

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY
QUESTION 01**

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Mrs P de Lille (ID) to ask the Minister of Education:

(1) Whether her department has records of school fees that are paid to government schools; if not, why not; if so, what total amount was paid over the past two years;

(2) Whether her department has a policy regulating annual increases in school fees; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? NW1E

REPLY:

(1) The DoE's annual school survey collects information on school fees from each public school. However, some schools do not provide information as required or provide incomplete data, so the DoE is not in a position to verify the amounts paid in a particular year. According to information received, but which must be considered incomplete, R5 172 369 886 was paid as school fees in 2006, and R4 227 100 730 in 2007. Information for 2008 and 2009 has not yet been compiled.

(2) Section 39(1) of the South African Schools Act states that "school fees may be determined and charged at a public school only if a resolution to do so has been adopted by a majority of parents attending the general meeting". This means that if a school wants to increase its fees it will only be able to do so with the consent of the majority of parents at the meeting. Moreover, if schools increase school fees, the number of fully or partially exempted learners will also increase. This ensures that school fees do not rise above the affordability levels of parents.