

BRITISH GUIANA

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

THIRD SESSION

1959 - 1960

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution)(Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

FRIDAY, 3RD JUNE, 1960.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Donald Jackson.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. D.M. Hedges.

The Honourable the Attorney-General, Mr. A.M.I. Austin, Q.C.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.P. D'Andrade (Ag.)

Ministers

The Honourable Dr. C.B. Jagan,
Minister of Trade and Industry.

The Honourable B.H. Benn,
Minister of Natural Resources.

The Honourable Janet Jagan,
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.

The Honourable Ram Karran,
Minister of Communications and Works.

The Honourable B.S. Rai,
Minister of Community Development and Education.

Elected Members, Majority Party

Mr. S.M. Saffee

Mr. Ajodha Singh

Other Elected Members

Mr. W.O.R. Kendall

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham

Mr. S. Campbell

Mr. A.L. Jackson

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj

Mr. R.C. Tello

Mr. R.E. Davis

Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Class I Clerk - Mr. F.A. Narain.

Absent:

Mr. Jai Narine Singh - indisposed.

Mr. E.B. Beharry.

Mr. F. Bowman.

Mr. A.M. Fredericks.

Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E. - excused.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 2nd of June, 1960, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that -

- (i) Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E., had asked to be excused from that sitting.
- (ii) Mr. Jai Narine Singh was still indisposed and therefore unable to attend that sitting.

PAPERS LAID

By the Financial Secretary:

Annual Report of the Comptroller of Customs and Excise for the year 1959.

(F.S.C.Ex. 8 III)(Circulated).

ORAL ASKING AND ANSWERING OF QUESTIONSQuestion No. 12

Mr. Burnham asked the Financial Secretary the following question:

QUESTION: Why are the rates of import duty on imported soap 15 and 30 per cent and those on soap powders, soap flakes and detergents 6 and 12 per cent?

The Financial Secretary gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The import duty on soap in bars, slabs, tablets or cakes was fixed at the high rates of 15 and 30 per cent to give a fair measure of tariff protection to the local industry which is able to supply fully and satisfactorily the country's needs of this form of cleansing material.

The lower duty of 6 and 12 per cent is more appropriate for imports of detergents and of soap in powder or flake form, for which there is no adequate supply or substitute from local manufacture.

Mr. Burnham also asked Supplementary Questions.

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYMOTIONS

Item 1 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION RE TRAINING SCHEME FOR GUIANESE.

Council resumed the debate on the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government the immediate preparation and implementation of an extensive and thorough scheme for the training of Guianese with a view to the latter's filling all the higher posts in the administrative and technical branches of the country's Public Service.

Mr. Jackson spoke to the motion.

Mr. Burnham then replied.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried unanimously.

Item 2 - MR. JAI NARINE SINGH'S MOTION PROTESTING AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF A NON-GUIANESE AS POSTMASTER GENERAL.

As Mr. Jai Narine Singh was absent, consideration of this item was deferred.

Item 3 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION RE GOVERNMENT HOUSING ESTATES.

Mr. Burnham moved and Mr. Jackson seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that the Government Housing Estates be brought within the provisions of the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186.

The Attorney-General and the Minister of Community Development and Education spoke to the motion.

Mr. Burnham then replied.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived on the following division:-

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Campbell	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Burnham	Mr. Ajodha Singh
	Mr. Rai
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney-General
	The Chief Secretary
<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

Items 4 - 8

Mr. Jai Narine Singh being absent, consideration of these items was deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.05 p.m., on a motion by the Chief Secretary, Council was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Confirmed

Speaker.