

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.**

The following Bills which will be introduced in the National Assembly are published for general information.

F. A. Narain,
Clerk of the National Assembly



BILL No. 11 of 1982

GUYANA RICE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. **Short title**
2. **Amendment of the Principal Act.**

A BILL

Intituled

AN ACT to amend the Guyana Rice Board Act to empower the Guyana Rice Board to establish Regional Rice Boards and to assign them certain functions of the Board in order to decentralise its functions and to provide for matters connected therewith.

A.D. 1982 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:—

Short title: 1. This Act, which amends the Guyana Rice Board Act, may
Cap. 72:01 be cited as the Guyana Rice Board (Amendment) Act 1982,

Amendment of the Principal Act 2. (1) The Principal Act is hereby amended as follows:—

- (a) in section 23 (3), by the substitution for the words “1st October in each year and ending on the 30th September in the year following” of the words “1st January in each year”;
- (b) in section 24 (2), by the substitution for the words “31st December” and “30th September” of the words “30th April” and “31st December” respectively;
- (c) by the insertion of the following heading immediately after section 24 —

“REGIONAL RICE BOARDS”; and

- (d) by the insertion of the following sections as sections 24A to 24H immediately after the heading inserted by paragraph (c) —

“Establishment of Regional Rice Boards,”

24A. (1) The Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, may establish in each region a Regional Rice Board. A Regional Rice Board shall consist of —

- (a) not less than five persons appointed by the Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, from among persons appearing to the Board to be qualified for appointment as being bona fide rice farmers; and

- (b) not more than five other person appointed by the Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, from among persons appearing to the Board to be qualified for appointment as having had experience in matters relating to production, manufacture and marketing of rice or to agriculture, industry, the co-operative movement, local government, administration or commerce.

(2) The Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, may appoint any member of the Board qualified for appointment under subsection (1) a a member of a Regional Rice Board.

(3) The Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, shall appoint any member of a Regional Rice Board as Chairman of the Regional Rice Board of which he is a member.

(4) Each such Regional Rice Board shall be assigned such name as the Board may determine and shall have its headquarters in the Board's main office in the region.

(5) The Chairman of a Regional Rice Board, shall be paid such, if any, remuneration and allowances as the Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, may determine. The other members of a Regional Rice Board shall be paid such, if any, allowances as the Board, acting after consultation with the Minister, may determine.

(6) A member of a Regional Rice Board may at any time resign his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman of the Board.

(7) In this section —

“Minister” means the per on assigned under article 107 of the Constitution with responsibility for agriculture by the President; and

“region” means any of the regions into which Guyana has been divided under section 4 of the Local Democratic Organs Act 1980. _____

**Powers of
Regional
Rice Boards.**

24B. A Regional Rice Board shall be subject to the directions and control of the Board. A Regional Rice Board shall within the area for which it is established, manage such business of the Board under this Act and may, in the name and on behalf of the Board, exercise, perform and discharge such powers, duties and functions of the Board under this Act as may in writing be assigned to it by the Board.

**Minutes
of Regional
Rice
Boards.**

24C. A Regional Rice Board shall cause to be kept proper minutes of its acts and proceedings.

**Procedures
and meet-
ings of
Regional
Rice
Boards.**

24D. (1) A meeting of a Regional Rice Board shall be held on a convenient date in alternate weeks in every month in each year and at such other times as may be necessary.

(2) Six members of a Regional Rice Board present at any meeting, of whom at least two shall be member appointed under paragraph (a) and two under paragraph (b) of section 24A (1), shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3) A member of a Regional Rice Board shall not take part in or vote on the decision of any matter with respect to any transaction between the Regional Rice Board and himself or between the Regional Rice Board and any person in whose business he is pecuniarily interested whether directly or indirectly.

(4) Subject to this section a Regional Rice Board has power to regulate its own proceedings.

**Staff
assigned
to Regional
Rice
Boards.**

24E. The Board shall assign to a Regional Rice Board a secretary and such officers and employees as the Board deem necessary to enable the Regional Rice Board to carry out its functions effectively.

**Funds of
Regional
Rice
Boards.**

24F. The Board shall place at the disposal of a Regional Rice Board such amounts as may be necessary to meet capital and revenue expenditure.

24G. Section 10, as it applies to a member or officer of the Board, shall *mutatis mutandis* apply to a member of, or officer assigned by the Board to, a Regional Rice Board.

Information obtained as a member of or officer assigned to a Regional Rice Board to be secret and confidential.

24H. (1) A Regional Rice Board shall keep such books and accounts as are necessary for the purpose of the business assigned to it by the Board.

Books, accounts and records of Regional Rice Boards

(2) A Regional Rice Board shall on or before the 31st March in each year transmit to the Board a report of its transactions to the 31st December next preceding together with a balance sheet and a full statement of income and expenditure for the accounting period ending on 31st December next preceding audited by an auditor approved by the Board.

(3) The ascertained profits of any accounting period in which there is an excess of income over expenditure shall be transferred to the general reserve fund.

(4) The accounting period shall be the period of twelve months ending on the 31st December in each year."

(2) The amendments made by subsection (1) (a) and (b) to the Principal Act shall come into operation with effect from 1st January, 1983.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill, in addition to some minor consequential amendments, seeks to empower the Guyana Rice Board to establish Regional Rice Boards in order to decentralise its functions.

Hamilton Green,
Vice-President,
Agriculture.