

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 98th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER, 2018,
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

*Hon Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (36)

(i) **A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change (36)**

First Vice-President and Prime Minister (1)

+ Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., First Vice-President and Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (3)

+ Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs

+Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Public Security

+*Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+ Hon. Basil Williams, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (15)

+ Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

+ Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Minister of State

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

2.

- + Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- + Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P., Minister of Communities
- + Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility for Culture, Youth and Sport
- + Hon. Winston D. Jordan, M.P., Minister of Finance
- + Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources
- + Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Health
- + Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., Minister of Public Infrastructure
- + Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Telecommunications
- +*Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Minister of Citizenship
- + Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P., Minister of Business
- +Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- +Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Public Affairs
- +Hon. Dr. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (7)

*Hon. Keith Scott, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Hon. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Finance

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

3.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Public Health

Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Valarie Patterson-Yearwood, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice), Minister within the Ministry of Communities

Other Members (9)

Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Michael Carrington, M.P.

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) People’s Progressive Party (32)

Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

4.

Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P.

Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Ms. Gillian R. Burton-Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

Ms. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No.3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Alister S. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

5.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

Mr. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P.

Officers (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms. Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.45 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:

(1) **Leave:**

Honourable Members, leave has been granted to following Honourable Members:

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, and

Mr. Clement Rohee for today's Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Social Protection:

Annual Reports of the Ministry of Social Protection for the years 2015 and 2016.

(Circulated)

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(2) By the Minister of Communities:

Audited Financial Statement of the Guyana Water Incorporated for the year ended 31st December, 2016.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Loan Agreement No. 20/SFR-GUY dated September 4, 2018 between the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for an amount of US\$1,265,000.00 to finance the Water Sector Enhancement Project. Under this Agreement, the CDB will finance the services of consultant(s) to: (a) prepare detailed designs, drawings, cost estimates and bid documents for the construction of water treatment plants and the upgrade of water supply infrastructure; (b) conduct a study to determine the feasibility of utilising water from the Hope Canal as a domestic supply; (c) prepare a National Water Policy and associated Strategic Plans; and (d) develop recommendations for institutional strengthening and capacity building for Guyana Water Inc. (GWI) and Ministry of Communities (MOC).

(Circulated)

(ii) Loan Agreement No. 21/SFR-GUY dated September 18, 2018 between the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for an amount of US\$4,367,000.00 to finance the Transport Sector Enhancement Project. Under this Agreement, the CDB will finance the services of consultant(s) to conduct feasibility studies and prepare detailed designs, drawings, cost estimates and bid documents for the: (a) construction of a new bridge at Wismar; (b) construction of a new Stelling at Parika; and (c) upgrade of the Lethem Aerodrome.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 10th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Thursday, 18th October, 2018.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

(1) **Guyana Government Assistance to Guyanese Victims affected by recent floods in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip asked the Vice-President and Acting Prime Minister the following questions:

Since the recent floods in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, has received many calls from the Guyanese in Trinidad saying that they have been unable to obtain any advice or assistance from the Guyana Consulate there, can the Hon. Vice-President and Minister inform this House as to what, if any measures, have been put in place by his Ministry:

- To assist these affected Guyanese in the flood area of Trinidad, and
- To render any assistance to sister country Trinidad and Tobago recovering from the recent floods.

Thereafter, the Vice-President and Acting Prime Minister replied.

Ms Gail Teixeira asked Vice-President and Acting Prime Minister supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Vice-President and Acting Prime Minister replied.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Replies

1. ***AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO HDM LABS INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF PHARMACEUTICALS TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health the following questions:

*Could the Hon. Minister of Public Health provide this National Assembly with the following information regarding the award of a contract to HDM Labs Inc. for the award of pharmaceuticals to the Ministry of Public Health:

- (i) How many companies were invited to tender for this contract to supply pharmaceuticals for the Ministry?
- (ii) What were the criteria used for the selection of this company for a restricted bidding process?
- (iii) On what basis were suppliers of pharmaceuticals to the Ministry such as, Ansa McCal, International Pharmaceuticals Agency and International Healthcare disqualified?
- (iv) Why was a company that usually supplies laboratory equipment listed in the restrictive tender to supply pharmaceuticals?
- (v) What were the items procured under the contract with HDM Labs Inc., the quantity for each item and the unit cost for each item?
- (vi) Has HDM Labs Inc. provided all the procured items? If so, when?
- (vii) Does HDM Labs Inc. have the Manufacturer's Authorization in the territory of Guyana for the items listed in the contract? Have these authorizations been produced for verification?
- (viii) Does HDM Labs Inc., have their Goods certified by WHO, or the US Food and Drug Administration, and the Guyana Food and Drug Administration?
- (ix) Can the Minister of Public Health inform the National Assembly on the experience and technical capacity of the HDM Labs Inc.?

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- (x) Is the Minister satisfied that the Ministry of Public Health has received value for money expended on this contract?

(Notice Paper No. 155 (Q 39 Opp38) published on 2018-07-25)

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

Ms Gail Teixeira asked the Minister of Public Health a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

2. ***FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER'S EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SERVICES**

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P., asked the Acting President the following questions:

*Could the Honourable First Vice-President and Prime Minister inform this National Assembly with regards to how much of the \$109.2M allocated in sub-head 6284 – Other in Agency Code 02-Prime Minister's Secretariat, Programme 021 in the 2018 Budget has been spent and what has it been spent on as of August 30, 2018?

(Notice Paper No. 163 (Q 44 Opp43) published on 2018-10-03)

Thereafter, the Acting President replied.

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip asked the Acting President supplementary questions.

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Thereafter, the Acting President replied.

Mr. Mohabir Nandlall, M.P., asked the Acting President a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Acting President replied.

3. ***COST OF MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, ADVISORS AND FAMILY MEMBERS**

Bishop Juan Edghill, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health the following questions:

*Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly as to the total cost of the medical and dental bills paid for by the Government on behalf of Members of the Cabinet, Advisors, and family members for the period June, 2015 to June, 2018?

(Notice Paper No. 164 (Q 45 Opp44) published on 2018-10-11)

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

Bishop Juan Edghill, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Health replied.

4. ***ALLOCATION OF CONTRACTS UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – WEEDING, CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WEST COAST AND CORENTYNE BERBICE PUBLIC ROAD SHOULDERS, REGIONS 5 AND 6**

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure the following questions:

11.

*Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly as to the reasons for not going to public tender for the abovenamed project in May, 2018? Could the Minister explain how were the 15 contractors selected to bid for the abovementioned project, Lots 19-26, by way of letter dated May 11, 2018 from the Ministry's Special Projects Unit? Could the Minister state how were these contracts awarded totalling \$120 Million to a number of these contractors without following the procurement laws and Ministry's limits?

(Notice Paper No. 165 (Q 46 Opp45) published on 2018-10-03)

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Infrastructure replied.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Infrastructure replied.

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Infrastructure replied.

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., asked the Minister of Public Infrastructure supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Public Infrastructure replied.

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5. ***EXPENDITURE OF \$2.247 BILLION GUYANA DOLLARS (\$10.7 MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS) ALLOCATED TO THE AMERINDIAN LAND TITLING PROJECT**

Due to the absence of the Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, the following question was deferred:

*Could the Honourable Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs inform this National Assembly as to how the \$2.247 BGD (\$10.7MUSD) allocated to the Amerindian Land Titling Project under the PPP/C Low Carbon Development Strategy was expended? How much of this was spent on demarcations and how much was spent on employment and administrative costs?

(Notice Paper No. 166 (Q 47 Opp46) published on 2018-10-03)

For Written Replies

6. **STATUS OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S CHILD MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health the following questions:

Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the following information with respect to the status of the Child Morbidity and Mortality Committee:-

- (a) The date the Members of the said Committee were appointed?
- (b) The terms of reference of the Committee?
- (c) How many times has this Committee met in the last 2 years?
- (d) Are the Regional Health Officers and the Director of Medical Services at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation required to report child morbidity and mortality data on a quarterly basis to the Committee? If not, how is this information shared with/provided to the Committee?

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- (e) How does the Committee track child morbidity and mortality cases?
- (f) Does it make scheduled visits to the health facilities in the regions to inspect and investigate any changes in the child morbidity and mortality patterns?
- (g) Does the Ministry provide adequate resources to the Committee for it to carry out its terms of reference?
- (h) Does the Committee prepare and submit quarterly or half yearly reports to the Chief Medical Officer on the status of Child morbidity and mortality in the country?
- (i) Has the Committee made any recommendations and, if so, has any been implemented?
- (j) What would you say are the most urgent recommendations the Committee has made to the Ministry?

(Notice Paper No. 156 (Q 40 Opp39) published on 2018-07-25)

ANSWERS:

- (a) “The Committee was appointed on the 1st June 2014 and reappointed on the 1st September, 2016, for the period of 2 years. The current Committee’s life is until the end of August 2018. Members are Dr. P. Mottoo, Dr. R. Jaboor, Dr. C. Bowman, Nurse Barker, Nurse L. Johnson, Dr. E. Hamilton, Dr. O. Scott together with the Secretary.
- (b) Please see **Appendix I.**
- (c) The Committee meets once every Quarter from 2014-2016 and has met twice in 2017.
- (d) Not to the Committee. The regulations require that all neonatals, under five, and maternal deaths be reported to the CMO who would share this with the various committees for review.
- (e) The CMO provides the information to the Committees.

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- (f) The MOPH (MCH Department, Regional Health Services and the CMO) will oversee the implementations and recommendations. Depending on the resources and availability, members of the Committee would accompany the MOPH team.
- (g) The Committee does not have a dedicated budget but resourced through the CMO's office and the MCH Department.
- (h) The Committee produces a report on each case investigated and submits this CMO who would then share with the respected institution.
- (i) Yes, the recommendation for improvement in infection control was implemented; ALARM and IMCI training have commenced.
- (j) The committee recommended more trained staff at the time of labour and delivery, and for the completion of the ALARM course by all Public Health Care medical doctors and nurses.”

7. **PREVENTING INFECTION LEVELS IN THE NEO-NATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION**

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health the following questions:

With respect to the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, during the period June 2017 to June 2018, could the Minister state:-

- (a) How often is scheduled testing for sterility in the NNICU done?
- (b) Were there sufficient culture bottles to identify infectious organisms?

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- (c) Were any multi-drug resistant organisms identified in the cases of sepsis and, if yes, which organisms were identified?
- (d) Was medication to combat the identified multi-drug resistant organisms and other organisms readily available? How many occasions were the medication not readily available?
- (e) Was any cause of death due to iatrogenic infection?
- (f) What organism was identified where the cause of death was due to iatrogenic infection and what methods were used to address the sterility of the unit in instances where multi-drug resistant organisms were identified?
- (g) In instances where contamination of the NNICU was detected, were the neonates moved to another sterilized area to allow for a complete disinfection and sterilization of the unit including all equipment?
- (h) In instances where the cause of death was due to iatrogenic infection and where contamination of the NNICU was detected, was any special investigation and or procedure were followed to ensure sterility of the facility and equipment before re-use?
- (i) What was the ratio of trained nurses to babies in the unit during the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (j) How many specially-trained neonatal nurses are working in the Ministry of Public Health and how many of these specially-trained nurses are working in the NNICU to deal with critically ill babies?

(Notice Paper No. 157 (Q 41 Opp40) published on 2018-07-25)

ANSWERS:

- a) “There is no Guideline at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) which stipulates that environmental sterility checks must be performed routinely. Sterility checks are performed when nosocomial organism are identified so the source(s) of transmission can be addressed.

- b) For the period June to December 2017 blood bottles were available 100% of the time; however, from January to June 2018, blood bottles were available 39.2% of the time.
- c) Yes, *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (multi-drug resistant) was isolated (19 isolates out of a total of 578 blood cultures) for the period June 2017 – June 2018.
- d) The medications listed below are/were used to treat nosocomial infections, however, in periods when these were not available other medications were used to ensure good patient outcomes.

Medications	Stockout Periods	
	2017	2018
Amikacin	September 18 - October 23	-
Imipenem	August 28 - October 5	-
Azithromycin	June to December	January 1 – January 31

- (e) It is difficult to determine the time of infection of a baby since infections in new born occurs prenatally, perinatally or postnatally. It is therefore challenging for doctors to diagnose an infection that a baby had because of the care that they received in hospital.
- (f) (a) The cause of death due to Iatrogenic infections could not be determined.
 (b) Sterility checks were conducted on equipment and surfaces when Nosocomial organisms were identified through patient cultures. Additionally, thorough cleaning with soap and water and disinfection with 1:10 hypochlorite (bleach) solutions as well as 70% alcohol was used to deter nosocomial organisms. Slides were set strategically in the NICU, tested at the GPHC laboratory and results obtained were analysed. Based on findings, appropriate actions were taken to sanitise the NICU. Cleaning was done in accordance with the GPHC Infections Control Manual and Centre of Disease Control (CDC) Guideline for Environmental Infection Control for Health Care Facility.

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(g) When nosocomial organisms were/are detected in the NICU, the neonates were/are relocated to another area, used by the hospital in cases of an emergency. The area is located on the third floor of the Old Maternity Building encompassing four rooms of which two rooms are equipped to provide ventilatory support.

(h) (a) Again, Iatrogenic infections could not be determined;

(b) However, when nosocomial organisms are/were detected, cleaning of the NICU and equipment is/was performed after the NICU was cleared of all patients. On completion sterility checks are/were carried out to confirm the cleanliness of the area.

(i) The nurse to patient ratio in the NICU is 1:4.

(j) There are sixty-nine (69) specially trained nurses working within the Ministry of Health. At the GPHC, there are twenty-one (21) trained NICU nurses working in the unit, at present.”

8. **EXAMINING THE STATUS OF THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS COUNTRYWIDE**

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., asked the Minister of Public Health the following questions:

Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the following information:-

- (a) A list of government-run Neonatal Intensive Care Units countrywide?
- (b) The number of admissions from each government-run Neonatal Intensive Care for each month during the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (c) The number of deaths and the causes of death at each government-run Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for each month during the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (d) The number of neonates referred to the NNICU at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation during the period June 2017 to 2018?

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- (e) Did the number of neonates in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit NNICU at Georgetown Public Hospital exceed the capacity of 18 during this period?
- (f) With respect to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation could the Minister state/provide:
 - (i) How many incubators and ventilators were available and working between January 2018 to June 2018?
 - (ii) How many incubators and ventilators have been added since May 11, 2015?
 - (iii) How many incubators and ventilators are operational as of July 1, 2018?
- (g) How many qualified technicians are available to repair these incubators and ventilators?
- (h) The average length of downtime of incubators and ventilators for each month for the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (i) How many incubators and ventilators are not functioning as of June 2018 in all the government-run NNICUs?
- (j) What measures has the Minister put in place to ensure that all government-run NNICUs are properly equipped and functioning?

(Notice Paper No. 158 (Q 42 Opp41) published on 2018-07-25)

ANSWERS:

- (a) “1. Government Public Hospital Corporation
2. New Amsterdam Hospital
3. Linden Hospital Complex
4. Suddie Public Hospital
5. Bartica Hospital
6. west Demerara Regional Hospital (WDRH)

- (b) Please See **Appendix II** for **Answers** to questions (b) to (j).”

9. **GUYSUCO \$30 BILLION BOND**

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., asked the Minister of Finance the following questions:

Following the announcement of a \$30 Billion loan for GUYSUCO and the lack of details of expenditure in the loan placement memorandum, could the Hon. Minister of Finance inform this National Assembly as to:

- (i) What are the plans for the use of this loan?
- (ii) Was a feasibility study done to determine the use of the loan?
- (iii) Will the plan and feasibility study be made public?
- (iv) If there is no plan why has \$30 Billion been approved?
- (v) GAWU was informed in discussions with the SPU/Government that the loan will be spent on the three (3) remaining Estates with the setting up of co-generation plants at Uitvlugt and Albion Estates and a White Sugar Plant. Have any feasibility studies and designs been done for these proposed projects?
- (vi) Will any part of these monies be used to pay pension liabilities to the sugar workers?
- (vii) Will any part of these monies be used to pay outstanding severance payments to thousands of dismissed sugar workers?

(Notice Paper No. 162 (Q 43 Opp42) published on 2018-10-03)

ANSWERS:

- (i) “The funds were secured to recapitalize Guysuco. It was agreed and determined between Nicil and the Trustee that the net proceeds from the issue of the Bonds would be applied exclusively towards financing Guysuco, in particular: to acquire two co-generation plants; to upgrade existing factories to produce plantation white sugar; to build storage and packing facilities; and to contribute to two years of general operational costs, excluding the repayment of financing cost and other debt servicing commitments to financial institutions.

- (ii) Guysuco was asked to present a plan that would make the entity viable. Guysuco presented a plan to the government for consideration. Underpinned by a 10 yr. supporting cash flow projection, the plan, for the most part, spoke to upgrading 2 plants Albion and Uitvlugt to produce plantation white sugar and generate electricity using co-generation. For both of these interventions, feasibility studies were done.
- (iii) The plan and feasibility studies can be made available at the behest of the Ministry of Agriculture and Guysuco's Board of Directors.
- (iv) There is a plan.
- (v) Feasibility studies have been done for both co-generation and plantation white sugar plants. Both studies reflect positive outcome based on current production inputs. The outcomes would improve as general efficiencies improve. Designs are available. However, it should be noted that there are limited providers of the mentioned plants; hence, the providers will provide the final designs when request for proposals are issued.
- (vi) No funds from the bond would or could be used to pay pension liabilities. It should be noted that Guysuco would have inflows from their operations; these can be used to finance this obligation.
- (vii) No funds from the bond would or could be used to meet severance payments. Such payments would be met any way of a transfer from the central government to Guysuco. The balance of the severance payment is included in a Supplementary Provision to be debated in the National Assembly.”

10. AMERINDIAN LAND TITLING

Member Asking: Mrs. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.

Minister Answering: Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Following public statements made before the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources by the Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs that no new land titles or extensions under the Amerindian Land Titling and Demarcation Project had been issued

since 2015, could the Vice-President and Minister inform this National Assembly as to the following:

- (i) How many communities that applied for titles and or extensions have been demarcated in this period?
- (ii) How many are still waiting to be demarcated in this period?
- (iii) Has the Minister been successful in obtaining an extension, and if so, for how long, to continue to access available funds under this Project?

(Notice Paper No. 167 (Q 48 Opp47) published on 2018-10-03)

ANSWERS:

- (i) “ 1 x 2015 Demarcation was completed in 2016: Batavia.
 - 3 x 2016 Demarcations were completed namely: Tuseneng , Chinoweing, and Paramakatoi.
 - In addition, Four Miles is currently in process of demarcation.
 - This is a total of 5 Demarcations being completed post – 2015.
- (ii) 10 villages have not been demarcated; consent has not been provided in these villages.
 - 32 villages have further applied for extensions to their original demarcation.
 - Approximately 6 villages have applied for recognition as village entities and to be demarcated accordingly.
 - In total 93 villages, including Four Miles, have been demarcated.

It is important to note, in respect of Demarcation that as land titling progresses, each will become more difficult and complex; this is especially given that mining concessions have been provided over time that infringe on Indigenous rights, title and interest. Further, varied community goals, land grievances from other ethnic groups, and any new land policies from GLSC will impede on the demarcation process.

- (iii) On October 5th UNDP sent an intermediate extension request for December 31st, 2018 to Mr. Bristol, Head, PMO Ministry of the Presidency to allow time for this consultation. We are awaiting response.
- Stakeholders consultation started October 11th between MOIPA, UNDP, NTC and various Indigenous NGOs. Further meetings have been discussed and planned in order to determine what will go into the request, and what each entity will do to help alleviate roadblocks. The consultation will expand to all concerned government agencies: GLSC, GGMC, GFC, and Land Registry.
 - The extension will be determined at the end of the stakeholders' consultations, including the extension timeline.
 - Stakeholder consultations are needed to reach consensus on the way forward.”

11. MAHAICA/MAHAICONY/ABARY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMA/ADA) – STATE OF ROADS

Member Asking: Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

As a result of many complaints by rice farmers about the poor state of the Farm to Market Roads in this Scheme, could the Hon. Minister of Agriculture inform this National Assembly as to:

- (a) How much subvention is the Government providing to the MMA for capital programmes in the Scheme?
- (b) Since the increase in rentals and fees in the Scheme, how many farmers are in default as they cannot afford to pay?
- (c) What forms of assistance is the Government providing for Farm and Market Access Roads in the Scheme and across the Rice Belt?

(Notice Paper No. 168 (Q 49 Opp48) published on 2018-10-04)

ANSWERS:

- a) “Over the past two years i.e 2016 and 2017 the government of Guyana through the ministry of Finance has provided the MMA/ ADA approximately three hundred and sixty-one million one hundred and sixty-eight thousand dollars for capital programmes such as Civil works, Agriculture Development and Environmental Monitoring. This year 2018 the MMA/ADA received two hundred and twenty million to construct a new Sluice at D’Edward Village WBB Surveys and Environmental Monitoring. The Sluice will cost approximately five hundred million (\$500M). It is estimated that by the end of 2018, MMA/ADA is projected to spend approximately three hundred and thirty-seven million (337M) on the Sluice.
- b) It is important that prior to 2017, Land Rent and Drainage & Irrigation charges were not increased for over 12 years. The Authority found itself in a position where the cost to maintain Drainage and Irrigation works outweigh the Charges paid by farmers, as a consequence, in 2017 Land Rent and Drainage and Irrigation charges were increased. Farmers were duly notified by way of the print media and demand notice were served on each farmer. The MMA/ADA is making all efforts to collect current as well as arrear charges. However, these efforts were stymied by the very author who is requesting answers to these questions. As a matter of fact, he was a national television of Berbice encouraging farmers not to pay the increased charges. It can be inferred that this Author is partly responsible for the high level of delinquent farmers.

Currently, out of 2346 Farmers more than 1342 farmers are delinquent with regards to payments of their charges.

Amount Outstanding by Farmers		No. of Farmers
Amount Outstanding by Farmers 2016	\$563,694,243	1632
Amount Outstanding by Farmers 2017	\$408,542,029	1526
Total	\$972,236,272	

It is therefore apparent that most of the arrears are due to land Rental and D&I charges in force prior to the increase in rates from January 1st, 2017.

- c) The MMA/ADA has 30 miles of All Weather Road and 760 miles of fair weather access that is under its responsibility for maintenance each crop. As a consequence of the rainfall throughout the seeding and harvesting seasons, all the roads have deteriorated by farmer's machinery while maintaining and harvesting their crops. This resulted in making traversing difficult and in some cases impossible in most areas. Repairs to dams during the rainy season is well-nigh impossible, this activity can only be effectively addressed during dry periods. With the short window of fair weather during the autumn crop, the MMA/ADA has procured materials valued G\$ 6.0 million (Crusher run, Loam and white sand) which is being used by the Authority for repairs to the critical sections of the All-Weather road. Also, 80 miles of fair weather access were also repaired to enable farmers to the harvest their crops.

These accesses were prepared in the Cotton Tree, Bath, Bush Lot, Lovely Lass, Golden Grove, Britannia, Onverwagt, Tempie, Chester, Union, Np.40, etc. At present the MMA/ADA is awaiting approval from NPTAB for its approval to procure Laterite, Loam and white sand to carry out repair works on the All-Weather Road, a value of the G\$11.924 million.

- (b)The government has been and continue to provide assistance to farmers in maintenance of farm and market access roads throughout the rice-growing areas. The assistance has been given through the NDIA, the Water Users Associates, the EDCs and the NDCs. See **Appendix III** for a breakdown of the assistance.”

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.10 p.m. the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.30 p.m. the Sitting was resumed.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-
PROPOSED INCREASES FOR THE BERBICE RIVER BRIDGE**

The Minister of Public Infrastructure made a statement with respect to the proposed increases for the Berbice River Bridge.

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

Local Government Elections

A request by Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, to move the adjournment of the National Assembly on a definite matter of urgent public importance to wit the Local Government Elections was disallowed by the Speaker.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

THE NURSES AND MIDWIVES BILL 2018 – Bill No. 13/2018

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the registration and regulation of nurses, midwives, nursing assistants and specialist nurses, and for related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2018 – CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance signified the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 3/2018 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$7,584,274,488 for the period 2018-01-01 to 2018-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 171 (M 118 Govt 63) published on 2018-10-19)

(Paper presented on 2018-10-18)

CURRENT ESTIMATES

05-052 – MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY-DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

6294 - Other

05-053 – MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY-PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

6294 – Other

CAPTIAL ESTIMATES

05-053 – MINISTRY OF THE PRESIDENCY – PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT

1214400 - Buildings

The following line item was put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Bharrat
 Ms. Veerasammy
 Mr. Gill
 Mr. Anamayah
 Mr. Dharamlall
 Mr. Charlie
 Mr. Damon
 Dr. Mahadeo
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Needkumar
 Mrs. Pearson- Fedricks
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Mr. Mustapha
 Ms. Selman
 Dr. Westford
 Mrs. G. Persaud
 Mr. Croal
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Dr. V. Persaud
 Mr. Seeraj
 Bishop Edghil
 Mr. Lumumba
 Mrs. Campbell- Sukhai
 Dr. Anthony
 Ms. Manickchand
 Mr. Nandlall
 Mr. Ali
 Ms. Teixeira
 Mr. Jagdeo

FOR

Mr. Rutherford
 Mr. Rajkumar
 Mr. C. Persaud
 Mr. Figueria
 Mr. Carrington
 Mr. Allen
 Mr. Adams
 Ms. Bancroft
 Ms. Wade
 Ms. Patterson
 Dr. Henry
 Ms. Broomes
 Dr. Cummings
 Mr. Sharma
 Mrs. Garrido- Lowe
 Mrs. Ferguson
 Mrs. Hastings-Williams
 Mr. Holder
 Mr. Gaskin
 Mrs. Hughes
 Mr. Patterson
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mr. Trotman
 Mr. Jordon
 Dr. Norton
 Mr. Bulkan
 Dr. Roopnarine
 Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
 Ms. Ally
 Mr. Williams
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Greenidge
 Mr. Nagamootoo

CURRENT ESTIMATES

21-211 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations

The following line item was put and carried on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Bharrat
Ms. Veerasammy
Mr. Dharamlall
Mr. Charlie
Mr. Damon
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Needkumar
Mrs. Pearson- Fedricks
Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Mustapha
Ms. Selman
Dr. Westford
Mrs. G. Persaud
Mr. Croal
Mrs. Chandarpal
Dr. V. Persaud
Mr. Seeraj
Bishop Edghil
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Campbell- Sukhai
Dr. Anthony
Ms. Manickchand
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Ali
Ms. Teixeria
Mr. Jagdeo
Mr. Rutherford
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. Gill
Mr. Anamayah
Mr.Figuera

Mr. Carrington
Mr. Allen
M Ms. Bancroft
Mr. Adams
Mr. Chand
Ms. Wade
Ms. Patterson
Dr. Henry
Ms. Broomes
Dr. Cummings
Mr. Sharma
Mrs. Garrido- Lowe
Mrs. Ferguson
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mr. Holder
Mr. Gaskin
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Patterson
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Jordon
Dr. Norton
Mr. Bulkan
Dr. Roopnarine
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Ms. Ally
Mr. Williams
Mr. C. Persaud
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Greenidge
Mr. Nagamootoo

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

21-211 – Ministry of Agriculture – Ministry Administration

2100500 – East Demerara Water Conservancy

CURRENT ESTIMATES

73-731 – REGION #3 – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

6281 Security Service

73-734 – REGION #3 – EDUCATIONAL DELIVERY

6281 Security Subsidies

6242 Maintenance of Buildings

6255 Maintenance of Other Infrastructure

73-735 – REGION #3 – HEALTH SERVICES

6281 Security Services

6242 Maintenance of Buildings

74-741 – REGION #4 – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

6281 Security Services

74-742 – REGION #4 – AGRICULTURE

6281 Security Services

74-744 – REGION #4 – EDUCATION DELIVERY

6281 Security Services

6284 Other

74-745 – REGION #4 – HEALTH SERVICES

6281 Security Services

75-755 – REGION #5 – HEALTH SERVICES

6281 Security Services

76-761 – REGION #6 – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

6281 Security Services

76-762 – REGION #6 – AGRICULTURE

6281 Security Services

76-763 – REGION #6 – PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

6281 Security Services

76-764 – REGION #6 – EDUCATION DELIVERY

6281 Security Services

76-765 – REGION #6 – HEALTH SERVICES

6281 Security Services

79-794 – REGION #9 – EDUCATION DELIVERY

6281 Security Services

79-795– REGION #9 – HEALTH SERVICES

6281 Security Services

80-801 – REGION #10 – REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

6281 Security Services

80-802 – REGION #10 – PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

6281 Security Services

80-803 – REGION #10 – EDUCATION DELIVERY

6281 Security Services

6284 Other

Presiding by Mr. John Adams, M.P.

At 8:45 p.m., while the Minister of Communities was speaking the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mr. John Adams, M.P., took the Chair.

Speaker's Return to the Chamber

At 8:47 p.m. the Speaker returned to the Chamber.

80-804 – REGION #10 – HEALTH SERVICES

6281 Security Services

CAPITAL ESTIMATES

**42-421 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
MANAGEMENT**

2511100 Local Government Commission

**42-422 – MINISTRY OF COMMUNITIES – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
MANAGEMENT**

2802100 Hinterland Water Supply

77-774 – REGION #7: CUYUNI/ MAZARUNI – HEALTH SERVICES

2601800 Furniture and Equipment- Health

78-783 – REGION #8: POTARO/ SIPARUNI – EDUCATION DELIVERY

1204400 Buildings- Education

03-031 – MINISTRY OF FINANCE – POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

3401000 Low Carbon Development Programme

4502400 Technical Assistance

25-252 – MINISTRY OF BUSINESS – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT AND PROMOTION

4503300 Industrial Development

26-261 – MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

3402600 Forest Carbon Partnership Project

31-321 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

1214800 Government Buildings

2606500 Electrification Programme

32-322 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – PUBLIC WORKS

1403900 Dredging

1404300 Road Improvement and Rehabilitation Programme

1404500 Highway Improvement – East Coast Demerara

1404800 West Demerara Highway

1404900 Rehabilitation of Public and Main Access Roads

1405200 Hinterland Roads

1501400 Sea and River Defence Works

1902800 Equipment

2700500 Reconditing of Ferry Vessels

32-333 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE – TRANSPORT

1601300 CJIA Modernisation Project

40-403 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – NURSERY EDUCATION

2607300 Early Childhood Education Project

54-541 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY– POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

1216500 Citizen Security Strengthening Programmes

54-545 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY– FIRE SERVICE

2406100 Land and Water Transport – Fire

CURRENT ESTIMATES

55-551 – SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE

6323 Constitutional Agencies

59-591 – ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

6323 Constitutional Agencies

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly doth agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

RESOLVED,

Financial Paper No. 3/2018 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$7,584,274,488 for the period 2018-01-01 to 2018-12-31.

BILL – FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

ITEM 2 – SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (No.3) BILL 2018 – Bill No.

12/2018 published on 2018-10-11

With the Leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the First Vice-President and Prime Minister, Standing Order Nos. 13(n) and 54 were suspended to enable the Supplementary Appropriation (No. 3) Bill 2018 to be introduced at this stage and to be further proceeded with at that Sitting.

On motions by the Minister of Finance, the following Bill was introduced and was read the first, second and third times and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the fiscal year ending 31st December, 2018, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly and for the appropriation of those sums for the specified purposes, in conformity with the Constitution.

DIWALI GREETINGS

At 2.25 a.m. Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P., extended Diwali Greetings to all Members, Staff of the Parliament Office, Media and Citizens of Guyana. The Speaker and Acting President joined Dr. Persaud in extending Diwali Greetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.30 a.m., on a motion by the Acting President, the Assembly was adjourned to Friday, 16th November, 2018.

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HON. DR. BARTON U.A. SCOTLAND, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.**

31st October, 2018.