

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 REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

14TH SITTING

14:00H

Thursday, 05th 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. Repu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P. - *Minister of Parliamentary Affairs*
The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., - *Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation (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 Affairs (Region No. 3 Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)*

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

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

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P. - *Minister of Fisheries, other Crops*

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

Members of the Opposition (30)

(i) People's National Congress (27)

<i>Mr H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.</i>	<i>- Leader of the Opposition</i>
<i>Mr Robert H. O. Corbin, M. P.</i>	
<i>Mr Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.</i>	
<i>Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M. P.</i>	<i>- Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly</i>

*Non-Elected Minister

**Elected Member from The United Force

Thursday, 5th July, 2001

Mr E. Lance Carberry, M.P.
M 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. - (Absent - on Leave)

Mr C Stanley Ming, M.P.
Mr Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. - (Absent - on Leave)

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

Mr Andy Gouveia, M.P. - (Absent)

Ms Volda A. Lawrence, M. P.
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) - (Absent).

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.. - (Absent).

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.

Leave

Leave has been granted to the Hon Members, Mrs Deborah Backer and Mr Deryck Bernard for today's sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2001 (2001 BUDGET)

The Speaker: The Assembly is now considered resolved into Committee of Supply to resume consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2001.

In Committee

The Chairman: Hon. Members, we have for consideration today, our last ten Agencies, forty-six Programmes and Divisions. We will begin today with the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

Will you now turn to pages 186 and 187, please?

AGENCY 43 - MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, PROGRAMME 1- Ministry Administration

**Question is proposed that the sum of \$35,940,000 for Agency 43
- Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, Programme 1
- Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.**

Any questions?

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The Hon Member, Mrs Lawrence.

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Under Acct Code 204 - National Insurance - I would like to ask the Minister, since in the Staffing Details there is one additional staff, and the NIS contribution has decreased by approximately \$500,000, will the Minister kindly explain?

The Chairman: If there are other questions, we can take several at the same time.

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Acct Code 131 - Fuel and Lubricants - I observe that there is a reduction from \$3 million to \$1 million, I am also cognisant of the fact that there has been a hike in fuel prices in this country. Can the Minister explain?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth D A Bisnauth: When Human Services and Social Security was an entity by itself, from July to December - its Labour, Human Services. These figures really are for the first six months of the year. That is why, they are there as they are.

Agency 43 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, Programme 1 - Administration - \$35,940,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 232 and 233, please.

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, PROGRAMME 1 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$46,089,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

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Any questions?

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$46,089,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 188 and 189, please.

AGENCY 43 - MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

PROGRAMME 2 - Social Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$562,331,000 for Agency 43 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, Programme 2 - Social Services, - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Miss Peterkin.

Miss Myrna E N Peterkin: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I have noticed that there has been a decrease in electricity charges from 2000 to 2001. Can the Minister please explain? *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: At Acct Code 172?

Miss Myrna E N Peterkin: Sorry, Acct Code 172.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth D A Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the answer is identical to that given before. It is for the period January to June.

The Chairman: Mrs Lawrence.

Mrs Volda A. Lawrence: Acct Code 231 - I wonder if the Minister could tell me what are the Local Organisations that will benefit from this Subsidy and Contribution?

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The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth D A Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the organisations are listed on pages 448 and 449, Volume I.

Agency 43 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, Programme 2 - Social Services - \$562,331,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 234 and 235, please.

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, PROGRAMME 2 - Social Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$525,917,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 2 - Social Services, - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 2 - Social Services - \$525,917,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 182 and 183, please.

AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR, PROGRAMME 9 - Labour Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$39,677,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 9 - Labour Administration, - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 9 - Labour Administration - \$39,677,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Pages 236 and 237, please.

**AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES
AND SOCIAL SECURITY, PROGRAMME 3 - Labour
Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,974,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Service and Social Security, Programme 3 - Labour Administration - \$56874,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 463, please.

**DIVISION 503 - MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND
SOCIAL SECURITY, SIMAP**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$432,035,000 for Division 503 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 503 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP - \$432,035,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 464, please.

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DIVISION 504 - MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$5,000,000 for Division 503 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 504 - Ministry of Human Services and Social Security - \$5,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 510, please.

DIVISION 545 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,800,000 for Division 545 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions.

Division 545 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - \$7,800,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 511, please.

DIVISION 546 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY - SIMAP

Question is proposed that the sum of \$626,074,000 for Division 546 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security -

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SIMAP - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 546 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, SIMAP - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 260 and 261.

**AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 1 - Main Office**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$8,736,000 for Agency; 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 1 - Main Office - stand part of the Estimates.

Any Questions?

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$8,736,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 262 and 263, please.

**AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 2 - Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$22,927,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$22,927,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Pages 264 and 265, please.

**AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 3 - Attorney General's Chambers**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,843,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 3 - Attorney General's Chambers - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Mr Chairman, thank you. This is Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - Can the Hon Minister say what are the categories of these contracted employees and the nature of the functions being performed by them, that is, \$13,181,000 in the Attorney General's Chambers?

The second question, Acct Code 232 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations - \$45 million - Can the Hon Minister say, what are the subsidies and contributions made? What are the organisations? To whom were \$45 million paid?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Mr Chairman, with respect to the question in relation to Contracted Employees, there are two contracted employees, one in the drafting section, one in the advice section and those terms of the contract would be made available to the House on another occasion if that becomes necessary.

The subsidy is a payment of arrears that was due to the Council of Legal Education.

The Chairman: Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Yes, I believe that details will be necessary. I think the Hon. Minister said, if necessary they will be

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provided. I would be very grateful to be supplied.

Could we know the term of this debt to the Council of Legal Education, how many years, months, weeks, days? This is interesting.

The Chairman: The Hon Attorney General.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Yes, my information is that it is arrears for about seven years.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Mr Ming, do you want to ask a question?

Mr C Stanley Ming: Mr Chairman, under Acct Code 184 - Other Goods and Services Purchased. The revised 2000 expenditure was \$473,000 and there is a budget there of \$800,000. Any indication from the Minister of Legal Affairs? What is the reason for that, over a fifty per cent increase?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: My instruction is that that was to provide for the servicing of computers and to provide Internet services. I would have wished that I would have been given an opportunity to deal with the State of Affairs at these Chambers at the present time. Regrettably, I am not going to be permitted to do that, but had I been given that opportunity, then the House would have been aware of what is the state of affairs of those Chambers, the Registries, the Court of Appeal and the State Solicitor's Office as well.

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

Mr Ming.

Mr C Stanley Ming: Another question on Acct Code 164 - Vehicle Spares and Services - In 2000, there was an actual expenditure of \$422,000 on vehicles spares and service and there is no allocation for the 2001 budget. What is the situation with the maintenance of the vehicles that belong to that government organisation?

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The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon. Doodnauth Singh: I am advised that that situation would be remedied under Programme 1.

The Chairman: Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: A supplementary question - I wonder whether under *Other*, in the Minister's answer of computer services, whether the amount for the contract and the printing of the law books is in that sum?

The Chairman: That was answered in the general debate, I think.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I think, I had answered that question in the general debate-- *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Yes, Hon Member.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: ... that no sum has, in fact, been allocated in that contract.

The Chairman: Thank you. Any other questions?

Division 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 3 - Attorney General's Chambers - \$81,483,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 266 and 267, please.

**AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 4 - Office of the State Solicitor**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$11,274,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 4 - Office of the State Solicitor - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

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Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 4 - Office of the State Solicitor - \$11,274,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 268 and 269, please.

**AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS,
PROGRAMME 5 - Deeds Registry**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$30,297,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 5 - Deeds Registry - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Thank you, Mr Chairman. This is page 266?

The Chairman: This is page 268.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: My apology.

The Chairman: Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - I see there is a budgeted figure of \$6.3 million and yet I see in the Staffing Details that there are no contracted employees. Could the Hon Minister explain?

The Chairman: Thank you. The Hon Minister.

Hon Member, you have a question? [*Referring to Mr Hugh Desmond Hoyte*]

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Mr Hugh Desmond Hoyte: Yes. Mr Chairman, let me have a question on Acct Code 101 - Administration - We passed legislation in this House to make the Deeds Registry an autonomous institution. Would the Hon. Minister say what is the state of the implementation of that legislation?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I am advised that consultations are still proceeding with respect to the donor agency and towards the strengthening of the Deeds Registry. I know that the International Donor Agencies are very anxious that the Deeds Registry should be a closed shop as early as possible, but at this point in time, I am afraid, I can't answer directly when that would come to fruition.

The Chairman: There is another question about Contracted Employees, Acct Code 106.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Well that is on the Deeds Registry. There is the Registrar who is Mr Stewart and he is on contract.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Hoyte.

Mr Hugh Desmond Hoyte: Mr Chairman, is the Hon Minister aware that there is a conflict between the legislation we are referring to, that is, the Deeds Registry Legislation and the provisions of the Constitution we have just passed, in terms of the appointments of the Registrar of Deeds and the Deputy Registrar of Deeds.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I am not aware at this point in time of the conflict that the Leader of the Opposition is referring to, but I will certainly take this under advice.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Can the Hon Minister say how is it that the sum of \$4, 578,000 was spent for contracted employees at the Deeds Registry, when given the answer

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minutes ago, that no such persons are yet on the staff, that is, contracted employees. The Staffing Details show that no Contracted Employees were authorised or filled in the year 2000, yet we see that \$4,578,000 were spent on Contracted Employees. Can we therefore find out what is the situation, to whom this money was paid?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: The two persons who were on contract were Mr Stewart and Mr Sattaur. In fact, if there is another reference that there is no contracted employees, well that would be an error. There are, in fact, two employees at the Registry who are on contract, but I believe the contract is a month to month contract. Mr Stewart is on a month to month contract and Mr Sattaur for three years.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, COA 104, the authorised staff is twenty-one, but the number filled is thirty-two, which is a significant departure. Can the Minister explain?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: This is in reference to COA 104. I think it is the recruitment of clerical staff for the Deeds Registry at Suddie.

Mr Winston S Murray: A supplementary questions, Sir. Is the Minister then telling this Honourable House that, notwithstanding the lack of authorisation for those positions, that his Ministry, went ahead and employed persons?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I am advised that there was authorisation from the Public Service Ministry.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 5 - Deeds Registry - \$30,297,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Page 475.

DIVISION 514 - MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Question is proposed that the sum of \$60,985,000 for Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - \$60,985,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 282 and 283, please.

AGENCY 55 - SUPREME COURT, PROGRAMME 1 - Supreme Court of the Judicature

Question is proposed that the sum of \$248,891,000 for Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 1 - Supreme Court of the Judicature - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I refer to Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees - can the Hon. Minister say who the three contracted employees are in the Supreme Court of the Judicature?

Also Acct Code 193 - Refreshment and Meals - the sum of \$5 million is budgeted for meals and refreshments. Can the Hon. Minister say on what functions or when is this amount intended to be spent?

The Chairman: Mr Carberry, allow the Minister to answer, he is already on his legs and then I will call you. Proceed Hon. Minister

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Sorry. *[Seated]*

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Mr E Lance Carberry: COA 104 again, the authorised complement is eighty-nine, but the number filled is one hundred and ten.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I am sure the Hon Members would be aware of the fact that these would have been sums which would have been spent prior to my assuming the Office of Attorney General, *[Laughter]* but I would wish to say that I am not in a position at this point in time to say who are the three contracted employees.

In relation to the expenditure of refreshments, I don't know if that would have included sums spent on the various functions when the Courts were declared opened, et cetera, as well as it probably would have taken account of what was used for jurors during criminal hearings.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Agency 55, Programme 1, Acct Code 104 - Clerical and Office Support, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister to indicate the reason for the increase by \$5 million of the provision under that head?

Similarly, I also wish to ask the same question for Acct Code 105 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled.

Mr Chairman, I wish to ask those two questions against the background of: *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Well, there hasn't been an increase under Acct Code 105.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Yes, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: Are you looking at Programme 1?

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Programme 1, Acct Code 105, its increase from \$4 million to \$6 million - *[Interruption]*

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The Chairman: My apology, I was looking at the wrong figures.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I wish to ask that question against the following background:

Firstly, that there is no provision under the revision of wages and salaries, that is Acct Code 271.

Secondly, against the information provided yesterday under the Head of the Ministry of Finance which was a substantial provision for increases in salaries generally.

Mr Chairman, I will also wish to ask a question under Acct Code 106 in relation to the contracted employees and that question is, why is it that the number of employees remained the same, the provision has been decreased from \$7.3 million to \$7.0 million?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Minister.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: With the opening of the Court at Suddie, there was an increase in the staff and payments there which were made to them.

In relation to items referring to Acct Code 106, I see that the increase was from *—[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Well the question is under Contracted Employees 106, what is the reason for the decrease in the figure from \$7.3 million to \$7.0 million?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Yes, well it is \$7.056, that's a decrease, Sir.

The Chairman: He asked the question, why the decrease when the number of contracted employees is the same? Am I interpreting you correctly, Hon. Member, Mr Alexander?

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Mr Vincent L Alexander: Yes.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Mr Chairman, the position at this stage is that we are dealing with the Supreme Court as such. As you will appreciate the Attorney General is only the Parliamentary Spokesman, but has no control over the Supreme Court as such. As a result I will have to make an investigation from the Registrar who is in charge of the Supreme Court to be able to answer these questions.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Member, Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question. The Hon Minister in response to my first and second questions indicated that there is an increase in staff. Mr Chairman, I refer to the Staffing Details and note that under *Filled* for 2000, you have 110; for COA 104; and for 2001, you have 110. There was no indication there that there was an increase. Similarly, under Acct Code 105, for 2000, you have 27; and for 2001, you have 27. Could the Minister give us the details in relation to the increase to which he is referring.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Mr Chairman, as I indicated earlier the Attorney General has Parliamentary responsibility for answering questions, but at this point in time, I am not aware of the rationale for these increases and/or decreases and I will have to investigate these matters with the person who has responsibility and that is the Registrar of the Supreme Court.

The Chairman: Thank you.

The Hon Member, Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you, Mr Chairman. I am referring to Acct Code 103 and if you look at the Staffing Details, the authorised complement for COA 103 happens to be 52, but the number filled in

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2000, was 8; and for 2001, 4. Is it that these categories no longer are required because there is a big gap between authorised and the number actually filled?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: As I indicated earlier, Sir, I will have to be advised as to the rationale for these situations and I will certainly take these questions and be advised accordingly.

The Chairman: Mrs Clarissa Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl: Well, I have heard the number of responses given by the Hon. Minister and I wish that in future, we will have the Registrar of the Supreme Court here to advise him because all of these questions on the Supreme Court, he is unable to answer and I think that it is unfair to him. But I think that we should defer the items if it comes to that. The Hon. Minister has not been able to answer these questions and she ought to have been here.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I will make a record of these questions which have been raised and will seek the necessary information from the Registrar and certainly provide those answers in writing to this Assembly.

Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 1 - Supreme Court of the Judicature - \$248,891,000 - agreed to and ordered to - stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 284 and 285, please.

AGENCY 55 - SUPREME COURT, PROGRAMME 2 - Magistrates Court

Question is proposed that the sum of \$135,752,000 for Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 2 - Magistrates Court - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Trotman.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Yes, Mr Chairman, hopefully we will get some results. I refer to Acct Code 106 - Contracted Employees, the figures \$18,847,000 - Can the Hon. Minister say to whom is this figure distributed? Who are these contracted employees in the Magistracy?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I have a report from the Director of Public Prosecutions. In that report, he has identified the Organisation Structure of the DPP Chambers together with the staffing, but he has not identified the persons who are on contract, so I will have to take question under advisement to provide the answer way of a written response.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Sir, I just want to alert you that I think the Hon. Minister has gone ahead. We are at Magistrates Department.

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Quite so, the Minister is anticipating us, but we really are at the Magistrates Department.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Magistrates?

Mr Raphael G C Trotman: Yes.

The Chairman: Magistrates, page 284, Programme 2.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: The information I have is that there ought to have been twenty-one (21) magistrates, that in fact there are only sixteen (16), but I was not given the information as to who are the persons on contract. So there is a vacancy of five (5). I am not aware of those who are on contract. That information will be provided to this House.

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The Chairman: Mr Corbin.

Mr Robert H O Corbin: Under Acct Code 203 - Benefits and Allowances - I wonder if the Minister can indicate to the House whether the allocation here is adequate to enable the Magistrates in the outlying districts to function in 2001, having regard to the inability to have allowances in other areas during 2000 and very early this year, in places like Kwakwani, Linden and many of the Hinterland areas where courts cannot be held because there is no allowance to pay the Magistrates. So, I am wondering whether the sum here is adequate to deal with this problem in 2001, so that the Administration of Justice would be expedited.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I tend to agree with what has been said by the Hon Member, that this sum is inadequate, but as we are all aware the sums paid to the entire judiciary are inadequate, so at some point in time, I will seek the assistance of my learned colleagues on the Opposition and Members of the Government, to ensure that that inadequacy is addressed.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry. I mean, Mr Carberry, I am not going to notice you, if you don't stand up, I barely see you stretching your hand over.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am sorry, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: If you want to ask a question, get up right away

Mr E. Lance Carberry: Knowing your electronic capabilities, I pressed the button.

Anyway, Mr Chairman, Acct Code 104 - I noticed that the numbers of staff have not increased, but there is an increase of about \$6 million in 2001. Could the Minister explain how that has been computed? Why is it that there is this increase?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I am advised that because of the inadequacy of staff, what is required especially in the interior locations is that people have to be moved from area to area. As a result there is no increase.

Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 2 - Magistrates Department - \$135,752,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 288 and 289, please.

AGENCY 56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, PROGRAMME 1 - Public Prosecutions

Question is proposed that the sum of \$26,821,000 for Agency 56 - Public Prosecutions, Programme 1 - Public Prosecutions - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Ming.

Mr C Stanley Ming: Mr Chairman, Acct Codes 011 and 012 - Total Statutory Expenses - Under that heading at the top, the revised expenditure for 2000 was just about \$5.3 million and the budget for 2001 is a similar amount, but under the benefits and allowances given under Acct Code 012, the budget for 2001 has gone down from \$1.9 to \$850,000. Is there intended a decrease in the benefits and allowances to those persons even though their salaries and wages remain the same?

The Chairman: Hon Members, these are statutory expenses provided for the purposes of information only. If you read page xiii, the Preface of your Estimates, it states there that the Statutory Authorities are those that the National Assembly has already provided for on an ongoing basis through the approval of other specific legislation

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containing an appropriation authority. These are included in the Estimates for information only.

The Minister is not obliged and he may well be unprepared to answer those questions.

Any other questions?

Agency 56 - Public Prosecutions, Programme 1 - Public Prosecutions - \$26,821,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 465.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$4,000,000 for Division: 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25007), Director of Public Prosecutions - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25007), Director of Public Prosecutions - \$4,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 122 and 123, please.

AGENCY 22 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY, PROGRAMME 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$49,365,000 for Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Programme 1 - Main Office, - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

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Mrs Holder.

Mrs Sheila V A Holder: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister a question pertaining to Acct Code 162. I see no provision has been made for conferences. Guyana has been conspicuous in their absences from all conferences, Regional and International. Given the realities of globalisation and the need to protect the public, why is there no provision for attendance to conferences?

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

Any other questions?

Mrs Sheila A Holder: Acct Code 231 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - I see that the two Consumer Organisations have been granted subsidies, I would like to know whether or not the Ministry has been in receipt of audited accounts for these organisations?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Mr Chairman, with respect to Acct Code 162, I think the convention is that if there is a zero, we don't have to give an answer. However, just for the information, overseas conferences are handled by the Ministry of Finance.

With respect to the two Consumer Associations, we have audited statements for the Guyana Consumers' Association for 1998 and CAB audited statement up to 1998. We have statements up to 2000 for CAB and the Guyana Consumers' Association.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Minister.

Mrs Holder.

Mrs Sheila V A Holder: I am particularly interested in the audited accounts.

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The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: We have audited statements for CAB up to 1998 as I said, and certainly, I agree with the Member, that where government funds are dispensed, we should seek to have the highest level of accountability.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, COA 106 - I noticed in the Staffing Details that the number of contracted employees has been actually increased, yet there is a decrease in the provision by almost \$3million. Has there been a change in the type of people who were contracted or what? What is the cause for that?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: This represents six months for the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry and if he checks Tourism, Industry and Commerce, he will see the balance.

The Chairman: Any other questions?

Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$49,365,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 124 and 125, please.

AGENCY 22 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY, PROGRAMME 2 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$11,511,000 for Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$11,511,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 126 and 127, please.

AGENCY 22 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY, PROGRAMME 3 - Trade, Tourism, Industrial Development and Consumer Affairs

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,272,000 for Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Programme 3 - Trade, Tourism, Industrial Development and Consumer Affairs - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Mr Ming.

Mr C Stanley Ming: Mr Chairman, under Total Wages and Salaries, Acct Codes 101 to 107, the totals for 2001 are significantly lower than the revised for 2000. Can the Minister explain what is the reason for that?

The Chairman: Another question, Mr Ming or that is it? You can ask two questions, if you have. You can ask as many as you like. If you have others, you can put them now.

The Hon Minister.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Mr Chairman, under Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, represents January to June and after June, is represented in Agency 23, so when you add it, you will see the larger amount.

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Mr C Stanley Ming: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - Is the Minister saying, if I understand him, that these figures here represent the first half of this year, and if so, where are the figures for the second half of the year? Because on page xiv, the Preface, it says that Budget 2001 relates to the forecast amount to be appropriated and disbursed during the fiscal year 2001. I am a little bit confused, maybe, because I am new to this, but during the course of the last few days and today, I have been hearing on several occasions, where it is said that the amounts represented are for half of the year. Does that apply for all the Budget for 2001 or only some of the items because I am a little bit confused about that? Does it apply for only six months for 2001, if so which six months, the first six or the second six?

The Chairman: There is a new agency here which the Minister is referring to, Agency 23, but, maybe, you can answer the question.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Mr Chairman, I must admire your quick grasp of these matters, Sir, and you are correct. There is a new Agency, Agency 23 and Agency 22 is for the first half because the Ministry was dis-aggregated after.

The Chairman: In other words, Agency 23 takes up the difference. That is what the Minister is saying.

Agency 22 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry, Programme 3 - Trade, Tourism, Industrial Development and Consumers Affairs - \$16,272,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 492, please.

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DIVISION 528 - MINISTRY OF TRADE, TOURISM AND INDUSTRY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,161,000 for Division: 528 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 528 - Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry - \$12,161,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We now move to Agency 23, which is the other half of the Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry.

The Chairman: Pages 130 and 131, please.

AGENCY 23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, PROGRAMME 1 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$71,216,000 for Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, Programme 1 - Main Office - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, Programme 1 - Main Office - \$71,216,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 132 and 133, please.

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**AGENCY 23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY, PROGRAMME 2 - Ministry Administration**

**Question is proposed that the sum of \$12,799,600 for Agency 23
- Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, Programme 2 -
Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.**

Any questions?

**Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry,
Programme 2 - Ministry Administration - \$12,799,000 - agreed
to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.**

The Chairman: Pages 134 and 135, please.

**AGENCY 23 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY**

**PROGRAMME 3 - Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Consumer
Affairs.**

**Question is proposed that the sum of \$27,401,000 for Agency 23
- Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry, Programme 3 -
Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Consumer Affairs - stand part
of the Estimates.**

Any questions?

**Agency 23 - Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry,
Programme 3 - Tourism, Commerce, Industry and Consumer
Affairs - \$27,401,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of
the Estimates.**

The Chairman: Page 493, please.

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DIVISION 529 - MINISTRY OF TOURISM, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Question is proposed that the sum of \$251, 419,000 for Division: 529 - Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

The Hon Member, Mr Murray.

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, Project Code 45001 - Industrial Development - Is the Hon Minister aware that neither in the Legend nor in the Project Profile for that Project Code, is there any indication whatsoever as to exactly what is to be done in any of these individual industrial sites? If he is aware that that is the case, does he think that is a desirable state of affairs and if not would he please tell this Honourable House, what is it that is proposed to be done in these industrial estates and which are the new ones that he intends to develop here?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Mr Chairman, we have the specifics, if he wants the long list, we can give it to him in terms of roads, water, factory sheds. Yes, then we can provide that to him. We have to do completion of work at Eccles, Coldingen, Lethem, New Amsterdam, new site at Belvedere. There is flexibility in the programme to address other areas also.

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

Mr Winston S Murray: Mr Chairman, it is just that last comment that provoked my question, in the first instance. This flexibility, on what basis? If there are known industrial sites, then why can't the Minister tell us about those? He said that he would provide me a

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list. Then there are some to be developed? What exactly are to be done? Why is there a need for flexibility? Does he not know now what he intends to do?

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Yes, Sir, we know what we intend to do.
[Laughter]

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, Project Code 41001 - Tourism Development - I noticed that the Legend says rehabilitation and upgrading of selected tourist facilities, which tourist facilities are they? In fact, what time period is given for these rehabilitation works to be completed?

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Mr Chairman, the time frame is before the end of the year. Once again there s a list:

- Lethem Rodeo
- Lake Mainstay access road
- Sixty-three Beach access road
- Bartica Regatta Pavilion
- New Amsterdam Regional Guest House, and also
- Kaieteur Park Guest House

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I seem to be having too much faith in the electronic system.

The Chairman: I don't think you should rely on the electronic system. Obviously I can see you faster than I can see your hand stretching across.

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Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question on Project Code 41001, where I think a mention has been made about the Kaieteur National Park. Could the Minister explain what is to be done at Kaieteur National Park?

Hon Manzoor Nadir: I did say Kaieteur Park Guest House, the renovation of the Kaieteur Park Guest House.

The Chairman: Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, Project Code 24001 - Land Transport - Purchase of a vehicle. Would the Hon Minister say whether that would be a vehicle for him or for the Tourism Association or the Ministry?

Hon Manzoor Nadir: For the Permanent Secretary.

The Chairman: Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Hon Minister state what exactly is going to be done for the Lethem Rodeo?

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Sir, it is for repairs and renovation of the facilities at the Rodeo site.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, I wish to ask of the Minister, in relation to his response with respect to Kaieteur Guest House and the facility at Bartica as well - When were these facilities and/or some of the responsibilities transferred from the Regional Authority to the Central Authority?

Hon Manzoor Nadir: Sir, they weren't transferred. As part of the tourism budget, we are assisting with the rehabilitation.

Division 529 - Ministry of Tourism, Commerce and Industry - \$251,419, 000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the

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Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 465, please.

DIVISION 505 - CONSTITUTIONAL AGENCIES

Question is proposed that the sum of \$500,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies - (Project Code 25006), Public Utilities Commission - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies (Project Code 25006), Public Utilities Commission - \$500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 166 and 167, please.

**AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR,
PROGRAMME 1 - Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$180,760,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$180,760,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 216 and 217, please.

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**AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 1 -
Ministry Administration**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$260,580,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Agency 516, Section 08, Projects – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: We are not there as yet. We are at page 216, Programme 1, Agency 47.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Sorry. This is in relation to the Ministry of Health Administration-- *[Pause] [Interruption]*

The Chairman: Kindly give Dr Joseph an opportunity to find his item.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Maintenance of Infrastructure - Acct Codes 151 to 155 - Mr Chairman, since 1999, the Ministry of Health has been repairing the pharmacy bond in Kingston. Last year, there was a sum that was allocated for the rehabilitation of the Pharmacy Bond. In the budget Estimates of 1999, there was also money allocated for the repairs of the Pharmacy Bond. This year, I see here there is money allocated again for the Pharmacy Bond. So I really want to know from the Hon Minister when would the repairs on the Pharmacy Bond come to an end? It would appear to me that a comprehensive repair schedule for the Pharmacy Bond was not done because it would appear that every single year in the Budget, there is large sums of money allocated to do repair or rehabilitation works at the Pharmacy.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

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The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, this is a large building, there are different repairs/rehabilitation that have been done over the years. We have allocated funds for other aspects of the rehabilitation works at the Pharmacy Bond in the 2001 budget.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - When would the rehabilitation works at the Pharmacy Bond be completed, since every year, you have different aspects of rehabilitated works going on there? So I want to know whether a comprehensive rehabilitation programme was established? Whether or not the Ministry is in receipt of that programme or whether they intend to stretch the rehabilitation works over a period of time. Whether the amount of money now allocated, will bring an end to this protracted period of the rehabilitation work on the Pharmacy Bond in Kingston?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, there is a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate the whole Pharmacy Bond. This is not the last allocation for the Pharmacy Bond.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 1 - Ministry Administration - \$260,580, 000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 168 and 169, please.

**AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR,
PROGRAMME 2 - Disease Control**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$139,707,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 2 - Disease Control - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

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Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Line Item – *[Pause]*

The Chairman: Dr Joseph, proceed please, Programme 2, Agency 42.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Sorry.

The Chairman: Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Hon. Minister explain why there has been such a vast reduction in drugs and medical supplies by almost fifty per cent?

The Chairman: What item are you talking about?

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Acct Code 121.

The Chairman: Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 107 - Temporary Employees - I see there is a budgeted figure for \$250,000, but I wish to ask the Hon. Minister, why has that category increased in terms of staff from one to forty-one (41)?

Temporary Employees - COA 107 - I see in the Staffing Details for 2000, say, there was one temporary, and now in 2001, there are forty-one (41) temporary employees.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The first one, Acct Code 121 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - Regarding the allocated amount there, once again, it's the same explanation.

Agency 42, the allocation is for the first six months only. If the Hon. Member wants to compare directly 2000 and 2001, you

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have to add the sums in Programme 2 for Agency 42, and Agency 47.

In terms of the question of the Temporary Employees one (1) to forty-one (41), my apology. It's a typographical error, the sum should be one (1)- one (1).

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 2 - Disease control - \$139,707,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 218 and 219, please.

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 2 - Disease Control

Question is proposed that the sum of \$168,385,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 2 - Disease Control - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Acct Code 121 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - The ten most frequent diseases in Guyana have been identified every year and I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether any of the funds allocated here will be spent towards reducing the incidence of those ten most frequent diseases.

The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, the answer is 'yes'.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Miss Nestor.

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Miss Lurlene A Nestor: Mr Chairman, COA 104 - Clerical and Office Support - The Staffing Details show that Authorised - twelve (12), and Filled - thirteen (13). Could the Minister explain the reason for the additional one?

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Mr Chairman, COA106 - Contracted Employees - Again the Staffing Details make no provision for any contracted employees, yet we see that there are ten contracted employees budgeted for this year.

Mr Chairman, the general observation with these Staffing Details is that they are either wrong or something... Every Ministry seems to have a problem with the Staffing Details and perhaps the Minister of Finance should take cognisance of this or is it that the Ministries are generally hiring people without authorisations?

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, under Agency 47, Programme 2 - Acct Code 231 - Could the Minister please advise to which organisations will the subsidies or contributions be made?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Clerical and Office Support, the thirteen (13) employees have been authorised by the PSM. Contracted Workers are Vector-controlled employees.

For the benefit of Mr Alexander, Mr Chairman, you have alerted Members, the list can be found at the back of the book on page 447.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 2 - Disease Control - \$168,385,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 170 and 171.

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**AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR,
PROGRAMME 3 - Primary Health Care Services.**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,988,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Acct Code 121, the Minister in his Budget presentation gave a note to the fact that there would be a significant amount of money being spent to reduce the incidence of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Under this item, I would like to find out how the Minister plans to deal with this in terms of all the maternal and child health programmes that are distributed throughout the country per Region?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S. Ramsammy: The drugs for the reduction of the mother-to-child transmission will be provided by one of the International Drug Companies.

The Chairman: Miss Adams, just a minute, please.

Dr Joseph, you have a supplementary question?

Miss Adams, could you allow Dr Joseph?

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, the Minister hasn't given any details concerning what programme is there to ensure that the levels of the clinics are adequately mentioned. Many of the maternal and child health care clinics throughout the country want mechanisms to be put in place, to ensure that these drugs reach those mothers, so that the programme itself in trying to eradicate or reduce mother-to-child transmission would be effective.

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Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The budget for mother-to-child transmission is under the programme of Maternal and Child Health Care, but, as I said before, regarding the specific programme of reduction of mother-to-child transmission, the drugs are provided for by the drug company free of charge.

The Chairman: Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Yesterday when I asked, under Health for the Region, I was told that Central Ministry would be supplying the drugs, yet I see in the Central Ministry's budget for Primary Health Services under Drugs and Material Supplies, a significant decrease in the allocation of money to provide drugs.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, again the answer is simple. There is a six months allocation in the Agency Programme that we are looking at now. If you want, the Hon. Member can add Programme 3 for Agency 42 and Programme 3 for Agency 47, once again.

The Chairman: The Hon Member, Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you, Mr Chairman, Agency 42 - Programme 3, COA 102 - I notice that under the Staffing Details, there is a provision for sixty-one (61) Senior Technical persons, yet the number of employees is twenty (20). Could the Minister explain what type of employees are included here?

Secondly, why is it that these vacancies seem to remain?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, the answer is that we are all aware of the shortage of pre-requisite skills. We are trying to recruit that level of skilled persons.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry

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Mr E Lance Carberry: What kind of skills are you talking about under that head?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Doctors and other persons that provide health care delivery.

The Chairman: Mr Alexander.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: Mr Chairman, Agency 47 - Programme 3 – *[Interruption]*

The Chairman: Agency 42, we are at page 140.

Mr Vincent L Alexander: I am sorry.

The Chairman: Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: Just one short question, the same Staffing Details, COA 101, 102, 103, 104. An answer has been given for COA 102, Senior Technical. The staff figures are down from even last year, from twenty-three (23) to twenty (20). But I wish to ask in all the four categories 101 to 104 - Administration, Senior Technical. Other Technical and Craft Skill, Clerical and Office Support - all of the figures are down. Does the Minister have any explanation? He has explained for doctors, but what about the other categories of staff, why is he unable to staff Primary Health Care Service all the way down the line?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Is it a question of the number of persons or the allocations?

Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: On the staff, all the categories.

Hon. Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: If it's about the allocation, it is not down. In fact, again, one has to add Programme 3 for Agencies 42 and 47.

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Mrs Clarissa S Riehl: The Staffing Details.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The number of persons - we would like to keep all these persons, Mr Chairman, we do have persons leaving the service and going to the private sector and so forth.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, a supplementary to my question on COA 102. The Minister gave me an answer which says that he can't recruit. I interpret that to mean that he can't recruit the doctors and so on who are included under here and therefore, what credibility should we attach to the achievement of this programme?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, it's the number of persons with those skill levels in Guyana that we are talking about - doctors, dentists, et cetera.

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services - \$81,988,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 220 and 221, please.

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 3 - Primary Health Care Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$120,147,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

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Dr Dalglish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 121, there has been a significant reduction in the allocation this year for drugs and medical supplies. Now, according to Minister Nokta yesterday, a significant amount of money from the Ministry of Health will be allocated to the Regions to assist in the shortfall in the allocation of the Regions, but I see here for this year \$60.5 million allocated as compared to last year \$150 million. So this is a significant decrease and I wonder if the Minister can explain the reason why?

The second question, Acct Code 212 - Training and Scholarships - there are many health posts and health centres that are established in different interior locations, yet in terms of training, the allocation for training has significantly diminished to approximately \$1.3 million for this year as compared to last year. Can the Minister explain?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, my figures are different. I think the Hon. Member is on a different page.

The Chairman: Page 220. Is your question in relation to page 220, Dr Joseph?

Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra M Adams: Mr Chairman, I wish to raise a question under the same Acct Code 121. The Minister just now mentioned that one Agency reflects six months and the other Agency reflects the next six months and if you add the two, and if my mathematics is correct, there is still a significant reduction in terms of the allocation towards the Regional estimates for the distribution of drugs. If we are to look at delivering health care in a proper way, regardless of whether it is clinic or hospital, we need more, because we are opening more health centres and we are trying to bring the standard of the hospital up and if we are to do that, we need to supply more drugs to it not to reduce it. My question to the Minister is that there is still a reduction. What is the reason for it?

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The Chairman: Thank you, Hon Member.

The Hon Minister. *[Noisy]*

The Chairman: Order please!

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, we are at page 220, Programme 3, Agency 47. If I were to add the two programmes 42:3 and 47:3, there isn't a substantial reduction as the Members say, because the 2000 Revised Budget is \$90 million and this one adds up to over \$100 million. So there isn't a reduction. In addition, drugs and medical supplies are spread across different agencies such as Regional Administration, the Regional and Clinical Services and the Regional Governments also.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 3 - Primary Health Care Services - \$120,147,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 172 and 173.

Those who are preparing to ask questions on these matters, please ensure that you move very rapidly or else you will be left behind.

AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR, PROGRAMME 4 - Regional and Clinical Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$192,008,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services - stand part of the Estimates

Any questions?

Dr Joseph is ready.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 121 - I asked two questions just now to the Minister under Acct Code 121. The Hon. Minister Nokta stated clearly yesterday that a significant portion of the Ministry of Health's budget will go towards the Regional Health Care Services, precisely to ensure that there is proper delivery of service.

Now under Acct Code 121, there has been an allocation this year of \$60.5 million, a significant decrease in comparison to last year. I need the Minister to explain how will these monies suffice to provide the quality of care in the other regions?

Secondly, Acct Code 212 - Training - if you are establishing new health posts, health clinics, et cetera, then how is it that this year, there is such a significant decrease in the allocation for training?

The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I would like to return to Acct Code 121 and I recognise that there is a summation between the two - even though we haven't gone to Agency 47 as yet. Nevertheless, when we add \$60.5 million for Acct Code 121 and we add \$68 million, even though we haven't gone to that as yet, we still recognise a decrease because that will give you \$128 million as against last year's revised amount of \$151 million, which shows a reduction in expenditure of allocation for drugs and medical supplies. I would like the Minister to explain how we are going to deal with that shortfall, especially in the light of the fact that there is an increase in medical problems throughout the Region, we have malaria, we have HIV/AIDS, we have typhoid especially in the Regional areas, specifically as it relates to the interior Regions.

The Chairman: Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings - the Linden Hospital Complex is supposed to be rehabilitated. I asked the question concerning the Pharmacy Bond

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just now, I ask the Minister again, whether a comprehensive rehabilitation programme has been established for Linden Hospital Complex and whether or not the monies allocated this year for the rehabilitation works will take care of what has been the estimate for that comprehensive rehabilitation programme for the Mackenzie Hospital Complex?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 121 - When you sum up the two, there is indeed a reduction. We have been attempting to make the procurement and distribution of drugs more efficient. We have moved from a six months overlap period to a three-month overlap period and that in part explains the reduction.

In terms of maintenance of buildings the reduction seen here that Dr Joseph referred to, in fact for the Mackenzie Hospital, there is allocation within the capital budget for works on this Hospital. In addition, the Mackenzie Hospital receives a subvention.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman. I really don't understand what the Minister is saying concerning the redistribution. You can't redistribute what you don't have. So if this budget is significantly affected, it means that you will not be able to buy and therefore cannot provide what is required. So, I don't know where this redistribution would take place or how it would take place because if your allocation for procurement is significantly reduced, then how are you going to get to redistribute unless you are going to take from what is already limited to redistribute. So that is what I don't understand.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, as I said, we have in our Bond, right now, drugs that have come in this year. We will be utilising them this year. In addition, and that goes back to what I said, we are trying to make the system more efficient. The redistribution I am talking about, is in the allocation, the allocation for drugs and supplies in all of the programmes. There have been some redistribution. You would see in some of the programmes the budget going up, and in some it remains the same.

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The Chairman: Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: A supplementary question - Can the Minister tell us, and this is looking ahead at some point in time, since the redistribution is on a three-month basis according to the Minister, if there would be any documentation in the Ministry to show how this redistribution is taking place?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, yes.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry, you were interested in asking a question?

Mr E Lance Carberry: Now Mr Chairman, I was a little bit interested in the Minister's answer, *overlapping, instead of six months, three months*. I am just trying to get an explanation whether there are lower inventory levels that will be held or what? Well if so, isn't that creating a risk that people would not get drugs when they need them.

The Chairman: Mrs Riehl.

Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister a question in the area of Acct Codes 161 to 165 - Transport, Travel and Postage - I see the total budget for that area has been reduced by two-thirds from \$18 million to \$6 million. In all of those Acct Codes, Local Travel and Subsistence has been cut by \$2.1 million to \$500,000. Vehicles Spares and Service have been cut from \$1.4 million to \$500,000. Other forms of transport, postage et cetera, has been cut from \$14.4 million to \$5.5 million. Is it for the half year? Do I have to add 42 and 47 or is it that these areas have been cut? I need to know.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, again, if the Hon. Member would add Programme 4 for Agency 42 and Programme 4 for Agency 47 he would see that there is, in fact, an increase.

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The Chairman: Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I would like to remind the Minister first of all that there has been some Regional Health Huts built in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9, which means that Primary Care especially will be improved upon and broadened in terms of the democracy of the country. What is the purpose of having a physical facility if it does not have the necessary drugs in order to treat persons in those areas. I will go back to my question, how will we deal with the shortfall of \$13 million for drugs under the same Acct Code 121, when we have additional facilities.

The next point to bring to bear is that I will give you an example of some of the Regional Health Posts in Blackwater, Sacred Heart, Takdewini, Kaboura, Almond Beach - these are some of the Primary Health Care facilities that are established in the country. I would like the Minister to explain to us, how these new primary posts will be serviced if we have a reduction in drugs and medical supplies where the overall national allocation is concerned to Regional and Clinical Services under Acct Code 121?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, the supplies in stock right now and the amount allocated for drugs would be adequate as also would be the drugs supplied to the various huts, clinics and hospitals.

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services - \$192,008,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 222 and 223, please.

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMMES: 4 - Regional and Clinical Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$228,030,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programmes 4 - Regional and Clinical

Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, I am looking at COA 101 to 107 - The Regional Health Care Sector is very important in terms of health care delivery in Guyana and the amount of health care workers, the minimum establishment, to ensure that the objectives of your programmes can be effectively achieved. I see here no figures for last year, 2000. Nevertheless, I observe that for the Filled for 2001, thirty-six (36) compared with the Authorised sixty (60). I want to know from the Minister, what will be done to ensure that these critical areas of vacancies in the Regions will be filled and what programmes they have in place to ensure that these vacancies can be taken up and filled.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, I think again the question is about the staffing levels. For the first six months, Agency 47 did not exist and, therefore, there was no staff.

The Chairman: Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, my question was on Acct Codes 101 to 107 which were different categories of staff and I alluded to the Staffing Details there. If you look at the brief summary there for Staffing Details, of the Authorised for the year 2001, it is sixty (60) and what is Filled so far is thirty-six (36), so I am asking whether he is anticipating between now and the rest of the year, these outstanding vacancies will be filled in order to ensure that these programmes are actually carried out?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, the answer is 'yes'.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

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Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, Agency 47, Programme 4, Acct Code 231- I noticed there were no provisions for subsidies and contributions to local organisations for the year 2000 I have two questions: Which local organisations will receive subsidies? and Could you give an idea of the allocations?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, again there is no allocation for 2000 for Agency 47 because it didn't exist.

The list of subsidies for local organisations for the programme is found at the back of the book, page 447.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services - \$228,030,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 174 and 175, please.

**AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR,
PROGRAMME 5 - Health Sciences Education**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$56,511,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalglish Joseph: Acct Code 161 - Local Travel and Subsistence - There is a significant decrease here. We have a major problem with Health Science Education in terms of effectively carrying the health science message or the message of health care throughout this country. I wonder if the Minister can explain why this significant

decrease in local travel and subsistence?

Acct Code 212 - Training (including Scholarships) - There is a significant decrease here. Now we are engaged in an HIV/AIDS fight and I want to know what is going on here in terms of Training and Education. Can the Minister explain what is responsible for this significant decrease in allocation under training and scholarships and whether there is also a redistribution here, in the same vein that he was speaking about the drugs so that this shortfall here has been taken care of?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: In terms of Acct Code 212, Programme 5 - there is a gain. When it is added to Programme 47, there isn't a substantial reduction. There is, in fact, a small increase in terms of training.

In terms of local travel and subsistence, there is some reduction there because some of those costs are now borne in Acct Code 212.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you, Mr Chairman. Agency 42, Programme 5, COA 102, Staffing Details. - Here we are talking about health sciences education and we have an Authorised of forty-four (44), but Filled is twenty-one (21) which is a significant difference.

In the case of COA 105, we have a different situation, we have Authorised, seven (7), and Filled, two hundred and twenty-three (223). There is a significant difference.

Now, I would like the Minister to explain. I don't want him to just give me a bottom-pad answer. I want him to give me an explanation, because really in the case of COA 102, there must be some impact on the programmes that he is planning and he is budgeting to deliver and I would like him to explain that.

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In the case of 105, why is this significant difference?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, I agree with the Hon. Member on COA 102. We need to fill our technical positions and we are trying. The answer again is, yes, we will try to fill those.

The Hon Member referred to COA 105, the large increase of two hundred and twenty-three. The explanation here is that the student nurses used to be covered under Acct Code 203 - Benefits and Allowances. The student nurses were provided with stipends under that allocation, they have now been moved to Acct Code 105 and that is why the number has gone up.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, this is not a question, this is a general comment. In fact, we are noticing this situation, where you are seeing the authorised Staffing Details showing a number and you are getting significant variations. If that happens, there should be some explanation in the document, which tells us why that is really happening, because this is a significant variation from what is the authorised strength.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: The trainee positions are authorised by PSM. That is being changed now. As I said, it was covered previously under Acct Code 203 and we have been instructed to move them to Acct Code 105. The changes have been made by PSM.

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education - \$56,511,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 224 and 225, please.

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 5 - Health Sciences Education

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$91,103,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 5 - Health Sciences Education - \$91,103,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 176 and 177, please.

AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR, PROGRAMME 6 - Standards and Technical Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$48,300,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, when you go through these different agencies, you will find that training has suffered immensely and I really do not see how? In many areas here you see increases in staffing. Now are we to understand that the amount of in-service education or training that would be taking place would be affected as a result of these allocations in the light of the increases that you are seeing for programmes?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, again when I compute my numbers, I don't see the immense reduction, in fact I see an increase.

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Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services - \$48,300,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 226 and 227, please.

AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 6 - Standards and Technical Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$55,158,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Acct Codes 211 to 212, the Laboratory Service has had an evaluation done in 1999. There was a number of recommendations that the Department of Standards and Technical Services should put in place on the ground, to ensure that their laboratory services are certifiable. I wonder whether the amount allocated here or wherever or in any of these figures whether it is 212 or what, will be spent to ensure that our public laboratory services reach the level of registration or certification.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, yes.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Excuse me, Mr Chairman, is this an objective for the year 2001?

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, yes.

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 6 - Standards and Technical Services - \$55,158,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Pages 178 and 179, please.

**AGENCY 42 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR,
PROGRAMME 7 - Rehabilitation Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$35,877,000 for Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 42 - Ministry of Health and Labour, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services - \$35,877,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 228 and 229, please.

**AGENCY 47 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH, PROGRAMME 7 -
Rehabilitation Services**

Question is proposed that the sum of \$37,414,000 for Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Agency 47 - Ministry of Health, Programme 7 - Rehabilitation Services - \$37,414,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 210 and 211, please.

**AGENCY 46 - GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL
CORPORATION, PROGRAMME 1 - Public Hospital.**

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Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,583,145,000 for Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Programme 1 - Public Hospital - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Acct Code 142 - Maintenance of Buildings - also AcctCodes 151 to 155 -

I will hold my question. Sorry.

The Chairman: Mr Carberry, you have a question?

Mr E Lance Carberry: Yes, Mr Chairman. I notice that we are making a lot of progress. *[Laughter]* Again, I am looking at COA 101 to 107 and I am noticing that there is a significant number of vacancies. In some cases, like COA 101, you have more people. Well, in fact, there is a vacancy, Sir. In all of these areas you have significant vacancies in the Public Hospital and in serious areas like the Senior Technical, for example, you have four hundred (400) Authorised, one hundred and thirty-eight (138) employed.

Now, the difficulty I have, Mr Chairman, is that we are budgeting for programmes to be undertaken and the staffing levels which are indicated suggest that there is going to be a serious inability to implement those programmes and yet we are budgeting as if these programmes are going to be implemented?

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, again we are trying to fill our vacancies especially among doctors and nurses. If we can do so, we will accelerate the programme.

Agency 46 - Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, Programme 1 - Public Hospital - \$1,583,145,000 - agreed to and

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ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 476, please.

DIVISION 515 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LABOUR

Question is proposed that the sum of \$10,526,000 for Division 515 - Ministry of Health and Labour - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Dr Joseph.

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, there was installation only recently. I think over the last year, there has been installation of -
[Interruption]

The Chairman: What item?

Dr Dagleish Joseph: Project Code 12014 - Buildings - Public Hospital Corporation, Georgetown - There has been installation of an elevator in the maternity wing of the hospital. This elevator is not yet functional. I want to know whether any of the allocations here will go towards ensuring that that elevator is functional between now and the end of the year.

The Chairman: The Hon Minister.

Hon Dr Leslie S Ramsammy: Mr Chairman, I think that if the Hon. Member reads the page, he will see that there is no allocation for the elevator, but for information sake the elevator will be completed and operational by the end of August.

Division 515 - Ministry of Health and Labour - \$10,526,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

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The Chairman: Pages 477 and 478, please.

DIVISION 516 - MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Question is proposed that the sum of \$202,868,000 for Division 516 - Ministry of Health - stand part of the Estimates.

Any questions?

Division 516 - Ministry of Health - \$202,868,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Hon Members, this brings us to the end of our programme. Let the **Assembly Resume.**

Assembly Resumes

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, I beg to report that the Committee of Supply considered the Estimates of Expenditure for the year 2001, and approved of them as printed.

Question:

That this National Assembly approve of the Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial year 2001 of a total sum of \$51,286,700,000 excluding \$13,384,134,000, which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

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SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS Nos. 12 and 46 by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs:

Be it resolved:

That this National Assembly approves of the suspension of Standing Orders No.12 (Order of Business) and No. 46 (with respect to the publication of the Appropriation Bill), to allow the Appropriation Bill, 2001 to be introduced in the Assembly at the same sitting at which, and immediately after, the Estimates of Expenditure for 2001 have been approved.

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: Mr Speaker, I seek your leave to move, that this National Assembly approve of the suspension of Standing Order No. 12, that is, the Order of Business, and No. 46 with respect to the publication of the Appropriation Bill 2001, to be introduced at this stage in the National Assembly at the same sitting at which, and immediately after the Estimates of Expenditure for 2001 have been approved.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

BILL INTRODUCTION, SECOND AND THIRD READINGS

APPROPRIATION BILL 2001 - Bill No 10/2001

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the issue from the Consolidated Fund of the sums necessary to meet the expenditure (not otherwise lawfully charged on the Consolidated Fund) of Guyana for the financial year ending 31st December, 2001, estimates whereof have been approved by the National Assembly, and for the appropriation of those sums for specified purposes, in conformity

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with the Constitution.

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 171 of the Constitution, I signify that Cabinet has recommended the Appropriation Bill 2001 for consideration by the National Assembly and I now present the Bill to the Assembly and move that it be read the First time.

Question put, and agreed to.

[Bill Read the First time]

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, I move that the Appropriation Bill 2001 be read a Second time.

Question put and agreed to.

[Bill Read the Second time]

The Speaker: The Hon Minister of Finance.

Hon Saisnarine Kowlessar: Mr Speaker, I move that the Appropriation Bill 2001 be read the

Third time and passed as printed.

Question put and agreed to.

[Bill Read the third time]

Bill Passed as Printed

ADJOURNMENT

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The Speaker: Hon Members, this brings us to an end of our deliberations for today and at the end of our deliberations as regards the Budget. It has been a long two weeks, hard and gruelling for all Members of the Assembly, but I would like to thank you for your patience, for your courtesies and for enabling us to get through this period.

The Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

Hon Reepu Daman Persaud: I wish to move that this National Assembly stand adjourned to a date to be fixed.

Adjourned accordingly at 16:05 Hrs