

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

THIRD SESSION

1971

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 27th Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 15TH NOVEMBER, 1971

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Ried, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of Communications
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Finance
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and
Social Security
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction (Leader of the House)
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for
Co-operatives and Community Development
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance
Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister

(iii) Other Members

Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
 Mr. E.F. Correia
 Mr. M. Corrica
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Mr. R.J. Jordan
 Mr. S.M. Saffee
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman,
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
 Mrs. L.E. Willems

(b) Members of the Opposition

Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip
 Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.
 Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mr. V. Teekah
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. M.F. Singh
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. F.A. Narain
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Mr. M.B. Henry

Absent:

The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,
 Minister of Health - on leave
 The Honourable D.A. Singh,
 Minister of Trade
 The Honourable S.S. Ramphal S.C., Attorney-
 General and Minister of State - on leave
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works,
 Hydraulics and Supply
 The Honourable E.B. McDavid, Minister of
 Information and Culture - on leave
 Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary
 Secretary, Minister of Agriculture
 Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary
 Secretary, Ministry of Works,
 Hydraulics and Supply
 Mr. N.J. Bissember
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. Bhola Persaud - on leave
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Miss Field-Ridley for the period 1st to 30th November, 1971.

Resignation of Mrs. R.P. Sahoye

His Honour the Speaker informed the Assembly that he had that day received a letter dated 27th October, 1971, from Mrs. R.P. Sahoye resigning as a Member of the National Assembly. He said that in accordance with article 70(1) of the Constitution, he would call upon the representative of the People's Progressive Party List of Candidates to further extract a name to fill the vacancy.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Communications:

Commonwealth Telecommunication Council Third
General Report and Statement of Accounts
for the period 1st April, 1970 to 31st
March, 1971.

(CC: 13/5/5)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 5 of 1971 - Schedule of
Supplementary Provision on the Current
and Capital Estimates for the period
ending 31st October, 1971, totalling
\$1,782,113.

(2/5 V)(Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Monday, the 22nd of November, 1971, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 16

Mr. R. Ally asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture the following question:

Question: (i) Will the Minister say whether he is aware that owing to the inadequate fence in the rear of Black Bush Polder, cattle get into it and damage the settlers' rice and provision crops?

- (ii) Will the Minister say whether steps will be taken to prevent cattle from entering the Polder?
- (iii) Will the Minister say, further, whether it is Government's intention to compensate settlers who have suffered loss through damage to their crops by cattle?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture gave the following reply:

Answer:

- (i) The Ministry is aware that in the absence of a fence - from the commencement 1962 - cattle get into the rear of the Black Bush Polder and cause damage to the rice and provision cultivation in that section.

The designers of the Black Bush Polder Land Development Scheme saw the need for pasturage, for cattle belonging to settlers of the said scheme. With this in mind an area of approximately 30,000 acres contiguous to and in the rear of the Black Bush Polder, was reserved as a cattle pasture, and a very sturdy barbed wire fence was constructed to contain the animals within the said grazing area.

During 1962, there was a widespread cutting of the fence resulting in destruction to the crops in the adjacent rice fields. Much has been attempted to abate the nuisance including the use of armed patrols and vigilante groups. The cattle owners, however, proved persistent as these measures resulted in wanton attacks on individual settlers. Impounding on a large scale proved equally ineffective in that the animals were boldly set loose and the pound keepers threatened with violence.

- (ii) Pounds have been established in two sections of the Black Bush Polder. Action by the Government Pound Keepers appear however to go unheeded by the parties concerned with the cattle. In other words, impounding does not compensate for the damage done and the rice and provision farmers are afraid to take their own action by way of court action for damage.

Recently, several farmers have volunteered to form into co-ops, and cultivate the lands in group fashion. It is hoped that out of the farmers' organisations the patrols they elect would be regarded as the functional authority to maintain the proper separation of the livestock from crops.

- (iii) I am not aware of any plan by Government to pay compensation to the settlers.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Condition of Mibicuri School, Black Bush Polder

Mr. Teekah sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the condition of the Mibicuri Government School, Black Bush Polder.

His Honour the Speaker did not allow the claim as he did not agree that the matter to be discussed satisfied all the conditions of a matter which could properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) PENSIONS (CONSOLIDATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1971 -
Bill No. 21/1971 published 11.11.71

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE PENSIONS
(CONSOLIDATION) ORDINANCE, 1957.

- (2) CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT)(NO. 2) BILL, 1971 -
Bill No. 22/1971 published 11.11.71

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
CUSTOMS ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

- ITEM 1 - MOTION TO APPROVE OF THE EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The following motion, moved by Mr. Ram Karran and seconded by Mr. Sutton, was put and carried:

WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committees appointed in the previous Sessions of Parliament from the year 1966 commenced examination of the Public Accounts and the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the years from 1962;

AND WHEREAS Parliament was either prorogued or dissolved before the Reports of the Committees for those Sessions on their examination of the Accounts for the years 1962 to 1966 could have been completed and submitted to the National Assembly;

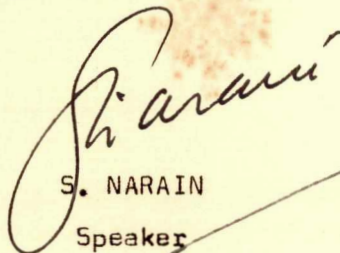
AND WHEREAS it is necessary that the outstanding Reports should be completed and submitted early to the Assembly:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly authorises the Public Accounts Committee of the present Session of Parliament to examine and use the records and the evidence taken, in respect of the examination, by previous Public Accounts Committees, of the Public Accounts and of the Accounts of the Transport and Harbours Department for the years 1962 to 1966, which have not yet been reported on to the National Assembly, so as to facilitate the present Committee in its early completion and submission to the National Assembly of the outstanding Reports.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.35 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to Monday, the 22nd of November, 1971.


S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
19th November, 1971.