

1960 - 1961

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

WEDNESDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 1961.

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.

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. A.G. Jackson
Mr. Jai Narine Singh
Mr. F. Bowman

Nominated Members

Mr. R.B. Gajraj
Mr. R.C. Tello
Mr. R.E. Davis
Mr. H.J.M. Hubbard
Mr. A.G. Tasker, O.B.E.

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree.

Absent:

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C. - on leave.
Mr. S. Campbell - on leave.
Mr. E.B. Beharry.
Mr. A.M. Fredericks - on leave.

The Clerk read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 19th of January, 1961, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTSLeave

The Speaker announced that -

- (i) Mr. A.M. Fredericks was unable to attend that sitting and had asked to be excused.
- (ii) Mr. S. Campbell had applied for leave from the 24th January to the 16th February; and
- (iii) Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C. had applied for leave for the remainder of the week as he was still unwell.

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYMOTIONS

Item 1 - MR. JACKSON'S MOTION CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF DRYING AND STORAGE FACILITIES FOR PADI IN CERTAIN AREAS.

Mr. Jackson resumed and concluded his reply to the following motion:-

WHEREAS it is known that all padi harvested mechanically is reaped before the grain has become completely matured and contains at least 24% moisture and which, if so stored, commences to deteriorate within seventy-two hours;

AND WHEREAS it has been proved that such moisture-laden padi could be successfully treated prior to storage by reducing the excess moisture through mechanical aeration or hot air drying;

AND WHEREAS there are at present only two plants for extracting moisture from padi reaped which are both installed in the valley of the Mahaicony River;

AND WHEREAS moisture extracting plants are of vital necessity in an expanding rice industry:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government early installation of drying and storage facilities as follows:-

- (1) One dryer and bond in the De Hoop-Vygeval area (Mahaica).
- (2) One dryer and bond at Britannia, West Coast, Berbice.

- (3) One dryer and bond at Warren, Corentyne.
 (4) One dryer and bond at Bush Lot, Corentyne.
 (5) One dryer and bond at No. 64, Corentyne.

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

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Bowman	Mr. Tasker
Mr. Tello	Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Jackson	Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Kendall	Mr. Ajodha Singh
	Mr. Saffee
	Mr. Rai
	Mr. Ram Karran
	Mrs. Jagan
	Mr. Benn
	Dr. Jagan
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney-General
	The Chief Secretary

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Item 2 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION CONCERNING RURAL ELECTRIFICATION.

Item 3 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION CONCERNING THE ERECTION OF A STATUE TO THE LATE HUBERT NATHANIEL CRITCHLOW.

Item 4 - MR. BURNHAM'S MOTION CONCERNING THE BUILDING OF COMMUNITY CENTRES ON GOVERNMENT HOUSING ESTATES.

Consideration of items 2, 3 and 4 of the Order Paper was deferred.

Item 5 - MR. BOWMAN'S MOTION CONCERNING THE CONVERSION OF CERTAIN RICE MILLS INTO PRODUCERS' CO-OPERATIVES.

Mr. Bowman moved and Mr. Tello seconded the following motion:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends that the Central Rice Mills situated at Mahaicony and Anna Regina be sold (as in the case of the Vergenoegen Rice Mill) to the rice millers and rice farmers in those areas for conversion into Producers Co-operatives.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the mills be sold at their present assessed value on the basis of an initial down payment of not more than ten per cent of the assessed value and the balance by equal annual instalments.

Mr. Davis moved and Mr. Gajraj seconded the following amendment:-

- (i) Deletion of all the words following the word "rice" in the third line of the first resolve clause, and the substitution therefor of the words "producers in those areas for conversion into a Co-operative Rice Mill, as soon as it is practicable to do so" and

(ii) Deletion of the second resolve clause.

After Mr. Bowman had replied, the amendment at (ii) above was put and carried on the following division:-

FOR

Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Davis
Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Ajodha Singh
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Rai
Mr. Ram Karran
Mrs. Jagan
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan
The Financial Secretary
The Attorney-General
The Chief Secretary

13AGAINST

Mr. Bowman

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Thereafter, the amendment at (i) above was put and carried on the following division:-

FOR

Mr. Hubbard
Mr. Davis
Mr. Gajraj
Mr. Ajodha Singh
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Rai
Mr. Ram Karran
Mrs. Jagan
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan
The Financial Secretary
The Attorney-General
The Chief Secretary

13AGAINST

Mr. Bowman

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The motion, as amended, was then put and carried as follows:-

RESOLVED, That this Council recommends that the Central Rice Mills situated at Mahaicony and Anna Regina be sold (as in the case of the Vergenoegen Rice Mill) to the rice producers in those areas for conversion into a Co-operative Rice Mill, as soon as it is practicable to do so.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.15 p.m. the Speaker adjourned the Council to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 26th of January, 1961.

Confirmed,

Donald Jackson

Speaker.