National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2006) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

Part I

86TH SITTING

2.00 PM

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

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.

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P. The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P.
The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P.
The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P.
The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P.

The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P.

*The Hon.S.Rudolph Insanally, O.R, C.C.H, M.P.

*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P.

-Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

-Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

-Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation (AOI)

- Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

- Minister of Home Affairs

- Minister of Education (Absent)

- Minister of Finance

- Minister of Housing and Water

-Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

- Minister in the Ministry of Local

Government and Regional Development

-Minister of Fisheries, Other

Crops and Livestock (Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice)

-Minister in the Office of the President

with responsibility for Foreign Affairs (Absent)

Attorney General and Minister

of Legal Affairs

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

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The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P.	-Minister of the Public Service
The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P.	-Minister of Culture Youth and Sport (Absent)
The Hon. Bibi S. Shadick, M.P.	-Minister in the Ministry of Labour,
	Human Services and Social Security
	(Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
	WestDemerara)
**The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.	-Minister of Tourism, Industry
	and Commerce
The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues, M.P.	-Minister of Amerindian Affairs
*The Hon Harry Narine Nawbatt	-Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
The Hon. Dr Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.	- Minister of Health
Mr S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P.	-Chief Whip
Mr Cyril C. Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.	- (Region No. 4-Demerara/Mahaica)
Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.	
Mr Husman Alli, M.P.	- (Region No. 7-Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.	
Mrs Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.	
Mr Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P.	-(RegionNo.4-Demerara/Mahaica)
Mrs Shirley V. Edwards, J.P. M.P.	
Mr Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.	
Mr Heeralall Mohan, J.P., M.P.	-(RegionNo.2-PomeroonSupenaam)
Mr Ramesh C. Rajkumar, M.P.	-(Region No. 6-East Berbice Corentyne)
Dr Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.D., M.P.	
Mrs Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.	- Parliamentary Secretary,
	Ministry of Housing and Water
Mrs Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.	- (Region No.1 - Barima/Waini)
Dr Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.	
Mr Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.	
Mr Neendkumar, M.P.	-(Region No. 4-Demerara/ Mahaica)
Mr Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.	-(RegionNo.6-EastBerbice/Corentyne) (Absent)

^{*} Non-Elected Minister
** Elected Member from The United Force

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

Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin, M. P. Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. Mrs Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P. Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. Mr. C. Stanley Ming, M.P. Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P. Mr. Vincent L. Alexander, M.P. Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. Dr Dalgleish Joseph, M.D., M.P. Miss Amna Ally, M.P. Miss Sandra M. Adams, M.P. Mr. Jerome Khan, M.P. Dr George A. Norton, M.P.

Dr Carl Max Hanoman, M.P. Mr Joseph Hamilton, M.P. Mr Abdul Kadir, J.P., M.P. Mr Ricky Khan, M.P. Mr Dave Danny, M.P.

Miss Myrna E. N. Peterkin, M.P.

Mr. James K. McAllister, M.P.

Mrs. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. Mr Nasir Ally, J.P., M.P. Miss Judith David, M.P. Miss Genevieve Allen, M.P. - (Absent) - (Absent)

- DeputySpeaker of the N.A (AOL)

-Chief Whip

- (Region No.2-Pomeroon/Supenaam)

- (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent)

- (Absent)

- (Region No.5-Mahaica/Berbice)

- (RegionNo.10-Upper Demerara Berbice)

- (AOL)

~ (Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica) (AOL)

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

- (Absent)

- (Region No.10-Upper Demerara/Berbice)

- (Region No. 1-Barima/Waini)

- (Region No.8-Potaro/Siparuni) -(RegionNo.6-EastBerbice/Corentyne) -(RegionNo.7-Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

-(Region No.4-Demerara/Mahaica)

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

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

Mrs Shirley J. Melville, M.P. - (UpperTakutu/UpperEssequibo)

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

Mr Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent)

OFFICERS

Mr Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

MsLilawtie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

Tuesday, 7 February 2006 PRAYERS

The Clerk read the Prayers

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

BUDGET FOR 2006 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2006

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to resume consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2006

In Committee of Supply

The Chairman: Honourable Members, we will proceed in accordance with our Resolution and Schedule. We are now starting the consideration of the Agencies.

Pages 270 and 271

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEM-ERARA, Programme 731 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$104,430,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 731 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister information the Honourable House with respect to Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - what positions or who are the persons filling the two contracted employee slots or if they are the same persons or the same positions for 2005 and 2006?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The answer is DREO and Information Officer.

The Chairman: Are they the same persons as last year? Are you asking whether they are the same posts of the same individuals?

Mr James K McAllister: The same posts, Sir.

The Chairman: Are they the same posts:

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Yes, the same posts.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr James McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Therefore, in relation to the same Agency Code, could the Honourable Minister explain the increase in 2006 over 2006.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Increase in benefits and seven percent salary increase.

Mr James K McAllister: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman. A rough calculation informs me that the increase is approximately twenty-five percent and therefore it has to be something over and above seven percent. Could the Minister explain what that is and if this is benefit, what is the special benefit?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: These positions carry special benefit like gratuity.

Mr James J McAllister: I wonder if the same gratuity was not included in the estimates for 2005 and if was, then it means that it is something additional in 2006. So could the Minister explain what is the additional provision for in 2006?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is no additional to this.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, this brings me back to my original question in terms of the twenty-five percent increase, I understand there is no additional benefits, there is nothing, there is nothing different from 2005, but there is a twenty-five percent increase. We know we can cater ... [Interruption]

The Chairman: What do you mean by there is nothing different in 2005? Do you mean that in the 2005 estimates, there was not a twenty-five percent increase? I do not quite follow that.

Mr James K McAllister: No, the Minister from his various answers gave the impression that there are no additional benefits ... [Interruption]

The Chairman: I know, for this year. He is explaining that the increase for this year is due to two items:

(i) Is the seven percent increase; and

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 Is gratuity and that is responsible for the twenty-five per cent increase.

That was what he said, but you are making reference to 2005 and that is what I am not quite following.

Mr James K McAllister: Well Sir, I am saying that these officers would have been entitled to gratuity in 2005 ...

The Chairman; Yes ...

Mr James K McAllister: ... and so that would have been included in 2005 provisions.

The Chairman: ... and you are saying that there is no equivalent twenty-five percent or there about increase for 2005. Is that the question?

Mr James K McAllister: Yes, Sir.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I do not have any further information on that.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 731 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$104,430,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 272 and 273

AGENCY 73 - ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA, Programme 732 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$144, 170,000 for Agency 73 -

Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 732 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, in relation to Account Codes 6112 - Senior Technical and 6111 - Administrative, I note that there are no Senior Technical or Administrative personnel in place. Could the Honourable Minister explain who is running this programme that accounts for \$1444 million? Who is in charge?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that these positions are paid by the Central Minister of Agriculture.

Mr James K McAllister: Account Codes 6255 - Maintenance and Other Infrastructure and 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - I note \$88.844 million for Drainage and Irrigation Works; I note \$1 million for other infrastructure; I have a number of questions, could I supply ... [Interruption]

The Chairman: One at a time.

Mr James K McAllister: In relation to Account Code 6255, could the Minister say if this \$1 million for maintenance of infrastructure is adequate?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that it is adequate and I have a long list of areas, thirty-three canals and trenches and so forth. Some are minor, some need more substantial work, but I am advised that it is adequate.

Mr James K McAllister: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman. Minister, you said that there are thirty three canals, some of them major and some of them minor to be maintained for the entire year. Are you saying to this Honourable House, it only cost \$1 million to maintain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Speaker, I am advised that this is ad-

equate.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: A supplementary question - Is the Minister saying that later on in the year he would not come with a supplementary budget for the same works to be done?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, if the situation warrants then that can be considered.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - \$88 million - this is a tidy sum, could the Minister say what is this being used for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, twenty-nine structures and I have a list of thirty areas where this money will be spent, if you will permit me I can go them one after the other.

The Chairman: How many are there?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Twenty-nine!

The Chairman: No, could you give a list.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: But I can give a few.

The Chairman: You can give us a sample and provide a list to the Honourable Member at a later stage.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I can do that. Let me see, weed and clean Georgia Escape - Channel 750 rods; weed and clean SD 6 - 750 rods; weed and clean B-line and tail wall Jacoba 880 rods; weed and clean Burwa sideline 1,936 rods; weed and clean Windsor Forest Middle Walk - 2,000 rods and so forth. I can make the list available.

The Chairman: Perhaps Mr McAllister is very diligent in his area of representation in Region 3 and I am sure he will appreciate a list of those works so that he can check to ensure that they are done.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I agree and I will make it available.

Mr James K McAllister: Thank you Minister. I have a supplementary question. I notice the Minister identified the weeding and cleaning of various canals, I am wondering if this is a one-off effort or if it is done continuously throughout the year.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that this will be done continuously.

Agency 73 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 732 - Agriculture - \$144,170,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 274 and 275

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEM-ERARA, Programme 733 - Public Works.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$67,262,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 733 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6112 - Senior Technical - Could the Minister say what are the offices catered for here?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Senior Superintendent of Works and Superintendent of Works.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I note that Account Code 6116 - Contracted employees - that there is no contracted employees, therefore if I am to assume that there is no regional engineer, could the Honourable Minister say when the region would be getting a regional engineer and why is it that we do not have a regional engineer at this point in time?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the Honourable Member is right. At the time when this budget was prepared there was no engineer, but from next week and engineer is already identified and will be contracted.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Agency Code 6281 - Security Services - \$10,992 million, could the Minister say who is providing these services?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the security firm is Strategic Security Service.

Mr James K McAllister: Could the Minister say if the Services were put out for tender?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I was advised that it was on last year and it is on this year.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 733 - Public Works - \$67,262,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 276 and 277

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEM-ERARA, Programme 734 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$937,261,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 734 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Agency Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - I want to assume that this might be schools, could the Minister say if those buildings were identified already and if so what are the buildings?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, six buildings are for maintenance. If the Honourable Member is interested, I can name them:

Two Brothers Primary School:

- Greenidge Park;
- Zeelught Primary;
- Den Amstel Primary;
- Vreed-en-Hoop Community High; and
- Vergenoegen Community High.

These are the buildings.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, this is a question I am ask-

ing based on privilege knowledge, Sir. Could the Minister say whether the works for the maintenance for the schools will be tendered?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, absolutely so.

Mr James K McAllister: Thank you.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 734 - Education Delivery - \$937,261,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 278 and 279

AGENCY 73 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEM-ERARA, Programme 735 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$337,083,000 for Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 735 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Hon James McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman: Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - I note \$12,000,000 here under health, could the Honourable Minister say what roads will be maintained here?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised internal roads in the region plus the road to the West Demerara Hospital.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: A supplementary question, what specifically is

planned for the road leading to the West Demerara Hospital.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: According to the Legend here, maintenance and rehabilitation.

Dr Dalgliesh Joseph: Now that road is filled with a lot of deep pot holes. Are you going to do a proper road work to allow ambulance that leaves there almost every day to freely get there as well as the persons who use that hospital? What you said just now do not tell me clearly what type of work you are going to do on the road there.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I agree that the road is in a very bad shape and that is why \$12 million is allocated. As I understand it is adequate.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I draw your attention to Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - and to the Staffing Details on Page 279 and I observe that there are five contracted employees. Could the Honourable Minister say if the \$15,533,000 is in respect of payment for these five employees?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that the amount budgeted here is adequate – four doctors and one Medex.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, in respect of Account 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I noticed \$1,200,000 provided here. Could the Honourable say if Scholarships are included under this head and if so, what is the selection process normally used?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The budget allocation here is for training locally only.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: This is for the Minister's comment. I see here the total wages package has not really budged much from last year of \$143,000,000. I wonder what they are doing in Region 3 that this has not budged. Is it that they are retaining the staff or they anticipate that the staff will remain for the rest of the year?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is a reduction in the staff for this year due to resignation of four employees and that is why the figure remained at that stage.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, a follow-up to that question - Could the Honourable Minister say where those resignations are reflected in the Staffing Details?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: They are reflected in Senior Technical Staff-one; administrative staff and contracted employees - 2.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - I wish to return to Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - \$12,000,000 - I get the impression that the roads has been identified already and the extent of the works have also been determined and therefore I wonder if this should be a capital project or a current.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is maintenance under current expenditure.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I get the impression what the Minister has said is a rehabilitation, maintenance suggests putting a provision in anticipation of what might occur, but this is a situation already existing for which works has been determined and identified. Could the Minister say whether this could not have been placed under the capital budget?

Hon Haripersaud Nokta: The Legend is saying maintenance. Maybe I used the wrong word *rehabilitation*, but it is maintenance according

to the Legend and the question as to whether it should not be put in the capital budget, I suggest that was the question for the Ministry of Finance.

Agency 73 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara, Programme 735 - Health Services - \$337,083,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 419

DIVISION 533 - REGION 3: ESSEQUIBO ISLANDS/WEST DEMERARA

Question is proposed that the sum of \$167,520,000 for Division 533 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman Project Code 1101 - Bridges - \$10,500,000 - I wish to ask the Minister if the areas provided in the profile whether those are all the bridges that will be rehabilitated under this head or if others are included whether the Vergenoegen/Tuschen north bridge will be part of the project.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, \$10.5 million to construct three bridges, one at Bagotville, one at Leguan and one at Canal No. 1.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister say, what criteria was used to select these three bridges and why the bridge at Vergenoegen and Tuschen was not included, because I understand works should be done based on the state of structures.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, works should be done on the state of structures, I agree with that and because of that priority was given to those three areas.

Division 533 - Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara - Agency Totals - \$167,520,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 284 and 285

AGENCY74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 741 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$86,959,000 for Agency 74- Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 741 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Under Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - Can the Minister say why there is an increase in the budgetary allocation for 2006?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand this is a reduction and not an increase.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Yes, I said reduction.

The Chairman: What is the question? Miss Allen could you repeat the question?

Miss Genevieve Allen: I am asking, why is there a reduction for 2006?

The Chairman: Thank you Honourable Member.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that it was more in the budget of last year and the Region is going to make adjustment with other agencies to offset the deficit if necessary.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - could the Minister say, because we see that there is a substantial increase for 2006, who will benefit from the training provided?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is for training of accounts clerk, accounts personnel and persons in the workshop and the registry.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 741 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$86,959,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 286 and 287

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA MAHAICA, Programme 742 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$103,948,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 742 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman under Account Code 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - we see an increase of \$2.6 million, could the Minister explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is an increase, three sluice attendants.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Allen.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Under Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Woks - we see the budgetary allocations for 2006 being decreased. Could the Minister explain why?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, conscious of the fact that Region 4 suffered tremendous flooding, monies have been allocated to maintain and to clean drainage structures at different places. I have twenty-one areas where these works will be done. If the Honourable Member wishes, I can circulate a copy of this too.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I wash to draw attention to Page 287 Staffing Details and to ask the Honourable Minister if he can provide information relative to the approved establishment for the Agriculture Department of Region 4.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that this is the approved establishment.

The Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Could the Minister say which firm is providing the security services and why there is an increase?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The security firm is Strategic Security Services and this increase represents management fees.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I would just like to ask to supplementary question to Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drain-

age and Irrigation Works - The Minister did recognise that Region 4 has some very urgent need for additional drainage works, but yet the budgetary provision for 2006 is less than the budgetary provision for 2005 and I do not think that that has been explained.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the answer is that the Drainage and Irrigation Department will cater for additional funds to continue the work

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 742 - Agriculture - \$103,948,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 288 and 289

AGENCY 74 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 743 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$124,940,000 for Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 743 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6133 - Benefits and Allowances - we recognise that there is an increase. Could the Minister say who will benefit from the benefits.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Could the Honourable Member identify the code number please?

Miss Genevieve Allen: 6133

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta. This amount caters for car and vacation allowance for the Superintendent of Works.

The Honourable Member Miss Genevieve Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6222 - Field Materials and Supplies - we recognise that there is a substantial increase budgeted for 2006. Could the Minister explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is not very much in view of present day prices, but it is to purchase field gears for staff going out in the various parts of the Region.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - We recognise that there is a decrease in the budgeted allocations for 2006. Does this mean that they will be using less fuel and lubricants?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that this is an increase from the 2005 budget allocation.

Agency 74 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 743 - Public Works - \$124,940,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 290 and 291

AGENCY 744 - REGION4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 744 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,188,585,000 for Agency 744 - Region 4: Demerara Mahaica, Programme 744 - Education Delivery -

stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Genevieve Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6131 - Other Direct Labour Costs - we see that there is an increase, but could the Minister explain what is meant by Other Direct Labour Cost?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is to cater for leave and acting allowances.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Genevieve Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, Under Account Code 6133 - Benefits and Allowances - we also see that there is a substantial increase in the allocation, could the Minster explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is for vehicle allowance.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Could the Minster say which buildings are going to benefit from this maintenance programme?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, we have a long list of buildings that are identified - thirty-seven - and if the Honourable Member wishes, I can also provide her with a copy, but for the benefit of the House I can identify a few:

- Chateau Margot Primary;
- Paradise Primary;
- Little Friends Primary;
- Enmore/Newtown Nursery;
- Peters Hall Primary;

- Northbrook Nursery;
- Dora Secondary;
- Golden Secondary;
- Anns Grove Primary;
- Timehri Primary;
- Buxton Primary;
- Unity Nursery and the list goes on.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman under Account Code 6284 - Other - we recognise that there is a substantial increase, could the Minister explain what is meant by Other?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is for part-time staff like cleaners, porters, invigilators and so forth.

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Minister say to us who will benefit from the Training Programmes?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is for local training; upgrading of local teachers.

Agency 744 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 744 - Education Delivery - \$1,188,585,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 292 and 293

AGENCY 745 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Programme 745 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$129,873,000 for Agency 745 - Region 4: Demerara Mahaica, Programme 745 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, looking under this Code, details of Capital Expenditure ... [Pause]

The Chairman: Have you answered the question, Honourable Member?

Miss Allen, do you have anything?

Miss Genevieve Allen: No.

Agency 745 - Region 4 Demerara/Mahaica, Programme 745 - Health Services - \$129,873,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 420

DIVISION 534 - REGION 4: DEMERARA/MAHAICA, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$105,900,000 for Division 534 - Region 4: Demerara Mahaica, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, Project Code 17001 - Agricultural Development - I would like to ask the Minister two questions, in light of the Drainage and Irrigation problems and the effect on agriculture in 2005 and 2006 and the confessed failure of the system whether he believes that \$22,300,000 is adequate and why is there no separate head for drainage and irrigation as occur in Regions 3, 5, 6 and 2?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that for now this amount is adequate, but there is money available under Drainage and Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture to cater for additional things to be done.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: A supplementary question, could the Minister please reassure those of us who live in Region 4 under which head and subhead is the money to clean the drains and the irrigation in Region 4. What he is saying is that there is no money given to the region in the Central Ministry, could he give us that information? What is the figure and what head under the Central Ministry is it found.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that money is allocated under the current budget, Agriculture Development - \$60,000,000 for maintenance.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12003 - Buildings - Health - In the capital details it is stated here in the Legend, completion of health centre and in the Profile it is stated rehabilitation of health centre. Can the Minister explain the different between the two?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand this is for rehabilitation of the Buxton Health Centre and for the Community Health Worker at Dora.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, I am pointing out discrepancy

here. Under this same Project it is written here completion of health and construction of living quarters for worker. In the Profile it states, Rehabilitation of health centre at Friendship. To me there are two different things here; one is completion ... [Interruption]

The Chairman: You are asking for an explanation.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Yes, if they are two different projects.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, they come under one head, the Buxton health centre started last year and will be completed this year. For the Dora community health workers that is a new building

Division 534 - Region 4: Demerara/Mahaica, Agency Totals - \$105,900,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 298 and 299

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 751 - Regional Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$33,960,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 751- Regional Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Amna Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Could the Minister give the category for which these contracted employees would be engaged in and at the same time Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges - Could the Minister say whether

these charges are specifically for the Admin Building or does it include other government buildings?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Question No. 1 - The allocation is for a confidential secretary to the REO. If the Honourable Member can repeat the second question so that I can adequately deal with it.

Miss Amna Ally: Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges - Could the Minister say whether these charges are specifically for the Admin Building or whether other government buildings are included?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised specifically for the Admin Building

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 751 - Regional Administration - \$33,960,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 300 and 301

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 752 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$63,010,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 752 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads and Account Code 6252 - Maintenance of Bridges - Could the Minister provide some specifics for the maintenance work, which

are the roads and which are the bridges to be done under these heads?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I will deal with Account Code 6251 - Roads - and the amount is for maintenance of 7,320 rods of farm-to-market roads; evacuation of channels and rebuild dams damaged by flood waters within Mahaica and Mahaicony farm lands approximately 3, 280 rods.

The second question - Account Code 6252 and that allocation is for rehabilitation of heavy duty bridge at Biabu canal.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - Could the Minister explain what other infrastructure is referred to under this head? What Account Code 6255 - Other Infrastructure - means and where?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: These are D and I structures:

- Belamie Canal end sluice doors;
- Ithaca façade sluice door;
- Rosignol sluice door;
- D'Edward sluice door;
- Maintenance of the following check -sluices doors with the Mahaica and Mahaicony farming area including:
- Pundit;
- Poor Fellow;
- Yankie;
- Hansome Tree and so forth.

I can provide the list, it is quite long.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: A supplementary question - The Minister said he has a list and I am trying to find out whether there are other maintenance works to be done in the other part of West Coast Berbice other than D'Edward and Rosignol specifically between the Abary Bridge and possibly Cotton Tree.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this list spreads across the region, but the area she is mentioning specifically comes under the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Central Ministry.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6282 - Equipment Maintenance - Could the Minister say if the sum of \$45,000 would be adequate for this head and what equipment they propose to maintain with \$45,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand just computer.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahiaca/Berbice, Programme 752 - Agriculture - \$63,010,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 302 and 303

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 753 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$85,024,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 753 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - Looking at the Staffing Details again, one contracted employee, could the Minister indicate what section of Public Works this person will be assigned?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is the Region Engineer

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - Could the Minister say the highway just concluded will be the road for maintenance and if not which?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, these are for roads as listed here. These are regional roads. The one she is referring to comes under Public Works. These are:

- Maintenance of Blairmont main access road;
- Burma Main access road;
- Mahaicony access road;
- Railway Street, Section G Bushlot;
- Woodley Park;
- Pansue and Hurbert Streets;
- Woodley Park Villages No 12;
- Mc Rae Street;

- Access Street Section B Bushlot; and
- Calcutta Playground Street.

Miss Amna Ally: Supplementary question - Mr Chairman, could the Minister say what criteria were used in selection of these roads and streets?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman that is a technical job and the Regional Engineer do his assessment and it is based on priority.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6273 - Water Charges - What exactly are these charges for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is to pay GWI for services of supply of water.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Supplementary question - Mr Chairman, for what exactly and water charges for where? I know it is for GWI.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The supply of water for the main building of the Engineer's office.

Agency 75 - Region 5 - Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 753 - Public Works - \$85,024,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 304 and 305

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme

754 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$562,761,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 754 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - which of these buildings are intended for repairs, Mr Minister and at the same time Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - nothing is budgeted for roads. Sir, many schools are located in small streets and especially during the wet season allow poor access to the schools. Why is it no consideration has been given to fix these streets?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I would like to answer them one after the other and I will deal with the first question - Maintenance of school buildings:

- Cottage Nursery;
- West End Nursery;
- Hope Town;
- Trafalgar;
- Liberty Hall;
- El Parabel;

I can mention a few more:

- De Hoop;
- Belladrum;
- Mahaicony;

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- No. 8 Primary;
- Litchfield;
- Gordon Table and so forth.

Miss Amna Ally: The second question was not answered.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Would you repeat the next question?

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, I said that nothing was budgeted for roads then I went on to explain that there are many schools located in small streets and especially during the wet season, it allows for poor access to the schools. Why is it nothing is budgeted to fix these streets?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: While we agree that nothing is put in the regional budget, Ministry of Public Works will be doing many roads in the region.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 754 - Education Delivery - \$562,761,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 306 and 307

AGENCY 75 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Programme 755 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$166,732,000 for Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 755 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6111 - Administrative - Does it mean that for 2006, you do not intend to have any administrative personnel in this sector?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that the administrator is a contracted employee.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Under the total appropriation here, how much of this money will be spent on vector control in this region?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I understand that vector control comes under the Ministry of Health.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6221 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - I note a decline in the budgeted sum for drugs and supplies from 2004 to 2006. Could the Minister provide some details for this decline?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, it is not a decline, it is a small increase, but I am advised that the Central Ministry caters for all supply of drugs and medical equipment.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Which are these buildings, Mr Minister?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I have a list of fifteen buildings here. For the benefit of the Honourable Member I can just read them quickly:

Construction of ramp stairway Mahaicony Cottage Hospi tal;

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- Rehabilitation of Fort Wellington cottage hospital;
- Repairs to B164 Dentist living quarters;
- Repairs to B 613 Senior Health Officer living quarters;
- Rehabilitation of B 118 No. 28 Health Centre;
- Repairs to Nursery Hostel Fort Wellington;
- Construction of shed Dundee Health Centre;
- Repairs to Cotton Tree Health Centre;
- Repairs to Regional Health Officer's living quarters;
- Repairs to Bushlot new Health Centre;
- Repairs to High Dam Health Centre;
- Repairs to Ithaca Health Centre;
- Repairs to Rosignol Health Centre;
- Repairs to Strath Campbell Health Centre.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: What specific works are intended for Fort Wellington Hospital?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that when we get to capital we will explain that, because someone is on the capital estimate.

Agency 75 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Programme 755 - Health Services - \$166,732,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 421

DIVISION 535 - REGION 5: MAHAICA/BERBICE, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$165,028,000 for Division 535 - Region 5: Mahaica Berbice -Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Project Code 11011 - Bridges - Profile 181 says Rosignol/Blairmont, what is the exact location of this bridge, Sir?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is the bridge from Rosignol going into Blairmont. I guess it is the bridge between Rosignol and Blairmont.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Can the Minister now state what specific work will be done at the Fort Wellington Hospital?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This comes under Health - Project Code 12004 - and the works to be done rehabilitation of the central building \$7.7 million and there are some other works to be done at Little Biabu and Mahaicony Hospital.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Why I am insisting here is because I visited Fort Wellington Hospital only recently, so I would like you to be more specific on the rehabilitation works intended there.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Sanitary blocks, roofs and walls, sanitary 86/36

facilities and some works on the theatre.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Project Code 13001 - Drainage and Irrigation - the Profile Reference 184, could the Minister say, how many culverts and what are their specific locations?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there are six items here:

- Construction of flood embankment at VV to Bygeval;
- Rehabilitation of the Mahaicony West flood embankment from E and J to Champagne;
- Construction of revetment along Perth/Biabu canal;
- Construction of culverts along Providence outfall;
- Construction of culverts along Mortice outfall;
- Installation of HDPE culverts along Bellamy embankment.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Project Code 25003 - Furniture and Equipment - Health - Purchase of furniture and equipment. I know specifically it is stated here ultrasound and others. I am asking the Minister which facility is the equipment intended for.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that these are for the Fort Wellington Hospital; Purchase of ultrasound machine, dental chairs and stools.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Supplementary question - It is therefore assumed that Fort Wellington Hospital has the requisite staff to effectively utilise this equipment.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand we have two multipurpose technicians, but once these things are put in place, then the Ministry of Health will move to have the requisite staff.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: The use of the ultrasound machine is beyond the scope of multipurpose technicians.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: That is why I said that the Ministry of Health will have to address that question.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Therefore a supplementary question - by what time do you intend this equipment should be in the hospital?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, to procure these things, there is a procedure. It has to be advertised, it has to go to bidding and so forth. So it will take some time. I cannot say exactly.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Project Code 14001 - Roads - I note the explanation in Profile Reference 185 and the areas mentioned, I recall yesterday, one Minister mentioned that an area was left out and will be put in the Bartica something and so I am wondering if the Minister can tell us whether there is any other area intended to be included in this road work.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We have here \$39 million and the roads are identified here and if the Honourable Member wishes I can ...

Miss Amna Ally: I said so.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Maintain and Rehab the following roads:

- Blairmont Main Access Road;
- Burma Main Access Road;
- Mahaicony Main Access Road;

- Raliway Street Section G Bushlot;
- Woodley Park School Street;
- Pansue and Herbert Streets;
- South No. 12 and Woodley Park Villages streets within that community;
- Upgrading of Mc Rae Street;
- Access Street Section B Bushlot;
- Upgrading of Calcutta Play Ground Street.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Ally

Miss Amna Ally: Supplementary question - I do not know if the Minister and I are talking about the same thing. I see in the Project Profile areas such as Shoestown, Rosignol, D'Edward, Bel Air, Bath, Bushlot and Hope Town. In view of what took place yesterday, all I am asking if there is any additional places that you intend to do the roads.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Consideration can always be given based on savings on these specific projects.

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, Project Code 25001 - Furniture - Education - Could the Minister say are the schools that would be the recipients of this furniture?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised several of the primary schools that need new benches, chairs, chalkboards and so forth.

Miss Amna Ally: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - I do not know that any of the schools in Region 5 ... I was told several of the schools, could the Minister give examples of a few of them?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am afraid, I would not call

schools at random, but we can provide the names of the schools.

Division 535 - Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice, Agency Totals - \$165,028,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 312 and 313

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 761 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$53,114,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 761 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Honourable Members, please allow the Minister one second to get his advisers ready.

Yes Mr Ally.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 5211 - Expenses specific to the Agency - Could the Honourable Minister explain what is meant by this and why is there a rise from \$3,756,000 to \$5,000,000.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is an increase here and this is to cater for RDC meetings. The RDC meets once per month, they have to pay travelling expenses and allowances and also to pay salaries for the Toshaos, Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, I did not get that clearly. Why is there a rise and the amount?

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta: It is very simple, the seven percent increase.

The Chairman: From \$700,000 to \$5,000,000?

Mr Nasir Ally: From \$3,756,000 to \$5,000,000.

The Chairman: Come on Minister, you have to do a little bit better. That is far more than seven percent,

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, last year's vote was \$4,192,000 and this year it is \$5,000,000.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, the other question. Under Staffing Details COA6111 - Administrative - I see it is mentioned there Administrative staff - 7, while the other staff total 208. Why is this large number for administrative staff, in other words, one admin for six other staff?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is a Senior Personnel Officer, PPO, Registry Supervisor, PS Finance, Accountant, Field Auditor.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 761 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$53,114,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 314 and 315

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 762 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$211,345,000 for Agency 76 -

Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 762 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Ally

MrNasir Ally: Under Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - here is see a sum of \$49,280,000 to be spent. Can some details be given for example where will the money be spent and exactly how much in each area?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that there is a total of forty-one canals and again it is a long list, but I can for the benefit of the House just mention a few:

- Seaforth Canal;
- Yakusari main drain;
- Yakusari south and front lands;
- Yakusari distributory;
- Mibicuri/Johanna distributory;
- Black Bush Polder main irrigation canal;
- Lesbeholden distributory;
- Lesbeholden south district and front lands;
- Lesbeholden main drain;
- Packoo Canal;
- Letter Kenny/Bloomfield/Don Robinson to Seawell;
- Manaribisi Pump to Kaboyar Creek; and so forth.

It is a long list, Mr Chairman.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, a follow-up to that. I cannot see that amount adequate for all the canals you are calling there with all the damages being done after the last flood. Could you give an explanation, Mr Minister?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The explanation is the National Drainage and Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture will take care of the rest.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Account 6273 - Water Charges - Why is there an increase from \$520,000 to \$726,000? I am not aware that water rates have been increased.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand that more buildings are now connected.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, I see there are fifty-eight persons on the staff and no Admin staff has been mentioned. Are they going to be supervised from Georgetown and are going to be left alone in the region to work?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that the administrative staff is paid by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details COA 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - I note that the level of Semi Skilled Operatives, the strength has been maintained, but only the sum of \$20,716,000 has been provided. Would the Semi-Skilled have the benefit of the seven percent increase?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised, yes.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, could the Minister say where the funds

are provided for in the increase, because there is a difference of only \$6,000.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, last year it was \$20.7 million and this year it is \$20.7 million too, so that is catered for.

Mr Invor Allen: With all due respect to the Minister, last year there were fifty-one members of staff who drew \$20,710,000; this year the same fifty-one members of staff is maintained and there is \$20,716,000; the additional provision is only \$6,000,000. Could that provide for the seven percent increase?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand the seven percent was paid in December and that is why the same amount if brought forward.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, the seven percent is going to be paid continuously to all of the employees throughout this year. Where is it provided for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I would advise the Honourable Member that if he needs some more details, I can entertain that in a question.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 762 - Agriculture - \$211,345,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 316 and 317

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 763 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$76,358,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 763 - Public Works - 86/44

stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - I would like to know why there is such a steep rise of nearly 300 percent from \$2,866,000 to \$6,300,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this year more buildings need to be maintained. I have a list here and these buildings are in New Amsterdam:

- Repairs to C 166 living quarters;
- Repairs to C 52 living quarters;
- Repairs to Audit Section, New Amsterdam;
- Repairs to C 327 Local Government Building, Section C 2460;
- Repairs to C 173 living quarters, New Amsterdam;
- Minor repairs to C16 Amerindian Hostel;
- Rehabilitation to C 57 living quarters; and the list goes on.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Under Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I would like to know why is the amount lessened this year.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The Security Service is United Associates.

The Chairman: Why is it less this year?

Mr Nasir Ally: Why is there a drop in the amount?

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Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I advised that the day hours are shifted to the Ministry of Education.

Mr Nasir Ally: Again Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, I see twenty-seven persons and there is no admin staff. Why is it so?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand this is catered for under Senior Technical.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 763 - Public Works - \$76,358,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 318 and 319

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Programme 764 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,076,151,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 764 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - I would like to know why there is 256 percent increase here?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is to cater for maintenance of buildings:

Teachers' quarters at Siparuta and Orealla;

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- VSO quarters, New Amsterdam;
- A nursery school;
- Eight Nursery Schools;
- Seven Primary Schools; and
- Two Secondary Schools.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6284 - Other - Again I see here 454.8 percent increase. Why is it so?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is catering for payment of invigilators at exams and part-time cleaners.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, it shows that there is 296 Admin staff out of a total of 1.489. Why is this large number of admin staff in comparison to the

other staff?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Well, I am advised that each school must have a head teacher.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 764 - Education Delivery - \$1,076,151,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 320 and 321

AGENCY 76 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Pro-

gramme 765 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$488,991,000 for Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 765 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, I would like to know what is the apparent factor that contributed to a steep rise in electricity charges which has jumped to 250.9 percent?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that there are more equipment installed in the various hospitals and in addition this vote is also for the New Amsterdam Hospital.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, I would like to ask the Minister, can one administrative staff efficiently and effectively control and manage a total of 506 other staff in the health sector.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The Region has a Regional Health Officer and that person along with the other personnel in the different departments are able to administer the health service in Region 6.

The Chairman: Yes, Mr Kadir; no more speeches today, Mr Kadir, please.

MrAbdul Kadir: No Mr Chairman. I want to ask the Minister what accounts for fifteen contracted employees when seven out of ten regions altogether have less then three contracted employees.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I need some time here. Are we still under current or are we moving over to capital.

MrAbdul Kadir: We are looking at the Staffing Details - fifteen contracted employees.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The answer to that is thirteen doctors and 86/48

two admin staff.

Agency 76 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Programme 765 - Health Services - \$488,991,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 422

DIVISION 536 - REGION 6: EAST BERBICE/CORENTYNE, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$223,100,000 for Division 536 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 1101 - Bridges - I see a total of \$13,500,000 to be spent here. May I ask the Honourable Minister how many new bridges will be constructed and where and how will they be rehabilitated?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The Legend says construction and rehabilitation of bridges. Rehabilitation of Seawell and community bridges at Ordinance Fortlands, Rehabilitation of Moleson Creek bridge No. 3; Construction of bridges at Tain, No. 59 Village; Liverpool; Black Bush Polder No. 4; Crabwood Creek; Whim and Sisters.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Under Project Code 12002 - Buildings - Education - I see \$30,500,000 will be expended there. Which schools will be ex-

tended and at what cost?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, three schools are slated for extension:

Mibicuri, Black Bush at a cost of \$4,000,000; Extension of Primary School Edinburgh and Rosehall, Canje \$5,700,000 and \$6,000,000 respectively.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Under Project Code 13002 - Drainage and Irrigation - I see here \$75,000,000 will be spent. Is this amount adequate after the serious flooding in Region 6 and where will the works be done?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Speaker, this budget caters for construction and backfill with timber revetments and Nos. 52 and 74 NDCs; Seaforth and Bolan sluice; rehabilitation of timber bridges Lesbeholden, Mibicuri, Johanna, Yakusari and Susannah Façade; construction and backfill; RC structures Nos. 52 and 74 Manarabisi, East Bank Berbice; Macundu; rehabilitation and excavation of D and I canals Bushlot West; D canal Whim; main canal; No. 51 South sideline; No 48 Middle Walk; Irrigation canal; collector drain, Black Bush Polder; empoldering Whittaker Cross, Manarabisi.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, I do not think that the question is answered fully; whether this amount is adequate with the serious flooding that took place recently in Region 6.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that for now it is adequate.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 14001 - Roads - Can you name the community rods that will be upgraded for \$45,100,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman I have a list of twenty-eight

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roads here. If you will permit, I can go them through or I can supply a list, but for the benefit of the House I can start by naming a few. Upgrading of roads and streets:

- Workshop Street, Canefield;
- Quintyn Streets I and II, Betsyground;
- Jafar, Third Cross Street;
- Betsyground, Second Street;
- No 64 Village, Rama Street;
- Bound Yard;
- Ball Field Street, Port Mourant;
- Back Street Manchester;
- Deonarine Street, Topo;
- Continuation of Dam, Auckland;
- Second Street Ns, No. 72 Village;
- Grant 1778 North Sideline, Crabwood Creek, A Dam;
- 1651 Back Street, West Crabwood Creek;
- Second Cross Street, No. 66 Village
- First Cross Street, No. 71 Village
- Second Cross Street N and S EPR No. 73 Village
- Crawford Street, Alness
- Second Cross Street, Auckland

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- Rawana Street, Field 11 Johanna, Black Bush Polder
- First Street, Boodoo, Field No. 12 Mibicuri;
- South Sideline Dam, No.51 Village;
- Grant 1780 Concrete Scheme, Crabwood Creek oppo site Hercules;
- Third Cross Street, Auckland;
- Community Road, Sisters;
- Back Street, East Crabwood Creek;
- First Cross Street, SHW PR No. 69 Village;
- Zone Street, Field 8 Yakusari, Black Bush Polder;
- Second Street, Zambia, Black Bush Polder;
- Sohan Street, Palmyra.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph and then Mrs Holder.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Project Code 25003 - Furniture and Equipment - Health - In the Profile, the equipment identified here are cardiac monitor pulse oxymeter cardiac beds, et cetera. I wonder whether or not these are intended for a cardiac unit, an intensive care unit, because I know none of those two units exist at the New Amsterdam Hospital. Can the Minister respond?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that these are all for the New Amsterdam Hospital, cardiac monitor, pulse oxymeter, cardiac beds, oxygen gage, LCD Projector, executive chairs, computer and accessories, computer and writing desk, filing cabinet:

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: My question was where the equipment will be deployed. These are not general ward equipment, so I want to know whether they intend to open a cardiac unit or an intensive care.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the Ministry of health will advise, because these are all technical matters.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: A supplementary question - The Minister has deferred a number of questions already, so I want to know under which heading these questions on Region 6 will be answered.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is a question of a technical nature and I am not in a position to say what part of the hospital these things will be put, but the Ministry of Health with its technical people will be able to advise. This is a new hospital built.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder.

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: The question I would like to put to the Honourable Minister pertains to which standard will the roads in Region 6 and the other regions in which you built roads be built?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised most of these will be built with burnt earth, because they are community roads.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: A supplementary question - listening to the long list of the Minister, I would like to ask the Minister if central government is now usurping the works of the NDCs, because I heard you calling names of back streets. If they are main highways, I can understand that. Could you please give an answer to that Mr Minister?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is no, not at all, but what the central government does is to make allocation to the

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regional council and then the regional council will allocate these funds to the various NDCs.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Ally

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 19001 - Land Development - Could the Minister say what works will be done to upgrade existing housing schemes.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There are three existing housing schemes:

- Adelphi cane field;
- Nigg; and
- Belvedere.

Mr Nasir Ally: Mr Chairman, I am asking what works will be done?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The answer is roads works to be done.

Division 536 - Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne, Agency Totals - \$223,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 326 and 327

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 771 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$65,113,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 771 - Regional Administration

and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

Miss David, just give the Minister a moment to get his advisers in place.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency - Can the Minister say which agency is this?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The agency is the Regional Democratic Council; payment to Chairman, Vice-Chairman and regional councillors payment of subsistence and travelling allowances when they come to meetings.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, COA 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled and COA 6114 - Clerical and Office Support - I see in the Staffing Details there is an increase by one in each description, I would like to know if the seven percent increase is included.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Yes and the two persons will be a Secretary and a boathand.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Account Code 6284 - Other - What is meant by Other?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This amount is to pay for Police escorts when payment and salaries are being paid in the various areas and for the five cleaners in the Upper Mazaruni and washing of curtains, linens and so forth.

The Chairman: Account Code 5302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Who are the beneficiaries of this training?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that there is no external scholarship, but for staff of the accounts and personnel Departments.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Is this Honourable House to take it that under Account Code 6264 - Vehicle Spares and Service - there would be no need for vehicle spares and why is has not been budgeted for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is catered for under Public Works.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 771 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$65,113,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 328 and 329

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 772 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$81,981,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 772 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Under Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Can the Minister list the buildings that would be maintained?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am pleased to announce or identify or whatever the buildings:

 Maintenance of government quarters Fourth Avenue,
 Bartica, occupied by the health workers, that is the replace ment of roof;

- Maintenance works, regional guest house, Bartica; we will be catering for better beds and not screeching beds this time;
- Maintenance of works, storekeeper's quarters, Mogrippa Hill;
- AREO's quarters, Kamarang, Upper Mazaruni;
- Mintenance quarters Waramadong Rest House;
- REO's quarter, Bartica;
- Regatta pavilion, Bartica;
- Administrative Office, Bartica.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I wish to draw your attention to Page 329, Staffing Details and I note that the total staff strength for the Public Works Department is three. My question is, could the Minister say if one semi-technical craft skilled person and two clerical and office support staff would be adequate to manage this \$81.9 million programme.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, it is meagre administration and the region is contemplating to acquire another engineer this year, but so far they have been seeking the assistance of engineers from the Public Works Department. So for last year and this year, we are hoping to beef up the administration.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6273 - Water Charges - Why such an increase in water charges?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, more buildings are now connected for the system.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - What other infrastructure and where?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, maintenance of other infrastructure:

- extension of landing and mooring facilities Kamamrang,
 Upper Mazaruni; -construction and dismantling of stage for masquerade finals, Bartica;
- installation of toilet facilities, sheds, walkways for tempo rary market, Bartica and I want to inform this House that Bartica will soon get a new market;
- maintenance of government compound, Upper and Middle Mazaruni and also Bartica areas;
- extension of water supply system to Parima; repairs to Parima water reservoir.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services -seeing that we are dealing with Public Works and it is quite about equipment, can the Honourable Minister state why there is no security services provided under this head.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that security services are provide under regional administration.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni Mazaruni, Programme 772 - Public Works - \$81,981,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 330 and 331

AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 773 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$336,296,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 773 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details, I see there is an increase of fifteen more under Senior Technical, can the Minister explain who these persons are?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that these officers are Senior Masters and Heads of Departments are now promoted to these positions.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Can the Minister say in Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - who are the beneficiaries of this training including scholarships?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There is no foreign scholarship, but teachers and office staff in the Regional Education Department will benefit from the training.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 773 - Education Delivery - \$336,296,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 332 and 333

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AGENCY 77 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Programme 774 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$142,902,000 for Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 774 - Health - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Judith David

Miss Judith David: I see under Staffing Details COA 6111 - Administrative - In 2005 there was no one; in 2006 there is no one again and question is why and when will we have someone in the Administrative Section and who is the personnel in charge now.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Administrators are under contracted employees and I understand that the Steward is now the acting RHO until a RHO will be appointed.

Miss Judith David: Can the Minister say when this is?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The region had requested the filling of this vacancy and the Ministry of Health is now trying to get the persons to do that. We would be happy if this post can be filled as early as possible.

Agency 77 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 774 - Health Services - \$142,902,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 423

continued in Pt II

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2006) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

Part II

86TH SITTING

2.00 PM

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

cont'd fr. Pt 1

DIVISION 537 - REGION 7: CUYUNI/MAZARUNI, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$77,272,000 for Division 537 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Agency Totals - stand part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, I see here under Project Code 12002 - Buildings - Health - Construction of a health centre in the Bartica Hospital Compound. Never in my life have I heard a health centre is situated in a hospital compound, because there is a lot of conflict of interest. People intending to go to the health centre ends up at the hospital. I want to find out how tenable is this?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that the Regional Council and the Department of Health considered this and agreed to have it constructed there.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - Could the Honourable Minister please indicate what portion of the \$9,000,000 has been earmarked for the construction of this health centre?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised \$5,000,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, I would want to ask the Minister which area of the Bartica Hospital's compound will this health centre be constructed?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I have to advise that the compound is quite a large compound and the area is east of the guard hut.

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask what is the dimension of this health centre?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am afraid, I do not have that information ready, but through the REO this information can be transmitted.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, I would like to ask if the plan and other papers have already been passed for this health centre and if it is within the laws governing the position from the fence or to the next building to the health centre,

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I understand that the plan has been prepared pertaining to the construction. All regulations will be adhered to.

Miss Judith David: My next question is, can the Minister say if the contract was awarded and who awarded the contract?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, we are now discussing the Budget; no doubt after it is approved, then the contract will be awarded.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, I want to refer to Project Code 15001

- Sea and River Defence - that states \$7,000,000 will be allocated for construction for revetment, but when you look at the Project Profiles it says, construction of a sandcrete revetment at Bydarabo waterfront. I want to ask the Minister if in these modern days of technology, he is constructing a sandcrete revetment.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am not the technician to say whether sandcrete is the best, but I am advised that similar construction was done in the same area at different sections. So far over the many years, it has proven good, perhaps that is the reason why the region is going along this same specification.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Mr Chairman, Project Code 26001 - Furniture and Equipment - Health - In the Profile there is a number of equipment to be purchased, I want to know whether the equipment to be purchased for the Bartica Hospital will make the operating theatre at Bartica Hospital up and running.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, obviously, we are trying to put in the equipment and once that is done, surely the Ministry of Health will move to have the requisite technical people and other facilities put in place for the benefit of the people.

Division 537 - Region 7: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Agency Totals - \$77,272,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 338 and 339

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 781 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum \$26,268,000 for Agency 78 - Re-

gion 8: Cuyuni/Mazaruni, Programme 781 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Under Account Code 6271 - Telephone Charges - I would like the Honourable Minister to explain since Region 8 does not have telephones.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I understand that the Regional Chairman is issued with a Cell Phone and for his convenience whenever he is in Georgetown for the benefit for communication he uses it.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Then I would like to make a comment (so to speak) therefore the Member of Parliament should be entitled to one too. [Applause]

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I fully agree that the Member of Parliament must have a cell phone, but she comes under the Parliament and I guess the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should look into that.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: But the Clerk of the National Assembly does not pay my phone bills.

Under Account Code 6284 - Other - I would like the Honourable Minister to explain what is *Other*:

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I understand that this is for hiring vehicles, if there is need to transport patients or to transport medical supplies from a village to another village and also in Mahdia itself, because there are areas like Tumatumari and Micobie to service.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I would like to know who will be gaining the benefits of this training.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Accounts staff, Personnel and the Registry.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 781 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$26,268,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 340 and 341

AGENCY 76 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 782 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$48,926,000 for Agency 76 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 782 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Under Agency Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - I would like the Honourable Minister to say which are the roads being identified for the maintenance?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand one road at Mahdia - The Mahdia Community Road - and two roads in the Pakaraimas.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Staffing Details 6112 - Senior Technical - In 2005, there was one Senior Technical and in 2006 there is none. Can the Minister explain what happened to the person?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the Superintendent of Works retired and no doubt that post will be filled and when it is filled allocation will be made available.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Mr Chairman, I would like to point the Honourable Minister's attention to the fact that under Account Codes 6253, 6254 and 6255, I see no evidence for maintenance for wells that may not be functioning. Will you indicate to the House if there is any provision anywhere has been made specifically for the non-functioning of wells.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the region does not have any wells, whatever water supply system that comes under GUYWA.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6284 - Other - This thing keeps appearing so I would very much like to have an explanation from the Honourable Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the same answer. This comes under Public Works. There is need to hire vehicles and to transport fuel from one point to other and to take personnel around.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - Could the Honourable Minister state how many vehicles are being budgeted for this sum of \$5,200,000.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Could the Honourable Member mention the Code for us?

Mrs Shirley J Melville: 6231

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand the region has two generating sets, three tractors and two heavy duty vehicles to travel up the mountain.

Agency 76 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 782 - Public Works - \$48,926,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 342 and 343

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 783 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$122,632, 000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 783 - Education Delivery

The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6284 - Other - I notice there is a very bid increase, could the Minister please explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman to that is to pay part-time cleaners and invigilators at exams.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: And then I would like to ask the question again under Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - who are the persons getting the benefits?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is to train local teachers.

Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 783 - Education Delivery - \$122,632,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 344 and 345

AGENCY 78 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Programme 784 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$59,583,000 for Agency 78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 784 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Account 6284 - Other - there is also a big rise, could the Minister care to explain that?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is to transfer patients who are referred. Sometimes they have to be moved from some villages to the airport and even at Mahdia, one also has to transport them from sections of the area to the airport.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6294 - Other - Again there is a very big rise, could the Minister explain.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, in the Pakaraimas one has to hire druggers to fetch medicine and other things from village to village or when it is landed by a plane to a specific airport, then one has to hire druggers to transport medical supplies to the respective villages.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I see an increase and I would like the Honourable Minister to explain that.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: It is for training community health workers and to upgrade their skills.

Agency78 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Programme 784 - Health Services - \$59,583,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 424

DIVISION 538 - REGION 8: POTARO/SIPARUNI, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$86,500,000 for Division 538 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12003 - Buildings - Health - I notice that there is an increase and then the Legend says, extension of health posts and construction of doctor's quarters, I would be happy if the Honourable Minister would say which health post would be extended.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We will be construction two health posts; one at Chiung Mouth and one at Kanapang.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Project Code 12003 - Buildings Health - I see written here in the Profile the construction of doctor's quarters, Mahdia Potaro, but in the benefits of the project, improved accommodation for nurses. Is it a nurses' hostel you are building here or doctor's quarters, because if you read the benefits here, it is accommodation for nurses?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I think that is a mistake. The Legend is for the construction of the doctor's quarters. Maybe that is a mistake.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Not maybe, this is written here, so it is not maybe.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: It could be, sometimes you do have these typographical errors.

The Chairman: the Honourable Member Mrs Backer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 11001 - Bridges - We see here \$18,500,000 allocated for bridges and on Page 213 of the profile, we see three bridges contemplated. Could we have a breakdown as to what has been spent on each bridge?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I think all and sundry know that we are now linking all the villages ... [Interruption]

Mrs Deborah J Backer: No, I do not want that, money

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We have the construction of three bridges:

 one at the Twiling Mountain, we need a bridge along the trail ... [Interruption]

Mrs Deborah J Backer: How much?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: ... it is \$6,000,000;

- the Yawong Bridge \$6,000,000; and
- the Morepang Bridge, this one goes towards Chenapowu that is for \$6,500,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question to the same Project Code. Could the Minister indicate to us whether the two \$6,000,000 bridges are the same identical length and width?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, that a bit technical, but I would say that these bridges are going to be built by local materials and

the creeks are actually the same width, so it could be that the width is the same, so it might be the same.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft.

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Mr Chairman, Project Code 25001 - Furniture and Equipment - Education - I would like the Minister to tell this House which are the schools that would be benefiting from this equipment and furniture?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, Paramakatoi Secondary School and Mahdia Secondary School will benefit.

The Chairman: The Honourabble Member Miss Bancroft [Pause] Please give way to Mr Carberry

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Very well, Sir.

Mr E Lance Carberry: No, I will give way to the Honourable Member.

The Chairman: As you are on your legs.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I never like to replace my MPs. The Mocobie access, is this a road, and if so, Sir, what is it intended to do? What to do you intend to do in 2006?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This allocation is to upgrade the access road from Mocobie to Tumatumari, it is a rough trail and needs some maintenance to improve access to the community.

Mr E Lance Carberry: But Sir, you are saying that it is a trail, I agree with you that it is a rough trail, but you are saying to rehabilitate road. I do not know. Are you upgrading this to the status of a road?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Well, that is what is intended Mr Chairman.

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Mr E Lance Carberry: Could you say how much you are going to be spending on this?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, from Tumatumari to Micobie is not a long distance and we have allocated \$2,000,000.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Racoomarie Bancroft: Project Code 25004 - Furniture and Equipment - Health - I would be grateful if the Minister can give an explanation about this? Which hospital? Where will be benefiting from this furniture and equipment?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Purchase of solar panel for sub-regions 1 and 2; and purchase of refrigerator for the mortuary at Mahdia.

Division 538 - Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni, Agency Totals - \$86,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 350 and 351

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 791 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$52,966,000 that Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 791 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Total Wages and Salaries - Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employees - even though there is in the Staffing details an increase, could I promptly answer that this increase is being the seven percent.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, that is so.

Dr George A Norton: Could the Minister kindly explain the increase under Account Code 6241 - Rental and Maintenance of buildings - and the increase in Account Code 6243 - Janitorial and Cleaning Supplies.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Could the Honourable Member mention the Code?

Dr George A Norton: 6243

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is a small increase due to the cost of supplies.

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Could the Minister under Other Operating Expenses Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - what is referred to as national and other events?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is no allocation here, but national events are like Mashramani, Independence celebrations and Amerindian Heritage Month, but there is no money allocated here.

Dr George A Norton: There is \$500,000.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am afraid, I made a mistake, money is allocated under Account Code 6291 for \$500,000.

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, to the Minister, this is on the Education Subvention and Training - Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships), even though your scholarships might be local and not international, would that increase be sufficient to take care of training on the whole in this region in particular?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, training is an ongoing exercise year after year and this is catering for the senior staff and staff in the Accounts Department.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member, Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Minister say under Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employees - who is the temporary employee?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, one relief driver.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Minister state how many vehicles we are providing for under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - with \$4,295,000?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta. I understand there are three vehicles and five boats and engines in the region.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister state why under Account Code 6281 - Security Services - there is no increase in the wages budgeted for.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that security remains the same.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: A supplementary question to that, there is a decrease in the security service, could we have an explanation for that please?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, it is quite a small amount and I understand that the revision caters for that.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 791 - Regional Administration and Finance - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 352 and 353

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 792 - Agriculture

Question is proposed that the sum of \$7,984,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 792 - Agriculture - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister state whether the amount allocated \$7,984,000 is sufficient for the Agriculture Sector/

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Could the Member advise us which Code.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: The Grand Total.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised, yes, this amount is adequate

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister explain under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - what is the sum of \$390,000 catering for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We are catering for two motor cycles for the region.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister state under this same Account Code 6231 whether our vehicle would be returned to the region? Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I cannot follow that question. I do not know which vehicle she is referring to maybe she can give me some more information.

Mrs Shirely J Melville: Same Code, the Mazda vehicle that was brought to Georgetown, Honourable Minister.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand that vehicle was brought to Georgetown, it belongs to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry will decide when it will be returned to the region.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Utility Charges - Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges - the electricity charges remain the same. Could you explain this?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that this amount is adequate, it is a small station.

Dr George A Norton: Once again, in spite of the fact that you pointed out that training is an ongoing process yet it remained to the same figure as last year. Could you explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: In addition to that this amount is adequate, but if there is need for further funds then that is supplemented by the Central Ministry.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, Staffing Details, could the Honourable Minister explain where COA 6111 and COA 6112 fall under?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: It falls under the Ministry of Agriculture

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 792 - Agriculture - \$7,984,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 354 and 355

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 793 - Public Works

Question is proposed that the sum of \$42,275,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 793 - Public Works - stands part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, Under Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Could the Minister state which buildings would be maintained?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there are four buildings here:

Rehabilitation of laboratory St Ignatius

Rehabilitation of R17 Lethem, R71 Annai, R79 Lethem for the Sub Treasury Officer Agri station, hospital complex, RDO's residence and for REO's residence.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister state which roads will be maintained under Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Roads at Nappi, St Ignatius, Opoteri, Rewa, Crash Water, Lethem, Moco Moco, Culvert City, Karasasbai and

Yarongparu

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 793 - Public Works - \$42,275,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 356 and 357

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 794 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$281,926,000 for Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 794 - Education Deliver - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, in the Staffing Details COA 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled there is a decrease of five from last year, could the Minister explain why this is so?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: These persons have been promoted to other technical and craft skilled.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - Once again, how many vehicles are we catering for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Education Delivery two vehicles and one truck.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Which are the two vehicles? Are we includ-

ing the one on the wharf?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised, no.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Under Staffing Details there is a decrease form 155 to 150, but yet when we refer to the actual appropriation Account Code 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - there is an increase from \$52,080 to \$53,222. Will the Minister care to explain that?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that because of promotion.

MrAbdul Kadir: No, there is a decrease in the number of five persons from the Staffing Details COA 6115 - Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - but when we refer to the emoluments there is an increase from \$52,080 to \$53,222, which means that less persons are getting much more money an the seven percent does not cater for that.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that the seven percent increase.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges - there is actually a reduction in this case.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am afraid there is an increase on the vote here \$1,370,000 as against the budgetary allocation \$824,000 in 2005,

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - Could the Honourable Minister tell us which building are we looking at.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I have a list of ten buildings here:

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- Rehabilitation of teachers's quarters, St Ignatius Second ary School;
- Rehabilitation of Nursery School Aranaputa;
- Annai Nursery School, Beverly Hill;
- Rehabilitation of teacher's Apartment, Annai Secondary School;
- St Ignatius Primary School;
- Surama North Rupununi Primary School;
- Sand Creek Primary School;
- Aranaputa Primary School.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister state why the figure remains the same under Account Code 6281 - Security Services despite there has been a seven percent increase in other areas?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The security service is under contract by the region.

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 794 - Education Delivery - \$281,926,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 358 and 359

AGENCY 79 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 795 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$102,028,000 for Agency 79 0 Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 795 - Health Services.

The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Materials, Equipment and Supplies - Account Code 6221 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - There has been an increase, but very little relatively. Could the Minister explain how this will suffice?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, central government caters for the cost of drugs and medical supplies, but there is just a small increase here and this is because the regional health centres do get some additional supplies from the region.

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, under Education Subventions and Training Account Code 6221 - Training (Including Scholarships) - when one considers that there has been no increase, could we take it that even though there might be training including Scholarships that there will be no overseas scholarships this year?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: There is no overseas scholarship and this is for training for community health workers.

Dr George A Norton: As a supplement, could I ask if it will be only community health workers. I am particularly concerned whether there will be training of medical doctors.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: That type of training will be done by the Ministry of Health.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister state which vehicles or how many vehicles are we looking at under Account Code under 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised four vehicles and three generators.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister state which villages the generators are for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: One for the Lethem Hospital; one for the Aishalton Hospital and one for Annai.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - You said four generators, you have named three.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The additional one is for Karasabai.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Under Account Code 6264 - Vehicle Spares and Services - there is an allocated amount for \$3,800,000. Could the Honourable Minister state whether this includes the spares for the ambulance.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised, yes.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Under Account Code 6294 - Other - Could the Honourable Minister tell us what should we look forward to since the allocation has increased.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This caters for the transportation of patients to Georgetown.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: As a supplementary on the question on generators, could the Minister say what are the capacities of these generators?

Hon Harripersuad Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am afraid this is a techni-

cal question and we cannot say; at this moment there are four and we would provide information to the Honourable Member at a later stage. [Interruption: 'When?'] When it is available through the REO?

Agency 79 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Programme 795 - Health Services - \$102,028,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 425

DIVISION 539 - REGION 9: UPPER TAKUTU/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$162,254,000 for Division 539 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: Account Code 12002 - Buildings - Health - I see here the Legend says Construction of Apartment - The first question is where specifically the apartment will be constructed?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: This is for the Lethern Hospital Complex.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Joseph

Dr Dlgleish Joseph: The second question - is this apartment intended for healthcare workers specifically?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Yes, it is for staff quarters.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Could the Honourable Minister state whether the amount allocated for bridges:

- (i) Would be sufficient; and
- (ii) The Katunarie Crossing that is in the Profile, is it the bridge across the Rupununi River? If so, that is going to take up quite a lot of money and for the Bridge of Katunarie, we have budgeted for this since 2004, could the Honourable Minister state if this sum is sufficient for all the works stated in the profile?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that at this point it is adequate and the Bridge across the Katunarie is across the Rupununi River.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Dr Norton

Dr George A Norton: Mr Chairman, Project Code 25005 - Furniture and Equipment - the Legend says purchase of furniture and equipment - Could the Minister say what equipment is being referred to here?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: These are some of the items to be purchased:

- a radio set;
- desks;
- chairs,;
- computers;
- filing cabinets;
- transformers; and

trollies.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 24001 - Land Transport - can the Minister tell us how many vehicles would be purchased and for which department.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised two vehicles, one for health and one for administration.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: With regard to Project Code 26003 - Power Extension - If we look at Profile 234, we are going to see that the project entails extension of electricity to Sand Creek, Karasabai, Aishalton Tabatinga and St Ignatius, could the Honourable Minister explain what extension works will be done in the villages of Sand Creek, Aishalton and Karasabai? To date, we have been budgeting for the Tabatinga area and if would actually be going across the Tabatinga Creek.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that yes, it will go across the Tabatinga Creek and this amount is allocated to purchase wires, transformers and electric poles.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: A supplementary question - With regard to the villages, what should we be looking for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Well I am advised that we will be looking for the extension of electricity service.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, at the moment we have generators in these villages, yes, but they are not functioning. With regard to the supply of fuel, could the Minister be more specific?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that all four generators are functioning and this allocation is to extend electricity service by providing more wires, more lamp posts and transformers. The objective is to have improved electricity service to the various areas.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister explain Project Code 17001 - Agricultural Development - with regard to the rehabilitation of the storage facility, in the profile it states that it is the rehabilitation for the storage facility for the abattoir. With the view that the abattoir is there on a temporary basis, are we looking at a mobile unit or the rehabilitation of the building per se.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the abattoir is still in use and one it is being used, there is need for storage facility.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: A supplementary question to that - Could the Honourable Minister explain why are we going to have this storage facility there, because unless there is twenty-four hours electricity, it is pointless having a fixed storage unit, because at the moment with eighteen hours it does not serve the purpose as a storage facility. We need twenty-four hours and at this point, I suggest that we look at a mobile facility. In the future when the abattoir is going to be removed we would also be able to take along the mobile unit.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I fully agree with the Honourable Member, but once budgetary allocation is there then all these things will be put in place.

Division 539 - Region 9: Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo, Agency Totals - \$162,254,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 364 and 365

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER ESSEQUIBO, Programme 801 - Regional Administration and Finance

Question is proposed that the sum of \$72,273,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10 - Upper Demerara/Upper Essequibo, Programme 801 - Regional Administration and Finance - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Account Code 6211 - Expenses specific to the Agency - which is for the RDC and with the recent increase for the Captains and Toshaos, can the Honourable Minister to this Honourable House how does he plan to deal with the RDC's short-cut budget already allocated by \$319,000? This is a bad start

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there has been no cut on this expenditure.

Miss Sandra Adams: A supplementary question - Under the budget for the RDC Captains and Toshaos are supposed to be paid and as the Honourable Minister should know that there is an increase and the increase to that budget is \$324,000 for the Captains for the year and the region was only given \$5,000 increase from their budgeted allocations from last year. So we are already in a deficit of \$319,000. So could you explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that increase for Toshaos will come under special budgetary allocations under the Ministry of Finance for now temporarily.

Miss Sandra Adams: Well the other regions will take note. Under Account Code 6271 - Telephone Charges - there is a substantial increase from \$280,000 to \$1.4, could the Minister explain who is talking this much?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The switchboard is now is operation and this caters for operations in different sections.

Miss Sandra Adams: Could you go over that again, Minister?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: We have in the Region the IFMAS system and the cost is for that system.

Miss Sandra Adams: Under Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - could the Minister explain to us that with the number of national events for this year taking into consideration the region's participation if there will be a supplementary budget coming up if the region needs more money, because we are aware that \$1.4 is not sufficient? Is there a catered supplementary budget?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, there is a small increase here, but I think the Central Ministry of Local Government do assist and give support to events.

Mr Abdul Kadir: Under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - I notice that there is a reduction in the allocation for fuel from \$980,000 to \$938,000, can the Minister explain this?

The Chairman: Is that \$50,000?

Mr Abdul Kadir: Yes, even though there is an increase in fuel cost.

The Chairman: Yes, but we are talking about \$50,000 in an Estimates of over \$100 billion.

Mr Abdul Kadir: There is an increase in fuel cost.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I understand some other government officers acquired their own vehicles duty free.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 801, Regional Administration and Finance - \$72,273,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 366 and 367

AGENCY 80 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/BERBICE, Programme 802 - Public works.

Question is proposed that the sum of \$58,031,000 for Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice, Programme 802 - Public Works - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 6271 - Telephone Charges - just now we had a substantial increase, now we have a significant decrease, could the Minister explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, this is because they have established a switchboard; the cost is adjusted because of the switchboard.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: A supplementary question - Minister you said that the cost is adjusted because of the switchboard.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised, yes.

Miss Sandra Adams: So the Works Department does not have any work to do with the IFMAS Programme.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised no, that comes under the Department of Finance.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, under the Account Code 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - will the Minister care to explain to us which roads are identified?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman I have a list here:

One Mile Extension - length 2,297 feet;

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- Poker Street, Wismar;
- Sunflower Street, Wismar;
- Bullet Wood Street;
- Cresent Road;
- Cinderella City; and
- Amelia's Ward.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 802 - Public Works - \$58,031,000 - agreed to an ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 368 and 369

AGENCY 80 - UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 803 - Education Delivery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$754,421,000 for Agency 80 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 803 - Education Delivery - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 80 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 803 - Education Delivery - \$754,421,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 370 and 371

AGENCY 80 - UPPER DEMERARA/UPPER BERBICE, Programme 804 - Health Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$129,565,000 for Agency 80 - Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice, Programme 804 - Health Services - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Kadir first

MrAbdul Kadir: I see there is a new vehicle targeted for health section for Region 10, but yet we have a slight increase from \$3.2 to \$3.4 million for fuel and lubricants. Will the Minister care to explain this meagre increase in light of an additional increase to the fleet?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, a new vehicle replacing an old one will burn less gasoline.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: A supplementary question, Mr Chairman -How many vehicles are we looking at in the health sector under this same code?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised one, Mr Chairman:

The Chairman: The Honourable Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: This is the one that is coming. Under Account Code 6271 - Telephone Charges - Are we going to talk less in relation to health?

Under Account Code 6273 - Water Charges ... [Interruption]

The Chairman: Let us deal with one question at a time.

Miss Sandra Adams: Okay!

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that the switchboard will

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cater for this reduction.

Miss Sandra Adams: The Health Centre does not have a switch-board, it has permanent lines.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: The Health Centre will deal with direct calls with the monies available.

Miss Sandra Adams: The Health Centre will deal with that under which head?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Account Code 6271

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

MrAbdul Kadir: Staffing Details - there is one contracted employee here, will the Minister explain to us what the designation of this contracted employee is?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand a medical doctor, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Under Account Code 6273, there is a reduction in the budgeted allocation for water charges. Could the Minister explain?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, the revised budget was to pay arrears and now \$54,000 is budgeted for this year.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, Under Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges - why there been a vast reduction in the electricity charges?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised that arrears

were covered last year and that is why it is adjusted downwards this year.

Agency 80 - Region 10: Upper Mazaruni/Upper Berbice, Programme 804 - Health Services - \$129,565,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 426

DIVISION 540 - REGION 10: UPPER DEMERARA/BERBICE

Question is proposed that the sum of \$128,815,000 for Division 540 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Project Code 12001 - Buildings - Administration - could the Minister say which buildings are catered for with this retention?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Could we have the number please?

Miss Sandra Adams: Which buildings are being catered for under the provision of retention?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand the Kwakwani Administrative Building.

Miss Sandra Adams: Which building is catered for under Project Code 12003 - Buildings - Health?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand the Wisroc Health Centre.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Project Code 21003 - Land and Water Transport - Health - Could the Minister care to tell us what type of vehicle is being budgeted for?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand a fifteen-seat minibus

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: A supplementary question - the Wisroc Health Centre is that a building belonging to the Ministry or is it a privately owned building?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I understand it is a newly built health centre.

Dr Dalgleish Joseph: How are you paying a retainer?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: It was built only last year and its retention fund - defects liability

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, I laughed at the vehicle, the region has riverain areas, terrains and as the interior location and we are buying a minibus; probably we are going to buy a 4X4 for them next year.

Under Project Code 25003 - Furniture and Equipment - Health - when I read the profile for furniture and equipment - health, it is not mentioned here for an X-ray for the Linden Hospital Complex and I think that the Minister or Ministers responsible need to give an explanation as to where we are going to get the X-ray machine from?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I will agree that the hospital need an X-ray, but the Ministry of Health is addressing that matter.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 14001 - Roads - I just want to ask the Minister if Retrieve and Old Kara Kara where the people protested are included in this rehabilitation works?

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: Mr Chairman, I am advised, no, but the Ministry of Public Works may have that under consideration.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 26006 - Power Supply - the amount allocated there could the Minister say if that is sufficient. It is to buy solar panels and it for Ituni, River View and Calcuni and we have been hearing that \$3,000,000 have been budgeted for in other areas with regard to solar panels.

Hon Harripersaud Nokta: I am advised that three solar panels will be purchased and the amount is adequate.

Division 540 - Region 10: Upper Demerara/Berbice - Agency Totals - \$128,815,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 156 and 157

AGENCY 45 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER, Programme 451 - Housing and Water

Question is proposed that the sum of \$359,024,000 for Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 451 - Housing and Water - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, I refer to Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - First pair of questions, could the Minister tell us what is the duration of the current contractual arrangement with the management of GWI and what proportion of the budget for the year is represented by the subsidy listed under this head.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The duration of the management if for five years commencing from 1 January 2003 and the contributions to local organisations here would be a subvention of \$250,000,000.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: A small supplementary question - could the Minister say what are the four casts or the current plan of the government in terms of the water supply moving to a state of self-sustainability?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: This is the ultimate objective and we have a five year strategic plan for GWI and we are hoping to gain financial sustainability in about two years time, that is the coverage of O and M and then later O, M and D.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, a question has arises from that reply, there have been reports that there are communities that have had the installation of meters, but that they have refused or have disconnected their meters and therefore do not pay on the basis of consumption. Is the Minister aware of these allegations and does he have an idea of how many communities are involved and if he is aware of them, what is the policy of the Ministry in terms of correcting that situation?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The Ministry has a very accelerated metering programme for different areas and there have been reports, not of whole communities, but of individuals disconnecting the meters and GWI is taking the necessary enforcement measures to deter that kind of behaviour.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, could I then ask what part

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of the subsidy refers to the supply of water Georgetown and in particular what proportion of the subsidy represented here if related to municipal supply and what in particular is the target for reducing wastage from that system because we have been told in the past that one of the problems with the Georgetown is that the percentage of waste from the system is a high proportion of the cost?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: We have the IDB programme funded by the Inter-American Development Bank to the tune of G\$6 billion over a five-year period. It has commenced and the main problem is that there are many leakages in the system. There are many old transmission and distribution pipelines and three zones are being attended to as we speak now.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: A small supplementary question - could we know which zones in Georgetown are dealt with at this time?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: It would be North Ruimveldt, Central Ruimveldt, Lamaha Gardens, Prashad Nagar and Campbellville.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Again Sir, under Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - could I go to the other agency as mentioned as funding through this head - the Central Housing and Planning Authority? I have two questions.

First of all, what is the establishment of professional planning staff and what proportion of that establishment is at present filled?

Secondly, what plans for the years 2006 and 2007 exist for meeting that establishment?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The CHPA professional complement is fully staffed. I do not have the numbers, but it is fully staffed.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, the Minister will understand why I have a personal interest in this matter and I am sure he will undertake to give me that detail. My second question has to do with the much

touted greater Georgetown plan. We were invited to see these plans and documents. My question is whether that plan has been put into operation, what is it expected to cost and how is it being funded?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Yes the Georgetown plan is being implemented and the responsibility rests with the Georgetown City Council with support from the Central Housing and Planning Authority. Already we have started with the seawall development plan; the Durban Park development plan; the first draft of the Stabroek Market development plan is completed now. I do not have a costing, but this is a ten-year plan.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Mr Chairman, can I ask a small question? Where in the Budget as far as Central Government contribution is concerned would we find funds for the Georgetown development plan? Is it in this Ministry or which other Ministry or Municipality?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: As I mentioned the plan is a ten-year plan and there is no provision in the Budget for the year 2006, because some aspects of the plan will be private sector driven like the Durban Park development plan, the seawall development plan, already we have gone out for the expressions of interest with the private sector to do developmental works there.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: Could I suggest to the Minister that it would be helpful if a greater public support element be included in this plan? It has been found in other places that greater city development plans are not sustainable unless there is greater knowledge and involvement of the public. My last question has to do with these areas. Could I find out what is the role of the CHPA in the planning and land allocations within the regions and within the larger NDCs? Some of the development and construction that we see seem not to have the full hand or CHPA involvement. Could the Minister say what is the current structure and whether there is any plan in 2006 to strengthen it?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: For all the regions we do have housing committees set up by the Regional Housing Committees and they are re-

sponsible for the processing of applications and the making of allocations for house lots.

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: A supplementary question - I want to phrase this carefully, there was a much publicised incident in 2005 in which it appeared that a prominent construction has started and there was much confusion as to which agency should have approved it and which agency did in fact give permission for the works to start and I believe that out of the confusion and investor had in fact spent money which turned out to be irregularly or illegally done. Could the Minister say if anything will be done in terms of strengthening the system in 2006?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Systems are already in place. The responsibility of the CHPA is for land use clearance and we do have an interagency committee set up and within the CHPA to ensure that all the agencies are involved in any land use clearance, EPA, Lands Commission and so on.

Agency 45 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Programme 451 - Housing and Water - \$359,024,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 410

DIVISION 523 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$21,855,000 for Division 523 - Ministry of Housing, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, under Low Income Settlement 86/99

Programme - Project Code 19002 - Could the Minister say what developmental works will be done in Block 22 as mentioned in the profile?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Block 22, all the roads are being built, all the drains and drainage structures are being installed.

Miss Sandra Adams: A supplementary question. I am aware that the present contractor has problems and he is behind schedule. Could the Minister say if they will give the contract to another contractor or they still have it pending? Remember we have very adverse weather conditions, but we do have consultant firm supervising the contractor.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, Under Project Code 28001 - Water Supply - could he give me an outline of the improvement of water supply in the hinterland areas? In the Profile on Page 106, it has Regions 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: For Region 9 where the Honourable Member comes from, we are going to continue to drill some additional wells bore holes. At Tabatinga, St Ignatius we will be deepening the well and providing a pump and in the various regions we are going to rehabilitate systems - in Region 9 again, Aishaltion we will be putting in a solar system, at Regions 7 and 8 Bamboo Creek and Monkey Mountain where we will be improving the distribution systems there.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: A supplementary question - will the Minister please indicate whether or not Paramakatoi will be included. I understand that they have a problem with the wells during the dry season.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: We are looking at Paramakatoi, we did some amount of work last year, but clearly we have to improve the production of water at Paramakatoi and we have to look at bringing the water from a spring which is some distance away. This will be explored.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, I did hear you continue to say about bore-hole wells. Minister, you do know that we do have a very bad record with regard with these types of wells in Region and are we going to go along this same line?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Well as you know, at Lethem in particular we did extensive consultations. The Minister himself was there and we are guided by the residents of Lethem as to where the bore holes will be drilled, but in terms of the other villagers there are some concerns about whether we should drill wells or whether we should have hand dug wells. In terms of the hinterland strategy, we are looking at the concerns right now.

The Chairman: The Honourable Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 28001 - Water Supply - Could the Minister name the hinterland areas of Region 10 that will be getting water supply systems under this programme and what type of water supply they will be getting?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: If you read the Profile there, it does not include Region 10.

Miss Sandra Adams: The Profile says 1, 7 and 10.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: For Region 10, we intend to look at another well at Amelia's Ward.

Division 523 - Ministry of Housing and Water, Agency Totals - \$21,855,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 416

DIVISION 530 - MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER - HOUSING, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,918,000,000 for Division 530 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Bernard

Mr Deryck MA Bernard: I am looking at the Profile, Volume 3 for Project Code 19002 - Low Income Settlement Programme - and the description is it entails infrastructure works in housing squatter settlements and it gives a sample. My question is whether this is a complete list of the squatter settlements that will be managed and if not, could you give us a list now or would you undertake to send it to us, Sir?

My second question is could you explain how this project is managed? What is the structure of the project management and how they do things like derives eligibility or being part of this project?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The listings of the squatter projects are as follows:

- Zeelugt North;
- Tuschen North,
- Wismar, Block 22,
- Canesville;
- Parfaite Harmony;
- Sophia Block A;

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- Sophia Block B;
- Sophia Block C;
- Belvedere;
- Hampshire and
- Williamsburg South.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Project Code 19003 - Infrastructural Development and Building - could the Minister say what infrastructure works will be done in Amelia's ward?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Under this heading here, it is not proposed to do any further infrastructural work at Amelia's Ward. One thousand lots at Amelia's Ward were covered last year.

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question - the Profile says, the project entails improvement of infrastructure in various existing and new communities such as Onderneeming, Amelia's Ward Phase II, Vigilance, Non Pariel and Wind Bush, unless I am not seeing.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: What I was referring to is Amelia's Ward Phase I, there will be some amount of work done at Amelia's Ward Phase II.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Kadir

Mr Abdul Kadir: My question to the Minister - when does the Low Settlement programmes comes to an end?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: It comes to an end at the end of 2006.

The Chairman: The Hon Member Mr James K McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: The Minister gave a list of squatter settlements being addressed, I wish to ask the Minister if Plastic City, Little Buxton in Good Intent are included in any way and if not, why not?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: I did not get the question about Buxton.

Mr James K McAllister: WE are speaking about squatter settlements being upgraded and I am asking about Plastic City in Region 3, Little Buxton in Region 3.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Little Buxton!

Mr James K McAllister: Yes, in Good Intent, why they are not included?

Hon Shaik KZ Bksh: We have only include the large squatter settlements under this programme, but Plastic City has not been a regularised squatter's area.

Mr James K McAllister: Could the Minister say if there is any programme for the regularisation and upgrading of these smaller areas where people also live?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Yes, all of them are under the regularisation programme and as I outlined in my budget presentation all of those areas that were established and regularised before 1 January 2005, will have the basic services provided by the end of the year 2006. But Plastic City is a Special case, we re not certain whether we will regularise Plastic City because it is on the sea defence reserves and the Sea Defence Board has strong views on this.

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 19004 - Development of Housing Areas - in the Profile it is mentioned Regions 1 to 10, but in the details there is no mention of any part of Region 10. Could the Minister say what part of Region 10 is under this programme?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: No part of Region 10 is under this programme.

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This is the Government of Guyana/EU Programme and I will give you the areas and I will give you the areas:

- Section D Sophia;
- Cummings Park;
- Cummings Lodge;
- Glasgow in Region 6;
- Belle West in Region 3, and
- Westminster, Onderneeming in Region 3.

Division 530 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Housing, Agency Totals - \$1,918,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 439

DIVISION 552 - MINISTRY OF HOUSINGAND WATER - GUY-ANA WATER INCORPORATED - Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,666,200,000 for Division 552 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Mr Chairman, Project Code 28007 - Linmine - the question I would like to ask the Minister is if Linmine is still receiving

money for water supply in Linden, why is GUYWA receiving water rates?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: I am not aware that Linmine is receiving money for water supply. It falls under GWI right now.

Miss Sandra Adams: A supplementary question - Mr Minister, Project Code 28007 says Linmine - \$23,000,000 - Rehabilitation of Linden water supply systems.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: It is really Linden not Linmine. I am sorry about that it is a mistake.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I notice Project Code 28001 - Consultancy - there is a provision for \$50,000,000 could the Minister state what is this for?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The consultancy is for a provision for a GIS system for GWI, the billing system for GWI, procurement and stores consultancy and asset development consultancy.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I notice the provision for the management contract has moved from \$107,369,000 in 2005 to \$400,000,000 in 2006. Could the Minister explain this increase?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The structure of the management contract is such that there is a variable sum from year to year.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Minister say what additional services we are getting in 2006 over 2005 that justifies an increase of approximately \$300,000,000?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: We do have the structure of the management contract from each year there is a variation and the provision of services from the Managing Director, Director of Customer Services, various consultancies coming from time to time and so on to cover that amount.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Thank you Mr Chairman. If I may, I would like to refer the Minister back to the Billing System - the IT System - and could I ask you what systems are you targeting within the new billing system? In other words, what are the features that are likely to be delivered when this new IT system is introduced?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: What I can say that is a technical question and we can provide the details, but the position that we are at right now, we have completed the evaluation and we have made an award to a firm, but we can supply the capacity and capability of the system.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I wish to return to my management contract. I noticed in 2004 there was \$315,816,000; reduction in 2005 to \$107,369,000 and we have gone up to \$400,000,000, I know that under this contract there is a provision for technical personnel to fill certain positions, I was trying to get from the Minister what is the difference in 2006 over 2005? What are the additional services being provided by the management consultant that will result in \$300,000,000 increase? I am just trying to get some information.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: As I mentioned this is the structure of the management contract and it varies from year to year with the number of personnel coming in and the number of various services being offered from year to year.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Thank you Mr Chairman. To the Honourable Minister, can I ask you whether or not the exclusion of fire hydrants or any reference to fire hydrants indicates that the Ministry has no responsibility for these, if not, who does? I notice that no provision has been made for fire hydrants.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: There is a fire hydrant report which is engaging the Cabinet Sub-Committee and Finance. The Ministry has a Commission on Fire Hydrants. A report was submitted and the Cabinet Sub-Committee is looking at it. As you know there are concerns about which agency should be responsible for the fire hydrants.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James J McAllister: Mr Chairman, under the management contract, could the Minister say if the reduction in 2005 is any way associated with the intention of administration then to scale back and terminate Severn Trent and if the \$400,000,000 that we see now is a reversal of that decision to continue the contract in full.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: No, there is no intention in 2005 to terminate the management contract.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 28005 - Coastal Water Supply - Could the Minister say if De Kendren is included for water for 2006?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Well De Kendren has received a full network in terms of the pipeline distribution network. We do have a problem in the De Kendren and the Met-en-Meerzorg areas with the production of water, but this will be dealt with a new project coming on stream very shortly funded by the World Bank.

Mr Kames K McAllister: Mr Chairman, over three years ago, this Honourable House was informed that a new pump or well would have been installed at Met-en-Meerzorg to ensure the distribution system in De Kendren to supply water to the residents there. Could the Minister say how soon this new well or pump will be put in place in Met-en-Meerzorg to ensure that water flows in taps in De Kendren.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Already we have approached the Caribbean Development Bank. We are awaiting the approval for a new well at Met-en-Meerzorg. This is apart from the World Band Project which I

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mentioned and I am hoping that before the end of this month we can get an approval.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Mr Chairman, Project Code 28001 - Minor Water Systems - Can the Minister say which minor system in Region 7 and what areas will be upgraded?

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: The minor systems only relate to the coastal belt, not for the hinterland areas.

Miss Judith David: But I see you have from Regions 2 to 7 in the Profile.

Hon Shaik KZ Baksh: Region 7 will come under a different programme from GWI, but not through the minor systems here.

Division 522 - Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Inc - Agency Totals - \$1,666,200,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: The Assembly shall resume.

Honourable Members, I think this is a good time for us to take the suspension

Assembly Resumed

17:10H - SUSPENSION OF SITTING

17:48H - RESUMPTION OF SITTING

Assembly in Committee in Supply

The Chairman: Pages 100 and 101

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRYOFAGRICULTURE, Programme 211 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$437,520,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 211 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6111 and Staffing Details - Administrative - I note that for 2006 eight staff will receive \$8,000,000, while at Account Code 6112 seven senior technical persons will receive \$1,200,000, could the Minister explain the disparity and advise what is the monthly salary for a senior technical personnel?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I am advised that our technical officers need to be remunerated for their skills and that is the disparity that we are seeing.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - fifteen persons, could the Minister advise as to the functions, duties and skills of the fifteen contracted employees?

Hon Stayadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I am advised that they have to assist in clerical duties and other such like.

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Minister say if the sum of \$155,000 provided is adequate to meet the training and scholarship needs of the Ministry and if not what is the required sum?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I am advised that it is adequate.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Page 101 Staffing Details, could the Minister give details of the approved establishment for the Ministry Administration.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I am advised that it is as is outlined in Page 101.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, as a follow-up, could the Minister say if there are any vacancies in his Ministry and if so in what department or sections?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I am advised that there are several vacancies in the Ministry and we are trying to fill them in due course.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I wish to ask the Minister if the answer just given would not negate the early answer which says that this was the full establishment.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: I do not think so, Mr Chairman.

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6291 - National and Other Events - Could the Minister say of provision was made for 16 October World Food Celebrations and if it catered for in this item and if it is; if the sum of \$205,000 would be sufficient?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, it is catered for and I am advised that it is sufficient.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Mr Chairman, will the Honourable Minister indicate from the Staffing Details provided on 101, how many Agricultural Officers and field staff exist in the Ministry?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I am advised that this is not catered for under the Ministry Administration maybe it could be under the Crops and Livestock Department.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, could the Minister say what is the plan and scope of the celebrations for World Food Day 2006?

The Chairman: Well, is that a question for the Estimates? Honourable Member, you must ask questions that are really appropriate to the Estimates. The plan and scope of World Food Day is really not a question, but proceed Minister.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Well, as you know World Food Day is a very important day in the Agricultural Calendar of not only the Republic of Guyana ...[Interruption]

The Chairman: Do not make a long speech, Honourable Member, just answer the question. [Laughter]

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: World Food Day will take on its usual very colourful outlook, where we will have participation in all the regions of our country showing the potential and what really Guyana's agriculture means and the potential of not only to feed ourselves, but the region and the world.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 211 - Ministry Administration - \$437,520,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 102 and 103

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 212 - Crops and Livestock Support Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$707,827,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 212 - Crops and Livestock Support Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, I draw attention to Staffing Details at Page 103 and here again I ask the Minister to provide details as to the approved establishment, if not available, when available.

Secondly, could the Minister confirm that there is going to be one addition to his staff for 2006?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, the approved establishment is that which is established with the Public Service Ministry. I am sorry, what was the second part of your question.

Mr Ivor Allen: If there was going to be an addition of one to the staff of 2006.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: It depends on the circumstances of the Ministry. I really cannot say in the affirmative.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, in light of the Minister's response, I wish to refer to Account Code 6221 - Drugs and Medical Supplies, Account Code 6222 - Field Materials and Supplies, Account Code 6224 - Print and Non-Print Materials and especially Account 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - and to ask the Minister if he is adequately staffed to execute the additional works that these provisions suggest would occur given the

increased allocations and if that answer is yes, could the Minister confirm to this House that the staff was grossly underutilised in 2005?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, one has to work within the limitations of our resources and based on the provisions that we have here are adequate and I do not subscribe to the view of the Honourable Member that the staff was underutilised in 2005.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, a correction, it was not a view, it was a just question. Account Code 6252 - Maintenance of Bridges - Could the Minister say if the sum of \$289,000 approved will be spent on the same bridge or bridges maintained in 2005 and further could the Minister identify where the bridges are located?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I do not have those details at present with me. I can make them available to the Honourable Member.

Mr Ivor Allen: Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - Could the Minister provide the House with the justification for the increase of the budgetary allocations from \$9,611,000 in 2005 to \$23,828,000 in 2006 and further could he say if the same staff from last year will be incurring this expenditure?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, this expenditure pertains to the amount of development in terms of flooding, Asian influenza and all the different diseases that we have had to look at in 2005 and we are making provisions for them in 2006. As I remarked earlier, once the resources are there we will very much appreciate increasing the number of technical people we have within our Ministry.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account 6272 - Electricity Charges - Could the Minister say what is responsible for the steep rise in the budgetary provisions on this item given that in 2005 only \$1.285,000 was expended?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, the cost of electricity has increased during the past year.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, a follow-up, are we to take it that there was a 100 percent increase?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: I do not know much percent increases it was, but I know that electricity charges were substantially increased during the reporting period.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6284 - Other - Could the Minister explain what are the circumstances justifying the increase from \$1,729,000 to \$5,197,000 for 2006?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Other represents Internet fees, other contracting services and rental of photocopiers, et cetera.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - Could the Minister say if the provision of subsidies and contributions is the main activity for this Division expending some \$474,218,000, which represents sixty-seven percent of the total appropriation.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, this amount under Account Code 6321 under subsidies and contributions includes operating expenditures of the Drainage and Irrigation Board and for the Pesticides and Toxic Chemical Board.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - there is nothing provided for maintenance, could the Honourable Minister explain?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, there is zero under the 206 provisions. There is no drainage and irrigation allocated under this section. It is dealt with in other departments.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I was really hoping that the Honourable Minister would have pointed me to the other departments, but Account Code 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - and I would try to squeeze it out of him here, \$1.75 million for maintenance of other infrastructure, could the Honourable Minister say if there is any provision here for the maintenance of the \$8,000 footwear at the Boeraserie Conversancy?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, is the Honourable Member referring to Account Code 6255 under Crops and Livestock Support Services?

Mr James K McAllister: Yes, Minister.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Can you just ask that question again, Sir?

Mr James K McAllister: In relation to the support for crops, could the Minister indicate if there is any provision here for maintenance of the Boeraserie wear so that farmers can be properly serviced?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Not as far as I am aware, Mr Chairman.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - how many vehicles for crops and livestock they have in their operation?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, we can provide that information. I do not have it at this point in time.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Staffing Details could the Honourable Minister state under which heading the Vet and the Acting Agriculture Officer would be falling under.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Under COA 8112 - Senior Technical, Mr 86/116 Chairman.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 212 - Crops and Livestock Support Services - \$707,827,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 104 and 105

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 213 - Fisheries

Question is proposed that the sum of \$70,428,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 213 - Fisheries - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, could the Minister say what is responsible for the steep increase in the budgetary allocation from \$6,580,000 in 2005 to \$20,480,000 at Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: This has to do with a contribution to the CARICOM Fisheries Organisation (CRFM) and on this amount we are clearing off some old dues that were pending there for some time.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, could the Minister say where in these Estimates provision is made for the expansion of support and assistance to persons and agencies involved in inland fishing?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, that would be under aquaculture.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Could the Minister advise who are the likely beneficiaries of these training/scholarships and which area of activities... [Pause] I withdraw that one.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 213 - Fisheries - \$70,428,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 106 and 107

AGENCY 21 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Programme 214 - Hydrometeorological Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$107,193,000 for Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 214 - Hydrometeorological Services - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 21 - Ministry of Agriculture, Programme 214 - Hydrometeorological Services - \$107,193,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 400 and 401

DIVISION 508 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Agency To- tals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,361,600,000 for Division 508 86/118

- Ministry of Agriculture, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Could you bear with me, Sir. Let me find that page. [Pause] No question

Division 508 - Ministry of Agriculture, Agency Totals - \$2,361,600,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 402

DIVISION 509 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - RURAL SUP-PORT PROJECT, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$661,300,000 for Division 509 - Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Project Code 17001 - Technical Support/Socio Economic Studies - Could the Minister inform what is the nature and extent of this training and could he also say if the training would take place locally or overseas and the likely number of beneficiaries?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Training on farming practices, contracting of ten short-term consultants to several fields to support extension services, improving farming practices and they are to also conduct technical studies all locally.

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Project Code 13001 - Civil Works - Rehabilitation of the Abary Conservancy dam and drainage and irrigations systems - I note that in 2004, we spent \$65,000,000; in 2005 \$155,000,000 and we are projected to spend \$75,000,000 in 2006, could the Minister say what is the estimated total cost of this project and in what year are these programmes to be completed?

The Chairman: Is this Division 509, Mr Allen?

Mr Ivor Allen: I am moving forward. I am sorry

Division 509 - Ministry of Agriculture - Rural Support Project, Agency Totals - \$661,300,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 403

continued in Pt III

National Assembly Debates

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION (2002-2006) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER PUBLIC BUILDINGS BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

Part III

86TH SITTING

2.00 PM

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

continued fr.Pt. II

DIVISION 510 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - MMA III

Question is proposed that the sum of \$87,100,000 for Division 510 - Ministry of Agriculture - MMA III - stands part of the Estimates

Yes, Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Project Code 13001 - Civil Works - Rehabilitation of the Abary Conservancy dam and drainage and irrigations systems - I note that in 2004, we spent \$65,000,000; in 2005 \$155,000,000 and we are projected to spend \$75,000,000 in 2006, could the Minister say what is the estimated total cost of this project and in what year are these programmes to be completed?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: This is the same amount and this is the project cost. Works will begin this year and we are hoping that if it is not completed this year then they will be completed next year.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Is there any idea of the total cost, Sir.

Hon Satvadeow Sawh: As listed \$75,000,000

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, the question was what is the estimated

total cost of the project? Apparently it is a multi-year project and so far we have spent \$65,000,000; \$155,000,000 and now another \$75,000,000. What is the total cost of this project?

The Chairman: Is there a total cost for this complete project?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: No, there is none, as we go along and as we identify areas, we will have to budget for that, but for this year \$75,000,000 is budgeted.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Allen

Mr Ivor Allen: Mr Chairman, Project Code 17001 - Agricultural Development - Provision for the realignment of agriculture lands and land titling as in Reference 66 - Could the Minister advise as to where are the land titling and cadastral surveys being conducted?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, on the West Coast Berbice.

Mr Ivor Allen: Project Code 47001 - General Administration - and this is a question more for my edification, Sir. Could the Minister say what are the services to be acquired and from which agencies and/or individuals? Further, could the Minister say if these services could not have ordinarily be provided by his ministry?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, these works entail the granting of titles, fifty year leases for State lands and have to do with things like processing of applications, inspections, surveys and preparations of titles, et cetera. That is why they are under the MMA Project.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Holder

Mrs Sheila VA Holder: Mr Chairman, I would like to refer the Minister to Project Code 13001 - Civil Works - Rehabilitation of Abary Conservancy dam and drainage and irrigation systems - and to ask the Minister if he can explain the nature of the rehabilitation system.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, general rehabilitation of the conservancy areas and associated structures; rehabilitation of the seven-door sluice which discharges water into the Abary River and the rehabilitation of the main canal head regulator which controls the volume of water released from the Conservancy into the main irrigation canal as well as the weeding of the Abary trench.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, is the Honourable Minister saying that this item here does not address the dredging of the Abary Creek?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: No, Mr Chairman.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister therefore explain to this Honourable House what benefits can be derived from these works that are being proposed if the Abary is not dredged?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, dredging of rivers are being taken care of under a different heading, but these works that I have just outlined are intended to assist in proper drainage and irrigation and to prevent the occurrences of floods, which so drastically have been affecting us during the past two years or so.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister state if that heading is in these Estimates, because I have seen it nowhere?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: No, it is not in the Estimates. It is going to be done by other agencies and works are to be done in dredging other rivers including the Pomeroon, Mahaicony, Mahaica and Abary.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am pursuing this matter, because it goes to the core of the relevance of this expenditure and therefore could the Honourable Minister please give us some more de-

tails in terms of the arrangements that are being made for the dredging of the Abary - specifically here - but I would also like to know about the other rivers? What are the arrangements, because there is no allocation?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, it is public knowledge as reported. His Excellency the President has stated that we are committed to dredging the mouths of the four rivers, Mahaica, Mahaicony, Abary and Pomeroon. We have also sought the assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank for this venture. So we are committed to this and we are going to find the finances.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I am sorry. I did not intend to intervene in here, but I recall yesterday that the Minister of Public Works said that this particular matter will be dealt with under the Ministry of Agriculture, but the Minister is now saying that he is unsure that it is going to be dealt with under the Ministry of Agriculture. I think, we are entitled to know which agency will be undertaking this dredging.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, once we have secured the financing the correct agency will be identified and the works will be done.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, so I wish to ask the Minister as it stands these works as proposed have no real benefit since they are dependent on the dredging of the river and so therefore the benefit from here will be depending on the sourcing of the funding to dredge the river.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, I do not recall ever making the linkage between the dredging of the rivers and the works I have outlined. I repeat, the works we have outlined and will undertake will in our estimation reduce the incidents of flooding in the area and will allow farmers in particular to carry on with their work and will also allow more land to come productive in that region. We want to help people and this

is why we are going to undertake these works as outlined.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am quite sure that the Minister spending his years in the Ministry of Agriculture would understand the concept of bottleneck in drainage and therefore I am asking the Honourable Minister if he does not believe that if the outlet to the ocean is not taken care of, whether these works will serve a purpose.

The Chairman: I think the Minister has answered that about four times, but maybe you can try that for a fifth time, Honourable Member. This is the last time I will allow that question.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: For the fifth time, Sir, my answer remains the same.

The Chairman: Mr Chairman, the Minister continuously avoided the question. He never answered it.

The Chairman: Well Honourable Member, there is nothing I can do about that. I understood the Minister to have answered the question by saying that he thinks the work will be of benefit in terms of controlling flooding. You have a different opinion. You are saying that the works are useless the Abary River is dredged. He disagrees with you. That is a disagreement. There is nothing I can do about that.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I was just trying to do something about it by pressing the Minister hoping that he was going to crack. [Laughter]

The Chairman: I think you have pressed us creatively as you can, Honourable Member, and I admire you persistence, but I think we have come to the end of that.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: We on this side of the House do not crack easily, Mr Chairman. [Laughter] But again, dredging of the river mouth is something we are looking at not only the Abary as the Honourable Member has said. We believe in the other rivers; we have sourced

funding, but these works are geared to assist proper flow of water to control it so that there can be adequate drainage and irrigation in the area earmarked.

The Chairman: Thank you, Honourable Member.

Division 510 - Ministry of Agriculture - MMAIII - \$87,100,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 404

DIVISION 512 - MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, Artisanal Fishery

Question is proposed that the sum of \$800,000 for Division 512 - Ministry of Agriculture, Artisanal Fishery - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, I was still hoping that it may have been an oversight on my part, but I am not coming up with any heading with regard to hinterland initiative in the area of agriculture for Region 1, 7, 8 and 9. There is definitely nothing given. Under Project Code 12006 - Aquaculture Development - nothing here has been mentioned.

The Chairman: Under Region 9, there is an item Programme 792 for Agriculture. Under Region 6 there is something for agriculture, well that is not an interior region, but under Region 9 there is something for agriculture, under Region 2 there is something for agriculture. That is not interior.

Mrs Shirley J Melville: I was thinking that with the development of

the aquaculture under Project Code 12006 there would have been something for Region 9.

The Chairman: Well let us ask the Minister. Do you know of any programme for Region 9?

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: I certainly do, Mr Chairman. If we can start with the Region that the Honourable Member belongs to, you will recall, Sir, in my budget presentation I spoke of caged fishing which is a new area in aquaculture that our Ministry and Government is pursuing. It is happening right now on the Takatu River, where small communities are benefiting. Along with the IPED Programme we are working with them and it is also happening in Region 2 and in Region 6.

The Chairman: Are those budgeted items or funding from the government or from outside

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: That is general aquaculture development.

The Chairman: That is not budgeted items.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: No, it is under general aquaculture development.

The Chairman: Yes, Honourable Member

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, just a follow-up. I was thinking in line that it is not budgeted and under extension services and so on if there is any other programme that the Minister could possibly share with us.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, there are many programmes and I will be delighted to have a one and one with the Honourable Member to let her know. [Laughter]

The Chairman: We are talking about budgeted programmes, Honourable Members. Are there budgetary programmes in relation to the Esti-

mates? Are there programmes in the Estimates for Agriculture? The answer has to be either yes or no apart from Region 9. I do not see any budgeted estimates for any interior regions except Region 9; there is one subhead for agriculture. It does not appear as if there is any other. I just need you to confirm that.

Hon Satyadeow Sawh: Mr Chairman, we have our extension officers in all of the regions who work along with agricultural projects in each region.

Division 512 - Ministry of Agriculture, Artisanal Fishery - \$800,000 - Agency Totals - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 192 and 193

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$92,025,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - and on the following page under Staffing Details we see that there are fifteen contracted employees, will the Minster share with Honourable House what functions these fifteen employees carry out?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, this is a mistake by the Ministry of 86/128

Finance, it is not fifteen contracted employees, but rather five and they are:

- The Permanent Secretary;
- The Head of the Public Security Sector;
- Head of the Immigration Services;
- The Secretary to the Parole Board; and
- The driver.

In this year, my Personal Assistant and my driver will also come over from Ministry of Culture and therefore add to make it seven in total.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Well please make that correction, Honourable Minister.

Account Code 6294 - Other - we see quite a significant jump. Last year, the budget was \$580,000 and the revised was the same \$580,000 and this year we see a significant increase, a couple thousand percent and it has gone to \$15,853,000, could the Honourable Minister please share with this House what is covered under this very generic term Other.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, as you know we have announced last year hat we will be introducing a ministerial unit on community policing to develop better relations between the community and the police as well as to enhance a relation between the community policing groups and the police and there \$10,000,000 out of the \$15,853,000 is towards the setting up of the secretariat and to let them travel in the country and so forth and to look at training and everything else.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, am I to understand that \$10,000,000 out of the \$15,853,000 is going towards the community police? Is this what you are saying Minister.

Hon Gail Teixeira: I am sorry. It is \$15,000,000 for the community 86/129

policing ministerial unit.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: So it is all \$15,000,000. Okay, still on the same Page Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - and when we look at Page 384, we see that Parole Board budgeted \$2,121,000 and my question really is if the Honourable Minister could share with the House the kind of function that this Board performs and if her Ministry is satisfied that they are carrying out their mandate in a satisfactory manner.

Hon Gail Teixeira: The Parole Board is created by the Parole Act. There is an appointed Board headed by Justice Small, they receive small stipends and they have representative on the prisons visiting committee. They deal with applications from prisoners for parole and they also do the follow-up and supervision of persons who will be granted parole. And so that figure is to assist with the supervision of the parolees as well as the Board's stipends.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Perhaps the answer was so long, the main question is, are you satisfied that they are doing what the Act indicates that they should do. Is your money well spent?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Yes

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, back to Account Code 6294 - Other - \$15,000,000 for the community policing secretariat, could the Honourable explain to this Honourable House what is the actual function of this secretariat; is it merely training or is it supervision of the community policing units?

Hon Gail Teixeira: As I said Mr Chairman, this unit is meant to develop an enhanced relation between the community and the policing group. Some places people feel that they may not trust each other as well. The funding in the budget is to allow for training, the setting up of the secretariat, for them to travel and to visit community policing groups and to

work with the police in those areas.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, a supplementary question-Am I to understand therefore that the establishment of this unit in no way is going to affect the role of the Police Force in terms of supervising and being in control of community policing groups.

Hon Gail Teixeira: I wish to assure the Honourable Member that he should not have any doubts in that area.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary from that - Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister please indicate from this \$15,000,000 how many people will be employed within that Community Policing Secretariat?

Hon Gail Teixeira: In the beginning it will be three persons two field Co-ordinators and then we hope to have some part-time co-ordinators particularly in the far away Regions of 1, 7, 8 and 9, because those areas are very separated and sometimes the police stations are far away from them, and there are border issues that we have an interest in handling.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I just want to be very clear Mr Chairman, so you are saying for 2006, you will have three permanent employees there.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Yes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6255 -Maintenance of Other Structure - could the Honourable Minister say what would be the maintenance works done?

Hon Gail Teixeira: This is to really resurface the driveway in the Ministry of Home Affairs to try to reduce the level of flooding in the yard.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 511 - Secretariat Services - \$92,025,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand

part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 194 and 195

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force

Question is proposed that the sum of \$3,299,475,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer;

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - when we look at the Staffing Details we that it is one person and my question to the Honourable Minister is what function that contracted employee is carrying out?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Account Code 6116 refers to one contracted employee, the Government Pathologist Dr Singh

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, I am a bit intimidated, I just see more and more uniform members coming towards me looking in a fairly hostile manner. [Laughter]

Hon Gail Teixeira: You are protected.

The Chairman: That means that you must limit your questions, Honourable Member. [Laughter]

Mr Deborah J Backer: I get that impression, Sir, and I hope you had nothing to do with them coming at this time.

The Chairman: Oh, I had a lot to do with them. [Laughter]

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sir, I and looking at the Staffing Details and I see here for 2005, 3,525 were filled and for this year 3,537, would the Honourable Minister care to share with us what is the full authorised staff strength of the Guyana Police Force?

Hon Gail Teixeira: I think in my speech in the general debate I said that the establishment of the Police Force as of 1975 establishment was approximately 4,000. It is in fact 4,200 and therefore we have vacancies of approximately 600 persons.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I just want to see if you remembered what you said. Mr Chairman, going on to the other page I want to take if I could Account Code 6284 - Other - \$25,000,000 and Account Code 6294 - Other - \$18,000,000 which comes to a total of \$42,000,000, could the Honourable Minister please share with the House what Other represents for \$25,000,000 and \$18,000,000 respectively?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6284 refers to the monthly rentals and arrangements with AINLIM for the trunks calls for the radio system for the Police and for all the internet connections and services. Account Code 6294 is in relation to court expenses, handling and storage of dead bodies particularly since La Repentir has not been operational and we had to use private funeral parlours and also paying to send messages into the interior. We anticipate that might continue.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - Honourable Minister, I see a figure of \$12,500,000, I hope that the Minister would agree with me that this figure seems somewhat low and then to ask what are the limited training and scholarships that the Ministry hopes to utilise this \$12.5 million for.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Mr Chairman, we have been very fortunate in that we have had a number of training programmes provided through the

Regional Hemispheric Police and Intelligence Systems both in terms of CCAD, in relation to CARICOM, the DEA and a number of agencies so that while this is low, in some cases, these training programmes are partially supported. So this has been very useful. Approximately thirty-seven persons have been trained last year through these programmes.

Mrs Deborah Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations - and when we look at Page 388 we see that the bigger ones goes \$8.216 million is budgeted for Buenos Aires Interpol. I have noticed from looking back at some of the Estimates that in 2003 we paid \$1.7 million; in 2004 we paid \$4.6 million, last year \$5.8 million and this year we are paying \$8.2 million. The question is, what are the types of benefits e enjoy from paying this substantial sum of \$8.2 million to Interpol

Hon Gail Teixeira: As I understand it, the rate has increased between what was budgeted in 2005 to \$8.2 million and the increase is the rate of exchange. The reason why it was revised in 2005 is because of early payment we were able to get a rebate and so we hope to be early again so we will have some savings.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A more important question Minister, what are the kinds of benefits do we get from being a member?

Hon Gail Teixeira: This is sharing intelligence that is very, very important for us in terms of security issues and anti-narcotics, money laundering, et cetera.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Just for the benefit of this House, because we are all concerned about crime. Has the information that you have benefited from, has it in any way helped to lead to if not convictions to at least people been charged? Has it helped in any way the money laundering and the drug trafficking that you spoke about?

Hon Gail Teixeira: I believe it has helped.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations - I see the Minister has explained the benefits here. Sir, I note that Account Code 6262 - Overseas Conferences and Official Visits - there is no provision. Therefore I am wondering how the Police Force intends to benefit from the membership of these international organisations if there is no provision for attendances at conferences and so on.

Hon Gail Teixeira: I wish to allay the fears of the Honourable Member that when the Police is required to attend conferences or they desire to, we take Cabinet papers and those are approved by Cabinet and the funds come out of the Accountant General rather than directly out of the Police Budget when required.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Account Code 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - could the Honourable Minister state specifically whether they are buildings for the officers in Region 9? Is Lethem on the list?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Last year, we did some work on Lethem Officers Quarters under current and in this year we hope to be able to do some further work, but in this year we are looking to do more work on the quarters and on the station at Lethem.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 512 - Guyana Police Force - \$3,299,475,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 196 and 197

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service

Question is proposed that the sum of \$538,316,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - I noticed that in the Staffing Details there is one contracted employee, could the Honourable Minister please share with this House what functions this one employee performs?

Hon Gail Teixeira: This person is the Officer-in-Charge of the Prison and the Prison Staff welfare in other words the Prison Staff Welfare Officer.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - we see a figure of \$3,300,000 and we see that last year we spent \$4,800,000 and my question to the Honourable Minister is this \$3.5 million sufficient to have adequate training and what training is contemplated by the \$3.5 million?

Hon Gail Teixeira: The training that we have this year, a number of the programmes are regional with the Prison Reform Programme with the assistance of the British and therefore a number of these are partly funded. Those are the programmes that a number of the prisons officers have gone for training in with joint exercises as well in terms of local arrangements. So right now, based on the programme for this year and what we know about the conferences and training coming up this should be enough. If there is any need for an increase we will apply for additional funds.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6322 - Contributions to International Organisations - I wish to ask the Minister

if the Prison Service is no longer a member of any regional or international prison service organisations?

Hon Gail Teixeira: I am not aware of that.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 513 - Guyana Prison Service - \$538,316,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 198 and 199

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 514 - Police Complaints Authority

Question is proposed that the sum of \$15,457,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 514 - Police Complaints Authority - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, just one or two questions - first of all Account Code 6117 - Temporary employees - and I see one persons getting a princely sum for the entire year of \$32,000 which calculates to \$2,700 per month and I just want to know if that persons works once per month or two times per month.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Apparently this was a temporary worker that was employed for a short period of time while we had a vacancy for an Office Assistant so this I not someone salary for the entire year.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, going to Account Code 6272 - Electricity Charges - I see a significant increase of more than 100 percent. The budget for last year was \$360,000 and in fact only \$256,000 was spent and yet I see that the electricity charges for this year are billed at \$600,000. I hope that this is not an indication that GPL is about to raised electricity charges by 100 percent, but I would like an answer from the Minister please.

Hon Gail Teixeira: As you know the PCA shares a building with a number of other agencies and therefore it has now put in its own meter and this is in anticipation that it will be paying the true cost of the electricity rather than three or four agencies sharing one building. It is in anticipation of that.

Mrs Deborah Backer: Lastly Sir, Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I see a figure of \$70,000 and I somewhat intrigue as to who is receiving this training and what is the nature of the training being received for \$70,000.

Hon Gail Teixeira: The PCA goes out and meet communities and things like that and sometimes these are billed for cost for training in case someone is presenting or for small areas of training.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - I notice a princely sum of \$200,000 for travel, could the Minister state is that is sufficient for the Police Complaints Authority to effectively carry out its mandate.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Alot of the travel for the PCA relates to meeting communities and advising them about what their rights are under the Police Complaints Authority. They have brochures and so on. They have not gone into certain areas as yet, but if they need for funds the Ministry will certainly help them. It does not mean that the PCA moves around, it is the Chairman who goes and talks to communities to enlighten them about how they can more access the PCA to raise their

complaints and so on.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 514 - Police Complaints Authority - \$15,457, 000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 200 and 201

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service

Question is proposed that the sum of \$319,734,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 515 - Guyana Fire Service - \$319,734,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 202 and 203

AGENCY 51 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Programme 516 - General Registrar's Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$53,634,000 for Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 516 - General Registrar's Office - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Backer

Mrs Deborah Backer: Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - when I look at the Staffing Details there are two contracted employees and the normal question, could the Honourable Minister please share with this Honourable House what functions the two contracted employees perform.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Can I just confirm that we are on Programme 516?

The Chairman: We are on Programme 516.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Page 202.

Hon Gail Teixeira: We jumped Fire.

The Chairman: I think your officials of the Fire Department do not need to stay Honourable Member. I see they are now coming in.

Hon Gail Teixeira: They came in and I sent them out because I think we were on Programme 515. My apology, but they are needed for capital.

The Chairman: They can wait in the lobby while we are doing other agencies.

Hon Gail Teixeira: There is only one person on contract at the GRO and that is the Head of the GRO. - Registrar General.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Minister, would you then agree with me that the Staffing Details is in accurate, because it has here contracted employees two very clearly.

Hon Gail Teixeira: It would not be the first time that the staffing details are wrong.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: No, I just want to confirm Minister, is it

wrong or is it not one person.

Hon Gail Teixiera: I am telling you it is one person as of 7 February 2006.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: And my little maths tells me and I am sure you will agree with me Minister, indicates that that person is earning marginally under \$300,000 per month.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Yes.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Am I correct in concluding that the one contracted employee is ... I know her name, it is just eluding me ... [Interruption: 'No names!'] Okay, I would not mention names. Is this person substantively a member of the Guyana Police Force?

Hon Gail Teixeira: No, she is retired and she was brought on contract two years ago.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6224 - Print and Non-Print Materials - Minister, I see a figure here of \$10,721,000, would that figure be included the printing and production of birth, marriage certificates and death certificate forms?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Yes, it is.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could the Honourable Minister please share with this House what entity is contracted by the (RGO - Mr Kumar) GRO [Laughter] (I just want to make sure you are awake) to produce these certificates? Is it the Guyana National Printers or is it a private printer and if it is, what is the name?

Hon Gail Teixeira: There are two printers. One is a private printer and the other is the Guyana National Printers that print the various forms and the birth certificates.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A supplementary question please - In the

same way as the Minister very correctly shared the other name, could you please share with us Minister the name of the private entity that also prints?

Hon Gail Teixeira: The private press is PAVNIK Press

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: On the same item, could the Honourable Minister say who prints what? What is the national printer printing and what is the private printer printing?

Hon Gail Teixeira: The Guyana Printers prints the various forms for marriage, death certificates and so on. PAVNIK does the high security printing of the actual certificates where police are present when the printing is going on. These are the blank certificates not the written certificates.

Mr James K McAllister: The Honourable Minister is saying that there is police presence when the printing of the birth certificates is taking place.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Yes.

Mr James K McAllister: Therefore I wish to follow up, Mr Chairman and to ask the Honourable Minister why did the Administration find it necessary to move this printing of birth certificates from the government agency to a private agency where you have police presence?

Hon Gail Teixeira: I am afraid, Sir, that is before my time, but there were security features that this press could offer at this point and therefore that is what is being done. The issue of the security of the actual birth certificates is now under review and therefore the issue of who will print will be dealt with later on. The point is we are not having problems with forged birth certificates, in other words we are having bad certificates. We are having forged birth certificates with content not the document itself.

Agency 51 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Programme 516 - General Registrar's Office - \$53,634,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 398 and 399

DIVISION 507 - MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$475,543,000 for Division 507 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12002 - Police Stations and Buildings - I see a figure of \$142,000,000 and in the Profile Page 35 has some more details. My question is would this rehabilitation of the Police Stations include and upgrade of the holding cells in the Police Stations where such cells exist whether the rehabilitation will include an upgrade of the holding cells.

Hon Gail Teixeira: The response to your question is yes.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I am just continuing. Project Code 17001 - General Registrar's Office - I see a figure of \$2,043,000 and the Profile on Page 38 speaks about telephone system, refrigerators and step ladders - I suppose that means that there are some vertically challenged people like myself and the Minister. Could the Honourable Minister share with us what portion of that \$2,043,000 is budgeted for the telephone system.

Hon Gail Teixeira: I understand \$600,000.

The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Project Code 12003 - Fire Ambulances and Stations - Could the Minister say to us how early we expect to complete this fire station at Linden?

Hon Gail Teixeira: This will be completed in 2006.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Project Code 24001 - Land and Water Transport - Police - Purchase of vehicles, boats and outboard engines - I see \$90,000,000 being provided for here, I wish to ask the Minister if she believes that this amount is sufficient for the Guyana Police Force given the steady rise in crime across the country.

Hon Gail Teixeira: As you will be aware, we were budgeted \$90,000,000 in 2005. In fact we were able to get a supplementary of \$194,000,000 so that we were able to buy many more vehicles, pickups and single cabs than we had originally budgeted. This year for the \$90,000,000 ... (by the way those cars have not arrived as yet that have been acquired in the latter part of 2005) ... forty-five vehicles will be arriving in the first quarter for the first quarter of this year. For this budget it is \$90,000,000 foremost to cars, land rovers, thirty-three seater buses, two fifteen seater buses, two prisoner vans, motor cycles, ballahoos, a large boat, canter trucks armoured cars and so on.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, a supplementary to Project Code 24001 - Land ad Water Transport - of the \$90,000,000 could the Honourable Minister please share with the House what amount is budgeted to be dedicated to boats and outboard engines. We did also hear about a ballahoo or a few ballahoos? How much is being dedicated to river transport or water transport as it says here?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Last year, we had in our budgets six boats and six engines to assist in the riverain work, this year it is four boats and one large boat which we hope will be able to go out into the sea so that it will

help us to be better equipped.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: What portion of the \$90,000,000 will be used for the four boats and the big boat that will enable you to go out to the sea or the ocean? What number or figure money wise of the \$90,000,000?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Approximately five percent.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Five percent is \$4.5 million. Minister, given the fact that a lot of our rivers are the means by which illegal activity takes place whether it is in the form of the movement of guns, movement of drugs, the movement of unmarked fuel and human trafficking, do you feel that the figure of \$4.5 million is sufficient to put into this area where as I say there is an increased movement of illegal activities.

Hon Gail Teixeira: With Guyana meaning land of many waters, the supply of boats would have to be enormous, but in fact we have increased the stock that we have last year and there are other agencies that ply the waters and have responsibilities. The Guyana Defence Force, for example the GEA that we are able to have a little better coverage than before

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Mc Allister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am coming back to Project Code 24001 - armoured cars. Could the Honourable Minister told us that she is acquiring armoured cars in 2006, I would like to know how many armour cars she is acquiring and where are they going to be located? [Noisy Interruption]

Hon Gail Teixeira: Sorry, I did not hear. Mr Chairman, could you repeat?

The Chairman: How many armoured cars are you acquiring and where are they going to be located?

Hon Gail Teixeria: We have two and we are acquiring two more. The location will be based on what is happening, Hon Member Mr McAllister.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams

Miss Sandra Adams: Under the same Project Code, seeing that Linden is responsible for E and F - Interior Locations and the Linden Community or the entire Region 10, could you say how many of those vehicles and boats and engines acquired this year will be for the E and F Division?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Honourable Member Miss Adams, I do not sit in my office and determine where Police vehicles go. The Commissioner of Police and his top men will sit and look at where are the needs, crime activity and disburse as the vehicles arrive to intensify and to strengthen the capacity of the Police. We are very sensitive to E and F Division and I wish to assure you that it is not being neglected.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, armoured cars [Laughter] is this intended to be used against criminals or citizens?

The Chairman: That is not a question relating to the Estimates, Honourable Member. That is not a budget question. That is a policy issue. So you have to ask something else.

Mr James K McAllister: I just thought it was going to the core as to whether we need it and so it has an impact on how I can vote based on I information.

The Chairman: I understand you concern, but still it is not a budget question.

Mr James Mc Allister: Okay Sir, well I will go on to another budget question if you do not mind?

The Chairman: Yes, proceed.

Mr James K McAllister: We are going here to Project Code 26001 - Equipment - Police - there is \$105,000,000 for a number of things including equipment, horses, arms and ammunitions, forensic and so on. I wonder how much percentage of this is for arms and ammunitions.

Hon Gail Teixeira: The \$105,000,000 is split up with arms and equipment, communication equipment, musical equipment, traffic equipment, security equipment, equipment for the CID and forensic and other equipment.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I was trying to find out from the Honourable Minister how much from this \$105,000,000 is for arms and ammunition. I could read. I read all of the already.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Approximately one-fifth.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 25001 - Equipment and Furniture - Police - in the Profile it says for Regions 1 to 10. Honourable Minister, you did hear that we would be having a complex at the international crossing where the Takatu Bridge between Brazil and Guyana would be situated. Could you say whether any furniture and office equipment is going to be earmarked for that, because you must know that it is going to be a double there with immigration, the police work and everything else?

Hon Gail Teixeira: There will be several agencies sharing the building this is the Revenue Authority, Customs, Police which includes immigration, CANU, et cetera, so there will be a pooling of equipment and resources in the place once it is built. So at least from the Police end we should be alright.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, if I could return to Project Code 26001 - Equipment - Police, I do not want to ask about the arms and ammunition, I want to fund out what percentage of this \$105,000,000 is going to be used to enhance the forensic capacity of the Guyana Police Force to which finger printing, ballistic, photographic and forensic particularly having listened to the Minister's budget speech and her accepting that enhancing of our forensic capacity is critical as we seek to move our Police Force squarely into the 21st Century. So what percentage of this \$105,000,000 will be used to do that?

Hon Gail Teixeira: As I understand it according to the breakdown, it is \$39,000,000 will be in terms of our security equipment, forensic finger printing, laboratory, scenes of crime unit, ballistic section, photographic section and so on. So it is \$39,000,000 out of the \$105,000,000.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you. Minister, will that include the capacity for DNA Testing?

Hon Gail Teixeira: No, that is much too expensive. It is extremely expensive and we do not have the specialist here in this country. It is cheaper for us to send the test overseas than to try to set up a lab here.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Just to complete Project Code 26001, perhaps not by accident, horses are placed at No. 3 and Mr Chairman, I had a little time and I did some research and I noticed that in 2004, the capital expenditure, 2005 and again this year the purchase of horses are catered for. I would like to know many horses have we acquired in the two years and how many we expect to acquire in 2006 and if any will be entered for any of the activities.

Hon Gail Teixeira: We are trying to re-establish the equine unit and the canine unit ... [Interruption: 'The question is on horses.'] ... Well I am dealing with both, because they are very important in crime fighting so that in the canine section we are acquiring narco dogs to be able to do the sniffing at the airport. We have acquired two horses last year and I think we are acquiring seven this year. [Interruption: The

two last year died.' No, they are alive.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: So you should now have about nine.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Plus the old stock.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: But Minister on a serious note, I notice you mentioned about the canine. I am happy about the dogs, but I see that they are budgeted for here, because there are only horses here, not dogs.

Hon Gail Teixeira: You mean in the Legend.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes.

Hon Gail Teixeira: It is the Ministry of Finance compressing. We are buying a number of tracker dogs as well as narco dogs. So we have ordered from last year narco especially, tracker and others will be bought this year as well.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Adams.

Miss Sandra Adams: Project Code 26003 - Tools and Equipment - Fire - In your Project Profile the description says the project includes purchase of delivery hoses, pumps, et etcetera for the Fire Department, but I wish to say that by now it is known to the Fire Department that Linden need a fire engine and not hose or pumps or fire fighting suites. We need an engine.

Hon Gail Teixeira: I think my friend across the House knows very well that we have bought two fire appliances in the last year and we have ordered ten fire tenders that should be coming into the country from March and April and there is another fire appliance on the budget for this year. So I do not believe that Linden should be worried that they would have a station and no engine.

Miss Sandra Adams: A follow-up question Minister - All of those

things that you mentioned that was bought for Linden, still we had two houses lost on 27 December which the help of Omai truck having to out the third House. So we need a proper engine in Linden.

The Chairman: I think the Minister has answered your question.

The Honourable Member Miss David

Miss Judith David: Under Equipment - can the Minister say how much and what is allocated for Region 7 more so Bartica?

Hon Gail Teixeira: Are you asking about communication equipment or equipment - Fire, which one?

Miss Judith David: All

Hon Gail Teixeira: What number

Miss Judith David: 26002 and 26003.

Hon Gail Teixeira: Honourable Member Miss David, under Project Codes 26002 and 26003, they relate to communication equipment, radios and public address systems and so on and in addition to fire fighting suits and breathing apparatus for the fire. There is nothing specifically stated for Bartica, but I am sure that Bartica will benefit in a number of ways.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 26010 - Community Policing - I see a figure of \$10,000,000 and when I look at Profile 52, I see this project entails provision for training and purchase of vehicle and equipment. In view of the answer that the learned Minister made earlier under the current expenditure that some amount of money, I think it was \$15,000,000, was going to be used for training. I am respectfully asking what portion of this \$10,000,000 is earmarked for training.

Hon Gail Teixeira: This is not earmarked for training. The issue of the 86/150

persons who are in the community policing groups are rural constables, based on the numbers they have to be trained by the Police, they have a kit, they also have their tee-shirts, some equipment and so on, including vehicles where necessary, depending on the crime status in those areas. So it is a capital investment, not the software of training.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Bancroft

Mrs Rajcoomarie Bancroft: Project Code 26003 - Tools and Equipment - Fire - taking into consideration Mahdia is expanding and we have had fire last year. Mahdia does not have any fire equipment. I hope that in this budget we would have some kind of fire fighting equipment. So my question to the Minister, would Mahdia get fire equipment?

Hon Gail Teixeira: In this year, no. I think what would be a good idea, there is a community in the region to do what many rural areas in the United States and Canada does and they have reservist who learnt to be able to put up fires as quickly as possible. In the mean time there will be a day my dear friend Mrs Bancroft when Mahdia will get all these wonderful things, but not in 2006.

Division 507 - Ministry of Home Affairs, Agency Totals - \$475,543,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: As agreed, we will skip the Ministry of Finance, Office of the Auditor General and Public Debt until Mr Winston Murray is here tomorrow. We can now move to the Ministry of Labour, Human Service and Social Security.

Pages 182 and 183

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, Programme 481 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$111,641,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Service and Social Security, Programme 481 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6224 - Print and Non-Print Materials - I wish to ask if this provision here is for the printing of pension books.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the simple answer is no.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, can the Honourable say what is this provision for?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, it has to do with the purchase of periodicals and newspapers.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I man a bit confused ... [Interruption: 'Always!'] on this particular occasion.

The Chairman: You must not say things like that Honourable Member.

Mr James K McAllister: Pardon!

The Chairman: You must not say things like that in the House. That is the response you will get. [Laughter]

Mr James K McAllister: I must not say that I am a little confused,

Sir. Okay, I would not say that any more, but am I to understand that we are going to spend \$1.9 million on periodicals and newspapers?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: No, it has to do with more than that, but it include those things and it got to do with advertisements, we have to pay for journals for the Labour Department as well as for the Social Security Department.

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Service and Social Security, Programme 481 - Ministry Administration - \$111,641,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 184 and 185

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, Programme 482 - Social Services

Question is proposed that the sum of \$2,152,469,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 482 - Social Services - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contacted Employees - could the Honourable Minister say how many of these contracted employees are working in the Difficult Circumstances Unit?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, I hope that you will permit the Honourable Minister Bibi Shadick to answer for this particular programme.

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, there are two contracted employees working in the Difficult Circumstances Unit. The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, a follow up to the same Account Code, could the Honourable Minister indicate what are the positions held by these persons?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: One is the legal officer and one is the head of the unit - the supervisor.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Project Code 6273 - Water Charges - Could the Minister say whether this amount includes payment for pensioners?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Can I get the number again?

The Chairman: What is the item again?

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Project Code 6273. Let me just rephrase thee question. Could the Minister say whether this amount includes the allocation for pensioners to the Guyana Water Inc?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: No, Mr Chairman. It does not.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, since I do not see this listed under Subsidies and Contributions could the Minister obliged this House by indicating under which Account Code is that listed?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, the monies paid to the Guyana Water Inc, are not paid by the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, could the Minister indicate

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which Ministry pays this money to Guyana Water Inc for pensioners.

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, as far as I am aware that is an arrangement between the Ministry of Finance and Guyana Water Incorporated

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, since this allocation is done out of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, could the Honourable Minister say what is the budgeted allocation for pensioners to the Guyana Water Inc. for 2006?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, the budget for our Ministry does not include any allocation to the Guyana Water Inc. I am not aware of a budgeted allocation. What I am aware of is that pensioners go and they do not have to pay rates, their names are on a list. That is all I know.

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, I move to Account Code 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships) - I am assuming if you will allow me that this allocation will take into consideration training of women and if that is so, could the Honourable Minister indicate which areas will benefit from this training.

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, this allocation takes into consideration training of some staff - junior staff. Training of women is done through a programme that is funded by the UNDP.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6321 - Subsidies and Contributions to Local Organisations - could the Honourable Minister tell us why there is no allocation for the National Commission on the Elderly and the Women's Leadership Institute?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, as far as I am aware on Page 384 there has been an allocation for the National Commission on the Elderly. The Guyana Women's Leadership Institute used to be a Subvention Agency which now comes under the Ministry so all the bills and staffed

are paid from the Ministry's budget. We never used to give them an annual subvention. They are staff that are employed by the Ministry. As far as I am aware the National Commission on the Elderly is listed.

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, if my sight is correct, then could the Honourable Member point out on Page 384 where it is listed here for the National Commission on the Elderly?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, I am sure that it is an omission, because that was budgeted for. This is an omission at the Ministry of Finance, because all the other Commissions are there.

Mrs Volda A Lawrwence: Mr Chairman, could the Honourable Minister indicate to the House what is the amount budgeted for the National Commission of the Elderly?

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, I do not have that information with me, because I thought it was printed here, but I can make that information available. If my memory serves me right, last year the budgeted amount was \$500,000. I am not sure whether it was increased or not this year.

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, just for the records I have checked since 2002, that Commission have not been listed in the budgeted subsides.

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 482 - Social Services - \$\$2.152,469 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 186 and 187

AGENCY 48 - MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, Programme 483 - Labour Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$110,766,000 for Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Services, Programme 483 - Labour Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 48 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, Programme 483 - Labour Administration - \$ 110,766,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 431

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

Question is proposed that the sum of \$16,000,000 for Division 545 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates

The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Project Code 12001 - Buildings - Rehabilitation - Could the Minister say what works will be done and where?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, at the Head Office work will be done on the roof primarily and there will also be a repainting of the building as well as some work to be done with the electrical fittings.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Project Code 24001 - Land Transport - could the Minister say how many vehicles will be purchased and which departments they will be allocated to?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, one single vehicle and it will be placed with the Labour Department

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, Project Code 25002 - Equipment - I am interested in the beds that will be purchased. Could the Honourable Minister say for which institution these beds will be for and how many beds will be purchased?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the intention is to replace the squeaky beds [Laughter] at the Palms, the Mahaica Hospital and the Mahaica children's home. You will notice that it is a relatively small amount and we figure between twenty and twenty-five beds.

Division 545 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - Agency Totals - \$416,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Page 432

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

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,229,600,000 for Division 546 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP - Agency Totals - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Project Code 19003 - SIMAP Phase III - the third item - Community Development - I see a figure of \$110,000,000 being allocated and it has here in the Legend provisions for community projects, my question is could the Minister share with us what are some of these community projects. It is a fairly sizeable amount that will be covered under this \$110,000,000.

Hon Rev Dr Ramanuth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, there is Warinau a multi-purpose Building that is under construction at places like Katoka Nursery School, at Pearl - Pearl Road Rehabilitation, New Hope residential drainage project. As a matter of fact, for this year it is going some seventy-three plus nine that are really under Tender Board's attention particularly at this time. So it is going to be a number of projects.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: A follow-up - Minister could you indicate whether there is any provision any where for the setting up of a home for women who have been subjected to domestic violence? We know that that is on the increase ... [Interruption: 'Women and/or men.'] Thank you Mr Allen. Thank you Mr Allen. Is there any provision there for any home of that nature?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, under SIMAP the answer to that is no, but I am sure that the Hon Minister Bibi Safora Shadick would indicate that there is provision for a home for battered women.

Hon Bibi S Shadick: Mr Chairman, at present Government is funding the operations an last year we paid for rehabilitation to the shelter that is run by Help and Shelter and so Government now pays the total operational cost for that. So that home is used for housing victims of domestic violence as well as victims of trafficking.

The Chairman: Please give Miss Allen a chance, Honourable Member

Mr James K McAllister: Yes, Sir. There is no problem, Sir.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, under SIMAP Phase III - Item Schools - Could the Minister say to us which are these schools or in which Regions the construction and rehabilitation of schools will be done?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, at the present time it is contemplated that the Riverstown Primary School will be constructed and Karasabai Primary School construction will also take place; construction of Jawalla Primary/Nursery School. Those are a few of these schools.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, the Profile says that there is provision for technical assistance and training in poor communities, could the Minister please tell us which are those communities that have been identified?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, this is a profile for SIMAP Phase III, it is an ongoing programme in which needs assessment was done throughout the country and in that process these communities were identified and communities put up proposals which were considered both by the community and by SIMAP's staff. I can mention some of them like Albion, Ipiarco, Pickersgill, Quebanang, Cornelia Ida, Block K Kurukuru, Friendship Centre, Tupu, Salton, New Forest, Caracas/Vryheid Head, Sarah Johanna, Zorg-en-Hoop, Anna Catherina Block X, Two Friends, Kambaru and so on.

The Chairman: the Honouarable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, the Honourable Minister provided a list of poor communities that are being targeted, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister if these communities were determined from a

poverty map that SIMAP is using at the moment.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is yes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, under Project Code 19003 - Water and Sanitation - Could the Honourable Minister say whether any provision is made here for the people of Mahdia?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, I will have to go through this list that I have ... I would be happy to provide information on that specific question to the Honourable Minister. I am sorry; I keep saying Minister ... the Honourable Member.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Probably a sign of things to come, Mrs Lawrence [Laughter]

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, We seem to have a malfunction here, Sir.

The Chairman: Proceed Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, yes, indeed it is signs of things to come, the Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence will soon be a Minister of the government. Mr Chairman, coming back to the poverty map, could the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House when this map was last updated?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, as I am on my feet, I can make that response now in relation to the question. For Mahdia Water Project, no it is not in this list of 153 things.

When last was that map updated, I cannot say at this time.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, therefore I wish to ask the

Honourable Minister if he thinks it is possible, as if he is using an outdated poverty map that there is a number of communities that should have properly been included in this programme have been left out.

The Chairman: Well the fact that he cannot say when it has been updated does not necessarily follow that it is out-dated, but I am not the person to answer the question. I do not know if Mr McAllister has an idea as to when it was last updated. Do you have an idea?

Mr James K McAllister: 1991, Sir.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, my information is that this is a programme that came on stream in 2002 and 2003 and therefore the map it has been using is much more up-to-date than that. My understanding is that it has been constantly revised.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am aware that this map was created after an extensive survey was done across the country. Could the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House which agency or entity is responsible for the up-dating of this poverty map.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: For this particular programme SIMAP.

The Chairman: the Honourable Member Miss Allen

Miss Genevieve Allen: Mr Chairman, the Profile speaks to rehabilitation and maintenance of roads damaged by floods, could the Minister kindly give us a list of those roads?

The Chairman: The Honourable Minister

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, as far as the reconstruction and repairs to roads damaged by the flood SIMAP as well as the communities are in the process of assessing the needs.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, a follow-up on the map, could the honourable Minister say if SIMAP has in-house capabilities to effect updating of the poverty map?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, SIMAP has access to expertise from consultants provided by the IDB as well as from persons outside of the agency itself, maybe they would probably like to consult the Honourable Member.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Lawrence

Mrs Volda A Lawrence: Mr Chairman, I am looking at the Project Profile and I see here at (3) the benefits that will result from this project would be increased income earning potential of lower income households. Could the Honourable Minister kindly enlighten me how this will happen?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, as I understand it some of the projects that are under consideration at the present time are those that are related through income generation.

Mr James K McAllister: I will relate this question to the previous question \$724,000,000 provided for the construction of roads, I wish to ask the Honourable Minister if the communities identified here are only those included in what I consider to be the outdated poverty map.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the answer to that is this is in process at the present time. I am quite sure it will include those villages on the West Coast of Demerara, on the East Coast and in the Mahaica/Mahaicony District where roads have been actually been affected. I am speaking here mainly of those roads that run off the highway.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am not going to ask the question about beriberi, Sir. We know that is very prevalent. I wish to follow-up on the question about the roads, because I am not quite sure that I understood the Minister clearly. I was trying to find out if villages/

communities that are listed or included in the poverty map if they can benefit under this programme and it was not very clear from the Minister. Could these communities that are not included in the poverty map benefit from this \$724,000,000?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman Since that poverty map is constantly being reconfigured, the answer to that would of course have to be yes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I would be very happy if the Minister ... if he cannot do it now, he can do it later on ... could provide us with a list of the communities that will benefit from this large expenditure on roads. That is within the Project Code 19003 - SIMAP - PHASE III.

The second thing is there is a large provision here for consultancy and I wonder whether the Minister can give us an indication of the areas in which this consultancy will be exercised.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the answer to the first question is certainly one will be able to provide the information in relation to roads within a very short time.

In relation to consultancy, actually there is a mistake here, it should be consultancies. These consultancies have to do with design and supervision of projects whether they are D and I projects, schools' projects, roads projects as well as the development among communities and these are the consultancies. Consultancy is misleading.

The Chairman: the Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Thank you very much Minister for the explanation. Are these the consultants that are envisaged under these consultancies are they all local consultants?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, they are a mixture of local consultants and international consultants.

Mr R Lance Carberry: Sir, could I go to the Project Code Drainage and Irrigation and Minister could you explain what are the projects that are expected to be undertaken under this particular line?

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, the SIMAP process does not permit me to identify them at this time.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I am sorry, Sir, I do not quite understand the answer and the reason why I cannot understand the answer is because if you have an estimate of this nature here, it is suggesting that there are some true ideas of the areas in which this expenditure will be incurred.

Hon Rev Dr Ramnauth DA Bisnauth: Mr Chairman, there are some communities in which that kind of work has begun, but there is some scope as I indicated to the Honourable Member Mr McAllister for some addition to that.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr McAllister

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I wonder if the Honourable Minister could at a later date provide to this Honourable House a copy of the up-dated poverty map.

Division 546 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security - SIMAP

Agency Totals - \$1,229,600,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

The Chairman: Pages 208 and 209

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS, Programme 521 - Main Office

Question is proposed that the sum of \$10,390,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 521 - Main Office - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - I see I the Staffing Details there is one contracted employee. In fact, the main office has a total staff of one and that is the contracted employee. Could the Honourable Minister please share with this House what functions does this contracted employee perform?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I would expect that this one contracted employee would be the Permanent Secretary.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Is the Honourable Minister saying to us that the Permanent Secretary gets the princely sum of G\$470,000 per month. I am just seeking some clarification.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I expect that would be the salary.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could the Honourable Minister please indicate for the benefit of the House where is this main office situated. The Programme Head is Main Office and the reason why I am asking that, Sir, perhaps Account Code 6281 - Security Services - I see security services being offered \$3,200,000 and I would like to know where is this main office situated?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: The main office is at the Ministry on Carmichael Street.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Honourable Minister, specifically Account Code 6281 the \$3.2 million in security which works out to about \$266,000 per month. This is security service provided for that main office in

Carmichael Street.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Account Code 6281, I suspect that would be for that office.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6293 - Refreshment and Meals - Remember we are talking about one person all the time, I see that last year that person ate a princely sum of \$261,000 and this year, he is going up slightly \$274,000 which is just above \$20,000 and I feel a bit envious, when I remember that Members of Parliament, I think, we have \$250 monthly allowance. Minister, is it that this one person is eating all this food?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I would expect that it would be for whenever there is a conference or some meeting or something of that nature.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Under Account Code 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants - there has been a marked increase with regard to fuel consumption. The one officer seems to be pretty busy. Could the Honourable Minister explain?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: What is the question?

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Account Code 6231 - There seems to be an increase in activity. There has been an increase in the fuel and lubricants area. Can the Honourable Minister explain?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Well I expect that is based on the increase in cost.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 521 - Main Office - \$10,390,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 210 and 211

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS, Programme 552 - Ministry Administration

Question is proposed that the sum of \$31,600,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, programme 552 - Ministry Administration - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Security Services - My first question is where is this property situated? The office has a staff of thirty people and my is where is it physically located?

The Chairman: The AG's Office in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Carmichael Street. They are not two offices.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Thank you, Sir.

The Chairman: As far as we all know.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: The reason why I am asking is that I see a figure of \$3,352,000 as security for that building and once could remember, if I can remind the House, when I asked about the Main Office which has one employee and there was a figure of \$3.2 million, I was told that it was for guarding that building, and again we come here, the same building and there is a further security of \$2,352,000. That is why I want clarity that it is the same building.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: We also pay for the Deeds Registry.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Deeds Registry got another head.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: We pay for the Deeds Registry as well.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: That is not here. We have not reached there yet.

Mr James K McAllister: Just for information, the Minister did day that Account Code 6281 - the amount of \$2.3 million should be for the Deed Registry, but with your permission if we are to go to the Deeds Registry, you will see under that same Code 6281 - there is a sum of \$2.8 million for security for the Deeds Registry. So something needs to be explained here.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: The Main Office is in Carmichael Street and I suppose there is only one Main Office as far as I know. The Deeds Registry is separate.

Mr James K McAllister: Mr Chairman, I am trying to seek clarification here. Under Ministry Administration there is a provision for security.

The Chairman: There are two provisions for security in the Main Office and the Ministry Administration, both of which are located in the same building. So you are asking the Honourable Attorney General for an explanation for that.

Mr James K McAllister: Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: If the Honourable Attorney General cannot give an explanation now maybe he can provide an explanation for those two separate items.

Hon Attorney General: I will provide that in writing.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 522 - Ministry Administration - \$31,660,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand

part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 212 and 213

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS, Programme 523 - Attorney General's Chambers

Question is proposed that the sum of \$106,417,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 523 - Attorney General's Chambers - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - I see here that there are three contracted employees earning approximately - if the amount is divided by three - \$380,000 per month. Could the Honourable Minister please share with us what functions these three contracted employees carry out?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I will give this response in writing, because I know that there are two contracted employees who are drivers and they obviously could not be earning this kind of salary.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: I hope not. As the Honourable Attorney General has undertaken to provide that, I thank him for that. Please Sir, with your permission, could he also include what is the full strength of the staff of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Attorney General Chambers. I ask that of course because I am personally aware and as I think most people are that there are some glaring vacancies in that Chamber. There is no Solicitor General, no Deputy Solicitor General. So my question is what is the full strength, the authorised strength, of the Attorney General Chambers?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: 1 can give you those figures.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6281 - Security Services - Again we see another figure. This will now be a third figure for security services to add to the \$3.2 million and the \$2.352 million, this is now \$2,990,000 and just for the records, if the Honourable Attorney General could indicate if this is the same building that hosts the Main Office and the Ministry Administration.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: As I indicated, I have to make some inquiries so I will give you those answers in writing.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Account Code 6322 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations - I am a bit tired, please bar with me.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I see zero.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: No, this is Page 213 - Subsidies and Contributions to International Organisations - there is a figure of \$36,000,000. Here it is Sir on Page 388 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, when you look at it you see that the figure of \$36,000,000 is for the Council of Legal Education, whereas last year the figure was \$99,000,000. This year it is just \$36,000,000. Here is a hope and I would like to ask the Minister if this reduction in payment to the Council of Legal Education indicates that for the 2006/2007 academic year at the University of Guyana, we will have our own law school, because we have moved from a contribution of \$99,000,000 to \$36,000,000. So my question is, is this an indication that in 2006/2007 academic year, we will have a law School opened at the University of Guyana?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: We had substantial arrears and this is why there is that reduction, it not for the establishment for the law school.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 523 - Attorney

General's Chambers - \$106,417,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 214 and 215

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS, Programme 524 - Office of the State Solicitor

Question is proposed that the sum of \$10,529,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 524 - Office of the State Solicitor - stands part of the Estimates.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 524 - Office of the State Solicitor - \$10,529,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 216 and 217

AGENCY 52 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS, Programme 525 - Deeds Registry

Question is proposed that the sum of \$33,933,000 for Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, programme 525 - Deeds Registry - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6281 - Se-

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curity Services - Well I am aware that the Deeds Registry is housed in the Supreme Court Building and I see here security; there was none in 2004 and we had in 2005 and there is almost 100 percent increase for 2006. Could the Honourable Minister please share with us why there is that increase of approximately 100 percent from \$1.4 million to \$2.8 million?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: What happened here is that we attempted to economise and the result of the economy is that there were several breakages. As a result we had to reinforce the security arrangements and those are the figures that we are paying now. Since then there has not been any breakages.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Just a follow-up from that. Minister that particular complex which is the Supreme Court Registry, isn't that guarded by Members of the Guyana Police Force?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: No., we have taken on a private security. I think it is RK Security.

Agency 52 - Ministry of Legal Affairs, Programme 525 - Deeds Registry - \$33,933,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 405

DIVISION 514 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS, Agency Totals

Question is proposed that the sum of \$71,500,000 for Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Agency Totals.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah Backer: Project Code 12003 - Buildings - and I see here a sum of \$3,000,000 and the Legend says rehabilitation of walkway and the Project Proposal on Page 68 says, rehabilitation of the walkway at the Deeds Registry. I wish if the Honourable Minister could share with this House which walkway are we talking about. I mean, I know this building fairly well and I am a bit perplexed as to where this walkway is that is going to cost us \$3,000,000 to repair or rehabilitate.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I expect that it would have been in the precincts of the Deed Registry that is the Supreme Court Building. There is no other walkway.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Project Code 15002 - Strengthening of the Registry - I see a sum of \$17,000,000 which is Institutional Strengthening of Deeds Registry - Deeds Registry - IDB, there is a project profile on Page 69 and my question is what are the changes - the strengthening - we expect to see as a result of this infusion of \$17,000,000 from the IDB.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: The strengthening of the Deeds Registry is to computerise the entire Registry. Conveyancing procedures, conveyancing information, business names, trademarks, et cetera. They already have twenty-eight computers put in and now the software is being installed and people trained.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Minister, after the end produce - after the \$17,000,000 - being spent, will it result in the Deeds Registry being completely computerised?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Yes.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Melville

Mrs Shirley J Melville: A follow-up to that Mr Chairman, we just heard the Honourable Minister said that the Office completely computerised, but should we look at Project Code 25003 - Equipment - you will see that purchase of equipment includes typewriters.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: What Page?

Mrs Shirley J Melville: Page 70 - Would there still be need for that?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I expect until the process is totally completed, both will be in operations.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, there is a slight problem, because when you look at Page 405 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - it really speaks about Division 514 which seems to be the entire page, but when we go over to Supreme Court what we see is that one or two of those Items are really under specifically ... [Interruption]

The Chairman: Some Items under Supreme Court are under the same Division.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: But the Division here gives the impression that we are dealing with the whole page. It just say Page 405 Division 514 and Division 514 is in fact the entire page. I was just about to ask a question, but I see it is coming up under Supreme Court. It is on that same page. I will hold that until we get to the Supreme Court. I do not have anything else.

The Chairman: If you look at Supreme Court, you will see only two codes that relate to that. If you set aside those codes now 12002 and 25002, you can save those two codes to when we come to the Supreme Court

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes, Sir.

The Chairman: The Honourable Member Mr Carberry, unless you stand up I would not see you Mr Carberry.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I was trying to save myself.

The Chairman: You cannot miss Mr Carberry, you have distinguished appearance when standing. You cannot be missed. So if you stand up I would not miss you.

Mr E Lance Carberry: You almost make me blush, Sir. [Laughter] Mr Chairman, the reason I got up is really simply to clarify something in Division 514, because you seem to remember yesterday we had the same problem. If you say 514 stands part of the Estimates, it is the entire page ...

The Chairman: Yes

Mr E Lance Carberry: ... and really and truly it is not the entire page.

The Chairman: It is not the entire page.

Mr E Lance Carberry: So we need to find some way of dealing with that.

The Chairman: Well, what should have been done here, under Ministry of Legal Affairs, we should have put Division 514 except Codes 12002 and 25002. That would have clarified the picture.

Mr E Lance Carberry: I hope that the Ministry of Finance is taking note of that for the next year.

The Chairman: We should have spotted it as well.

Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Agency Totals - \$71,500,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates

AGENCY 55 - SUPREME COURT, Programme 551 - Supreme Court of Judicature

Question is proposed that the sum of \$384,703,000 for Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 551 - Supreme Court of Judicature - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - when you look at the strength you will notice that last year and this year is the same, but strange enough there has been a decrease. Last year, the budget was \$13,201,000; it went down to \$5,505,000 ... [Interruption]

Hon Doodnauth Singh: What number you are at?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: - Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - on Page 224 and what we see here is a reduction from \$7,505,000 to \$5,419,000 although the contracted employees remained at the same number - four. So I just want to know if there has been a change in the contracted employees, if one or two went off and less skilled ones came on or something like that that would explain the drop of about \$2,000,000.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: It may very well have been due to the fact that with respect to the contracted the categories may have changed. I am not sure, but I can give you the response in writing, because this is the Supreme Court.

Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 551 - Supreme Court of

Judicature - \$384,703,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Pages 226 and 227

AGENCY 55 - SUPREME COURT, Programme 552 - Magistrates' Department

Question is proposed that the sum of \$195,557,000 for Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 552 - Magistrates' Department - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - I see that there has been an increase from six to seven earning about \$360,000 per month in the Magistrates' Department and my question to the Honourable Minister is what functions are these seven contracted employees carrying out?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: As you will appreciate with respect to the magistracy even though the Attorney General and Minister has responsibility for answering, I am not in charge of the Magistracy so I will have to get that information and submit it.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Could I respectfully ask that while the Minister is doing that, if he can also find out or he can also provide for us, the temporary employees, because we see here ten temporary employees and I would be happy if we can find out what functions these temporary employees carry out.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I will make the necessary inquiries from the Registrar.

Agency 55 - Supreme Court, Programme 552 - Magistrates' Department - \$195,557,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 405

DIVISION 514-MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS - SUPREME/ MAGISTRATE'S COURT - Project Code 12002

Question is propose that the sum of \$34,000,000 for Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Supreme/Magistrates' Court - Project Code 12002 - Supreme/Magistrate Court - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes, Sir, I am dealing here with Project Code 12002 - Supreme/Magistrate's Court - and the Legend says completion of Magistrat3 Court and rehabilitation of the Court of Appeal and the Profile Page 74 shows that the sum allocated is \$34,000,000 and my question is what portion of the \$34,000,000 is being spent to do renovations to the Court of Appeal in Kingston.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: As far as I am aware, the entire sum would be for the renovation of the Court of Appeal at Kingston so that the Caribbean Court of Justice whenever it visits can be housed there. So it should not have had Magistrate's/

Mrs Deborah J Backer: If I could be of some assistance the Profile Page - Capital Project Profile Reference 74 clearly says completion of Fort Wellington Magistrate's Court. That is one and secondly renovation of the Court of Appeal. So I would be very happy if what the

Honourable Attorney General said, I have no reason to doubt him, if perhaps we can have completion of the Fort Wellington Magistrate's Court deleted as the Profile Page definitely gives a wrong impression.

Hon Doodnauth Singh: That ought to be done.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Sorry Sir, I forgot Project Code 25002.

The Chairman: We have not reached there as yet. Are you finished

with Project Code 12002?

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Yes Sir.

The Chairman: Well let me put that first.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Okay.

Legal Affairs - Supreme/Magistrate's Court - Project Code 12002 - \$34,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

DIVISION 514 - MINISTRY OF LEGALAFFAIRS - SUPREME/ MAGISTRATE'S COURT - Project Code 25002

Question is proposed that the sum of \$5,000,000 for Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Supreme/Magistrate's Court - Project Code 25002 - Equipment - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, a very similar question and it is a smaller figure of \$5,000,000 and the Legend says purchase of furniture and equipment and the Capital Project Profile says, the project includes purchase of computers, printers, et cetera. My question is; is any of this going to the Magistrate's Court or the entire is going to be

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spent on equipment for the Supreme Court?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I would be for the Supreme Court...

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Only!

Hon Doodnauth Singh: Yes.

Division 514 - Ministry of Legal Affairs - Supreme/Magistrate's Court - Project Code 25002 - Project Code 25002 - Equipment - \$5,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: We can now move to our last item for this evening.

Pages 230 and 231

AGENCY 56 - PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS, Programme 561 - Public Prosecutions

Question is proposed that the sum of \$67,113,000 for Agency 56 - Public Prosecutions, Programme 561 - Public prosecutions - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mrs Backer

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, Account Code 6116 - Contracted Employees - we see that there are two contracted employees and my questions is, what functions do these two contracted employees perform?

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And Account Code 6117 - Temporary Employee - The one temporary employee, the question would be the same. What function does that person or did that person perform?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: If I might say, as you would be aware I have no direct responsibility for the DPP's Chambers, but I only have Parliamentary responsibilities so I will have to provide the answers to you.

Mrs Deborah J Backer: Mr Chairman, finally Account Code 6284 - Other - we see a sum of \$3,320,000 and that is nearly four percent of the total budget of \$67,000,000 and my question is, what is this Other? What is included in this expected expenditure of \$3,320,000?

Hon Doodnauth Singh: I will have to provide that answer in writing as well.

Agency 56 - Public Prosecutions, Programme 561 - Prosecutions - \$67,113,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Page 396

DIVISION 505 - CONSITUTIONAL AGENCIES, Project Code 25007

Question is proposed that the sum of \$1,807,000 for Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25007 - Director of Public Prosecution - stands part of the Estimates.

The Honourable Member Mr Carberry

Mr E Lance Carberry: Mr Chairman, I just want to draw your

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attention to the fact that this particular Division again it includes the Auditor General as well. So I wish you could bear that in mind, because we would be dealing with the Auditor General separately.

The Chairman: Yes, this is only one code 25007.

Mr E Lance Carberry: Okay.

Division 505 - Constitutional Agencies, Project Code 25007 - Director of Public Prosecutions - \$1,807,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.

The Chairman: Honourable Members, this brings us to the end of our business for today. We will complete the Estimates tomorrow and we will start with the Ministry of Finance and related agencies - Public Debt and Auditor General, because we missed that today. So we will start with that one and then continue the rest in order in which they are located.

We have a small item tomorrow on the Order Paper which relates for an extension of time for the Special Select Committee on Needs Assessment of the National Assembly to give its final report. So that is a small item and I do not expect that that will detain us for very long, but we will have to suspend the Standing Orders in order to accommodate that.

Assembly resumed.

The Honourable Prime Minister

Hon Samuel AA Hinds: Mr Speaker, I move that the Assembly stands

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adjourn to tomorrow at 14:00h.

The Speaker: The Assembly is so adjourned.

Adjourned accordingly at 20:16h