

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN**

Part I

85TH SITTING

2.00 PM

Monday, 6 February 2006

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.	- <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 (AOI)</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 Home Affairs</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>
The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.	- <i>Minister of Housing and Water</i>
The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P.	- <i>Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security</i>
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.	- <i>Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock (Region No. 5-Mahaica/Berbice)</i>
*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.	- <i>Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent)</i>
*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P.	- <i>Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs</i>

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The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.	- Minister of the Public Service
The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P.	- Minister of Culture Youth and Sport
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.	
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)
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/Supenaam)
Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, 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 - (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Mrs Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.	
Dr Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.	
Mr Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.	
Mr Neendkumar, M.P.	- (Region No. 4 - Demerara/ Mahaica)
Mr Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.	- (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne) (Absent)

* Non-Elected Minister

** Elected Member from The United Force

85/2

Members of the Opposition (30)

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

Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin, M. P.	- (Absent)
Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.	- (Absent)
Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.	- Deputy Speaker of the N.A (AOL)
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.	- Chief Whip
Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.	- (Region No.2-Pomeroon/Sipenaam)
Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.	
Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.	
Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.	
Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P.	- (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)
Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.	- (Absent)
Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.	
Dr Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.	
Miss Amna Ally, M.P.	- (Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice)
Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P.	- (Region No.10-Upper Demerara Berbice)
Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P.	- (AOL)
Dr George A. Norton, M.P.	- (AOL)
Miss Myrna E. N. Peterkin, M.P.	- (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (AOL)
Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P.	- (Region No.3-Essequibo Islands West Demerara)
Dr Carl Max Hanoman, M.P.	
Mr Joseph Hamilton, M.P.	
Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P.	- (Region No.10-Upper Demerara/Berbice)
Mr Ricky Khan, M.P.	- (Region No.1-Barima/Waini)
Mr Dave Danny, M.P.	
Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P.	- (Region No.8- Potaro/Siparuni)
Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P.	- (Region No.6-East Berbice/Corentyne)
Miss Judith David, M.P.	- (Region No.7-Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P.	- (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) AOL)

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

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

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

Mr Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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PRAYERS

The Clerk reads the prayer

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

**BUDGET FOR 2006 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF
THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2006**

**Assembly resolved into Committee of Supply to consider the Es-
timates of Expenditure for the financial year 2006**

IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Chairman: We will now proceed in accordance with the Sub
Committee's Resolution and Schedule. We will start with Volume 1.

Pages 28 and 29

**AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 011 -
Head Office Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,109,961,000 for Agency 01 -
Office of the President - Head Office Administration - stands part of the
Estimates

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, I have been trying to attract your atten-
tion.

The Chairman: Yes, please...

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, in the proceedings here, I presume that at any point I could raise questions on Budget lines. I want to raise some questions on Page 28.

The Chairman: Once I propose the question and then put the question, you are free to raise any matter under that item.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay, Sir.

The Chairman: We are at Agency 01, so I have proposed the question for the Agency.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees... Could we be told ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Where would that be?

Mr E Lance Carberry: That is on Page 28 Account Code 6116. - Contracted Employees ... Could we be told how many employees are beneficiaries of these provisions here and how many positions are affected by these contracted employees?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, I am advised that there are fifteen such contracted employees on Programme 011.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I asked not just for the number, but the positions affected by these contracted employees.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: There are a Permanent Secretary, an Accountant, an Administrative Secretary, a Store Keeper II, a Stock Verifier, a Secretary, two Secretary Typists, a telephonist, two Drivers, three Pool Attendant. There may be one more, but that is the nature of the contracted employees.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, I have noted on Page 29 in the Table that gives the numbers ... it simply says *Filled*, so I presume that the Establishment is filled and there are vacancies. Could we have the information as to what the establishment is as well as the vacancies?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, if you notice in the Budget this year, we have not put in an authorised number. Generally we have the positions as filled at 2005 and projected to be filled at 2006. In those areas where I am answering for, I have been advised that the authorised numbers are even larger.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, I could understand that the Honourable Prime Minister may not be in a position to answer the question accurately at this point in time, but I believe it is not a matter of indifference to the National Assembly for us to know what the establishment is for each of these agencies apart from those positions which are filled and what vacancies exist. So if the Honourable Prime Minister is unable to provide that information, I would like a commitment for that information to be provided at an early date.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I have been advised on this particular programme, the authorised is the same as projected here for 2006, but I have been advised more generally on that question that the Minister for the Public Service Ministry will answer the question on authorised strengths and actual filled strengths.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Can I ask the Minister or the Minister will volunteer to answer?

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The Chairman: I do not know if the Minister can answer now, but the Minister has a Ministry. When her head comes around, maybe you can repeat the question.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, the Prime Minister said that she will specifically answer.

The Chairman: Yes.

Hon Dr Jennifer RA Westford: I will answer at that time.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Alright sir.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 011 - Head Office Administration - \$1,109,961,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 30 and 31

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 012 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$213,489,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 012 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees... I noticed that the Staffing Details shows that out of

a total staff of fifty-nine, fifty are contracted and I would be very happy if the Honourable Prime Minister could indicate to this National Assembly (if not all fifty, but the major heads) who are these fifty or fifty-nine people that were contracted?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, I do have the list. We thought that you might ask the question, HPS, Deputy HPS, Cabinet Monitoring Officer, Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet, Executive of the Co-ordinating Council on gender equity, Adviser on International Affairs, Adviser on Investment, Political Adviser, Information Liaison Officer, Manager Protocol, Protocol Adviser, Director Joint Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee, Community Relations Officer, Community Relations Officer, Special Projects Officer, CEO World Cup Commission, Male Dispatcher, Confidential Secretary, Secretary/Typist, Confidential Secretary, Driver, Driver, Word Processing Officer, Technical Officer, Secretary and I think most of the others are admin people, Administrative Assistant, Boat Captain, Secretary, Secretary, Confidential Secretary, Senior Personnel Assistant, Driver, Confidential Secretary, Driver, Secretary, Video Reviewer, Confidential Secretary, Driver, Confidential Secretary, Secretary, Driver, Driver, Driver, Research Assistant, Special Projects Officer, Secretary, Driver, Driver. Those are the positions.

Mr E Lance Carberry: As a matter of interest, these contracted employees... we noticed that there is a proliferation of Secretaries and Drivers. Maybe the Prime Minister may want to flag this for the Minister of the Public Service or she may want to take note, but I would like to know why is it there are so many Secretaries who have to be at the level of contracted employees?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: They are support staff to the Political Advisers and the Cabinet Secretary and so on. As you remarked here a lot of people have opted in this programme for contracted service.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

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Dr Dalglish Joseph: A supplementary question ... I thought the question that was asked just now is why the Secretaries are contracted employees. I do not think that you satisfied the answer to that question.

The Chairman: Well, the Prime Minister has given an answer. That is all he is required to do Honourable Member.

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Well, it is better we do not ask any questions.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions?

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, I do not wish to quibble, but I believe that an answer that addresses the question asked is an appropriate answer. An answer that does not answer the question is not an appropriate answer.

The Chairman: Well Honourable Member, before you answer Prime Minister, we have this issue at every Estimates, the person answering the question is required to give an answer or not required to give an answer. That is a matter for public sanction. It is not a matter for the Speaker. If the Prime Minister gives an answer and you do not accept the answer, then there are different steps and other steps for you to take. I cannot force any member nor can you, to answer a question in the way you wished the question to be answered. So once there is an answer that satisfies the rule... If the Prime Minister wishes to make a further comment, he is free to do so.

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Just for clarification, so why is it that a supplementary question on the same issue is not inappropriate according to the Standing Orders?

The Chairman: But you did not ask a supplementary question, Honourable Member. You got up and you said that the Prime Minister has not answered the question. That is not a question, that is a comment.

The Honourable Prime Minister

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Hon Samuel AA Hinds: There are many issues involved in persons opting for a contracted arrangement. I am advised that persons are free to opt for and to be employed under contract. There are issues with rates of pay, there are issues of the security of tenure, there are issues of some persons who are on bond with the government and may want to commit themselves to a life-long career, but serve their five years commitment. There is a number of issues.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question please ... Am I to understand, Prime Minister, that some of these contracted employees are on contracts that may be as long as five years - people who have studied and want to be on contract?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: No, they are on one-year contracts only, but they have to be in the service of the government for up to five years.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence ... It is not a very big figure, but I have noticed that last year the budgeted figure was \$3.7 million. \$4.424 million was spent and we have almost 100 percent increase budgeted for this year. I would be happy if the Honourable Prime Minister could share with us the reason for the 100 percent increase.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: This serves to defray expenses associated with Cabinet outreach and similar activities to the regions all across Guyana.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events ... We see a very princely sum and I just want to make sure that I am on the right track. Am I correct in presuming that that jump from \$2.4 million to \$56.7 million has to do with our 40th anniversary celebra-

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tions? I just want to be sure so it would not pop up some where else.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, that is certainly it.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: And we would not find it anywhere else. Just a supplementary question, Mr Prime Minister .. I just want to find out if this is the only place where we have a provision for the 40th anniversary of our independence.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA hinds: I do not think that I can answer this question very specifically.

Agency 01- Office of the President, Programme 012 - Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services) - \$213,489,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 32 and 33

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 013 - Amerindian Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,788,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 013 - Amerindian Development stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... I noticed that there is a sharp decline in allocated funds from \$28,094,000 to \$7,515,000. Would the Honourable Prime Min-

ister care to explain if this is a representation of persons who have now become public service employees or if it is a reduction of the number of employees within the Ministry?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, in line with our decision to make the Amerindian Ministry a full ministry and not a programme within the Office of the President, 013 is programme for just the first three months of the year and there is another heading for the separate Ministry of Amerindian Affairs - Head 16 - that picks up the remaining nine months for the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: My next question - Account Code 6302 Training (Including Scholarships) ... Again, there is a sharp drop from \$43,466,000 to \$15,056,000. Does this mean that there is a contraction of the number of persons being trained under the Amerindian scheme or is this allocation over to the Ministry also?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, the fact is that this Programme 013 seeks to provide for the first three months of the year, so what is there is about a quarter of the typical annual provision.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 013 - Amerindian Development - \$41,788,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 34 and 35

AGENCY 01 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Programme 014 -

Public Policy and Planning

Question is proposed that the sum of \$190,000 for Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 014 - Public Policy and Planning - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 01 - Office of the President, Programme 014 - Public Policy and Planning - \$190,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 394 and 395

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$654,294,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President - \$654,294,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 64 and 65

AGENCY 09 - PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSION, Programme 091 - Public and Police Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,664,000 for Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission, Programme 091 - stands part of the Estimates.

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Agency 09 - Public and Police Service Commission, Programme 091 - Public and Police Service Commission - \$41,664,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 396

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25002 - Public Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,345,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25002 - Public Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25002 - Public Service Commission - \$1,345,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 68 and 69

AGENCY 10 - TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION, Programme 101 - Teaching Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$44,653,000 for Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 101 - Teaching Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... I have noticed that we have four contracted employees and I would be very grateful if the Honourable Prime Minister could share with the House what functions these four contracted employees perform.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, two Confidential Secretaries and two drivers.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges ... I have noticed that \$395,000 was budgeted for last year, but only \$94,000 was spent. Yet I see a figure of \$410,000 for this year. Mr Prime Minister is it that some of this \$410,000 is to settle the 2005 accounts?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, I have been advised that there is a problem with the metre. We think the figure of \$395,400 is more correct and that it is recognised that there is some problem with the metre and this matter is being addressed.

Agency 10 - Teaching Service Commission, Programme 101 - Teaching Service Commission - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 396

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25008 - Teaching Service Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,100,000 for Division 505 -

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Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25008 - Teaching Service Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25008 - Teaching Service Commission - \$3,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 72 and 73

AGENCY 11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION, Programme 111 - Elections Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$897,905,000 for Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 111 - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Page 73, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I have noticed that there is a large increase almost 200 per cent budgeted for and I just want to know if it is that the Election Commission anticipates that they will need more security or this is an additional building that is now coming under their control.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The introduction of registration offices across the country, I am told some twenty-six or so, and each one with the equipment it has, it needs security. So that is the reason for the increased security.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

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Mr E Lance Carberry: As a matter of fact, Sir, are there twenty-six electoral offices at the moment?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised twenty-three offices and three sub-offices.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Given the budget provision, it is intended that there will be an increase in those offices

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: That is a matter for the Elections Commission, Sir.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I did not quite get that, Sir.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I said that we have to await and see what the Elections Commission thinks.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, I thought that you were answering on behalf of the Elections Commission here.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure ... Could we have some indication of what is catered for under this Code - Other Infrastructure.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: They are for bridges and fences in particular relating to the different offices and sub-offices,

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6262 - Overseas Conferences and Official Visits ... Where the sum of zero is recorded, am I to understand that the Elections Commission will simply require to refer and/or defer to some other office on instances where there is overseas travel?

The Chairman: That question is based on the assumption that there

would be overseas travel. Anyway, I am not answering the question.

The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: There is voted provision here for overseas travel. It may be provided.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence ... I noticed that in 2005, there were \$33,900,000 and the revised budget showed \$2.919 million. I noticed that the provision for 2006 is \$34,400,000. Could we have an explanation as to why there was that significant drop in 2005 and what is the significance of the number for 2006?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I have been advised that the Elections Commission started the registration across the country much later in 2005 than they intended and this year they are onto it already.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Hamilton

Mr Joseph Hamilton: Mr Chairman, I would just like to query \$897,905,000 ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: What is the number you are dealing with?

Mr Joseph Hamilton: I am dealing with the grand total...

The Chairman: ... of \$897,905,000.

Mr Joseph Hamilton: Yes, Sir, Page 73. I am seeking to clarify whether that sum is the total sum that would be utilised for the holding of elections or whether we are to expect a supplementary to this figure.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, there are two programmes here. This programme deals with registration and the next programme which we will go to shortly deals with the actual administration of elec-

tions.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Hamilton

Mr Joseph Hamilton: Mr Chairman, I am staying with registration. I was just seeking to clarify whether \$897,905,000 is the total cost to conduct the registration activities or are we to expect supplementary provision coming to the National Assembly? I am dealing with registration activities.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The administration believes that with the best information it has now that this sum of money can deliver a credible registration in this instance, but before you ask it, we would refer to the position taken by the government in the words of the President that whatever is required would be met.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees, there is a budgeted sum of \$146,856,000. Could we be advised which offices will be covered by this sum?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, I can give by groupings. At the very top level Administrative, there are three persons or three posts; Senior Technical (four); Other Technical and Craft Skilled (thirty-three); Clerical and Office Support (101); Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled (30) ... Oh sorry, Contracted employees are 57 You are asking about the breakdown of the 57. They cover registration officers in particular and assistant registration officers.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: A supplementary to that same question - I know that you named the categories, but could you give the numbers associated with each of those categories?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Of Registration Officers?

Mr E Lance Carberry: How many are you talking about and so on? That is what I am asking for.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I have been advised that there are twenty-three Registration Officers out of that fifty-seven.

Mr E Lance Carberry: What I am saying is that you gave some categories. I am not questioning the categories. I was just asking for the number associated with each of the categories that you mentioned of the contracted employees.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, we do not have the breakdown for this grouping of fifty-seven at this time.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Could I ask that it be provided at a later stage, sometime this week?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, we will provide the figures

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) ... I noticed that the provision for 2005 was \$60,000,000 of which \$16,636,000 was spent and the provision for 2006 is \$59,671,000. Now could we get an idea of how many additional people are going to be trained in 2006 and if you can, could you give the categories of the people to be trained in 2006?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: For Claims and Objections - 600 persons; and 15,000 for polling

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent LAlexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to return to Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees and to inquire if in the context of continuous registration, the intention is to have these offices staffed by

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contracted employment or whether this is a temporary arrangement pending an establishment that will see these offices being other than contractual.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, I think these questions may be better asked of the Elections Commission. I am saying this, because they sometimes guard very zealously the decisions they have the right to make, but I have been advised that at least two posts - the Registration Officer and the Assistant Registration Officer - would be contracted.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph first and then Mr Hamilton.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Account Code 6241 - Rental of Buildings... There is a stark increase here and I want to find out which are the buildings that are currently being rented by the Elections Commission - the new buildings?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: This increase is related to the increased number of offices that the Elections Commission has established across the country. - twenty-six offices and three sub-offices.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Hamilton

Mr Joseph Hamilton: Mr Chairman, I am just returning to the question of the contracted employees. As I understand it, there are fifty-seven contracted employees. We are being told that this has to do specifically with the ROs and AROs. Further, as I understand it, there are...

The Chairman: ... twenty-six...

Mr Joseph Hamilton: ... centres, the rest are sub, my understanding is that these centres would have at least two AROs and so my calculation is telling me that there is need for a sum of seventy-eight persons. The question is, if you have just fifty-seven of these two categories, are we to

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believe that there are some of those persons who are contracted and some who are not, because the figure fifty-seven does not represent the number of ROs and AROs. If that is so I would like to be advised what criteria ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: I do not believe that that is an appropriate question for these Estimates, but I will allow the Prime Minister to answer it if he can.

Yes, Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I have been advised that some persons who have been employed by the Commission more recently, like January of this year, are not reflected in these numbers here. So these numbers are even larger at this moment. The number of contracted employees is larger at this moment than this one.

Agency 11 - Programme 111 - Elections Commission - \$897,905,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 74 and 75

AGENCY 11 - ELECTIONS COMMISSION, Programme 112 - Elections Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$590,388,000 for Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 112 - Elections Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 11 - Elections Commission, Programme 112 - Elections Administration - \$590,388,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand

part of the Estimates.

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DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25010 -Guyana Elections Commission

Question is proposed that the sum of \$260,000,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25010 Guyana Elections Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I see that we have a sum of \$260,000,000 for 2006 and when we look at Volume 3, Page 26 which has the Profiles for the Capital Projects, we see that prior to 2006, \$321,600,000 was spent and we are now proposing to spend \$260,000,000. It says here the project includes purchase of vehicles, computers and accessories, photocopier, chairs, cabinets, et cetera. I just want to ask if we could have a little more detail of this \$260,000,000, for example, what are the main items that we propose to buy. Obviously the desks, cabinets and chairs would not be the main items, but what are the main items you propose to buy with this \$260,000,000, particularly in view of the fact that \$321,000,000 has already been spent on these same items.

The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, there are some items that are pretty large, for example, there is \$56,000,000 for upgrading the ID card system and there is a number of potential big items. *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Is there something you want to add Honourable Prime Minister?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes

The Chairman: Allow the Prime Minister to add something.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Vehicles, outboard engines, boats, generators, photocopiers for the various offices and so on.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under the said Project Code, looking at the project profile, reference 26, I am trying to be clear that there is absolutely, under this project, no foreign funding.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, these are funds provided out of the budget here.

The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Prime Minister state whether under Project Code 25010, there is the purchase of vehicles, whether a vehicle is included for Region 9, because presently Lethem GECOM is without a vehicle.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised that there are two vehicles in Region 9.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: A supplementary question ... At the moment there is one that is working in North Rupununi and the second vehicle is no good ... it is stranded in the savannahs for central Lethem.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised that we will manage the situation

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- hire vehicle or put another vehicle in. The CEO will manage the situation.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I just want to get back to this question under Project Code 25010 ... there is a total expenditure there of \$260,000,000. It is my understanding that GECOM has or is to receive funding from foreign agencies. My question here is, is it that GECOM's capital budget in no way relies on funding from foreign agencies, because this is the project we have here under capital for GECOM and one can hardly source these funds?

Hon Samuel A Hinds: Mr Chairman, this is what we have provided for. I said before that we have a commitment from the government that whatever are required additionally, if so, they will be met.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, my understanding is that GECOM/Government of Guyana and the donor agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding and that a term of the Memorandum has to do with funding. I am trying to find out what is that funding? There is a Memorandum which speaks to funding.

The Chairman: I appreciate your insistence, Honourable Member, but that is not a question for these Estimates.

Is there any other question, Mr Kadir?

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, a supplementary to my question ... What timeframe are we looking at with regard to a vehicle being placed in Lethem?

The Chairman: I do not think the Prime Minister said a vehicle will be placed. He said that the situation will be managed.

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Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am sure that the situation will be managed and the CEO said that he is looking at it, if there is need to have another vehicle in there by the end of February. He is looking at it, he is not making a commitment.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25010 - Guyana Elections Commission - \$260,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 220 and 221

AGENCY 53 - GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,267,471,000 for Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, just some clarity here under Account Code 6131 - Other Direct Labour Cost ... Could I be advised what is covered by other direct labour cost?

The Chairman: What item are you referring to Mr Alexander?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Account Code 6131

The Chairman: Thank you.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I think this heading generally covers overtime, acting allowances, missions abroad and so on.

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Agency 53 - Guyana Defence Force, Programme 531 - Defence Headquarters - \$3,267,471,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 394

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 12001 -Guyana Defence Force

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Guyana Defence Force - Project Code 12001 - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Could I be advised under Project Code 12001, which ammunition dump is being referred to and which buildings are intended to be rehabilitated?

The Chairman: Let us deal with one at a time - Which ammunition dump? Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, Members would recall that there was an accident at the ammunition dump some time ago and that is being at Camp Broomes and a new dump is being built.

With respect to rehabilitation of buildings, it is the general buildings of the GDF at the various places where they are stationed across our country.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Last year there was a budgeted amount for this same item of \$50,000,000. Does this year's amount - \$56,000,000 - bring to an end the issue with the ammunition dump?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, this is a continuing project under this Code here and it could include new buildings from year to year.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 12001 - Guyana Defence Force - \$56,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Can we now move on to Pages 234 and 235 - Office of the Ombudsman.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: There are some other project codes for the GDF that are being left out.

The Chairman: The capital head is Division 501- Project Code 12001 which we dealt with. That is the only other capital head I have. Did I miss anything?

Mr E Lance Carberry: Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: What did I miss Honourable Prime Minister?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Project Codes 12003, 28001, 28007 and 34009.

The Chairman: They probably come under different heads.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, we know the answers to these things, but we do not want to miss them.

The Chairman: No, but they have to be put and passed. If they are not passed by the National Assembly, you cannot spend the funds.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Alright, we want to put them.

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The Chairman: But I do not have in my file any other head for the GDF specifically. There might be heads which come under different ministries.

Hon Samuel AA hinds: I do not think so, Sir. If you notice, Division 501 is Office of the President and my understanding is that every one of these items may need to be taken individually, separately.

The Chairman: Well, Honourable Prime Minister, we cannot sort that out at this point here. I would recommend ... On Pages 394 and 395 there are some items that have not been put. Unfortunately, my file before me did not reflect them.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 12003 - Marine Development - GDF

Question is proposed that the sum of \$35,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 12003 - Marine Development - GDF - stands part of the Estimates.

Hon Bibi Shadick: I thought that when the Office of the President, Pages 394 and 395 was put and passed the whole of the Division was put and passed. It says, pages 394 and 395- Division 501 - Office of the President.

The Chairman: I did put that Division in its entirety, but the practice is to put each item. So I will now put each item. So we are on project Code 12003.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 12003 - Marine Development -GDF - \$35,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 28001 - Pure Water Supply - GDF

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 28001 - Pure Water Supply - stands part of the Estimates.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am trying to find what you are talking about.

The Chairman: Page 394, Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am really not seeing what you are talking about.

The Chairman: If you look down, the 7th item.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Yes, thank you.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 28001 - Pure Water Supply - GDF - \$6,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 28007 - Agri Development - GDF

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 28007 - Agri Development - GDF - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Dr Dalglish Joseph

Dr Dalglesih Joseph: I just want to find out where specifically is this renovation and rehabilitation of the bridge is going to take place.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: GDF Farm, Garden of Eden.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 28007 - Agri Development - GDF - \$7,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT. Project Code 34009 - Infrastructure - GDF

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34009 - Infrastructure - GDF - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34009 - Infrastructure - GDF - \$16,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 395

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 51003 - Equipment - GDF

Question is proposed that the sum of \$51,500,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President , Project Code 51003 - Equipment - GDF - stands part of the Estimates.

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Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 51003 - Equipment - GDF - \$51,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

That concludes the Guyana Defence Force. Can we now turn to the office of the Ombudsman?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: May I ask a question before we get there? There are some other items here.

The Chairman: What page are you looking at?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Division 501 - We did put the whole Division maybe it is not our practice, but we have put and passed the whole division earlier. You have just said that we did the GDF ones line by line. What position are we taking with the other items that are here?

The Chairman: When we reach the various heads, these Codes on Capital Expenditures ought to be included under the heads and they will be called when we reach them. For example, if you look at Division 501, it deals with various Agencies - National Parks Commission, Energy Agency, Guyana Information Agency and things of that nature. So when we reach the particular ministry or the particular agency dealing with each one of them, they will be called, I presume.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, we can manage it, so we do not need to hide from it, but basically those agencies are approached via subventions to local agencies on one of the programmes that we did on the Office of the President, so that we are not likely to meet them again for example IAST and GO-INVEST; they are accessed or reached through Account Code for Subventions to local organisations on 6321 on Page 29, that is where those agencies are accessed through the subventions made to them from the Office of the President.

The Chairman: Thank you for informing me, the opposition and Mem-

bers of the Government. I must note that I see no back-benchers asking questions on these Estimates and it has never happened since I have been here. It is a practice which I quietly urged should be followed, but it has not happened so far, but your information has been made available to Members of the Opposition and to your back-benchers if they wish to ask any questions.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, I am doing it out of wanting for transparency, but I am a little concerned too that you said that if any Code is not addressed that it may not appear in the final document.

The Chairman: As the Honourable Member pointed out, the entire Division has been put already, so it is covered.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: So it is alright.

The Chairman: Since the Division has been put and some of the Codes might not be there, I will allow any Member of the House who wants to return to one of these Codes to ask a question on it. I hope that is clear.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Yes sir, that is clear.

The Chairman: I will allow a return to the Code for any question even though it has been passed.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Just as a matter of proceedings, Sir, in a case like this where you have a Division 505, the truth is that it has a number of sub-entities, some of which appear by themselves in the list. I think it is inappropriate for you to then pass the whole page. I see that you have made the correction.

The Chairman: That comment makes sense Mr Carberry. If you wish, at some point in time I can just go over the Division one by one, item by item, code by code; they are referred to as codes. I can go through the Division 501 Code by Code to allow members to ask any questions that they may wish even though it has been passed. I will do so at an appropriate time maybe just before we are about to break for

this session.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Okay, Sir.

The Chairman: Pages 234 and 235

**AGENCY 57 - OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN - Programme
571 - Ombudsman**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$13,372,000 for Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 571 - Ombudsman - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... Could I be advised which employee this Code caters for?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The Secretary to the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Could I inquire under which Code is the Ombudsman catered for?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: He is paid under Account Code 6011 in the Statutory Expenditure of the Budget

Mr Vincent L Alexander: This is a statutory office which has certain requirements for his appointment. Could I inquire if at this point in time there is someone who is statutorily occupying that office?

The Chairman: It is a constitutional office.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: There is not someone in the office at this moment, but the provision has been made.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Just a supplementary question - It is common knowledge that this job is being carried out by an individual. My question is ... Under what provision is that individual being paid in the absence of a statutory appointment.

The Chairman: Well, I am not too sure. The Constitution provides for an Ombudsman to be appointed in a proper way. I do not know if you wish to answer it, if there is no person appointed.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: My understanding from the Secretary there is that the applications made, if any, are stored or kept in files.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am sorry sir, but I am conscious of your ruling that any answer is an answer. But, Sir, that answer does not make sense.

The Chairman: Why?

Mr E Lance Carberry: I do not understand it.

The Chairman: What is the question?

Mr E Lance Carberry: I know the Prime Minister could be very ...
[Interruption]

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Could you repeat the question?

The Chairman: Thank you Mr Carberry. Mr Prime Minister, the question is that it is common knowledge that some person I presume is doing the job of the Ombudsman at the Office of the Ombudsman. Under what Code that person is being paid? That is the question.

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Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, I thought that your explanation ... that the Ombudsman is a constitutional office position and he is appointed in a certain way and we said that there is not anyone so that the job could not be done as far as I know at this time. The Job of the Ombudsman could not be done. So I was saying that they (the applications) are being filed.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, the total budgeted amount of \$5.775 million... Can the Prime Minister state how is this money accounted for?

The Chairman: I did not get that question.

Mr Dagleish Joseph: The total appropriation here - the total expenditure for 2006...

The Chairman: Okay.

Mr Dagleish Joseph: I am asking if the Honourable Prime Minister can tell us how this amount is accounted for in terms of the activities conducted currently at the Office of the Ombudsman?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The Account Codes are there throughout which show you how you get up to the \$5.775 million. The members of the secretariat are in place. I think there is a total of six persons there in place; there is a building in place, hence rental and maintenance, telephone, electricity, stationery and printing equipment. All those things are in place.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: I am still not clear ... But with the Ombudsman not being there, what is the nation getting from this expenditure?

The Chairman: I cannot allow that question, Honourable Member.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Returning to 6011 – Statutory, Wages and Salaries ... there is the revised sum of zero for the year 2005 ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Are you looking at the total statutory expenditure, Honourable Member?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Yes, and I want the Member to read.

The Chairman: We have seen it.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Yes, Mr Chairman. I am just seeking clarity that given the sum here, it means that this office has been unoccupied for 2005.

The Chairman: I do not know if it means that. Does it mean that? Is that the question that the office of the Ombudsman ...

Mr Vincent L Alexander: ... is unoccupied for 2005?

The Chairman: Is that so, Honourable Prime Minister?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, the Office has been unoccupied for the year 2005.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Is the intention of the Government to appoint an Ombudsman for the new year?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, the government desires to appoint an Ombudsman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Elections are due by August 2006; do you

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intend to appoint the Ombudsman before this date?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Possibly, Sir.

The Chairman: You are working towards that end, I presume.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: In the absence of the Ombudsman, could I ask under the provisions - Other Technical and Craft Skilled, Clerical and Office Support - who has been supervising the work of this Office? There are officers here budgeted for and being paid. Who has been supervising the work of this Office?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised the Public Service Ministry, not carrying out the functions ... Administrative.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I notice Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - It is not a large sum of money, but it is a very interesting situation here in that there was a provision for \$200,000 in 2005 and of course there was not expenditure. So I presume that this money here is solely for the use of the Ombudsman.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes.

The Chairman: Well that answers Dr Joseph's question.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: The budget anticipates the appointment of an Ombudsman.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Under Account Code 6284 - Other - we see a budgeted sum for \$404,000, but last year only \$73,000. But what

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I would like to know, what comes under this Code - Other? What are some of the expenses incurred to spend \$404,000?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised printing of Annual Reports and brochures.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6293 - Refreshment and Meals - a provision of \$101,000 in 2005 and is reduced to \$84,000 in 2006, I would like to be advised that in an office where the Ombudsman is absent, under what circumstances are the staff provided with refreshments and meals.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised that it is supplied to the staff in the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir the answer given in response to Account Code 6284, was that this refers to printing, but there is an Account Code 6224 - Print and Non-Print Materials ... I am not quite sure what is really intended at Account Code 6284. Sir, there is an office here that is not functioning in the strict sense and it is very strange that we have these expenditure items here.

The Chairman: What item refers to printing?

Mr E Lance Carberry: First of all the question was asked by my colleague, Hon Mrs Backer ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: What *Other* refers to? The answer was printing. What item you say refers to printing?

Mr E Lance Carberry: Account Code 6224 - Print and Non-Print Materials.

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The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Print and Non Print-Materials - 6224 - for Materials used in the office - paper and ink for printing in the office itself. This *Other* item here is for contracted-out services for reports and so on. Very few places print their reports internally.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations ... Could I be advised to which International Organisation were these contributions made, or subsidies to which organisations?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The International Ombudsman Institute of Canada.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Mr Chairman, with all these printing of materials ... Are we to conclude that the office is up and running?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Under whose direction?

The Chairman: I think that question was answered already.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Yes.

Dr Dalglish Joseph: What was the answer?

The Chairman: Dr Westford, the Minister of the Public Service.

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The Honourable Member Mr Alexander ... Mr Alexander, when you want to ask a question, stand and do not worry with the button. That would not help you.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Thank you Mr Chairman. I just want to seek some clarification. The Office of the Ombudsman was not occupied for the entire year. A subscription of \$155,000 was paid to the Canadian Association of Ombudsman or whatever. In the course of the year and in the absence of the office being occupied, what benefit could Guyana and/or the Office have derived from the payment of this subscription?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Specifically this was an arrears payment.

Agency 57 - Office of the Ombudsman, Programme 571 - Ombudsman - \$13,372,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Mr E Lance Carberry: We did agree that we will go through the Project Codes of Division 501.

The Chairman: For Members to note, we have two further items for this session, Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Public Works. At the end of the Ministry of Public Works I will go through Division 501.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you Sir, Page 396

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25005 - Office of the Ombudsman

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$800,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25005 - Office of the Ombudsman - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Can we get the specifics on the purchase of equipment here?

Can I ask a second question? ... Under whose direction?

The Chairman: Let us deal with the first one - the equipment.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Photocopier, electric fans and chairs.

The Chairman: Under whose direction?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The Public Service Ministry.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I just want to say that when one looks at the Project Profile on Page 22, the Prime Minister was quite right when he spoke about electric fans and photocopier, but there is no provision here for chairs. So I hope that they do not buy chairs. There is provision here for a Stabiliser, but no chairs, PM.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Thank you very much for the information.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25005 - Office of the Ombudsman - \$800,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 238 and 239

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**AGENCY 58 - PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL,
Programme 581 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,896,000 for Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 581 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees... I see there are two contracted employees out of a staff of five and I would be very grateful if the Prime Minister could indicate what functions these two contracted employees perform or *carry out* may be better words, *perform* may be ambiguous?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, the two contracted employees are the Registrar and the Confidential Secretary to the Chairman of the Tribunal.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: I want to know if the Appellate Tribunal has been appointed and functioning.

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: No, the Tribunal is not in place, but the Secretariat is in place.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: This Parliament stands to be adjourned within another few months ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: No, Honourable Member, I determine when the Parliament is going to be adjourned. *[Laughter]* You may proceed.

Dr Dalglesih Joseph: My corrections, Mr Chairman. Is it the inten-

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tion of the Administration to get about the business of appointing the Tribunal between now and August?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: As early as possible, Sir.

Mr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, is that a yes?

The Chairman: I understand that to be yes. Yes, as early as possible.

The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Account Codes 6011 and 6012 - Statutory Wages and Salaries and Statutory Benefits and Allowances - Which employees are to be paid out of this particular sum here? I suspect that the two things are related.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: My understanding is that this is for the Members of the Tribunal.

Mr E Lance Carberry: But I think that you did answer just now that the Tribunal is not appointed, but yet there is an expenditure of (let us say) \$2,800,000 for last year and benefits and allowances of \$435,000.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I think they were in place for the first part of the year... I am told until May.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Was the full Tribunal in place?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am told, yes.

Agency 58 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal, Programme 1 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal - \$16,896,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 396

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25009 - Public Service Appellate Tribunal

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

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under that Project Code it is specified that the sums allocated for project include payment of retention and rehabilitation of building. If I am not mistaken, that building was renovated and/or rehabilitated either last year or the year before. So I would like to be advised about the details of this new rehabilitation and renovation of this same building.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I am advised that there are additional things to be done including rewiring of the building internally.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, under this same heading, is it fair to ask about the money spent last year ... What was it spent for? What rehabilitation works specifically were done?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Money was spent for security, grilling up windows and changing roof sheets -that sort of thing.

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

The Chairman: Pages 38 and 39

AGENCY 02 - OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, Programme 021 - Prime Minister's Secretariat

Question is proposed that the sum of \$94,220,000 for Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 021 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations . . . There is an amount of \$38,500,000; on Page 382 we are informed that it is for the Lethem Power Company. I would like the Honourable Prime Minister to state whether the \$10,000,000 that was allocated for the Lethem Power Company since the early part of last year, is that included in this amount?

The Chairman: Are we on the right Code?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: I can say yes, but fundamentally this sum of money will be used to give support for running and also any type of capital expenditures.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees . . . We see that contracted employees occupy roughly 39 percent of the total staff of the Office of the Prime Minister - nine persons, and I would be very happy if the Honourable Prime Minister can share with the National Assembly what special skills do these nine contracted employees bring to his office?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: The contracted employees here are not specially skilled, one is older than the normal age for employment into the public service.

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Mrs Deborah J Backer: Over fifty-five.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: No, I think he is much younger than that - normal age of employment for the first time into the public service. I think, that would probably apply to quite a few of them.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: What are they doing?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: They are:

- three Special Assistants to the Prime Minister;
- Personal Assistant to the Prime Minister; and
- Workers at the residence of the Prime Minister.

Agency 02 - Office of the Prime Minister, Programme 021 - Prime Minister's Secretariat - \$94,220,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 120 and 121

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 311 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$331,081,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 311 - Ministry Information - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Contracted Employees ... Staffing Details

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would show that there are two employees so contracted and they are getting a princely sum of about \$240,000 per month. Could the Honourable Prime Minister say ... (I see he has deserted me, Sir) ... Oh sorry, it is the Minister; I thought it is the Prime Minister. *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, Mr Nawbatt.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Mr Chairman, the two contracted employees are the Permanent Secretary and the Transport Supervisor.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 311 - Ministry Administration - \$331,081,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 122 and 123

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS, Programme 312 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$237,730,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 312 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 312 - Public Works - \$327,730,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 124 and 125

AGENCY 31 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COM-

MUNICATIONS, Programme 313 - Communication and Transport

Question is proposed that the sum of \$40,145,000 for Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 313 - Communications and Transport - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 31 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications, Programme 313 - Communications and Transport - \$40,145,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 408

DIVISION 519 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - Sea Defences

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,341,336,000 for Division 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Project Code 15005 - Emergency Works - I note that the sum of \$650,000,000 has been budgeted ... Could the Minister advise what are the yardsticks used in projecting these emergency works and further, since the Regions have been identified as being Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, could he say what are the specific emergencies that will develop in the regions so identified?

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The Department of Sea and River De-

fences looked at the most critical areas and prioritised those areas, throughout the country.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I would like the Honourable Minister to kindly explain, when he says that they will look at the most critical areas, he has specified the Regions. What are the critical areas that you have identified in these Regions? You have identified the specific Regions, what are the critical areas that you have identified? And I do not know why his colleagues are trying to tell him he must not answer questions.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Nobody is saying not to answer the questions, but if you want the areas, we have them here. In Region 2, there are Wakenaam and Leguan; in Region 3, Den Amstel; Regions, 4, 5 and 6 ... the areas are not listed here, but if you so ...

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Look under the profiles on Page 90.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: \$650,000,000 ... you have Leonora and Leguan, as I said:

- Devonshire Castle,
- Johanna Cecilia,
- Lower Pomerook,
- Wakenaam,
- Leguan,
- Crane,
- Belleview,
- Ruimzigt,
- Craig,

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- Newhope,
- Abary,
- Champagne,
- Glasgow, and
- Gangaram

The Chairman: What book are you reading from?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Volume 3.

The Chairman: What page are you reading from?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: It is referenced 90, at the top of the page, Volume 3.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question, the Minister having just found that page, went through it very nicely but, before he found the page, he did say Den Amstel is one and I do not see Den Amstel listed here. Could he explain that, please? Is Den Amstel a part of the emergency work, or is it not a part of the emergency work?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Just one second, *[Pause]* Den Amstel is within the administration and management aspect.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Give Mr Alexander a chance.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I will always give way to Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 15001, there is a sum of \$1,103,336,000 allocated for rehabilitation of sea defence in Essequibo and West Demerara. Under the Project Profile, you have four areas - rehabilitation itself, provision for Shore Zone Manage-

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ment, the design and preparation of tender documents, provision for supervision and support costs. I would wish to be told, what are the sums specific to provision for Shore Zone Management; design and preparation of tender documents and provision for supervision and support costs? What are the individual sums specific to those three areas?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: You want them only for the Shore Zone Management and the others. I could give you all. The areas are:

- Kapaui
- Columbia,
- Tuschen,
- Meten-Meer-Zorg,
- De Kendren, and
- Hague

listed here at the cost of \$709,000,000.

- The supervision of the aforementioned works in those areas - \$68,000,000.
- Provision of Materials, geo-textile, filter fabrics, boulders, et cetera, for the maintenance of sea defences, in Regions 2, 3 and 4 - \$72,000,000.
- Institutional Capacity Building Activities and Quality Control Management, mangrove management, et cetera - \$144,300,000.
- The socio-economic survey of public awareness programme, involving the RDCs and NDCs - \$26,000,000 in Regions 2, 3 and 4.
- The detailed Design and Preparation of Tender Documents for

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Work Supervision - \$50,000,000.

- Preparation of Tender Documents for Institutional Capacity Building is - \$25,000,000; and
 - Salaries and Other Benefits for the Technical Staff - \$9,000,000
- making a total of \$1,103,000,000.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, let me get back to project profile on Page 90.

The Chairman: Page 90, Volume 3.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Yes, sir, the Project Profile and the provision for river and sea defence works, for official areas, such as so and so. Now, sir, I presume that there are specific works to be undertaken in these areas because I do not get the impression that these works are continuing works, but they are new works. If I am correct, could you explain to us? And I must say Minister, if you cannot give me an answer now, I would be very happy to receive one as soon as you can.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: These are new works to be done in the year 2006.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, given all the concerns we have about the impact of global warming and the sea level rise and so on, it would be useful for him to say ... I am not asking you to say it now, sir, but I would be very happy if you could provide it to me before the week is out.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: What?

Mr E Lance Carberry: What is it, you have in mind to do in some of these areas?

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Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The reconstruction of sea defences.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Oh, reconstruction.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you, Sir.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to be advised, under Project Code 15001, with specific reference to 2, 3 and 4, in the project profile, which of those areas will be done by the Ministry itself and which of those areas will be outsourced?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: All the works I am advised will be contracted out, but the Ministry's Sea and River Defence Department would do overall supervision.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, Project Profile 88, there is Sub-item 2, which talks about socio-economic studies and I am not clear in my mind what that really means ... What is it the Minister has in mind there?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: This is a European Union funded programme and the socio-economic and public awareness programme includes their assistance in prioritising sea defence works according to the importance of the areas to be defended and the condition of the sea defences and to raise the consciousness of the population of those areas of the importance of sea defences and on the implications of their activities, either positive or detrimental. It includes the care and prevention of abuse of the mangrove and those types of instances.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So, you are referring then to a public education programme, is that so?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Is this an ongoing programme or is it just about to start?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: It has not started as yet, but it is proposed to start in 2006.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you, very much.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to return or to remain at Project Code 15001 and under the Project Profile, the provision there for Shore Zone Management I would like to ask of the Minister:

- (i) if the Ministry has the institutional capacity in this regard (Shore Zone Management); and
- (ii) if it does not have, what is the nature of the engagement being envisaged, if this is to be outsourced and is there any intention to establish internal capacity?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am advised that we are attempting right now to build capacity within the Ministry for the Shore Zone Management and we are in the process of development of a database containing information relating to foreshore management, conditions of the sea defences. We also intend to include a hydraulic model for the simulation of river flows, wave model for the forecaster of extreme wave height, sediment model for the prediction of foreshore behaviour, accretion and erosion.

The Chairman: The Honourable Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: A supplementary question. The Minister previously advised that this area is being outsourced, and we are now being advised that some capacity is being built internally. Is that capacity

which is being built under this project and is it in fact, still correct to conclude that whilst you are outsourcing for this year, you are simultaneously building internal capacity?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: That is absolutely correct.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I am back to Project Profile 88 and the same issue of Shore Zone Management. I was under the impression, Sir, that the Environmental Protection Agency is spearheading a programme on Shore Zone Management and Protection and I just would wish to be assured that that programme includes the Ministry of Public Works. Or maybe the Ministry of Public Works has a separate programme. I would like some clarification there.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: It includes the Ministry of Public Works and I understand the BEAR Programme is also part of this exercise.

Mr E Lance Carberry: You mean, the agency that is responsible for this programme is the Environmental Protection Agency or the Ministry of Works?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The Ministry of Works, I am advised will be responsible for the project.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay, so the project that is now spearheaded by the Environmental Protection Agency, will now be subsumed under the Ministry of Public Work? Is that what it means?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: No, it would not be subsumed under the Ministry of Public Works. There would be collaboration between the two agencies.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So, there will be two programmes, then. You see, that is what I am trying to understand, whether there are two programmes or just one.

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Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: They are two separate programmes, I am advised.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay, thank you.

Division 519 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications - Sea Defences - \$2,341,336,000 - agreed to, and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 409

DIVISION 520 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS (Agency Totals)

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,387,567,000 for Division 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications (Agency Totals) - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12002 - Infrastructural Development ... We see here completion of tarmac and when we look at the Project

Profile 94, we see this project entails completion of tarmacs at Mon Repos and Lusignan, because in fact, Sir, the entire project was \$101,800,000 of which \$35 has been spent and we are now budgeting for this year \$66,000,000. I just want to find out, first of all, when they say tarmacs at Mon Repos and Lusignan, what do they mean? Tarmacs where? Were there tarmacs at the market? Is that what we are talking about?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes, they are market tarmacs and we spoke about them previously. That project was started in 2005 and the

inclement weather prevented much work to be done and they are supposed to be completed with this amount in 2006.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Just a supplementary to that... could the Honourable Minister indicate to us, what is the total figure that was being spent on Mon Repos and the total figure on Lusignan. Just two of them Minister, you could divide it in two for ease.

Hon Harry Narine Nwabatt: There are two separate projects but I would not divide them into two, to get the cost of each. I would prefer to get the actual cost.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Okay, thank you.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: While the Minister is seeking to get that information, I just want to know if he is going to give us that information now.

Hon Harry Narine Nwabatt: Well, I think ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Is that information available now?

Hon Harry Narine Nwabatt: Yes, for this year \$44,000,000 for Mon Repos and \$22,000,000 for Lusignan.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay.

The Chairman: Yes, Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Project Profile 95, Sir... I notice that this refers to dredging equipment and I wonder whether this exercise is intended to provide the Ministry with the capacity to dredge all of the outfalls in the Mahaica/Mahaicony and other places, that need to be dredged?

Hon Harry Narine Nwabatt: No, Honourable Member, this is dredging to be done by the Transport and Harbours Department, not for the

Mahaica/Mahaicony and the other rivers that you called.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am sorry, I did not quite get that.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: This is not intended to dredge the Mahaica and Mahaicony outfalls. It is for the Maritime Administration Department.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am sorry, Sir, I am referring you to Project Code 14010 and the Project Profile is 95. Now, I understand that these are dredges that are owned by the Ministry?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So, are they used for dredging of the rivers? I am trying to find out whether or not this gives you the capacity to dredge the rivers?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: These equipment are owned by the Ministry, Allen Young and Steve Eng., but to answer your question, they are not intended for the Mahaica/Mahaicony and Abary, they are intended for the Demerara River, the Essequibo River and the Berbice River channels.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Do you propose to have dredging done in those other rivers, Mahaica/Mahaicony and so on?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Not under this provision.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay. Is there a provision, for it, Sir?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Not under this Ministry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: But is there a provision for it?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Not under this Ministry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So, your Ministry has no responsibility for

that?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I would not say has no responsibility, I would say, we do not have provision under this Ministry for those rivers.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Alright.

The Chairman: The Honourable Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 11001, the Legend says replacement of unfloats with large pontoons. In the project document, there is an interesting term here, *enhanced reliability of the Demerara Harbour Bridge*. This pre-supposes that you do not presently have a hundred percent reliability. You do not enhance something that is perfect ... [*Interruption: 'That is your opinion.'*] ... you do not, that is logical, therefore, I would like to ask a question. What is the acceptable level of reliability?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The level of responsibility ... [*Interruption*]

Mr Vincent L Alexander: ... reliability

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I might not be able to answer that immediately, that would require more technical advice, but I am advised that in 1996, they changed 103 out of the 119 pontoons and each year they have been working on those pontoons progressively.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman as a supplementary question, I would like to, not request an answer now, but to ask the Minister to, at a subsequent time indicate to this House what is in fact the accepted level of the reliability? The language here suggests that you have perfect and there is some margin in which you will operate below perfection and I would like to know what is the accepted level.

continued in Pt II

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2005) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN** Part II

85TH SITTING

2.00 PM

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cont'd fr. Pt 1

Mr Chairman, with your permission, I would like to go to Project Code 17001 - Minor Works - and to go to the Project Profile and to ask what specifically are the minor projects and programmes which are being provided for under this project profile. What are the specific projects and programmes?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: These are emergency works that come up from time to time during the year and they are under the Prime Minister's control.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I have a difficulty. We are dealing here with capital. Do we have anticipated capital projects? Do we have capital projects which we have done in the estimates and therefore would have arrived at a sum? If these are anticipatory situations, we need more information as to how one arrives at these sums? I would normally think that capital projects are not anticipatory in the sense that you know what exactly it is you are going to do.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister.

Mr Harry Narine Nawbatt: My answer to that is that you should cater for emergency works of a capital nature that could arise during the course of the year and I am advised that this provision has been existing there for some time now.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, could I suggest that the description of the project is tremendously misleading. because the description of the project is very specific. It says, project entails implementation of minor projects and more than that, programmes. Now programmes are not emergencies, programmes are predetermined and you are saying to us here in the description, implementation of programmes.

The Chairman: Well, I do not know if that is a question.

Yes Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 16002 - Equipment - Civil Aviation - \$22,000,000 - and the Project Profile, Page 96, speaking about this project, entails purchase of lightning protection system. For those of us who are not technical, indicate to the House. What does he mean by purchase of lightning protection system? What and for where?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: No one from the Department is here, but I have been advised that this is equipment to prevent lightning striking any equipment that would damage any air traffic control type of functions. Any equipment whatsoever that could be damaged by lightning-like thunder and lightning - the second part of thunder and lightning.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, my colleague did ask a question concerning the programme that is in place for minor works, but I do not think that the Minister had the opportunity to answer. So Minister could you explain to us what programme exists for these minor works?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: As I said before, there are no projects or programmes presently existing, but these are to cater for works and it was not a question but a statement made by the Honourable Member Mr Alexander. That is why he did not get an answer, but there are not programmes or projects currently in place that you can say that this

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money is going to be spent for. The Prime Minister from time to time during his visits throughout the country would identify areas that need attention. From this provision those items would be addressed.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: The answer the Minister gave, and I am sure he gave a very honest answer, in fact, raises a very serious question. How could you be describing this here as minor projects and programmes and saying that there are no programmes and projects. It causes me some difficulty.

The Chairman: Well, I do not know what is the question?

Mr E Lance Carberry: It is difficult for us and here is it we are going over the Estimates and we have to make some sense of judgement over these Estimates. Here it is you have a description of a project which says, the project entails implementation of minor projects and programmes, which suggests that there are projects and programmes to be implemented, but then the Minister answered and said that there are not projects and programmes.

The Chairman: Yes Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I would like to turn to Project Code 27001 - Reconditioning/Construction Of Ships ... the Legend says, Docking of MB Baramanni, MV Lady Northcote and acquisition of spares. I would like to ask the Minister, when last were these vessels docked and rehabilitated? As they are now what is the expected periodicity of docking and rehabilitation.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am advised that these vessels are required for docking and repairs every eighteen months. I would not be able to say exactly when last these two particularly were docked, but every eighteen months is a scheduled time for docking.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 16003 - Stellings ... I see a figure of \$50,000,000 allocated and when we look at the Project Profile 97, we see five wharves mentioned (well Charity wharf is not here, Sir), the wharf at Kingston; the Stellings at Gerorgetown, Rosignol, New Amsterdam, Adventure and Wakenaam, so one wharf and five stellings. Could the Honourable Minister indicate which of these stellings will attract the largest sum and what is the sum?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The Kingston Wharf \$20,000,000; Georgetown Stelling \$5,000,000 ... the others \$5,000,000 each.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 15005 - Emergency Works ... Could the Honourable Minister say if the areas identified are the only areas that emergency works would be confined and if under this Code subsequent breaches will be addressed?

The Chairman: Are you speaking to Division 519, Honourable Member.

Mr James K McAllister: Yes

The Chairman: We are finished with Division 519. We are on Division 520 at the moment

Mr James K McAllister: My apologies, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: With your permission, I defer to Madame ...

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question on the wharves, we have gotten a figure of \$20,000,000 for the wharf at Kingston and then the Minister said quite glibly \$5,000,000 for each, Georgetown

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and the others. When you add that up you only get \$45,000,000 and the Project Code is \$50,000,000. I wonder if he can find the other \$5,000,000.

The Chairman: Are we on a mathematical exercise here?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: You are right, Bartica was excluded from this.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Bartica should be added. Sir, seriously, Bartica is not in the Project Profile at all. It should be added, that is an omission.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you. You see how helpful you are.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I want to return to the Project Code 27001 - Reconditioning/Conditioning of Ships ... I previously asked about the period for docking, to be specific. I was advised it is every months. I wish now to inquire whether every such docking is covered as capital or whether it may not be under current expenditure and more specifically to be advised what are the works intended on this occasion in relation to the MB Baramanni and the MV Lady Northecote.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am not sure if you need to know if the hull is going to be painted or whatever. I do not have that information of what exactly is going to be done on the Baramanni.

The Chairman: Honourable Minister is that the answer?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, three persons are standing. You determine who is to get the priority. Thank you.

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The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent LAlexander: Mr Chairman, this is capital and I can hardly imagine that one can have a project with a sum specified with the project and having arrived at that sum not knowing ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: The Minister said that he does not have that information here. I do not think he said that it is not known in his Ministry. I gather that he is saying that he does not have that information here.

Mr Vincent LAlexander: In that circumstance, could I ask the Minister to subsequently provide us with that information.

Mr Harry Narine Nawbatt: Certainly.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: I was a little surprised when the Minister answered from Project Profile 97 and my colleagues from quick arithmetic found that there was \$5,000,000 missing. I was really assuming that that \$5,000,000 was for the re-floating of the Charity Wharf, but I do not know whether that is true. *[Laughter]*

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: I trust I have it now Project Code 26003 - Electrification Programme ... The Profile for this speaks to just about six areas for electrification upgrading, but I know that this project commenced a couple of years ago. Could the Honourable Minister provide the full list of areas for which work was done for upgrading of electrification?

The Chairman: The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, we have a full list here of how this money is intended to be spent. In terms of areas for which networks would be established:

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- Region 2 - ten areas, they have been completed;
- Region 2 - twelve areas of which three are to be completed this year;
- Region 4 - five areas of which two are to be completed;

Some of these areas are extremely large areas. in terms of numbers of houselots

- Region 5 - fourteen areas;
- Region 6 - twelve areas;

but altogether there are some 30,000 houselots that are being provided networks for electrification. *[Applause]*

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: I wish to thank the Honourable Prime Minister for the numbers he gave us, but I was hoping that the Honourable Prime Minister would give us names.

The Chairman: That is too long for the Estimates, Honourable Member. You can ask a question.

Mr James K McAllister: Pardon!

The Chairman: I said the list of names is too long for this procedure that we are engaged in at the moment - Estimates. If you wish, you can either consult with the Prime Minister privately or you can put a question in the National Assembly requesting the list of names to be provided.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, Project Code 16002 - Equipment Civil Aviation... The Project Profile speaks to the purchase of lightning protection system. I would wish to be advised whether this

project is restricted to Timehri or also includes Ogle.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: It is restricted to Timehri.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 26001 - Navigational Aids ... The Legend says, Rehabilitation of buoys and beacons and when we look at the Profile Page, we see \$25,000,000 has been budgeted for; in 2004 we budgeted \$20,000,000; in 2005 we budgeted \$21,000,000 and my question is, which area are we talking about? Is this the Demerara River or Berbice or outside the Atlantic Ocean, because we have already spent for two years, 2004 and 2005. So where are we spending for 2006.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: This is for all the rivers throughout the country.

The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Project Code 12001 - Government Buildings - Construction of Government buildings, I would just like the Honourable Minister to confirm that the multi-purpose complex at the Takutu Bridge outlet...

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes, the multi purpose complex is part of this allocation. It is \$25,000,000 and the Sea Defence Office, Anna Regina is \$15,000,000

Division 520 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications (Agency Totals) - \$1,387,577,000 - agreed to, and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 434 and 435

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DIVISION 548 - MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS - BRIDGES/ROADS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,321,000,000 for Division 548 - Ministry of Public Works and Communications Bridges/Roads - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 12001 - Road Safety ... I see \$100,000,000 and the Legend says, Implementation of Road Safety Programme, which is obviously a continuation. Could the Honourable Minister indicate if this is lights? If not, what?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: It is for signs, lighting, pedestrian crossing, markings, cat-eye reflectors and those types of things.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question ... Could the Honourable Minister indicate which area and which items. You said lighting, the cat-eyes, signs and so forth. Which are the two areas that attract the largest individual sums

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: East Bank Road, East Coast Road, the Linden/Soesdyke Road, the Essequibo Coast ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Which two items attract the two largest expenditures?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The Road markings and the street lighting.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, under 14002

The Chairman: Could you start over, just one minute until you get the microphone?

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 14002 - Bartica/

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Issano/Mahdia Road ... I see there is an allocation of \$10,000,000 for the rehabilitation of critical sections of the road and structure ... Can the Minister say specifically what part of the road? Which area is he speaking about?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am advised that it is from the Airstrip going into Bartica.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12001 - Berbice River Crossing ... I know the Legend says, Provision for Design and Environmental Study - IDB ... Could the Honourable Minister say what is the nature of this study, because since mention was made in this Honourable House about designs and environmental study have already been done and the fact that this project is being undertaken by a special purpose company ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Please do not let us have a speech, Honourable Member, just ask a question.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The study is to do with the sedimentation studies and the land acquisition matters. It is an environmental impact assessment as well as the sedimentation studies.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, it is my understanding that the location for the Berbice River Bridge has been determined. Could the Honourable Minister explain to this Honourable House how it is we are now determining the environmental impact and the level of sedimentation that will occur thereby impeding the flow of the river after we would have already decided on the location of the Bridge.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am advised that these are the final payments being made for those studies that were done last year.

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The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Project Code 14002 - Bartica/Issano/Mahdia Road ... I would like the Minister to say which section of the Mahdia Road or which one of the structures will be going under repairs?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Sir I did not get that question.

The Chairman: Would you repeat the question, Honourable Member.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: I am saying, Project Code 14002 - Bartica/Issano/Mahdia Road ... I see \$10 million is allocated, it is part of a question that Ms David asked. It has rehabilitation of critical sections of the road and structures, which part of Mahdia Road or structure?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I answered before that it had to do from the airstrip, but it also involves the bridges at Nos. 7, 8 and Kaburi.

The Chairman: Go ahead, Honourable Member.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, I think the Honourable Member is specifically asking what part of Mahdia road construction or repairs is coming from the \$10,000,000. How much for Mahdia?

The Chairman: You mean the specific amount of money that is going to be spent on the Mahdia road? I think both of you are trying to list something that we do not quite understand. Could you repeat what you just said in terms of the question?

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, what we are understanding here is that it is from one to five miles area in Bartica, but what is being said here is that this money is to be allocated for Bartica, Issano and Mahdia. So we are asking which part of Mahdia will benefit from this \$10,000,000?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: No part of Mahdia is being provided for here. That is just the name of the road.

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The Chairman: Just answer the question, do not allow yourself to be interrupted, Honourable Member. Could you proceed with your answer?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: That is the answer. There is nothing for Mahdia specifically.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander. *[Noisy Interruption]* Let us have some silence, these are not ordinary debates, these are questions that we have to hear before the person responsible is able to provide an answer. I know it is difficult, but let us try to maintain some silence.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I wish to turn to Project Code 12004 - Civil Works - what are the outstanding civil works to be done on the Mahaica/Rosignol Road as provided for under this Project Code.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: This is construction of the railway embankment road from west of the Mahaicony Bridge to the Drill road. That is a new piece of road being constructed there.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Could I take you back to Project Code 12001 ... The Minister said just now that the \$91,000,000 represents the final payment for being part of a study completed last year. Could I ask the Minister if it will now be correct to say that the total cost for the provision of design and environmental studies in respect of this project is \$261,000,000 and if so what percentage of the cost of the construction this figure represents? It is \$261,000,000 by adding 2004 to 2005 and to 2006.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: That amount is for the construction of the approaches to the road on both sides of the river.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, maybe I did not read well. I am talking about Project Code 12001 - Berbice River Crossing ... and the Legend

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says, Provision for design and environmental study – IDB, and the response we got in response to the question asked by Member McAllister was that the \$91,000,000 provided for in 2006 represents the final payment for the design and environmental studies.

Hon Harry Narine Nwabatt: The answer is \$81,000,000 which is funded by the international agency, is for the construction of the approaches of the bridge as I said just now. The \$10,000,000 is the final payment for the environmental studies that was done. That is how the \$91,000,000 is made up; \$10,000,000 for the final payment of the studies and \$81,000,000 for the approaches.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I recorded the answers that we are being given. Would it be correct if I can ask the Minister if I can now strike out the answer you gave in relation to Member McAllister's question?

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question... The Legend clearly says that all of this money is for provision of design and environmental study; that is what the Legend says, but the Minister is now saying that \$81,000,000 is for the actual physical construction for the approach work. Sir the two things do not ...

Hon Harry Narine Nwabatt: Mr Chairman, if you check reference No. 288, it states the construction of approach road to Berbice River Bridge, Implementation of Road Safety Programme and Road Maintenance Programme, Provision of land acquisition. The Legend is effective to that extent.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, the same Project Code, but I want to go down to Civil Works and I know that we have \$310,000,000 being allocated for the construction of road and since the Minister is saying \$91,000,000 under design and environmental studies and the

design of the approach road, I want to ask if this \$310,000,000 is for the construction of which road?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The road there should be culverts. I have a change in mind. It is for the culverts, for the continuation of the Bridges programme. Road is incorrect.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I have become confused and I am really seeking clarification. I am taking you back to Project Code 12001 and this is an IDB Programme. There is no project profile. The Minister made reference to 288, but that could not be in respect of this IDB Project. IDB Projects do not carry project profiles.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: If I could answer, Reference 288, the project profile includes all the items under 12001. Berbice River Bridge, civil works design, land acquisition, all the items listed there.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K Mc Allister: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question ... The Honourable Minister said that \$310,000,000 under 12001 is for culverts under the Bridges programme. I go to the Project Profile and I see here the project description being the construction of approach roads to the Berbice River Bridge, implementation of Road Safety Programme and road maintenance programme and the provision for land acquisition. I see nothing about the bridges programme. Could the Honourable Minister therefore explain what the \$310,000,000 is for?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: As I said before the \$310,000,000 is for the continuation for the roads programme to do fifty culverts between Timehri and Rosignol including seven at Buxton and others that were not done in the initial programme.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member is saying that the Project Profile has nothing to do with culverts and how do you explain that dis-

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crepancy?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: No, Mr Chairman, I said that roads ...
[Interruption]

The Chairman: Your advice is wrong. The Project Profile has to do with the approaches to the Berbice Bridge. Is that what you are saying Honourable Member.

Mr James K McAllister: Yes, Mr Chairman:

The Chairman: The project profile on that item has to do only with the approaches to the Berbice Bridge and nothing to do with culverts. If that is so, he is asking for an explanation.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Mr Chairman, the heading - the project title is bridges rehabilitation under Reference 288 which includes the Berbice Bridge.

The Chairman: If that is so he is asking for an explanation.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Mr Chairman, the heading - the project title is Bridges Rehabilitation under Reference 288 which includes the Berbice Bridge among others.

The Chairman: Well that is your answer.

The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, I just want to make a quick comment, because it seems as though these legends do not seem to coincide with what is included in the project profile and the project profiles themselves do not seem to capture what the Minister is saying. But I want to come to Project Code 12004 which is Reference 289 and I notice it says, project entails completion of the Mahaica/Rosignol road and so on. I just want to know whether that means the completion will be this year.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Project Code 12004 - the Minister has been kind to advise me that the provision here is for the road from the Drill turn, a new construction for the Drill turn; it is being called the bypass by the current Minister. Is this a part of the original design for the Mahaica to Rosignol Road?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am advised it is the original design, but it is being done in two phases.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Is the Minister suggesting that this being a part of the original design that the complete rehabilitation of the road from Drill turn to the Perth access road which was done is also a part of the original design?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I understand it was not part of the original design.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Which was not part of the original design?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: The piece going into Perth.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: It is not going into Perth. Mr Chairman, with your permission, if we make our staging point the Drill turn, the old road from the Drill Turn to the Perth access road was completely done as a part of the Mahaica to Rosignol road. I am asking if it was intended that that will be done and if at the same time in the original design it was intended that a new road as is now being done would have been cut between Drill turn and what is now emerging behind north of Perth point, the old railway line, if the two were intended in the original design?

The Chairman: Maybe that is a question you want to answer later. It seems as if there is some confusion in the ranks there..

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes, I would prefer to give an answer later.

The Chairman: Yes, Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Under Project Code 16002 - Hinterland/Coastal Airstrip ... Could the Honourable Minister state whether this is the final payment? In the Profile it has the project entails completion of Orinduik Airstrip, because this has been an ongoing project since 2004.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes, this is the final payment for the Orinduik Airstrip. It will be completed this year.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I go back to Agency Code 12001 – Bridges ... The Honourable Minister informed the Honourable House that \$310,000,000 is for the Bridges Rehabilitation Project. Could the Honourable Minister say which aspect of this project this money is being applied to?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I said it before, it is for the culverts between Timehri and Rosignol including the seven at Buxton - fifty culverts.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Agency Code 12005 - West Demerara Four-Lane Road. It speaks here of \$260,000,000 for Civil works... Could the Minister inform the Honourable House what are the outstanding works on this project that this money is to be applied to?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I understand the amount of \$60,000,000 is outstanding for the four-lane highway and the savings incurred in that project will be going to continue the works on the Providence Cricket Stadium.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I would just like a supplementary on that same question. Is it the savings or is it that the contingencies were not used?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I am advised that there are savings on the contract.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander:

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I repeat my question. There might be savings on the contract. The contract includes contingencies. Are those savings equivalent to part of the contingencies or are the savings also a part of the sums which were not allocated to contingencies?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: There are savings on the contract to the amount of US\$2.5 million.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: May I ask what is the allocated sum for contingencies?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes I could, but I do not have that figure with me.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister:

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, on the same Project Code ... Could the Honourable Minister say if the savings was a result of re-adjustments of the scope of works or if it was an over-estimation of the Bill of Quantities?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: I understand there were adjustments with respect to the scope of works.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Therefore, could the Honourable Minister say if these adjustments were intended to improve user comfort or it is merely effective to bring about savings?

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: No, the savings were certainly not done for the purpose of having savings, but I am advised in the implementation of the project, it was possible to adjust the scope of work to incur sav-

ings.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question... I do not quite follow. I wonder if it is possible for the Honourable Minister to inform the Honourable House what were the nature of the adjustments made to the project to bring about US\$2.5 million savings?

The Chairman: I thought the Minister said that he will submit that later.

Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt: Yes, I can submit that later. I will not be able to give you that now, but I will be able to submit it to you.

Division 548 - Ministry of Public Works and Communication - Bridges/Roads - \$4,321,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, we have another seven minutes before we take the suspension I suggest that we complete Parliament which ought to be a very small item.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, you were to do Division 501, I have the person here.

The Chairman: Sorry, we can complete that now. Mr Carberry.

Pages 394 and 395

We return now to Division 501 for any questions. Please start from the

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top if you can? Let me itemise it for you as we go along.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 12002 - Office and Residence of the President

Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 12002 - Office of the President - stands part of the Estimates.

Are there any questions? *[Pause]* Then we can move on to the next item.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 12002 - Office and Resident of the President - \$12,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 17001 - Minor Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$50,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 17001 - Minor Works - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 17001 - Minor Works - \$50,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 24002 - Land Transport.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,500,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 25002 - Land Transport - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 24002 - Land Transport - \$7,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 25001 - Purchase of Equipment

Question is proposed that the sum of \$30,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 25001 - Purchase of Equipment - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 25001 - Purchase of Equipment - \$30,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code - 34005 - Go-Invest

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,209,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34005 - Go Invest - stands part of the Estimates.

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Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34005 - Go Invest - \$2,209,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 34006 - Environmental Protection Agency

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34006 - Environmental Protection Agency - stands part of the Estimates

Division 501- Office of the President, Project Code 34006 - Environmental Protection Agency - \$1,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 34008 - Public Management Modernisation Programme

Question is proposed that the sum of \$215,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34008 - Public Management Modernisation Programme - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34008 - Public Management Modernisation Programme - \$215,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 34010 - National Parks Commission

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$8,735,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34010 - National Parks Commission - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34010 - National Parks Commission - \$8,735,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 34012 - Government Information Agency

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President - 34012 - Office of the President - \$7,000,000 - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34012 - Government Information Agency - \$7,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 34013 - Guyana Energy Agency

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,350,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34013 - Guyana Energy Agency - stands part of the Estimates.

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Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 34013 - Guyana Energy Agency - \$2,350,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 44001 - Public Sector Technical Assistance Credit

Question is proposed that the sum of \$100,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 44001 - Public Sector Technical Assistance Credit - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 44001 - Public Sector Technical Assistance Credit - \$100,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates,

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 45002 - National Communication Network

Question is proposed that the sum of \$35,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 45002 - National Communication Network - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Could the Honourable Prime Minister let us know what equipment or what work is budgeted under Project Code 45002?

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Chairman, this is for transmission equipment so that NCN can reach into the hinterland areas.

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Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 45002 - National Communication Network - \$35,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 501 - OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, Project Code 45003 - IAST

Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,000,000 for Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 45003 - IAST- stands part of the Estimates.

Division 501 - Office of the President, Project Code 45003 - IAST - \$12,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

LANDS AND SURVERYS COMMISSION

The Chairman: There is nothing for the following:

- Project Code 33002 - Geodetic Surveys;
- Project Code 33003 - National Land Registration; and
- Project Code 33004 - Lands and Surveys.

That completes Division 501.

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Thank you very much.

The Chairman: I think is a good time for us to take the suspension for

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half an hour according to the resolution.

17:00H SUSPENSION OF SITTING

17:30H RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Pages 56 and 57

AGENCY 07 - PARLIAMENT OFFICE, Programme 071 - National Assembly

Question is proposed that the sum of \$511,887,000 for Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 017 - National Assembly - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 07 - Parliament Office, Programme 017 - National Assembly - \$511,887,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 396

DIVISION 501 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25003 - Parliament Building

Question is proposed that the sum of \$46,000,000 for Division 501 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25003 - Parliament Building -

stands part of the Estimates

Division 501 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25003 - Parliament Building - \$46,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 437

DIVISION 550 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, Project Codes 12001, 24001 and 25001

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,500,000 for the Division 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation, Project Codes 12002, 24001 and 25001 - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 550 - Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation, Project Codes 12001, 24001 and 25001 - \$3,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 48 and 49

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 041 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$577,031,000 for Agency 04 -

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 041 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 041 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 041 - \$577,031,000 - Ministry Administration - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 50 and 51

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 042 - Foreign Relations

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,290,752,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 042 - Foreign Relations - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 04- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 042 - Foreign Relations - \$1,290,752,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 52 and 53

AGENCY 04 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Programme 043 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$73,176,000 for Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 043 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 04 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Programme 043 - Foreign Trade and International Co-operation - \$73,176,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Page 397

DIVISION 506 - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, Project Codes 12001, 24001 and 25001

Question is proposed that the sum \$40,100,000 for Division 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Project Codes 12001, 24001 and 25001 - stands part of the Estimates

Division 506 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Project Codes 12001, 24001 and 25001 - \$40,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 144 and 145

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT, Programme 411 - Main Office

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$101,631,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 411 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - I have two questions for the Minister. First of all, what events are included and whether that sum of \$2,300,000 includes the 40th Independence Anniversary Celebrations?

The Chairman: Honourable Minister Xavier

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, this amount represents national events which include Mashramani, the 40th Independence Anniversary, Emancipation Day, decorations of public buildings and all other national events.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Could the Minister say what category of workers are included and how many from each of those categories?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, this takes care of the administrative staff of the Ministry and most of these people were the people who came over from the Guyana National Service that has been fitted into the various administrative levels of the Ministry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am not sure sir. These are all administrative staff; they are not professionals or anything like that?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: They are all administrative staff.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Arising out of that reply, could I ask if the

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people who are responsible for policy and technical matters in this Ministry are included under Account Code 6116 or whether any technical or policy persons are included under that Code.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: This takes care of the trainers, technical staff, caterers - those categories.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: I thought my question was a simple one. May I be permitted to ask it again, whether any technical or policy persons are included under Account Code 6116 or whether there are not such persons?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, I thought my answer was a simple one, there is no policy persons included under this Code.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, in the circumstances, where are the policy staff included?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: That will fall under Account Code 6111 - Administrative.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 441 - Ministry Administration - \$101,631,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 146 and 147

AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,

Programme 442 - Culture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$158,781,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 442 – Culture stands part of the Estimates.

Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events ... I want to know whether under that Code is included preparation for the CARIFESTA observances that are forthcoming in Trinidad and whether the Ministry has given a second thought to including a national cultural festival - a GUYFESTA or some similar event as part of its work programme.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: No. I do not believe that any part of this money has to do with CARIFESTA. As regards the Honourable Member's suggestion to having a national cultural festival, I have been advised that we do it in a different way, we go out to the regions for each of the regions to participate in this activity.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, I have a supplementary question and I will put it in a nice way, whether the Minister is aware of the fact that even if GUYFESTA happens at the regional level, there are technical and administrative functions that must be carried by the centre.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Could the Honourable Member repeat the question? I did not get it quite clear.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: I am suggesting that the Ministry has honest contemplation of such a festival, whether the Minister is aware of the fact that such a festival will require technical and administrative functions in the head office of the Department of Culture.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Yes, Mr Chairman.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Therefore, Mr Chairman, my supplemen-

tary question ... Is it budgeted for under this Code or any other Code in Programme 442?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Yes, it is budgeted under Account Code 6291.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 442 - Culture - \$158,781,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 148 and 149

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 443 - Youth**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$51,284,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport, Programme 443 - Youth - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6231 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations ... Could we get some explanations as to which local organisations under this Code or any organisations that were under 2005 are no longer included under subsidies.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, if the Honourable Member had taken some time to look at his papers under Page 383 of this same document, he would have seen a complete breakdown:

-Girl Guides Association;

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- Mildred Mansfield Youth Club;
- Red Cross Association;
- Young Women's Christian Association;
- Young Men's Christian Association;
- Boys Scouts;
- National Youth Commission; and
- West End Committee.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: The second part of my question is whether there was any organisation in 2005 that is not here in 2006.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: No Mr Chairman.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 443 - Youth - \$51,284,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 150 and 151

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 444 - Sports**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$67,395,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture Youth and sport, Programme 444 - Sports - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

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Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, again I am at Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations and I was wondering whether the Minister had in contemplation during 2006, a review of the functioning of the organisation which is subsidised in terms of its effectiveness, organisational structure, particularly its effectiveness at the regional level?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Yes, Mr Chairman, what we have done... I had a meeting with all the Sports Associations and Federations - one general meeting - where I introduced myself to them and they introduced themselves to me and as soon as next week, I will be meeting with the individual associations to find out what their programmes are and how in any way we can assist them during 2006.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: My supplementary question is, whether the Ministry has any programme to regularise the contribution and subsidies to sport from government and private agencies? It does appear to the public that the funding of sport both by government and the private sector becomes a little haphazard and whether the Ministry has any plans to regularise and bring some order to this sector.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, with the forming of the New National Sports Commission which will come into effect from next week. I believe that is one of the first charges that I will give to them and it will have to be their immediate task to look at exactly what you are suggesting.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 444 - Sports - \$67,395,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 152 and 153

**AGENCY 44 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT,
Programme 445 - Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$192,174,000 for Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Programme 445 - Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Deryck Bernard

Mr Deryck Bernard: Mr Chairman, I want to find out from the Minister something about effectiveness and order. First of all, what is the target for young people to be met and whether there is any overlap between this programme and other training programmes being funded through other ministries?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: This here is a residential programme where they do integration with all of the various other programmes.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, Programme 445 - Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Training - \$192,174,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 427

DIVISION 541 - MINISTRY OF CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,468,310,000 for Division 541

- Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Just a few questions on that page, Sir.

Project Code 12003 - Umana Yana - There seems to be a jump in the Estimates for that job even though it is put as Capital Works, it recurs so often, perhaps it might be more fairly put ... I wonder whether this signifies any change in technology. Why has it jumped so much?

Project Code 19001 - National Stadium - My question is, whether there is any counterpart funding to the Government and the people of Guyana in this project; how much and if any of that counterpart has been paid?

Project Code 24002 - National School of Dance - My question is whether the Ministry has given any consideration to investing to props and costumes for the National School of Dance as opposed to the building, because it has become aware to those who observe the school that its software - its softer investment needs to be upgraded.

Project Code 45001 - Burrowes School of Art - Upgrading of the Court of Policy Hall, whether the Minister is aware of the fact that the arrangements for the maintenance and use of that building is grossly inadequate and perhaps spending money in its rehabilitation might be wasted unless a system to actually maintain and guard that asset is put in place .

Project Code 45002 - National Archives - Whether new space will be acquired during 2006 for the Archives outside of rehabilitation?

Project Code 45003 - National Sports Commission - Rehabilitation of Sports facilities and purchase of sports gear by the Sports Commission, whether the Minister can say if there is any attempt to seek external assistance in this matter, because I think it is quite clear that our expenditure in this area is quite inadequate.

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The Chairman: Honourable Minister Xavier

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Let me see if I can remember it in the order that the Honourable Member asked.

The Yumana Yana - I do not want to tell you that the price of trulie leaves has gone up, because that is so ... but I think they want to do some more intense work in fortifying the roof which has been a problem for some time and that is why there is an increase in that amount.

The National Stadium - This is not counterpart funds. As you can see there is no local amount here. This \$1.4 billion actually represents \$317.8 million of money which comes from grant and the difference, \$1,092,200,000, is the loan from the Indian Government.

The National School of Dance - I have been advised that the National School of Dance already has a costume cupboard that has most of the things that are required and every year that is refurbished and improved.

The National Trust - The rehabilitation of the Court of Policy Hall at Fort Island - the National Trust is working along with the region to try to see how best they can make this building after its rehabilitation worthwhile and put into good use.

The Archives - As you know, the Archives is getting a new building, which is being situated right next door to the NCN Studios in Home-stretch Avenue.

The National Sports Commission - The inadequacy of funds to the National Sports Commission... I think you asked whether or not we were trying to see whether we are going to get some help from overseas ... Well, maybe it is a suggestion that I can take on board to try to see if we can get some assistance.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I just want to go to Project

Code 45003 - National Sports Commission - Rehabilitation of Sports Facilities - and to the Project 26001 which speaks to the construction of floor - National Gymnasium ... Could we be advised what is intended in terms of this? I mean, there is a floor there already and it is speaking about the construction of floor. What is the intention here?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, actually it is not the construction of a floor for the National Gymnasium, because obviously that type of money that is provided here would never be able to do a new floor for the Gymnasium. Actually the floor at the Gymnasium has some bad boards, so what we are going to do is to take them out and repair them. It is a sort of a refurbishment of certain sections of the floor at the Gymnasium.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Project Code 26001 - Entrepreneurial Skills Training - I see it refers specifically to rehabilitation of a building (singular) and the purchase of tools and equipment. I would like the Honourable Minister to indicate whether or not the purchase of tools and equipment will also be sent to facilities outside of this facility or perhaps he can name the facilities that will be recipients of the equipment.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: No, Honourable Member. This is actually for the purchase of tools and equipment for training at the Kuru Kuru College and the NOC. I believe that Sophia is included there, too.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry and then Mr Alexander

Mr E Lance Carberry: Project Code 45002 - National Archives - The Minister answered and said that they are going to build a new Archives ... Now is the provision here for the capital cost of the new Archives or is it that there is no provision whatsoever for the new building that is being built.

Hon C Anthony Xavier: No, that is not here. This is for the rehabili-

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tation of the existing buildings to protect the very valuable materials that we have there right now before we move.

Mr E Lance Carberry: In that case where is the provision for the new building?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I think that is another arrangement.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sorry, Sir, an arrangement ... what does that mean?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I do not have anything here for that. I think that is more with the Privatisation Unit.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, since the Minister seems to be unable to provide an answer now, could I ask the Minister to provide an answer before the end of this week, Sir?

The Chairman: I gather the Minister is saying that it is not in the Estimates.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Sir, the point about it is how is this building being built? There must be some way for the provision. Where is the money coming from?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: I will provide the Honourable Member with the answer before the week is out.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Project Code 45003 - National Sports Commission ... I would like to return to the construction of floor - National Gymnasium. The Minister advised that the money is obviously inadequate to construct the floor and that they will be changing some boards. I would wish to be advised which of the boards of the concrete floor ... *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Allow the Honourable Member to ask his question

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please. Yes, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent I Alexander: Which of the boards of which I know to be an entirely concrete floor of the Gymnasium is intended to be changed?

Hon C Anthony Xavier: Mr Chairman, obviously the Honourable Member knows that I know that too. It is more like a resurfacing of the Gymnasium floor so to speak. I am sorry about that.

Division 541 - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport - \$1,463,310,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 130 and 131

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 411 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$309,312,000 for Agency 411 - Ministry of Education, Programme 411 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... I noticed that out of a total staff of twelve, eleven are contracted employees earning a fair salary roughly about \$200,000 per month each. I will be very happy if the Honourable Minister can share with us the designation of these workers. They are only eleven, he should be able to itemise them.

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The Chairman: The Honourable Minister

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Of course, they include:

- The Permanent Secretary (PS);
- Adviser to the Minister on Distance and continuing Education, Browne; *[Interruption]*

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I do not need the names, I only want the designation.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: There is:

- The Head of the Accreditation Council;
- The Head of the TIVET Council;
- A person in charge of the Ministry's buildings arrangements. I am not certain what he is called;
- My Personal Assistant, Mr Archer; and
- Four people in the Fast Tract Initiative.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Any drivers?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: No drivers.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations and that I believe includes the contribution to the Caribbean Examinations Council. I believe that part of that is remitted to Barbados and part of that is spent in Guyana. I do not know if the Minister could give me a quick break down roughly in percentage terms what of our contribution is spent in Guyana and what is remitted to Barbados.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: First of all, in Guyana I think we spend about \$160,000,000 overall on CXC. That is spent here in terms of Subsidies. I am not counting that as remitted to Barbados. Remitted to Barbados is like our contribution to CXC which you see here, but subsidies et cetera, we will say that that comes to about \$160,000,000 per year. Indeed, I think when we work it out, we give \$5,500 as students' subsidies, an average of about \$16,500, something around that.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Supplementary to the CXC question - Could the Minister indicate to the Honourable House whether we were penalised in any way and had to make any payment as a result of the compromised paper that we had to re-sit, because they had to do over papers for us so that we could re-sit English and Maths? Were we penalised as a country for that?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Yes, we had to do over the papers; we had to pay for them.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Any idea of the cost?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Something in the vicinity of \$9,000,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Guyana or US

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Guyana.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Under Account Code 6301 - Education Subventions and Grants ... One of the institutions that is assisted by the Ministry of Education in a major way is the Adult Education Association - three questions:

Fist of all, what efforts are being made at the policy level to integrate AEA with the National Distance Education Programme, which is

becoming more important?

Secondly, how much does AEA contribute to its own existence from its fees and from assistance abroad?

Thirdly, whether the Minister does not believe that the time has come for there to be a rejuvenation of the professional staff of the AEA and does the Ministry have any say in that matter?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: That is the problem with the Minister and the AEA and similar types of organisations, because the Minister certainly feels so. But these are NGOs and they are called in for discussions to point them in the right direction - well the direction that you think is correct. That is what we do, if we are involved, you will hear that that is another storey. I did make some threats about withholding government's grants, elections and new people and those sort of things. But we are in a funny situation here in that we are trying to bring them in a given direction. I actually do believe that yes, the AEA, the UG arm, the things that are done by various people, Distance is the way to go, that is why I have just mentioned under the question before this that we have somebody to advise us on moving forward with distance and continuing education. We are doing Distance at the CPCE. We are doing the teachers certificate by Distance. Certainly that is the way to go and right now we are attempting to do BCCP in various villages and communities and the AEA should be part of it. But as I said, I do believe that you are right. If my memory serves me right, I do believe that AEA contributes something in the vicinity of sixty percent of its own resources from collecting fees, but that is if my memory serves me well ... I am not certain ... and we give them the remainder. It is a task and it is not only the AEA, there are other institutions that we try to push in that kind of direction.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, if I could go back to Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... In a sense my question arises out of the reply given by my Honourable friend. It does seem to

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me that the Ministry is very positive and proactive in disregarding boundaries of age and salary scale where special advise is needed in the administration of the Ministry, but that the Ministry has a very regressive and conservative policy where people are working past standard retirement ages in the instructional programme and at the administrative level the Ministry and I wonder whether the Minister would not reconsider what I interpret to be his position, where contracting people who have reached the normal retirement age is concerned in the rest of the education system?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Thank you. But surely the Ministry's policy has always been that age is not a problem in terms of necessity. We have always said that it does not matter whether or not it is nursery, primary or secondary that the point is, a case by case situation. Once it is demonstrated that the person is needed in the area, the person will be taken on. In that sense, age is not a problem. We have pointed out that we are even willing to raise the age of retirement, but that is a matter we are discussing with the Teachers Union and we have been doing so for some time, because they have their own notions of what should happen at that point in time. I suppose we have our own ideas of what should happen, but we are even prepared to consider that issue of raising the retirement age. I would not say that our policy is regressive. What it says is that there are people in the system who expect to be promoted. You cannot keep the retired people in the same position to prevent the people from being promoted. But what we are saying is that if the retired people want to come back on and it can be demonstrated that they are needed at any level at the Ministry they can be taken on. If you go around the country, you will see that that is what we have done.

Agency 44 - Ministry of Education, Programme 411 - Main Office - \$309,312,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Pages 132 and 133

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 412 -
National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$98,579,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 412 - National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 412 - National Education Policy - Implementation and Supervision - \$98,579,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

Pages 134 and 135

**AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 413 -
Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$802,956,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 413 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 413 - Ministry Administration - \$802,956,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 136 and 137

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 414 - Training and Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$446,278,000 for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 414 - Training and Development - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: I have two questions sir. First of all, if you look at Account Code 6112 - Senior Technical - and Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - This allows me to ask a question about staffing in the relevant institutions whether the Minister is satisfied that the lecturers and trainers at these institutions have the minimal qualifications particularly in terms of pedagogical experience necessary for this task?

Secondly, whether his policy statement which he made a minute ago about the usefulness of people, who have passed the normal retirement age is applied in full at the CPCE?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Of course, I think that taken generally, we apply the policy position I have just outlined. However, it is not because you reached the age of retirement and you said that you will like to come back that we necessarily say that you should come back. You must have a proven track record of competence and what we consider the capacity to do the work in a sensible way. So it is not everybody that necessarily says that they would like to come back that we will take back. At that stage, we will say that this person has been good in what they were doing. I can assure you, Mr Bernard that there is not a person that I have been given advised about, where people have said that that person can do the job and we need that person, that I have not taken on.

In terms of experience, let me say that I recognise that there is a problem with experience; not only in terms of experience, I think there

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is a problem in terms of actual qualification. I have argued with my people that maybe in lots of these institutions particularly where we are doing the kind of conceptual and other developmental intellectual jobs that we should have, what I would call, a virtual institution and use people from abroad bringing them in ever so often, because they are there; Guyanese are all over the world. They are offering their skills. What you need to do is use them; bring them in over their vacation periods and then they can interact with people and I have attempted to do just that. I would like to see many of these institutions become just so.

Let me answer your question by saying this ... I am not aware that there is any position - that there is a vacancy and somebody of some competency has given advice to me and we have said no on that basis. In any case, I believe that even if we, or let me say I, accept that there are competence gaps (so to speak) in terms of experience and qualifications, but we have to live with what we have and that is the position.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, the Minister anticipated my next question, because I did want to ask what proportion of the students going through training are doing so in the distance mode and what proportion in the classroom mode?

Secondly, whether in fact there were plans in 2006 to hasten the modalities he was talking about, because it does seem to me that he should also put in the mix the overlap between the training certificate and the university certificate in education in which there are overlaps which resulted in, quite frankly, a misuse of our natural resources. So my question is, what proportion of the people going through are being virtually trained by distance and how many are being trained residentially and what plans do you have? Is it something that will come on stream in 2006, if not, what is the Ministry's projection in that area?

Hon Henry B Jeffrey: Well, I think the Budget says something to this effect. I am not certain if it is the budget I read it in that there are around

500 people doing Distance and I think the CPCE are about 1,200. So that is the sort of proportionality. I think Mr Bernard and the entire University community must be well aware of my notion that things like education and law should be taught by Distance. I actually believe that it can be so done and to offer people around the country the opportunity to do things. I am trying to do that not only at the CPCE level. Indeed, three years ago I went to my people and told them that we should turn the CPCE into a sixth form sort of school and do that there and just let us do everything else by Distance - teaching teachers by Distance. They are in the classroom. I turn around to see that the *[Education For All]* document for 2005 said the same thing. They said that in poor countries like ours, we have to move away from the face-to face for the most part and go into Distance. Therefore, I am going to continue to try to make the Distance a more important mode in certain areas of our education system. I am certain that Mr Bernard is well placed at a certain place to help do just that.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skills - Could the Honourable Minister indicate whether in the Other Technical persons included in that lot are any specialist for the visually impaired school?

Hon Dr Henry Jeffrey: Can you repeat that... I was having a kind of side bar here.

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Account Code 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skills - I am asking whether included in that lot of Other Technical persons whether there is any person for the visually impaired school?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: I can answer yes to that, but that would not be a fair answer. It would be true, but it would not be fair, because people are here. We do have a few people here for instance the head of the department is more or less under these contractual employees. What we have not been doing in Guyana and what we must do and what we

have to pay greater attention to is the disadvantages; it is the challenge and we are in a quandary there. I must admit, it is not sufficient and that is why I said it would not be fair. It is not that we do not have people there, but we are not paying sufficient attention to the disadvantaged and to the challenge. That is why when we took on somebody as a coordinator of special education and we are hoping that that person will bring to us some kind of framework for activities, indeed, the first area that we are going to put in place some sort of global arrangement would be in Region 4. It is close and we can monitor it, but it will cause us some effort. It is not only the visually impaired, we are talking about dyslectic people, we are talking about autistic people, we are talking about all kinds of people that are not in any way dealt with in our system. Resource is a problem, but that is not the only problem.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Just a supplementary question on this issue of special education. To ask what is the Ministry's policy? Is it a policy of an integrated approach or is it a policy where you are going to pursue special schools?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: It is obvious that there are some people who are so impaired that they cannot go to a special school. I think it is an international rule that those who are integrated should be integrated and that is what we will attempt to do. At least that is what we are being advised to do, but there are going to be people who are so disadvantaged that there will be need for special schools. The kind of permutation you put in place will depend upon the resources you have at your disposal and where these people are located. That is why one of the first things we are doing is some sort of research on the mapping of where these people actually are. We are taking on sixty-three welfare officers throughout Guyana in every neighbourhood. One of the important jobs will be to go and find these people, because people tend to lock them away - to see what we can do. . . We need to do that.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I have one other supplementary question. This idea of integration . . . has it reached the point where in the design of your schools, you already started to cater for the possibility and/or the ongoing integration?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: In all of our new schools, we have attempted to do that kind of thing from the physical standpoint, to do physical things to make it easier for people. That is really the easy part

Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 414 - Training and Development - \$446,278,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 138 and 139

AGENCY 41 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, Programme 415 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,081,684,000 - for Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 415 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, my first question has to do with Account Code 6112 - Senior Technical - and Account Code 6111 - Administrative - What system is in place for training administrators at the moment particularly regional and departmental staff. If there is an ongoing programme or whether people subsist on their degrees or whether

part of the programme - the aid programmes include any component for that.

Hon Dr Henry Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, let me say that the Ministry has moved to make the whole question of management more important in terms of promotion of people in senior positions. If the Ministry had not put some sort of arrangement in place to give people some level of training, I would have said that they would be in jeopardy. It would be a dereliction of their own duties. I think I said in my presentation or maybe I cut that bit out. After the graduation this year, 700 people - senior managers - heads and senior people in the school system - would have graduated from our management course that is done through NCERD and that Management Course was designed with the help of CIDA, the Canadian people, and so on. So people are now going to that course, because we are making it part of the whole process of getting promotion. So that is what we are doing there and everyone of the programmes that we have - the international programmes - have some sort of management element.

Indeed the BEAMS Programme speaks to a MSC Programme at the University of Guyana. We put that in and this MSC Programme will be done with the University and the help of another University of the University's choice or something like that, but they are going to have that sort of programme. So at every level we attempt to do something about the theoretical aspect of management.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, I turn to Account Code 6321 - Subsidies to Local Organisations ... My first question has to do with a subsidy of \$138,000,000 to the Government Technical Institute and I wonder whether the Minister will agree with me that in the context of the importance of technical skills to bringing investment to Guyana and in the context of the relatively outdated state of many of the Technical Institute's teaching equipment whether he thought that this was an adequate sum to meet our aspirations.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Well again, I must admit that I agree with

the importance of that statement which is that Technical and Vocational Education is of vital importance and not simply in terms of our drive to development, but certainly in terms of giving every individual the opportunity to make a good life for themselves. All of us cannot go running around doing this kind of languages and classical sort of thing. So I think it is of vital importance as an alternative pathway for every child in this country. Having said that, of course there is another \$16,000,000 somewhere there to do some capital works, but even that is petty in terms of what is happening for the need for equipment in the technical and vocational education field. You will see when we get to capital, there is a \$40,000,000 and that sum is just put there for technical and vocational education. Once again, the government is gradually coming to recognise that you have got to do a lot more. The President has been doing something through one of his Youth Choice things. We have put \$40,000,000 so that we can start in our PICs to do more for this. So I take the point, it is important; we have been trying to get resources. You know that from maybe the second year here, I have been talking about an \$8,000,000 I am supposed to get the CDB to revamp the system. Suddenly when that appeared to be coming, the flood came and something else happened to it. So yes, again I take your point, because it is very important and this is just petty in terms of what the institution needs, but we have got to work within our realities.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, I think the Minister anticipated some of the things of what I was going to say under the head of the Guyana Industrial Training Centre, because I believe ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: The Minister made a speech. He is permitted, but you are only permitted a question. *[Laughter]*

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: I am only asking a question, Sir. Under Guyana Industrial Training Centre that we are talking about a level of industrial training that is different from the Technical Institute where there are still academic requirements and I believe that \$3,000,000 for the

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GITC and there are sums for other institutions like that, but this is in fact where we are falling down. In fact, the idea that all of our children must pass examination and go the Technical Institute is one of our biggest development misconception and miscalculation. Would the Minister please explain to us how we could only find \$3,000,000 for GITC, why we are not expanding it and building more like it.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Mr Chairman, I will not make a speech. We are indeed building another like it in Corentyne which is about to open and Mr Bernard will be invited. *[Interruption: Only Mr Bernard?* “Of course you too, Madame.” Let me say that this \$3,000,000 you see there is not really for the GITC as such for equipment. That is there as students’ grant. Of course, we only give the students about \$1,500 per month, but it helps for transportation I suppose.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, I see here that the Ministry is giving a subvention of \$88,000,000 to Queens College and I want to phrase my question very carefully so as not to offend any of my former classmates, but I would like to know whether in fact any other sixth form school receives such a subvention and whether the Minister thought that the per capita investment that this represents is the same as the investment in other sixth form schools around the country and in particular I want to know whether a similar per capita investment was made say in Bishops High School.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: If you had just run down the pages there, you would have seen that you have \$150,000,000 to the President’s College which is perhaps the most expensive school in the country...

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: That is why I did not ask about it.

Hon Dr Henry Jeffrey: ... and has always been so. This is not new. QC is a Board School and I reckoned ... I am not certain what proportion, because I do not think that that can actually run QC for the entire year. To introduce more Boards, the schools would have given them money to run them for the entire year to pay their teachers and to do all

these kinds of things. If you notice the Technical Institute - \$137,000,000 - that kind of a thing. So I am not certain that this is enough for QC. It might well be, but they put up a budget just like the President's College and they get \$150,000,000 and QC puts up the same budget. But let me tell you this that the budget that these schools with boards are allowed to put up is no different in terms of other schools. You will see this maybe next year when we have the other twenty-five board schools coming on board. You will see that the money is not much different. *[Interruption: 'No, we will be on that side next year.']* Well then you will see it even better. You will have a field of it then. *[Interruption: 'You will be asking the question.']* Yes. *[Laughter]* So effectively no. President's College is a residential College and that is why it costs so much, but for the others the per capita is almost the same.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, it allows me to ask a supplementary question. Is the Ministry aware of the strong feelings of people who have been invited to be on the boards of schools such as Bishops High School and St Rose's that they often feel that the Government has abdicated much of its responsibilities to the maintenance and improvement of these schools and that they have been left with an unreasonable responsibility whereas Queens College and President's College are getting very hefty handouts from the government?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: This is not a hand out, this is a recurrence also. So let us get this quite clear. As I have said, the per capita ... Firstly, I am aware of that concern. I was told that but once it is explained people understand. The State is not just going to give this to a Board and say you go and do it without any money. The State will not do that and I think people thought that would happen. Indeed, what I said to all the school boards this year ... we were almost getting there this year, there were but lots of obstacles. I said, please do a budget that is no more than five percent more than what you got last year and that means everything. So anything they had last year, they would have gotten it this year just the same. So it is not that the government is walking away from its responsibilities, but yes, I was confronted with that kind of concern.

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Agency 41 - Ministry of Education, Programme 415 - Education Delivery - \$3,081,684,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 428 and 429

DIVISION 543 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,063, 100,000 for Division 543 - Ministry of Education - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: I just have a few questions on this set.

Project 12005 - Craft Production and Design - I want to repeat the questions I asked when I was talking about alternative technical and vocational education, whether this was adequate in view of our tourism aspirations and the small investor aspirations. Are we spending enough to train people in these areas?

Project Code 12015 - Adult Education Association - I have a small question, Sir. I was approached in another capacity about the legal status of the building, ownership and so on and I wondered whether the Ministry knew whose building they were repairing, because at the time the Association seemed not to know.

Project Code 26005 - GTI - I misheard the Minister because I expect to hear a much larger sum and therefore I want to ask a simple question whether the Minister really believes that in 2006 \$16,000,000 plus the \$40,000,000 for the project is adequate in our circumstances?

Project Code 26007 - GITC - Purchase of equipment ... I believe \$3,000,000 can buy one lathe. At the end, one simple question ... What are we doing with these fiddling sums of money when we have so many young people who need the skills?

Project Code 26008 - Carnegie School of Home Economics – I looked at the Minutes of previous Committee of Supply meetings, Sir, and I have asked both the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Education about upgrading that school to make it a modern and professional training facility. We are underserved in this area, it affects our tourism, it affects our hospitality industry and yet I see, we are not spending a great deal of money on it and I am not aware of it unless I misread the document. Is there any attempt either to seek assistance from the local industrial sector from the base industry that is the Tourism Industry or any external links? We have had a history of strong links in this area.

Project Code 45006 - Education For All-Fast Track Initiative. (EFA-FTI). Which allows me to ask why are we not continuing a programme of developing our own textbooks?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Thank you again.

Project Code 26008 - Let me say first of all again, I agree with you that the tourist sector demands that something happens at the Carnegie and I try to work with VSO and they were supposed to kind of get some kind of resource to try to upgrade that centre. That did not come off too well, because I even offered the College to Minister Nadir if he wants. I told him to take it, because it is very important to us. This morning as we were speaking, I said, we must tie up the craft with this institution and put one single board. We have the board now with tourism people on it. Minister Nadir's Office is also on the board and hopefully we are going to move on to do some sensible things in terms of tourism. I think that the vision is there, that this must be our central institution in terms of driving the tourist sector in Guyana. You have asked the question again and it is a sensible question, but it has to do what we can afford. That is what we can afford at this stage and that is what we are doing, but we

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are going to look ... we are hoping that our colleagues in business, et cetera, are going to help us to look for resources for this centre, because when you go elsewhere you will see these kinds of institutions especially in tourist places. They are very important.

Project Code 26007 - The same thing we can say about GITC and every year we try to give them something to do some sort of developmental work, repair some building or to buy some equipment - this \$16,000,000 - I agree the money is not sufficient and that is why we need a *All Fast Track Initiative - EFA - FTI* - Purchase of furniture, major injection in the technical and vocational education sector, because the President has put it back on our funding track; hopefully maybe this time we will get that US \$8,000,000/ \$10,000,000 from the CDB to try and drive this sector. I believe this is the only sector over the last twelve/fifteen/sixteen years that has not gotten a major injection of funds and therefore it is very important that this happens at this point in time.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: *Project Code 26004 - Other equipment - and Project Code 45006 - Education for ... and Equipment and Improvement to School Facilities ...* Could the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable House what part of this money has been injected into the Sophia Special School, the David Rose School for the Handicapped and the Visually Impaired School.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: This money is not intended for that. This is intended essentially for administration. It is not intended to be injected in that area. As I said before, I recognise that all these areas are important and it seems to me that you have a special interest in this area. Maybe we should have a talk about it, because I too believe it is important. Certainly the education goal today is to bring everybody into the process and the visually impaired and everybody can be brought into the process with proper resources. Equality in education means bringing everybody in. We can talk about it, but that is not intended for that.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, I must return to Project Code 12012 – *University of Guyana – Turkeyen* and Project Code 26006 – *Technical/Vocational Project ...* - I was very relieved to see the \$40,000,000 for Technical and Vocational project and for purely selfish reasons to see \$35,000,000 at the University. On the other hand as a responsible Member of Parliament, I am alarmed that these two major investments have what I believe to be inadequate detail in terms of precisely what is the breakdown for the \$35,000,000 to UG or the \$40,000,000 to the technical Sector. I therefore wonder if the Honourable Minister would let this Honourable House know what is the breakdown for the \$35,000,000 to the University - Turkeyen Campus and what is the breakdown for the Technical/Vocational Project? How much is building; how much is equipment, how much is computers? I see other Ministries doing pavements and driveways I hope that it is nothing like that.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Let me just say that if you went to this area, you will have a better idea about what is happening ... *[Interruption]*

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: That is what we are doing. We are seeing nothing here.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: ... in terms of UG of what they are doing in rehabilitation of faculty buildings and lecturers' offices. Your office is likely to be ... *[Interruption]*

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: That is good. *[Laughter]*

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Purchase of books, furniture...

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: ... one-third each means \$20,000,000

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: No, we give the University the money and the University makes the decision. We do not make that sort of decision.

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Mr Deryck MA Bernard: They do not put up a project proposal.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Yes, they would have done so, but remember we do not make that decision, so it is the University's decision as to how they spend this \$35,000,000.

Now, in terms of this \$40,000,000 here, to be truthful this has been a big struggle all over the place. We have been asking for more than this to be truthful; we have been asking for something like half a billion dollars. I think a portion of that more or less has been promised to us if things go well. So we said that we do not want things to just go well, so let us put some money in the budget as a head so that we can come back for the supplementary and we got down to this. I was in Mr Browne's office after I left here and he was trying to get the people who are going to give him the entire cash flow. Let me tell you something about this, yes we are going to look at buildings; we are going to look at the PICs essentially. This could work with the PIC. I think there are sixteen PICs and this could run them. We are 'going to look at buildings and equipment, but we are not going to do any fancy pathways and those sort of things. This is essentially for the PICs to get some equipment and to get the BCC to you.

cont'd in.Pt III

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2005) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER
PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN** Part III

85TH SITTING

2.00 PM

Monday, 6 February 2006

continued fr. Pt. II

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I want to ask a supplementary question on the allocation for the University of Guyana - Turkeyen Campus. The Minister has indicated that this is a block sum which is left for the University to internally determine how it is allocated. I have some doubt as to whether that is in fact so. If I am not mistaken, the University would have submitted a budget indicating the capital projects it wished to undertake. They would have then been allocated a sum in relation to specific projects which are, in fact, listed - rehabilitation of faculty building and lecturers' offices; purchase of books furniture and equipment; strengthening teaching and curriculum. If I am not mistaken, this sum would be broken down under those specific projects (if you want to call them projects) and I am quite sure that the Deputy PS may advise the Minister so that the Parliament may be advised on the answer to what is the specific breakdown among these three heads in relation to the University of Guyana.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: I did point out that, yes, the University puts up a budget. Yes, the budget might be five/six times what this is, but remember it is the University that does it, puts up a budget. We give the university \$40,000,000 against certain heads, but within programmes it is possible to vire and the University has that right to come and say this would not be a priority for us, this might well be a priority and we can run with that. So let us understand what is happening here. It is the

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University's budget, the University developed it ... we give some money against certain heads. If they think that their priorities are wrong, they can always speak to us and we can revamp the priority. We have never refused to do so.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: May I, Mr Chairman? The Minister is avoiding my question. He has gotten half way in saying yes we give money against certain heads. I am suggesting that there are three heads here. It is a total of \$35,000,000 being given to UG. Under these three heads what are the specific sums? Forget the vireing and all of that ... It is not that easy under capital anyhow. So what are the specific sums allocated *under Rehabilitation, Purchase and Strengthening of Reaching Curriculum?* I am quite sure that there are specific sums under each of these. I am asking to be informed of those specific sums.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: I agree, but what I am saying to you, we agree that that is the case. We have not walked with it, but you can get that. That is not a problem. You did put up a budget.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Thank you Mr Chairman. I would wish if at some subsequent time that specific information can be provided.

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: But you are the one that put it up to the University. Anyway, you will get it.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: *Project Code 45006 - Education for All - Fast Track Initiative* ... Looking at the Profile on Page 281, could the Honourable Minister elaborate a little more about your programmes with institutional strengthening for the hinterland schools and with regard to provision for child -friendly classrooms?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Yes, this is the *Education ...Fast Track Initiative*. As you know, this is essentially a programme for the hinterland. It puts in place the resource centres. It has in place now eleven and next year we are going to put eleven more resource centres in vari-

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ous parts of the country. I can get the details of those for you. These resource centres are not only to be used by teachers, they are to be used by anyone that wishes to use them. I have a little handout here about the education Fast Track Initiative and what it does and how it would help the institutional strengthening exercise. So it is going to put more centres in Region 1, Hosororo, Santa Cruz Primary, Jawalla and so on. They will be throughout the place and those will be used not only by the teachers, but by the community to help upgrade the education process and of course you know that the Fast Track has been buying the books; the Fast Track has been helping also to provide a housing for teachers. So overall the programme is a US \$45,000,000 for the hinterland essentially and that is what it is doing.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 12001 - Nursery, Primary and Secondary Schools - \$50,000,000 ... If we look at the Profile at 262, we see that it is for a few schools - Tucville, Ascension Nursery, St Cuthberts. I specifically want to know what portion of that \$50,000,000 is going to be used for the construction of a new building for the Albouystown Nursery School?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: \$10,000,000. *[Laughter]*

Division 543 - Ministry of Education - \$1,063,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 430

DIVISION 544 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - Secondary School Reform Project (Agency Totals)

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Question is proposed that the sum \$0. 000,000 for Division 544 - Ministry of Education, Secondary School Reform Project (Agency Totals) - stands part of the Estimates.

Division 544 - Ministry of Education - Secondary School Reform Project - \$0.000,000 (Agency Totals) - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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**DIVISION 547 - GUYANA EDUCATION ACCESS PROJECT,
Project Code 26001**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$99,900,000 for Division 547 - Guyana Education Access Project, Project Code 26001 - Civil Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, could I ask the Minister to give us a little detail of the school that is constructed under this programme, the enrolment and any particular feature of this new facility and in particular the projected establishment of teaching staff when it is in full operation

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: We are building this school to try to deal with five primary tops in that area, to bring everybody into the secondary arena, therefore we are talking here of about 1,200 children; we are talking of a staff of about fifty. If I was to go according to our non-academic norms, I would have thought that would have been about it. The school should have been completed some time ago, but we have

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had all kinds of problems, but hopefully it will now be completed for the September term. For most of the other places the schools are finished under this programme. I think this is the only one at Silver City ... [*Interruption 'Wisburg'*] and so it should be finished for the September term. Did I miss something?

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 26001 - Civil Works - the same school in Linden ... I notice in the Profile that it says Regions 6 and 10. So the question I want to ask the Minister is whether it is really a school in Regions 6 and 10 or it is just for Wisburg Secondary?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: This can turn out to be a lecture, but I would not do it. Effectively when the British came to do this programme, they came with about £15,000,000 and they decided that they will deal with two communities. They will deal with the community at Corriverton and the community at Linden. As a result Linden foundation - this school and another one were built there as some sort of model for secondary education, and they did the same thing at Tagore and other places up the Corentyne. So this is the last of the schools to be completed under that programme.

Division 547 - Guyana Education Access Project, Project Code 26001 - \$99,900,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 440

DIVISION 553 - BASIC EDUCATION ACCESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME, Project Code 12001

Question is proposed that the sum of \$900,820,000 for Division 553 - Basic Education Access and Management Support Programme, Project

Code 12001 - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: First of all this Project Code 12001 - Basic Education Access and Management Support Programme - (BEAMS) Project has a sum of \$542,548,000 for Civil Works and I look to see what that means and it says, improvement of physical infrastructure of secondary schools and I would really like to get a little more detail of this IDB project. First of all, whether it means new schools, rehabilitation of existing schools, if it is existing schools which schools and what form of rehabilitation and also if there is rehabilitation of existing schools whether there is any improvement in the science and computer laboratory facilities as part of the programme.

Hon Henry B Jeffrey: Yes, definitely, all the schools we do on this programme. We have not decided on Batch 2 as yet, but in Batch 1 which is about sixty-eight percent overall completed, the schools are finished for example:

- Bladen Hall is 100 percent completed;
- North Ruimveldt 87 percent completed and we could go down the road;
- Charlestown 100 percent completed;
- Tutorial 80 percent completed;
- Aurora 8,065 percent completed, but I assume it must be 80 percent or something like that. That is a mistake.
- Bartica 10 percent completed;
- Diamond now in design stage - we are building a new school

at Diamond.

Those are the schools at this stage of the game.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: School Performance - \$207,036,000 - which I think includes the curriculum development and so on. My questions are two-fold, Sir...

- (i) Whether there is any external human resources as a part of this project?

and

- (ii) Whether there is any part of the project for building up local Capacity, because I think it is no secret that our secondary teachers are in desperately short supply?

Hon Dr Henry B Jeffrey: Well this teacher/school performance part here is essentially for primary. So that goes without saying. What we have tried to do with this programme, perhaps this is the first programme we have had... You will note that we have put a lot of money in percentage term over the period nearly about 30 percent of our resources in school performance and cut down on the infrastructure bit, because we are getting better in infrastructure. I think that is what we will do in the end.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: A supplementary question, Sir... I am glad to know that we are still putting some money toward improving primary teacher performance, but my original question has become even more important. What are we doing about teacher performance at the secondary level and strengthening of the curriculum and other processes at the secondary level?

Hon Dr Henry Jeffrey: Well, I do not want to say this, but you know your favourite programme that you love to attack, the SSRP, did a lot of work at the secondary level in terms of curriculum development and so on. Indeed, I have about twenty CDs of what they have actually done in

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terms of curriculum development and that sort of thing in the school system. I actually do believe that our problem is not really that we are not consistently attempting to train and do training with people who are on the systems. What has happened is that we are not able to keep the people in the system for long enough and the result is that we are always in some sort of a training mode. But, as I said, that's our reality and we will have to try to train more people to deal with that situation. Of course, that is another programme we have in mind and some other time we will discuss that.

Division 553 - Basic Education Access and Management Support Programme, Project Code 12001 - \$900,820,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, we have completed what was assigned to the First Day, but as you will recall that on Friday we had agreed that we will continue for some period into what we have for the Second Day. Is the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development prepared for that? *[Pause]*

Pages 78 and 79

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Programme 131 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$33,930,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 131 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I would like to get the Minister's attention to Project Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... It is listed here that in 2006 there will be eight contract employees. I would like to be advised on the offices which will be catered for under *Contracted Employees*.

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Permanent Secretary, Special Projects Officer, Confidential Secretaries (2); Personal Assistant to Minister Collymore; Personal Assistant to Minister Nokta; Personal Assistant to the Permanent Secretary and CDC Co-ordinator.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question ... Last year there were seven contracted employees, this year they are eight. The Minister has just indicated the offices. I would wish to know which is the additional one for 2006.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Personal Assistant to the PS.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, through you, I would now like to determine the budget for last year - Revised was \$10,698,000 - the Budget for this year projected \$13,143,000 ... I would like to be advised what is it that caters for the increase of \$3,000,000 when in fact there is only the addition of one officer?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Seven percent increase in this year's salary.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I will come back with that calculation. I rather suspect that the answer is not correct that seven percent could not cater for a rise from \$10,000,000 to \$13,000,000; \$3,000,000 is one-third approximately of \$10,000,000. It could not be provided for merely by a seven percent increase in salaries. The answer cannot be correct, therefore I would like the Minister to reconsider his answer and to provide a more accurate and correct answer.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, salary for the Personal Assistant and seven percent for the others.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen.

Mr Ivor Allen: A follow-up to that question... If the additional \$3,143,000 represents an increase, could the Minister say what percentage of it is the seven percent and what percentage of it goes to the salary for the staff?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am afraid I do not have that estimation. I can provide that later on.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Could the Minister advise on this position which is peculiar to his Ministry - CDC Co-ordinator - I am told, ... What is the remuneration attached to that specific office?

Hon Harripersaud Persaud: I am advised \$42,940 per month.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 131 - Main Office - \$33,930,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 80 and 81

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Programme 132 - Ministry Administration.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$25,313,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 132 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Project Code 6111 - Administrative - there are three officers on the establishment. Could the Minister please advise which offices are held by these three officers?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised Assistant Secretary (General) and Personal Officer.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 132 - Ministry Administration - \$25,313,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 82 and 83

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, Programme 133 - Regional Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$113,378,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 133 - Regional Development - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Project Code 63 12 - Subventions to Local Authorities - there is a provision of \$5,000,000. Could the Minister please advise what criteria are used for the subventions to local authorities from this Code and if it has already been determined which local authorities will get these sums?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is subventions to local authorities that do not collect rates and taxes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Could the Minister advise which are those local authorities and what are the respective sums they would be receiving?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that we can provide that information later on the number of NDCs and the amounts.

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 133 - Regional Development - \$113,378,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 413 and 414

DIVISION 527 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,167,816,000 for Division 527 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 19004 - *Infrastructure Development* ... We see here completion of the abattoir and construction of road and when we go to the Project Profile Reference 125, because the work started last year and it is supposed to be completed this year. My question is, what will be the total cost of the abattoir which has already started last year and what is the cost for the construction of the road to Millie's Hide Out?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the cost of the Abattoir is \$11,200,000; construction of road to Millie's Hide Out is \$3,800,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question, Sir - This is a project which started last year and it rolled into this year, the total project cost is \$24,000,000 of which \$9,000,000 was spent last year and \$15,000,000 is to be spent this year, so we have a total of \$24,000,000 and I am respectfully asking when it is completed, what would have been the total cost of the New Amsterdam Abattoir and what would be the cost of the road to Millie's Hide Out? To help the Minister, when we add the cost of the two, we should get \$25,000,000.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the amount last year was \$9,000,000 and this year \$11,200,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question, Sir. I am asking a very simple question, ... what is the total cost of the abattoir when it is completed this year and what will be the total cost of Millie's Hide Out road when it is completed?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: When the abattoir is completed, it will cost \$20,200,000; the construction of the road from Millie's Hide Out \$3,800,000 and once the project starts I am certain it will be completed before the end of the year.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, my first question is ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Your first, that is very intimidating. How many more do you have?

Mr Abdul Kadir: Just another one, first of two... Reference 125, under the caption Construction of Road to Millie's Hide Out - \$3,800,000. I just want the Minister to answer me in terms of Millie's Hide Out to where or from where to Millie's Hide Out?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, some time ago, we have been arranging to have this road moved from Millie's Hide Out to the Western Bank of the Berbice River some where by Kimbia. So this is for that area and it is for a start up. Surely it may not be adequate, but at least we are making a start.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Under Project Code 19003 - Urban Development Programme - Reference 124 - Rehabilitation of roads in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Corriverton, Linden and Rose Hall, I would like the Minister to kindly tell this House which roads in Linden are programmed for rehabilitation?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Upper Greenheart Street and Purple Heart Street

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I do not really want to go back to Millie's Hide Out Road, but I feel I must, Sir. We have been given a very definitive answer that the road will cost \$3.800,000 and the question I want to ask is what is the distance - two miles/three miles/five miles?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, my estimate is approximately twenty miles and this is a starter and it will continue. It is not one of these roads that we are to do asphaltting, it is really a trail.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I would like to draw the Minister's attention to Project Code 19005 - *Project Development and Assistance* ... First of all, I would like to note what was said to be a correction earlier on that where it reads *Local Community Councils*, it should read *Community Development Councils*. I would like to verify that correction that that should read *Community Development Councils* rather than *Local Community Councils*. I would like the Minister to specify under the Project Profile Reference 126, how much of the allocated sum is intended for subvention to municipalities; how much is intended for Community Development Councils and how much for Community Road Maintenance. There are three different areas and I would like the specific sums for each area.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised, CDCs - \$10,000,000; Municipalities - \$60,000,000 and Community Roads - \$190,000,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 26003 - Power Generation - If we look at the Profile and it is here in the Legend, too, - *Purchase of solar panels for health huts in Regions 7 and 8*. Just some clarification in 2004, we see that we spent \$3,000,000, in 2005 we spent \$3,000,000 and again we are budgeted to spend \$3,000,000, so I want to know for Regions 7 and 8, what this in fact means. When we spend this \$3,000,000 in 2006, would that mean that we have spent a total of \$9,000,000 in solar panels for those two regions, because this is what it suggests?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: That is not true, Mr Chairman. Previous years are different locations in different Regions, but for this two, one is at Micobe, Region 8 and *Kako* in the Upper Mazaruni not *Coco*. There is a mistake in the spelling.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I would like to return to Project Code 19005 - *Project Development and Assistance* - Having been advised that it is \$10,000,000 for CDCs, \$60,000,000 for Municipalities and \$190,000,000 for Community Road Maintenance, I would like to be advised of the specific breakdown of \$60,000,000 for Municipalities among the six existing Municipalities.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, six Municipalities:

Georgetown	-	\$20,000,000;
New Amsterdam	-	\$10,000,000;
Corriverton	-	\$7,000,000;
Rose Hall	-	\$7,000,000;
Linden	-	\$9,000,000; and
Anna Regina	-	\$7,000,000.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I would now like to inquire of the Minister as to what criterion or mechanism is in place for the distribution of the \$10,000,000 among the CDCs. How many CDCs are there and how many CDCs are intended to be serviced by this \$10,000,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there are numerous CDCs and definitely we cannot at this stage say how much each will get, but based on the programme that they submitted we will make available sums of money from here. This is just a vote and not a specific amount for any of the NDCs.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, just a follow-up to the Minister's an-

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swer and that is to enquire what is the basis for arriving at the total since we do not know what the amount is for the respective NDCs?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman for the six municipalities the basis was last year and the previous year and then there is an increase this year especially for Georgetown.

For the community roads, we are expecting a list coming and we just put this amount so that we will see how much we will allocate to each of the communities. It is an open vote.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, with your leave I just want to go back very quickly to Project Code 26003 - Power Generation - because I want to be clear when I leave here... Mr Minister would you agree with me that in 2004, you spent \$3,000,000 for solar panels for health huts in Region 7 and 8; in 2005 you spent \$3,000,000 and you proposed in 2006 to spend \$3,000,000, which will give a total of \$9,000,000 spent on solar panels in Regions 7 and 8 over the three years.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, that is correct.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: We are speaking here about Community Development Councils (CDCs). I wish to know, given the status of a Community Development Council, on what basis as a body become a Community Development Council?

I also wish to be told what criteria are used to determine the allocation to these bodies. There is \$10,000,000 and I would like to know what developed criteria do you have that allows the Ministry to allocate those sums in a manner where any citizen could look at the criteria and say that this has been fairly allocated?

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Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, this is based on the specific project with respect to the size and so forth.

Mr Vincent LALEXANDER: Are the projects first come first served? Is it based on some set of priorities that the Ministry has. What basis does the Ministry use to say that if they get 10,000 projects only ten will get, what is the basis of the decision?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, this is based on priority and needs.

Mr Vincent LALEXANDER: May I ask the Minister what are the priorities that have been predetermined by the Ministry in relation to the allocation to these funds?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I have said before that this is based on priority and needs.

Mr Vincent LALEXANDER: A priority is not something plucked out of the air, it is something predetermined. Predetermined priorities are areas, criteria, objectives; I am asking what the priorities are.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, it varies. In some areas there are sewing classes, home economics classes, cooking classes and so forth. *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Let us proceed Honourable Members

Yes, Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Project Code 19005 - Project development and Assistance - Profile 128 ... According to the explanation given to the Minister, it is \$10,000,000 for CDCs; \$60,000,000 for RDCs subventions and \$190,000 for roads. Those add up to \$260,000,000 while the allocation here is \$475,000,000. Will the Minister care to explain that difference?

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Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, there are sixty-five NDCs and an allocation is made here for \$195,000,000.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Can you go over that please.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Sixty-five NDCs and an allocation of \$195,000,000 - an allocation of \$3,000,000 each.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Sheila Holder and then Mr Carberry

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: I would like to refer the Minister to Project Code 26003 - Power Generation - and to see whether or not the Minister would be prepared to let us have an idea of the average life-span of the solar panels. Can he give us an indication as to how many have been changed per annum?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Over the many years, we have provided solar panels to several villages in the various Regions. Our report is that they last as much as ten to fifteen years once they are properly cared for. The most that they will need is a change of batteries, but once they are properly cared for and serviced, then they give quite a long service.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Project Code 26003 - Power Generation ... First of all, I would like the Minister to explain what these panels are used for? Is it for the purposes of storage of drugs or is it for the purposes of providing light?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA. In fact, all of these solar panel equipment are put in the health huts or health centres and they are used basically to store vaccines, but there are times when they power the radio communication sets too.

The Chairman: The honourable Member Mr Carberry

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Mr E Lance Carberry: Do you have a solar refrigerator as well?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Yes

Mr E Lance Carberry: What has been the experience of the Ministry with these panels that you are putting in?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: So far the experience is quite good that is why every year based on allocation we provide for difference areas. We give consideration to the most isolated areas first and once there are more allocations, we give to other areas.

Mr E Lance Carberry: How many do you have responsibility for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Well, there are ten regions. I am not in a position to say how many at this moment, but there is quite a lot over the many years.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I would be grateful sir, because I am interested in this area, if you will let me know how many you have installed at the moment and where?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Surely we can do that at a later stage.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I need to be advised by the Minister, if by any chance I am missing something. Subventions are normally given to the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils; I do not know if there is a problem of the Legend here, because there are many problems with many legends in these documents. Is there any problem with any legend here? It has made it very difficult for me to determine under which NDCs are being given this subvention.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There is no problem, these are given to project development and assistance.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Project Development and Assistance, I am reading, *Provision for Capital subvention for municipalities - there are six - and local community councils*. If my understanding is correct ... It was corrected during the debate to read *Community Development Councils and road maintenance*. There is absolutely no reference to Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and if I am not mistaken, there is a statutory subvention to the effect. I am asking where is it provided for?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I am afraid that part is omitted. It is Neighbourhood Democratic Councils, too (NDCs). It should be included.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Thank you! May I then be advised what *is specific subvention* intended for the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I made mention of that \$3,000,000 for each Neighbourhood Democratic Councils. We have sixty-five.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: With regard to Project Code 26003 - Power Generation ... Are inverters included?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised yes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Reference 126, when I sought a specific answer earlier, I was given that CDCs would get \$10,000,000; that Municipalities would get \$60,000,000; that Community Road Maintenance would get \$190,000,000. I am now to come to the conclusion that if there is a remainder, I have not done the calculation; it is that remainder that goes to the NDCs. Am I correct?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Yes

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: May I now be advised under the \$190,000,000 for community road maintenance, what is going to be the basis for the allocation of that \$190,000,000 to the maintenance of various roads? There must be some idea as to how many miles of road there are, what is the cost per mile and some basis you will then determine which roads will be done. I am asking to be advised if such a basis exist?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, several roads have been identified in the many NDCs and we have rough estimates for places like Charity, New Road, Somerset and Burkes, Plantation Paradise Dunkeld, Darmouth, Better Success, Andrews, Maria's Delight, Zorg-en-Vlygt, Kofendari, Queenstown, Affiance, Tamot Manor, Columbia, Aberdeen, Perseverance, Golden Fleece, Zorg, Maria's Lodge, Adventure, Darmouth, Airy Hall - Those are for Essequibo, Region 2 and I can go on and on.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Apparently this information ... *[Pause]* ... I am sorry for my pause, I was counting to ten lest I answer my colleagues. Apparently the Minister has the information which I was asking for and I would now wish to ask him if he would be kind enough to make a ... *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Mr Belgrave in these Estimates I have to listen carefully to hear the question. In the general debate that is not absolutely necessary. So could you please allow me to hear what Mr Alexander is saying.

Yes, Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Thank you very much Mr Chairman for your protection. Mr Minister, I am asking if a copy of the information which seemed to be at hand could be made available.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We will make that available.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I just want to go back to Reference 126 where the Minister gave us some information which seems to be incorrect to me. He said that CDCs will receive \$10,000,000 all-toll; \$190,000,000 will be allocated for community roads and maintenance and sixty-five CDCs will be given \$3,000,000 each.

Mr E Lance Carberry: \$3,500,000

Mr Abdul Kadir: My apologies.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I do not think that Mr Belgrave heard you clearly. *[Laughter]*

On Page 414, Project Code 36001- Solid Waste Disposal Programme ... It refers you to the Profile Page 130 - I am just seeking some clarification here. When we look at the actual Code, we see that a total for this is \$158,000,000 and we see that in 2004 \$73,355,000 was spent; in 2005 \$87,950,000, yet when we look at the Profile Reference 130, we see that there is an indication here to say that nothing was spent before 2006, whereas you are actually seeing that in 2004 and 2005 monies were spent. So my first question is which is correct? Were monies spent before 2006 or was money not spent? Then I would have a supplementary question depending on the answer.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that money was spent last year and the previous year, but that was on a different loan, but this year we have an IDB loan for the construction of Haag Bosch Solid Waste Disposal Centre; there is Industrial Strengthening Capacity and environmental improvement at the Mandela site. There is also some voted provision for public awareness.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question ... If you look at the Profile Page you will see that the total project cost is estimated to be \$4,577,000,000. My question to the Minister ... Can you share with the House any information he has as to where we are likely to get further

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funding from, because he is saying that this \$158,000,000 is an IDB Loan, if he can give us an idea as to where the rest of the money or at least a part of this money will come from in the future?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The total cost of the project is the amount the Honourable Member mentioned, this part will be used this year and continuously year after year.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I do not know if the Minister could be a little more helpful. He has said to us very clearly that the \$158,000,000 this year is from an IDB Project. The question I am asking ... Has any international or any funding agency been identified that will be providing part of the future expenses that we need for example next year for this ongoing project or are we still looking?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: It is a total project funded by the IDB \$4,577,320,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Under Project Code 36001 - Solid Waste Disposal Programme - I wish to ask the Minister if his Ministry and/or the government has been approached with any alternative solid waste disposal proposal and what has been the rational response to that proposal?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand study was made on several proposals, but the government has agreed on the IDB proposal.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: There is a little omission in the answer. I was trying to find out a bit about the other proposals which may have and what may have been the nature in very concise terms.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I cannot provide that information right now.

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The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 36001 - Solid Waste Disposal Programme ... As it relates to the management of the Mandela site, could the Honourable Minister say how much money is being spent here and whether any legitimate processing is being done, any land fill gas is being also processed.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta. I am advised that so far more than \$120,000,000 have been spent already.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I was trying to find out about the \$158,000,000, but the Minister did not address the other part of my question as it relates to leach treatment and land fill gas.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Money was already spent on leach, land fill site and gas.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, in relation to leach, could the Minister say what has actually been done at the site?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand they are developing a leaching treatment pond and that is for the treatment for leaches and drainage system.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, as it relates to Haag Bosch, could the Minister say how much money is being spent here? In relation to the total cost the amount budgeted this year seems fairly small, therefore could the Minister say if this is merely for some form of study or if construction is proceeding at this location?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We have a voted provision of \$98,000,000 this year to start up.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I would like to come back to

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this land fill site at Mandela Avenue where the Minister said that they are building a leachate pond. Is that the answer - a leachate pond at Mandela?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Yes

Mr E Lance CARBERRY: You said that you are also piping gas?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Yes

Mr E Lance CARBERRY: Could you explain what these piping arrangements are for the gas at Mandela Avenue?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised that collection facilities have been put in these pipes to collect the gas.

Mr E Lance CARBERRY: So that the piping system has already been installed?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised, yes.

Mr E Lance CARBERRY: And has been collecting gas?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised, yes.

Mr E Lance CARBERRY: Where is the gas being stored?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I understand that they have been collecting the pipes, not being stored, but they are aerated.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr E Lance CARBERRY: Sir, please, this is a serious matter and Sir, I sincerely hope that that answer is amended and I will tell you why. Methane gas vented without being burnt is a dangerous thing. So I just want to know what is happening with that gas. That is why I am asking the question.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised that it is true, it is dangerous

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if emitted in the air. I do not think it is that much as to create any serious problem at the moment although it gets in the air.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, in relation to the release of methane gas into the air, could the Honourable Minister say if any studies were done to determine the environmental impact - or the likely health impact - or the residents in lodge?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that these are very technical questions and I will promise to give some oral answers later on.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I just want to go back to one of these technical things because I do not think that we should take it likely. Unfortunately, the leachate can be very, very harmful to persons in the surrounding environment, because it is toxic potentially. First of all, the leachate will have to be collected at the bottom of the landfill with some kind of impermeable membrane around it so as to ensure that it is localised. The Minister said that the leachate is being collected in a pond. I want to know if this pond was constructed before the landfill site was put in place so that we can ensure that the leachate is localised, directed to a specific area, checked, analysed and treated before it is released into the open environment.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that it was not constructed before; this was originally a dump site and corrective works were done.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Therefore, Mr Chairman, please be advised that this House is being misled. The Guyanese nation is being misled. If a leachate collecting system was not constructed before the landsite, it is improbable, unlikely that this leachate system can be put in place after the landfill site is already there. I will ask the Minister to be straightforward with the Guyanese public and let them know what the reality is.

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The Chairman: This is not the place for that, Honourable Member. We are dealing with the Estimates. If you have questions, you can put a motion ... *[Interruption]*

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I will advise the Honourable Member ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Honourable Member, just a minute ... I am on the floor, please... There are questions you can put, there are motions you can put, and all manner of things to deal with those issues. So I will ask Members to refrain from these types of statements.

Yes, Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I believe the question that I am about to ask goes directly to the Estimates. The Minister in his response did say that monies are being spent on the leachate collection system and that the leachate was being processed. This goes directly to the core, because we want to know if there is any system in place for collecting the leachate that we are saying that we have provided money for the process.

The Chairman: That question is just answered.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advising the Honourable Members that these things can be put in a question and presented here.

The Chairman: But I understand that the Minister said that there was a pond to collect this material.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: There is a pond.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions on this item? *[Pause]*

Division 527 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - \$2,167,816,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 244 and 245

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 711 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$48,731,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/ Waini, Programme 711 - stands part of the Estimates.

We will do a few regions and then we will close off for today. It will give you more time. Do you want us to do only two regions? We can probably do a bit more, provided you do not belaboured the issues. If you start belabouring, well then we will have to cut it short.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Are you providing refreshments for tonight, Sir?

The Chairman: Yes, refreshments are available. Refreshments are there already, so let us finish quickly so we can partake of the refreshments and then go home. *[Laughter]*

Yes, Mr Khan

Mr Ricky Khan: Account Code 6282 - Equipment Maintenance - \$220,000 ... Is this the total sum that will be used for the maintenance of the Sub-region's equipment?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is for the Admin Office, computer and photocopying machines.

Mr Ricky Khan: Account Code 6311 -Rates and Taxes - \$1,440,000 ... What does the Local Authority use this money for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: To meet administrative cost for the NDC.

Mr Ricky Khan: Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... I see on the Staffing Details there is one for \$1,391,000. Can we have a

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description of the individual please?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There is no voted provision.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 711 - stands part of the Estimates - \$48,731,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 246 and 247

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 712 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$103,231,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 712 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Khan

Mr Ricky Khan: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - \$40,000,000 ... The question is, how is this fuel used?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There are three generating sets:

- one at Mabaruma;
- one at Port Kaituma; and
- one at Moruca.

Mr Ricky Khan: A supplementary question - Is the fuel bought from

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GUYOIL exclusively?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Yes, GUYOIL is the government agency. There is one at Morawhanna and it is procured through that agency.

The Chairman: Mrs Backer, I will give priority to Mrs Melville, who is from the interior.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6231 ... We were told that the fuel and lubricants are going to be utilised for the generating sets. What about the vehicles within the region?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: That will come under administration.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Just a quick question, what security service is being employed in that area?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised the United Security Service.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions?

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 712 - Public Works - \$103,231,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Pages 248 and 249

AGENCY 71 - REGION1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 713 - Education Delivery

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$334,136,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 713 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Khan

Mr Ricky Khan: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6241 - Rental of Buildings - \$770,000 - Can we be informed which are the buildings?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The Headmaster's House at Morawhanna and two buildings at Wauna for the VSO.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 713 - Education Delivery - \$334,136,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 250 and 251

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, Programme 714 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$122,078,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 714 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 714 - Health Services - \$122,078,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 531 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$120,840,000 for Division 531 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Khan

Mr Ricky Khan: Project Code 12001 - Buildings - Health ... Under Health we have noticed the recurrence of the same contractors over and over for basically the health huts that were built all over the Region. What is the reason for employing the same contractor all the time?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is a procurement board that makes these decisions. There is a process.

Division 531 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - \$120,840,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: I will stop at Region 3 or eight o'clock as suggested by Mr Carberry whose suggestions bear great weight with me. I will suggest at eight o'clock or at Region 3 whichever comes earlier.

Pages 256 and 257

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 721 - Regional Administration and Finance

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$76,020,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 721 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) ... I note the sum of \$466,000 ... could the Minister say what training this relates to?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: This is training for the Administrative Staff.

Mr Ivor Allen: I have a further question ... No doubt, part of this money is for scholarships, because it says *including scholarships*, is this in relation to overseas or local scholarships?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: It is just local.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6112 - Senior Technical ... I see there is one senior technical officer. Could the Honourable Minister state what office is being referred to here?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Senior Personnel Officer

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen:

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, on Page 257, Staffing Details ... Could the Minister give us the details of the approved establishment. What we have here is 2005 and 2006, but we do not have the establishment so we do not know whether there are any vacancies.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, this has been approved. I do not have any further information on that.

Mr E Lance Carberry: No, that is just filled, it is not the establishment.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I get the impression that what we have here is the filled and budgeted positions, but what I am inquiring about on is the approved establishment for the Region under Administration.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, that information can be supplied later on.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomerook/Supenaam, Programme 721 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$76,020,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 258 and 259

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROOK/SUPENAAM, Programme 722 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$139,461,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2 - Pomerook/Supenaam, Programme 722 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works ... Could the Minister say what works this \$66,500,000 would be expended on and in which areas?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: It is for D & I Projects in the region.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I ask that question and this is a follow-

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up, because as we go along we will come to D & I Works, so I am talking about D & I expenditure under agriculture specifically.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: D & I - weed, clean and maintain trenches and flood at Charity and Supenaam; plough, grade and prepare access dams during the rice harvesting season - Charity to Supenaam; repair and maintenance to wooden and concrete culverts; Irrigation checks; tail walls; bridges, sea sluices, flap gates - Charity to Supenaam ; weed clean and maintain trenches and canals in the same region, weed clean and maintain trenches - Charity to Supenaam; weed clean and maintain trenches and façade within the region also.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6271 - Telephone Charges ... I note a megre \$176,000 - Could I ask the Minister if he thinks that this would be adequate given the fact that cell phones are now available to farmers in both the Pomeroon and the lake area and if provision is being made for extension officers to be able to make cell calls to the inland communities?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I understand that this is adequate for the agriculture programme. Concerning field officer having cell phones, if the application is made we can examine that

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Other Goods and Services Purchased ... There is a sum of \$58,000. Could we say what is intended?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Could you identify the code number?

Mr Ivor Allen: It is a heading between Account Codes 6273 and 6281 and the voted amount is \$58,000.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Can you give us the specifics.

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Mr Ivor Allen: Alright, I will give you some time on that. Mr Chairman, while the Minister gets that up, because he has asked for some time, could I now refer him to the Staffing Details and I note that at COA 6112 - Senior Technical ... Could the Minister advise if this includes a Vet?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: One Vet and one Agronomist.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants ... I noticed that there is an expected growth of about \$3,000,000 in the Fuel and Lubricant bill for 2006. Is this as a result of an expected growth in the number of vehicles used by the Region or is there some other reason for the explanation?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: These are to provide fuel for the pumps that are operating on a twenty-four basis within the region especially now being the heavy rainfall seasoning.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Could I ask how many pumps, Sir?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There are five pumps.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomerroon/Supenaam, Programme 722 - Agriculture - \$139,461,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 260 and 261

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMERROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 723 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$70,227,000 for Agency 72 -

Region 2: Pomerook/Supenaam, Programme 723 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, here again, I draw your attention to the Staffing Details and I note that there is no administrative or senior technical staff. I also wish to draw to the Minister's attention Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads; Account Code 6252 - Maintenance of Roads; Account Code 6254 - Maintenance of Sea and River Defences - which indicate that substantial sums will be expended for maintenance of roads, bridges and sea and river defences. In the light of no senior technical persons, could the Minister say who will be responsible for conducting these works?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised that there is a Works Officer in the Region.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, as a follow-up ... I get the impression that the Minister is saying that the Works Officer is not a senior technical person. Could you say what is the level of this competence and if he has the ability to supervise these works - either competence or training?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: I am advised that he has tremendous work experience.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - \$20,000 - and I wish to ask the Minister if this is indicative of the importance attached to training.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: This is for training of staff in the Public

Works Department.

Mr Ivor Allen: \$20,000?

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 723 - Public Works - \$70,227,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 262 and 263

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 724 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$613,401,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 724 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Staffing Details COA 6117 - Temporary Employees - In 2005 there were 137 employees and for 2006 zero. Could the Minister indicate what has happened to those persons.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, last year there were three temporary employees and this year there is none.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I have a further question. I draw your attention to Account Code 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skills - and note the level of other technical and craft skills and that the strength has been reduced by seventeen. Could the Minister inform what ac-

counts for the reduction?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We are on the wrong wave length, we are under education.

Mr Ivor Allen: That is right.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Could you repeat the question please?

Mr Ivor Allen: We are at Programme 724. If you look at the Staffing Details - COA 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skills ... The numbers have been reduced from 152 to 135. My question is, what accounts for the drop?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Senior Technical - fifteen promotions; Admin 100 to 125 -twelve promotions.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled ... Sir, I note that there is going to be an increase of forty-three staff members. Could the Minister say what accounts for the increase. I note that the budgeted amount has been increased by \$20,000,000 which is disproportionate in relation to 109 that had a total budgeted amount of \$26,728,000 in 2005?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the personnel who were under this Code have moved up and now they are being replaced by acting teachers. - the same amount.

Mr Ivor Allen: Could I have a second answer to the second part of the question, because here it is you had 109 persons who were paid a total of \$26,728,000. You are adding to that amount forty-three persons, but you are adding an additional \$20,000,000, so 109 got \$26,728,000 and this forty-three will now get \$20,000,000. It seems to be disproportionate.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The reason for that is, all these people have been promoted they are now enjoying increased salaries.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 724 - Education Delivery - \$613,401,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 264 and 265

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, Programme 725 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$197,732,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 725 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees ... I note that the sum of \$12,910,000 was voted and if we look at the Staffing Details there are four contracted employees. Could the Minister say who these persons are and at what level they function in the administration.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There are four specialist attached to the Charity and Suddie Hospitals.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) ... I note the sum of \$578,000 budgeted. Could the Minister say if this includes the cost of training persons at the Suddie Hospital for overseas employment and if so, who approved the training of nurses at the Suddie Hospital for overseas employment?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that there is no overseas training for nurses.

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Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, if that is so, I wish to bring to your attention that that was advertised in the newspaper. There have been several publications inviting persons to apply for training. Training is being done at the Suddie Hospital and I see that there is no rebuttal and the Advertisement said that the persons were invited to be trained at Suddie for employment overseas.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Sir, this is local people to be trained locally.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 725 - Health Services - \$197,732,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 418

DIVISION 532 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

Question is proposed that the sum of \$212,440,000 for Division 532 - Region 2: Pomeroon Supenaam - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Project Code 13004 - Miscellaneous Drainage and Irrigation Works - \$87,885,000 ... The Legend says Rehabilitation of drainage and irrigations systems. My question to the Minister is that given the floods in the region at this point in time, were the works to be done still miscellaneous or likely to be more specific? Will the Honourable Minister say what form they are likely to take?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is a long list of works

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to be done in the various locations:

Irrigation check	-	Sparta;
Regulator	-	Better Hope;
Tail Wall SD 9	-	Pomona;
Irrigation check	-	Affiance;
Irrigation check	-	Dunkeld; Chopper;
Desilting of trenches	-	Annandale to Good Hope;
Desilting of trenches	-	Henrietta to Darmouth;
Desilting of trenches	-	Anna Regina to Zorg-en-Vlygt;
Desilting of trenches	-	Charity to Westbury;
Box Culvert	-	Affiance;
Timber revetment PR 2	-	Evergreen; Facade
Timber revetment	-	Airy Hall;
Tail Wall	-	Windsor Castle;
Box Culvert	-	Queenstown, School Dam;
Timber revetment D 10	-	Westbury; façade;
Irrigation check	-	SSC 21 Good Intent;
Box Culvert	-	La Union, north drain;
Timber revetment	-	Somerset and Burks Tail wall;

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Irrigation check

- GC to Abrams Zuil

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12001 - Buildings Health; Project Code 11001 - Bridges; Project Code 13004 - Miscellaneous Drainage and Irrigation Works;

Project Code 14001 – Roads ... We see substantial sums amounting to more than \$140,000,000 would be extended for various civil Works across the region. Could the Minister inform if these works are going to be supervised by the same Works Officer, and if so, I wish to ask if the Minister has any difficulty with recruiting a qualified engineer for the region?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Well at the moment, I am advised that within a couple of weeks a new engineer will be employed.

Division 532 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - \$212,440,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, this brings us to the end of our business for today.

Assembly Resumed

Hon Samuel A. A. Hinds: Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly be adjourned to tomorrow at 14: 00h

The Speaker: The Assembly is so adjourned to Tuesday, 7 February at 14:00h.

Adjourned accordingly at 20:10h