

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE FIRST SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF
GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

Part 1

12TH SITTING

14:00H

Tuesday, 03rd July, 2001

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P. - *Speaker of the National Assembly*

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P. - *Prime Minister and Minister of
Public Works and Communications
(Absent - performing the functions of
the Office of President)*

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P. - *Minister of Parliamentary
Affairs*

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., - *Minister of Foreign Trade
and International Co-operation
(Absent)*

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P. - *Minister of Local Government
and Regional Development*

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M. P. - *Minister of Culture, Youth
and Sport*

The Hon. Dr Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P. - *Minister of Education*

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P. - *Minister of Finance*

The Hon. Shaik K. Z. Baksh, M.P. - *Minister of Housing and Water*

Mr Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P. - *Minister of Agriculture (Region No. 4
Demerara/Mahaica)*

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P. - *Minister of Home Affair (Region No. 3
Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)*

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth M.P. - *Minister of Labour, Human Services
and Social Security*

The Hon. Clinton Collymore, M.P. - *Minister in the Ministry of Local
Government and Regional
Development*

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- The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P.* - Minister of Fisheries, other Crops and Livestock (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- *The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,* - Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent -on Leave)
- *The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P.,* - Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)
- The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.,* - Minister of Public Service
The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M. P. - Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
- The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P.,* - Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- ** The Hon.. Manzoor Nadir, M. P.,* - Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
- The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P.,* - Minister of Amerindian Affairs
The Hon. Dr Leslie Ramsammy, M.P., - Minister of Health
Mr S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P. - Chief Whip
- Mr Cyril C. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M. P.* - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Mr Donald Ramotar, M. P.
Mr Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. - (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
- Mr Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.*
Mrs Indranie Chandarpal, M.P
Mr Bernard C. De Santos, S.C., M.P. - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
- Mrs Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.*
Mr Odinga N. Lumumba, M. P.
Mr Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. - (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supernaam)
- Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P.* - (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Mr Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.*
Mr Kemraj Ramjattan, M.P. - (Region No.6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Mr Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P..*
Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. - Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water
- Mrs Pauline R. Sukhai, M. P.* - (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (30)

(i) People's National Congress (27)

- Mr H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.* - Leader of the Opposition
Mr Robert H. O. Corbin, M. P.
Mr Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

** Non-Elected Minister*

12/2 **Elected Member from The United Force

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- Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M. P.* - Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
- Mr E. Lance Carberry, M.P.* - (Absent - on leave)
- Dr Faith A. Harding, M.P.* - (Absent - on leave)
- M Ivor Allen, M. P.* - (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supernaam)
(Absent - on Leave)
- Mrs Deborah J. Backer, M. P.*
- Mr Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.*
- Mr C Stanley Ming, M.P.*
- Mr Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.*
- Mr Vincent L. Alexander, M.P.* - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr Andy Gouveia, M.P.*
- Ms Volda A. Lawrence, M. P.* - (Absent)
- Dr Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P.* - (Absent-on Leave)
- Miss Amna Ally, M.P.* - (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- Ms Sandra M. Adams, M.P.* - (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice) (Absent)
- Mr Jerome Khan, M.P.*
- Dr George A. Norton, M.P.*
- Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P.* - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr James K. Mc Allister, M.P.* - (Region No.3 - Essequibo Islands/West
Demerara)
- Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P.* - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P.* - (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice)
- Mr Ricky Khan, M.P.* - (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P.* - (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
- Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P.* - Region No. 6 - East Berbice/
Corentyne) (Absent - on Leave)
- Miss Judith David, M.P.* - (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
- Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P.* - (Region No.4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- (ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)**
- Mrs Shelia V.A. Holder, M.P.*
- Mrs Shirley J. Melville, M.P.* - (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu
UpperEssequibo)
- (iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**
- Mr Ravindra Dev, M.P.* - (Absent)

OFFICERS

Mr Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly
Mr Sheriock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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PRAYER

The Clerk read the Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

Hon Members, leave has been granted to the Hon S. Rudolph Insanally up to the end of the week; and also to Mr E Lance Carberry, Dr Dalgleish Joseph and Mr Nasir Ally for today's sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2001 (2001 BUDGET)

The Speaker: The Assembly will now be resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2001.

In Committee

The Chairman: Hon Members, we are now in Committee of Supply. We have, as recommended by the Business Sub-Committee and adopted by us at our last Sitting, a Resolution with a time schedule for the consideration of the Estimates. There are forty-four Agencies with one hundred and eighty-eight Programmes and Divisions for consideration and we have been allotted three days. We have for consideration today fifteen Agencies involving forty-nine Programmes and Divisions and we are required to finish before 9.0'clock in accordance with our Resolution.

Will Members kindly get Volume I and turn to pages 30 and 31?

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AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMME 1 - Head Office Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$625,577,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 1 - Head Office Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

The Hon Member, Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, under Contracted Employees, Programme: 01, Acct Code 106, I note a sum there of \$8,443,000. The question I have, Sir, is for the revised 2000. Could the Minister explain the reduction from \$12 million to \$8 million, whether that is a reduction of two positions in the number of contracted employees? That is the first question.

Secondly, Sir, could the Minister say in what fields of expertise the contracted employees are functioning, their number and their emoluments?

Sir, if you crave my indulgence for a minute, this is a question that has been asked here before and Ministers have undertaken to provide it subsequent to the posing of the question, which I understand, except in my own case, I have never received the promised responses. Sir, I would understand if you promise them, but I would like to get them.

The Chairman: Can we take all the questions before we ask the Minister to answer?

The Hon Member, Miss David.

Miss Judith David: No question, Sir

The Chairman: Yes, Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Could the Minister please explain under

Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations, Acct Code 231, what is the distinction that is being made between Head of Presidential Guard, for which nothing has been budgeted in 2001 and the creation of a new entity called Presidential Guard Services, to which apparently the sums which were hitherto under Presidential Guard have been transferred? Could the Minister say what are the implications of the creation of a new agency with this sum of \$131 million?

Secondly, I note that among the Organisations to be granted a subsidy and contribution, one or the other, I suppose, is the Guyana Office for Investment and the question I have here, Sir, would the Minister be prepared to tell this House whether it is already a closed issue, that the Guyana Office for Investment will be transferred to the Office of the President in view of the observations made during the Budget Debate in this House?

Could the Minister say, why it is that this vote has been cut by more than ten per cent at a time when we are led to believe that the Guyana Office for Investment will have a pivotal and expanding role to play to woo investment into Guyana?

Why is it that in those circumstances the vote has been cut by upward of ten per cent?

The Chairman: Any other questions under this Agency?

The Hon Member, Mr Gajraj.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. With respect to the first question pertaining to Acct Code 106, as the Staffing Details show on page 31, there is a decrease in the number of contracted employees by two, compared to what it was in the year 2000. Hence the reduction in the amount of money allocated to contracted employees at Acct Code 106.

Acct Code 231, the Presidential Guard was an integral part of the Police Force and what is sought to be done now is to establish

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the Presidential Guard as an entity serving within the scope and ambit of the Presidential Secretariat.

With respect to the other question, I am advised that the GO-INVEST is now a separate and distinct entity and as such it would be burdened with its own expense for printing the brochures and other materials that would be required to sell it locally and internationally and that resulted in the ten per cent in the money which has been allotted to that entity.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Through you, Sir, could the Hon Minister then be prepared to say, with respect to contracted employees, that the diminution by \$4 million is an amount to be paid to contracted employees and that this sum of \$4 million is equal to salaries that were being paid to the two persons who no longer worked there? Are the two things directly related?

Secondly, Sir, could the Minister explain the rationale why, in a matter of security, which is largely a function to be carried out by the Police, what is the rationale underlying the creation of a special Presidential Guard Service, separate and apart from outside the security system of Guyana? By what criteria can we be assured that entitlement to employment as part of the Presidential Guard Service will not include political considerations?

Thirdly, Sir, am I to understand from the Minister's reply with respect to the Guyana's Office for Investment that this is simply a transfer of resources to that institution and in no way suggests that the institution is part of the Presidential outfit? Because that would satisfy me. I understood it to infer that, but I would like a clear statement.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I understand that the Guyana's Office for Investment is a subvention Agency and is no longer a part of the Presidential Secretariat.

With respect to the Presidential Guard Service, it has always been over the years, that that component, when we had the Army that serviced the Presidential requirement, was separate and distinct within the umbrella of the Army. In this case, the expenses which are to be met for the purposes of Presidential Guard Services would be a subvention sort of amount that would go directly to the Presidential Guard Service, the meeting of the expenses and the service to the Presidential Complex.

With respect to the other question, Mr Chairman, after the direct relation between the two contracted employees and the \$4 million, which you can round the figures, where there is a deficit, I am advised that the Head of the Presidential Secretariat used to be paid as well in that line, but because of the new dispensation now, that to some extent accounts for the deficit by the \$4 million, because it incorporates not only the contracted employees emoluments but also that of the Head of the Presidential Secretariat.

The Chairman: Yes, Mr Murray

Mr Winston S Murray: It is a misnomer to describe these sums here as related to contracted employees if they include the Head of the Presidential Secretariat.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I am advised that the Head of the Presidential Secretariat was paid under Acct Code 106, but he is now being paid under Programme 2 under this new dispensation.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 1 - Head Office Administration - \$625,577,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 32 and 33

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMME

2 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$89,708,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 2 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? *[Pause]*

There being no questions,

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 2 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - \$89,708,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 34 and 35.

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Service Management

Question is proposed that the sum of \$52,506,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 3 - Public Service Management - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, on a question of principle, which informs the determination of the figures, with specific reference to staffing details on page 35, Acct Code 101. We have there authorised fifty-six, the number in 2000 was also fifty-six. We have authorised filled twenty-two as well as for 2001, twenty-two. My question is the budgetary provision for 2001, do they cater for fifty-six or are they tailored, just to cater for twenty-two?

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Dr Westford.

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: The figures are tailored for twenty-

two, the filled positions.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Could I ask a supplementary question? Is it a policy that vacancies will not be filled during the course of 2001?

The Chairman: Dr Westford.

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: There is no policy that vacancies will not be filled. If vacancies are filled, those persons are filled from the Ministry of Finance.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Would the Minister not agree - Administrative Acct Code 101 - that if the figure of \$9,905,000 represents a figure for twenty-two employees, that the revised Estimates for 2000 also need to be \$9,905,000 rather than \$16 million, since it is in relation to the same number of employees?

Could the Minister explain how with respect to Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees, since none were filled in 2000, it is justified to have a sum of \$11.7 million, as revised for 2000, when none are shown as having been filled for that category in 2000?

The Chairman: Are there any other questions, so we can take them altogether?

The Hon Member, Dr Westford.

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: Yes, Mr Chairman, those figures shown under Programme 3 reflect the Estimates from January to June. If you check on page 103, I am sure you are aware that the Public Service Ministry - *[Interruption]*

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The Chairman: 103 (a) or (b)?

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: 103 (d), where you have Staffing Details, you will notice under Contracted Employees that you have 3 for 2001 – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: 103 (a)?

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: 103 (d)

The Chairman: Staffing Details 103 (d).

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: Right, under 106 - Contracted Employees, you have 3 (three) there for 2001 - three (3) Contracted Employees . As I was saying, you are aware that as of 1st July, the Public Service Ministry has been delinked from the Office of the President and as such the Ministry will now come under Agency: 14. So the monies that you are seeing under Contracted Employees actually cater for those three contracted employees that we have. We have one Senior Management Services Officer, one Personnel Officer II and one Administrative Assistant. I can't recall if there was another question, Sir. Could you repeat it if there was another question?

The Chairman: Let's finish with Mr Murray. Mr Murray, does that answer you?

Mr Winston S Murray: Yes.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, am I to understand that Public Service Management and Public Service Ministry, Agency: 01 and Agency:14 respectively are now separate and apart and if they are, may I ask in relation to Ministries, where is Agency: 01 to be found, since I am now informed that Agency:14 is a separate Ministry?

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The Chairman: I don't know if that's a fair question. Hon. Minister, can you answer that question?

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: Yes, Mr Chairman, as I said a short while ago, Programme: 3 will no longer exist. We will now have Agency:14, which will be the Public Service Ministry.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

The Hon Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, on page 34, Acct Code 143, Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies, could the Minister explain the sharp decrease in the budgeted allocation for this year for janitorial and cleaning supplies moving from an actual of \$453 million in 1999, revised \$448 million in last year, and now \$218 million for this year?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Would there be any other questions under this Programme?

The Hon Member, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, now that I am advised that Programme: 3, under Agency: 1, only caters for January to June, and in view of the fact that we are also advised that the numbers have been decreased from fifty-six to twenty-two, then I would like the Hon. Minister to explain the sums involved there, because there seems not to be a correlation between the sums and the actual period being provided for?

The Chairman: What Item?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Acct Code 101, the sum of \$9,905,000.

The Chairman: I think the Hon. Minister explained that already. Okay, Mr Alexander.

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: Yes, Mr Chairman, to answer the question under Janitorial and Cleaning Services, the \$218 million that is there reflect actual expenses from January to June.

The Chairman: There is another question in relation to Acct Code 101.

Hon Dr Jennifer A Westford: That is also actual expenditure for Salaries for the half year.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? There being no other questions, I now put the question that the sum stated, stand part of the Estimates?

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 3 - Public Service Management - \$52,506,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Before I move on to the next Agency, Hon. Members, please allow me to draw your attention to page xv of the Estimates. It is the Preface, in the last paragraph. It might help you. It states there that the following new Ministries have been created. It lists those Ministries and then the last sentence on that page reads as follows:

The budgets of the current and previous Agencies should be added to give the total allocation for the sector.

So as you are going through the figures, you may pay attention to that.

Pages 36 and 37.

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PROGRAMME 4 - Amerindian Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$73,274,000 for Agency 01

- Office of the President, Programme 4 - Amerindian Development - stand part of the Estimates.

Can I have all your questions please?

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, my question relates to Acct. Code 231 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations. There is a sum of \$100,000 budgeted there for 2001.

At page 446, there is an allocation that shows sums of \$40,000, \$30,000 and \$30,000 respectively to Amerindian People's Association, Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana, Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples. My question is, on what basis did the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs determine that these Organisations **should be eligible** for subsidies or contributions and if they were, could the Minister kindly explain what she believes these sums of \$40,000, \$30,000 and \$30,000 respectively are intended to achieve? We are talking about Amerindian development because that is the heading under which they come.

The Chairman: Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Mr Chairman, with reference to Programme: 4, I would like to ask a question which relates to Acct Codes 101, 103, 104, 105 and 106, which relates to Senior Technical, Other Technical, Clerical and Office Support, Semi-skilled Operatives and Unskilled, Contracted Employees, I would like to ask the Minister, how many of these employees are in Georgetown and how many are based out of Georgetown?

The Chairman: Any other questions? *[Pause]*

Hon Carolyn Rodrigues: Mr Chairman, concerning the first question regarding the Amerindian Organisations, these amounts are just to assist with Amerindian development. *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: I think the Hon. Member asked, how did you choose

these Organisations?

Hon Carolyn Rodrigues: Those are the only three Amerindian Organisations at the moment.

The second question, all of the staff are based in Georgetown at the moment.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Supplementary question - Would the Minister say whether the lofty objectives as outlined in the Estimates document Volume II, could be achieved with all the staff of the Amerindian Development being based in Georgetown?

Hon Carolyn Rodrigues: Mr Chairman, I would say 'no'. At the moment we are presently looking at the structure to engage field officers in the regions and also some other technical people.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Supplementary question - Mr Chairman, Could I be guided as to what section of the Budget, provisions are made for this expansion?

Hon Carolyn Rodrigues: As I said, at the moment, we are presently restructuring and sooner or later the Amerindian Affairs would be a Ministry of Amerindian Affairs and we are catering for twenty-six additional staff most to be placed in the regions. It is not in the budget at the moment but this would be for next year.

The Chairman: Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, my question to the Minister of Amerindian Affairs is, seeing that these are not in the budget, how does she intend to make contribution for the latter part of the year? How would she fit that into the budget?

The Chairman: I believe there is a way to do that. I think the Hon.

Minister can answer that.

Hon Carolyn Rodrigues: The Ministry of Finance would be approached concerning this matter.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions? Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Hon. Minister state for these highly paid employees, under Contracted Employees, what field are they in, in relation to the development of the Amerindian people?

Hon Carolyn Rodrigues: Mr Chairman, the contracted employees are working on the Amazon Programme, which is the Programme that is done jointly with UNICEF and the Government of Guyana.

The Chairman: Any other questions? *[Pause]* There is no other question.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 4 - Amerindian Development - \$73,274,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you please turn to pages 38 and 39?

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMME 5 - Public Policy and Planning

Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,473,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 5 - stand part of the Estimates.

[Pause] There are no questions.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 5 - \$4,473,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you turn to page 460 and 461?

DIVISION: 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$424,795,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, I am particularly interested in Project Code 17001 - Minor Works, the Legend of which says, Developmental Works. I looked at what is supposed to be the Capital Programme Project Profile and there is not a single project here, listed against this \$218 million. The question I have to ask, is this really a political slush fund at the discretion of the President to be doled out, because there is no context definition whatever in the Capital Projects document? To whom this sum would be accountable and where can we follow up to ask about this, if it is not listed here as a capital project of any kind and is just a sum of money placed there with no accountability?

The Chairman: Any other questions? *[Pause]* The Hon. Minister

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, His Excellency the President from time to time identifies certain developmental works to be done and the expenses for those projects are met from this head. There is complete accountability, transparency and everything else. There is nothing near to a slush fund or what might have been known in the past as a slush fund. *[Applause]*

The Chairman: Any other questions? *[Pause]*

Division 501 - Office of the President - \$424,795,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 462 please, the next page.

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DIVISION 502 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT - EL NINO EMERGENCY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$717,980,000 for Division 502 - Office of the President - El Nino Emergency - stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Any questions? *[Pause]*

Division 502 - Office of the President - El Nino Emergency - \$717,980,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Could you turn to pages 70 and 71, please?

AGENCY 06 - MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PROGRAMME 1 - INFORMATION SERVICES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$89,150,000 for Agency 06 Ministry of Information, Programme 1 - Information Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? *[Pause]*

Agency 06 - Ministry of Information, Programme 1 - Information Services - \$89,150,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Can you turn to Page 474 please?

DIVISION 513 - MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$20,000,000 for Division: 513 Ministry of Information - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions? *[Pause]*

Division 513 - Ministry of Information - \$20,000,000 - agreed to

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and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Can you turn to Pages 82 and 83?

AGENCY 09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION, PROGRAMME 1 - Public and Police Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$31,323,000 for Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission, Programme 1 - Public and Police Service Commission - stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Any questions? *[Pause]* There being no questions

Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission, Programme 1 - Public and Police Service Commission - \$31,323,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Could you turn to page 465?

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,500,000 for Division 505 Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25002), Public Service Commission - stand part of the Estimates.

We are dealing with one item here, any questions?

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25002), Public Service Commission - \$1, 500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We will now turn to pages 86 and 87.

AGENCY 10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION, PROGRAMME 1 - Teaching Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$24,461,000 for Agency 10

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- Teaching Service Commission, Programme 1 - Teaching Service Commission - stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: There are no questions.

Agency10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 1 - Teaching Service Commission - \$24,461,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Can you turn to page 465 please?

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,500,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25008), Teaching Service Commission - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? There are no questions.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25008), Teaching Service Commission - \$1,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 90 and 91 please.

AGENCY 11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION, PROGRAMME 1 - Elections Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,061,728,000 for Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 1 - Elections Commission - stand part of the Estimates.

Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, with your permission, the question is not related directly to the head under question.

The Chairman: It has to relate to the head under question.

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: But, Mr Chairman, my question is to determine, to find out from you, for these constitutional bodies which we are now looking at, which Minister would be the one who would provide the answers if questions are in fact posted?

The Chairman: I can't answer that question. If you pose the question, we will see who stands. Any questions in relation to Agency 11, Programme 1?

The Hon Member, Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Mr Chairman, Acct Codes 011 and 012, show a dramatic increase in wages and salaries for the year 2000 and year 2001. What I am asking is whether this reflects the past exercise of elections or whether this indicates there will be some dramatic increase in the staff of the Elections Commission for the remainder of this year?

The Chairman: I believe, Hon Member that you are aware that there is a statutory authority where the statistics are not to be discussed. If you look at page xiii of the Preface at the last two sentences. - I see you have read it already, Hon Member.

Any other questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Mr Chairman, thank you - Under Acct Code 194 - Other Operating Expenses *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: What page, Hon Member?

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Page 91, Agency: 11, Programme: 1, Acct Code 194 - Other Operating Expenses are put at \$921 million for the year 2001. Can the Hon. Minister say what activities would be undergone in the year 2001 that will require expenditure of \$921million?

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The Chairman: Any other questions? The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Thanks to the donor Committees, that is only \$921million. We have just had the General Elections and all the expenses associated with General Elections would have been reflected here.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: With your kind permission, please, Mr Chairman, the budgeted figure for 2000 was \$1 billion, I recall that very vividly. We passed it last year, and \$800,394,000 were spent out of it. Is the Hon. Minister saying that there is a debt even though monies budgeted last year were not completely exhausted? Is the Hon Minister still insisting that \$921 million remain to be spent to clear off expenses? Is he insisting on this?

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, as a matter of fact, I am advised that that money has actually been spent to take care of the National Elections. You will appreciate that the electoral process started since before the year 2001, that is why we had some expenses in the year 2000, but the elections were actually held in 2001. I think the House knows only too well that some of procedures had to be satisfied and some of the conditions had to be met. This money I understand has been paid towards the general elections expenses.

The Chairman: Any other questions? Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: I am very worried, if this money has been paid, paid by whom and to whom do we owe this debt? He said, it has been paid. Why do we have this in the budget? Paid by whom and by what authority? Rather than a debt, we can understand that.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, what I am apprised of is that given the number of seminars, otherfunctions, meetings, the activities of the Members of the Commission, the staff seminars and other functions, this sum of money went towards meeting those expenses as well. That was with respect to the General Elections which were

held early this year.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, I am none the wiser, forgive me. Is the Minister saying that these monies put in the budget for 2001 have already been spent? Then they can't be here, this must be debt that is owed and not paid, hence the Parliament is voting monies now. If he has already paid them could he tell me what these sums are doing here?

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Mr Chairman, rather than the Minister standing twice, just a supplementary question, could he, at the same time guide me, as I was searching for the Head, under which Head provisions have been made for the payment of counsels for the elections petition?

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Mr Chairman, if the question on counsel is to be added, could he have added to that as well cost and other related expenses.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I am advised that on a monthly basis there have been releases by the Ministry of Finance to meet the expenses incurred by the Elections Commission, in the course of preparation for the General Elections, the actual conduct of the General Elections and even the work done after the General Elections in relation to the General Elections. Those releases were done on a monthly basis, based on the representation made by the Elections Commission to the Ministry of Finance and I am advised further, Mr Chairman, that as at 31st May, \$852,349,000 have been paid out of a release of \$921,357,000.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, then it is my humble submission that this money is wrongly placed under the Elections Commissions, if it is that the Ministry of Finance has released these re-

sources, it can only have done so either from the Consolidated Fund, in which case he would have the Consolidated Fund being replenished and that replenishment is not done under the direct charge of the Elections Commission. If \$800 and odd million have already been paid from the \$921 million then, Sir, my question is whether it is not only the difference between that sum and the \$921 million which ought to come, being an appropriation to the Elections Commission. The remainder of the money has to be reimbursed from the Ministry of Finance which should have this sum to reimburse the Consolidated Fund.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, the Financial Audit Act allows for the releases to be had pending the passing of the Budget. The General Elections was an event that was conducted prior to the passing of the Budget, the expenses were incurred. This now is virtually saying what is the budget for 2001. It is not seeking to have new monies released and I agree with the Hon Member that of the \$921 million that have been released, \$852 million have been expended so far, so the difference is there to meet the expenses which are related to the Elections aspect. Some of those aspects are now being cleared up and the expenses are being met as and when they arise.

The Chairman: Any other questions? There being no questions,

Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 1 - Elections Commission - \$1,061,728,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you turn to pages 103 (c) and (d)?

AGENCY 14 - PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTRY, PROGRAMME: 1 - Public Service Management

Question is proposed that the sum of \$74,395,000 for Agency 14

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- Public Service Ministry, Programme 1 - Public Service Management - stand part of the Estimates.

No questions?

Agency 14 - Public Service Ministry, Programme 1 - Public Service Management - \$74,395,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Could you turn to pages 272 and 273, please?

AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, PROGRAMME - 1 - Defence Headquarters

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,291,147,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 1 - Defence Headquarters - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, Agency: 53, Subhead-- *-[Interruption]*

The Chairman: I didn't get that. Sorry, repeat that item

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: It is Acct Code 165 - Other Transport, Travel and Postage - a figure of \$55 million. Can the Hon Minister say, whether or not this figure represents or includes rental of trucks for troop movements and materials?

Secondly, whether or not there are any plans on foot this year to purchase trucks for the GDF for them to move their troops and materials around?

The Chairman: Can we take a few more questions if there are any others? The Hon. Minister.

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Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Sorry, Mr Chairman. I am advised that this amount does represent the cost involved in the hiring of land transport including trucks to meet additional patrols and even aircrafts when the GDFaircrafts are grounded.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 1 - Defence Headquarters - \$2,291,147,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you move on to pages 292 and 293?

AGENCY 57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, PROGRAMME 1 - Ombudsman

Question is proposed that the sum of \$9,989,000 for Agency 53 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 1- Ombudsman - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? There are no questions.

Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 1 - Ombudsman - \$9,989,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you turn to page 465 please?

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$400,000 for Division 505 Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25005) - Office of the Ombudsman - stand part of the Estimates.

No questions?

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25005) - Office of the Ombudsman - \$400,000 - agreed to and ordered to

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stand part of the Estimates

Could you turn to pages 296 and 297?

**AGENCY 58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL,
PROGRAMME 1 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBU-
NAL**

**Question is proposed that the sum of \$14,673,000 for Agency 58
- Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 1 - Public Serv-
ice Appellate Tribunal - stand part of the Estimates.**

Any questions?

Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Will the Hon. Minister say under Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - the nature of the contracted employees, that is, the nature of the work that these two persons will be expected to perform?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: The most I can say, Mr Chairman, they are expected to perform work of the Appellate Tribunal. I can't answer that question for you

The Chairman: Hon Members, any other questions? You wish to say anything further, Hon. Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I am advised that the Contracted Employees here, represents one individual, who was hitherto in the Office of the President and has now been transferred to the Public Service Appellate Tribunal as the Registrar and he is required to perform the duties of Registrar in the Public Service Appellate Tribunal.

The Chairman: Thank you. Is there any other question?

Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 1 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - \$14,673,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Could you turn to page 465.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,000,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25009), Public Service Appellate Tribunal - stand part of the Estimates.

Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I just wish to ask the Hon. Minister under Project Code 25009, of that sum, how much of it is supposed to be used for the resurfacing of the compound and how much of it for the purchasing of text books?

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I understand that there is an estimated cost for the resurfacing of the compound at \$1.3 million, but that is variable because I understand further that the Chairman of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal is seeking to determine what books of necessity are needed at the Public Service Appellate Tribunal. The question is having \$1.3 million allotted to the resurfacing of the compound and the other \$700,000 would go towards the books.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Member. Are there any other questions?

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25009), Public Service Appellate Tribunal - \$2,000,000) - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you turn to pages 42 and 43?

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AGENCY 02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, PROGRAMME 1 - PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$104,459,000 for Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 1 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Mr Chairman, in Acct Code 104, I note that the amount they voted is \$1,713,000, whereas the amount in 2000 revised is \$1,299,000. The same trend appeared at Acct Code 106, where you have Contracted Employees is \$1,654,000 in 2000 and \$2,049,000 in 2001. If you look at page 43, where you have the Staffing Details, you will find that in 2000 under Clerical and Office Support, under Acct Code 104, you will find that the staff has been reduced from 6 to 5; in contracted employees the staff has been reduced from 7 to 6. My question really is, whether that increase reflects the percentage of salary increases, which have been proposed for 2001, because the staff has been reduced and there is a substantial increase in the allocation under those Heads? So I wonder whether that is reflected in the proposed salary increases under those Heads.

It is clear because if you look at Acct Code 204, which deals with National Insurance - so that the Minister will answer me properly - you will notice that the National Insurance has gone down from \$454,000 to \$444,000. So, I am a little at lost and I will be grateful if it can be explained.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Góveia

Mr Andy Góveia: Mr Chairman, looking at the figures on page 43, I notice that there is a decrease in staff members, yet under Acct Code 193 - Refreshment and Meals - could they answer why such a large increase? I wonder if the Prime Minister is eating more!

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The Chairman: The Hon Minister:

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, as a matter of fact we have gone beyond salary increase, because we have included gratuity and vacation allowance, so that accounts for the increase in the figure that is seen there.

With respect to the question posed by the Hon Member Mr Goveia, he talks about a substantial increase there, but there are more people at meetings than there are meetings and events that have to be catered for.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 1 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - \$104,459,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Hon Members, before we move to the next item, I would like to attract your attention to page xiv of the Estimates under Preface. It states here and I will read it to you quickly:

The Public Utilities Commission is no longer reflected as Agency 12. Instead, it is treated as an autonomous agency, in keeping with the PUC Act, and a subvention is budgeted under Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister. Still, though, since the PUC Act requires the budget of the PUC to be included in the Estimates of Expenditure of the Government and passed by the National Assembly, the detailed budget of the agency appears as Appendix T in these Estimates.

This is under the heading *Major Changes in these Estimates*.

So I will ask you to look at pages 629 and 630 which would be Appendix T.

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APPENDIX T - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

There are no questions?

Appendix T, Public Utilities Commission - \$109,118,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you move now to pages 140 and 141?

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, PROGRAMME 1 - MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$149,069,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions? Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - I noticed there is nearly three times the amount of increase in wages. Could the Minister tell me, who are these employees and what functions they do in the Administration under this Ministry?

The Chairman: Any other questions? Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Yes, Mr Chairman, in Acct Codes 103 again, 105 and 106, I note that the provisions there, for example, Acct Code 103 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled - \$2 million is a little more than in 2000. But if I look at the next page, I have the same difficulty, I don't know if this is allowances again, as I was told the last time. In Other Technical, the establishment is 16, in 2000 there were 10 and now in 2001, they are catering only for 8.

You go down the line, Contracted Employees, there was one in 2000 increased to two. I have two questions:

1. Whether the Minister has not made provision having regard to the lofty programme outlined to this Parliament for the filling of all these technical vacancies in order that the programme of the Ministry could be executed, because it doesn't appear, if one looks at it carefully that any provision has been made for those vacancies?

2. So I would like some explanation of these disparities on these numbers, although there is an increase, it doesn't really appear to reflect because the numbers are showing a reduction.

The Chairman: The Hon Member Mr Hoyte.

Hon H Desmond Hoyte: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees. Can the Hon Minister say, who are these contracted employees? At the same time, explain how it is that the Staffing Details show that one such person, one such vacancy was filled in 2000, and there are two vacancies to be filled in 2001, yet the appropriation sought is over \$8 million?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Let me deal with Acct Code 106 first because two people have asked the same question. This is to take into consideration the positions of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works and also a Special Project Officer who assists the Permanent Secretary and deals with special projects. I think the Hon Member, Mr Goveia, and the Hon Member, Mr Hoyte asked that question.

The question that the Hon. Member, Mr Corbin asked on Acct Codes 103 and 105, I believe, the Other Technical and Craft Skilled, these are the increase in salaries with two transfers; also nine guards were removed and there were a couple of retirements and three deaths in the Ministry.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Hoyte.

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Mr H Desmond Hoyte: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman. I don't think the Hon Member, quite fathom my question. The Staffing Details tell us that two posts of contracted officers will be filled this year. The appropriation sought is \$8 million. My questions were:

1. Who are these contracted officers?
2. How is it, with an establishment of two, you are seeking \$8 million?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, it would appear to me that the Hon Member did not understand my answer. The Hon Member asked, who are these people? In 2000, there was one filled, that was the Permanent Secretary and in 2001 there were the Permanent Secretary and the Special Projects Officer. The difference in the amounts that are there in the Estimates are the payments for the two Officers. The difference from \$3.3 million to \$8.3 million, that is for the two Officers. That is what is provided for here, okay.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Member. Any other questions?

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$149,069,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Can I ask you to turn to pages 142 and 143?

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, PROGRAMME 2 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$140,656,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 2 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any persons? The Hon Member, Mr Corbin.

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Mr Robert H O Corbin: I am not going to ask this question any more after now. Acct Codes 102 and 103, the Minister did not answer my question the last time. It is not only the quantum of allocation which I questioned, but I questioned whether, having regard to the programme outlined to this Parliament about what the Ministry was capable of doing, I was pointing to the fact that no provision was made for filling the establishment of the technical people.

I am asking the question again, Acct Codes 102 and 103, if you look at the Staffing Details - Senior Technical - in the Ministry of Works, the establishment requires thirty-six, provisions are only being made for ten.

In the Other Technical and Craft Skilled areas, the establishment is seventy-five, seventy-four for this year, only thirty-five provisions are being made for. If you go down Semi Skilled Operatives and Unskilled, only eight provisions are being made for. My question is, whether the Minister can tell this House, that with this reduction of staff, first he has tell us what plans he has for executing the programme that he has outlined to this Parliament with regard to this allocation?

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr G^uo^uveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, looking at the Staffing Details in 201, there is a decrease and if you look under Acct Code 203 - Benefits and Allowances - it confuses me to see a decrease in staff -
[Interruption]

The Chairman: That is Acct Code 203.

Mr Andy G^uo^uveia: Yes, Benefits and Allowances and there is again, a very large increase when your staff is decreasing. I would like to know, how come that is and why?

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Alexander.

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: I would like to draw the Minister's attention to page 554, in relation to authorised staffing – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: We are not dealing with that page now.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: It is related, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: We will come to that in due course and you will be able to ask your questions then. Proceed, Hon Member.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, it is my understanding that the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works falls under Salary Scale 14 and that there is one such position. We have also gotten the answer from the Minister that the provision under Public Works for Acct Code 106, caters for the Permanent Secretary and the one other person. I would like the Minister to indicate if in that provision, after the Permanent Secretary has been paid under the prescribed Scale 14, what is the amount left for the other person to be paid?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. The Hon. Minister

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I will take the last question first. There is no scale for these people, they are on contracts, they are contracted workers.

The question referring to Acct Codes 102 and 103, the difference is increase in salaries, but for the Hon. Member, Mr Corbin, because of the fact of the inability to attract people, because of one reason or another, all our projects are out-sourced, where we advertise for contractors and we also advertise for consultants, who supervise most of these projects. So, it is not that we have there, just do an overall supervision, but the supervision is done by the contracted consultants.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Corbin.

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Mr Robert H O Corbin: Is the Minister telling this House that the Ministry by itself has no capability of evaluating the quality of work?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I am not saying that, Mr Chairman. I am not saying that at all and I wouldn't say that at all.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Mr Andy Goveia: He didn't answer my question with the benefits and allowances.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I am sorry, Hon. Member, Mr Goveia, I thought I did. This is under Acct Code 203 - Benefits and Allowances? This is to cater for the increase in vacation allowance, uniform allowance, salary, et cetera.

The Chairman: Is this a supplementary question, Mr Alexander?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: No, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Well your time has gone. You ask a supplementary question immediately after the Minister answers. Proceed please, but I would like to remind you that if we are to make progress and keep to our time schedule, we have to do things in the manner which has been prescribed for in the Assembly long before I came here. Proceed please.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I would like to inquire as to whether the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works has been removed from the list of persons who are considered to be pensionable and if in this specific instance, the information provided here on page 554 is incorrect, which states that the Permanent Secretary is in fact on Scale 14.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Alexander. The Hon Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, contracted workers get

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gratuity, they are not on the pensionable establishment.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 2 - Public Works - \$140,656,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Hon Members, can we move on to pages 144 and 145, please?

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, PROGRAMME 3 - COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$294,624,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 3 - Communication and Transport - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions please? The Hon Member, Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Mr Chairman, I will be grateful if the Minister can guide me as to whether these provisions are still necessary, in view of the announced establishment of the Airport Authority and whether this appropriation as a whole is necessary.

The Chairman: What code are you referring to?

Mr Robert H O Corbin: I am referring to the total appropriation expenditure of \$294,624,000 and all the Acct Codes from 101 to 261. I am asking whether those allocations are realistic in the context of the announced establishment of the Airport Authority. Is the Government trying to subsidise this body?

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Corbin. Any other questions?

The Hon Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, this will have to remain

until the Authority gets into place, which will come some time later on this year.

The Chairman: Any other questions? [Pause] There being no other question.

Agency: 31 Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme: 3 - Communications and Transport - \$294,624,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 479 please.

DIVISION 517 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - AIR TRANSPORT REFORM PROGRAMME

Question is proposed that the sum of \$111,721,000 for Division 517 - Ministry of Works and Communications, Air Transport Reform Programme (Project Code 16001 - Air Transport Reform Programme - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions? Mr G^uo^uveia.

Mr Andy G^uo^uveia: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 16001 - Administration - \$10 million, could the Minister explain with details that, that it is necessary to spend \$10 million in the Administration.

Consultancy - I cannot imagine, under Air Programme, the second highest headline is consultancy, could you give us the reasons, why?

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr G^uo^uveia.

Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Mr Chairman, I wonder whether the Minister would be good enough to explain to us under Airport Reform Programme, what are we likely to witness in terms of the improvement of the Timhri International Airport with the proposed alloca-

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tion of \$30 million for the year 2001, for the construction and rehabilitation of the Airport facilities.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Corbin. Any other questions? The Hon. Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, I don't want to remind the Hon. Member, Mr Corbin that we don't have an Airport called the Timehri International Airport, it is Cheddi Jagan International. However, I understand his ...

Let me answer the Hon. Member, Mr Go^{cl}veia, first. In the case of the Administrative expenses, this takes care of the office, stationery, the Administrative Assistant, the driver, vehicle maintenance liquidations and communications. All of that falls under that sum.

Under the Consultancy which comes under the IDB Loan, and takes care of the consultancy which was handling the Civil Aviation Regulations, the Restructuring of the Airspace Capacity Building, the environmental impact assessment for CJIA, the environmental monitors, the lighting system, the sewerage treatment, power distribution and training. Those are what this \$34 million will take care of.

Civil Works - We are looking at the Airport roof, the resurfacing of the runway pavement, the sewerage upgrade and also the perimeter road. Those are the works that will fall under this amount.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Minister. Any other questions?

Division 517 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Air Transport Reform Programme (Project Code 16001 - Air Transport Reform Programme) - \$111,721,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you go on to the next page please? Page 480

DIVISION 518 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - BRIDGES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$312,992.000 for Division 518 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges - stand part of the Estimates.

Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 14003, Design and Supervision \$40 million have been budgeted, can the Minister guarantee to this Parliament that the Design and Supervision would be better and result in better standard of bridges and also the rest of the public roads because as a Member of this House, I cannot sit down and agree with this under the past performance of the Design and Supervision of Bridges.

Sir, under the same heading, Civil Works - Reconstruction of Bridges - nearly the same type of question. I would like to know if the Mandela Bridge costs the \$100 million, because I believe it will have to be reconstructed very soon because it will fall off. I would like to ask what bridges are in this amount?

The Chairman: Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Minister explain the high ratio for Design and Supervision as it relates to civil works? I noticed that the percentage of Design and Supervision is something of the order of thirty-five per cent?

Could the Minister also say or rather explain the Head Credit Fees and Interest and more particularly to say if the interest has anything to do with late payment to contractors?

Could the Minister indicate whether the feasibility study for the Berbice River Bridge is schedule to be completed this year, and if not why such a small amount is allocated?

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The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Member. The Hon. Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Let me deal with the Hon. Member, Mr Goveia first. No, there is no amount in this here for the Mandela Bridge. This comes under the Bridge Rehabilitation Programme IDB Project and this takes care of the sixty-three bridges between Timehri and Mahaica in Phase I of that project.

The question you are asking, if I can guarantee, I don't think I can. I am not putting my head on a bridge.

What I want to do for the Hon. Member, Mr McAllister is to give him a break down of the civil works for the \$100 million, which is an advanced payment to the contractor, a maintenance pilot project. We want to do a maintenance of 100 kilometers of road and this part of this money is to put that into effect and to relocate the Amerindian hostel at Mahaicony.

The Financial Cost and Credit Fees and Interest: This really and truly is a debt service charge. Did I answer all the questions?
[Pause]

I was to give you a break down of the Design and Supervision, so that you can get an idea and work out that ratio for yourself.

The Lot I structure Design, that is part of that and the supervision of the structures and also to take care of the design of those structures. So that is what that money is being put forward for.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any further questions?

Division 518 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Bridges - \$312,992,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Go to the next page please, page 481.

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DIVISION 519 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - SEA DEFENCES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,611,000,000 for Division 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions please? Mr Goyveia.

Mr Andy Goyveia: Mr Chairman, under the Project Code 15004, West Coast Berbice, Construction of sea defences at Bel Air to Mon Chosi and Trafalgar and earthen embankment from Brahan to No. 40, costing \$437,000,000. I am just wondering if the new Tender Board Procedures would be in place to cover this project.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I hope so.

Mr Andy Goyveia: I hope so too, because it is a large amount of money to put in a project.

The Chairman: Any other questions on this item? Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Yes, Mr Chairman. I draw attention to Project Code 15002 and I note that this has to do with the Corentyne/East Coast/Essequibo Coast, \$750 million, rehabilitation of sea defences at different locations including Good Hope/Mon Repos, Reliance, Hague and Cornelia Ida. I would like the Minister to let us know whether this money is being spent to correct the deficiencies of the last work at Mon Repos.

The Chairman: Any other questions?. The Hon. Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Let me deal with Project Code 15002 first of all. You will note from the Legend that there is riff-raff sea defence going on at Mon Repos. This is a new section of Mon Repos, Hon. Member, Mr Corbin. That section you were referring to, that was corrected a little while ago.

You have to remember that these projects started last year and most of these projects have been completed, the only one that has not been completed is the Turkeyen/Ogle one, which you may know has the attention of the court right one.

The Hon Member, Mr G^uveia spoke about Project 15004, I think he wanted to have an idea of the break down of the money, this is the construction of 3,400 meters of work, embankment at No. 40 Village. That project also has been completed. The Construction of the rift-raft at Trafalgar, that is also finished, and this project, the construction of the 2,200 meters of rift-raft sea defence is also finished. This project, the construction of the 2,200 meters of rift-raft sea defence, that is the project on the West Coast, at Bel Air/Mon Chosi which has just been awarded and this takes care of the consultancy service, design and supervision, et cetera, bearing in mind that \$347 million is specific and \$90 million is the local counterpart funds.

The Chairman: Mr Corbin, You have a follow-up question?

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Yes, the question was, whether the new Tender Board would be in place to award these things? I think that was my question.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: The contracts have been awarded already. Almost all of them have been completed. I just said that the only one that is not completed is Ogle/Turkeyen Project which is in Court and the Bel Air/Mon Chosi has just been awarded.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Member, Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 15001, could the Minister say who is the consultant responsible for the preparation of the design and the tender documents? Could he also say if the areas for rehabilitation for sea defences under this head have been identified? Could the Minister also give some clarification under

Project Code 15005 - Emergency Works - I see the Legend here states that it is to treat with the rehabilitation of sea defences in critical areas in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Could the Minister say, Mr Chairman, whether La Retraite on the West Bank of Demerara is included in this area?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman - Project Code 15001- I know the consultancy is a Dutch Firm, I really can't put my hand on the name, but I can provide that answer in writing. This takes care of the institutional capacity building activities within the establishment of the reliable baseline data for the sea defence management and the shore zone management and the locations are Pomeroun, Supenaam, Essequibo Islands, West Coast Demerara and Mahaicony. It also takes care of the preparation of tender documents for the works, supervision and supply contracts and the construction of five kilometers of sea defences in Regions 2 and 3. The areas identified are Capoey to Columbia, Tuschen, Met-en-Meerzorg, De Kinderen and Hague.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Member. There is no other question.

Division 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences - \$1,611,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Turn the page over please, pages 482 and 483.

DIVISION 520 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,665,728,000 for Division 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions?

Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: This is becoming a joke now - Project Code 14005. Since 1993, this heading gets \$15 million and at every Budget Estimates consideration, I have been saying to the Minister that I would like to know what rehabilitation, and asking if there is any supervision done on this project. I could guarantee that this \$15 million since 1993 are being spent and I don't think that there is any supervision done on this project. I would like to know and I think that it is time that this House knows, since 1993, why under Project Code 14005, every year like a religion, it appears and nothing is being done about it.

Project Code 14001, a very similar heading, the famous Lethem road, I would like to know of this \$45 million, what is being done with this money for this road and if we will see any visible evidence of this money being spent on this project.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions?

The Hon Member, Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 14007 - Miscellaneous Roads. Could the Minister say if any of this money has been allocated to Region No. 3 and if so, what are the specific areas?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions?

The Hon Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, let me answer the easy questions first - the Miscellaneous Roads - that the Hon Mr McAllister has asked. I think I said in my budget presentation that the Miscellaneous Roads Programme has been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance. They are roads in Region 3 which are under a

Programme and those roads will be taken care of once the Programme is approved.

The Hon Member, Mr Andy Goveia, asked about Project Code 14005 - Bartica/Mahdia/Issano. For his benefit, I would just like to give a quick break down of how I intend to spend this \$15 million, for the six months remaining in this year:

- I am going to try to patch and rehabilitate to the seventy-two miles junction and I am putting \$5,000,000 towards that.

- Patching and rehabilitation from Issano Road to the seventy-miles junction and that's another \$5,000,000.

- We are hoping to do some rehabilitation works from Mahdia to the seventy-two miles junction, for which we have earmarked \$2.7 million and let me re-assure him that the project is supervised by a consultant, Mr B. Hinds and Associates and we are putting \$1.5million towards that.

- There is subsistence and travel for the Ministry staff to do checks, that is when I make my little visits and so on \$200,000 and that is how the \$15 million is being taken care of.

The Lethem Road again, I would just like to tell him that we have earmarked \$3 million for the rehabilitation works from Kurupukari to Lethem and from Mabura Road to Kurupukari \$13.935 million. We also have allocated \$3 million for some emergency works at Frenchman Creek, which if you travel on the road, you will know that it is a very, very bad area.

For the administration, supervision, subsistence and travel, there is a \$5.065 million provided for that. I hope that will satisfy you.

The Chairman: Have you answered Mr McAllister's question?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Yes, that was answered first.

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The Chairman: Yes, Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I wonder if the Minister has specific knowledge of the roads in Region 3, which have been identified for rehabilitation.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: We have sent them a list of roads in Region 3. I don't have the names of the roads or which particular areas, but I can provide that to the Hon Member if he so wishes.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Member, Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, just a question or two for the Minister - I would want to ask the Minister, personally, when last he visited Bartica. If he can give me an account of the roads between five to ten miles, because basically what I have been hearing for the past year and today, the Ministry is only concentrating on bridges ... and to get to these bridges, the roads are in a deplorable state. Constantly we have been having accidents, trucks turning over, people losing their lives and I think the Minister should satisfy the people in Regions 7 and 8, because it kind of meshed in Regions 7 and 8 going into Mahdia. He needs to satisfy the residents there and the business people, who are pouring a lot of money, a lot of taxpayers money. We need to have something concrete, something good from him
[Interruption]

The Chairman: Let's hear what he has to say. Thank you, Hon Member.

Yes, Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: First of all, Mr Chairman, if the Hon. Member wanted to ask me something personally she could have waited until Parliament is over. I will be more than happy to facilitate her.

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We understand fully well, Hon Member, that Bartica (Region No. 7) has its problems like any other Region. I paid a visit there around November last year. We were looking at some emergency sea defence work, we also had provided the Region with some money to take care of the road Bydarabo – [*Noisy Interruption: “\$4 million” “Well, we can only give what we have, we cannot give what we don’t have, okay.”*]

The Chairman: Please, Hon. Members. Thank you, very much. Any other questions?

Miss Myrna Peterkin: I would like to ask, under the same Project Code 14007, whether or not there is any allocation for roads on the East Coast? Can the Hon Minister tell us that, and if there are, can we know the areas in which these roads will be done?

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I have put down thirty-four roads on the East Coast area under our Miscellaneous Programme for approval. I cannot remember all the roads, but if you so wish, I can provide that list to you when it has been finalised. I will certainly do that.

The Chairman: Yes, Hon Member.

Miss Myrna Peterkin: Cde Chairman, I would like the Minister as soon as possible to provide me with this list. Thank you.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Division 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - \$1,665,728,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The next page, page 484, please.

Pages 482 and 483 comprise an item.

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**DIVISION 521 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS - ROAD
CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION AND STUDIES**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$571,529,000 for Division 521 - Ministry of Public Works - Road Construction, Rehabilitation and Studies - stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Any questions? Mr Góveia.

Mr Andy Góveia: Mr Chairman, Project Code 14001, the Minister in the debate announced to this nation that the Essequibo Road was completed and there was a loud cheer. I would like to know for what \$108 million would be spent on this road for this year.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions on this Division? The Hon. Member, Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Yes, Mr Chairman, I wonder if the Minister would be good enough to highlight what is proposed for the Soesdyke/Linden Highway for 2001 with the \$271,318,000. What exactly would be done on that road?

The Chairman: Any other questions? Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Project Code 14002, the Georgetown/Soesdyke/Rosignol Road, \$132 million for the completion of highway and railway embankment. I would like the Hon Minister to answer to this House, how far he intends to take that embankment when he uses the term *completion*? What do we expect at the end of the fiscal year?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. The Hon Minister

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, I would like to answer Mr Góveia.

Mr Andy Góveia: Why?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Well, you were at Project Code14001 concerning the Essequibo Coast Road - Yes, the Essequibo Coast Road is finished, but like in every project, you have retention and we have retained some money in that project \$20.425 million. We also have retained \$5 million towards legal fees because we have a matter in court with the last contractor TECNODOMI. We have \$6 million for supervision cost, which have already been paid for the year and the completion of the rehabilitation which was \$57 million local and the \$19 million, specific. That takes care of the breakdown of \$100 and something million.

I think the Hon Member, Mr Trotman, asked about Project Code14002, that also I would like to give him a breakdown of how this money has been spent. We have the retention which was the Georgetown/Timehri, legal fees also, we have retained \$5, million because we have a matter in court with N.H. International [*Interruption*]

Mr Raphael GC Trotman: Mr Chairman, it has nothing about Timehri here. It has Rosignol/Georgetown –

Hon C Anthony Xavier: It is Georgetown/Soesdyke –

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: No, no, no, I asked you about Project Code14002.

The Chairman: Mr Corbin asked about Project Code 14003.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Sir, the title is Georgetown/Soesdyke/Rosignol. I believe Soesdyke is around Timehri. The completion of the East Coast Highway Georgetown to Mahaica which was \$58.3 million, the salaries for the project execution unit is \$9.6 million and the office expenditure is \$5.3, maintenance of equipment, \$1,000,000. That is what took care of that project.

You had asked also about the railway embankment. This is Georgetown to Mahaica. I think the Hon. Member, Mr Corbin asked

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about the Soesdyke/Linden Highway and for his benefit, I would like to also say that these monies have been expended to repair some undulating sections of that highway, and as I know he drives there regularly, he will see the work that we have done to correct that. Also the completion of the extension works at Linden, we did quite a bit of work in the town of Linden itself. The retention money is for the contractor, the consultancy, and we had some equipment. We have updated our lab equipment and we have provided them with some scales. That took care of that expenditure, Sir.

Miss Myrna Peterkin: Mr Chairman, I would like to know under this same Project Code 14002, whether this contract has been awarded and if so who is the contractor?

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: I wish to ask the Minister a question on Project Code 14001, the Essequibo Coast Road. Will the Minister state if any of this money allocated is for the completion of structures not yet completed?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: No, there is no money there for structures, the structures are going to come under another head of expenditure. With all due respect to the Hon. Member who asked me about project and who is the contractor, Madam, this project has been completed already and the Contractor was DIPCON Engineering.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Minister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I wish the Minister could provide some clarification because I know that bridges and other structures were originally part of the Essequibo Coast Road Rehabilitation Project. I know that the Hon Minister has reported to this House that the project is completed and now that the Minister has said or rather has admitted that the structures are not completed, could the Minister say if those structures were removed from the

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project and if this in fact constitutes the fact that the original project, Essequibo Coast Rehabilitation Project, has not been completed to date.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Hon Member through the Chair, the bridges were removed from that project a little while and we have written the Ministry of Finance asking them to give us permission to speak to the contractor, who was awarded to do the timber decks on these bridges. We wanted them to be done with concrete. A letter is at the Ministry of Finance right now seeking permission for us to consult with the contractor to get an estimate for him to do the bridges in concrete.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

Division 521 - Ministry of Public Works - Road Construction, Rehabilitation and Studies - \$571,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Hon. Members, I direct your attention to pages 74 and 75.

AGENCY 07 - PARLIAMENT, PROGRAMME 1 - NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Question proposed that the sum of \$197,635,000 for Agency: 07 Parliament Office, Programme: 1 - National Assembly, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? The Hon Member, Mr Trotman

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Yes, Mr Chairman, I refer to page 75 and there are three items I wish to ask questions on. May I put all three or do I ask them separately?

The Chairman: Put all three.

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Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Okay, Acct Code 184 under Other - Can the responsible Minister, say whether the figure \$12,628,000 includes the air conditioning of the Chamber?

Secondly, Acct Code 193 - Refreshment and Meals - Can the responsible and Hon. Minister say whether there is an intention to acquire by rental or purchase crockery and cutlery for use by Members and Staff at the sittings, when sittings are held?

Thirdly Acct Code 212 - Training - \$150,000 - Can the Hon. Minister say what training is envisaged during the year?

I am sorry , my apologies, I withdraw the question on training please.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Chairman:

- Question No. 1, the answer is 'no'.
- Question No. 2, the answer is 'yes'.
- Question No. 3, training in computer.

The Chairman: Any other questions? *[Pause]* No other questions.

Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 1 - National Assembly - \$197,635,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could I draw your attention to page 465?

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,000,000 for Division: 505 Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25003) - Parliament Buildings - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? There are no questions.

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Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25003), Parliament Buildings - \$6,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 54 and 55 please.

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAMME 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$344,357,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl: Mr Chairman, I allude to Acct Code 101, Administrative Costs; Acct Code 104, Clerical and Office Support; Acct Code 105 Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled; I notice they have increases in those areas, Administrative Cost increase of over \$3 million; Increase of Clerical and Office Support, \$2.7 million; increase in Semi-skilled Operatives, \$1 million. Sir, taking into consideration that the new Ministry or the new section of the Ministry has its own figures that is, Foreign Trade and International Cooperation, has its own figures for at least Administrative costs \$1.8 million, I wish to ask the Minister, why these steep increases especially in the Administrative costs?

I also alert you to Acct Code 161 - Local Travel and Subsistence, where that has increased from \$3.5 million to \$13 million. Is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs travelling around Guyana and for what reason? Why this steep increase of \$9.5 million?

Acct Code 232, Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations - I have no further questions on that.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

12/54

The Hon. Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, the Nos. 101 to 105, the increases there reflected as a result of salary increases in the year 2000, which was originally met from the Ministry of Finance's votes, but in this year it is rectified. It reflects the true value of the cost of salaries that were paid in the year 2000.

In relation to Acct Code 161 - Local Travel and Subsistence - the reason why it appears to be a large difference, in that if you will notice in budget 2000, \$16 million were put aside for that and it is not for local travel in Guyana, it is for the rotation of staff to missions as well as visits to missions and so forth. So this was underspent in year 2000, but it is catered for again in the year 2001, in anticipation that there would be staff rotation that is, local staff being sent to the Embassies and Missions overseas.

I did not get the question in relation to Acct Code 232 which was International Organisations.

The Chairman: Any other questions? There being no other questions -

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$344,357,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 56 and 57.

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAMME 2 - Foreign Relations

Question is proposed that the sum of \$964,236,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 2 - Foreign Relations - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

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The Hon Member, Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - there is a steep increase in the figures there, from \$121,046,000 to \$174,342,000, that is a difference of \$53 million. Could the Minister explain this? Does it mean that the Ministry will be having more political diplomats as opposed to career diplomats or what exactly does it mean?

On Acct Code 173 - Water Charges - I see the actual amount spent in 2000 was \$299,000, now there is a budget of \$1.4 million for water charges. Could the Minister explain those two items?

Also Acct Code 204 - National Insurance - there is a steep increase there. Could the Minister explain that increase?

The Chairman: Thank you.

Hon. Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 106 - this amount of \$174 million caters for Ambassadors, Heads of Missions, except one Ambassador who is an employee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other than an appointed Ambassador, Executive Officers within the Ministry and overseas as well as your Accountant and so forth in the Overseas Missions who are mostly hired from those countries, but maybe of Guyanese heritage.

Acct Code 173 - Water Charges - I think we have to recognise that this is not only to do with this heading. Programme 2 covers the provision of services for the Missions overseas. So water charges are not necessarily local, it is also the cost of utilities that are spent for the residences and the Missions overseas and they have catered for a major increase in this allocation. In addition to that this charge was previously placed under Acct Code 141. If you look at Acct Code 141, it was originally included under rental of buildings, now it is dis-aggregated into Acct Code 173, to more accurately reflect

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the cost of what you pay for water bills both overseas and in Guyana.

Acct Code 204 - National Insurance - this is again anticipating that there will be increases in the NIS contributions for this year. I hope that I have answered correctly. It is catering for a sixty-four per cent increase in the NIS contributions.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Are you anticipating that there will be an increase in NIS charges or will you be filling your vacancies? Your staffing details show that this Ministry has been working on half steam, you have only half the authorised number of staff. Does the increase in National Insurance mean that you will be having additional staff or you really anticipate that we are going to have increase in NIS rates?

Hon Gail Teixeira: I am advised that:

1. There is an anticipation of increased rates.
2. There is staff that constituted the Policy and Monitoring Unit, which is now part of Programme 2, which would increase your NIS calculations as there would be a shift in staff.

The Chairman: Hon Members, is there any other question?

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 2 - Foreign Relations - \$964,236.000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you turn to Pages 58 and 59 please?

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PROGRAMME 3 - FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$14,644,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 3 - Foreign Trade

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and International Cooperation - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, thank you. Under Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - \$2.8 million is budgeted for that, but I see under your Staffing Details that there is no authorised contracted employees. Could the Minister please explain?

Under Acct Code 141 - Rental of Buildings, would the Minister please explain the \$1.2 million? My understanding is that this Minister is housed in the said Ministry of Foreign Affairs Building, so I wish to find out what is rental of buildings and which building would be rented and where?

Acct Code 181 - Security Services, would the Minister please explain \$1.26 million for security services, when, as I said, it is the same building?

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Thank you, Mr Chairman. In response to the Hon. Member, Mrs Riehl's questions, let me say that in Acct Code 106, there is a typographical error in the Staffing Details. The Contracted Employees should read '3' instead of '0'. So the '3' above that line should come down to the line below and the line Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled should really be '0'.

With respect to Acct Code 141 - Rental of Buildings - that would be for the trade offices in Miami and Trinidad and Tobago.

With respect to Acct Code 181 - Security Services - these will be for services of the Hon Minister Rohee.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Member. Any other questions?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: A follow-up please, these two offices in Mi-

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ami and Trinidad and Tobago, would there be foreign trade in any Consulate or any Embassy or would there be separate buildings designated foreign trade? Which Ministry will they come under?

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, obviously they will fall under the Programme, Foreign Trade, which falls under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The other question with respect to Acct Code 141, these expenditures will be separate.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Security services \$1.2 million, he didn't answer that.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 181 - Security Services - will be for the Minister's residence and for trade offices.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Minister. Any other questions?

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 3 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation - \$14,644,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 466 please.

DIVISION 506 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$22,220,000 for Division 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - stand part of the Estimates.

You found your page Mrs Riehl? Any questions please?

Division 506 Ministry of Foreign Affairs - \$22,220,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 194 and 195 please.

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, PROGRAMME 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$118,080,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 107 - Temporary Employees - I notice that for this year, there is no budgetary allocation, but when you look at the Staffing Details, you see that we have seven temporary employees but no money has been allocated for them. So I just want some explanation.

Then at Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events - This is on page 195, I notice that there is a one hundred per cent decrease for National and Other Events from \$396,000 to \$200,000 this year. Could the Minister throw some light on this area?

Continued in Part II

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE FIRST SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF
GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

Part II

12TH SITTING

14:00H

Tuesday, 3rd July, 2001

Continued fr. Part I

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any questions?

Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under the Staffing Details 106, there are no authorised employees to be contracted, but under Acct Code 106, there is nearly a doubling in the salaries of the contracted employees which brings it up to \$13,197,000. I would like to know if the Ministry is spending on employing unauthorised people and who are these people?

Under Acct Code 203 - Benefits and Allowances - I would like to ask the reason why there is such a large increase under this heading?

Under Acct Code 164 - Vehicle Spares and Service - With the very large programme, we were told about in the Budget debate, I would like to know how come the Minister is spending so much less money on her vehicles? *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Please don't interrupt, Mr Goveia. Any other questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, if I can ask another question under Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - Could the

Minister please say what skills and/or professions are represented by the contracted employees?

Secondly, could I ask the Minister under 212 - Training (including Scholarships) - if I can get an explanation as to why the central administration of this Ministry does not have a training programme or a training budget?

The Chairman: Any other questions?

The Hon. Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Under Acct Code 106, there has been an increase and obviously that relates to salary increases and therefore that will have an impact on gratuity, severance and everything else, which you see reflected in Acct Code 203, which is a question that was asked.

In relation to the one with skills and professionals, I would ask that when Hon. Members of the House ask questions, this Ministry has five Programme Heads. This is merely Ministry Administration and therefore there are different skills that would be hired under contracted employees.

At the Ministry's headquarters, there would be persons such as a PS, Secretarial staff, it may be persons in administrative high positions and/or drivers, for example. Under the other headings it will do with those skills in those areas. There are nine such persons.

Regarding the question the Hon. Member, Mr Gó^uveia, asked, if we are hiring unauthorisedly, I wish to advise him that no such thing would be countenanced by me and therefore all our staff hired are authorised as contracted employees are normally authorised through the Office of the President and only with that permission and the Head of the Public Service.

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On the question of Acct Code 107, I wish to advise the Hon. Member, Mrs Backer, that you will find the reflection of temporary employees under Acct Code 184, which is as Temporary Employees, persons who are hired for short periods to do specific jobs, which may be areas of maintenance, repairs, special projects, et cetera, throughout the year.

Acct Code 191, which was a question asked on national events, if you will check the other programme heads of the Ministry, you will find that you shouldn't have anything unduly to worry about, as under Culture the provisions are made there for national events. Under Youth and Entrepreneur Skills' programme is the Ministry's Administration Programme to do with national events.

Acct Code 203, I think I dealt with that in terms of any increases of salary would have impact on the contracted employees plus of course increases in terms of overtime or travelling allowances, et cetera.

Acct Code 164 - Vehicles Spares and Service - Obviously there are concerns about this head. Ours is a Ministry that has not had a brand new fleet of vehicles, but we do manage very carefully and efficiently and we also have to deal with what is given to us by the budget, but we feel that we will try our best to manage within this amount with careful and judicious management.

Acct Code 212, the question in relation to training by the Hon Mr Bernard, you will find the funds catering for training, in service as well as technical under the other heads Programmes 2, 3 and 5. I hope that I have answered all the questions.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions?

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$51,133,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 196 and 197 please.

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, PROGRAMME 2 - CULTURE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$118,090,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 2 - Culture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes please, I am going again to temporary employees, Acct Code 107. The Hon Minister, in her answer on the previous page said that the temporary employees were not budgeted for, they were budgeted under 'Other' and they included staff such as carpenters and so on. Could she, please, inform the House, giving us examples of who are these temporary employees that now find themselves at Acct Code 107 and not bunched under 'Other'.

Also on the question of Acct Code 191, the Hon. Minister did say that Programme 1 dealt with Administration, that is why there was that decrease, but I see here on page 197, under Acct Code 191, National and Other Events, there is also a decrease. Could she please offer an explanation to this Honourable House?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Member, Mr G^uyeia.

Mr Andy G^uyeia: Under Acct Code 212 - Training (including Scholarships) - I notice that there is a dramatic increase. I would like the Minister to give us the details.

Under Acct Code 212 - I would like to know why there is such a large increase and if you could give us the programmes or the schol-

arships that you are spending this increase on.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

The Hon Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Thank you, Mr Chairman. The question in relation to Acct Code 107, as advised by Finance and these are the categories that we comply with:

Acct Code 107 - Temporary Employees - under Culture relate to persons that we would hire specifically to assist for a short period of time with Mash or with Chutney or with Emancipation. Also VSOs who are assigned to the Ministry. So the VSOs although they worked here for over a year, they are put in the temporary category of employees as guided by Finance, et cetera. So this is how we designed it based on guidance..

Acct Code 184, in comparison, Hon Member, Mrs Backer, in this category of Culture relates to stipends for Board Members. There are several Boards, Services purchased ... [*Interruption: 'I did not ask you that'*]

"I just thought I was enlightening you" 'You can't enlighten me' "Excuse me, I apologise I do not wish to enlighten you further. I will answer directly your points"]

Under Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events - if again the Hon. Members on the other side look at the other Programme Heads, you will see that there have been increases under National Events as well.

Under Acct Code 212 - Training - the question that was asked moving from \$861,000 to \$2,461,000, this has to do with workshops, seminars, training programmes that are in relation to the culture areas, for example, music, dance, outreach into areas where we do training programmes. So that is what would be covered under

AcctCode 212. Any training of another nature such as scholarships are handled at another level of government, not within the Ministry.

The Chairman: Thank you, the Hon Member, Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you, Mr Chairman. A supplementary question - Mr Chairman, with all the goodwill in the world, I don't think that the Hon. Minister has answered my question at Acct Code 191. I simply asked if she can give an explanation as to the reduction under Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events, from last year's revised budget and what is budgeted for this year - the decrease.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, I think the Hon. Member said through the debate and is aware of the financial constraint as well as the achievements. Therefore the budget we have been allocated, we will work on judiciously and already two of the major events have passed in this year, Mash and National Independence and we have funds to last for the other events for the next six months of the year.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Member. Any other questions?

Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Hon. Member, under Acct Code 212, would the museum programme qualify under this also, because I know in the past, we have been having donations for the outreach programmes in Region 9 for the museum programme.

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: To answer the Hon. Member, if you look at Acct Code 231 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - Rupununi Weavers will be benefitting from that and also Acct Code 212, in relation to any workshops that are held in the museum development area and we can afford to bring people out from all the areas. Yes.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 2 - Culture - \$118,090,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 198 and 199 please.

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, PROGRAMME 3 - Youth

Question is proposed that the sum of \$27,435,000 for Agency 44 Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Programme 1 - Youth - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 231, I would like to ask the Minister if she could let us know what criteria or conditions the Ministry applies for making subsidies under this Head?

Secondly, why were the actual allocations in the year 2000, so far below estimates? What were the problems and/or conditions which led to this under-achievement on that particular programme?

The Chairman: Mr G^uo^uveia.

Mr Andy G^uo^uveia: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 155 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - \$100,000, could you tell me what structures are you maintaining for \$100,000?

Acct Code 172 - Electricity Charges - I notice that there is \$150,000 now. I notice you were not paying electricity bills before. I want to know why you have to pay now - \$150,000?

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr G^uo^uveia.

The Hon. Member, Miss Nestor.

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Miss Lurlene A Nestor: Acct Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings - I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, how many buildings are we catering for and what purposes are these buildings being used for?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions?

The Hon Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 231, the question was asked, why was there such a major increase, this now includes the President Youth Award Programme which is under the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

The question in relation to the low allocation -- *[Interruption: 'President Youth Choice']*

This is not the President Youth Choice, Mr Corbin. This is an International Licence Organisation.

The under-achievement in terms of what was estimated in 2000 and spent in 2000, related more to the fact that a number of agencies did not collect their subventions, because the financial rule is that they must account for the money they receive and submit their projections for the new year and the agencies do not do either one of them. It is not automatic that they will receive their subventions. So a number of agencies did not, either they didn't request it, they **requested** it too late or they didn't account and therefore they didn't get it. *[Interruption: 'You make up that rule' "No, it is just a financial rule, I don't make them up"]*

The question about maintenance and other infrastructure under Acct Code 155, \$100,000 basically to do with infrastructure we may have, and this is the Youth heading, not culture, not Sport, this is just Youth, which will relate to small infrastructure work, it might have to do small work, maintenance, say Madewini Camp which is near the Airport.

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In relation to the question by the Hon Member, Miss Nestor, Acct Code 142, this head is specially in terms of maintenance of the Commonwealth Youth Programme Building as we are the host country for the Caribbean Youth Programme. In the Caribbean, we have responsibilities in trying to keep the building maintained. Also the building on Brickdam belongs to the Ministry and has youth activities going on there. It is a small building and it is used for maintenance work there.

Acct Code 172, is that correct, Hon Member, Mr Goveia?

I believe that this is a matter of regularisation in relation to electricity charges. I can't answer specifically on that, but as we are now more into programme budgeting, we are getting a more accurate reflection of what each programme costs and a dis-aggregation of the figures.

I think I have answered all the questions.

The Chairman: Any other questions? The Hon Member, Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Arising out of the Minister's reply to my query on Acct Code 231, if as the Minister says the reasons for the under-achievement on the budget is the inability of institutions in the youth programmes to account for and prepare proper programmes and reports in their financial activities, what intervention did the Ministry put in place to project a doubling of the programmes for the year 2001 and since the year is half way through, could the Minister tell us if the interventions that she must have made to improve the accountability of youth programmes, if she started to see any improvement? I am back at Acct Code 231.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, the Hon Minister referred to Acct Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings - she referred to a

building in Brickdam, I would wish to inquire whether the building referred to is the building at the corner of Brickdam and Old Queens College Road and to further inquire to what use was that building put during the course of the last fiscal year and to what use it is proposed to put that building during the course of this fiscal year?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon. Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, I would ask the Hon. Member, Mr Bernard to please look at page 449 where you will see that the President's Youth Award, Guyana was not under this heading in the year 2000. It has been allocated there.

Secondly, in relation to the request that you made, if I understand you correctly, to do with the difference of \$2.1 million and only \$818,000 being distributed, you will notice that we allocated no funds for the National Youth Commission in the year 2000 and we also utilised, although money was budgeted for that and therefore that plus the fact that the President's Youth Award would not have been in that, that that would relate to the increase in the amount and also for why there is a difference between what was allocated and what was spent. So that we underspent in that area rather than overspent.

I want to reiterate what I said earlier, in case anyone misunderstands me, if you will notice that under National Youth Council, which was Interim National Youth Council before, it was allocated \$1 million in the year 2000, it only used \$93,000, it was disbanded in the first quarter of the year 2000 and therefore that would show, why we spent only \$818,000 out of what was \$2.1 million allocation.

The issue has to do with the Financial Regulations, with subventions, that is the business of the Accountant General and the Auditor General and those are rules that we have to follow. There is nothing arbitrary on my part, Sir.

Acct Code 142 - the questions that were asked about Brickdam: Yes, Mr Alexander, that is the building you were referring to in Brickdam. We had activities there everyday, we had the craft programme with young women who are unemployed and drop-outs from school. We have had two graduating classes in the last year, we also have had music programmes at that building and we also used it for seminars and other workshops.

The National Youth Council does not exist and does not use that building, so the building is now used exclusively for the Ministry's youth activities.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, I would like to give the Minister a chance to correct or to amplify or to clarify. I asked the Minister two questions:

My first question was to account for the under-spending target under Acct Code 231. My understanding of her answer was, that there was under-spending because the organisations either did not put up proper proposals or did not account for them. As far as I am concerned, Mr Chairman, that is a policy issue. The issue that perhaps there are youth organisations that were not properly organised, they needed training, some were not functioning properly and so on. The question was not in any sense a hostile question. When I asked the Minister to please tell us what has been done to improve the performance of the organisations getting subventions, I am now told of administrative changes, of restructuring, this caused first of all the underspending in 2000 and an anticipated increased spending in the year 2001. In my humble opinion, Mr Chairman, both answers cannot be completely in accord with each other.

I would like to ask the question again. It is not a hostile question. I am interested in the matter simply because, as I understood

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from the Minister's first reply about the capacity of youth organisations to do youth work and of the capacity of the Ministry of Youth to help organisations to do their work.

Could the Minister please then answer my first question? It is supplemented again, what interventions, if any, the Ministry made to help the organisations who collected contributions and subsidies to improve their performance in the year 2001?

The Chairman: Technically speaking, I don't think your question is appropriate for this debate, but I will leave that to the Minister.

Mr Murray, you wanted to ask a question?

Mr Winston S Murray: Sir, is the Minister aware that the answer she gave for under-spending in 2000, could not really be accurate since it is shown on page 449, of the Estimates, that all the organisations there received their subventions in accordance with the quantities budgeted with the exception of the National Youth Council, which was budgeted \$1 million and received \$93,000. That's the answer. Is she aware?

The Chairman: Hon Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Can I just walk everyone through things again. I do not mean to be hostile.

If we have \$2.1 million allocated and \$818,000 is spent, of which one agency that was allocated \$1 million only received \$93,000, because it wasn't functioning and the National Youth Commission did not utilise any funds and we subtract those amounts, we will end up with why there was under-utilisation.

Secondly, the increase of \$818,000 to \$4 million?

If the gentlemen and ladies from over that side keep talking, then I may have to repeat this again, Mr Chairman, and I am really a

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little bit tired. *[Intervention]*

The Chairman: Please allow the Hon. Minister to answer the question.

Hon Gail Teixeira: I would like them to listen to explanations even if they don't agree with them. *[Interruption: 'You talk too much' 'No, I don't']* Mr Chairman, I beg your protection.

The Chairman: Please proceed Hon. Member?

Hon Gail Teixeira: In relation to the increase, we have included now the President's Youth Award Programme as a subvention under this head. You will notice that we have not put again any funds for the National Youth Council and therefore the increase is mainly due to a new subvention for the President's Youth Award Guyana Programme.

To do with the organisations - these are not young youth organisations. These organisations have been around, some as long as a hundred years, others as long as seventy years, old youth organisations and so too the Financial Regulations. They are advised that administratively, as soon as the budget is passed, the money is available, but they must give us an account of the money they received last year, of how they utilised it and how they propose to use it in this year. Once they have done those two things, they access funds. As I understand it, those are the areas that the Auditor General likes to look at and to ensure that there is accountability of funds. I am more than willing to ensure that that is done. I hope I have answered your questions satisfactorily.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Minister. Hon. Members, are there any other questions?

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 3 - Youth - \$27,435,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 200 and 201 please.

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, PROGRAMME 4 - Sports

Question is proposed that the sum of \$60,000,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 4 - Sports - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr G^uo^{ci}veia

Mr Andy G^uo^{ci}veia: Mr Chairman, this is the part I enjoy very much. The Minister of Sports has never put a Sports Policy, a Programme or anything to this House, yet we have two hundred and eighty-nine staff in this Department [*Interruption*]

The Chairman: What item are you referring to?

Mr Andy G^uo^{ci}veia: Under Staffing Details, you check and you will see.

The Chairman: Yes, the total is two hundred and eighty-nine.

Mr Andy G^uo^{ci}veia: This House doesn't know about any sports programmes or sports policies of this Ministry. I will ask the Minister slowly and simply:

1. Could you tell me, what sports programmes does your Ministry run?
2. Do you have a policy for sport in this country?
3. Tell me, what plans do you have to develop sports in this country from your schools' programmes to getting your athletes to the international programmes?

4. Do any of your coaches have any training to do any programmes to bring our athletes or our sports programmes to this century?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, I see in the Staffing Details, she has a staff of two hundred and eighty-nine, yet there is no budget for any staff. There is also no staff authorised according to the Programme Details. So I wish some explanation, why there is no budget and why there is this great number of staff and it is not even authorised according to the details we have here?

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Miss Nestor

Miss Lurlene A Nestor: Mr Chairman, could the Hon Minister explain to us what is meant by Other Technical and Craft Skilled?

The Chairman: What item, Hon Member?

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor: Acct Code 103, we have fourteen authorised staff under Other Technical and Craft Skilled and twenty-six is budgeted for. Could she explain the excess?

The Chairman: Any other questions?

The Hon Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, this is the budget for the National Sports Commission, it is covered by an Act of Parliament in which it is a subvention. I may want, later on, to bring amendments to that Act, but at this point it is an Act that is allowed a subvention. The National Sports Commission is actually a semi autonomous body and therefore is entitled to a subvention.

Secondly, I wish that the Hon Member, Mr G^uo_oveia had used his

time on the floor in the general debate to raise many of these issues. *[Interruption: 'Why?' "Because you can't answer them in the Estimates under line items. We are now into the brass tacks of the Ministry"]*

In relation to Staffing Details, Mr Chairman, the data is absolutely wrong. There has been a mistake. I don't print these documents *[Interruption: 'We don't want to know' "I am not accountable for printing, I am not a printer"]*

Mr Chairman, the Staffing Details here is inaccurate, I wish to share with the House and the Hon. Members what is the actual staff strength of the National Sports Commission. The actual staff strength of the National Sports Commission is thirty-three persons. *[Interruption: 'From 298 to 33: this is ridiculous']*

Mr Chairman, I am merely trying to enlighten the other side. There is a mistake by those who put together the book, not me, that the Staffing Details of the National Sports Commission are thirty-three of which there is a number of persons that includes Clerical, Semi-skilled Operatives and Unskilled contract. The numbers that are given here on page 201 actually refer to page 203. So the devil's advocate has been playing with the printer. So, I wish to clarify that.

The issue to do with sports' policy and coaches, I am more than prepared to answer but not under the issue of line items unless that can be taken from a line item.

Mr Andy Goveia: A supplementary question - Is the Minister trying to tell this House, she is asking us to pass \$60 million without knowing what for? She has given us no details of this \$60 million, how it is going to be spent. I think this House demands the respect to know the details of the programmes on which this \$60 million would be spent. I could read, it's 'Sports', how is it being spent?

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Goveia.

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Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, this is a subvention and therefore if the Hon. Member wants to get more details, he can meet me outside, but I cannot at this point share the subvention amounts. There are many other subventions that are listed. I can come prepared with those details. You and I can meet in my Office or in the Lobby for me to share those details with you. But this is a subvention on which the average salary cost is approximately \$3million per month. The cost for sports gear, maintenance of the building, Cliff Anderson, National Gymnasium, Woolford Avenue and other sporting facilities that are maintained under the \$60 million. This is a subvention and there is no definition. I am more than prepared to share with the House or with individual Members, the details which I can acquire and discuss with them.

The Chairman: Thank you Hon Minister.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Is the Minister informing this House that she grants subventions to organisations without them submitting any programme or anything to her?

The Chairman: I think the Hon Minister has been saying that this is a statutory body. Am I correct Hon. Minister?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Yes.

The Chairman: Hon Members, I just wish to read this provision on page xiii of the Preface of the Estimates:

Statutory authorities, for example public debt, are those that the National Assembly has already provided for on an ongoing basis through the approval of other specific legislation containing an appropriation authority. These are included in the Estimates for information only.

Have I got you right Hon Minister?

Mr Winston S Murray: This is not a statutory body. The Na-

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tional Sports Commission is a semi autonomous body.

Hon Gail Teixeira: The National Sports Commission comes under an Act, the National Sports Commission Act, which was passed in 1992 by this goodly House before the October, 1992 elections and passed and assented to by the Acting President, Mr Samuel Hinds at the time in March, 1993.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions? No questions.

Agency 44 Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 4 - Sports - \$60,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Hon Members: I think this is a good time to take the suspension.

Suspension of Assembly at 17:06 H

Resumption of Assembly at 17:36 H

In Committee

The Chairman: Could we turn to pages 202 and 203 please?

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS, PROGRAMME 5 - YOUTH ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS TRAINING

Question is proposed that the sum of \$214,686,000 for Agency 44, Programme 5 - Youth EntrepreneurSkills Training - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: I want to ask questions in relation to Acct Codes 101 to 106 and under those heads, I want to ask general questions about the staffing on this training programme because when I turn to the Details, unless I am not interpreting the Appendix on page 578 correctly, the only staff that we have there are fourteen dormitory supervisors. However, I assume, that since this is a programme for training and entrepreneur skills, there must be a heavy emphasis on an establishment of skilled training personnel and people with project evaluation and administrative experience. Could the Minister please help us, perhaps there is a deficiency in the Appendix and could we find out what the establishment really is and what kind of skills are represented?

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, as I pointed out under Programme 4 the Staffing Details got mixed up between Programme 4 and Programme 5 in the printing. The Staffing Details on page 203 total 287 of which:

5 is Administrative, that is, Acct Code 101

7 is Acct Code 102

26 is Acct Code 103

247 is Acct Code 104

2 is Acct Code 105

Total 287

The category of Other Technical and Craft Skills - these are the tutors.

Acct Code 033 - This head covers Kuru Kuru Training Col-

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lege, NOC, Smythfield New Opportunity Corp, Sophia and Middle Street Annexe of what used to be the GNS. I hope I have satisfied you.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 5 - Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training - \$214, 686,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you please turn to page 505

DIVISION 541 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$49,890,000 for the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12001 - Building - Culture Centre - Could I ask the Minister if the rehabilitation of the public address system properly comes under that estimate of \$9 million? Could the Minister tell us whether the system has been completed and whether the Ministry is satisfied with the work that has been done?

Secondly, with reference to Project Code 26001 - Entrepreneurial Skills Training - I tried to interpret the details in Volume 3 of the Estimates and I am not sure that I am clear on what locations are being equipped. I think I have half of the answer in the previous question.

In relation to the Sports Commission, I am speculating here, I am testing your patience here, Mr Chairman, but I wonder if there is any work of a preparatory nature being done on the projected football stadium in the Turkeyen area and if it doesn't appear under

Project Code 45003, if it appears under any other head in the year 2001.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Thank you, again. Under Project Code 12001, the question asked by the Hon Member - no, it does not include the public address system. We have used a lot of funds to the tune of \$23 million for a new sound system that will be commissioned soon. This \$9 million is towards repairing the roof, repairing the ceiling and other maintenance work, changing of the valleys in the Cultural Centre.

Under Project Code 26001, is that correct? Is that the one you asked about - \$10 million? That is to do with the training programme, tools and equipment, training materials, audio visual equipment, music development, recreational sports and games. This is what it would be for. I have the breakdown here that I would share with you, but it is for Kuru Kuru, NOC, Smythfield, Sophia Training School.

The last question is to do with Project Code 45003 - National Sports Commission - this amount does not cater for the football stadium, but Guyana has been put on the FIFA list for 2001. We hope that the agreement would be signed with FIFA by September and we will have the project started with FIFA's funding exclusively. The Government is not required to put in any funds for that. Under the Sports Commission this heading will be repairs to Cliff Anderson, National Gymnasium and sports gear.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. The Hon Member, Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 18001 - Youth - the Legend states Extension of Youth Camps and Purchase of Equipment. Could the Hon Minister state whether this allocation is in anyway associated with Den Amstel Youth Camp which is in dire

need of extension?

As it relates to Project Code 24002 - National School of Dance - the Legend states that the allocation is to treat with the rehabilitation of studio and extension of office. Specifically, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister, if the allocation has anything to do with the rehabilitation of the floor of the studio, which again is in a deplorable condition?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. The Hon Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: The answer to the Hon Member, Mr McAllister is yes on both counts.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any further questions?

Division 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports - \$49,890,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could we move now to the Ministry of Education, pages 150 and 151?

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PROGRAMME 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$185,677,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 1 - Main Office - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: First of all, Mr Chairman, Acct Code 106, the three contracted employees, would the Minister say, what specialists are employed under this line and what areas of the Ministry they contribute to.

Acct Code 211 - Could I ask the Minister if he does not agree

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with me that the allocation of a subvention to the YWCA Early School Leavers Programme is inadequate in light of the improvement in allocations made to other similar kinds of programmes both in his own Ministry and specifically in the Ministry of Youth and whether this programme of long standing is not deserving of greater support in light of its importance?

Unless I misinterpret the details of Project Code 211, I also see no support under this head for the Adult Education Association. Is it provided for under another head?

Under Project Code 231, I believe there is a subsidy for Critchlow Labour College and again my question is, does the Minister not agree with me that under the current circumstances, the allocation for that institution is inadequate?

Finally, I believe this is an easy question, under Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations, there was an estimate of \$76,259 million in the year 2000, but an actual of \$36 million. Could he explain the circumstances, what changes were made in the Ministry's relationship with the Institutions that brought about this change, what change in programme, what change in relationship necessitated that drop in expenditure?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, as regards Acct Code 106, the contracted employees there, essentially, are the Permanent Secretary, some workers at UNESCO's local office, some advisors and assistants. There is an adviser and an Assistant, that is what I was told there. My document states four (4) but only three (3) are mentioned.

In terms of Acct Code 211, the AEA gets \$9 million out of that. That is there.

In terms of our consideration for the early school leavers, you

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realise that this Organisation, the YWCA, gets money from institutions also, but I suppose its an important issue, the early school leaving question, and it is something that one can look at again.

In terms of Critichlow Labour College, you will see Critichlow Labour College under Programme 5, it is not here.

We overpaid the CXC the year before and therefore for 2000, we did not have to pay but we will run into some problems again for next year because we have increased the subventions for CXC and also the examination fees, so we will run into some problems there. We will have to get some more money.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman - could the Minister say when the fees were increased and for how long does CXC project that the fees would be at a particular level? When did this new fee come into operation?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, going back to Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees, we see under Staffing Details, there are three contracted employees, the Hon. Minister did say the PS and he then went on to say about some advisers at UNESCO - he said 'some' - and some where else, but we only have three. So I wish to ask him if he could be a little more specific and accurate to tell us who the three people are?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Certainly, I just did not want to go on to mention it. It is the Head of UNESCO, an Adviser in the Office and the PS.

The CXC fee will come into play in January. The CXC has not been given an increase for nine years or something like that. I don't think they projected how long this will last but I suppose that will depend upon the rates of inflation and all kinds of things but the fees will come into play in January.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Minister. Any other questions?
The Hon. Member, Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Hon Minister, am I looking under the correct heading? Could you say something about the Race Relations Committee? Has it been put under some other heading? There is nothing allocated to that under 2000.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Yes, apparently the Race Relations Committee has moved to another Ministry, not a heading - The Ministry of Human Services.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$185,677 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Can you go over to pages 152 and 153 please?

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PROGRAMME 2 - NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY - IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPERVISION.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$83,216,000 for Agency 41 Ministry of Education, Programme 2 - National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, could the Minister please give us the highlights of Acct Code 212, so that we can understand the increase in expenditure by \$5 million under this head? What projects or programmes, whether it is increase in cost or whether there are new or additional programmes under Acct Code 212?

The Chairman: Any other questions before the Minister answers?

The Hon. Minister.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 212, deals with national education policy and what we have been doing, some highlights. For instance, we have been doing a lot of work in curriculum and text books development, we have a Spanish Programme in training Spanish teachers, we have been doing a lot of work in the primary school. Generally we have upgraded the textbooks throughout both the primary and secondary levels and it is the general thing that the Department does and has been doing for some considerable time.

In relation to some of the resources here, Programme 2 has dealt with cricket. We have given some money for the National Cricket Championship, that is another level. We have been dealing also with the National Track and Field Events, the micro-science programme that we have on stream, training school librarians, things like that, generally.

The Chairman: Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, does not the Minister agree with me that the list of activities under this head, sounds like a rag bag which includes matters that are better dealt with under the work of NCERD Centre. There doesn't seem to be a coherent programme under this list of training.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, I think that we can have more or less one level of policy development, another level of policy implementation. I think NCERD does essentially something dealing with policy development. It depends on how you look at any area of work. There must be levels of demarcation. Perhaps, yes, if you want to, you could stick the two together, but as I said modern government talks about implementation of policy and policy formulation. That is how I view the development that is taking place here.

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The Chairman: Any other questions.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events - On the revised 2000, we have \$197,000, on the Budget 2001, we have \$4,390,000, could the Minister explain?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, I am giving to the GTU \$2 million and to help with the Track and Field as I have just explained and other monies will go to the National Cricket Championship.

The Chairman: Miss Allen.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Acct Code 184 - Other - In 2000 revised, we have \$153,000, on the Budget 2001, we have \$3,988,000, could the Minister explain?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: This is essentially for the marking of scripts and various papers, et cetera. It is for people travelling to places, but the essential element is the marking of papers, scripts.

The Chairman: Thank you, very much. Any other questions?

Agency: 41 Ministry of Education, Programme: 2 - \$83,216,000
- agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you turn to pages 154 and 155 please?

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PROGRAMME
3 - MINISTRY ADMINISTRATION**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$394,435,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 3 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, may I have the right in

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assuming that Staff under Acct Code 102, includes Inspectorate and if that is the case, where does that appear? How many Inspectors are in the Ministry and what are the plans for increasing the number of Inspectors in the education system?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, Inspectorate comes under Programme 2, as we are talking about actual implementation and as you know I have been making a lot of denotation of the idea that inspectorate must be an important element in our strategy to get people in the schools to do what they are supposed to do. So we have plans, we are looking at that very seriously and we might even include another level of inspectors which will be focusing on managerial elements.

The Chairman: Any other questions? There being no other questions -

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 3 - Ministry Administration - \$394,435,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 156 and 157 please.

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PROGRAMME 4 - TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$377,372,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 4 - Training and Development - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Ac t Code 106 - Contracted Employees - We see here that in 2000, Contracted Employees, we had ten people and the revised budget has a figure of

\$15.5 million, whereas for this year we proposed an increase of three people to thirteen and we have a hefty increase of \$10 million. So I would be very grateful if the Hon. Minister could indicate who are these three people, what role these three contracted employees will be playing in Training and Development Agency?

Acct Code 107, which is Temporary Employees, we see an increase from sixty for last year to seventy-one which is an increase of eleven, and we see that the budgetary allocation moved from \$27 million to \$52 million which is \$25 million increase to take care of eleven temporary employees. So we would be happy if the Hon. Minister can throw some light on this.

I am going on to the other page, page 157, Acct Code 194 - Other - Could the Minister shed some light on the increase from \$1.1 million to \$4.03 million which is in this year's budget?

The Chairman: Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, I am trying to decipher Acct Code 211 regarding which institutions are given subsidies, subventions and grants for training and development in Programme 4.

I am not getting any help from the Appendix, but perhaps the Minister's Officials are at home with this table and could tell me, what institutions are subsidised under Acct Code 211?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, in relation to the contracted workers, we have increased the contracted workers there. Largely they are the retired people who worked at NCERD and CPCE Teachers' Training College, but now we must also include according to the Ministry of Finance, not only for their salaries but for all their gratuities and travelling and the entire gamut. So that is what has led to that increase.

In terms of the temporary employees, a lot of these people do part-time work and we have increased the part-time rate to some-

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thing like one hundred and twenty-seven per cent, therefore you have that sort of increase coming there for only a small number more employed.

In relation to Act Code 211, and this is, essentially here, CPCE again. There are some live-in people there, we are paying for meals there from Beacon Foundation and of course the sort of stipend we give to the students.

Act Code 194 - this is an award that is normally given to CPCE graduates.

The Chairman: Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Did the Hon Minister say that this is an award that is usually given to CPCE graduates, but I am asking how come we are having more than a one hundred per cent increase. If he said that it is usually given, what explains this hundred per cent increase?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: It is not a single award. At first, all you used to have, maybe, is a pass, now they have gone with credits and distinctions and they are buying various awards for all these kinds of students at various classes. That is how the increase has taken place.

The Chairman: Any other questions? There being no other questions -

Agency 41 Ministry of Education, Programme 4 - Training and Development - \$377,372,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 158 and 159, please.

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PROGRAMME 5 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,225,682,000 for Agency

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**41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 5 - Education Delivery
- stand part of the Estimates.**

Any questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, two sets of questions. Again, I am interested in the subvention on training because that is very often the place where the Ministry has a lot more flexibility in directing resources. So again I am puzzled, I can't find out from the Appendix what are the subsidies here for 2001?

Secondly, is Critchlow Labour College included here and what is the subsidy and is the Minister satisfied under our current circumstances whether that is adequate?

Then I want to move to Acct Code 212, what element of training of information staff in the Ministry's Programme as reflected under Acct Code 212, reflects an interest in training in information technology and issues related to competitiveness and the introduction of new technology?

Then if I could go back to Acct Code 102, I believe that under this head, it reflects people who are employed in the field of measurement and evaluation. Does the Minister believe that the number of people in the establishment trained in this area is adequate? What steps are the Ministry taking to increase the number of people, given all the new examinations and tests and so on?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 107 - Temporary Employees - We see here under Staffing Details on page 159, temporary employees gone up from forty-six to fifty-two, an increase of six persons, yet we see that the budgetary allocation has gone up by nearly two hundred per cent. Could the Hon. Minister give us some explanation as to that jump to accommodate six extra people? We have nearly a two hundred per cent increase in the budgetary allocation.

Could he indicate what these new six temporary employees will be engaged in?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, yes, we are at this very moment doing some training for people who can do measurement and that is in reference to the Senior Technical and I must admit that we are doing so largely as we do believe that the number is insufficient as it stands. Again, Mr Chairman, if we go to Acct Code 107, what we have there is another one hundred and twenty-seven per cent increase in part-time fees there and these people do all kinds of work in schools, but essentially they are cleaners and they have included that part-time payment.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Oh, sorry, I didn't answer the one asked about the Critchlow Labour College, yes, it is included here. The Critchlow Labour College is getting something like \$23 million, UG is \$253 million and GTI is \$93 million.

Acct Code 212, there is an important management element, In-house Training, I would assume, I am not going to commit myself here. Modern management must be taken into consideration, the teaching of IT and things like that. I am not committing myself but I assume that that is so.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Minister. Any other questions? There being no other questions -

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme: 5 - Education Delivery - \$2,225,682,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Could you turn to page 506 please?

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DIVISION 542 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, PRIMARY EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,506,786,000 for Division - 542 - Ministry of Education, Primary Education Improvement Programme - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? There being no question -

Division 542 - Ministry of Education, Primary Education Improvement Programme - \$1,506,786,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 507 and 508 please.

DIVISION 543 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$924,400,000 for Division 543 - Ministry of Education - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, just a couple of questions. First of all, Project Code 12005, I am not quite clear from the details – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Which number is that?

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: --12005. Which institution are we referring to? I would like to have that clarified, please.

Project Code 12012 - I see here an estimate for \$30 million for an IT project. I don't know why the University got the impression that they were expecting \$200 million. Could the Minister explain why the University was promised \$200 million and only awarded \$30 million?

Project Code 26000 - Guyana Education Access Project - Could

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the Minister give me a rough estimate of what proportion of this project is administrative, bureaucratic cost and what proportion of it is actual delivery?

Project Code 26002 - the CIDA Project - How is this project managed? Where is it staffed from?

Project Code 26005 - GTI - Could the Minister please give us a brief run down on the main highlights of that programme again? The details on the attachment are not clear. I ask this question partly because I missed this one in the general debate. Could the Minister please help me with some details?

Project Code 45004 - Since I have asked about AEA before, given our problems of adult literacy, et cetera, whether a sum of \$600,000 is adequate?

The Chairman: Any other questions? The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, this craft production is a different unit. It used to be a part of Carnegie, but now it's a different unit at Queens College Compound.

In terms of the money for UG, well, yes, UG was promised \$200 million and UG will get \$200 million this year. I have made the necessary connections. I think this promise has been made after this number was placed here and my understanding is that they will get their \$200 million.

Mr Chairman, like most of these projects, when they are being devised, I don't have their number here, but I am certainly willing to come with some specific numbers, but when these international programmes are devised, they normally have no more than about twenty per cent as administrative cost. I am not certain and I don't have the numbers right here to say what are the specific numbers, but I can certainly provide a written reply to the Hon. Member.

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This GBET Programme, as you know, essentially is what we are trying to do in terms of teacher training by distance. We are trying to upgrade our headmasters -management upgrading. The programme is a foundation programme and now we are working on a certificate programme and there is some sort of resource there for the upgrading of the Teacher Training College.

The highlight of the money for the GTI is \$135 million as I understand it. We have a little discourse about this going on, but my understanding is that \$100 million was to go to try to develop a new institution at Corriverton and \$35 million is to do a division between the other colleges, but since that would not be possible there is some re-configuration to take place with this money, but we are going to develop another institute such as we have in Essequibo at Corriverton.

The Chairman: Any other questions? Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I would like to inquire of the Hon. Minister about the \$200 million, which he just referred to, whether that would be provided eventually under Project Code 12012 and whether it, therefore, means that all of the capital for the University of Guyana, Turkeyen Campus, would in fact be for the items described under the legend of that head.

Secondly, Mr Chairman, under Project Code 12009 - Critchlow Labour College - reconstruction of roof and purchase of photocopier, I would like the Minister to give us some details on which roof or which part of that recent SIMAP Project now comes up for reconstruction and to inquire whether there were any discussions between CLC and the Ministry in relation to the use of the photocopier, which they want to buy, and whether the possibility of buying a risograph which can more economically produce examination papers was considered, and whether in fact such consideration could be given, if indeed, it could be used for the purposes of examination papers.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: First of all, my understanding is, yes, that the \$200 million would come precisely with the \$30 million. As it

stands here now, I don't think that the Legend is correct, I think that there is an IT lab already. I don't think that that \$30 million is for the building that they are going to build for an IT lab. The two things should not be put together and obviously not, I don't think that they are going to use the entire \$200 million just to do these things. They will have to develop a new programme because here you have new money.

As to Critchlow Labour College, the Hon Member well knows that the Critchlow Labour College is an independent organisation and they came to us and requested subvention to run their business. We would like very much and we believe very much that they are capable of doing their business and we don't want to intervene too much, whether or not they are going to buy a photocopier or a risograph. What I can say to the Hon Gentleman, is that they got exactly what they asked for. They asked for that number and they got precisely that number and we would not want to be accused of getting involved in labour relations and labour and trying to direct matters of labour.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, under the same Project Code 12012, The Minister in his main presentation did allude to a \$35 million project with international funding to the University, but I do not think it is reflected here. I wish the Minister could tell us the details and under what head it would appear and what consultations he has had with the University and how the \$35 million would be spent.

Hon Dr Jeffrey B Henry: Mr Chairman, my information on that issue directly from the University is that when I made it, there were some discourse, but it would appear that the monies at least for this programme are not where we thought they were and therefore any discourse must start from the original right now. It is a

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reconfiguration of national programme.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Division 543 - Ministry of Education - \$924,400,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Could you look at page 509 please?

DIVISION 544 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM PROJECT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$560,409,000 for Division 544 - Ministry of Education, Secondary School Reform Project - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 26001 - I wish to refer to the item, Civil Works - where there is an allocation of \$218,074,000, and then for consultancy there is an allocation of \$2 million which is almost fifty per cent. I am wondering if the Minister can give some kind of explanation and say if the consultancy referred here is related to the civil works.

Mr Deryck M A Bernard: Mr Chairman, I just want the Minister to let me know if under Project Code 26001, particularly the heading for Civil Works, whether any of the World Bank schools referred to, are the multilateral schools included under this head and if 'yes' which schools and if not, could the Minister tell us, when we will be spending any serious money on the World Bank schools?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Henry B Jeffrey: Anna Regina, New Amsterdam and Bygeval are included in that project. If you remember, we are supposed to

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be doing twelve schools, and some emergency works on another twenty. This is not only related to the civil works of the project, it is related to other consultancies, as you see, other things of the project, the software of the education process. It is not just the civil works. I don't think anybody would allow that.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if I have correctly concluded that there is no provision for the completion of the North Ruimveldt Multilateral School under this head.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: If you go to Project Code 12001, you will see some provision being made there for that school. There is a number of schools there.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Division 544 - Ministry of Education, Secondary School Reform Project - \$560,409,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Let the Assembly resume.

Assembly Resumed

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: This brings us to the conclusion of our business for today. The Assembly shall stand adjourned until tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

Adjourned accordingly at 18:25 H