

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION

1963 - 1964

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 32nd Sitting of the Legislative Assembly of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) Order in Council, 1961, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

FRIDAY, 28TH BRUARY, 1964

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. .B. Gajraj.

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan, Premier and Minister of Development and Planning.
The Honourable B.H. Benn,
Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands.
The Honourable Ram Karran,
Minister of Works and Hydraulics.
The Honourable R. Chandisingh,
Minister of Labour, Health and Housing.
Dr. the Honourable Charles Jacob, Jr.,
Minister of Finance.
Dr. the Honourable F.H.W. Ramsahoye,
Attorney General.
The Honourable E.M.G. Wilson,
Minister of Communications.

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. G. Bowman, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
Mr. S.M. Saffee, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Lands.

(iii) Other Members

Mr. G.L. Robertson.
Mr. M. Bhagwan.
Mr. J.B. Caldeira.
Mr. V. Downer.
Mr. M. Hamid, J.P.
Mr. D.C. Jagan.
Mr. H. Lall.
Mr. M. Shakoor.

(b) Members Constituting the Minority

(i) People's National Congress

Mr. L.F.S. Burnham, Q.C.
Mr. W.O.R. Kendall, Deputy Speaker.
Mr. E.F. Correia.
Mr. N.J. Bissember.
Mr. W.A. Blair.
Mr. R.S.S. Hugh.
Mr. J.G. Joaquin.
Mr. R.J. Jordan.
Mr. C.A. Merriman.
Mr. H.M.S. Wharton.

(ii) United Force

Mr. P.S. d'Aguiar.
Mr. S. Campbell.
Mr. R.E. Cheeks.
Mr. E.E. Melville.

(iii) Independent

Mr. B.S. Rai.

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree (Ag.)
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. F.A. Narain (Ag.).

Absent

Mr. J. Carter, Q.C.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Bill from Senate

His Honour the Speaker read a letter from the President of the Senate forwarding for the consideration of the Legislative Assembly the following Bill:

GEORGETOWN CULTURAL CENTRE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1964.
(Bill No. 4/1964 (S) published 29. 2.64).

The Bill was read the first time.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION No. 21

Mr. Robertson asked the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands the following question:

Question: Will the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands state -

- (a) How much land has benefited as a result of the Boerasirie Extension Drainage and Irrigation Scheme?

- (b) (i) When was the Drainage and Irrigation Scheme commenced, and
(ii) at what cost was it carried out?
- (c) How much of his land is
(i) privately owned,
(ii) under sugar, and
(iii) under other crops?
- (d) How much of the land is Crown land?
- (e) How much of the Crown land has been beneficially occupied since the completion of the Scheme?
- (f) Whether soil surveys were carried out on the Crown lands before the works were commenced?

The Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands gave the following reply:

- Answer:
- (a) 112,689 acres. 49,175 acres of new lands have become cultivable and the irrigation of 63,514 acres served by the old conservancies has improved.
- (b) (i) 1952
(ii) \$12,042,000.
- (c) (i) 74,354 acres,
(ii) Nil
(iii) 250 acres.
- (d) 39,736 acres
- (e) This information is not available. It has not been possible to carry out inspections of this area, but 3,394 acres of Crown land have been distributed to farmers.
- (f) No soil surveys were carried out prior to the commencement of the Scheme in 1952.

Supplementary questions were asked by Mr. Burnham, Mr. d'Aguiar and Mr. Bhagwan.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Venezuelan Claim to British Guiana Territory

Dr. the Honourable C.B. Jagan, Premier and Minister of Development and Planning made a statement on the British Guiana-Venezuelan boundary question and on the Venezuelan claim to British Guiana territory.

/...

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Item 1 - MOTION BY MR. BURNHAM RE ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS WHO SUFFERED LOSS IN 1963 FLOODS

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Legislative Assembly recommends that Government take immediate steps to render assistance to those farmers who had suffered loss in the floods early in the year.

Mr. Burnham concluded his reply.

The motion was then put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Melville
Mr. Cheeks
Mr. Campbell
Mr. d'Aguiar
Mr. Wharton
Mr. Merriman
Mr. Jordan
Mr. Joaquin
Mr. Hugh
Mr. Blair
Mr. Bissember
Mr. Correia
Mr. Kendall
Mr. Burnham

AGAINST

Mr. Shakoor
Mr. Lall
Mr. Jagan
Mr. Hamid
Mr. Downer
Mr. Caldeira
Mr. Bhagwan
Mr. Robertson
Mr. Saffee
Mr. Bowman
Mr. Wilson
Dr. Ramsahoye
Dr. Jacob
Mr. Chandisingh
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. Benn
Dr. Jagan

14

17

Item 2 - MOTION BY MR. BURNHAM RE THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Mr. Burnham moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Government take immediate measures to remedy the unemployment situation.

Mr. Merriman seconded the motion but reserved his right to speak at a later stage.

Mr. Cheeks spoke to the motion.

Mr. Chandisingh moved the following amendment:

Substitution of the words "continue its efforts" for the words "take immediate measures".

Mr. d'Aguiar was speaking when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

Suspension of Sitting

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for tea.

Resumption of Sitting

At 4.35 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

ADJOURNMENT - DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation in Sugar Industry

Assembly resumed the discussion on the present situation in the sugar industry allowed on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly at its previous sitting.

Mr. Burnham concluded his speech.

Mr. d'Aguiar spoke.

Thereafter, Mr. Wilson spoke and the discussion was concluded.

Item 2 - MOTION BY MR. BURNHAM RE THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Government take immediate measures to remedy the unemployment situation.

Mr. d'Aguiar concluded his speech.

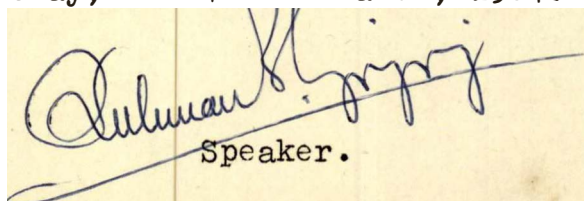
Mr. Bhagwan spoke to the motion.

HOURS OF NEXT SITTING

Before the adjournment was taken, the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, stated that, from the next sitting to be held on Wednesday, the 4th of March, 1964, it was proposed to sit until 10.00 p.m., if necessary, in order to dispose of the motions and Bills on the Order Paper.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.30 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Lands, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 4th March, 1964.



Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
Georgetown.
3rd March, 1964.