

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 24TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1994) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 1994

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the
National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (43)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home
Affairs (Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the
Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional
Development

*The Hon. Asgar Ally, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister
of Education and Cultural Development

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

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour,
Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign
Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade,
Tourism and Industry (Absent)

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Agriculture

-The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office
of the President

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Finance

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*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
~~Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.~~
~~Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.~~
~~Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.~~
~~Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.~~
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
~~Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)~~
~~Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.~~
 Mr. Alston A. Kisson, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
~~Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.~~
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic
 Organs)
~~Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No.2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)~~
~~Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)~~
~~Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)~~
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
 Essequibo) (Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P. a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
 Mr. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National
 Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
 Mrs. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, 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

(i) New Year Wishes

The Speaker welcomed Members and extended best wishes for 1994.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members for that day's sitting:-

Dr. Hughley Hanoman

Mr. Sase Narain

and

Mrs. Jennifer Ferreira.

(iii) Welcome to Dr. Clive Thomas

The Speaker welcomed back to the Assembly and extended good wishes to Dr. Clive Thomas who was ill and had been hospitalised in Guyana and in the United States of America.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

(i) Minimum Wages (Employees in Groceries) (Amendment) Order 1993 (No. 24), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Cap. 98:01, on 1st November, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 27th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

(ii) Minimum Wages (Employees in Hardware Stores) (Amendment) Order 1993 (No. 25), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Cap. 98:01, on 1st November, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 27th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

(iii) Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) (Minimum Rates of Wages) Order 1993 (No. 26), made under section 3(1) of the Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) Act 1978 on 1st November, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 27th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

(iv) Minimum Wages (Watchmen) (Amendment) Order 1993 (No. 27), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Cap. 98:01, on 1st November, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 27th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

(v) Minimum Wages (Employees in Drug Stores) (Amendment) Order 1993 (No. 28), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Cap. 98:01, on 1st November, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 27th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Minimum Wages (Employees in Dry Goods Stores) (Amendment) Order 1993 (No. 29), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Cap. 98:01, on 1st November, 1993, and published in the Gazette on 27th November, 1993.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTION NO. 5 - EMOLUMENTS OF MRS. JANET JAGAN, O.E., M.P., AS AMBASSADOR, ETC.

By Mrs. Clarrisa Riehl:

Will the Minister say what are the emoluments, allowances, out-of-pocket expenses and other financial terms and conditions attaching to the appointment of Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., as Ambassador-at-large and, also, to her temporary appointment at the Guyana Permanent Mission to the United Nations?

Written reply by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Mrs. Janet Jagan was temporarily assigned to Guyana's Mission to the United Nations in New York for the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, to assist Ambassador Insanally in his duties at the Mission during his period as President of the Assembly.

Mrs. Jagan assumed duty with effect from October 11, 1993. Her tour of duty ended on December 23, 1993.

There were no emoluments or salary attached to the said assignment, but Mrs. Jagan was given the sum of US\$25 per day as out-of-pocket expenses and a Meal Allowance of US\$15 per day in keeping with Cabinet's decision relating to public officers travelling abroad on official business. Mrs. Jagan occupied a 1 bedroom unit with utilities. She received no other allowances. Mrs. Jagan paid for her personal telephone calls.

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INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 - Bill No. 1/1994 published 8.1.94

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act and the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Act to vest the power to supply water to the City of Georgetown in the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners and to make the Commissioners an autonomous body.

- (2) GUYANA GOLD BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1994 - Bill No. 2/1994

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Gold Board Act 1981.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Bills - Second and Third Readings

- ITEM 1 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1993 - Bill No. 24/1993 published 18.12.93

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.
(Read a first time on 11.11.93)

Mr. Winston Murray, Dr. Clive Thomas and Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

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ITEM 2 - MUNICIPAL COUNCILS (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL 1993 -
Bill No. 29/1993 published 30.12.93

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make certain provisions in view of the delay in the holding of elections to the City Council for Georgetown and town councils.

(Read a first time on 30.12.93)

To the question "That the Bill be now read a second time," Dr. Patrick McKenzie moved the following amendment:-

Deletion of all the words after the word "That" and Addition of the following words:-

"the Bill be rejected by the National Assembly on the grounds that it is undemocratic and seeks to deprive the citizens of Georgetown of the long standing right to elect their City Council".

Mr. Robert Corbin seconded the amendment.

Dr. Clive Thomas and the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) spoke on the amendment.

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

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Peters	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Fredericks	Mr. Williams
Miss Brouet	Dr. Thomas
Miss Richards	Mr. Ramrattan
Mr. Hukumchand	Mr. Ramdass
Mr. Gouveia	Mr. Paul
Mr. Bynoe	Mr. DeSouza
Mr. Tyndall	Mr. Baldeo
Mr. Ahamad	Mr. Bacchus
Mr. Subnauth	Mr. DaSilva
Mr. Barrow	Mr. Gilbert
Mr. Ng-See-Quan	Mr. Zephyr
Mr. Alexander	Mrs. Sukhai
Miss Persico	Mr. Rodney
Miss Ally	Mr. Ramotar
Dr. Harding	Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Bernard	Dr. Lall
Mrs. Riehl	Mr. Kissoon
Dr. McKenzie	Mrs. James
Mr. Murray	Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Corbin	Mr. Chand
Mr. Hoyte	Mr. Baksh
	Mr. <u>Husman Alli</u>

FOR	<u>AGAINST</u>
B/F 22	23
	Mr. Fazil Ali
	Mr. Belgrave
	Mr. Nagamootoo
	Mrs. Chandarpal
	Mr. Collymore
	Mrs. Jagan
	Miss Teixeira
	Mr. Rohee
	Mr. Nokta
	Mr. Mohamed
	Mr. Persaud
	Mr. Hinds
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Total 22	Total 35
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Mr. Robert Corbin was speaking to the motion for the second reading of the Bill when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

Mr. Robert Corbin continued and concluded his speech. The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Alston Kissoon
 Mr. Arthur Alexander
 Dr. Clive Thomas
 The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe
 Mr. Cyril Belgrave
 Mr. Manzoor Nadir
 Mr. Moses Nagamootoo.
 The Minority Leader
 The Senior Minister of Agriculture
 (Leader of the House),

The motion for the second reading of the Bill was put and carried on the following division:

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FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Ramrattan	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Williams
Mr. Paul	Dr. Thomas
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Peters
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Bacchus	Miss Brouet
Mr. DaSilva	Miss Richards
Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. Gouveia
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Tyndall
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Ng-See-Quan
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Alexander
Dr. Lall	Dr. Harding
Mr. Kissoon	Mrs. Riehl
Mrs. James	Dr. McKenzie
Mrs. Edwards	Mr. Corbin
Mr. Chand	Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Baksh	
Mr. Husman Alli	
Mr. Fazil Ali	
Mr. Belgrave	
Mr. Nagamootoo	
Mrs. Chandarpal	
Mr. Collymore	
Miss Teixeira	
Mr. Rohee	
Mr. Nokta	
Mr. Mohamed	
Mr. Persaud	
Mr. Hinds	
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Total 31	Total 18
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The Bill was then read a second time.
 Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider
 the Bill clause by clause.

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In Committee

Clause 1

The following amendment by the Prime Minister was put and carried:

Substitution of the words "Act 1994" for the words "Bill 1993", in the second line.

Clause 1 was then passed as amended.

Clause 2 was passed as printed.

Clause 3

The Prime Minister moved the following amendment:

Substitution for the words "whichever is earlier; or" of the following:-

"whichever is earlier:

Provided that the Minister may, where it appears to him expedient so to do at any time before the aforesaid dates, by order, which shall be subject to negative resolution of the National Assembly, dissolve any town council; or".

Dr. Clive Thomas moved the following amendments:-

Deletion of paragraphs (a) and (b).

Deletion of the letter "(c)" in paragraph (c). For the numerals "(i)" and "(ii)" in paragraph (c) as printed, substitution of the letters "(a)" and "(b)".

For the words "council is" in the first line of paragraph (c) as printed, substitution of the words "and town councils are".

For the word "council" in the second line of paragraph (c) as printed, substitution of the words "and town councils".

Insertion of the words "or town" between the words "city" and "councillors" in the first line of paragraph (c)(ii) as printed.

For the word "council" in the last line of paragraph (c)(ii) as printed,, substitution of the words "or town councils".

The amendments by Dr. Clive Thomas were put and negatived.

The amendment by the Prime Minister was put and carried on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Ramrattan	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Williams
Mr. Paul	Dr. Thomas
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Peters
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Bacchus	Miss Brouet
Mr. DaSilva	Miss Richards
Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. Gouveia
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Tyndall
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Ng-See-Quan
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Alexander
Dr. Lall	Dr. Harding
Mr. Kissoon	Mrs. Riehl
Mrs. James	Dr. McKenzie
Mrs. Edwards	Mr. Corbin
Mr. Chand	Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Baksh	
Mr. Husman Alli	
Mr. Fazil Ali	
Mr. Belgrave	
Mr. Nagamootoo	
Mrs. Chandarpal	
Mr. Collymore	
Miss Teixeira	
Mr. Rohee	
Mr. Nokta	
Mr. Mohamed	
Mr. Persaud	
Mr. Hinds	

Total 31

Total 18

Clause 3 was then passed as amended, on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Ramrattan	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Williams
Mr. Paul	Dr. Thomas
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Peters
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Bacchus	Miss Brouet
Mr. DaSilva	Miss Richards
Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. Gouveia
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Tyndall
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Ng-See-Quan
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Alexander
Dr. Lall	Dr. Harding
Mr. Kissoon	Mrs. Riehl
Mrs. James	Dr. McKenzie
Mrs. Edwards	Mr. Corbin
Mr. Chand	Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Baksh	
Mr. Husman Alli	
Mr. Fazil Ali	
Mr. Belgrave	
Mr. Nagamootoo	
Mrs. Chandarpal	
Mr. Collymore	
Miss Teixeira	
Mr. Rohee	
Mr. Nokta	
Mr. Mohamed	
Mr. Persaud	
Mr. Hinds	
Total 31	Total 18

Clause 4

Dr. Clive Thomas moved the following amendment:-

Deletion of the words "to be appointed by the Minister by order and" in the seventh and eight lines of subsection (1).

The amendment was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Ramrattan	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Williams
Mr. Paul	Dr. Thomas
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Peters
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Bacchus	Miss Brouet
Mr. DaSilva	Miss Richards
Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. Gouveia
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Tyndall
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Ng-See-Quan
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Alexander
Dr. Lall	Dr. Harding
Mr. Kissoon	Mrs. Riehl
Mrs. James	Dr. McKenzie
Mrs. Edwards	Mr. Corbin
Mr. Chand	Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Baksh	
Mr. Husman Alli	
Mr. Fazil Ali	
Mr. Belgrave	
Mr. Nagamootoo	
Mrs. Chandarpal	
Mr. Collymore	
Miss Teixeira	
Mr. Rohee	
Mr. Nokta	
Mr. Mohamed	
Mr. Persaud	
Mr. Hinds	

Total 31

Total 18

The following amendment by the Prime Minister was put and carried:

Deletion of subsection (2) and Re-numbering of subsection (3) as subsection (2).

Clause 4 was then passed as amended, on the following division:

FOR	AGAINST
Mr. Ramrattan	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Williams
Mr. Paul	Dr. Thomas
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Peters
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Bacchus	Miss Brouet
Mr. DaSilva	Miss Richards
Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. Gouveia
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Tyndall
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Ng-See-Quan
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Alexander
Dr. Lall	Dr. Harding
Mr. Kissoon	Mrs. Riehl
Mrs. James	Dr. McKenzie
Mrs. Edwards	Mr. Corbin
Mr. Chand	Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Baksh	
Mr. Husman Alli	
Mr. Fazil Ali	
Mr. Belgrave	
Mr. Nagamootoo	
Mrs. Chandarpal	
Mr. Collymore	
Miss Teixeira	
Mr. Rohee	
Mr. Nokta	
Mr. Mohamed	
Mr. Persaud	
Mr. Hinds	

Total 31

Total 18

Clause 5 was passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended, on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Ramrattan	Mr. Nadir
Mr. Ramdass	Mr. Williams
Mr. Paul	Dr. Thomas
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Peters
Mr. Baldeo	Mr. Fredericks
Mr. Bacchus	Miss Brouet
Mr. DaSilva	Miss Richards
Mr. Gilbert	Mr. Hukumchand
Mr. Zephyr	Mr. Gouveia
Mrs. Sukhai	Mr. Bynoe
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Tyndall
Mr. Ramotar	Mr. Ng-See-Quan
Mr. Ramjattan	Mr. Alexander
Dr. Lall	Dr. Harding
Mr. Kissoon	Mrs. Riehl
Mrs. James	Dr. McKenzie
Mrs. Edwards	Mr. Corbin
Mr. Chand	Mr. Hoyte
Mr. Baksh	
Mr. Husman Alli	
Mr. Fazil Ali	
Mr. Belgrave	
Mr. Nagamootoo	
Mrs. Chandarpal	
Mr. Collymore	
Miss Teixeira	
Mr. Rohee	
Mr. Nokta	
Mr. Mohamed	
Mr. Persaud	
Mr. Hinds	
Total <u>31</u>	Total <u>18</u>

ITEM 3 - GUYANA AND TRINIDAD MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1993 - Bill No. 23/1993 published 30.10.93, 6.11.93
and 13.11.93

On a motion by Dr. Moti Lall, the Private Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company Ordinance was read a second time and was thereafter taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.39 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



E.V. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

13th January, 1994.