**

**2187. Mr C D Matsepe (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) How many (a) Funza Lushaka bursaries were awarded to students who wish to study in the fields of (i) special educational needs, (ii) braille and (iii) sign language education in each district of each province in the past three academic years and (b) students who completed their studies (i) graduated in each of the specified academic years and (ii) were placed in (aa) special educational needs schools, (bb) schools for the hearing impaired and (cc) schools for the visually impaired;

(2) how many of the students who completed their studies were placed in (a) main-stream education and (b) full-service schools? NW2509E

**REPLY**

**(1) How many (a) Funza Lushaka bursaries were awarded to students who wish to study in the fields of (i) special educational needs, (ii) braille and (iii) sign language education in each district of each province in the past three academic years and (b) students who completed their studies (i) graduated in each of the specified academic years and (ii) were placed in (aa) special educational needs schools, (bb) schools for the hearing impaired and (cc) schools for the visually impaired;**

1. (a) The priority areas for the Funza Lushaka bursary did not specifically include the fields of special educational needs, braille and sign language education in the past three academic years. This is because universities have not offered the fields of special educational needs, braille and sign language as major subject areas in the Bachelor of Education (B Ed) degree and Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) up to now. However, there are universities that are preparing for the introduction of full programmes in this regard. It is for this reason that the Department has included an emphasis on bursaries for inclusive education in the 2017 Funza Lushaka Policy.

(b) As stated above universities have not offered the fields of special educational needs, braille and sign language as major subject areas in the Bachelor of Education (B Ed) degree and Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) up to now. There are therefore no students who graduated with these as major subject areas.

1. **How many of the students who completed their studies were placed in (a) main-stream education and (b) full-service schools?**

1. There are no graduates funded by the Funza Lushaka bursary programme with major subjects in special educational needs, braille and sign language that needed to be placed.