

# Official Report

*PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN*

---

17<sup>TH</sup> Sitting

Tuesday, 24<sup>TH</sup> April, 2012

---

*The Assembly convened at 2.03 p.m.*

*PRAYERS*

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

### **Late commencement of Sitting**

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, for the second time in a matter of days I have had to commence the Sitting later than the scheduled 2.00 p.m. time. Today's decision for the postponement was no different from that of the last occasion as some very senior and prominent Members of our Assembly were in a very important meeting. A decision was taken to allow them to complete their discussions and of course, give them time to be present. I am now told that we are in a position to proceed so I apologise for the late start, but I believe in the circumstances, it could not be avoided.

### **Welcoming and recognising the Delegation Representing the Guyana Women Miners Association at the Sitting**

Today with us, apart from the many members of the public, is a delegation representing the Guyana Women Miners Association headed by its esteemed President, Ms. Simona Broomes. I would like to welcome them and to personally say to all of you, "Thank you very much. I have

read, in Sunday's newspaper, of your timely intervention that saved not just the virtue but, perhaps, the life of a young woman who went into the Interior in search of income." I would like to say on behalf of all of us in this National Assembly how happy and proud we are of the work that you are doing. Please keep it up. I know that in the days, months and years to come we will have many engagements between your Association and this Assembly.

**Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs [Mr. Hinds]:** Mr. Speaker, I do not know if it is the right time, but I was thinking that you may be aware, as you said, that the Leaders of the three parties in the National Assembly were meeting with the President so as to seek to avoid collisions and collapse of the process that we are in now. I think that we have mutually agreed that we would, today, complete Regions 8, 9 and 10, and seek to postpone consideration of the Office of the President (OP) and the Office of the Prime Minister tomorrow so that we could continue to meet and maybe, hopefully, find some accommodations on the major issues which are, at least, implied in the motions which were submitted yesterday. I thought that you would have made this announcement at another time, but...

**Mr. Speaker:** I could not have made it better than you just did. Thank you very much. It came proverbially from the horse's mouth; you were there and you know best what was decided. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for accurately reporting the outcome of the discussions which have begun. We have learnt that these will continue this evening.

Hon. Members, we will just be considering the Expenditures of the three Regions that have been outstanding for our work and will not be proceeding further today.

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

### **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

#### **MOTION**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2012**

“WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provided that when the Estimates of Expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the consolidated fund of the sums necessary to meet expenditure;

AND WHEREAS Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2012 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2012-03-30.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2012, of a total sum of **one hundred and seventy nine billion, six hundred and ninety six million, five hundred and forty six thousand dollar(\$179,696,546,000)**, excluding **thirteen billion, and eighty for million, seven hundred and thirty five thousand dollars (13,084,735,000)** which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the under mentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.” *[Minister of Finance]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, we will now resume our consideration of the Estimates for the year 2012. We will resolve ourselves into Committee of Supply. Thank you.

*Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply*

*In Committee of Supply*

**Agency: 78 – Region 8: Potaro/Siparuni**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 781 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$50,059,000**

**Mr. Trotman:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6116 – Contracted Employees – I want to ask the Minister to identify the positions held by these contract workers under this line item and the emoluments paid to each of them.

**Minister of Local Government and Regional Development [Mr. G. Persaud]:** The positions are: Assistant Regional Executive Officer (AREO), Clerk III General, Accounts Clerk II, Cleaner, Labourer, Radio Operator, Registration Clerk and Typist Clerk I.

**Mr. Trotman:** What are their emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The emoluments are: AREO - \$112,900, Clerk III General - \$63,667, Accounts Clerk II - \$60,108, Cleaner - \$46,928, Labourer - \$46,928, Radio Operator - \$45,321, Registration Clerk - \$42,179 and Typist Clerk I - \$42,179.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6211 – Expenses Specific to the Agency – I want to ask the Minister if he can state how many meetings of the Regional Democratic Council are slated to be held under this line item in 2012.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Six meetings are slated to be held.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up question - if six meetings are held in a situation where Regional Democratic Councillors are expected to participate fully in the process of carrying out the business of the Regional Democratic Council (RDC), I wonder if the Minister can say how it is that these Ministers can function effectively in such a sporadic situation.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I do not think I can respond to that.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow up question - when the Minister called on Councillors, in his presentation on the Budget, to function, to be part of the process in a holistic fashion, one would have thought that the Minister was actually speaking of a situation whereby the Government recognises the importance of the Councillors working in the Region and that everything would have been done to ensure that they function. However, one cannot expect Councillors to participate fully in a process when it is that their meetings are being held bimonthly and the meetings are intended to give Councillors an opportunity to monitor the work of the regional administration. In that situation, I am asking the Minister to state if he is prepared to re-examine the allocation for meetings of the RDCs to ensure that the Councillors can participate fully in the process in Region 8.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, before you answer, please answer this for my benefit: is it the function of the Ministry to set the dates for the holding of meetings?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** You can now answer the Hon. Member.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I cannot really figure out what the Hon. Member is asking me to re-examine. Six meetings annually has been the pattern for umpteen years in Region 8 and that is because of a series of variables.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up question: Since Region 8 is one of the regions that have proven to be most problematic in the regional administration system, one would think that those Hon. Members on the other side would understand the importance in involving Regional Democratic Councillors, elected officials, in the process. Not because it has been the experience in the past to have only six meetings per year that we must accept, in this new dispensation, that six meetings are adequate to allow Regional Democratic Councillors to function in Region 8.

The other point is that the experience of Region 8 is that the Regional Councillors have very little opportunities to make inputs into what takes place, the decision making process. As a result, I suspect that the decision to have only six meetings has to do with the regional administration imposing its will on the RDC and we must have that changed. I am asking the Minister to look at the situation and to come up with something that allows the Councillors to function.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, are we still in the Committee of Supply? This seems to be more like a debate rather than dealing with the Estimates.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I did point out that the Standing Orders of the National Assembly of Guyana states that a debate shall ensue. Traditionally, it has been more of a question and answer. That is not to say that a Member is not allowed to give some opinion from time to time, and that is on both sides. You may, in answering, give a more extended answer if you wish or none at all.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I have given my answer to the question. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Trotman:** Mr. Chairman, in light of the fact that there are strong reservations on this side of the House about the dominant role of the REOs in identification and execution of projects in hinterland communities, is the Minister prepared to assure this Hon. House that the Ministry would undertake to ensure that the RDC in Region 8, as required, will participate in all aspects of these projects?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, to the extent of that you can give an answer?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I go with your instructions but I, once again, express my concern that we are in a Committee of Supply and I expect that the questions asked will be pointed to one of the line items. The generality is bothering me.

**Mr. Chairman:** We commenced at the point where the money set aside catered for the holding of six statutory meetings for the year. These are follow-up questions based on that original question. So it necessarily follows that the question is whether or not the Ministry is willing to make any provision to ensure that the Council is involved at the meetings in the execution of projects.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not think that we need to give a commitment. The system is in place to allow total involvement.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Could the Hon. Minister, under line item 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence – inform this National Assembly if any moneys are provided here to cover expenses of Councillors for travelling, and if yes, how much?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No provision is made under that line item for the travelling of Councillors.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Line Item 6111 – Administrative – under Total Wages and Salaries - I notice that last year there were two administrative personnel. This year there is one and \$1.226 million is budgeted here. Can the Hon. Minister kindly shed some light on this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Assistant Secretary General is that position. The previous occupier of that position was a junior staff.

**Ms. Marcello:** Line Item 6281 – Security Services – could the Hon. Minister say which administrative buildings have 24-hour security?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The power generating building and the regional administrative building have 24-hour security.

**Mrs. Backer:** Mr. Chairman, through you to the Hon. Minister, the one administrative staff that you have filled for this year, am I correct in saying that that is the Assistant Secretary General?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes.

**Mrs. Backer:** Could you indicate to me, when you look at the list of pensionable posts on page 560 of Volume 1, for Region 8, we see that there is provision for six offices. You said that the Assistant Secretary General is covered. That is the one. Of the other five, could you say if any of the ten contracted workers are filling any of those five vacant posts?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** None of the officers under the contract gratuity fills any of those positions.

**Mrs. Backer:** Minister, let me understand you. Of a pensionable post, in an area Administrative, there are six. Only one is currently filled. Is that what you are saying, Sir?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am saying that there is one employee under line item 6111 – Administrative.

**Mrs. Backer:** Would you therefore not agree with me that the regional administration is obviously performing below capacity? Of the six pensionable posts - I assume this is what is deemed to be necessary – you only have one. Even if you include the contracted workers, you only have one of six.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We have adequate personnel under line item 6111 – Administrative – and let me assure the Hon. Member that we are not underperforming.

**Mrs. Backer:** A follow-up question - Hon. Minister, through you Mr. Chairman, you have said that you have adequate personnel. You are saying that that one person, whereas the requirement under the list of pensionable posts is six, you have already said that none of your ten contracted employees fill any of those five vacancies. How could you then say that you are sufficiently staffed under the area of Administration?

**Mr. Chairman:** Is there any other answer?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Sharma:** Can the Hon. Minister please confirm, under line item 6116 – Contracted Employees – if one of the ten contracted employees is a Clerk III General?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Sharma:** Please state the salary for me.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The salary is \$63,667.

**Mr. Sharma:** Can the Hon. Minister say what Grade Salary (GS) scale that person would be paid under?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** \$63,667 is the salary of the employee.

**Mr. Sharma:** I would like to refer the Hon. Minister to page 560. Look at the designation there. There are salary scales. Which salary scale does that employee fall under?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I could have given the Hon. Member the information he wanted in the manner that he wanted it, but the Hon. Member seems to be extremely knowledgeable about the public service so I do not want to burden him.

**Mr. Chairman:** Let us not anticipate or presume.

**Mr. Sharma:** I did not hear the answer. What is the answer?

**Mr. Chairman:** I think he is still trying to get the answer about the salary scale.

**Mr. Sharma:** The scale, apparently, is GS 2. GS 2 on page 568 is minimum salary as \$39,127 and the maximum salary as \$45,338. So how is this individual getting paid over \$63,000?

**Mr. Chairman:** Is there an answer?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The GS is GS 3. That is the salary scale.

**Mr. Sharma:** GS 3's minimum is \$42,293 and the maximum is \$49,263.

**Mr. Chairman:** The point has been ably made.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Line Item 6261 – Local Travel and Subsistence – under the Head Transport, Travel and Postage, I notice that there is \$3.403 million earmarked for that and also at line item 6265 – Other Transport, Travel and Postage – is \$1.2 million. It is like a repetition. Can the Minister kindly explain the category of “Other”?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6265 - Other Transport, Travel and Postage – deals with air transportation.



**Mr. Chairman:** I recall that from last evening. And the other was ground transportation.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line Item 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants – could the Hon. Minister say how many vehicles are in the fleet?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are three vehicles in the fleet.

**Ms. Selman:** A follow-up question on that- can the Hon. Minister state the types of vehicles and how old these are?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are: one 4x4 pick-up, one minibus and one all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

**Ms. Selman:** And what are their ages?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The 4x4 pick-up is one year old, the minibus is two years old and the ATV is three years old.

**Mrs. Backer:** I want to go to line item 6113 – Other Technical and Craft Skilled – Hon. Minister I see that there is a position for one. Could you tell me what position that one person is occupying?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That position is Assistant Accountant.

**Mrs. Backer:** When we look at the list of pensionable posts, Hon. Minister, we see that indeed the Assistant Accountant is one of the three posts provided for under line item 6113 – Other Technical and Craft Skilled. Could you inform this Hon. House if any of your ten contracted workers are filling any of the five other positions catered for under line item 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One Clerk III General is filling one Mr. Chairman.

**Mrs. Backer:** There is no provision under the list of pensionable post Other Technical and Craft Skilled for a Clerk III General. Could you please check? I may not be seeing correctly. Could you turn with me to page 560 and indicate to me where that is provided for on the list of pensionable posts under Other Technical and Craft Skilled?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We are dealing with what we have on our establishment, the staff that we have in place.

**Mrs. Backer:** Hon. Chairman, I specifically indicated to the Minister that at line item 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled - there is one position filled. The Hon. Minister has said to us that it is an Assistant Accountant. I then asked him if any of the other five listed pensionable posts – there are six listed at page 560 – have been filled by any of the ten contracted workers. He said yes. I then asked which of the five and you said a Clerk III. I have drawn to your attention that the five vacant positions under Other Technical and Craft Skilled do not include a Clerk III. I am asking you, Sir, whether you agree with my findings.

*3.25 p.m.*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I misinterpreted the Hon. Member, but let me state clearly that the budgetary allocation is for staff in place and that is what we are dealing with. The Budget as presented is for the persons who are employed in this programme.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister you are being subjected to some good old fashion textbook cross-examination. It has the effect of confusing you sometimes.

**Mrs. Backer:** It is not to confuse him. Mr. Chairman, through you, could the Hon. Minister indicate to the House whether your Ministry feels that a Stop-Verifier is important to the efficient administration of Region 8? That position is provided for on the lists of pensionable posts. Do you agree with us that a Stock-verifier is a most important position to be filled?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I can only deal with the line items and the staffing here. I do not wish to volunteer an opinion or point of view here. I think, Mr. Chairman, you are more interested in the facts.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6264 – Vehicle Spares and Service – the Minister in answer to Ms. Kisson's question did say that the vehicles were three years and under. If that is the case, why does the spares carry such a high cost and in what sub regions are these vehicles to be used?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two of the vehicles are stationed at Mahdia and the ATV is stationed in the Paramakatoi sub region. The line item 6264 – Maintenance for Vehicles – the terrain in itself will cause heavy demands. So, frequent servicing is required.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line Item 6272 – Electricity Charges – having noted the underutilisation of the allocation for 2011 by \$500,000, can the Hon. Minister tell us why there is the 200% increase in 2012?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The electricity supply has been upgraded from four hours daily to 24 hours daily.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Line Item 6272 – Electricity Charges – last year I noticed that the charges were \$1.3 million and this year it is \$4.4 million. Could you kindly explain the increase?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Hon. Member may have been looking at her microphone and did not hear my response. It was the very question I answered just now. I will therefore repeat for the benefit of the Hon. Member. The reason for the increase from \$1.3 million to 4.08 million is because of the lengthened hours of service on a daily basis, from four to 24 hours.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line Item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) – can the Hon. Minister say who will benefit from the training and what areas of training will be done?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The training will be done by the Public Service Ministry. The allocation is to meet transportation and accommodation costs for the 18 staff under the administration programme.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6264 Vehicles Spares and Service – the Minister did say that the ATV vehicle is located in Paramakatoi Area. I am wondering if he can say who uses that vehicle.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is the Assistant Regional Executive Officer.

*Programme: 781 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$50,059,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 781 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$11,800,000**

**Mr. Bulkan:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Project Code 1209000 – Buildings-Administration – could the Hon. Minister advise this house of what is the scope of works to be undertaken under this allocation?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The scope of works is to rehabilitate the guest house at Kato. It entails adding two more rooms to the existing facility.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Project Code 2402200 – Land and Water Transport – can the Hon. Minister state of the budgetary allocation stated here, how much of this amount is allocated for an ATV to be used by the Regional Vice Chairman in the execution of his duties and responsibilities as a member of the RDC and as Regional Vice Chairman, and also, how much if any, if allocated towards the acquisition of a grader, a dump truck and a loader which has been requested for many years by the Regional Democratic Council of Region 8 to carry out badly needed road maintenance in the Region?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The allocation under project code 2402200 is to purchase two ATVs, one for the Accounts Department in Mahdia and the other to replace the ATV that is being used currently by the AREO in Kato. The AREO is using the ATV that belongs to another programme.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Hon. Minister could you clarify please, I thought I heard you say a minute ago that under the current expenditure, line item 6264 – Vehicles Spares and Services – that some of the money allocated was to repair the ATV that is being used by the AREO in sub Region 1.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, you are correct Hon. Member. That ATV belongs to the Education Department and it was used by the AREO to assist with nominations for the Toshias Amerindians Council Elections. That is how it got damaged, so it has to be repaired and returned to the Education Department.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Can the Hon. Minister confirm that none of the allocations will be used for transportation or an ATV to be used by the Regional Vice Chairman.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One of the ATVs that will be bought under this programme will be made available for the Regional sub Office at Kato. That ATV will be available for persons who

occupy the office there at the sub regional office in Kato. If it is the Vice Chairman of the Chairman, or whoever it is, I am certain that they will have access to the ATV.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Ms. Marcello:** An agreement on the same Project Code 1209000 – Buildings Administration. Can the Hon. Minister say if there are any provisions under this head for the furnishing of the Regional Chairman's living quarters?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I gave the profile, but I can repeat it. It is for buildings administration and \$5 million is the allocation. The intended use is to extend the guest facilities at Kato's Guest House with the addition of two rooms.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Project Code 2402200 – Land and Water Transport – I am a bit perplexed here Hon. Minister, because the Regional Chairman of Region 8 does not have any vehicle to move about right now. It is good that you are saying Kato should have, but then what about Mahdia? What about the head office at Mahdia?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, if I can repeat again; the two ATVs that will be bought under this programme, one will be for Mahdia and the other will be for Kato. If the Chairman or Regional Vice Chairman or whoever is based in Mahdia, and there is need for the Chairman or Vice Chairman to move about, certainly there will be a need, then the vehicles available at the Administration in Mahdia would be made accessible to those officials.

*Programme: 781 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$11,800,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 782 – Public works – \$109,477,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6254 – Maintenance of Sea and River Defences – could the Hon. Minister tell us what works are planned for this year?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This would be revetment work at Kowa, Yawong and Mahdia.

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads – can the Hon. Minister say whether there would be any works done on Tiger Hill, Mahdia?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The response based on this line item is no, but I wish to assure the Hon. Member that the Ministry of Public Works explained that they would be doing work, when they were discussing their estimates in this House, in the area identified by the Hon. Member.

**Mr. Chairman:** The answer, Hon. Minister, is that Tiger Hill will be attended to...

**Mr. G. Persaud:** ...by the Ministry of Public Works; that assurance was given.

**Mr. Chairman:** I believe that will please the Member immensely.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Minister then tell this Assembly where the maintenance works will be done?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The works will be done on the road from Itabac's junction to Itabac Village, Kopinang to Maikwak, Itabac to Kopinang and Kopinang to Maikwak, Monkey Mountain to Taruka, Gas Station Road Mahdia, Mahdia Housing Scheme, Mahdia School Road and Salbora Road.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges – can the Minister advise this House of which bridges are to be maintained and the individual costs of maintenance of them?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This will include the bridge at Princeville, i.e. Bridge No.1 at \$1.5 million, the second Bridge going into Princeville at \$1.5 million, the third Bridge going into Princeville at \$1.5 million, the Mahdia Bridge at \$2 million, Kowa No. 1 Bridge at \$2 million, Kowa No. 2 Bridge at \$2 million, Kato's first Bridge at \$2 million, Kato's second Bridge at \$2 million, Maikobi's first Bridge \$2.3 million.

**Ms. Selman:** Mr. Chairman, just following up on Mr. Trotman's question. Could the Minister say what materials would be used?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They will all be greenheart Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow up question to line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads – the Hon. Minister said a short while ago that one of the roads to be maintained under this line item was the Mahdia School Road. Could the Minister be little more explicit please?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Mahdia School Road, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure what more...

**Mr. Chairman:** Last evening you gave for example 400 yards, double bitumen, something to that effect; the surface that you expect and perhaps the length that you will bring or put under repair. Perhaps – I am only speculating.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** If the question is asked in that way then I will. It is a one mile stretch and the cost is estimated to be \$1.5 million and it is a laterite surface.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow up question please, Mr. Chairman. Is the Hon. Minister aware of whether this particular stretch of the road is from the School Junction to a point called the Seven Mile Junction?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I must commend the Hon. Member for his geography and knowledge of the terrain. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** The reason I asked is because in last year's estimate under this heading the sum of \$25 million was allocated for maintenance and repairs to a number of roads, one of these being the very School Junction to Seven Miles. The information that we have received from Region 8 is that this particular stretch of road was never done. As, indeed, other activities that were earmarked for repairs last year, in particular the road from Shoe-mat junction to El Paso roadway also fell in this same category. One of the other activities that were funded from the Budget last year was also drains in Mahdia and the information that we have received is that the drains that were constructed in Mahdia were actually higher than the road. I need not elaborate; it was colossal waste money. My question to the Hon. Minister is that we are aware that the allocations for last year were overseen and the execution of the works was supervised by the RDC of last year. This is why it is relevant, the question that Hon. Member Mr. Trotman asked about the authority and empowering the Councillors of the RDC to be able to effectively carry out their work, is particularly important.

**Mr. Chairman:** Did you get that question?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I did not get it Mr. Chairman. Let me say to the Hon. Member that it is unfortunate and that a road surface does not remain like when you paint a board or the wall of your house. It is so unfortunate, but I will not say that the road was not done. If the Hon. Member can provide evidence to support what he is saying, certainly I can assure you that a thorough investigation will be done. Failing that, I continue to say that I continue to say that the programmes were executed and this programme will be executed. It only leaves us to understand the terrain and what rain will do and what running water will do on roads like that. I am certain all Members of this Hon. House would have traversed through the beautiful Hinterland of Guyana, particularly the hilly sand and mountainous region. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Marcello:** Line Item 6254 – Maintenance of Sea and River Defences – can the Hon. Minister say where this is being done?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I shared that just now, but I can share it again, maybe the Hon. Member was distracted. Revetment works, Mr. Chairman, at Kowa, Yawong and Mahdia.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure – can the Minister say what other structures are being maintained under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am accustomed listening to questions coming a special way from the Hon. Member, say maybe he omitted the second part of his question, so I will provide that bit for him. These are Kato's Workshop \$3 million, Mahdia's Workshop \$2 million, Admin Staff Quarters to fence the Chairman's quarters at \$2 million, Admin – building fence compound at \$0.8 million.

*Programme: 782 – Public works – \$109,477,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 782 – Public works – \$42,000,000**



**Mr. Bulkhan:** Project Code 1100800 – Bridges – can the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown of the respective costs for the two bridges to be constructed as well as the project specifications for the scope of works?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be the construction of a greenheart bridge at Tumong measuring 110 ft by 16 feet which will cost \$9 million and the construction of a greenheart bridge at Ireng measuring 55 by sixteen feet which will cost \$5 million.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Project Code 1401200 – Roads – we heard a short while ago that repair to the Tiger Hill portion of the road from Mango Landing to Mahdia, we were given assurance that this road will be done by the Ministry of Public Works. I am looking here at capital projects number 353 and rehabilitation for a number of roadways is listed. What I observe is that none of these roads refer to Tiger Hill's portion of the road.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister one second. The statement had been made by the Minister of Public Works. So, it would not be proper for this Minister to say that another Minister did not state so. If at all the challenge should be asked or made, it should be against the Minister that made it. The Minister of Local Government was repeating and restating a public statement made in the House by the Minister of Public Works.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I think in all fairness to the Hon. Member, what has happened is that he saw public works on the legend. The public works here are the public works that will be executable by the regional administration. The public works that we were referring to is the Public Works Ministry. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I only hope that gives some clarity.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Under the same project code, can the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown for the cost allocated for each of the activities listed under this heading?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The construction of timber culvert along Seven Miles costing \$2 Million. The Construction of concrete culvert at Apple Junction costing \$2 million, upgrading of One Mile roadway from the S-bend at Princeville costing \$3 million, rehabilitation of roadway from Paramakatoi to Bamboo Creek costing \$4 million, Tuseneng to Yawong costing \$4 million, Kowa to Kato mountain foot costing \$4 million, Taruka to Wanapati's fifteen mile stretch costing \$5 million, Kaibarupai to Waipa costing \$4 million.

*Programme: 782 – Public works – \$42,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme: 783 – Education Delivery – \$384,268,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Mr. Chairman, could the Hon. Minister provide the designations and the emoluments for the contracted employees under line item 6116.

*3.55 p.m.*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Education Officer - \$171,094; Warden - \$58,905, Senior House Supervisor II - \$58,905.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6302 - could the Hon. Minister describe the nature of the training programmes and the number of persons to benefit from these programmes?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** 25 persons are to benefit from this training and the training is for teachers in the use of information technology in classroom delivery.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Line Item 6242 - can the Hon. Minister advise which buildings are to be maintained under this programme, the nature of the works and the cost allocated to each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Maintenance works on the Paramakatoi Nursery \$3.5 million; Princeville Primary School, \$3.5 million; Paramakatoi Annex, \$6.5 million; Monkey Mountain Primary School, \$5.5 million; Paramakatoi Secondary School Dormitory \$7 million.

**Ms. Marcello:** Line Item 6292 – Dietary - can the Hon. Minister say who are the beneficiaries of this allocation?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Students of the dormitory facilities at Paramakatoi, 317 of them and at Mahdia, 65 of them.

**Mr. Chairman:** Minister is this dietary supplement or meals provided?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Meals and snacks for the students living at the dormitory.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Line Item 6284 - Other - can the Hon. Minister explain the amount budgeted, \$12,304,000 under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Payment of part-time Sweeper/Cleaners; payment for all supervision and invigilation services for all exams run by the Ministry of Education; and also a stipend to World Teach Project Trust volunteers.

**Mr. Trotman:** I want to take the Minister back to line item 6292 - Dietary. I note that the amount in 2011 increased appreciably from the amount in 2010. There is also an amount increase for 2012. I am wondering if the Minister can say how many students benefit from this service and can he also say what is the unit cost per meal per student?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The second part of the question cannot be answered because the menu changes, and so there is no unit cost to that. I should remind the Hon. Member that there are no Chinese there. There are 317 students at the Paramakatoi dormitory, and 65 students at the Mahdia dormitory.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Line Item 6255 - can the Hon. Minister provide details as to what other infrastructure are to be maintained as well as the respective amounts allocated to each, if it is more than one.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Fencing of Monkey Mountain Resource Centre, \$2 million; fencing Maikwak Teachers Quarters, \$1 million; fencing Kato Primary School, \$2 million; fence at Princeville, \$1 million; fence at El Paso, \$1 million; fence at Monkey Mountain Primary, \$1 million; Paramakatoi Primary, \$2 million; Mahdia Dormitory, \$1 million; sanitary block at Paramakatoi, \$3 million; El Paso Teachers Quarters fence \$2 million.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6281 - could the Hon. Minister state the name of the security service and whether the system of competitive bidding was complied with?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** For the latter part of the question the response is yes; the first part, Strategic Action Security Services.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6292 - I want to ask the Minister to say who provides the service and how was that contract awarded?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The contract was awarded through open tender and that is an annual feature. The meals are prepared by the contractor and supplied to the dorm at Mahdia. At Paramakatoi the cooks do the preparation and cooking but the raw materials are provided by the supplier

**Ms. Marcello:** Line Item 6221 - Drugs and Medical Supplies - can the Hon. Minister say what kind of drugs and medical supplies are being supplied to the Education Department?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These are for state kits for the schools.

**Ms. Ferguson:** A follow-up question to line item 6292 - could the Hon. Minister say to whom the contract has been awarded for the supply of dietary meals?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Suzanne's Snackette.

**Mr. Jones:** Line Item 6265 - Other Transport, Travelling and Postage - could the Hon. Minister please explain and give specifics?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This is to move text and exercise books, and items for the school feeding programme, transport furniture and exam papers across the region, and also take students from the dorms back to their place of residence at the end of each academic term.

**Mr. Jones:** Line Item 6261 - Local Travel and Subsistence - could the Hon. Minister explain who travels under this item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The officials in the education department travel to enhance their monitoring and supervision of the teaching programmes in the various schools, as well as teachers travel to attend workshops and seminars during the year.

*Programme: 783 – Education Delivery – \$384,268,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 783 – Education Delivery - \$54,000,000**

**Mr. Bulkan:** Project Code 1204400 - can the Hon. Minister kindly provide a breakdown for each of the projects listed under this heading?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of kitchen at Paramakatoi, \$7.6 million; extension of Chenapau Primary School, \$8 million; extension of Kurukabaru Primary School, \$8.6 million; construction of primary school and teachers quarters at Red Creek, \$6.8 million; rehabilitation of Mahdia Secondary School Dormitory, \$9 million.

**Ms. Ferguson:** Project Code 2504500 - could the Hon. Minister say which schools will be benefitting from the furniture and equipment?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All nursery schools in the Region; Chenapau, Chieung Mouth, Kamana, Kato, Kopinang, Bamboo Creek, Kaibarupai, Maikwak, Princeville, Monkey Mountain, and Tuseneng Primary Schools. The secondary schools are Mahdia and Paramakatoi.

**Mr. Bulkan:** A follow-up question please to the same line item. Could the Hon. Minister advise if the allocations have already been determined or are yet to be determined?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The allocations would have been determined to a certain level, and there will be some furniture in stock depending on request.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Mr. Chairman, can I seek to obtain the Hon. Minister's assurance that the Education Sub-Committee of the Region 8 Regional Democratic Council (RDC) will be integrally involved in the allocation and distribution of the furniture allocated under this heading.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not know what assurance can be given; the Education Committee in the RDC would have been part and parcel of this budget preparation and allocation.

**Ms. Marcello:** A follow-up question on the same project code - Furniture and Equipment. What type of equipment is the Minister referring to? Could he specify, please?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Purchase of school furniture, solar panels and accessories, photocopiers, air condition units, mattresses, beds and a public address system.

*Programme: 783 – Education delivery – \$54,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 784 – Health Services – \$137,621,000**

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6116 - can the Minister say what are the three categories added to the 2011 number and the emoluments for each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two doctors and one medic.

**Mr. Trotman:** The second part of the question Mr. Chair, the emoluments.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Medic - \$84,375... Sorry Mr. Chair, I provided incorrect information; I need to change that.

**Mr. Chairman:** Take your time.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Medic, Ward Maid, and Radio Operator are the three positions. Medic - \$93,754; Radio Operator - \$44,979, Ward Maid - \$35,662.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6242 - can the Hon. Minister say how many buildings fall under the purview of the Health Department in Region 8 and where they are located. Further, can the Hon. Minister name the building identified for maintenance?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, can I have a repeat of that question please, and a little slowly too?

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister say how many buildings fall under the purview of the Health Department in Region 8 and where they are located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are 20 buildings and are located in Region 8 in different communities.

**Ms. Selman:** Thank you Mr. Minister. Could you please name the communities?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am afraid I cannot do that at this stage, but I can direct the Hon. Member to a map of Region 8 where she can find not only the communities but locations.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I think the Member would be entitled to the legend or list as requested, and we would have no objection if it is provided later in the week.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chair, are we on the same thing. The Hon. Member wants to know the villages in Region 8.

**Mr. Chairman:** No, it is where the buildings are located. There may be three in one village or one, we do not know. She needs to know where in the region the buildings are located.

*[Interruption]*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Both of us will go to together. Seeing you went there you will lead me the next time. Mr. Chair, I will provide the information by next week Thursday.

**Ms. Selman:** Mr. Chairman, the other part of the question, could the Minister name the buildings identified for maintenance.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Paramakatoi Health Centre, Kato Medic Quarters, El Paso Health Hut, Kurukabaru Health Hut; Mahdia District Hospital; Mahdia District X-ray and Lab Technician Quarters.

**Ms. Marcello:** Line Item 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - can the Minister say which other infrastructure he is referring to under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Fencing at the following locations: Paramakatoi Health Centre; Kato Medic Quarters, El Paso Health Hut, Maikobi Health Hut and Princeville Health Hut.

**Ms. Marcello:** Thank you Minister. Is there any provision for the maintenance of the drugs bond at Mahdia District Hospital under any heading?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No, Mr. Chair.

**Ms. Garrido Lowe:** Line Item 6222 - Field Materials and Supplies - for \$3million. Can the Minister kindly explain what are the field items and materials?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These are general equipment required on field trips such as nets, torch lights, long boots, and weather cloaks.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mrs. Garrido-Lowe is that sufficient?

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** That is all right, thank you.

*Programme: 784 – Health Services – \$137,621,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 784 – Health Services – 34,463,000**

**Mr. Bulkan:** Project Code 1204600 - can the Hon. Minister provide the respective amounts allocated towards the two activities listed here?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Extension of Health Post Kurukabaru, \$7.4 million; construction of Health Post at Princeville, \$8.563 million.

**Ms. Marcello:** Project Code 2402200 - Land and Water Transport/Purchase of Vehicles - can the Hon. Minister say what type of vehicles will be purchased for health, where they are going and to whom?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One truck and one ATV; both would be located in Mahdia and used to assist the delivery of adequate and quality healthcare to the residents of both sub-regions in Region 8.

**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 1209100 - can the Hon. Minister state the quantity and cost of each of the relevant items purchased under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two solar panel sets and fixtures, \$1.4 million; 8 beds, \$300,000; one dining table, \$100,000; one suite, \$100,000; one television, \$50,000; six fans, \$100,000; one stove, \$200,000; one table, \$100,000; one kitchen safe, \$20,000; one refrigerator, \$130,000.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Project Code 2402200 - Land and Water Transport - Hon. Minister, I notice you said a truck and an ATV are being allocated. Why the truck instead of an ambulance or even a bus which is badly needed in the health centre at Mahdia?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chair, the two items are one truck and one ATV.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question was whether the truck is a better buy than an ambulance or a mini-bus for the Health Services Department.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chair, if any of the others vehicles mentioned can transport the drugs on a three-week basis from Georgetown to Mahdia and to Paramakatoi, then we would have considered that.



**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members the vehicle was not meant to transport persons, ill or otherwise, but to transport drugs into the region, hence the choice of vehicle.

**Mr. Bulkan:** On the same project code, can the Hon. Minister provide some more details on the truck that is intended to be purchased and the cost identified?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is a Model M truck and the cost is projected at \$5 million.

**Mr. Bulkan:** A follow-up question please - would that be a brand new truck?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is a reconditioned truck, Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Marcello:** The same project code - while the drugs are being transported quarterly there is a critical need for transporting of patients from the Mahdia District Hospital to Georgetown. We have been depending on private persons to bring them out. There was an incident where they wanted to charter a bus for \$90,000 to bring the patient out from Mahdia District Hospital to Georgetown Hospital. Why not a bus to transport patients?

**Mr. Chairman:** Minister, why not a bus to transport patients?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, then we will have to transport all the patients out here because the drugs will be out here.

A quarterly movement of drugs from the bond to the region is not correct. That is incorrect. Every three weeks that happens.

*Programme: 784 – Health Services – \$34,463,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Region 8 has been completed. Thank you very much Minister, and your technical assistants.

4.25 p.m.

**Agency: 79 Region 9: Upper Takatu/Upper Essequibo**

**Programme: 791 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$91,248,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees - I have noticed that from 2011 there is quite a significant increase from 8 to 14 in 2012, could the Hon. Minister explain what is responsible for this increase?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Six additional staff were appointed to the admin programme as contracted employees.

**Mr. Allicock:** Could the Hon. Minister say what are their designations and emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One typist clerk, one accounts clerk II, one district development officer (DDO), one assistant caretaker and one cleaner.

**Mr. Allicock:** Mr. Chairman, the other part of the question.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Typist clerk - \$41,996, accounts clerk II - \$42,249, district development officer \$49,223, caretaker - \$41,996 and cleaner - \$35,123.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6211 - Expenses specific to the Agency - could the Hon. Minister give some more explanation on this please?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line item 6211 – Expenses Specific to the Agency, caters for all the expenditure made by the Regional Democratic Councils (RDC). It includes the movement of councillors from their homestead to the meeting place and back. It entails all visitations made by members of the RDC in their official capacity, refreshment, meals, accommodations for meetings – statutory meetings as well as meetings of sub-committees – and stipend for councillors.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6284 – Other - could the Hon. Minister explain to this House what does that entail?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line item 6284 – Other, part-time porters, labourers and relief office assistants, are paid under this line item. Also, bank charges and internet services charges are under that line item.

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you very much Minister. Line item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) - could the Hon. Minister say who will this benefit?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Nineteen staff from the admin programme will benefit from this allocation by attending training at the Public Service Ministry in secretariat practice, supervisory management, information technology and accounting procedures and budgeting.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6312 – Subventions to Local Authorities - could the Hon. Minister say what does this entail?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This allocation is to meet the administrative cost for the Ireng/Sawariwau Neighbourhood Democratic Council. As we are aware that NDC is one of the few that do not collect rates and taxes.

**Mr. Harmon:** Line item 6281 – Security Services - in 2010, an allocation of \$4.1 million was made, in 2011 an allocation of \$7.9 million and \$4.2 million was actually spent, could the Hon. Minister state why or what is the reason for the increase to \$6.129 million this year?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The previous security service, Home Safe Security Service, could not have provided the number of guards required for all the locations. With the change in security service all the locations are now serviced so they have to be paid for their service.

**Mr. Harmon:** A follow up question. Could the Hon. Minister state the name of the security service providing this service?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Strategic Action Security Service Ltd.

**Mr. Harmon:** Could the Hon. Minister state by what means this contract was awarded to the Strategic Action Security Service Ltd?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** In keeping with every requirement in the Procurement Act.

**Mr. Harmon:** Could the Hon. Minister state whether this contract was advertised in Region 9 and by what means was it advertised?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This contract was advertised across this country, nationally and it was placed in all the dailies. Advertisements commenced in April 2011.

**Mr. Harmon:** Could the Hon. Minister state what he means by dailies, whether they were in fact in the *Stabroek News*, the *Kaieteur News* or what newspapers was it advertised in?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The *Guyana Chronicle Newspapers* and the procurement website.

**Mrs. Backer:** You said dailies, you are misleading the House.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Pardon me Mr. Chairman, did I say dailies? Well then I meant daily, sorry.

**Mr. Harmon:** Could the Hon. Minister state whether this contract has already been awarded?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** If it had not been awarded as yet I would not have responded to a question of what is the name of the security service.

**Mr. Harmon:** So the contract has been awarded. Could the Hon. Minister state whether this particular contract forms a part of several other contracts which were signed at the Ministry of Local Government that represents security services in all ten administrative regions?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** While I do not understand the question fully, I will volunteer a yes.

*Programme: 791- Regional Administration and Finance - \$91,248,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 791 – Regional Administration and Finance \$16,300,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Project 1204900 – Buildings – Administration, could the Hon. Minister say what is the scope of this activity, meaning what type of building will be constructed and if he could give an approximate time of commencement?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One concrete 30x30 building, one at Karasabai to accommodate the DDO (District Development Officer) who will be based in that sub-region. With regards to when the project will commence, that will only be known at the end of the procurement process.

**Mr. Allicock:** Project 2402400 – Water Transport - could the Hon. Minister state in which sector and location will this outboard engine be located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This is for the admin sector and it will be in the Kurupukari/Simoni area.

*Programme: 791 – Regional Administration and Finance \$16,300,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 792 – Agriculture - \$20,446,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6115 – Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - I have noticed there is actually a reduction of the number of workers and as my understanding goes, agriculture is supposed to be advancing in the region. Could the Hon. Minister say what strategy is now being developed?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Could the Hon. Member be specific with regards to the question? What strategy is being developed for what? I am not sure.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member said that he noticed there has been a reduction in personnel for agriculture when one is told that in the region agriculture is actually in its ascendancy. So in other words, what strategies are your ministry employing that can bring the numbers down while advancing the policies?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The present numbers are adequate to carry an effective agricultural programme in the region.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings - could the Hon. Minister say which departments or what buildings are to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The allocation is to do maintenance work on the agricultural building in Karasabai so that it can provide better accommodations for the staff and the residents when they visit that office.

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you very much. Line item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) - could the Hon. Minister say who and when will this training begin?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The training has actually commenced and this is for farmers across the region. It is to enhance farmers' skills in the use of pesticides, vaccination and the deworming of animals across the five sub-districts in the region.

**Mr. Allicock:** This is a follow up. Is there any plan to have extension workers trained so as to service the region, because it badly needs the expertise?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Actually I just heard part of my question answered. Line item 6115 – Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - would extension officers fall under this category Hon. Minister and if so, how many extension officers do you have right now?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Extension officers do not fall under this category Mr. Chairman.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Can you assist me here, which category do they fall under, thank you?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line item 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** So there are no extension officers and you have an agricultural promotion going on here in Region 9. They badly need it as far as I know, the villagers called out and they said so; they need extension officers. Thank you very much.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Whatever extension work is needed would be provided by the agricultural department and the central Ministry of Agriculture.

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6281 – Security Services - could the Hon. Minister explain the reason for the budgetary allocation in 2012? You had zero previously.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We have placed security officials at the agricultural buildings in the region and that is the reason why that allocation is there.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister name the security service?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Strategic Action Security Services Ltd.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister outline the procedure that was used?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All the procedures as stated in the Procurement Act were followed.

**Ms. Selman:** Could you direct me to the section.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I think that the Procurement Act is available in the Parliament Chambers and we can all do our little bits and get it read up.

**Mrs. Backer:** Lend us yours.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not have mine here because ...*Inaudible*

**Mr. Chairman:** The Procurement Act is a public record and Members can use the facilities of the National Assembly to obtain copies and not expect a Minister to provide Act for them.

**Ms. Teixeira:** It is on the website of the Attorney General Office, Ministry of Legal Affairs.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. I did at the commencement of the consideration of these Estimates refer to the amendment to the Act that allows for publication on the website as well.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Minister further state who the other bidders were and what were the sums offered?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The other bidders were Brans Security Service, Strategic Action Security Service and Home Safe Security and Domestic Service.

**Ms. Selman:** The amount please.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Sorry Mr. Chairman, I do not have that with me now, but it can be provided.

**Mr. Chairman:** Noted. Thank you.

*Programme: 792 – Agriculture - \$20,446,000, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 792 - Agriculture - \$15,000,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Project 1701400 – Agriculture Development and this is for the purchase of furniture and equipment. Could the Hon. Minister say whether the equipment is to be divided among the five sub-districts of Region 9?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The equipment varied and so some will definitely be used to develop agriculture across the region; some cannot be shared, such as beds.

*Programme: 792 – Agriculture - \$15,000,000, agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme: 793 – Public Works - \$107,022,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees - could the Hon. Minister say the designations and emoluments for these contractor employees?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Engineer - \$140,557; overseers - \$60,349; equipment operator - \$46,402; labourer - \$33,207; checker - \$36,229; and other equipment operator \$39,160.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants: Could the Hon. Minister say how many vehicles are in the fleet?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two trucks, one tractor, two vehicles, one ATV and one motor cycle.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings - could the Hon. Minister say what is the scope of rehabilitation works on these buildings and where these buildings are?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These buildings are located in Lethem and they are living quarters and a storage bond. The major repairs will be done to the walls, roof and ceiling. The buildings are R21, R225, R18, R80, R3, R19 and the storage bond.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads: Could the Minister say which will be the roads that are to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Internal roads Lethem, internal roads Saint Ignatius, the road into Sand Creek and the Karasabai and Annai stretch; those are the roads that will be maintained.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges - could the Hon. Minister say which bridges will be maintained.



**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Bridge at Imattawau - that is the first bridge, Aishalton - first bridge and the bridge at Waradapao, which is the first bridge, those would be the three bridges that would be maintained under this programme.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister shed some more light on this item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Rehabilitation of water trestle at Sand Creek; rehabilitation of the fences around the regional guest house in Lethem; rehabilitation of the REO's (Regional Executive Officer), chairman's, engineer's and the Regional Educational Officer quarters in Lethem.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line item 6284 – Other - could the Hon. Minister be kind enough to allow the House to know what areas or area this covers?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Advertisements of contracts under the Public Works Department; payment to the advertisement agency, the recruitment of temporary services - labour services are paid from this.

**Ms. Hastings:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees - could the Hon. Minister be kind enough to give the designation and salary of that one contracted employee?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, there are seven contracted employees there, are we at the same line item?

**Mr. Chairman:** No, because there was a mention of one. Please clarify.

**Ms. Hastings:** Contracted Employee, you have one there... *Inaudible*

**Mr. Chairman:** You withdraw. Mr. Bulkhan, please go ahead while the Member collects her thoughts.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow up to line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads, could the Hon. Minister provide the respective amounts for the roads he has listed to be maintained under this programme?

4.55p.m.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. For Lethem - \$5.5 million; Saint Ignatius - \$3 million; Sand Creek - \$5 million, Karasabai Stretch - \$5 million; Annai Stretch - \$4 million.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I ask when, those works will commence, Mr. Minister? As I know that the rainy season is on.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As soon as we can complete the procurement procedure, Mr. Chairman. I think that we will commence that procedure as soon as the Budget is approved by this House. Thank you.

*Programme: 793 – Public Works – \$107,022,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 793 – Public Works – \$125,200,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Project Code 1100900 - Bridges: Can the Hon. Minister give the scope for each of the bridges, such as the dimensions, costs and locations?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of a concrete bridge at Shea, 18ft x 15ft - \$9 million; construction at S-Turn, 18ft x 15ft, concrete structure - \$9 million; rehabilitation at Soraba, 160ft x 14ft, wooden bridge - \$14 million.

**Mr. Allicock:** Project Code 1401300 - Roads: Can the Hon. Minister give a full scope of the roads to be upgraded in all of the locations?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Culvert City, Karasabai, Sand Creek, Aishalton, Annai, Surama Road, Ruperti, Woweta and Aranaputa Roads.

**Mr. Allicock:** A follow-up to the question: Could the Hon. Minister say whether machines, such as compactors, proper sprinklers and dimension of the thickness of the laterite, would be used on these roads?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** When the contracts are drawn up, those specifications will be included in the contract.

*Programme: 793 – Public Works – \$125,200,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme: 794 – Education Delivery – \$571,937,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6223 - Office Materials and Supplies: Could the Hon. Minister say what this entails?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6223 - Office Materials and Supplies - deals with stationery, staple machines, staples, rulers, pens, along that line.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line Item 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister also explain to this honourable House what this entails?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6255 entails the maintenance of other infrastructure: fence, sanitary block and plumbing trestle and so forth.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line Item 6292 - Dietary: Could the Hon. Minister explain to this House who will be the beneficiaries of this sum?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The students at the dorms across the Region; these are at Saint Ignatius, Aishalton, Sand Creek and Annai.

**Mr. Allicock:** Line Item 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships): Again, could the Hon. Minister give us a breakdown on the training and scholarships.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The training that would be done would be at various levels of the education system: seminars and workshops for nursery, primary and secondary school teachers. Training will be done at the subject committee level. Training will also be done for the invigilators and supervisors; particularly, this year, much emphasis would be placed on training the various ancillary staff that we have at the dormitories across the Region.

**Mr. Allicock:** As a follow-up question, could the Hon. Minister say now, if not later, how many teachers will be trained since this is a very burning situation for us – trained teachers?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The number of teachers will be based on the training programmes and the identified deficiencies. Training is to correct some kind of shortfall, so that is an objective system that has to be undertaken and will be undertaken.

**Mrs. Garrido-Low:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6112 - Senior Technical: I noticed, Hon. Minister, that you have two more staff members there and that it has gone up from \$112 million to \$126 million. Can you kindly explain what the portfolios are and the emoluments? Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Because of the multi-year package signed by the Government of Guyana and the Guyana Teachers' Union, teachers get their increase early in the year and, as a result, the increase is there.

The two new persons that we have on staff are: a District Education Officer and a Typist/Clerk II.

*Programme: 794 – Education Delivery – \$571,937,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 794 – Education Delivery – \$71,500,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Project Code 1204700, Building – Education, Construction of quarters and sanitary blocks: Can the Hon. Minister give the scope for each of the teachers' quarters and sanitary blocks, such as the dimensions, cost and so on?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The two teachers' quarters, one being at Simone and the other at Annai, 30ft x 30ft, a single concrete two-bedroom apartment - \$9 million each. Concrete sanitary blocks would be constructed in the following areas, WC system: Arapaima, 15ft x 8ft - \$2.5 million; Kardritau, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million; Tiger Pond, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million; Sawariwau, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million; Shea, 24ft x 10ft, \$3.375 million; Aishalton, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million; Tipuru, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million; Shulinab, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million; Katunarib, 24ft x 10ft - \$3.375 million.

*Programme: 794 – Education Delivery – \$71,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme: 795 – Health Services – \$209,651,000**

**Mr. Chairman:** Questions, Hon. Members.

**Mr. Allcock:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6114 - Clerical and Office Support: Can the Hon. Minister explain what this means?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, “Clerical and Office Support” is a category of persons that provide typing and clerical support to the office in the health sector.

**Mr. Chairman:** Most appreciated, Minister.

**Mr. Allcock:** Line Item 6133 - Benefits and Allowances: Could the Hon. Minister say who would be the beneficiaries of this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All the employees, other than those employees under Line Item 6116, will benefit from this programme.

**Mr. Allcock:** Line Item 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings: Can the Hon. Minister say which buildings would be maintained and in which areas?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The health posts at Kwaimatta, Fairview, Shiriri, Kurupukari and Achiwuib.

**Mr. Allcock:** Line Item 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Which would be these other infrastructures, Mr. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Fencing at Maruranau, Simone, Toka ... [Dr. Norton: You are fencing the whole village.] ...Health Posts – this is a “health” programme. [Mrs. Backer: I thought you were fencing the village.] We can do that, together.

**Mr. Allcock:** Line Item 6302 - Training (Including Scholarships): What is the nature of this training and who will be the beneficiaries?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The beneficiaries will obviously be the residents of Region 9 but the programmes would be for the upgrading of community health workers, medics and nurses by way of training programmes and refresher courses for health workers across the Region.

**Mr. Allen:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6281: I have seen that the Minister has a great increase in sum from last year's budget. I am wondering if the Hon. Minister can assure this House that the department will get its monies worth in the service given here from this security service.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I hope so too. Thank you.

**Mr. Allen:** As a follow-up to that, can the Hon. Minister say if he can prove that if moneys worth of service is not being given, what action will be taken?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I think that that is very clear in the contract document but we have to provide the necessary evidence.

**Mr. Chairman:** Where there has been a breach of a contract the Attorney General's Chambers would then take over.

**Mr. Allen:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. We will do so.

*Programme: 795 – Health Services – \$209,651,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 795 – Health Services – \$35,600,000**

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Project Code 1204800, Building – Health: Can the Hon. Minister give the scope for the rehabilitation and the extension of the health post at Fairview and the construction of doctors' quarters at Sand Creek and Karasabai?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The extension of the outpost at Fairview, concrete works, 20ft x 20ft - \$4 million; the construction of the doctors' quarters at Sand Creek and Karasabai, concrete structures, 30ft x 30ft - \$9 million each.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Project Code 2402300: Could the Hon. Minister state how many bicycles are intended to be bought under this programme?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** 30 bicycles.

**Mrs. Garrido-Low:** A follow-up on the same Line Item, Land Transport: In which community will the vehicle be?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The vehicle will be based at the Karasabai Sub-office in the Region.

*Programme: 795 – Health Services – \$35,600,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

*Assembly resumed*

**Mr. Speaker:** I wish to report, Hon. Members, that all of the Expenditures and Estimates for Region 9 have been considered and approved by this Hon. House.

I had hoped that we would have completed all three Regions by this time; unfortunately it is not so. I sense a weariness setting in. I know that some Members have to leave to attend a very important meeting at 7.00 p.m. I propose that we take the suspension now but I will call you back before an hour so that we can move on with some dispatch and get it over with before 7.00 p.m. Thank you.

*Sitting suspended at 5.17 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 6.04 p.m.*

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Members. This session has resumed and we will go immediately into Committee of Supply.

*Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply*

*In Committee of Supply*

**Agency: 80 – Region 10: Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 801 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$128,983,000**

**Mr. Morian:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6116 - Contracted Employees: I would like the Hon. Minister to share with this House a breakdown of the list of employees, their positions and emoluments, please.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Assistant Regional Executive Office - \$102,133, Adjuster of Scales and Weights - \$42,192, two Accounts Clerks II - \$53,161, three Clerks II (General) - \$53,161, Receptionist - \$45,354, three Office Assistants - \$40,935, one Driver/Mechanic - \$45,354, two Drivers - \$39,127, Janitor - \$45,354, Handyman - \$35,864, Stores Attendant - \$35,864, Boat Hand - \$50,114, two Checkers - \$45,354 and Labourer - \$35,864.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6231: Could the Hon. Minister say how many vehicles are in the fleet, how many are in working condition, the ages of the vehicles and could he also say if a vehicle is assigned for the Regional Vice Chairman? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are three vehicles in the programme. One of the three vehicles is assigned to the Regional Vice Chairman.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Based on my knowledge and understanding the Regional Vice Chairman does not have a vehicle. Many times he has to use the vehicle of the Regional Chairman. Could the Hon. Minister say the registration number of the vehicle and the type of vehicle it is?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am advised that a vehicle is assigned to the Regional Vice Chairman and that vehicle number is PKK 4658.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line Item 6272 – Electricity Charges: Could the Hon. Minister explain how the administration is expected to meet the increases proposed for electricity when the allocation at Line Item 6272 - Electricity Charges, remains the same as last year?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The electricity company has a credit for the Regional Administration to the tune of \$766,000.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line Item 6293 – Refreshments and Meals: Could the Hon. Minister say whether outstanding monies owed to caterers are allowed for in this Line Item? If not, why not?



**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am unaware of the Regional Administration having any outstanding payment to persons under this Line Item.

**Ms. Kissoon:** As a follow-up: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, if I can provide this information, if he would be willing to... Persons, under the same Line Item, did not get their money.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I welcome the provision of the documents and we are dealing with Regional Administration and Finance, Line Item 6293.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I also welcome the ease with which you will take on the responsibility of a Regional Democratic Council. If in fact caterers are owed by a debt incurred by the RDC, the RDC should settle its debts. The Ministry may facilitate, but if you are good enough to assume responsibility for the debt I think that that is commendable. Thank you very much.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman...

**Mr. Chairman:** Do not bother to get up. You said that you will receive the documents. Thank you. I am sure that you will do your best, use your good offices, to take care of a situation which has not been created by you but in the Region.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to say that if there are debts I know that I can come to the House and I can get the resources.

*6.10 p.m.*

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6131 – Other Direct Labour Costs: Could the Hon. Minister state what the “Other Direct Labour Costs” are? Could he explain?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under that line item, acting allowances are being paid when persons proceed on annualised leave and others would have to act vice.

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6211 – Expenses Specific to the Agency: Could the Hon. Minister give us a breakdown of the items?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All expenses incurred by the Regional Democratic Council Region 10 would be catered for under line item 6211. That includes stipend for councillors, movement, travelling, transportation, accommodation, and meals for councillors when attending statutory as well as sub-committee meetings and for outreaches by the Regional Democratic Council.

**Mr. T. Williams:** Line item 6291 – National and Other Events: Could the Hon. Minister give a few examples of the national and other events catered for under this allocation?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This line item caters for the administrative programme to participate in the calendar activities listed under national events, including Mashramani, Independence Day and the other national holidays as prescribed.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6312 – Subventions to Local Authorities: Could the Hon. Minister indicate to this House which the local authorities will benefit from this subvention?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Ituni sub-office continues to receive a subvention from budgetary allocations in Region 10 under the administrative programme and that is where that subvention is intended for.

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6281 – Security Services – speaks to security services. My question to the Hon. Minister - this money is appropriated under Agency 80, Region 10 - why are the officials in Region 10 not allowed to procure security services? This is done by the Ministry.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The advertisement for security services for Region 10 was developed, prepared and advertised by Region 10.

**Mr. Morian:** Could the Hon. Minister say when that was done?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It was done in April, 2011.

**Mr. Morian:** I would like to ask the Hon. Minister for the names of the companies which tendered and the tendered sum.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am certain that that information is available in Region 10, but I will seek to provide.

**Mr. Chairman:** Seem that you have been so generous and you have done so well over the last two days, I would not discourage you. You have been forthcoming with information and I commend you for that.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The companies are RK's Security Services, Brans Security Services, Strategic Action Security Services, Home Safe Security and Domestic Services. I will provide the bid sums subsequently.

*Programme: 801 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$128,983,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 801 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$2,000,000**

*Programme: 801 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$2,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 802 – Public Works - \$147,986,000**

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads: Could the Hon. Minister list the number of roads that are to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Sandy carriageway - \$8 million, Hope Square, Amelias Ward - \$5.5 million, Self-Help Scheme, Middle Street, Amelias Ward - \$5.8 million, Second Street, Canvas City - \$7 million, Wisroc, internal roads - \$5 million, Casuarina Drive - \$7.2 million, First Street, Christianburg - \$5.5 million.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister explain what “Other” entails?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Staff quarters at Fairs Rust, that is the Regional Chairman's quarter - \$1.5 million, and this is fencing, landscaping, and backfilling; Regional Executive Officer (REO)'s quarters - \$1.8 million, staff quarters at Fairs Rust - \$250,000, 523 Banyaballi Street, Vice Chairman's quarters - \$800,000, 658 Industrial Area, Engineer's quarter - \$1 million, South

Amelias Ward, Superintendent's quarters - \$1,050,000, agricultural office at Christianburg - \$600,000; external work on the regional boathouse at Wismar - \$1.2 million, external works on staff quarters, No. 125, I am advised that this is occupied by the parliamentarian - \$250,000, external works on the officer's quarters - \$250,000, Assistant Regional Executive Officer (AREO)'s quarters, Kwakwani - \$450,000, officers' staff quarters, No. 135 - \$600,000 and Office quarters, REO's Secretary - \$400,000.

**Mr. Morian:** I want to revisit line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads: The Hon. Minister did relate the names of the roads. Could the Hon. Minister state what specifically is to be done on each of those roads as it relates to maintenance?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Maintenance of Roads: Upgrading of fair weather carriageway with asphalt hot mix - Allicock Road, Karakara, sandy carriageway; repairs to all weather carriageway with asphaltic concrete - Hopetown Square; hot mix asphalt for Self-Help Scheme, Amelias Ward, similarly, at second street Canvas City; asphaltic concrete - Wisroc internal roads; upgrading of fair weather carriageway with asphalt hot mix - Casuarina Drive; sand seal with Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST) finish - First Street, Christianburg, Wismar.

**Mr. T. Williams:** Project 140100 – Roads: Could the Hon. Minister say what distance of road will be rehabilitated in Kwakwani and what type of works will be done?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I think the Hon. Member is ahead of us. He is on the capital expenditure and we are still on the current expenditure. So I will take that question when we get to the capital expenditure.

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6252 speaks to the maintenance of bridges. Could the Hon. Minister state for us, here, which bridges are to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The bridge at Fourth and Middle Streets, Silvertown, Wismar, will be repaired to the tune of \$800,000; repairs and maintenance to access bridge, Second Alley, Wismar - \$600,000; repairs to timber bridge, Second and Middle Streets, Silvertown - \$800,000.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: I wonder if the Minister can say how many buildings are under the purview of the Public Works Department of the regional

administration, where they are allocated and, if not all of them are slated for maintenance, which are and what are the relevant costs for each building.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are twenty buildings under the Public Works Department and fifteen of them are slated for renovation works and five are not. The fifteen buildings are Fairs Rust, that is, building one, at a cost of \$1.7 million. The first structure is the Regional Chairman's quarters.

**Mr. Chairman:** At the end of that exercise, Hon. Minister, could you share that list?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I can provide you with the contents, but not in this format.

**Mr. Chairman:** Go ahead as quickly as possible.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Fair's Rust - \$1.7 million, Retrieve, Linden, REO's quarters - \$1.7 million, Retrieve, Vice Chairman's quarters - \$450,000, Retrieve, house, No. 133 - \$450,000, Industrial Area, Engineer's quarters - \$1.2 million, Senior Superintendent of Works' quarters, Amelias Ward - \$1.2 million, RDC, main building, Republic Avenue - \$3.28 million, sub-office, Kwakwani Park - \$1.2 million, sub-store bottom flat, annexe building, Wismar St. - \$800,000, wooden building, house, No. 135, Retrieve - \$600,000, house, No. 125, Retrieve - \$450,000, Probation Officer's quarters - \$500,000, staff quarters at Crabwood Street - \$1.2 million and Amerindian Hostel, Burnham Drive - \$2.2 million.

**Ms. Kisson:** It is just some clarification, because I had asked under line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - and the Hon. Minister gave me staff quarters at Fairs Rust, he said that that is the Regional Chairman's house, as \$1.5 million, REO's house at Retrieve, which I think he said is \$1.8 million and house, No. 133 - \$250,000. Now, under line item 6242, Maintenance of Buildings, the Hon. Minister said that Fairs Rust, Regional Chairman's house, is \$1.7 million and house, No. 133, has now gone to \$400,000.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** If we just pay attention to the legend, line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - that is outside work, and I can recall saying fences and whatever. Maintenance of buildings is the internal work on the building in itself.

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure, the same item which seems to be contentious: Could the Hon. Minister provide for us a printout of the works and areas to be covered under line item 6255? I think that would erase all of the jiggery-pokery

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. If that request had come earlier, I would have acceded to it. I went through this entire list. I guess that the Hon. Member took note. If the Hon. Member had opted to have the information before, I would have so do, but we cannot do it double.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, Hon. Ministers, let us try to assist each other. There are different Members with different constituents and matters that they would wish to concentrate and attend to, and I think I would do no harm if the list is actually available. Even though the question has been asked, if it can be supplied without comprising your Ministry or bringing it down, supply it. We cannot instruct or demand, but I would ask that we assist each other and in that way the work will progress quite smoothly.

*Programme: 802 – Public Works - \$147,986,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 802 – Public Works - \$110,125,000**

**Ms. Kissoon:** Project 1101000 – Bridges: Could the Hon. Minister say how much of this allocated amount will be spent on the construction of the bridges at West Watooka and Plantation Fairs Rust?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The construction of the bridge and revetment at West Watooka, fifteen feet by twenty feet, would be \$4.5 million, and the construction of the bridge at Plantation Fairs Rust, fourteen feet by eighteen feet, would be \$3.4 million.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Could the Hon. Minister say to us what criteria were used to arrive at the decision to build a bridge at Plantation Fairs Rust?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That would have been part of the budgetary submission that came from the Regional Democratic Council Region 10 and I think that it would have been well informed in terms of what it wanted to do.

**Mr. Morian:** Project 1401400 – Roads: Could the Hon. Minister say to us the number of roads to be rehabilitated, name the roads and the kind of work to be done on each of them?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be the upgrading of fair weather carriageway with DBST and sand seal, Riverside Drive, Watooka - \$5 million; rehabilitation and upgrading of fair weather carriageway, Wisroc to DBST finish, Wismar - \$9 million; rehabilitation of internal access roads, Kwakwani to DBST, and fair weather surface, Berbice River - \$15 million; rehabilitation of fair weather to DBST surface, Fifth Street, Silvertown - \$5 million; rehabilitation of fair weather surface, Middle Street, Silvertown - \$4 million and rehabilitation of fair weather surface, Silvertown, hill foot, Jordan Road - \$2 million.

**Mr. Morian:** Project 1901700 – Infrastructural Development: The legend speaks to construction of drainage systems. Could the Hon. Minister say what are the drainage systems to be upgraded and where they are located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Project 1901700 – Infrastructural Development: Construction of revetment, land filling, and erosion control in upper Cinderella City - \$6 million; upgrading of drainage systems in central Mackenzie district - \$15 million; construction of revetment and erosion control structure, Wismar Street, riverside - \$9 million; upgrading of drainage system and installation of High Density Polyethylene Pipe (HDPE) culverts, head walls and revetments, Casuarina Drive - \$8,775,000.

*Programme: 802 – Public Works - \$110,125,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 803 – Education Delivery - \$1,188,544,000**

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: Could the Hon. Minister say how much of this money would be spent on repairs to teachers’ quarters at Blueberry Hill, Retrieve, and if any will be spent at Anarika?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Maintenance of Buildings: Department of Education - \$1 million, Coomacka Primary School, Coomacka Mines - \$1.7 million, Pine Street Nursery School, Industrial Area - \$400,000, Kimbia Primary School, Berbice River - \$2.5 million, New Silver City Secondary School, Canvas City - \$1million, Mabura Hill Primary School - \$1 million, Hururu Primary School, Berbice River - \$2.5 million, Amelias Ward students’ hostel, Amelias Ward - \$600,000, Wisburg Secondary School - \$600,000, Damien New Hope Primary School - \$1.2 million, St. Lust Primary, Berbice River - \$2.5 million, teacher’s quarter, St. Lust, Berbice River - \$2 million and Linden Foundation Secondary School, central Amelias Ward - \$2.5 million...

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Minister.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Sorry Mr. Chairman, but I am not finished.

**Mr. Chairman:** There is no need to apologise.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** ...Watooka Day Primary School - \$1.2 million, Wismar Hill Nursery School - \$600,000, Amelias Ward Primary School - \$3 million, Regma Primary School, Retrieve - \$1.8 million, Mackenzie Primary School - \$2.5 million, Kwakwani Primary School - \$4 million, 47 Miles, Mabura Road - \$1.5 million, Howell Wilson Primary School - \$2.5 million, Great Fall Primary School, Demerara River - \$2.5 million, De Velde Primary School - \$2 million, One Mile Primary School, Wismar - \$2.5 million, Mackenzie High School, Purple Heart Street - \$2.5 million, Lichas Hall, Purple Heart Street - \$600,000; Regional Education Officer’s quarter - Fairs Rust - \$600,000, Maria Henrietta, Berbice River - \$800,000, Kibilibiri, Berbice River - \$500,000, Atonement Primary School, Berbice River - \$1 million, teachers’ quarters, at Atonement - \$2 million, Sand Hills Primary, Berbice River - \$800,000, Mount Carmel Primary School, Berbice River - \$600,000, teachers’ house, De Velde - \$1.5 million and Wismar Primary School - \$2.5 million

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, how many more do you have?



**Mr. G. Persaud:** I have one more page. Kalkuni Primary - \$2.5 million, teachers' quarters, Kalkuni - \$600,000, Wiruni Nursery School - \$600,000, Aroaima Primary School - \$4.5 million, teachers' quarters at Aroaima - \$4.7 million.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think the question had to do with Blueberry Hill.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, if the enquiry is not reflected here, then the response...

**Mr. Chairman:** That is very ingenious.

**Ms. Kisson:** Could the Hon. Minister say if there will be any works or repair to be done to the teachers' quarters at Blueberry Hill?

**Mr. Chairman:** It is specifically to Blueberry Hill.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Should I go through the list again?

**Mr. Chairman:** No Sir. I need you to just say whether or not there are works earmarked for Blueberry Hill. Is it yes or no?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Kisson:** The Hon. Minister did not say whether works are earmarked for the teachers' quarters at Retrieve, excepting house, No.133.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, could the Hon. Member repeat the question?

**Mr. Chairman:** Are works earmarked for the teachers' quarters at Retrieve, excepting house, No. 133? Hon. Members, I would like for us to end in five minutes so that the teams may go off to conduct their business.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Public Works, Programme 2, I think that I alluded to that. It is not under this programme.

*6.40 p.m.*

**Mr. Morian:** It is the same line item. Could the Hon. Minister make that list, which he just read from, available to us please?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, the question is whether or not you can make that list available.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Will do as you advised earlier, Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line item 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister say whether at the Anarika Primary School the compound will be maintained and if money is allocated for the recreational facility?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6294 - Other: Would the Hon. Minister give us a breakdown under “Other” please?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under the education programme, there is so often that performance of excellence has to be rewarded and so at the students and teachers level trophies and tokens are provided as a reflection of the appreciation for their disciplined, dedicated and committed service. Also, from the line item 6292 - Other - a stipend is paid to the work study students.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line item 6272 - Electricity Charges: Could the Hon. Minister tell us whether the \$200, 000, increases in this line item, is to meet the additional expenses for the extensions and constructions of the education building, as proposed, on page 467, and not the increase that has proposed by the Minister of Finance?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes. The increase is catered for and, as I said, the utility company has credit for the regional administration.

*Programme: 803 – Education Delivery – \$1,188,544,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 803 - Education Delivery - \$58,500,000**

*Programme: 803 – Education Delivery – \$58,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 804 – Health Services - \$251,021,000**

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line item 6221 - Drugs and Medical Supplies: Could the Hon. Minister say if this amount represents the total value of drugs sent to Region 10 and where do those drugs go?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This sum of money reflects only an allocation to deal with emergency drugs. If there is an urgent need then this allocation would be used to provide that. The central drug bond provides the bulk of request on a monthly basis.

**Mr. Morian:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: Could the Hon. Minister give us information as to which buildings, where there are located and what is to be done on each building?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These are all health posts: Health post, Rockstone, work to the floor, roof, and cupboards - \$400,000, health post, Malali, service of roof, floor, cupboards and wall - \$600,000, health post at Muritaro, repairs to doors, locks and electrical repairs - \$500,000, staff quarters at Sand Hill, general repairs, maintenance of staff quarters, service roof, repainting - \$600,000, health post at Sand Hill, general repairs and maintenance, tiling floor, electrical repairs, building of cupboards - \$500,000, health post at Kumaka, Demerara River, repaint inside of building, repaint cupboards, storeroom, build shelves - \$600,000, health post at Number 58 Miles, cupboards - \$300,000, health post at Great Fall, repairs and maintenance, repairs to ceilings - \$500,000, health post at Riverview, extend waiting room, storeroom, repairs and maintenance - \$800,000, health post at Number 47 Miles, build storeroom, service roof - \$600,000, health post at Three Friends, build cupboards, repairs to tiles - \$500,000, health post at Old England, minor repairs and maintenance - \$600,000, health post at West Watooka, electrical repairs, replace louvers, repairs to doors, extend waiting room, repainting - \$600,000, health post at Kimbia, repair and maintenance to roof, floor - \$800,000, health post at Kumaka, Berbice River, repairs and maintenance to walls, ceiling, roof - \$600,000, health centre at Christianburg, cupboards, repainting, changing windows, servicing roof, electrical repairs - \$600,000, staff quarters at Christianburg, repairs and maintenance to cupboards, door locks, tiling and electrical repairs - \$400,000, health centre at Kwakwani, cupboards, ceiling fans, repairs to windows – \$600,000, staff quarters at Kwakwani, general repairs - \$800,000, health centre at Wiruni, repairs to doors, locks, termite treatment - \$800,000, staff quarters at Wiruni - \$600,000, health centre at One

Mile, shelves, termite treatment, overhead fans, tiling floor - \$600,000, health centre at Amelia's Ward, sink and cupboards, repair and maintenance, change windows, service roof, bat proof ceiling fans - \$600,000, health centre at Wisroc, overhead fans, repainting inside, electrical repairs - \$800,000, health centre at Ituni, repair and maintenance to walls, roof - \$600,000, staff quarters at Ituni, repairs and maintenance - \$800,000, health centre at De Velde, repairs and maintenance, termite treatment, bat proof, repainting - \$800,000, staff quarters at De Velde, repairs and maintenance to shed to both stairways – \$600,000, health centre at Kalkuni, repairs and maintenance to walls and ceilings - \$600,000, health centre at Vivian Paris, tiling floor repairs to ceiling, termite treatment and repainting - \$800,000.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Could the Hon. Minister, under line item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) - say how many persons would be trained and could he also indicate whether any technician will be trained to operate the ultrasound machine at the Linden Hospital Complex?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Several training interventions would be done under this allocation. There will be four Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention workshops for residents and health workers in the region, two oral health workshops for health workers and residents within the region, three environmental health workshops would be held. Also there would be three Expanded Programme in Immunisation (EPI) and Maternity and Child Health (MCH) reviews within the region.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Could the Hon. Minister say if there will be a technician to operate the ultra sound machine and if not, why? Because it is about two years that the ultrasound machine has not been working, and if the Minister is prepared to help out, in this area, to get somebody to be trained, so that the residents of Region 10 would benefit, especially the pregnant mothers.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We await the proposal from the regional administration and then we will follow up.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Line item 6272 – Electricity Charges: Could the Hon. Minister tell us whether any consideration was given to the proposed increase in electricity charges, given the reduction by \$200, 000 to a reduction of \$800, 000 in 2012, taking into consideration that \$1 million was spent in 2011?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am really happy that the Hon. Member would have raised that. Under this allocation the utility company is holding a credit in excess of \$500,000 for the regional administration. So the increases will be taken care of.

*Programme: 804 – Health Services – \$251,021,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 804 – Health Services - \$51,200,000**

**Mr. Morian:** Project 2403500 – Land and Water Transport – Health: Could the Hon. Minister state where this ambulance will be located, the amount of boats to be purchased and where they will be located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The ambulance would be located at Number 58 Miles - Great Fall Health Post. It will be for an estimated cost of \$12 million.

**Ms. Kissoon:** Project 1205300 – Buildings – Health: Could the Hon. Minister say to us the amount for the rehabilitation of Kwakwani Hospital and also the cost of and construction and dimensions of the staff quarters at Kwakwani and the Medex quarters at Hururu?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The amount will be - for the rehabilitation of the Kwakwani Hospital, two thousand four hundred square feet - \$10 million, construction of staff quarters at Kwakwani, thirty by forty square feet, Berbice River - \$10 million and the construction of Medex quarters at Hururu, twenty-eight by thirty-six square feet - \$5 million.

**Mr. Morian:** Mr. Chairman, the other part of the question was not answered. Project 2403500 – Land and Water Transport – Health: What are the amount of boats to be purchased and where they are going to be located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** My apologies to the Hon. Member for not getting the other part of the question. Three aluminium boats will be purchased and those boats will be at the De Velde Health Centre, Riverview Health Post and Kalkuni Health Post.

*Programme: 804 – Health Services - \$51,200, 000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, I would like to compliment all of you, and particularly the Minister and his technical staff for two days of gruelling and exposing questions. Thank you Minister and thank you Members, because I believe, as you were reminded recently, all politics is local and the local residents of these regions will hopefully benefit and the Members, who have asked the questions, will follow what has been going on. Thank you very much.

This concludes our business for this evening. We will now resume into Assembly. Thank you Minister most kindly.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Let me, on behalf of all of us at the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and from the ten regional administrations, express our profound thanks and gratitude to every Member of this House, including you and the Deputy Speaker, for the support given to us during the consideration of the Estimates in the Committee of Supply. We wish to commit that all the programmes and projects, which have been approved in our budget, we will work very feverishly to see that they all are implemented to bring greater joy and satisfaction into the lives of our people across the nation.

*Assembly resumed.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, it is shortly before 7 p.m. and before I ask the Hon. Prime Minister to move the motion, let me just say thank you. This concludes our business for today. I know that Members comprising the different parties of this Assembly will be meeting shortly. Please know that all of you go with our goodwill and our moral support. We know that much is expected of you. We also know that you have what it takes to deliver what is best in the interest of our beloved nation, so we expect to hear good news, perhaps later this evening, from you all. We will see you back here tomorrow.

**Mr. Hinds:** I now move that the House be adjourned to tomorrow at 2 o' clock.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the House is adjourned until 2 p.m., sharp, tomorrow.

*Adjourned accordingly at 6.58 p.m.*