

# 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 RE-  
PUBLIC OF GUYANA**

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17TH SITTING

2.00 PM

Thursday, 15th November, 2001

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**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)**

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| The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P.               | - <i>Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications</i>          |
| The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P. | - <i>Minister of Parliamentary Affairs</i>                                       |
| The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.                | - <i>Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation</i>                |
| The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.              | - <i>Minister of Local Government and Regional Development</i>                   |
| The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P.                   | - <i>Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport</i>                                    |
| The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P.            | - <i>Minister of Education</i>   |
| The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P.            | - <i>Minister of Finance</i>   |
| <br>   |  |
| The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.                | - <i>Minister of Housing and Water</i>   |
| <br>   |  |
| The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.     | - <i>Minister of Agriculture (Region No. 4-Demerara/Mahaica)</i>                 |
| The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P.                | - <i>Minister of Home Affairs (Region No. 3-Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)</i> |
| <br>   |  |
| The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P. | - <i>Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security</i>                  |
| <br>   |  |
| The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P.            | - <i>Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development</i>   |

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
The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.	- Minister of the 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 S. 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 R. Ramotar, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr Husman Alli, 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. DeSantos, 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, M.P.	- (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P.	- (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne)
Mr Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.	
Mr Kheturaj Ramjattan, M.P.	- (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne)
Dr 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. Sukhaji, M P	- (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

**Members of the Opposition (30)**

**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.	- <i>Leader of the Opposition</i>
Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin, M. P.	
Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.	
Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.	- <i>Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly</i>
Mr E. Lance Carberry, M.P.	- <i>Chief Whip</i>
Mr Ivor Allen, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.2-Pomeroon/Supenaam)</i>
Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.	
Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.	- <i>(Absent )</i>
Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.	
Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.	- <i>(Absent-on-Leave)</i>
Mr Vincent L. Alexander, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)</i>
Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.	
Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.	
Dr Dagleish Joseph, M.D.,M.P.	
Miss Amna Ally, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice)</i>
Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.10-Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)</i>
Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.	
Dr George A. Norton, M.P.	
Miss Myrna E. N. Peterkin, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)</i>
Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P	- <i>(Region No.3-Essequibo Islands West Demerara</i>
Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)</i>
Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P.	- <i>(Region No.10-Upper Demerara/Berbice)</i>
Mr Ricky Khan, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.1-Barima/Waini)</i>
Mrs. R. Bancroft, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.8 - Potaro/Siparuni)</i>
Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P.	- <i>(Region No.6 -East Berbice/Corentyne)</i>
Miss Judith David, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.7-Cuyuni/Mazaruni)</i>
Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P.	- <i>(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)</i>

**(ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance Party (2)**

Mrs Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.	
Mrs Shirley J. Melville, M.P.	- <i>(Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)</i>

**(iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)**

Mr Ravindra Dev, M.P.

**OFFICERS**

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

## **PRAYER**

**The Clerk** read the Prayer.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

#### **(i) Condolences**

Hon Members, you would no doubt have read in the press of the passing of Mr Arthur Alexander, a former Member of Parliament and a former Deputy Speaker. Pending the presentation of the usual motion - I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences, and those of the Members of the House, to the family and relatives of Mr Alexander.

#### **(ii) Welcome**

Hon Members, as this is our first sitting after our recess, I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming back and extending good wishes to all Members of the Assembly, the Officials and representatives of the media.

#### **(iii) Leave**

Leave has been granted to the Hon Clement Rohee, Hon Rudolph Insanally from today's sitting, and Hon Members, Mr Raphael Trotman, up to the end of the year, and Mr Andy Goveia from today's sitting.

#### **(iv) Welcome for Mr Sherlock E Isaacs**

Hon Members, at the invitation of the Government of India and with the approval of the Government of Guyana and myself, Mr Sherlock Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, attended a seven (7) week intensive parliamentary internship training programme at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training at the Lok Sabha

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2001

Secretariat in New Delhi, and at the State Legislature in Gujarat from 21<sup>st</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2001, that is, while we were in recess.

During this period of training, Mr Isaacs was exposed to, among other topics, the Indian Political System, salient features of the Indian Constitution and the Indian Parliamentary Systems, Practices and Procedures. Mr Isaacs was presented with a Certificate of Orientation and Certificate of Training in the Lok Sabha and Gujarat legislature.

I wish on behalf of Members of the Assembly and myself to extend our congratulations and best wishes to Mr Isaacs and to welcome him back to the table.

**(v) Expression of Joy**

I express my joy, and I am sure that of other Members, to note that Hon Member, Mrs Shirley Melville is safely with us.

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**

**(1) By the Minister of Finance, Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar.**

*Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Auditor General for the year 2000.*

**(2) By the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs, Hon Gail Teixeira (Agt.)**

**(i) Agreement between the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Government of the United States of America concerning Cooperation to suppress illicit traffic by sea**

*and air.*

*(ii) Convention on the Prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of a anti-personnel mines and on their destruction.*

*(iii) Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.*

**(3) By the Minister of the Public Service, Hon Jennifer R A Westford.**

*Annual Report of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal for the year 2000.*

**(4) By the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, Hon Samuel A A Hinds.**

*Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation, Order 2001 (No. 20 of 2001).*

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER**

**Suspension of Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3)**

**Be It Resolved:**

That ~~Standing Order~~ No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2001 with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Local authorities (Elections)(Amendment) Bill 2001 - Bill No. 12/2001.

*Thursday, 15th November, 2001*

**The Speaker:** Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** Mr Speaker, with your permission, I crave your indulgence not to proceed with the Motion since the Opposition has indicated its intention to move amendment.

In the circumstances, with your consent, and the consent of the House, I wish to withdraw the Motion.

**The Speaker:** The Motion stands withdrawn.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The following Bills were presented and read for the first time:

(1) By the **Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, Hon Harripersaud Nokta.**

***LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS)(AMENDMENT)  
BILL 2001 - BILL NO. 12/2001***

(2) By the **Minister of Health, Hon Leslie S Ramsammy.**

***MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL  
2001 - BILL NO. 13/2001***

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - SECOND READING

**Item No. 1**

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS)(AMENDMENT)  
BILL 2001 - BILL NO. 12/2001**

*A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.*

**The Speaker:** The Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** Mr Speaker, in view of the withdrawal of the Motion this Bill will not be proceeded with today. It will be proceeded with at the next sitting.

Question **put** and **agreed**.

**BILL DEFERRED**

**Item No. 2**

**SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE  
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA (CONSTITUTION AND  
PROCEEDINGS)VALIDATION BILL 2001 - Bill No. 5/  
2001 published 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2001**

A Bill intituled An Act to validate the constitution and proceedings of the Seventh Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, constituted pursuant to the declaration on 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1999 of the results of the national and regional elections, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.



*Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2001*

**The Speaker:** Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** Mr Speaker, this Bill was held up to enable the legal team of the Opposition to meet with their Senior Parliamentary Counsel. That meeting took place and certain amendments were proposed. Those that found favour with the Chief Parliamentary Counsel are being drafted and so, again, I crave your indulgence to ask that this Bill be deferred.

Question **put and agreed.**

**BILL DEFERRED**

**The Speaker:** Hon Members, this concludes our business for today.

Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

**Hon Reepu Daman Persaud:** I wish to move that the National Assembly stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.

**The Speaker:** The Assembly now stands adjourned to a date to be fixed.

**Adjourned accordingly at 14:10 H**