

T H E
P A R L I A M E N T A R Y D E B A T E S
O F F I C I A L R E P O R T S

VOLUME 107

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION (1983) OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

53rd Sitting

14:00 hrs Thursday, 1985-10-17

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Cde. D.E. Clarke, M.P. - In the Chair

Speaker (1)

*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (60)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., (Absent - Performing the functions of Office of the President)
Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P.,
Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)
and Attorney General

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,
Vice-President, National Development and (Absent - on leave)
Deputy Prime Minister

*Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P.,
Vice-President, Social Development and
Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

*Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., (Absent - on leave)
Deputy Prime Minister, Planning

Senior Ministers (10)

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P.,
Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Minister of Home Affairs

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,
Minister of National Mobilisation

Cde. H. Rashid, M.P.,
Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., (Absent - on leave)
Minister of Finance

-
* Non-elected Member

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P.,
Minister of Forestry

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,
Minister of Health and Public Welfare

*Cde. M.L. Parris, M.P., (Absent - on leave)
Minister of Education

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., (Absent - on leave)
Minister of Transport

Cde. Yvonne V.Harewood-Benn, M.P.,
Minister of Information and Public Service

Ministers (4)

Cde. Urmia Johnson, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of National
Development

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.,
Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, M.A., M.P.,
Minister of Youth and Sport within the
Ministry of Education

*Cde. Dr. S.P. DaSilva, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

Ministers of State (3)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of
Internal Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of (Absent - on leave)
Regional Development

Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.,
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Education

Parliamentary Secretaries (2)

Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the
Ministry of Health and Public Welfare

Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, National Development

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari, M.P.,
Government Chief Whip

Other Members (23)

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.

Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.

Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.

Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.

Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.

*Non-elected Member

Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad, M.P.
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
Cde. Patricia Fredericks, M.P.
Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. A. McRae, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P.
(One seat vacant)

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Dianne Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)
Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Cora A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
(Vacant) (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., (Absent)
Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent - on leave)

Other Members (8)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip
Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

14:00 hrs

Election of a Member to Preside at a Sitting

The Clerk: Members of the National Assembly, it is now 2 o'clock and time for the Sitting to begin. As both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are unavoidably absent, the Assembly will have to elect a Member, not being a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary, to preside over the Sitting. I therefore invite nominations accordingly.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Cde. Thomas): I wish to nominate Cde. Oscar Clarke.

Cde. Tiwari seconded.

The Clerk: Comrades, there is one nomination. Cde. Oscar Clarke has been nominated by Cde. Jeffrey Thomas, Minister of Home Affairs and the nomination has been seconded by Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari, Government Chief Whip. Cde. Clarke is therefore duly elected to preside at this Sitting of the National Assembly.

/Cde. O.E. Clarke in the Chair/

PRAYERS

14:05 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER

The Presiding Member: Comrades and hon. Member, I would first of all wish to thank you for electing me to preside over this Sitting and hope that I would receive your fullest co-operation in expediting the matters at hand.

As hon. Members and Comrades will know, in the absence of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister is Acting President and I am sure you would want us to put on record our congratulations and best wishes to Cde. Green.

Leave to Members

Leave has been granted to the following Comrades: Cde. Shahabuddeen, Cde. Chandisingh, Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, Cde. Jackson, Cde. Rashid, Cde. Greenidge, Cde. M. Parris, Cde. Prashad, Cde. H.L.B. Singh, Cde. M. Ally, Cde. Gilbert, Cde. Bishop and Cde. Latchminarayan and the hon. Member, Mr. Feilden Singh, all fortoday's Sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Papers and Reports were laid:

1. (i) State Lands (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (No. 6), made under section 17 of the State Lands Act, Chapter 62:01, on 5th August, 1985, and published

in the Gazette on 10th August, 1985.

- (ii) Lands Department Order 1985 (No. 52), made under section 14 of the Lands Department Act, Chapter 59:01, on 5th August, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 10th August, 1985. /The Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of the Prime Minister./
- 2. Annual Reports (6) of the Guyana Fire Service for the years 1978 to 1983. /The Minister of Home Affairs./
- 3. (i) Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) (Designation) Order 1985 (No. 45), made under section 2 of the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act, Chapter 27:03, on 9th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 20th July, 1985.
 - (ii) State Pensions (Maude Braithwaite) Order 1985 (No. 46), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 9th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 20th July, 1985.
 - (iii) State Pensions (Joseph Titus Bishop) Order 1985 (No. 47), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 9th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 20th July, 1985.
 - (iv) State Pensions (May Clementine Rodrigues) Order 1985 (No. 48), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 9th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 20th July, 1985.
 - (v) State Pensions (Rosamund Semple) Order 1985 (No. 49), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 9th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 20th July, 1985.
 - (vi) State Pensions (Gladys Davidson) Order 1985 (No. 50), made under section 4 of State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 9th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 20th July, 1985.
 - (vii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 1985 (No. 51), made under section 5 of the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Act, Chapter 27:11, on 13th July, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 27th July, 1985.
 - (viii) National Insurance and Social Security (Determination of Claims and Questions (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (No. 7), made under sections 20, 38, 39, and 51 of the National Insurance and Social Security Act, Chapter 36:01, on 7th June, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 17th August, 1985.
 - (ix) Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1985 (No. 56), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 26th September, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 28th September, 1985.
 - (x) Land Bonds Regulations 1985 (No. 9), made under section 13 of the Land Bonds Act, Chapter 62:07, on 19th August, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 7th September, 1985.
 - (xi) Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1985 (No. 56), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 26th September, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 28th September, 1985. /The Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Finance./

5. Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1985 (No. 10), made under section 103 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, on 23rd September, 1985, and published in the Gazette on 28th September, 1985. /The Minister of Transport/
6. Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 69th and 70th Sessions of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June, 1983 and June, 1984, respectively (State Paper No. 2/1985). /The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives/

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Construction, Installation and Production at Guyana Glass Works Ltd., Boot and Shoe Factory, Bicycle Factory and Leather Craft Ltd.

- QUESTION: (i) Will the Prime Minister state whether all work pertaining to the construction and installation of the Guyana Glass Works Limited, has been completed?
- (ii) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Prime Minister state -
- (a) How long ago such work has been completed?
 - (b) What is preventing the glass factory from going into operation?
 - (c) What is the total cost for construction, equipment, etc?
 - (d) How much is the total foreign loan and what are the terms of such loans?
- (iii) If the answer to Question (i) above is in the negative, will the Prime Minister state when he expects the construction work, installation of equipment, etc., to be completed?
- (iv) Will the Prime Minister further state what the present position is as regards production at -
- (a) the Boot and Shoe Factory?
 - (b) the Bicycle Factory?
 - (c) the Leather Tannery?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Speaker, I have been authorised by Cde.

Narbada Persaud to ask Question No. 15 standing in his name on the Order Paper.

Cde. Thomas: Cde. Speaker, on behalf of the Cde. Prime Minister I wish to respond by saying that all the construction works on the present phase of the Guyana Limited Glass Works/factory facilities have been completed. These facilities were planned to manufacture two streams of products, namely, container glass and sheet glass. The container glass plant has been installed and was commissioned on the 14th December, 1984. Secondly, it was decided for the time being not to activate the sheet glass until the prevailing depressed market conditions show a favourable change. However, at the moment, negotiations are being carried on with a friendly country with a view to activating the sheet glass plant when market conditions improve

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(Cde. J. Thomas continues):

Third the cost of construction and equipment is G\$50M which includes a loan from the Royal Bank of Canada (Montreal).

The terms of the loan are:

- (1) repayment of principal in seven (7) equal semi-annual instalments (6 x US\$857,143 and 1 x US\$857,142).

The interest charges are:

- (1) 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % per annum
- (2) the London Interbank Rate (LIBOR) rounded to the nearest 1/16%.

In the event of default:

- (1) 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ % per annum and LIBOR rate during the period of default.

In answer to the third part, in view of the answers given to the first two parts an answer is not necessary for part four of the question.

I wish to state that up to June 1985, the tannery, Leather Craft Limited produced four thousand three hundred and fifty kilograms of leather with sales amounting to \$174,000,000.

The Bicycle Factory (Savannah Industries Limited) and the Boot and Shoe Factory are not currently in production. As a result of the tight foreign the flow of components and exchange situation, raw materials for these enterprises has been too erratic to justify their continued operations for the time being. However, certain negotiations are being conducted at the moment with a view to securing suitable arrangements under which they might possibly be activated.

Cde. Keepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Speaker, could the Cde. Minister indicate roughly the time schedule - when it is hoped that these two bodies could be re-activated. This is very vague - negotiations are going on. I wonder if we could get a indication how long from now?

Cde. Thomas: Cde. Speaker, I could not be sure. It depends on the speed with which the negotiations proceed. Obviously we are hoping that these two agencies can get on stream as quickly as possible.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

FIRST READING

The following Bills were introduced and read ^{the} first time:

- (1) Rice (Regulation of Manufacturing and Marketing) (Amendment) Bill 1985 - Bill No. 14/1985.

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- (2) National Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment)
Bill 1985 - Bill No. 11/1985.
- (3) Marriage (Amendment) Bill 1985 - Bill No. 12/1985.
- (4) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill - Bill
No. 15/1985.
- (5) Miscellaneous Enactments (Amendment) Bill 1985 - Bill No. 17/1985.
- (6) Intoxicating Liquor Licensing (Amendment) Bill 1985 - Bill No. 16/1985.
/ The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government /.
- (7) Local Democratic Organs (Amendment) Bill 1985 - Bill No. 13/1985.
/ The Minister of National Mobilisation, on behalf of the Government /.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved: "That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed.
/ The Minister of Home Affairs /.

Adjourned accordingly at 14:22 hrs.