

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 28TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2001-2002) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH JULY, 2002
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government (37)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

(ii) Non-elected Ministers (2)

(iii) The United Force (1)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister of Finance

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

The Hon. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

(Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

(Region No. 3 -Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and
Regional Development

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Fisheries, Other Crops and Livestock
(Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

* The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister in the Office of the
President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs

* The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., Minister of the Public Service (Absent)

The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Health

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C.L. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Members of the Opposition (30)**(i) People's National Congress/Reform (27)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent - on leave)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)

Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara) (Absent - on leave)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Ricky Khan, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent - on leave)

Miss Judith David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent - on leave)

Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)

(ii) Guyana Action Party/Working People's Alliance (2)

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Mrs. Shirley J. Melville, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Rise, Organise and Rebuild Party (1)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave:

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Bernard DeSantos for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Agriculture:

Annual Reports (2) of the Guyana Sugar Corporation for the years 1999 and 2000.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

For Written Replies

No. 1 - LAND CRUISER - PGG 8042

Question by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock:

Has the Forestry Commission ever owned or does it own a Land Cruiser vehicle number plate PGG 8042? If so, how was it utilized in each month between January, 2000 and June, 2001?

(Notice Paper No. 12 (Q4 Opp4) published 2002-05-21)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock:

Yes. The vehicle was acquired by the Guyana Forestry Commission in July 1999. It has been assigned to the Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., who has been given the responsibility by His Excellency the President for Parliamentary Representation on Forestry, and for all administrative matters involving the Sector and requiring the inputs of the Executive.

No. 2 - FOOD SHORTAGE

Question by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Amerindian Affairs:

Could the Minister say whether any Amerindian villages in Region 8 were seriously affected by food shortages during the years 2001 and 2002, inclusive? If so, please name them?

(Notice Paper No. 24 (Q14 Opp14) published 2002-06-17)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Amerindian Affairs:

There was some degree of food shortage in Region 8 during the year 2001. The communities reportedly affected were Paramakatoi, Kato, Kurukabaru, Waipa, Kamana and Chenapou. No reports on serious food shortage have been received for 2002.

No. 3 - GOLD AND DIAMOND MINERS

Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (i) How many non-Guyanese miners have received work permits and/or residency permits to operate gold and diamond mines in the interior during each year from 1990 - the present time?
- (ii) Can the Minister say how many non-Guyanese by country are living in Georgetown?
- (iii) How many non-Guyanese are engaged in gold and diamond mining activities in regions 7, 8 and 9?
- (iv) Are Amerindians consulted before gold and diamond miners are granted work/residency permits to operate in areas contiguous to their villages?
- (v) How many firearm licences have been officially issued to non-Guyanese miners, by country, in possession of Guyanese work permits between 1990 - the present time, inclusive?
- (vi) How many Amerindians have applied for a firearm licence and how many firearm licences have been issued to Amerindians specifically and Guyanese in general during the period 1990 - the present time, inclusive?

(Notice Paper No. 15 (Q7 Opp7) published 2002-05-21)

Replies submitted by the Minister of Home Affairs:

(i)	Year 1990 - November 20 to December 31	-	44
	1991	-	320
	1992	-	393
	1993	-	203
	1994	-	243
	1996	-	188
	1997	-	253
	1998	-	249
	1999	-	225
	2000	-	397
	2001	-	984
	2002 - up to May 31	-	522

(ii) It is not at this time possible for this question to be answered with any satisfactory degree of accuracy since persons change residential addresses without notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs and/or any of its constituent agencies.

(iii) It is not possible to provide accurate and up to date figures in respect of miners in the stated regions. These miners are in the habit of moving from one area to another as the shouts for gold and diamonds are announced. These are available and approximate figures from GGMC:-

Region 1	-	310
Region 7	-	368
Region 8	-	100
Region 9	-	64

8.

- (iv) Amerindians must give permission through their Captains/Touchous before a coast lander or non-national enters into a reserve area or reservation. This is also necessary with a joint venture involving Amerindian and non-nationals. Yes, there is prior consultation with Amerindians.
- (v) Brazilians - 7
Swedish - 1
American - 2
- (vi) Two hundred and eighty (280) Amerindians have applied for firearm licences, one hundred and eighteen (118) were granted approval to be issued with firearm licences.

In general, eleven thousand, one hundred and eleven (11,111) Guyanese were granted approval for firearm licences.

No. 4 - AGRICULTURAL MATTERS - REGIONS NOS. 8 AND 9

Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Agriculture :

- (i) Could the Minister provide data on the total area under cultivation and the individual areas for each specific crop under cultivation for the following villages:-

- Paramakatoi
- Monkey Mountain
- Kato
- Kurukubaru
- Chenapau
- Karisparu
- Wandaik
- Itabac
- Puwa
- Kamana

- Bamboo Landing
- Kopinang
- And in the Pakaraima area of sub-region No. 1 - Region No. 8, and in the Takutu areas of sub-region No. 1 - Region No. 9?

- (ii) Could the Minister say what provision, if any, was made during the years 1995 - 2000 for the eradication of the fern, now sweeping from the South and devastating the fragile indigenous vegetation in the Pakaraimas? If provision was made, what was the expenditure?

(Notice Paper No. 22 (Q12 Opp12) published 2002-06-17)

Replies submitted by the Minister of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture:

(i)

Communities	Type of cultivation	Crops											Total Acres	
		Citrus	Cassava	Plantain /Banana	Pumpkin	Yams	Peas	Com	Rice	Peanuts	Leafy vegetables	Seasonings		
		acres												
Paramakatoi(Bamboo Landing)	Mix cropping	50.25	402.00	35.18	10.05	40.20	45.23	50.25	75.38			5.03	0.50	714.06
Monkey Mountain	Mix cropping	13.73	109.80	13.73	9.61	10.98	12.35	13.73			1.37	2.75	0.14	188.17
Kato	Mix cropping	14.18	113.40	9.92	2.84	11.34	12.76	14.18	9.92	11.34		2.84	0.14	202.84
Kurukubaru(Puwa)	Mix cropping	20.13	161.00	14.09	4.03	16.10	18.11	20.13	40.25	16.10		2.01	0.20	312.14
Chuing Mouth	Mix cropping	2.55	25.50	1.79	0.51	2.04	2.30	2.55	1.79	2.04		0.51	0.03	41.59
Chenapau	Mix cropping	15.91	15.91	11.14	3.18	7.96	7.96	15.91	1.59	7.96		3.18	0.16	90.87
Karisparu	Mix cropping	2.63	21.00	1.05	0.53	2.10	2.36	2.63				0.53	0.03	32.84
Orinduik	Mix cropping	1.25	10.00	0.88	0.25	0.50	1.13	1.25			1.00	0.25	0.01	16.51
Itabac	Mix cropping	1.78	21.33	1.24	0.36	1.42	5.33	3.56	3.56	1.42		0.36	0.02	40.37
Maikwak	Mix cropping	1.25	10.00	0.88	0.25	1.00	1.13	1.25				0.25	0.01	16.01
Kamana	Mix cropping	4.25	34.00	2.98	0.85	3.40	2.13	4.25	2.98	3.40		0.85	0.04	59.12
Kanapang	Mix cropping	1.67	13.33	1.17	0.33	1.33	3.33	1.67	1.17	1.33		0.33	0.02	25.68
Kopinang	Mix cropping	18.55	148.40	12.99	3.71	14.84	1.86	9.28	1.86	1.86		1.86	0.19	215.37
Kaibarupai	Mix cropping	6.25	50.00	4.38	1.25	5.00	1.25	6.25	4.38	2.50		1.25	0.06	82.56
Waipa	Mix cropping	5.50	44.00	3.85	1.10	4.40	2.20	5.50	1.10	2.20		0.55	0.06	70.46
Taruka	Mix cropping	2.50	30.00	1.75	0.50	2.00	1.25	2.50	0.50	0.50		0.50	0.03	42.03
Total		162.36	1209.68	113.98	33.33	124.61	120.66	164.86	144.46	53.02		23.03	1.62	2160.61

- This is the rainy season and the total acreages are still under cultivation. Therefore, the total cultivated acreages for 2002 including total crop damage and effectiveness of pest control will only be available at the end of the rainy season.
- The figures presented for Region 8 are estimates obtained for the 2001 season (attached). Figures for the Takutu areas of sub-region 1 - Region 9 are unavailable. In the Takutu area the highest cultivation are cassava and peanuts.
- The General objective for Hinterland agriculture: To encourage agricultural development in Regions 1, 7, 8 & 9 to the extent that production does not exceed the ability of the producers to dispose of the produce within these areas.

This objective is to ensure food security and sustainability.

- (ii) The fern is secondary growth after the removal of the forest. This growth only take place in moist conditions. **There was never a complaint to the hinterland unit for the control of the fern.** The farming techniques use in the hinterland aids in natural control of the fern.

It must be noted that there are two types of ferns that are present in the farms. Both types are not problems.

No. 5 - EAST DEMERARA WATER CONSERVANCY

Questions by Mrs. Sheila Holder to the Minister of Agriculture :

- (i) In regards to the East Demerara Water Conservancy, what are the responsibilities of ?
- ◆ The Drainage and Irrigation Board.
 - ◆ The Chairman of the Drainage and Irrigation Board.

11.

- (ii) How many embankment failures occurred at the East Demerara Water Conservancy during the period 1990 - the present time, inclusive?
- (iii) How much water was lost during these failures?
- (iv) What was the value of the damage done to the affected communities on each occasion there was an embankment failure and which communities were affected?
- (v) What were the costs of the corrective works carried out on each occasion there was an embankment failure?
- (vi) What is the annual maintenance budget of the East Demerara Water Conservancy?
- (vii) Which Consulting Engineering and Civil Engineering Contracting Companies were engaged to do rehabilitation, maintenance and remedial works on the East Demerara Water Conservancy Dam during the period 1980 - the present time, inclusive?
- (viii) What were the cost to the Government treasury for the services provided by the Civil Engineering and Consulting Companies for rehabilitation, maintenance and remedial works done for the same period?
- (ix) In the Tendering process employed for the award of technical and contracting works done on the East Demerara Water Conservancy Dam, was the policy of awarding contracts to the lowest bidder employed?

(Notice Paper No. 10 (Q2 Opp2) published 2002-05-21)

Replies submitted by the Minister of Agriculture:

- (i) (a) The Drainage and Irrigation Board has no responsibility. All duties and responsibilities are vested in the East Demerara Water Conservancy Board.
- (b) The Chairman of the Drainage and Irrigation Board has no legal responsibility in regard to the East Demerara Water Conservancy.
- (ii) Three major embankment failures occurred in 2000 at Lusigana, Hope and Maduni and one in 2001 at La Bonne Mere.
- (iii) No determination was made on the amount of water lost during these breaches in the dam.
- (iv) Following the La Bonne Mere breach, the Cane Grove area was affected and the Government expended approximately \$20M as compensation to residents. The Maduni breach resulted in no community being affected. The breaches at Lusignan and Hope caused some discomfort to the affected villages and their environs due to flooding but no survey was carried out to determine the amount of losses suffered by residents.
- (v) The cost of corrective works to breaches at Maduni and Lusignan were \$31.4M and \$18.0M respectively. Repairs at Hope and La Bonne Mere were carried out within the existing contracts for works on the East Demerara Water Conservancy.
- (vi) This varies annually depending on the amount of maintenance to be carried out during the year. However, the figures for 2001 and 2002 are approximately \$30.0M and \$31.0M respectively.

- (vii) No consultancy firm was engaged during this period. The contracting firm, BK International Inc. was engaged to carry out rehabilitation work on the East Demerara Water Conservancy.
- (viii) The cost of the works carried out under contract on the East Demerara Water Conservancy and funded by the Inter-American Development Bank is \$452.7M.
- (ix) The lowest responsive bids were awarded the contracts and these awards were concurred by the Inter American Development Bank.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS -

Attack on the Office of the President on Wednesday, 3rd July, 2002

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation made the following statement on the attack and storming of the Office of the President complex on Wednesday, 3rd July, 2002:-

“ Wednesday 3rd July, 2002 marks another dark and dismal day in the history of the PNC when its organized protesters attacked and stormed the Office of the President complex with the clear objective of making an attempt on the life of His Excellency, President Bharrat Jagdeo and overthrowing the democratically elected PPP/Civic Government on the same day on which commenced the 23rd Heads of Government meeting being hosted by Guyana and at which our President was to assume the Chairmanship of CARICOM.

This act and the other acts of violence resulting in the burning down of business places, the torching of cars and assaults and robberies and other acts of violence committed on peaceful and law-abiding citizens, including law enforcement ranks have been roundly condemned by most citizens and nearly all sectors of Civil Society.

The citizens and Government of Guyana also welcomed the condemnations by CARICOM Heads and by the Governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Canada. The statements of their commitment to the preservation and protection of democratic governments such as Guyana is most welcomed and show that the era of violence, extra-parliamentary behaviour and unconstitutional acts will not be condoned by the international community. .

On behalf of all law abiding Guyanese, I wish to state our thanks and appreciation to our Security Forces for thwarting an attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government. They continue to maintain their high standard of professionalism and the carrying out of their duties under the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, we must also recollect that on May 24th, 2002 there was an attempt to blockade Parliament and deny access to those Parliamentarians who wished to attend and perform the mandate for which they were elected. We have seen that some of the individuals from the PNC/R involved in that disgraceful act were also involved in the illegal marches and the subsequent storming of the Office of the President on July 3, 2002

These actions clearly illustrate the illegal and unparliamentary and terroristic behavior and intentions of certain elements in the PNC/R, which must be opposed exposed and condemned by the entire country.

If the PNC/R is interested in contributing to the growth of our democracy and the progress and prosperity of all Guyanese then it must purge itself of such violent and disruptive tendencies. As a first gesture, the PNC/R must return to Parliament to fulfill the mandate of those who voted for that party at the March 2001 general and regional elections.

Again, I wish to applaud representatives of political groups, including several prominent PNC/R members, civil society, the international community and all law abiding Guyanese for condemning and taking a firm stand against Wednesday, July 03, 2002 acts of domestic terrorism.²⁾

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

Protest March and Storming of the Presidential Secretariat

A request by Mr. Ravi Dev to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the protest march and storming of the Presidential Secretariat on Wednesday, 3rd July, 2002 was allowed.

The motion accordingly stood over to 4.30 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - ACCESS TO THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE

Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following motion and amendment:

Motion

WHEREAS many citizens of Guyana with great sacrifice acquire title to land for their domestic security or as an economic investment; and

WHEREAS immovable property can be fraudulently transferred by means of forgery of documents or false claims; and

WHEREAS all such dealings in land are required to be advertised in the Official Gazette which, although published weekly, is not easily accessible to the general public who are likely to be affected by any fraudulent transactions.

BE IT RESOLVED that this National Assembly urge the administration to take immediate steps to ensure that the public have easy, timely and unhindered access to the Gazette at all Post Offices, Regional Offices, Magistrates Courts and other public places and by purchase from governmental agencies and bookstores.

(Notice Paper No. 17 (M9 Opp2) published 2002-05-21)

Amendment

Deletion of the word "all" in line 3 of the Resolve clause.

The motion and amendment were seconded by Mrs. Shirley Melville.

17.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, Mrs. Sheila Holder replied.

The motion with the amendment by Mrs. Sheila Holder were then put and carried.

ITEM 2 - INCREASE IN TARIFF RATES - GUYANA POWER & LIGHT CO. (G.P.L.)

Mrs. Sheila Holder moved the following motion:

Motion

WHEREAS the supply of electricity is an essential service for the well being of citizens of Guyana as far as their social, economic and environmental development are concerned;

AND WHEREAS the public utility, the Guyana Power & Light Co. (G.P.L.) is a monopoly operating in circumstances where there is no fixing of rates by a regulatory authority;

AND WHEREAS as a consequence there is no process for the containment of G.P.L.'s monopolistic market control.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly disapproves the recent increase tariff rates by the Guyana Power & Light Co.

(Notice Paper No. 25 (M11 Opp3) published 2002-06-17)

18.

The following amendment by the Prime Minister was agreed to:

Deletion of all the words from the beginning of the second WHEREAS clause to the end of the motion and the substitution therefor of the following:

“AND WHEREAS every consumer has a right to self generate, and the utility is required to consider proposals from others to meet its projected generation needs but the utility has the monopoly to market electricity to the public;

AND WHEREAS the Government recognizing the need for the sustainability of the utility to be assured, put in place a certain and transparent procedure for the annual review of rates to satisfy the needs of an efficiently and effectively run utility’

AND WHEREAS the Government has expressed its dissatisfaction with any rate increase resulting from poor performance of the utility:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urge the Public Utilities Commission to examine and remedy issues of non performance on the part of the utility.”

The motion as amended was seconded by Mrs. Shirley Melville.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Prime Minister

Mrs. Shirley Melville

Thereafter, Mrs. Sheila Holder replied.

The motion as amended was then put and carried.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.05 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-

Protest March and Storming of the Presidential Secretariat

In accordance with the permission granted earlier, Mr. Ravi Dev moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the question of the protest march and storming of the Presidential Secretariat.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Health

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Presiding by Mrs. Shirley Edwards

While the Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation was speaking to the motion, the Speaker withdrew from the Chamber and Mrs. Shirley Edwards presided during his absence.

Return of the Speaker

While the Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation was still speaking, the Speaker return to the Chamber.

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Shirley Melville

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

The Minister of Home Affairs

Thereafter, Mr. Ravi Dev replied.

The discussion on the matter was then concluded.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.09 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



HARI N. RAMKARRAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

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

10th July, 2002.