

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE FIRST SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA
UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE RE-
PUBLIC OF GUYANA**

Part 1

13TH SITTING

14:00H

Wednesday, 04th July, 2001

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 - People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P. - *Prime Minister and Minister of
Public Works and Communications
(Absent - performing the functions of
the Office of President)*

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

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

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*

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*

Mr Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P. - *Minister of Agriculture (Region No.4
Demerara/Mahaica)*

The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P. - *Minister of Home Affair (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 Collymore, M.P. - *Minister in the Ministry of Local
Government and Regional
Development*

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<i>The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P.</i>	- Minister of Fisheries, other Crops and Livestock (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
<i>*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,</i>	- Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent -on Leave)
<i>*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P.,</i>	- Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)
<i>The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.,</i>	- Minister of Public Service
<i>The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M. P.</i>	- Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
<i>The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P.,</i>	- Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/ West Demerara
<i>** The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M. P.,</i>	- Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce
<i>The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P.</i>	- Minister of Amerindian Affairs
<i>The Hon. Dr Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.</i>	- Minister of Health
<i>Mr S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P.</i>	- Chief Whip
<i>Mr Cyril C. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M. P.</i>	- (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica).
<i>Mr Donald Ramotar, M. P.</i>	
<i>Mr Husman Alli, J.P., M.P.</i>	- (Region No.7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
<i>Mr Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.</i>	
<i>Mrs Indranie Chandarpal, M.P</i>	
<i>Mr Bernard C. De Santos, S.C., M.P.</i>	- (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)
<i>Mrs Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.</i>	
<i>Mr Odinga N. Lumumba, M. P.</i>	
<i>Mr Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P.</i>	- (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/ Supernaam)
<i>Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P.</i>	- (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne)
<i>Mr Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P.</i>	
<i>Mr Kemraj Ramjattan, M.P.</i>	- (Region No.6 - East Berbice/ Corentyne)
<i>Mr Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P..</i>	
<i>Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.</i>	- Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Water
<i>Mrs Pauline R. Sukhai, M. P.</i>	- (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Opposition (30)

(i) People's National Congress (27)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.

-Leader of the Opposition
(Absent - on Leave)

Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

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Mr Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M. P. - Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Mr E. Lance Carberry, M.P. - (Absent)
Mr Ivor Allen, M. P. - (Region No. 2- Pomeroon
Supernaam)(Absent - on Leave)

Mrs Deborah J. Backer, M. P.
Mr Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
Mr C Stanley Ming, M.P.
Mr Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. - (Absent)
Mr Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/
Mahaica)

Mr Andy Gouveia, M.P.
Ms Volda A. Lawrence, M. P. - (Absent -on Leave)
Dr Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.
Miss Amna Ally, M.P. - (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Ms Sandra M. Adams, M.P. - (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice)

Mr Jerome Khan, M.P. - (Absent-on Leave)
Dr George A. Norton, M.P.
Miss Myrna E.N. Peterkin, M.P. - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Mr James K. Mc Allister, M.P. - (Region No.3 - Essequibo Islands/
WestDemerara)

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor, M.P. - (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica
Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P. M.P. - (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice)

Mr Ricky Khan, M.P. - (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. - (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. - Region No. 6 - East Berbice/
Corentyne)

Miss Judith David, M.P. - (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. - (Region No.4 - Demerara/
Mahaica)

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

Mrs Shelia V.A. Holder, M.P.
Mrs Shirley J. Melville, M.P. - (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu
UpperEssequibo)

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

Mr Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr Frank A. Narain, C.C.H. - Clerk of the National Assembly
Mr Sherlock E. Isaacs - Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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PRAYER

The Clerk read the Prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

Hon Members, leave has been granted to the Hon Minister, Mr Clement J Rohee, Mr H Desmond Hoyte and Mrs Volda A Lawrence for today's sitting; and Mr Jerome Khan up to the 18th July, 2001

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar, Minister of Finance.

Statement of the withdrawals of sums from the Consolidated Fund for the period January to June, 2001, totalling \$20,897,190,000, authorised in accordance with article 219 (3) of the Constitution and which have been incorporated for approval by the National Assembly, in the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2001, and for inclusion in the Appropriation Bill.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2001

The Speaker: The Assembly will now resolve itself into Committee of Supply to resume consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2001.

Assembly in Committee

The Chairman: Hon. Members, we are now in Committee of Supply. I ask you to turn to the Second Day, if you have your Schedule before you, Pages 62 and 63.

AGENCY 05 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PROGRAMME 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$8,317,000 for Agency 05 - Ministry of Local Government, Programme 1 - Main Office - stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Agency 5, Programme 1, Acct Code 203, I wish to ask the Hon Minister, to give the reason for the decrease in benefits and allowances from \$142,000 to \$25,000?

Mr Chairman, under the same Agency, the same Programme, Acct Code 172, I seek an explanation for the reason why there are no electricity charges provided for?

The Chairman: Any other questions?

The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, question No. 1, the former PS is not in the Ministry and allowances are not scheduled any longer.

Concerning electricity, the building is owned by Public Works and electricity charges go to that Agency.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

Agency 05 - Ministry of Local Government, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$8,317,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the

Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 98 and 99, please.

AGENCY13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMME 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,742,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 1 - Main Office - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$7,742,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 64 and 65, please.

AGENCY 05 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PROGRAMME 2 - Ministry Administration.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,230,000 for Agency 05 - Ministry of Local Government, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Yes, Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, through you, I would like to ask the following questions under Agency 5, Programme 2:

1. Acct Code 101 - I would like to ask of the Hon Minister to explain the reasons for the decrease from \$893,000 to \$566,000, particularly in view of the fact that the number of filled positions has remained the same, that is, under Staffing Details the number of positions there is two.

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2. I would like to ask the Hon Minister to explain the reason for the sum provided for contracted employees under Acct Code 106, I would like some information on the levels of these employees, what areas they are involved in, what is the nature of their skills?

Under Acct Code 201, I would also like some information on the actual areas in which the \$167,000 is expended under direct labour cost?

I would also like to be advised of the relationship between Acct Code 104 - Clerical and Office Support - where we have eighteen persons, Senior Technical and Administrative as well as Other Technical and Craft Skilled who, in all, totalled, five. The question is, how do we justify Clerical and Office Support, eighteen; in relation to Administrative, Senior Technical, Other Technical and Craft Skilled, which are only five? What we have, in fact, are those who are supposed to be generating the work, five, and those who are doing the work generated by those five are eighteen. I would like to have that ratio of five to eighteen explained in this instance?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Minister.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 101 - Administrative - this amount is budgeted only for half of the year because, if you notice, the full amount is reflected on pages 100 and 101 Programme 2, Agency 13.

Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - that amounts to \$109,000 which reflected for half of the period, January to May, and the remainder is reflected on pages 100 and 101.

Acct Code 105 - Semi Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - the same thing is reflected on pages 100 and 101.

You see, Mr Chairman, it was a change of programme, formerly

Ministry of Local Government and now it is Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, by way of a supplementary question, I have asked to be advised about the contracted employees, what are the areas of operations, who are in fact these contracted employees in terms of titles or job designations? I have also asked for some indications of Acct Code 201 - under Direct Labour Cost - what specific labour cost are we referring to?

Mr Chairman, I am still to get the response to the question of the justification for the ratio of five to eighteen, five representing Administrative, Senior Technical, Other Technical and Craft Skilled - five persons - and those are the persons who will obviously generate work in the Ministry, while we have eighteen persons, Clerical and Office Support. My question is, how do we justify that ratio of eighteen Clerical and Office Support persons working in support of only five persons?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - just one driver, who was employed not very long ago.

Secondly, Other Direct Labour Costs. This is for acting allowances for two staff members only and there are vacancies and that is the reason why this has been reduced in the Ministry.

Agency 05 - Ministry of Local Government, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$6,230,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 100 and 101, please.

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMME 2 - Ministry Administration

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$8,898,000 for Agency 13: - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Agency 13 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 2 -Ministry Administration - \$8,898,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 66 and 67, please.

AGENCY 05 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PROGRAMME 3 - Regional Development.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$28, 095,000 for Agency 05 - Ministry of Local Government, Programme 3 - Regional Development - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I wish to ask for some explanation as to the reason for the decrease in staff from an authorised of seventeen to three and this is under the Staffing Details COA 101 to 107?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there are three REOs and one Principal REO and three PRDOs. Those are the people who have been recruited and employed, those positions were vacant.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, as I understand it, the REOs are Regional Executive Officers. We have ten Regions. I am now told that the provision here is for three REOs. May I be advised what is the position with the remaining seven Regions?

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Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, we have established Regional Development Officers (RDO), they are in the ten Regions and the three REOs are employed on contracts.

Mr Vincent L. Alexander: Mr Chairman, may I be advised of the difference between REOs and RDOs referred to just now? May I also be advised where I can find the allocation for these RDOs since it is seven and the three here represents the allocation for the REOs?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, the three PRDOs are employed by the Ministry under contract, one serves in Region 1, and Region 3. The ten REOs are in the Regions, three Principal Regional Development Officers are in the Ministry of Public Works, and ten Regional Development Officers in the ten Regions.

The Chairman: Hon Minister, where can the allocation for the REOs be found? I think that is the question.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, these positions are now vacant. We are hoping to fill them, but we are constrained by directives since the increase of salaries.

The Chairman: Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Can I ask a supplementary question? Is it anticipated by the Minister that these vacancies will be advertised so that they can be filled between now and the end of the year since there are monies allocated here already?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, we are anticipating that this will be done.

Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl: May I ask one question, is the Hon. Minister saying that the RDOs will now replace the REOs and if not, why do we have ten Regional Development Officers and only three Regional Executive Officers? That is what we want to understand.

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, it is the other way around. We have ten Regional Executive Officers (REO). Seven are in the Regions, the three Regional Executive Officers are new employees.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, if indeed we have ten REOs, my question is, where in the structure do we locate the RDOs who are being referred to, that is one.

Secondly, the Hon Minister made reference to the Ministry of Public Works. My understanding is, and if I am wrong, I stand corrected, that we are dealing with the Agency file, the Ministry of Local Development and therefore I do not understand how they can have an answer to a question under this head, which is derived from the head for Public Works.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, The RDOs are in the Ministry, we have three of them, they are paid through the Ministry. The REOs are under Acct Code 111.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I seek some clarification under the Acct Code 204 - National Insurance - where there is a reduction from \$2.125 million to \$744,000, specifically as it relates to the Staffing Details, whereby in the year 2001 there was a total of three persons and in the year 2000 three positions were filled. So I seek some clarification on the reduction of National Insurance Payments as it relates directly to employees.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the rest of the NIS payment is reflected in pages 102 and 103.

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Agency 05 - Ministry of Local Government, Programme 3 - Regional Development - \$28,095,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 102 and 103, please.

AGENCY 13 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMME 3 - Regional Development

Question is proposed that the sum of \$39,208,000 for Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 3 - Regional Development - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

Agency 13 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Programme 3 - Regional Development - \$39,208,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 485

DIVISION 522 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$595,434,000 for Division 522 - Ministry of Local Government - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to be advised under Division 522, Project Code 19005, of the sum stated, how much of this sum is intended for the NDCs as opposed to how much is intended for the six Municipalities and more specifically, how much is intended for each of the Municipalities?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, sixty-five Neighbour-

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hood Councils, \$3 million each; six Municipalities \$55 million and \$4 million for emergency works should there be any emergency at the sixty-five Neighbourhood Councils or at the municipal level.

Concerning infrastructure development \$25 million, that is, to build a farmers' stelling at Charity, construction of a guest house at Annai, two Community Centres at Bath and Parika. The detailed breakdown in the Municipalities will be as follows:

Georgetown	-	\$16 million
Linden	-	\$9 million
New Amsterdam	-	\$7 million
Rose Hall	-	\$6 million
Anna Regina	-	\$6 million
Corriverton	-	\$6 million

The Chairman: Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I wish to be advised because of the fact that for years, we have been trying to obtain an objective method in determining the quantity of subvention given to each Municipality. I wish to be advised as to what objective method has been used by the Minister to determine the levels of allocation to each Municipality.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Municipalities are supposed to be self-sustainable. This is a subvention and based on the subvention from the Ministry of Finance, that is how it is projected.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, my question has been unanswered because specifically I requested what criteria, what objective method was used by the Minister to determine quantitatively the levels of

allocation to each Municipality.

The Chairman: I regard that as a supplementary question. There is no question that your question is not answered so I regard that as a supplementary question.

The Hon Minister.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, each Municipality is requested to submit a programme of their work, based on their programme, that is how the allocation is made.

The Chairman: Any other questions? Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, from the best of my understanding, I know that Municipalities are informed of the level of the subvention that they will be given and they submit a programme according to that figure that they have been informed about.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Kadir, that is a debating issue, that is not a question.

Yes, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, the Minister has informed us that Municipalities are allocated sums based on their submissions. May I ask for some indication of the relationship between those submissions and the actual sums which have been allocated?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, that is based on the quantum of money available to the Ministry of Finance.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

Division 522 - Ministry of Local Government - \$595,434,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 491.

DIVISION 527 - MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$685,859,000 for Division 527 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to be advised of the breakdown under Project Code 19003 - Civil Works - in relation to the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the six Municipalities. I wish he may advise on the specific breakdown of the infrastructure which will be dealt with under this head.

The Chairman: The question relates to the amount of money to be spent or the type of work?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: The question is related to the various activities under the head and the amount of monies against the activities?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, it is Urban Development Programme US \$20 million from the IDB and G \$25 million from the Government of Guyana.

The Chairman: Could you say what are the works to be performed?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: The works to be performed are the building of six Municipal Markets - Corriverton, Rose Hall, New Amsterdam, Anna Regina, Wismar and Georgetown. Contracts have already been awarded and work is in progress.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I wish to be advised by the Minister, that in examining the Civil Works \$485 million as against Consultancy \$84.462 million and Design and Supervision being \$49 mil-

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lion, that gives us approximately a thirty per cent cost for free and post contract work. I wish to be advised by the Minister what percentage is being used to determine consultancy work?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, management and consultancy fees are negotiated by the Government and the IDB.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under the said Project Code 19003, under Project Profiles, it is indicated that the project is intended to do reconstruction of Norton and Robb Streets. My specific question, with reference here to Norton Street: Is it the whole of Norton Street from George to Mandela Avenue or is it just a part of Norton Street?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, from Mandela Avenue to Louisa Row. In addition, if there are savings then we will extend.

Division 527 - Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development - \$685,859,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 302 and 303, please.

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$38,887,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$38,887,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Pages 304 and 305, please.

**AGENCY 71 - REGION 1 - BARIMA/WAINI, PROGRAMME
2 - Agriculture**

**Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,906,000 for Agency 71 -
Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part
of the Estimates.**

Any Questions?

Mr Khan.

Mr Ricky Khan: Mr Chairman, can the Hon. Minister give us a
break down of the money allocated to the different sub-regions?

The Chairman: Hon Minister, can you answer the question?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is no direct break-
down, the whole Region is catered for and is provided for in ac-
cordance with the headings Agriculture, Health, Education, Admin-
istration and so forth.

The Chairman: Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: A supplementary question: In Region 1, you
have the Matarkai Sub-region in which you will have Moruca,
Matthews Ridge, Port Kaituma and Mabaruma. I think the question
the Member asked just now was a pertinent question, because one
has to be clear as to the allocation for a Sub-region and the question
was pretty specific. The amount of monies allocated for agriculture
since Region 1 has that peculiarity of being divided into sub-re-
gions.

The Chairman: Thank you, Dr Joseph, the Minister answered the
question.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, he is not asking any ques-

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tion under any sub- head, nevertheless it is one region, one administration, the monies allocated are for the entire region and all the sub-regions are covered.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$4,096,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 306 and 307, please.

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$66,737,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$66,737,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 308 and 309, please.

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$203,209,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Khan

Mr Ricky Khan: Mr Chairman, a phenomenal increase in the Security Services under Acct Code 181.

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The Chairman: Hon Minister, the question is what accounts for that increase?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, all the Security Services are now contracted out and all are being shifted to Acct Code 181.

Mr Ricky Khan: Mr Chairman, to what service, private or to whom?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the unions form the security services and this is now under contract.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$203,209,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 310 and 311.

AGENCY 71 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$94,582,000 for Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Khan.

Mr Ricky Khan: Under Acct Code 121 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - there is a decrease by fifty per cent from \$10,120,000 in 2000 to \$5,630,000 in 2001.

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Central Georgetown, Ministry of Health supplies the rest of the medical supplies.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question,

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is this a change in policy or isn't it the case that the status has remained? If the status has remained, the commission of wide decrease from what was provided for last year and what is provided for this year still stands?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I don't know if it is a policy of the Ministry of Health, but we are advised the shortfall will be met by the Ministry of Health and that is why you have this difference.

Agency 71 - Region 1: Barima/Waini, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$94,582,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 494, please.

DIVISION 531 - REGION 1: BARIMA/WAINI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$76,675,000 for Division 531 - Region 1: Barima/Waini - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions?

Division 531 - Region 1: Barima Waini - \$76,675,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 316 and 317, please.

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,691,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 1 -

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Regional Administration and Finance - \$56,691,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 318 and 319, please.

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$69,988,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, COA 107, I wish to inquire of the temporary employees, which categories do they fall into?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 105, there is an increase from \$13, 602,000 to \$17,147,000 for Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled, but the Staffing Details on page 319 shows no increase in staff. Could the Hon Minister answer why is there such increase in that category?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 107 - Temporary Employees relates to Cleaners, Office Assistants and Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled. The amount reflected is due to the twenty-six and a half per cent increase in salary.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$69,988,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 320 and 321, please.

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AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$52,823,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$52,823,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 322 and 323, please.

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$496,563,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Alexander

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 155 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Minister indicate which other infrastructure, what specifically is intended to be catered for under this head?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, fencing of drains in the land development areas.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question, I am referring to Agency 72, Programme 4 - Education Delivery, but the answer I received deals with land settlement. I am not quite sure whether I have mis-heard or whether in fact under Education Delivery,

there is provision for land settlement.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I answered the question to Acct Code 155 - Maintenance of Other infrastructure - and that it what it means.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Am I to take it that notwithstanding the fact that the programme in question is Education Delivery, that any infrastructure could come under that provision?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: I see in the Staffing Details for that head, Sir, that the actual position filled is 1,025, whereas the authorised figure for that heading was 52. Could the Minister throw some light on that huge discrepancy there?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the authorised Public Service and the others come under the Teaching Service Commission. Regarding Acct Code 155 the heading covers rehabilitation and repairs to pathways and bridges leading to schools.

Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$496,563,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 324 and 325, please.

AGENCY 72 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$160,222,000 for Agency 72 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

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Agency 72 Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$ 160, 222,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 495.

DIVISION 532 - REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM

Question is proposed that the sum of \$170,126,000 for Division 532 - Region 2: Pomeroon/Supenaam - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

DIVISION 532 REGION 2: POMEROON/SUPENAAM - \$170,126,000 - AGREED TO AND ORDERED TO STAND PART OF THE ESTIMATES.

The Chairman: Pages 330 and 331, please.

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,569,000 for Agency 73 Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - stand part of the Estimates

Any Questions?

The Hon Member, Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: I wish to ask the Minister if the Salaries, Acct Code 584, is still being used for the payment of Acct Codes 101 to 107?

I also wish to inquire of the Minister, as it relates to Acct Code 204, if the money allocated for NIS involves any penalties for late payments of deductions made and whether this amount , \$3,219,000,

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was calculated based on the NIS Register.

A follow-up question to that is if such Register is fully updated within the Region?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there are no penalties for NIS late payments. The Register is updated and computerised.

The Chairman: Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalglish Joseph: A supplementary question: Is the Hon. Minister saying that there is no late fee interest payments?

The Chairman: I think that is what he is saying. Are you saying that Minister?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised, no.

The Chairman: You want to ask a supplementary question, Mr McAllister?

Mr James K McAllister: As it relates to the penalties, could the Minister clarify whether the penalties for 1999, being \$1.2 million, has been paid to the NIS?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 105 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - there is an increase of \$5 million there, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister why? Is it that you are also paying twenty-six per cent there and if that, I also wish to ask a question on the Staffing Details because -- *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: You said there is an increase of \$5 million?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Yes, over 2000.

The Chairman: Or is that Clerical and Office support? Am I look-

ing at the wrong thing?

Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl: Are we at Programme 2?

The Chairman: We are at Programme 1. You are going ahead of us.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Sorry, I beg your pardon.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Agency 73, Programme 1, Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events - May I be advised which national and other events are catered for under that head?

Also under Acct Code 222 - Subventions to Local Authorities - am I to understand that in addition to the subvention given to local authorities the \$3 million mentioned earlier, directly from the Ministry, in the case of Region 3, the Regional Democratic Council will also be provided with a subvention of \$2 million for the NDCs in that Region?

Hon Harripersaud Nøkta: Mr Chairman, for national events, Independence Day, Republic Day, Emancipation Day, very small amounts are being allocated. Concerning minor works which the Region does for the NDC, these are just for emergency works and it is not given in cash but in case there is need for the Region to come in and do some emergency, that is what it is provided for. There are fourteen NDCs in that Region.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I wonder if the Minister can state whether Wages Bank Account Nos. 680 and 681 have been closed and the amounts transferred to the Consolidated Fund.

I wonder, also, if the Minister can indicate – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: What head were you just talking about?

Mr. James K McAllister: Sorry, Sir, I am speaking about Acct Codes

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101 to 107. I am speaking here about Wages and Salaries. As it relates to Acct Codes 101 to 107, the amounts stated, I looked at the Staffing Details and I see figures stated there for 2001. I wonder if the Minister can indicate if these figures have been verified so as to avoid situations of unclaimed salaries and leading therefore to the payment of monies to other agencies, which should not be paid?

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the question is very, very, ambiguous. There is no direct head under which it comes, there is nothing concerning bank account in this whole business and I am at a lost to what he wants.

The Chairman: Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question to national events: Would that also include Agriculture Month and other events?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Yes.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$81,569,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 332 and 333, please.

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,435,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 2 - Agriculture- stand part of the Estimates.

Mrs Riehl, you were asking a question here?

Mrs Clarisa S Riehl: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Under Acct Code

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105 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled I see there is an increase for \$5 million, would the Minister please explain that increase, especially in the light of the staff remaining the same?

On the Staffing Details itself, I wish to ask another question, I see the authorised figures are fifty-

three to the same category, Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled, but the figures that we have for the filled are eighty-six. I wish to ask the Hon. Minister, why he is going out of the authorised quota in this category?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 105, the increase reflected the increase in salary, leave passage and gratuity also for the same employees .

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, why is he going outside of the authorised figures for that particular category?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The increase from fifty-three to eighty-six, I am advised that it has been authorised by the Public Service Commission.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, Wages and Salaries, I noticed that there is a total increase of approximately \$6 million, however, correspondingly we have seen a decrease in National Insurance from \$1.074 million to \$635,000, will the Minister care to explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, could the Member explain under which head he is asking this question as I find it difficult to respond?

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Minister, I am referring specifically to Acct Code 204, where National Insurance charges are reflected by a sharp decrease of \$400,000 approximately, when there is a corresponding

increase in total wages and salaries by well over \$6 million.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I am advised that NIS was over-subscribed last year and they have asked for a transfer.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I seek to ask a supplementary question, and that is how is it possible for NIS to be over-subscribed and if, indeed, it did happen, has anyone been held responsible for what, obviously, has to be negligence in the performance of one's duty?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I am advised that it was transferred from NIS to other heads in order to pay salaries.

Mr Andy Goveia: A supplementary question: Is the Minister trying to tell this House that the Accounting Department of the Ministry of Local Government has made mistakes in paying NIS and money is being transferred from one head to cover up the inefficiency in other headings? Yes or no?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, there is no covering up here. There was an over budgeting on NIS and the extra money was transferred to pay salaries under what is called virement.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$56,435,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 334 and 335, please.

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,513,00 for Agency 73-

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**Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 3 -
Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.**

Any questions?

Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Acct Codes 151 to 155, I wish to know if their works have already been contracted out.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, these roads are now under design and will be contracted out.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Hon. Minister say who are the designers or the consultants?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, that information can be supplied later.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Hon. Minister say whether the contracts for the consultancy were tendered out?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Region 3 doesn't have any consultancy, there is an engineer provided by VSO to oversee the works, designs and other quantity surveying drawings and so forth.

The Chairman: Hon Members, when you wish to ask a question, please stand immediately because I will move on. I just happened to notice Mr Kadir attempting to put on the microphone. Don't bother with the microphone, just stand up.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. I noticed under Acct Code 181, there is a staff increase from \$1.041 million to \$5.079. Will the Minister care to explain this sharp increase in expenditure for security services?

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Mr Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there are more installations in schools now. There are more schools and there are computer equipment and that give rise to that increase.

The Chairman: Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 131 - Fuel and Lubricants - there is \$725,000, under Acct Code 164 - Vehicle Spares and Service - which is \$3,700,000, could the Minister finally explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I would like a repeat of that question.

The Chairman: The question is asked in relation to Acct Codes 131 and 164. Could you put the question again, Mrs Melville?

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Okay, what vehicle has to be maintained that is only using \$725,000 for fuel and lubricants against spares, \$3,700,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised seven vehicles, two outboard engines hymac, front-end loader and so forth. Those are the vehicles listed.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$41,513,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 336 and 337.

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA,

PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$663,752,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 4

- Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$663,752,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 338 and 339.

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA,

PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$255,056,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$255,056,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Turn to page 496, please.

DIVISION 533 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

Question is proposed that the sum of \$132,755,000 for Division 533 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Can the Minister explain in details Project Code 19001 - Land Development - \$11 million is being spent to upgrade housing areas, I would like to know which housing areas and what works are being done to upgrade the housing areas?

Under Project Code 14001 - Roads, rehabilitation and construction of community roads - \$34 million - I would like the Minister to explain to us where these projects are being done, in which communities and detail how much is being spent in the communities to make up the \$34 million?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Project Code 14001-Roads - \$34 million - the project entails the construction of community roads at Evergreen, Bora Sideline, Seaspring, Ruimveldt, Patentia, La Harmonie, Checkerman, Best, Tiger Bay, Vergenoegen, Endeavour, Commands, Rustum Dam, Canal No 2, Anns Grove, Wales.

Project Code 19001 - Land Development - the project entails the construction of roads at Belle Vue, Cornelia Ida, De Willems, Zeeburg, Goed Fortuin, installations of stand pipes at De Kinderen.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, is the Minister trying to tell this House that in fourteen communities, on road development, he is spending \$34 million? I would like to know how he would spend \$34 million efficiently to build fourteen roads in communities?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, these are not major roads and they are based on the design and once there is a design, they will be efficiently executed.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I would like the Hon. Minister to indicate what is the nature of the wearing surface for the

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roads in question? I wish also to ask if the roads have already been given out for contract and, if we are to relate also to Project Code 13001, I would wish to inquire also if those works have already been given out for contract?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the budget hasn't been passed as yet, so we can't give out any contract, but it is envisaged that the works, some of them would be done by chip seal, some by crusher run, some by red loam, some will be done by burnt earth and so forth.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L. Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to inquire under Project Code 25002 - Furniture and Equipment - Administration - there is a specific reference there to the acquisition of two typewriters, may I ask whether we are purchasing manual or electric typewriters?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the Region is budgeted to purchase two computers. I don't know if they have computers that work without electricity.

Mr Vincent L. Alexander: Mr Chairman, I draw the Minister's attention to Division 532 ProjectCode 25002- Furniture and Equipment - Administration - under Legend specifically stated there, Purchase of Computers and Typewriters. My question still stands.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, it is worded specifically for the purchase of two computers.

The Chairman: Are you looking at page 495, Mr Alexander?

Mr Vincent L. Alexander: Mr Chairman, if you wish I would bring it -- *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Were you quoting from page 495?

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: Yes, I was quoting from page 495.

The Chairman: We are at page 496 actually.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I am sorry, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Division 533 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - \$132,755,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 344 and 345, please. Let's get to the page, I know that you are anxious.

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$62,535,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Miss Peterkin.

Miss Myrna Peterkin: Under Agency 74, Programme 1, Acct Code 106, I would like to ask the Minister what category of workers are we speaking about?

Secondly, I have seen here that there is provision for monies in the budget for contracted employees, yet I see these positions are zero. Can I be brought up to date to what exactly is going on here?

The Staffing Details, I am noticing, there are eighty-two positions filled from one hundred and twenty-five, that will give us approximately forty-three vacancies. Can I so ask, if there is any intention for filling these vacancies and if so, how soon?

The Chairman: Thank you, Miss Peterkin.

The Hon Minister

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, Project Code 106 - there are two health workers and one Regional Information Officer. Concerning filling of vacancies, we are anxious to fill them as soon as we can in order to carry on with this budget.

The Chairman: There is a question, Hon Minister, about the contradiction between a sum provided for contracted employees at Project Code 106 and at COA 106 - you have zero employees under staffing details.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I am advised that for these three persons a permission was granted for them to be employed on contractual basis by the Public Service Management.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to draw the Minister's attention to Agency 74 - Programme 1, Project Code 222 - Subventions to Local Authorities - and to ask the Hon. Minister to indicate under this Head, how many Local Authorities are being catered for? What are the provisions actually catered for? How many Local Authorities are being catered for and what does the provision actually cater for in terms of subvention. Mr Chairman, I ask that question against the background of a simple provision of \$2 million in Region 3 for fourteen Local Authorities.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, there are fifteen Neighbourhood Councils, this money is voted to assist Cane Grove specifically which does not collect rates and taxes and very often they need help.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L. Alexander: Am I to conclude, therefore, that there are no subventions to Local Authorities in Region 4 for emergencies as indi-

cated in Region 3?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, in Region 4, it is only Cane Grove that does not collect rates and taxes and that is why this little sum is voted towards this.

Mr Andy GOVEIA: Is the Minister trying to tell this House that no other Neighbourhood Councils, none in Buxton, none in Soesdyke, none at Diamond, nowhere else, no money has been voted for? There would be no emergencies during the whole year in other Neighbourhood Councils?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I addressed that while dealing with Region 2. All the NDCs get \$3 million subvention and because Cane Grove does not collect Rates and Taxes, this amount is provided. In addition to that if any other NDC has a shortfall, the Regional Administration would consider helping them out.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I seek to be advised as to under which provision the RDCs could help the NDCs in cases of emergencies, given the fact that we do have heads, one of which we were earlier advised is used for emergencies in the case of Region 3, a similar head 222 - Subventions to Local Authorities, was used to allocate \$2 million for emergencies. Now we are told that somewhere, unknown, RDCs can be responsible for NDCs. How does this specific head be identified?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, under this heading Acct Code 222, this \$800,000 is used for that.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I seek clarification. On one hand, the Hon. Minister is saying to me that Cane Grove does not collect rates and therefore that provision is for Cane Grove. On the other hand, at the same time, he is saying to me that this provision is for emergencies throughout the Regions. Could he indicate which of the two is, in fact, the real answer?

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, it is not a question of which of the two, this money that is allocated here, is in addition to Cane Grove. If any other NDC in Region 4 needs some help -- *[Interruption]*.

The Chairman: Thank you, let's move on. Any other questions?

Miss Nestor.

Miss Lurlene A. Nestor: Mr Chairman, a follow-up question: Is the money allocated only for a lapse in the collection of rates and taxes or any other emergency?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, emergency and I can't say what is going to be an emergency, when it comes then we will deal with it appropriately?

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$62,535,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 346 and 347, please.

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$52,985,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$52,985,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 348 and 349, please.

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AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: - DEMERARA/MAHAICA, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works.

Any questions?

Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Agency 74, Programme 3, Acct Code 101 - Administrative - there is no provision. Under Staffing Details there is also no indication of authorised staff. Is the Hon. Minister saying to this House that in the case of Region 4 where there is a programme for public works that there is no authorised staff specifically in the case of an engineer to oversee those public works?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 101 - Administrative - the provision comes under Programme 1.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, is the Minister saying that engineers are provided for under Regional Administration and Finance and not under public works?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the question is, that those people come under Acct Code 102 - Senior Technical.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, may I ask under Senior Technical, where there is filled - one; which is the position of the one that is filled?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, we have the Senior Superintendent of Works and a Superintendent of Buildings.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, Agency 74 - Programme 3, Acct Code 103 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled - I noticed that there is an increase of nearly \$300,000 and this is reflected in a decrease of two personnel. I am wondering how does this correlate? Can the Minister

explain this please?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Speaker, it is true that two personnel are reflected here as a decrease, but with the increase in salaries plus allowances, gratuity and NIS contributions.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara Mahaica, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$65,341,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 350 and 351 please.

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$896,623,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Allen.

Mrs Genevieve Allen: Under Agency 74, Programme COA 101 - Administration - Staffing Details - authorised in 2001: 1; filled: 27; could the Minister explain?

Miss Myrna Peterkin: Can the Minister explain Agency 74 - Programme 4, under Acct Code 107, the increase of \$288,000 to \$717,000, when the staffing remain the same?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The answer to COA 101, is Regional Education Officer and Acct Code 107 – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: The question under COA 101, Hon. Minister, is that the authorised for 2001 is 1 and the filled is 271; the Hon Member is asking for an explanation for that discrepancy.

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is, that there are more teachers recruited in the Region.

The Chairman: Hon Minister, there is a question on Acct Code 107 from the Hon. Member, Miss Peterkin. The question is in relation to temporary employees, the increase from \$288,000 to \$717,000. The temporary employees in 2000 was 4 and in 2001 it is the same, 4, and the Hon. Member is asking for an explanation for the increase.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that these are not teachers employed, these are cleaners, janitorial staff, et cetera.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, under COA 101, the Minister in explaining the discrepancy, said that there has been an increase in the number of teachers. I note though that the authorised number in 2001 is one. I would like to know if the Minister is informing this House that only one teacher has been authorised for the entire Region 4.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is an increase of teachers from 257 to 271. This amount is reflected in increase in salaries, gratuity and leave passage.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I return to the outstanding question to get clarification, on page 351 - Staffing Details - COA 101 - Administration, authorised for 2000: one; for 2001: one. The question is, if the authorised is one, how is it possible for the filled position to be 271? Mr Chairman, isn't it true to say that where positions are filled outside of the establishment, then they are treated as temporary and not noted under authorised positions until they are regularised?

The Chairman: Mr Goveia, you wanted to ask a question?

Mr Andy Goveia: Yes, Mr Chairman, to the Minister, a supplementary question. Under Acct Code 107 - temporary employees - there is nearly a three hundred per cent increase on temporary employees. If you look down at your Staffing Details, you will see temporary employees in 2000: 4; temporary employees in 2001: 4; I am asking simply how come with the same four employees, you have a three hundred per cent increase in salaries?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, one person is employed by the Public Service Commission, the rest are employed by the Teaching Service Commission.

Mr Any Goveia: The Minister is not explaining how it raises from \$288,000 to \$717,000. I want to know why such an increase of money is being spent on that same heading when there are the same four employees?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I have already said that there is an increase in teachers, increase in salaries, increase in leave allowances and so forth. There was an increase of twenty-six per cent, thirty-one per cent and part-time rates have already gone up.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. Any other questions? Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I would just like to refer to the COA 105 - Semi Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - when we look at the Staffing Details - it shows us a reduction of 106 persons and the corresponding decrease in allocated funds was \$12.326 million; this breaks down approximately to \$11,000 per month. I would like the Minister to inform this House if they are paying Guyanese workers wages to the tune of \$72.00 per hour, which is way below the minimum wage in this country.

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the category here reflects the increase of janitors, Office Assistants, general labourers.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, my question still holds. Is the Minister paying Guyanese hard working people below the minimum wage? Is the Minister allocating \$72.00 per hour below the approved minimum wage in this country to pay semi-skilled operatives and unskilled workers.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The answer to that is 'no'.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia and then Mrs Allen.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, I am getting a lot of problems with the amount - if you are local government, we are saying to you, from your figures \$72.00, you are paying your workers below the minimum wage against the law. We are asking you, how come?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is 'no'.

The Chairman: Mrs Allen.

Mrs Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 184 - Other - Could the Minister say what other goods and services are catered for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: What number?

Mrs Genevieve Allen: 184

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is a small amount and the details I can supply later on.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$896,623,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 352 and 353, please.

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$91,939,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara Mahaica, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$91,939,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 497 please.

DIVISION 534 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA

Question is proposed that the sum of \$78,910,000 for Division 534 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica - stand part of the Estimates

Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 14001, \$24 million are being spent on rehabilitation and construction of community roads. The Minister just admitted that there is no engineer employed in the Ministry of Local Government [*Noisy Interruption: "No, no, no" 'You have just admitted to this House that there is no engineer employed in Region 4...'*]

The Chairman: Proceed with the question, Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: I am asking, who is supervising the works on these roads? Who are doing the designs? Where is the engineer coming from because he is not a member of your staff? You told us that. [*Noisy Interruption*]

The Chairman: Hon Members, let's have some order.

Mr Andy Goveia: I would like to know in which community these roads are being built? [*Noisy Interruption*]

The Chairman: Let's have some order. This is a question and answer session and we need a high degree of discipline. This is not the general debate.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the roads identified are:

- Main road, Beirut
- Second Street, Herstelling
- Pay Office Street, Enterprise
- Main Road, Eastville Housing
- Long Creek access road
- Middle Street, Friendship

There is a consultant in Region 4 who does the technical work for these infrastructure works and also there is a Senior Superintendent of Works in the Region.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Can I ask the Minister who is the consultant?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am not in a position to answer regarding the name of this individual.

The Chairman: Mrs Allen.

Mrs Genevieve Allen: Division 534 on the – [*Interruption*]

The Chairman: Hon. Member, what item?

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Mrs Genevieve Allen: Project Code 12001 - Buildings - Education
- We have a sum of \$18 million allocated for the construction and completion of a number of buildings, fence and the rehabilitation of schools in Region 4. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, if he can give us a financial breakdown on how the monies would be spent?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I think the Hon. Member will appreciate the fact to have a breakdown of \$18 million might be difficult, but I have here:

- Dora Primary School - \$9.3 million
- Strathspey Fence - \$701,000
- Paroquoal Education Centre
- Buxton Primary
- Enmore Nursery
- Extension of Health - this comes under education

The Chairman: Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 14001 - Roads
- Can the Minister say if any of this allocation will be used for the roads in the new areas for land development purposes in light of the fact that zero is stated for land development?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, we are guided by programme planning and one of the new roads is the famous Beirut.

The Chairman: Miss Peterkin.

Miss Myrna Peterkin: Mr Chairman, under the same Project Code - Roads - I ask, in the \$24 million, if the Melanie Road will be rehabilitated?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The answer to that is 'no'.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 17001 - Agricultural Development - Construction of Revetment and Rehabilitation of Canals - Mr Minister, could you tell me which area, or which villages, are the canals that are being drained?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Agricultural Development, that comes under Project Code 17001, if I am right:

- construction of revetment at Bamboo Dam, Buxton
- rehabilitation of trenches at Better Hope
- rehabilitation of canals at Garden-of-Eden
- rehabilitation of canal at Cane Grove
- rehabilitation of canal at Buxton/Friendship,
same place where the fires and tyres were burnt.

Division 534 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica - \$78,910,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 358 and 359 please

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE - PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$29,881,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Anna Ally.

Miss Anna Ally: Mr Chairman, Agency 75 - Programme 1 - Acct Code 101 - while the Staffing Details remain the same, there is a significant increase in wages and salaries, an approximate amount of \$2 million.

COA 104 - Staffing Details - informs that the staff unit has decreased by four units, but there is an increase by over \$3 million.

Acct Code 105 - there is no change in the staffing unit, but there is a reduction of some \$600,000. Could the Minister give some details on these Codes?

In addition, Acct Code 181 - Security Services - Could the Minister explain why an increase from \$92,000 to \$513,000 under this Code?

Acct Code 212 - Training - What type of training and scholarships for this year?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Salary increases, allowances, leave entitlement have been consistent throughout all the heads and the same explanation applies. The same thing goes for security, there is no need for me to repeat this all the time. Every head, every Region, you will have the same thing.

Concerning training, these are Public Service Ministry training and travelling for officers.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration - \$29,881,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 360 and 361, please.

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture

Question proposed that the sum of \$45,608,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Ally.

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Programme 2 - Acct Code 152: Given the fact that bridges in Region 5 are regularly being repaired and during the Budget Debate, I alluded to two of them, could the Minister say what measures are being put in place to ensure that taxpayers' moneys are properly spent?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, we have to repair the Belladrum bridge, but apart from that these are not bridges on the public road, these are bridges in the D&I areas.

Miss Amna Ally: A supplementary question: What measures are being put in place to see that the money is being properly spent?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, the same measures used in the past, monetary and supervision.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$45,608,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 362 and 363 please.

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$70,340,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$70,340,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 364 and 365 please.

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$382,812,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery, stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am seeking a clarification, I know that the Hon. Minister did say that he has been providing this answer under every head. I am still a bit puzzled and therefore I am asking this question for clarification, because as I understand it, the Hon. Minister did say that these increases - I am looking at Acct Code 101 - under salaries reflect the increase payment to workers, twenty-six per cent and so on. Therefore we should ask the Hon. Minister, if the increases paid to Public Servants, et cetera, were not reflected in the Estimates in 2000, and if so, why is there such a substantial increase of 2001 over 2000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is 'no'.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question: Is the Minister saying that the revised figure for 2000, does that reflect increases? If not, where is it reflected?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, those monies come under the Ministry of Finance.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$382,812,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 366 and 367, please.

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$95,454,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$95,454,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 498, please.

DIVISION 535 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$144,800,000 for Division 535 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Ally.

Miss Amna Ally: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Division 535 - Project

Code 11001 - Bridges - I would like to ask the Minister how many bridges will be constructed and their exact locations?

Project Code 17001 - Land Development - According to the Profile page 205, the description states that it entails construction and the areas are named. Could the Minister give some more details on the type of work that would be undertaken? And secondly to say, whether these contractors have already been identified?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, the Legend explains the first question. Secondly, for Project Code 13001 - Drainage and Irrigation - the Project entails the construction of revetments at:

- Perth
- Zes Kinderen
- Yankee Canal,
- Handsome Tree Canal
- Perth/Biabu Canal
- Broomlands, extension of main canal
- excavation of canal at Handsome Tree and Mahaicony River.

Miss AMNA ALLY: Mr Chairman, I asked about Project Code 17001, I did not ask for Project Code 13001. Thanks for your information anyhow, Minister.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, the Project entails the construction of infrastructure at:

- Zorg-en-Hoop
- Bath
- Bushlot, and

- Mahaicony Housing areas

Division 535 - Region 5 Mahaica/Berbice - \$144,800,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 372 and 373, please.

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$49,672,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Nasir Ally. *[Pause]* Proceed, Hon. Member.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Agency 76 - Acct Code 104, I see a substantial increase under Clerical and Office Support from \$9,199, 000 in the year 2000, to \$11,300,000 in the year 2001, while the staff remains at seventeen. Could an explanation be offered for that?

Secondly, under Acct Code 102, for the other Regions, I see you have money allocated for Senior Technical while for Region 6, there is none.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 104 reflects the same thing again, salary increases and the benefits. It's all along in all the Regions.

Acct Code 102, there is no allocation, there is no answer.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: A supplementary question: The Hon. Minister informed this House, not too long ago that salary increases

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are catered for by the Ministry of Finance and therefore are not reflected in the specific head under the Ministry. We are now advised that Region 6 is a special case or I might be wrong that in fact salary increases are catered for since that was the explanation given for the difference between the allocation for 2000 and 2001. Could the Minister, please, respond to indicate where in fact are the salary increases catered for, if indeed they are catered for in the central Ministry? What is the reason for the increase from \$9 million to \$11 million under Acct Code 104, Programme 1 - Agency 76?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, the first answer was salary increases in relation to the year 2000, the answer was appropriate. Now this increase is salary increase for the year 2001.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, Staffing Details for Contracted Employees shows zero for the year 2001. However, under Project Code 106, we see a \$2.795 million catered for. Will the Minister care to rationalise on this inconsistency?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: There are two persons under Contracted Employees, Deputy REO and Confidential Secretary to the Regional Chairman.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, Agency 76, Programme 1 - Acct Code 271 - Revision of Wages and Salaries - zero. We have a head here that provides for the revision of wages and salaries, how come we are told that with specific reference to the relationship between the increase from 2000 to 2001, that it is, in fact, that revision which is catered for under Acct Code 104? My question is, what is the purpose of Acct Code 271, if, in fact, such revisions are being catered for under Acct Code 104?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, there is no Code 271.

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I made an earlier error based on pagination. Apparently, I am in the business of errors today. Agency 76, Programme 1 - I do see here on page 372, to avoid errors, a Code 271 - Revision of Wages and Salaries. The Minister just reminds me that there is no such code.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There is no allocation, there is no answer.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Agency 76, Programme 1 - Acct Code 181 - Security Services - there is no money budgeted. Am I to understand that in this Region that the security services are not contracted as against the other Regions?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, these people are catered for under Public Works.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, Agency 76, Programme 1 - Acct Code 191 - National and other Events - \$350,000: May I be advised of the events which are catered for with this \$350,000, given the fact that in Region 3, a smaller Region, there is an allocation of the sum of \$950,000.

Mr Chairman, I also pose the question under Acct Code 231 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - and ask the Minister to indicate to which organisations will these subsidies and/or contributions be made?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I take the last one first, allocations to the Dharam Shala, and an orphanage, Kamal's Home.

Project Code 191 - National and Other Events - the answer was given already, Independence Celebrations, Mashramani, Republic, and whatever is allocated does not include Georgetown here.

The Chairman: Miss Peterkin.

Miss Myrna Peterkin: Agency 76, Programme 1 - Acct Code 105 - I am seeing an increase here, but yet I see a decrease in the staff, can I be brought up-to-date with that?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, despite the decrease, the increase in salaries and the allowances for those who are employed right now cover that. It is a small amount.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$49,672,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 374 and 375 please.

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$93,799,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I refer to Agency 76, Programme 2 - Acct Code 222 - Subventions to Local Authorities - There is a provision there for \$19 million. I ask the Minister to indicate what is the intended use, to whom are subventions to be given under this Head which carries \$19 million?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this amount is to provide fuel for the pump stations at Manarabisi and Black Bush Polder and the other areas.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question:

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Are those pump stations under the control of Local Authorities or under the control of the Regional Democratic Councils? If the latter is the case, why are they provided for under Subventions to Local Authorities?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The allocation is made under the Region, but these pump stations are within the boundaries of the NDCs.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I must then assume that it is misleading to conclude that these are in fact subventions to Local Authorities.

The Chairman: I think that is a comment.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the monies are allocated to the Regions, these pump stations are in the NDCs. The monies are being used to provide fuel and other services for the pump stations. *[Noisy Interruption]*

The Chairman: Mr Alexander, you asked a question. Could you allow the Minister to answer please?

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$93,799,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 376 and 377 please.

AGENCY76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$91,408,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 3 -

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Public Works - \$91,408,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 378 and 379, please.

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$762,818,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$762,818,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 380 and 381, please.

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$444,843,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$444,843,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 499, please.

DIVISION 536 - REGION 6 EAST BERBICE /CORENTYNE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$190,500,000 for Division 536 - Region 6 East Berbice/Corentyne - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, I see there \$35 million allocated for –
[Interruption]

The Chairman: What item on Division 536? We are talking about Division 536, page 499. What Code are you talking about?

Mr Nasir Ally: Project Code 12002 - Buildings - Education - I see there, \$35 million allocated for the construction and extension of nursery schools and rehabilitation of secondary schools. My first question to the Minister is, how many nursery schools will be constructed and/or extended? Which nursery school will be constructed or extended and what sums are allocated to each one?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Speaker, the answer is three nursery schools and the allocations are:

Canefield Nursery	-	\$5 million
Reliance	-	\$13 million
Adelphi	-	\$13 million

Division 536 - Region 6 East Berbice/Corentyne - \$190,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 386 and 387, please.

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AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$50,981,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions? Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 105, I see in revised 2000, we have \$8,805,000 and in 2001 we have \$5,736,000, but then when I look at the Staffing Details, I see from twenty-five in 2000 to twenty-two in 2001. Can the Minister so inform me about how his ratio is going and if my calculation is correct in saying that three persons used over \$3 million for the year?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, semi-skilled, the security guards have now gone into another head.

The Chairman: Miss David, you have to get up quickly.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, the Hon. Minister is saying that security services have gone to Public Works, but my book here at page 387 is showing me that Security Service in 2001, is \$12 million and in 2000, it was \$2,272,000.

The Chairman: What code are you talking about?

Miss Judith David: Acct Code 181.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: When I said other head, I meant this one. The Hon. Member should do her homework and these are now catered for under contractual employment.

Continued in Part II

National Assembly Debates

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE FIRST SESSION (2001) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA
UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE RE-
PUBLIC OF GUYANA**

Part II

13TH SITTING

14:00H

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Continued fr. Part I

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$50,981,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 388 and 389, please.

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7 - CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$5,805,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, I am seeing on page 389, Acct Code 181. I am not seeing anything budgeted for Security Services as the Hon. Minister was saying.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, they are all catered for under the same head which I mentioned just now.

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Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$5,805,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 390 and 391, please.

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$39,621,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$39,621,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 392 and 393, please.

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$197,867,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 1 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$197,867,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 394 and 395, please.

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services.

Question proposed that the sum of \$100,618,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$100,618,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 500, please.

DIVISION 537 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$59,244,000 for Division 537 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 537 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni - \$59,244,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 400 and 401, please.

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$21,132,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions?

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$21,132,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 402 and 403, please.

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 2 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$30,083,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 2 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 2 - Public Works - \$30,083,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister, you are a voice in the wilderness.
[Laughter]

Pages 404 and 405, please.

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 3 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,068,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 3 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 3 - Education Delivery - \$81,068,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 406 and 407, please.

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, PROGRAMME 4 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$46,733,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 4 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Bancroft.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Agency 78 - Programme 4, Acct Code 121 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - I notice that there is a great decrease. Can the Minister explain why?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The decrease in this vote is catered for by the central purchases.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 4 - Health Services - \$46,733,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 501.

DIVISION 538 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,400,000 for Division 538 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Bancroft.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Division 538, Project Code 25003 - Furniture and Equipment - Administration, I notice \$600,000 there to purchase furniture for Orinduik and Mahdia guest houses. I would like the Minister to explain or give details if that sum is quite enough?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that it is quite enough.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: A supplementary question, I would like to know if transportation cost is added to that money.

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Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, furniture is now being manufactured in the Region.

Division 538 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni - \$56,400,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 412 and 413, please.

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$37,344,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, can the Hon Minister explain the sum under Acct Code 222 - Subventions to Local Authorities - \$1.2 million.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, we have one NDC in that Region, Yurensawarau and this is a grant to assist that NDC because they are not collecting any rates and taxes.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Hon. Minister explain Fuel and Lubricants under Acct Code 131 for \$1.8 million against Vehicles Spares and Service \$2.260 million?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, there are several vehicles in the Region. They have land rovers, road building equipment and in view of the cost of fuel, lubricants. That is why there is an increase.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Pro-

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gramme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$37,344 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 414 and 415, please.

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,974,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 122 - Field Materials and Supplies - could the Hon Minister say why \$250,000 has decreased to \$68,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This reduction, the shortfall comes directly from the Ministry of Agriculture, centrally in Georgetown.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$6,974,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 416 and 417, please.

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$34,460,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Sir, could the Hon. Minister explain – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Just one minute, Hon Member, I think I have made an error. *[Pause]* Go ahead, Hon Member.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Could the Hon. Minister explain, under Acct Code 231, which of the Local Organisations, the \$11 million is being provided for?

Second question: Once again it is seen that Vehicle Spares and Repairs has been allocated under Administration. Under Acct Code 131 - Fuel and Lubricants. \$2.050 million, and Vehicle Spares and Services \$1.7 million, seeing that our Hon. Minister just mentioned that these vehicles are being catered for.

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: That goes for the Lethem Power Company, to keep Lethem illuminated twenty-four hours per day: Heavy duty vehicles come under Public works. The question is answered that they are heavy duty vehicles and this allocation is made towards the maintenance and so forth?

The Chairman: Hon Members, for your information, if you look at page ix of your document, right at the very beginning, you will see the last two items there are details of subsidies and contributions to local organisations. You will see another item Details of Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations. I have noted that there are many questions on Details of Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations. Maybe if you care to look at page 446, you will see them all listed there under the appropriate Ministry. So that might assist you in planning your question and you might not find the need to ask anything.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$34,460,000 - agreed to and ordered

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to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 418 and 419, please.

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$168,728,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 1 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Hon Minister state whether the Regional Education Department has a vehicle?

The Chairman: That is not under a specific head as mentioned by the Hon Member.

Hon Minister, you may wish to answer?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised 'yes'.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - \$168,728,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 420 and 421, please.

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: - UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$90,352,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$90,352,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 502 and 503, please.

DIVISION 539 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO

Question is proposed that the sum of \$109,900,000 for Division 539 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, one question to our Hon Minister, could the Minister say whether there is any technical expertise for the supervision of the roads?

Secondly, what type of vehicle is being purchased for \$5.2 million and this vehicle is for which department in the Region?

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Project Code 24001 - Land Transportation - a vehicle for \$1.2 million, when you look at the project profiles, to purchase one 4X4 vehicle for the Office of the REO. Mr Minister, I am going to ask you if the Regional Chairman of Region 9 is getting a vehicle?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the first question, the roads are supervised by force accounts and there is a Superintendent of

Works.

Concerning purchase of vehicles, that comes under Administration, the REO is the Accounting Officer and vehicles under Administration fall under the REO. Whenever there is a need for transportation whether Chairman, Vice-Chairman or even when the Minister visits the Region, the REO provides transportation.

The Chairman: Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Hon. Minister state whether the vehicles come under the RDC which rules the Region, or the REO?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, these vehicles, all properly come under the administration of the REO, who is the Accounting Officer for the Region.

Division 539 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo - \$109,900,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 426 and 427, please.

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, PROGRAMME 1 - Regional Administration and Finance.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$53,604,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Essequibo, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Yes, Miss Adams, I see you are very anxious for your Region.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Thank you, Mr Chairman. My question to the Minister, under Agency 80, Programme 1: I have recognised under

the other nine Regions under Acct Codes 101 to 107, that there are substantial increases despite the decreases in the number of staff. While in Region 10, there is a mere increase of, under Administrative, Acct Code 101 - \$500,000; under Acct Code 103 - \$400,000; under Acct Code 104 - \$1.6 million; under Acct Code 105 - \$1.4 million: Mr Minister, you have been answering all along for the other Regions in terms of increase in salary and allowances. My question is, are the workers in Region 10 not going to benefit from these increases? Because the increase is not substantial or they are not enough increases to cater for this.

I am not finished yet, Mr Minister. Let me go through my questions under Programme 1 and then you will respond to me.

Under Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events - Region 10 as a Region that is reachable or easily accessible, usually takes part in all the activities that are national and \$1.5 million finished at Mash. How are we to cater for the other events coming later down in the year, Emancipation, Amerindian Heritage Month and all of that. How are we going to manage these other activities financially?

Under Acct Code 222 - Subventions to Local Authorities: In this allocation I know we will cater for Sub-District II, but are we catering for Ituni? If we are, how much money are we giving to Ituni and how much money to Kwakwani?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Member, Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, a question for the Minister. I noticed there are some particular moves to paralyze the Regional Administration by not allocating any money to fuel and lubrication. That is my observation, nevertheless there are some questions. Apparently even though the Regional Administration (and I am glad, I have seen the REO here) owes LINMINE and the LUSDL which is the electricity agency in Linden, well over \$20 million. I notice here that

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there is no allocation for electricity charges.

The other question to the Minister is: Does the Minister intend to advertise and fill the vacancies that are clear here under Staffing Details, in order for the Region to fulfil its mandate during the year 2001, in terms of satisfying the Regional Administration with respect to management of the programmes it has indicated?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 questions:

Acct Code 101 - The increase is adequate or adequately taken care off.

Acct Code 191 - National Events - a sum is voted and everything depends on the programme and the Budget. This year the Region celebrated Independence at Kwakwani. It was far away from Linden and that is closer to many more than normal. That is why, maybe, it is exhausted, but I, again, say one must live according to their means and that is why you have a budget, that is why this nation has a budget.

Subvention goes to assist both Ituni and Kwakwani.

Fuel is catered for under the Ministry of Public Works in Programme 3.

The last question, filling of vacancies, yes, I am advised that the Public Service Ministry is addressing that and we are hoping that these vacancies will be filled as early as possible so that we can get on with the work.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman. The Minister has not answered the question on the allocation of resources to Ituni and Kwakwani, I think it is a serious question.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am answering, seriously, Ituni will get \$7 million.

Miss Sandra M Adams: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman,. The Minister just mentioned \$7 million for Ituni, well I don't know what has happened to Kwakwani, it has probably gone off the map.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Kwakwani probably gets \$3 million which is allocated in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 1 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$53,604,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 428 and 429, please.

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, PROGRAMME 2 - Agriculture.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$6,017,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 2 - Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Mr Chairman, I wish to deal with Agency 80 - Programme 2 - Agriculture - in its entirety. Since there is a move to bring the Agriculture Department which is merely Lands and Surveys, into the Lands and Surveys Commission. I think it is under the Ministry of Agriculture. Could the Minister say whether this budget or this allocation that has been given to Region 10, will have to be sent back to the Ministry or it will remain within Region 10's budget?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Agriculture is re-centralised, in all the Regions. It is re-centralised and there is a transition.

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Miss Sandra M Adams: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman: The question is whether themonies that were budgeted for Region 10, will remain in Region 10 or they have to be sent back to the central Ministry?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is that no decision has been taken up to now.

The Chairman: Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: A supplementary question: It would seem that it would affect all Regions, but from the reply of the Minister about the Lands Commission, is the Minister in a position to say, because of the re-centralising that he is speaking about, whether this would affect the Lands Selection Committees in the various Regions? Are you re-centralising land selection and distribution, too?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this re-centralisation, I am advised will not affect the Land Selection Committee.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 2 - Agriculture - \$6,017,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 430 and 431, please.

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, PROGRAMME 3 - Public Works.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$22,093, 000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I just want to deal with the question

under Acct Code 153. We know that because of the specifics of Region 10, in terms of Linden being identified as a depressed society and community, and that attendant shift away from bauxite operations to agriculture, West Watooka has been identified as a major agricultural resource area. The Drainage and Irrigation Board has designed a drainage plan to the tune of \$90 million to drain the West Watooka area. I see a meagre \$7 million for maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation work. I would like the Minister to construct approximately six per cent of the drainage which would be completely ineffective or if that element would be left unattended.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the amount allocated here is to streamline normal drainage and irrigation works. The question that he is asking about flooding, that is catered for under Capital.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 3 - Public Works - \$22,093,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 432 and 433, please.

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, PROGRAMME 4 - Education Delivery.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$480,949,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Mr Chairman, Agency 80, Programme 4, under Acct Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings I notice a decrease in our budgetary allocation despite the fact that there is an increase in buildings in Region 10. You have the schools now, not the new ones, the ones that have been rehabilitated the other day; you have

the student hostel in Kwakwani, how are we catering for the maintenance of these buildings? Most of the schools are in bad condition - you can go in through the flooring to the bottom.

Security Services - Acct Code 181 - this is a sore point in Region 10 in terms of the contracted securities who are being held year after year and even though you have more buildings to be secured now under education, yet there is merely a \$500,000 increase in terms of the allocation for Region10. Could the Minister explain how the Ministry plans to handle this?

For training, \$1.2 million, could the Minister say what training he is talking about with a mere \$1.2 million under education?

Mr Abdul Kadir: Under the expenditure at Acct Code 151, could the Minister tell us if there is any catering done to provide pathways for the schools, which is allocated for schools in different Regions?

Secondly, there is quite a number of schools in Region 10 and as I said earlier in my debate presentation, the Regional Administration owes well over \$20 million to LINMINE in electricity charges. Under Programme 4 - Education Delivery :- Is the Minister catering here for electricity charges due to LINMINE and the LUSCIL in this meagre \$3.127 million allocated here for electricity charges?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman - Maintenance of Buildings - I am advised that over the many years, if not all, many of the schools have already been rehabilitated, new ones constructed. There are less buildings to be rehabilitated. Concerning the Kwakwani Student Hostel, that is taken care of by SIMAP and also the Kwakwani Primary School, the question concerning pathways for schools, is taken care of under Acct Code 155, page 432. It is \$3.425 million.

Concerning the question on electricity, I am advised that the Region does not owe LINMINE any money for electricity supply.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A supplementary question, Sir. Is the

Minister, from his response a few moments ago that maintenance of all the schools are being adequately addressed, indicating to this House that the allocations for Region 10 represent one hundred per cent of the requests from the Regions?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I said, most, not all the schools have been adequately rehabilitated. Those that are left are catered for and as the need arises then the budgetary allocation will be made.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A supplementary question: - Is he so confident that the allocation represents a hundred per cent of the requests.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised about that, almost.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I have with me some figures which show that the proposed \$162 million for buildings under Education and \$16 million have been allocated, which is approximately ten per cent.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, we are not dealing with capital expenditure here

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 4 - Education Delivery- \$480,949,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 434 and 435, please.
AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Services.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$104,930,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Mr Chairman, Programme 5 - Acct Code 121 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - I see here that we have gotten almost the same amount of money as last year even though, you have health posts opening, the hospital is not performing, not even forty per cent. In terms of medical delivery to the people. Region 10 continues to get the same amount of money as Region 10 for medical supplies. That tells its own story.

Maintenance of Buildings: Here again, we have a little less in terms of allocation for maintenance of Buildings, even though you have health posts and health centres being built, you have less money for maintenance of buildings.

Under Dietary, Acct Code 192, \$690,000, well I guess, it speaks for itself. That is why people are not going to the hospital. Mr Chairman, could the Minister really tell us what \$690,000 could do in terms of feeding patients in the two hospitals at Linden?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, regarding the first question, I am advised that the allocation for drugs and medical supplies for Region 10 is adequate. However, the central Ministry supplements. In addition to that, these allocations are for outlying health centres, and the McKenzie Hospital is being run by the Central Government.

Concerning maintenance of buildings, most of the buildings that we are building now are concrete. Concrete building last longer so the maintenance cost is lower.

Kwakwani - Dietary - it is only for Kwakwani hospital.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 5 - Health Services - \$104,930,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 504, please.

DIVISION 540 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$115,800,000 for Division 540 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Mr Chairman, Division 540, Project Code 14001 - Roads: I see \$10 million allocated to Region 10 for rehabilitation of the Linden/Ituni Road. Mr Chairman, how many miles of road are we talking about in terms of building a proper road? We have been asking over and over again about this road. How many miles of road are we talking about to build with \$10 million?

Under Project Code 19001 - Infrastructure Development - \$6 million, and the Legend says, Development of Housing Areas at Amelias Ward and Block 22, even though I look at Minister Shaik Baksh, I am very much afraid that I have to ask the Minister of Local Government this question. Is this money just to do surveys? Because that is all this money can really do in terms of developing those two housing areas - they are raw land, bush areas. Is this money to do surveys because it can barely do anything else in developing those housing areas?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, question:

1. Roads - \$10 million, Linden to Ituni - thirty-four miles.

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It may look like a small amount, but laterite which is the main material is located right in the area. In addition to that, the company uses road chips with their machinery.

2. Housing Allocation - this is to do the second phase. I am advised that work is to be done in phases.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Mr Chairman, under Water Supply - Project Code 28001 - \$50 million being allocated here. Could the Minister say whether this money is going to LINMINE or to GUYWA because there seems to be a confusion with regard to water in Region 10? Could the Minister say whether this 450 million is to go to LINMINE or GUYWA since there is some money in the Region for GUYWA.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the \$50 million will go to GUYWA and in addition to that GUYWA has \$47 million more to spend on water.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: Just a supplementary question on the Ituni/Linden Road. I am concerned about the answer which the Minister gave. Could the Minister for the records, state exactly where that ten miles will be done?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised between Linden and Ituni.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, to the Minister, under Project Code 14001 - Roads: Is the Minister, after hearing the National Budget Debate about the financial situation that the Government claims the Bauxite Industry and the Company are in, expecting those same dying companies to repair the Linden/Ituni road? In other Region, was any private company was asked to chip in to do any roads. Why, Region 10?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, we do not deal with Baux-

ite in our Ministry but in that area, you have timber companies, bauxite company, they all traverse the road and they do chip in if requested to assist. In my presentation during the Debate, I said, the Central Government is giving to Linden \$1 billion subvention also, so when you put all of these together, it is quite a handsome amount.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: A supplementary question to the Minister: In the year 2000, water cost Linden, in general, well over \$150 million with \$110 million coming as a subvention from LINMINE and I think, approximately \$40 million coming from the Government, when \$50 million is allocated from the budget through the Region to GUYWA and a further \$37 million. That makes it \$87 million. I am wondering where is the other \$53 million shortfall? Where is that going to come from? What will be the state of water in Linden with a \$53 million shortfall for the year 2001?

Hon HARRIPERSAUD NOKTA: Mr Chairman, I am advised that there has not been any direct estimate as to the total cost. I don't know where the Hon. Member gets his figures from, but GUYWA will be taking over water supply service and should there be need for additional funds then GUYWA will take care of that.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, we are guided by the figures from last year and we are guided by the present deteriorating state of the water industry within Linden. Now last year, LINMINE subsidised water to the tune of \$110 million and the Government contributed some \$40 million to water to add to the \$110 million and that makes it approximately \$150 million. If the Ministry is going to give \$50 million and then a further \$37 million, that makes it \$87 million. Immediately even before you start looking at the deteriorating state of the water industry in Linden, you are looking at a shortfall of \$63 million. I am wondering where the \$63 million is going to come from or are we going to be satisfied with a further deteriorating state of water within Linden?

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The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member. I think the Minister answered the question. Do you have anything further to add, Hon Minister?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the Region 10 Administration is not aware of any estimate.

The Chairman: Thank you, any other questions?

Division 5 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice - \$115,800,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Hon. Members, this is a good time for us to take the suspension.

Let the Assembly resume.

Suspension of Sitting - 17:00 H

Resumption of Sitting - 17:35 H

Assembly in Committee

The Chairman: Pages 46 and 47 please.

Hon. Members, we now move on to the Ministry of Finance.

AGENCY 03 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PROGRAMME 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,020,386,000 for Agency 3, Ministry of Finance, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, under Agency 3, Programme

1:-

(i) Acct Code 101 - Administrative - Could the Minister say, whether included in sum of \$10.1 million, is the provision for any staff of the Department of International Economic Co-operation?

(ii) Could the Minister say, of the ten positions either/or filled for 2001 or to be filled for 2001, which of the thirty-four are those ten?

(iii) Contracted Employees - Acct Code 106: This is a question that could well serve for all the Ministries, that the Minister of Finance not think, that in order to help with transparency in the understanding and presentation of the Estimates, that just as one listens to the back the various submissions under the Ministries that are in the establishment that similarly the positions that are contracted for could be listed with the appropriate salary scale of which they are paid, because it does appear, Sir, from a scrutiny of these estimates that many of the higher positions although listed at the back at salary levels on the establishment **are not in fact paid at no salary level**, they are being paid at contracted levels. I have no problem with it, I understand the need of the Public Service. Doesn't the Minister think that it would be a good thing, across the board, if the Ministries' Contracted Services is now occupying such a prominent place that these positions should also be listed as is the case with established positions?

(iv) With respect to Revision of Wages and Salaries, Sir, there is not an Acct Number there, but I see a sum of \$1,557,734,000 listed. Could the Minister say whether it is reasonable to conclude that that represents an approximate 12.6 per cent increase over the revised budget for 2000 and whether that is the kind of increase one is looking for in 2001?

(v) Page 47 under Acct Code 194 - Other - I see a sum of \$100.8 million compared with a sum of \$582,000 in the revised

budget of 2000. Could the Minister explain what is this large - Other Operating Expenses \$100.8 million and whether that does not deserve a breakdown to this National Assembly so that we can understand?

(vi) Rates and Taxes - Acct Code 221 - a figure of \$410,187,000, we are being asked to vote. Would the Minister say how much of it is current and how much of it is arrears and does it relate only to the Ministry of Finance or to all the Ministries together and whether this represents a shift in the way the government treats with the payment of rates and taxes? Whether it is now centralised, as it may not have been before, because there is no precedent that one can point to the budget that gives an indication?

(vii) Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - I looked at page 446 of the Budget where there is an explanation as to what that is all about. Many of them I understand. I see a new item there, Guyana Revenue Authority for which a sum of \$1.2 billion is being requested and I note when I looked through the Customs and Excise Department, the Inland Revenue Department, that in fact there is hardly any provision there for them. So I assume, am I right, Mr Minister, that you are simply giving a subvention to the Guyana Revenue Authority and the Guyana Revenue Authority in turn will have not only an oversight, but a financial responsibility for these two hitherto Departments. If that is so, Sir, while I may understand it, a further question I have is why when we look at the budget for those two agencies in 2000, when they were independent, the sum came to approximately \$17 odd million? Is it that you need an additional \$50 odd million merely for transferring them into a centralised agency known as the Guyana Revenue Authority and whether it is this Authority itself that requires an additional \$50 million? Well I think that does require an explanation, Sir.

(viii) On page 451, the Explanatory Note at the back, I see the Ministry of Finance, in relation to Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations, ACP contribution is being paid by

the Ministry of Finance. Does this mean that the ACP's responsibilities fall within the Ministry of Finance, if they do not, as I believe they do not, why aren't the contributions of the ACP being put to where they belong with the International Trade Ministry as indeed are the contributions to WTO and other international types of organisations for which that Ministry has responsibility. Why is it being retained within the Ministry of Finance? I would like an explanation.

Sir, those are the questions I have.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr Murray.

The Hon Minister.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I just wish to remind the Hon Member that we only have half an hour for this period. I will attempt to answer these questions. *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: You have until 9.00 p.m. No, we are hoping to finish earlier.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Okay, thank you.

(i) Acct Code 101, the answer is 'no'.

(ii) Acct Code 106, you did ask whether the contracted employees should be listed and so on. I do not think it is necessary because some of these contracted employees are not really and truly Public Servants. They are not truly located within the Public Service.

(iii) Acct Code 271, whether the increases reflect 12.6 per cent and whether the Public Service would be getting that, I cannot say anything in terms of percentage at this point in time, as this still has to be negotiated with the unions.

(iv) Acct Code 194 - Other - operating expenses: these are for the complete computerisation process, of the payroll, the pension system, also setting up of a local area network and wide area network for the regions. So that is reflected in the increase for the year 2001.

(v) With respect to the GRA, yes, GRA has responsibility for Customs and Inland Revenue Departments, and the increases that were identified were because of additional staff and wage increases that accrued to the employees of the Guyana Revenue Authority.

(vi) Rates and Taxes, Acct Code 221 - I cannot say at this time how much is for arrears and how much for current, but I can say that it is for all the Ministries together.

(vii) With respect to the ACP, that is a contribution that Ministry of Finance always pays throughout the years, to my understanding, but perhaps it is a useful suggestion that it should be located under the Ministry of Trade.

Mr Winston S Murray: A supplementary question. I want to begin, if you would permit me, Sir, I know it is question time, to say that I am very pleased with the explanation given to Acct Code 194 and I am very pleased to learn about the computerisation in the Ministry of Finance. I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on that step.

Sir, with respect to the answer given on Administrative under Wages and Salaries: Acct Code 101, if it is the case that no Head DIEC staff are included there for payment, then could the Minister explain why it is that he has the Head DIEC listed and coming under the Ministry of Finance at page 541 at the back of the Estimates, where in fact the various positions for the Ministry are listed. I do see there the Head, DIEC, I see the Deputy Head, DIEC. Would you not agree, therefore, that they should be removed from the list of the Establishment of the Ministry of Finance.

Secondly, Sir, with respect to contracted employees, I note the Minister's answer but will the Minister not agree that they do not form part of the Public Service and that was never my understanding? I always understood that they do not form part, but that is not in itself a reason why for purposes of transparency, it would not be a good idea to list these positions at the back of the Estimates, so that we don't have to ask unnecessary questions about them. They are listed and identified Ministry by Ministry, as indeed, with the established positions and everybody can see who are the contracted employees, what are their salary scales and what areas is they are employed in. I think that would help immensely to improve the presentation and understanding of the Estimates.

With respect to Subsidies and Contributions in the Guyana Revenue Authority, again, I note the answer of the Minister, but I still think it is an exorbitant proposition, or would the Minister agree that it is exorbitant to have had a five/seventh increase. Sorry, that's not the question, Sir. Does the Minister give an assurance to this House having paid those hefty increases to the new arms of the Guyana Revenue Authority namely: hitherto, the Customs and the Inland Revenue Department that we can now look forward to greater efficiency within those Departments and the removal of some of the well, *improprieties* may not be the word I would like to use? I think the Minister would get the idea of what it is I mean. Thank you, Sir.

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, I would answer the last question first - the increases to the arms of GRA, the Customs and Inland Revenue. Yes, I must say it has led to greater efficiency. If we look at the Estimates we would see that from the time the GRA has come into being, there has been increases in revenue collection and that is perhaps the main thrust of having Guyana Revenue Authority, to increase collections with greater efficiency.

With respect to the DIEC position, my understanding is that

they are under the State Planning Secretariat.

Mr Winston S Murray: A supplementary question - I don't mean to be persistent, but I think it may have been an oversight on the part of the Minister rather than an intentional ignoring of the question as to whether he did not think it would help transparency, and I really mean this is a serious point to list at the back of the Estimates, the way we do with the established positions, the position of contracted employees in each Ministry, which will enable an even better understanding and appreciation of the Estimates because it purveys every Ministry at this time? It is really a new development and all it requires is a little bit of recognition of that in the Estimates by providing the necessary information, Sir.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, I think Mr Murray is making a good point, but I would like to say that we would have to examine the whole question of categorisation within the Public Service.

Agency 3 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$4,020,386,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 48 and 49, please.

AGENCY 3 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PROGRAMME 1 - Accountant General Department.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,325, 289,000 for Agency 3 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 1 - Accountant General Department - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am sure that

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there is an explanation, very reasonable, as to why, under Acct Code 205 - Pensions - there is no provision being sought in 2001 Budget.

Under Acct Code 194 - Other - on page 49, would the Minister please explain that hike of almost over \$150 million and whether this is perhaps the same process of computerisation taking place in the Accountant General's Department, which I suspect is what it may be?

Acct Code 241 - could the Minister kindly explain why there is such an upsurge in the refunds of revenue by over some \$37 million, why is it that we are receiving revenue and then having to refund it in such a large scale? Maybe there is an explanation for that as well.

Old Age Pensions - the question I want to ask the Minister (am I seeing right?): Is it indeed that he is going to increase old age pensions by the order of \$780 million in 2001, in which case I want to congratulate him before he answers the question, because that is over a forty per cent increase when you look at the increase that is meted out last year? Would that be right, Mr Minister? I am giving you an opportunity to get some kudos.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 205 - Pensions - those numbers for pensions are now reflected under Acct Codes 251 and 252.

Acct Code 194 - Other:- Let me say that the big increases there have to do with the \$150 million that have to be paid to the victims of the post elections violence.

Acct Code 241 - Refunds of Revenue - this includes a \$30 million that had to be privatised. So that had to be refunded to the Trust Company, paid to the Trust Company which had undertaken to pay the dividends when Guyana Stores was ... *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - I want to ask the Minister, whether he really would categorise payments to victims of the post elections violence as under *Other Operating Expenses* of the Ministry of Finance? Sir, I want to ask him if he really thinks this is an Operating Expense of the Ministry of Finance? While I have no objection to payments to victims, here I would like to say *victims generally*, I want to make that observation, and then to suggest that whether he believes that these sums should be more appropriately put in the agencies that have responsibilities so that it can be properly accounted for. The thing about these block votes, is that they become objects of political discretion. I want to say that categorically. I think the aim here in the Parliament approving Estimates, would be to have transparency, therefore I ask the Minister, whether it would not be more appropriate to find the particular head under the various Ministries and have them do the disbursements and the relief executed by them?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, the Ministry of Finance will be controlling the funds but it will be given to the responsible Agencies.

Mr Winston S Murray: Does it follow then, may I ask, that once the monies are paid to the Agencies, that there will be an accounting transfer so that next year, we will be able to see these sums where they belong in the Agencies, through which they were disbursed and not hidden under a global head? So could we have that undertaking from the Minister, so that when we come to see the revised budget for 2001, this sum of \$200 million will be shown under the respective agencies through which they were disbursed? That is the undertaking I would like, Sir.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, the answer is 'yes'.

Agency 3 - Ministry of Finance, Programme 2 - Accountant Gen-

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eral Department - \$1,325,289,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 489 and 490, please.

DIVISION 526 - MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,225,800,000 for Division: 526 - Ministry of Finance - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Sir, Project Code 44004 - National Development Strategy - Does the Minister recall during the substantive budget debate the fact that mention was made of the almost off-hand reference to the National Development Strategy, and doesn't he agree that that approach which was suggested during the budget debate seems to be bowled out by the negligible sum here of \$2 million for the promotion of the National Development Strategy, that the Minister really consider that to be a sum that can seriously be viewed as a serious effort to get this strategy off the ground?

Under the Youth Initiative Programme, again I see this under the Ministry of Finance. Why, Sir? We have a Youth Ministry, why do we have to put the sum of \$240 million in a block vote to implement a Youth Initiative Programme? This creates all the impression of wanting control somewhere other than where it should belong, and should it not be properly put and be in a Ministry where there is direct responsibility for youth, so that it could be coordinated with all the other activities related to youth? Why, Mr Minister, could you please explain? Why is it necessary to keep this Youth Initiative Programme under the Ministry of Finance rather than having it placed within the Ministry of Youth?

With respect to Project Code 44006 - Poverty Programme - Sir,

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there is a sum of \$500 million there and if one looks at Project Profile 141, which is where it is supposed to be.

Description of the Project, and I read:

The project entails provision for the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

All the other projects, we get some very clear ideas about which roads are to be constructed. Why don't we have for the Poverty Reduction Programme, where a sum of \$500 million is involved, a breakdown of what it is that it is intended to achieve with the use of these \$500 million? Why is this not a revealed fact? Does not the Minister agree that it would help with the question of transparency at this sensitive time of our country's development for us to see clearly where the government's emphasis is in the Poverty Reduction Programme using such a large sum of \$500 million?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, the question on the National Development Strategy, I wish to inform the House of the fact that the National Development Strategy was laid in this Parliament last year and all the groundwork for the National Development Strategy was already completed. It is only now to link it to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper which we are now having in the process of consultations.

Technically the Youth Initiative is not a secret. It is the President's brain child and it is being located within the Ministry of Finance for the same reason he is talking about - transparency and accountability - and it is being co-ordinated with the relevant Ministry.

In respect of the Poverty Programme, there is a poverty programme in place. I must mention that the \$60 million that were allocated to the depressed communities will come out of the pov-

erty programme. We know that the work of the Committee on Poverty Programme is not at an end and other sums may come from there. The Ministry of Human Services have a poverty programme, the Ministry of Sports and Culture, the Ministries of Health and Education all have poverty programmes and they will have to submit to the Ministry of Finance through the Cabinet so that the programmes can be approved, so through that they will be identified and come for approval.

The Chairman: Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert HO Corbin: A supplementary question: Is the Minister saying by that response that only \$60 million are being allocated for this depressed Committee's work? I understand that the \$60 million is to deal only with the poor communities which the leaders wanted to commence immediately, but I anticipate that with so many areas to be identified that it will be ten times over. So I wonder if the Minister could highlight where that money will be coming from?

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question: Under the Youth Initiative Programme, is the Minister really saying that there is an inconsistency between this programme being an initiative by the President and putting it within the functional Ministry to ensure proper co-ordination? Is the Minister of Finance saying that there is an inconsistency and if he is acknowledging that there is no inconsistency in that approach, why doesn't he think it is a better idea to put this sum - it will be overseen by His Excellency the President - but put it where it can be properly co-ordinated by the Minister who has direct responsibility for youth and youth initiative?

Mr Chairman, I know the answer given for part of the use of the \$500 million against the poverty programme. The further question I have for the Minister is that he seems unclear as to what exactly this money will be used for apart from the depressed communities, is he prepared to give an undertaking to this House that he will present

and make available to the House, the projects for which the rest of the money will be earmarked so that we can satisfy that it is done on a needs basis or an objective basis? Would he give that commitment?

Thirdly, with respect to the National Development Strategy, is the Minister not aware or does he not agree that there is, at the stage where the National Development Strategy is, a lengthy process of consultation, which in our understanding that to take place with this Strategy, and since this Strategy has not yet been formally adopted by the House, that it is only after such consultations and agreement on the Strategy or some understanding that it will come to the House for its approval. It is in those circumstances, I want to ask the Minister whether he seriously believes that a paltry sum of \$2 million could achieve what needs to be done between now and the bringing of that Strategy to the House for its approval?

The Chairman: Mr Góveia.

Mr Andy Góveia: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 45009, the Youth Initiative Programme, could the Minister say, since this programme would not be administrated under the Youth Ministry and we have already done the Office of the President, which Department of the Office of the President administrates this programme with this large amount of money, because I cannot see the Office of the President having enough manpower to do this? I would like to know where are the youth specialists, the people who are accustomed to working with Youth Departments, under the Office of the President? Will this money be channelled through?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: In response to the Hon. Member, Mr Góveia's question, the programme will come under the PS of the Office of the President.

With respect to the Hon. Member, Mr Murray's questions, the National Development Strategy, money is coming already from the

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International Donor Community and there is a lot of money there for that consultation.

As to whether the programme will be brought, the answer is 'yes'. I think you were saying the Poverty Programme. The question about whether there is an inconsistency in approach, my answer to that is 'no'. I believe strongly that we are identifying the programme with the President's Initiative.

The question raised by the Hon Member, Mr Corbin: My answer is no, the door is not closed to the depressed communities.

Division 526 - Ministry of Finance - \$2,225,800,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We will move now to pages 78 and 79, please.

AGENCY 8 - OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL, PROGRAMME 1 - Office of the Auditor General

Question is proposed that the sum of \$126,132,000 for Agency 8 - Office of the Auditor General, Programme 1 - Office of the Auditor General - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, I have one question on this Agency - Acct Code 231, I see zero there, so I shouldn't ask about that, but probably Acct Codes 232 or 222, the question is whether the Minister has included in these Estimates under that head or any other Acct Code, a sum of money that will ensure the Constitutional Amendment passed by this Honourable House very recently, could be truly given effect to, in that it would take the Auditor General's Department further along the road to independence because that was the aim of the Constitutional Amendment -- *[Interruption: 'What*

about it?' "He is asking if the money is there."]

I am asking if the provision is there to fulfil the requirements of the Constitutional Amendment? That is the question.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: With respect to Acct Code 232, at the moment Guyana hosts the Chairmanship of the Organisation that has to do with all the Auditor Generals' Office in the Region which is called CAROSAI. The money that is there belongs to that body. The training fund is to meet all Caribbean Audit Offices long term training needs. I think it is US \$10,000 for that fund.

With respect to whether the monies are provided for the Constitutional Changes that are to be brought with respect to the Auditor General's Office, no, it is not being provided there.

Mr Winston S Murray: Could the Minister then say whether he intends to bring by way of supplementary provision, any monies that may be required to ensure that such effect is given to the Constitutional Amendment?

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Chairman, the answer is 'yes'.

Agency 8 - Office of the Auditor General, Programme 1 - Office of the Auditor General - \$126,132,000 agreed to and ordered stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 465, please.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES, AUDITOR GENERAL - Project Codes 12001, 25001 and 44001.

Question is proposed that the sums of \$2,000,000; \$4,000,000; \$3,000,000 for Division 505, Constitutional Agencies, Project Codes 12001; 25001; 44001 - Auditor General - stand part of

the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 505, Constitutional Agencies, Auditor General - Project Codes 12001; 25001; 44001 - \$2,000,000; \$4,000,000; \$3,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 436 and 437, please.

AGENCY 90 - PUBLIC DEBT, PROGRAMME 1 - Public Debt

Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,403,997,000 for Agency 90 - Public Debt, Programme 1 - Public Debt - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 90 - Public Debt, Programme 1 - Public Debt - \$12,403,997,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 206 and 207, please.

AGENCY 45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER, PROGRAMME 1 - Housing and Water.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$604,037,000 for Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 1 - Housing and Water - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr G⁴ouveia.

Mr Andy G⁴ouveia: Under Acct Code 103: Is the Minister saying that the Ministry of Housing and Water have no workers with technical and craft skills?

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Under Project Code 106 - Contracted Employees: Can the Minister state who are these employees, what slots they are filling and, of course, why such an increase in the money there?

Under Project Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings: I would like to know which building he is maintaining? *[Laughter]*

Under Project Code 172 - Electricity Charges: It is unbelievable, the increase for electricity charges. I wonder why and how come it is just a drastic increase?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member,

The Hon Minister.

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 103 - Other Technical and Craft Skills: Remember the Ministry of Housing and Water has a Secretariat and we do have three agencies and those agencies have the required technical personnel.

Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees: There is one contracted employee. If you look at Budget 2000, it was \$1.1 million. It is just \$100,000 more in 2001 and this will cater for increases, gratuities and so on.

Acct Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings: This was for 2000 for emergency works on the collapse of the back stairway, the beams and so on, and it had to be repaired.

On Acct Code 172 - Electricity charges: It was decided that the Ministry of Housing will pay the Electricity charges for the other units, D&I and Labour. So the Ministry would have taken over all of the payments for those bills.

Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 1- Housing and Water - \$604,037, 000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 486, please.

DIVISION 523 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

Question is proposed that the sum of \$540,000,000 for Division 523 - Ministry of Housing and Water - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Ming.

Mr C Stanley Ming: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 19001 - Infrastructure Development and Buildings, Project Code 19002 - Low Income Settlement Programme: I noticed in the budget for 2000 compared with the latest estimates, there is a shortfall in expenditure of approximately \$322 million. Would the Minister explain if this is because of the lack of absorptive capacity? And if that is so, in the budget of 2001, there is a similar amount compared with 2000, whether that lack of capacity would be addressed in a manner that they can absorb the resources that are available?

The Chairman: Mr Góveia, you want to ask a question?

Mr Andy Góveia: Under Project Code 19001, \$413 million have been allocated to

the development of new and upgrading of existing housing schemes in Regions 2 - 7 and 10

Mr Minister, could you give us a breakdown of which housing schemes this money is being spent on and what type of work?

Project Code 19002- Existing Squatter Communities: I know that you have \$124 million to be spent in these communities, I am asking if you have any way of monitoring the projects to see that they are being done in the way whereby the people of the areaa will get the value of the \$124 million being spent there?

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Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, in reply to the Hon. Member, Mr Ming, Project Code 19001, \$650 million was budgeted for the year 2000; we have spent \$400 million and there are ongoing works. Projects are continuing in the year 2001, and there are some additional provisions for capital expenditures this year. So all the money should be spent in the year 2001.

With regard to the monitoring of projects in Project Code 19002, we do have consultants. There is already a list of pre-qualified consultants approved by the Central Tender Board and a list of pre-qualified contractors will be approved shortly for the LIS Programme.

The Chairman: Oh, yes, Mr Goveia, you have a supplementary question?

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, to the Minister: Are you saying to this House that the Ministry of Housing has no staff that go and evaluate the work and you depend on the project consultants to inform you?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, I didn't say that. We do have a Project Unit within the Ministry under the IDB Loan Consultant Project. We do have experts in the Ministry.

The Chairman: Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, can the Minister say, which are the new housing schemes in Region 7? Can he name the ones which are to be upgraded please?

Hon Shaik Baksh: The provision is for the Four-Mile, Bartica Housing Scheme where we have already graded the land, paid for surveys and shortly this scheme will come under the LIS Programme (low income settlement).

The Chairman: Miss David, please.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question for the Minister. Four-mile Housing Scheme is a new one, can you say which one of the existing ones will be upgraded? Four-Mile is a new one, one of the new ones coming on stream now.

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, yes, the legend says, *the development of new and upgrading of existing housing schemes in several Regions.*

For Region 7, it is only the development of the new housing scheme, not the old housing schemes.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir:

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I was looking through the Project Profile and hoping I would have gotten some details on Project Code 19001, with respect to how much of the \$413 is allocated for Region 10? Will the Minister care to give us this detail?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, in terms of Region 10, we have done some works already at Amelia's Ward in laying some pipelines for the provision of water, but this is just preliminary works. Amelia's Ward will fall under Project Code 19002 under the LIS Programme.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I will repeat my question because I rather suspect that the Minister did not understand my question even though I tried to put it very simply. I will repeat, how much of the \$413 million will be allocated for infrastructural development works in Region 10?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, I think I was very clear. We have spent a preliminary sum to provide pipelines for water for the Amelia's Ward Housing Scheme, but under the IDB Programme, a substantial provision will be made for infrastructural work at Amelia's Ward.

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I was hoping that I would not have received an abstract answer. There are two major schemes in Linden, that is Amelia's Ward and Block 22. I got an abstract answer for Amelia's Ward and I got no answer for what is happening in Block 22. I would like to report to my people in Region 10, an expectation as to what they hope to receive to develop the housing areas in Region 10. How much in terms of direct cash?

The Chairman: Is there any further assistance you can give, Mr Minister?

Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, I would want to ask the same question as Mr Kadir asked the Minister, that is, how much money for Four-Mile Housing Scheme in Bartica?

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, just a simple question for the Minister, could you confirm whether the Regions being addressed will be Regions 2 to 7 and 10?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, yes, that is confirmed. Regions 2 to 7 and Region 10.

Secondly, Block 22 Blue Berry Hill, that is coming for the water distribution network. The complete distribution network which will cost \$40 million. This is provided for under the World Bank Programme. The contract has been awarded already.

With respect of how much money will be spent at Four Mile, Bartica, I can say now that designs will be done shortly for that Scheme.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James: K McAllister: Mr Chairman, looking at the Profile, I am seeing that the project includes *the development of new and he upgrading of existing housing schemes in Regions 2, 6, 7 and 10*. So I am wondering if there is some typographical error here?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, it states here clearly, I don't know if the Hon. Member is losing his sight, Regions 2 to 7 which means 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10.

Division 523 - Ministry of Housing and Water - \$540,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 487, please.

DIVISION 524 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - WATER SUPPLY, IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,316,939,000 for Division 524 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Water Supply Improvement Project - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Ming.

Mr C Stanley Ming: Mr Chairman, a similar question to the last one under Project Code 28001 - Major Water Systems/Minor Water Systems - I go back to the 2000 Budget which was \$1 billion as against the latest estimate for 2000, \$807 million giving you a shortfall of absorptive capacity of about twenty-five per cent totalling \$263 million plus. Now for 2001, we have \$1.1 billion. Is the answer by the Minister similar to the last time, *that there is ongoing works*, would this mean that the shortfall from 2000, which is \$263 million is now included in the budget for 2001? Do they have the capacity to absorb this in 2001?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Yes, Mr Chairman, regarding the shortfall that is

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there now, we have had problems with the major systems in terms of designs and so on, but these have been overcome. These are donor funded projects and we have to go through all the stipulations for such projects, so there was some delay in getting this project started.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 28001 - Design and Supervision of Major Works - we are spending \$18 million on it. I am asking the Minister, if this is correct? His regular excuse is *the designs of these projects are always faulted and have to be corrected*. Is this money guaranteed to correct that situation?

Under the same heading - Minor Water Systems - Provision for Laying Pipelines in Coastal Areas - I will ask the Minister how far this project has gone because I know this is an ongoing project? In which areas is it being worked on right now?

Under Project Code 28004 - Pure Water Supply (New Amsterdam) - I will ask the Minister because this project has been going on and we have been asking questions in this House about this project, if this \$48 million will finally close off that project? And after the \$48 million have been spent, if the people of New Amsterdam could expect an efficient water system?

Under Project Code 28005 - Coastal Water Supply - Installation of Pipelines in Selected Areas - I would like to ask the Minister, if he is aware that there are certain coastal areas in this country, that only have one hour of water per day and projects have been done in these areas, if that has been corrected?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, the answer is 'yes' with respect to the New Amsterdam Water Project. This will complete the project, it will take another three to four months.

Design and Supervision: These are new designs for the Eccles major scheme which will cover from Eccles to Timehri and also for

the Bartica Scheme which will run to Four-Mile Bartica.

Minor Water Systems: There are several areas in the Minor Water Systems including Sophia, which is done under this Programme, Belfield, Mocha and a whole range of other areas.

Coastal Water Supply: Remember the water project is ongoing and these new schemes are designed to ensure higher pressure in the lines. So there are problems in some areas for line pressure, but until these new schemes come on stream, we will continue to have some of these problems

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, through you to the Minister of Works: I was beginning to be optimistic when I noticed under Project Code 28007, there is \$40 million allocated for LINMINE - Rehabilitation of Linden Water Supply System - but I wonder at the contradiction when I refer back to the details of capital expenditure under Division 540 - Project Code 28001, page 504 - Water Supply - there is \$50 million being allocated for improvement of water supply system. So I am wondering if it is a \$50 million plus a \$40 million plus a \$37 million, which would obviously make it look a little better, but then I am confused to know that \$50 million that is given to the RDC has to go to LINMINE and then there is a further \$40 million here which also goes to LINMINE, so I am kind of confused. Can the Minister, please, explain?

The Chairman: Can you take Miss David's as well?

Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Yes, Mr Chairman, to the Minister, under Project Code 28002 - Installation of hand pumps and wind mills in Regions 1, 6 and 9 - Why couldn't this be 1, 8 and 9?

Hon Shaik Baksh: We already have an expansive hinterland water

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project over 110 pumps and wells in Regions 8 and 9. I stated this in my budget presentation. So we had to select because it is a small sum budgeted now for these Regions.

Yes, you are right \$50 million plus \$37 million plus \$40 million for capital works and there is a transition team working for the take over of LINMINE Water Supply by the 1st September.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, a little clarification, Project Code 28007 - LINMINE - if the Hon. Minister can indicate what the rehabilitation of Linden Water Supply System entails?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, it will entail the reticulation system, that is, the very old water distribution system and then we will have to look also at the treatment processes. There are about five treatment plants at Linden. We have to rationalise that. So it is for both the water treatment and the reticulation, that is, the distribution pipe network.

The Chairman: Mr Góveia.

Mr Andy Góveia: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - under Project Code 28001 - Mr Minister, I know this doesn't have anything to do with you, but it comes under your Ministry. You know and I know that your Ministry's projects have been plagued with design problems, I am asking you if you guarantee that this \$18 million will improve the problems you have with the designs of the other projects and this upcoming one?

Hon Shaik Baksh: Mr Chairman, I replied before that the \$18 million has been spent on the Eccles and Bartica designs. We have had international consultants who have completed the designs and they have all been submitted to the World Bank and they have given a *No Objection*.

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The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Members.

Division 524 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Water Supply Improvement Project - \$1,316,939,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 488, please.

DIVISION 525 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - GEORGETOWN REMEDIAL AND SEWERAGE PROJECT.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$92,636,000 for Division 525 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Georgetown Remedial and Sewerage Project - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 525 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Georgetown Remedial and Sewerage Project - \$92,636,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 108 and 109, please.

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PROGRAMME 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$110,290,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$110,290,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 110 and 111, please.

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AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PROGRAMME 2 - Crops and Livestock Support Services.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$515,974,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 2 - Crops and Livestock Support Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 2 - Crops and Livestock Support Services - \$515,974,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 112 and 113, please.

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PROGRAMME 3 - Fisheries

Question is proposed that the sum of \$18,638,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 3 - Fisheries - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 3 - Fisheries - \$18,638,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 114 and 115, please.

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PROGRAMME 4 - Hydrometeorological Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$92,617,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 4 - Hydrometeorological Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

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Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 4 - Hydrometeorological Services - \$92,617,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 116 and 117, please.

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, PROGRAMME 5 - Lands and Surveys

Questions is proposed that the sum of \$55,660,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 5 - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 5 - Lands and Surveys - \$55,660,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 469 and 470, please.

DIVISION 508 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,441,574,000 for Division 508 - Ministry of Agriculture - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 508 - Ministry of Agriculture - \$1,441,574,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 471, please.

DIVISION 509 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - RURAL SUPPORT PROJECT

Question is proposed that the sum of \$130,175,000 for Division 509 - Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project - stand

part of the Estimates.

Any questions, please?

Division 509 - Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project - \$130,175,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 472, please.

DIVISION 510 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - MMA III

Question is proposed that the sum of \$35,500,000 for Division 510 - Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 510 - Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III - \$35,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 473, please.

DIVISION 512 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - ARTISANAL FISHERY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$41,000,000 for Division 512 - Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 512 - Ministry of Agriculture - Artisanal Fishery - \$41,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 242 and 243.

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 1 - Secretariat Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$53,533,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 1 - Secretariat Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. Page 242, Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - I see that there are four contracted employees and I would be very grateful if the Hon Minister could indicate who these four contracted employees are?

Acct Code 107 - Temporary Employees - I notice that under Temporary Employees for last year, we had no temporary employees, yet we see a figure of \$150,000, in the revised budget for 2000 and this year, according to the Staffing Details, there is no intention to fill that, to have any temporary employees, yet we see a figure of a \$250,000 budgeted.

Acct Code 155 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: A small question, could the Hon Minister indicate what infrastructure is being maintained under that head or anticipated to be maintained?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Contracted Employees are:

- The Permanent Secretary
- The Head of the DPP Department
- The Head of the Public Service Sector, and

- The Drivers

With respect to temporary employees, these I understand are relief cleaners that are employed.

With respect to the Other Infrastructure at Acct Code 155, that is to erect the parapets which are within the compound.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Please, Sir, a supplementary question: Is the Hon. Minister saying that we actually have temporary cleaners on the staff or that he anticipates that we will have, because the Staffing Details don't show that we have any? Is he saying that he actually has as he speaks, or he anticipates that in the second half of the year, he will need relief cleaners?

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, not necessarily the second half of the year. As a matter of fact there are cleaners who would go at times of the year, sometimes, the first half and some of them, the second half. This provision is to deal with that kind of situation.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, would the Minister agree with me that it would then have been better under Staffing Details to have that reflected rather than having the figure zero for both last year and this year.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Perhaps it might have been better, Mr Chairman.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 1 - Secretariat Services - \$53,533,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 244 and 245, please.

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AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 2 - Guyana Police Force.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,394,033,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 2 - Guyana Police Force - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes, please, Sir, would I be correct, through you, in anticipating the Minister's answer under Temporary Employees that again that is for the itinerant or the relief cleaners, because again we see under Staffing Details - Temporary Employees - none - yet we see a figure of \$265,000 budgeted for that position?

I forgot that you are taking all the questions. Sorry about that, Minister.

Acct Code 152 - Maintenance of Bridges - I see a figure of \$1.1 million. Could I ask the Hon. Minister, if this is the Bridge for the Albion Police Station and if not, could he share with this Honourable House what bridge they propose to maintain in this year?

Page 245, Acct Code 191 - National and Other Events - I notice that for National and Other Events last year we had \$400,000 budgeted, none was spent and this year we have \$1.2 budgeted under that head. Could the Hon. Minister please share with this House what National and Other Events has led to this figure? That is all.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Last year on the budget, we did not plan because Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport had taken up the stand with respect to the expenses incurred in the national events in which the Ministry of Home Affairs was involved.

With respect to the Maintenance of Bridges, I don't know if one just wants to know the procedures, but there is no doubt as to the number of Police Stations and bridges that are there and the repairs and maintenance which are necessary from time to time. As a matter of fact this sum is very meagre for the amount of work which has to be done, so we have to prioritise bridges in order to maintain and repair them.

With respect to Temporary Employees, the Hon. Member is very, very erroneous in seeking to anticipate an answer. We have, for example, the war museum that is maintained by the Police and we employ people temporarily there. I am only using that as an illustration.

The Chairman: Mr Goveia.

Mr Andy Goveia: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 212 - Training (including Scholarships) - Inoticed you have increased your training, could you give us a little framework on the programme or some details as to why there is such a large increase in the training programme? After you spend this money, do you think it will increase the efficiency of the Force, or you prefer to say service?

Under Acct Code 192, \$7 million budgeted this year, you used only \$4.3 million the year before. Can you give us a reason why there is such a large increase, nearly double?

Under Acct Code 164 - Vehicle Spares and Services - Mr Minister, you know one of the biggest cries of the Police Service is that they never have vehicles. Their vehicles are always broken, they always tell you that there is no vehicle at the Station, all sorts of other reasons. Will this money solve that problem and could the citizens of this country look forward to when they make a phone call to a Police Station that there will be a vehicle sent with some policemen to investigate the situation?

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, as it relates to Acct Code

164, I know that there has been a reduction of \$2 million on 2000, but I have heard elsewhere that there is budgeted \$140 million for vehicles for the Police Force, so I am wondering if the Minister can explain? How are we going to maintain the same vehicle spares or a reduced vehicle spares and service with approximately \$140 million worth of vehicles?

I also wish to inquire if the Minister took into consideration the contention that our Police Force needs a tremendous amount of training at all levels, and whether the \$12 million budgeted can be sufficient to train our Police Force to make them more professional and to allow them to be able to get involve in scientific policing?

The Chairman: Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah Backer: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question on Maintenance of Bridges: The Minister rightly said the sum is not big and the bridges have to be prioritised. Could he indicate to this House which are the two or the three bridges that have been prioritised for repairs.

The Chairman: Miss Nestor.

Miss Lurlene A Nestor: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Programme 2 - Acct Code 231 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - \$60,000 budgeted: Could the Minister say to us the kind of organisations he is catering for and what criteria is being used for allocation of sums of money to the organisations?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 231 takes care of organisations such as the Guyana Legionaries and so on. An annual contribution is being made by the Ministry to those organisations and it is because of the long and outstanding services that they have given to a country that they have been considered worthwhile to receive such contribution.

With respect to the supplementary question asked by the Hon. Member with respect to bridges, the two will be Providence Bridge, (those who would have passed on the East Bank would have seen it) and the Felix Austin Police College Bridge. There is a host of others, but there are only two asked for.

With respect to Spares, that is, Acct Code 164, one would appreciate that new vehicles in the first year would hardly need maintenance, but probably in the following year, so we will have to budget much more money for spares.

The money which is being used for Dietary aspect ... If the Hon. Member wants to ask a question, he should be frank and not seek to mislead this House by saying the year before. In 1999, there was \$4 million, not in the year 2000 and in the year 2001. The dietary provision is for prisoners who have been kept in lock-ups all the time. Of course, there is a serious effort being made to improve not only on the welfare and working conditions of Policemen, but even prisoners who are detained for varying periods.

With respect to the Training, I hope that the Hon. Member would know and appreciate that every money which is expended by this Government, particularly with respect to the Improvement of the Police Force will inure to the benefit of the country. \$12 million is a minimal amount, I appreciate, as the Hon Member rightly acknowledges, but we are hoping to do that kind of training that would enable those who would have benefitted from that training to do greater training locally, to improve the quality of policing that we have in Guyana.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman: I am just seeking some clarification from the Hon Minister because I understand him to be saying that the new vehicles even are not serviced, but Mr Minister, I do see here a reduction on 2000 and indeed, I am quite sure all of us would understand that whilst we

may not have major problems with new vehicles, there is preventative maintenance which is required and there is going to be a cost associated with that. I thought that would have been included here or can the Hon Minister say if this reduction is here because the existing vehicles will be scrapped or sold?

Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I think it is striking that vehicles in the Police Force, when they would have reached a certain stage, are boarded and disposed off in accordance with certain procedure. This has been the practice in the Police Force.

With respect to Acct Code 164, I think the Hon. Member should listen to the answers which are given. I talked about the spares, not the service. Everybody appreciates that new vehicles have to be serviced, but with respect to the spares and the time these vehicles would have been acquired, it would have been close down to the end of the year and that is a factor that must be taken cognisance of.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 2 - Guyana Police Force - \$2,394,0323.000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 246 and 247, please.

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 3 - Guyana Prison Service

Question is proposed that the sum of \$397,052,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 3 - Guyana Prison Service - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 3 - Guyana Prison Service - \$397,052,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand

part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 248 and 249, please.

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 4 - Police Complaints Authority

Question is proposed that the sum of \$9,826,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 4 - Police Complaints Authority - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, just a small question, under Acct Code 143 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies: I see that last year we budgeted \$61,000, we spent \$34,000, but again we have budgeted for \$60,000. Are we cleaning a larger area this year or is it that last year the figure that was spent was really inadequate? In other words, was it not sufficient to keep the place clean?

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, I understand that the Police Complaints Authority is housed at a building which is occupied by others and for last year some of the expenses were borne by the Court and others, but we catered to do the entire cleaning and meet the expenses for this year.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 4 - Police Complaints Authority - \$9,826,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 250 and 251, please.

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 5 - Guyana Fire Service

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$223,592,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 5 - Guyana Fire Service - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr McAllister.

Mr James K. McAllister: Acct Code 212 - Training: I see a sum here for \$2 million. I wonder if the Minister can say if he thinks this sum is adequate for training in the Guyana Fire Service, taking into consideration the need to increase the investigative capabilities of the Fire Service so that we can uncover the reason for some fires we have been having recently.

In passing, Mr Chairman, I noticed that the Minister apparently does not intend to feed our Firemen - Acct Code 192.

The Chairman: The Hon. Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, Hon. Members heard when I addressed this House, we talked about training and the provision which is made for training and the agreement that is being entered to by the Government with respect to training.

With respect to the Dietary, Firemen provide their own meals.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 5 - Guyana Fire Service - \$223,592,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 254 and 255, please.

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, PROGRAMME 7 - General Registrar Office.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$33,272,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 7 - General Registrar

Office - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - On page 255, we see, in the Staffing Details, no provision for Contracted Employees, yet we see a fairly hefty figure of \$3.9 million for this year. Could the Hon. Minister indicate to this House how many contracted employees we have or we anticipate to have during this year and what are their functions?

Under Acct Code 194 - *Other*, we see that last year \$100,000 was budgeted, \$82,000 was spent, yet we see that for this year \$340,000 have been budgeted. Could the Minister give the House some examples as to what comes under this head, *Other*?

The Chairman: Would you like to take Mr McAllister's question, Mr Minister?

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Yes, Sir.

Mr James K. McAllister: Acct Codes 141 to 143, rather I would like to concentrate on Acct Codes 141 and 142 - Rental of Buildings and Maintenance of Buildings: I wish to ask the Minister if he can indicate which are the buildings or building being rented by GRO and why is the sum for the Maintenance of Buildings such a meagre sum?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you. Mr Chairman, for the education of the Hon. Member, we pay a rent at the GPO where we occupy. The maintenance that we do there is for minor things within the area that we occupy at GPO. We don't occupy GPO free of cost.

With respect to the question by the Hon. Member, Mrs Backer, I

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wish to say at the onset that the Staffing Details are incorrect. There are in fact two contracted employees at the GRO and they are, the Registrar General and the Deputy Registrar General.

With respect to Acct Code 194 - Other - those are little tokens that I have used up for the staff benefit and to induce them to produce even more during the year. *[Laughter]*

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 7 - General Registrar Office - \$33,272,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 467 and 468, please.

DIVISION 507 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$310,320,000 for Division 507 - Ministry of Home Affairs - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you very much, Mr Chairman. If I can start with Project Code 24003 - Land and Water Transport - Fire - \$130 million: Purchase of two fire tenders. The profile will show, Sir, that this is a project that is anticipated to be completed in this calendar year, so I respectfully ask the Minister, if he could identify where these fire engines were bought from and to indicate when they are likely to arrive in Guyana seeing that half of the year is gone?

Project Code 12003 - Fire Ambulances and Stations: I am sorry to go back. Please, Sir, if you will bear with me ... \$20 million - the Legend says, the construction of fire station at Anna Regina. Again this project is anticipated to be completed this year. I would just like to get an idea from the Hon Minister as to what is the stage in construction of the fire station at Anna Regina?

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Project Code 26001 - Equipment - Police: The Legend says, acquisition of traffic, laboratory communication and other equipment and arms and ammunition, but more importantly when you look at the Profile, it says here, the project includes the purchase of communication traffic equipment, arms and ammunition and forensic and crime laboratory equipment. The question I have for the Hon Minister, is what part of the \$30 million is going towards the forensic and crime laboratory equipment?

Sir, could I go to the next page which is 468?

The Chairman: Yes, you may go to page 468.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 26009 - Police Complaints Authority: We see a figure of \$2 million towards the rehabilitation of building and purchase of office furniture and my question is, is this figure enough? I am of the opinion that this cannot do any type of rehabilitation, perhaps just a few nails or so, if you are also going to purchase office furniture, computer and photocopier. So my question to the Hon Minister is, would he not agree with me that this figure is inadequate to do those things which are described in the Legend?

The Chairman: Miss David.

Miss Judith David: Project Code 12002 - Police Stations and Buildings: I see \$40 million there. I would want to ask the Minister, how much of this money is allocated to Region 7 for the Officers' Quarters, the Bartica Police Station and the other stations and buildings in Region 7?

Secondly, is there any fire engine for Region 7?

The other one is Project Code 24001 - Land and Water Transport for Police: I want to know how much of this money or if any water transport especially will be provided for Region 7 to traverse the Mazaruni, Cuyuni and Essequibo Rivers where mining is going

on and a vehicle for Seventy-two Miles Issano and the other areas along the route going into the interior?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Thank you, Mr Chairman. With respect to Police Stations and Buildings in the provision there is nothing for Region 7. There is another provision in the budget for accommodation for the officers in Region 7.

Regarding the Fire and ambulance station, again there is nothing in the provision here. The Legend is clear as to what that is for, it does not include Region 7.

With respect to Project Code 24001 - Land and Water Transport - there is nothing there again for Region 7 because Region 7 has recently acquired a boat engine, among other things, and substantial work is being done at the Police Station.

I think Kamarang Police Station is to be addressed in the provision.

Land and Water Transport - Sophia: We already have the specifications, we are in the process of identifying now who is likely to be a supplier and we are hoping that these are not shelf-items that we can purchase. The order should be placed shortly and hopefully before the end of the year the equipment should be in Guyana.

With respect to the equipment for the Police, Mr Chairman, we are spending almost \$3 million on some aspect of the Forensic Laboratory. Yes, \$3 million for now.

With respect to the Police Complaints Authority, we appreciate like the Hon. Member does, that that money is not sufficient for what we would like to do, but for the time being we are revamping that area. It is to acquire equipment primarily by this \$2 million, computer, fax machine, photocopier, et cetera, and hopefully we will build it

up some more.

I wish to be guided if I have inadvertently omitted any of the questions.

The Chairman: Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12001 - Buildings - Prisons: The Profile says that the Prison Buildings at Mazaruni, Timehri, Georgetown and Lusignan are to be rehabilitated. I really would like to know what is the scope of the work at these places because \$25 million do seems to be a little bit meagre.

Project Code 12003 - Fire Station at Anna Regina: I am wondering if the Minister can indicate to the House if he has a design already for the station and if so could he give us a brief description of what the station should turn out to be?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon J Ronald Gajraj: Mr Chairman, thank you. The work at Mazaruni prison is ongoing. I have been going there for quite some time and this is more or less to continue work that is being done at Mazaruni.

With respect to the Fire Station, the Hon Members would have noticed in the newspapers that notice has been put out for designs, for designers, consultancy and that is what we are doing.

Division 507 - Ministry of Home Affairs - \$310.320,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: That brings us to an end of our deliberations for today. Let the Assembly resume, please.

Assembly Resumes

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ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The Assembly stands adjourned until tomorrow at 14:00 H.

Adjourned accordingly at 19:11H