**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION**

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**2371. Mr D H Khosa (ANC) to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

In view of the fact that although Grade R classes in primary schools do not form part of the official school enrolment at present and therefore are not covered in the school nutrition programme, the Grade R learners still benefit from allocations towards other learners, and in view of her department’s proposal that Grade R classes should start admitting 5-year old children as well which will become an unbearable strain on schools without necessary support by the State, what steps does she intend to take in this regard? NW2549E

**Response:**

Currently, all Grade R learners located in public primary schools (quintile 1 – 3 and identified special schools) benefit from the National School Nutrition Programme. With the envisaged admission of 5 year old children, the Department will work within the budget allocated in the next medium term expenditure framework (MTEF) cycle to include all targeted learners. Where necessary, National Treasury will be consulted on any additional budget requirements.