

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

OFFICIAL REPORT

[VOLUME 5]

**PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE
CONSTITUTION OF GUYANA**

35th Sitting

2.00 p.m.

Tuesday, 14th December, 1971

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government

People's National Congress

Elected Ministers

Prime Minister (1)

The Hon. L.F.S Burnham, S.C.,
Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Dr. the Hon. P.A. Reid,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture

Senior Minister (9)

The Hon .M. Kasim, A.A.,
Minister of Communication

The Hon. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,
Minister of Finance

The Hon. W.G. Carrington,
Minister of Labour and Social Security

The Hon. Miss S.M. Feild-Ridley,
Minister of Health

(Absent - on leave)

The Hon. B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House)

The Hon. D.A. Singh,
Minister of Trade

The Hon. O.E. Clarke,
Minister of Home Affair

The Hon. C.V. Mingo,
Minister of Local Government

The Hon. W. Haynes,
Minister of State for Co. operatives and
Community Development

(Absent - on leave)

Appointed Ministers (5)

The Hon. S.S. Ramphal, S.C.,
Attorney- General and Minister of the State

(Absent)

The Hon. H. Green,
Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

The Hon. H.O. Jack,
Minister of Mines and Forests

The Hon. E.B. McDavid,
Minister of Information and Culture

The Hon. C.L. Baird,
Minister of Education

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr. P. Duncan, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. A. Salim,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. J.R. Thomas,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

Other Members (14)

Mr. J.N. Aaron
Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip
Mr. K. Bancroft
Mr. N.J. Bissember
Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
Mr. E.F. Correia
Mr. M. Corrica
Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
Mr. R.J. Jordan
Mr. S.M. Saffee
Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition

People's Progressive Party (18)

Dr. C.B. Jagan,
Leader of the Opposition
Mr. Ram Karran
Mr. R. Chandisingh
Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.
Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker

Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip (Absent - on leave)
Mr. G. F. Lall, J.P.
Mr. M.Y. Ally
Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.
Mr. E. M. Stoby, J.P.
Mr. R. Ally (Absent)
Mr. E. L. Ambrose
Mrs. L.M. Braco
Mr. Balchand Persaud
Mr. Bhola Persaud (Absent - on leave)
Mr. I. R. Remington, J.P.
Mr. L. R. Durant
Mr. V. Teekah

United Forces (3)

Mrs. E. DaSilva
Mr. M.F. Singh -Absent
Mr. J. A. Sutton

Independent (1)

Mr. R.E. Cheeks

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly- Mr. A.F. Narain
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly- Mr. M. B. Henry

The National Assembly met at 2 p.m.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair.]

Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**LEAVE TO MEMBER**

Mr. Speaker: Leave has been granted to hon. Member Mr. Bholu Persaud for a future period of three months from today.

INTERRUPTIONS AND POINTS OF ORDER

Hon. Members, I would also wish to draw to your attention Rule 34 of the Standing Orders:

“Subject to these Standing Orders, no Member shall interrupt another Member except:

- a) By raising to a point of order, when the Member shall resume his seat and the Member interrupting shall simply direct attention to the point which he desires to bring to notice and submit to the Speaker or Chairman for decision; or
- b) To elucidate some matter raised by the Member in the course of his speech, provided that the Member speaking is willing to give way and resume his seat and that the Member wishing to interrupt is called by the Chair.”

And to turn to the fine points of order, the Parliamentary Dictionary states:

“A member who wishes to raise a point of order, that is, to call the attention of the Speaker or the Chairman to what he believes is a breach in order and, if necessary, to ask his opinion there on, may interrupt another member’s speech for the purpose; the other member must sit down.”

Members have been in the habit of rising to a point of order to explain that they did not say this or they did not say that. That, as I understand it, is not a point of order.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PRIME MINISTER

To turn to a more pleasing observation, hon. Members, I am sure that you would wish me, on your behalf and on my own to express congratulations and best wishes to the hon. Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham for having been elected to high office of Prime Minister exactly seven years ago, today, Tuesday, 14th December. *[Applause]*

The Prime Minister (Mr. Burnham): Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted under rule 34 to thank you very much for your congratulations and kind remarks. During the seven years, I have done what I consider to be the best for my country, Guyana, and I have reason to believe I still have, in spite of my increased gray hairs, a number of years more to give my service to Guyana -*[Interruption]*- and some of my friends are already forgetful of rule 34. I should also say that I shall always enjoy being on the opposite side of the House to my good friend and ex-colleague, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Leader of the Opposition (Dr. Jagan): The Minister of Labour in his speech yesterday made what I consider to be erroneous statement and this is how it was put in the Government's paper, the P.N.C. paper, the *Daily Chronicle*. I quote today's paper.

“He said the Guyana Agricultural Workers' Union- G.A.W.U- was pressing for a poll to replace the existing survey system approved by the Trade Union Council, but the former system could subject the workers to political pressure.

Mr. Carrington said his Ministry was now working towards implementing an effective system to resolve the recognition dispute, and he had invited the Opposition Leader Dr. Jagan, to take part in the discussion but no reply had yet come from Dr. Jagan.”

After hearing from the Minister by letter, I replied to him on the 8th October, 1971 as followed:

“Dear Sir,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter inviting the PPP Opposition to take part in the work of the Commission of Enquiry for the purpose of formulating a Labour Code.

As you are no doubt aware, the PPP have always been in favour of the Labour Code for the setting out of the rights, privileges and obligations of the workers. This point was made clear in 1963 to the TUC and to the Oppositions, (now the Government) when the PPP Government attempted to enact a Labour Relations Law which would provide for the poll in cases of jurisdictional disputes for the purpose of collective bargaining.

The PPP does not have any objections to serving on a Commission to prepare a Labour Code. But I do not see this as a substitute for the public undertaking given by the Prime Minister for the setting up of machinery for the ascertainment of the will of the workers in the sugar industry, as, for instance, has been recently done in the case of the election of estate sugar- cane checkers. As you are aware, jurisdictional disputes have long be-devilled industrial relations in the sugar industry, and this issue should be settled now and not in the indefinite future via a Labour Code.

I wish to refer here to the fact that the TUC, though proposing the enactment of a Code, agreed to the principle of a poll and expressed reservation only as regards the machinery for carry out a poll which proposed in the 1963 Labour Relations Bill. For your information, I attached the relevant section of the TUC memorandum on this matter.

Mr. Minister, I suggest that you take immediate steps to implement such measures as would fulfil the undertaking given by the Prime Minister to the sugar workers particularly and the nation generally. Failure to do so would be regarded as breach of faith, and responsibility for any industrial unrest will be yours and that of the Government of which you are a member.”

The attachment as I said referred to the memorandum which the Trades Union Council had put up and in this memorandum it is clearly stated that the T.U.C. was not opposed to a poll. What it was opposed to was that machinery would be manipulated by the then Government in order to defeat the objectives of what the T.U.C. referred as free trade unionism in the country and also to destroy, as T.U.C. put it, unions which were opposed to the Government.

I refer to that because I think the Minister was giving a wrong impression to the House, and he is really falling back on the old device which, in 1963, was sought by the Trade Union

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Council in not accepting the Bill which was then before the House, and which a previous Trades Union Council in 1953 had accepted. When the Minister says that this is an old question which has not been solved by the People's Progressive Party over many years, he not putting the issue properly before this country and before the House.

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He is aware on two occasions the P.P.P. Government tried to enact such a law. On one occasion the British warships came and the Constitution was suspended. At that time the hon. Prime Minister was a member of the Government. In 1963, the P.N.C. was in the Opposition and that was when the then Leader of the Opposition, now Prime Minister, issued his famous dictum that the Labour Relation Bill was not the cause of *causa belli*, but the *casus belli*. This is now history.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Leader of Opposition, all you are required to do is give a personal explanation.

Dr. Jagan: I have done that.

Mr. Speaker: That is an end of the matter. Also, I have committed myself to giving you permission to make a personal explanation, but I observe that the nature of the personal explanation should also be made known.

Dr. Jagan: I told you about it.

Mr. Speaker: It was not a full explanation. I just thought of drawing your attention to it.

PUBLIC BUSINESS**MOTION****APPROVAL OF ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE 1972****BUDGET DEBATE**

Mr. Speaker: The Assembly will resume the debate on the Motion for the approval of the estimates of expenditure for the year 1972. When the Adjournment was taken at the sitting the hon. Minister of Trade was speaking. The Minister has spoken for 13 minutes and may now continue.

The Minister of Trade (Mr. D.A. Singh): Mr. Speaker, when, according to the Press- or, at least, to one section of the Press- I was visibly taken aback yesterday afternoon, I was rounding off a point I was making, which has relevance to what I will say in a little while. I said, speaking for myself, because of the nature of the criticisms of the Opposition and the Opposition forces in this country, the Opposition in Parliament should be comprehensively ignored. I stand by that statement.

If the time comes when the Opposition will stand by its promise to co-operate, will criticise constructively and will make contributions in the nature of that made by my hon. and learned Friend, Dr. Fenton Ramsahoye, then it should be considered. Otherwise, if the People's National Congress, which is the party in Government, has a programme the People's National Congress must pursue the implementation of the programme relentlessly and without reference with niggling criticisms of the Opposition. I was making that point to proceed to the next point.

We have a programme, a programme which must require every Guyanese to mobilise himself and his resources for the benefit of himself and his country. This will involve some hard decisions to be taken by the Government and carried out by the people.

If we have in our midst those who are prepared to disrupt this programme, without any concern for its effect on the people and the economy of this country, then, I repeat, we must ignore them and proceed with our programme. We must proceed to mobilise all the people in this country behind the P.N.C. and the policy of the P.N.C. The time has come for everybody to realise that. I think the time is far past when we must continue to nice, when we must continue to listen to them and to pat them on the back.

They are in the Opposition; this constitutional right. This position is enshrined in the Constitution, but what is not enshrined in the Constitution is for the Opposition to gain mileage at the expense of the Government or the governing party. Therefore, let us proceed with our programme. Let us proceed to mobilise everyone to carry out this programme and, believe me, if we succeed, not all the way, but some of the way, this programme will show the vision of the Leader and the leadership of the People's National Congress.

Yesterday I mentioned certain little niggling things, such as the remark of my hon. Friend, Mr. Yacoob Ally, about garlic and Lactogen and his criticism, in the vein, of the External Trade Bureau. The External Trade Bureau has been established as a result of a deliberate policy. The External Trade Bureau has done a number of things which those on the other side would never admit, because it would hurt the type of criticism that they want to make. There was, indeed, a shortage of garlic in this country. There is not a shortage of garlic in this country today because 200,000 lbs. of garlic came into the country yesterday. I knew that there would have been a shortage, but you must try to find out the reason. There was a proposed price for garlic from a single firm and had it not been for the E.T.B. we would never have been able to monitor this type of thing.

A single firm, through local importer, proposed a price for garlic which was pushing the present price three times up. As competent authority, I said we would not import; we would search for other suppliers. This we did. What has come in is still dearer than the present street price, but it is cheaper than the shipment that would have come in had it not been for the External Trade Bureau.

Indeed there was a shortage of garlic because of this and, indeed, some of the sharks, with whom some of my friends are in cohorts, pushed the price up. Somebody said that the law or politics work in devious ways. Today there is garlic in the country at half the price of what it would have been selling at the shipment of garlic come in and, had it been for the External Trade Bureau, the person who was importing would have imported merely to satisfy the local demand. He was not concerned with the price that people would have to pay for it.

The hon. Minister, Mrs. DaSilva, made a point about Lactogen. We can go on making points about prices of goods that was imported into Guyana. We do not control these prices at the source. We cannot control them. We have to pay what prices are asked for them, and therefore we come back to the basic point made in the Budget Speech that we must produce more. There will be incentive to these who will produce more.

How do we control the price of Lactogen at source? We can control the price here. We can keep it down here. We can keep it down here, but if the only people who supply Lactogen say that you must pay \$10 a tin for it, if you want it, you have to pay \$10.

There is another thing. The Guyanese people and the Guyanese nation started at the top.

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The imperialists taught us high standard of living. We inherited that high standard of living, because of that we want lactogen. If you bring another brand in that as good as lactogen

you will hear howls from those who want to oppose that lactogen is the best although when you put it under the test the other one is just as good and I have an example on my desk, I trying to show hon. Members what the E.T.B. is doing. Quaker oats and Dolly oats, "quaker" and "dolly" are names, the oats are the same but Quaker oats cost more than Dolly. So what decision do we make? The decision you have to take is this. Do we allow both quaker and dolly, which is a proposal that is being supported by those who belong to this free economy: "Bring both. Who can buy Quaker let him buy Quaker who can buy Dolly let him buy Dolly". That is not the policy of the Government. If Quaker and Dolly are equal are equal quality, to save people from themselves the External Trade Bureau must take the decision to bring in the cheaper brand. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of areas like this to look at, but will need the co-operation of the people, the people will have to understand what the Government is doing for them. Because if you go in the shop and cannot find Quaker oats and you must have oats then you are going to have Dolly oats. With the pressure salesmanship there is in the country- they are going to sell Quaker in front of Dolly because it has a name that rings in people's ears. Therefore, the Government's attitude is to remove the brand and bring the cheaper one as long as the quality is good.

This brings me back to my basic point. We do not produce cement. You cannot tell the people who produce it what to sell it at, therefore, we must produce cement. It is as simple as that. My hon. Uncle says that we must import more.

Mr. Speaker: Who is your hon. Uncle? *[Laughter]*

Mr. David Singh: The hon. Member Mr. Goberdam Harry Lall. He says that you must import more so that people will have a greater purchasing power. Mr. Speaker, that does not seem to be going in the right direction at all. Bit you see we have people who will say that type of thing, who are still wearing suits. In the highest forum of the land we have changed to wearing shirt jacks; there are some who still where their suits. In a hot climate people wear all-wool made in England which material cost \$14, \$15, and \$20 a yard.*[Interruption]*

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members on Front Bench please be good enough to set an example.

Mr. David Singh: Mr. Speaker, these people believe in the order to have this status you must have suit. When you ask these big men why they continue to wear the suits they give the answer which is chronic to some of the things that are happening in this society: "I must wear what I want to wear." I feel with that type of attitude you will hardly be able to change the person's philosophy and therefore we must remove the temptation for him to carry out that way of thinking by making it impossible for him to buy all-wool suits in a country of 80 degree temperature. More than that, sir, they do not try to see in it that the shirt jacket has obviously meant something to the reduction to the cost of clothing because it is cheaper.

I hope that change is going to come slowly. Perhaps my friend on the Opposition Benches will see that it is a necessary change to save people from themselves. This is why I made the point that if you do not want people to buy Quaker oats you must have Quaker oats. I am not saying that you are going to remove all the oats; I am not saying that if you have two items because they are expensive items we must move them out. They will be moved we have got substitutes or when we are producing locally. The argument is this: in that country people can buy what they want. By using high pressure salesmanship things are sold to people who can ill afford it because these items are advertised in the press and on the radio saying that these things are good to keep you young. You have even the younger fellows going to the shops and are buying these things to keep their youth.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is that we must try to educate our people. The Opposition will do well to start assisting us in this exercise. As I see it, it is the P.N.C. that will have to do it, and the P.N.C. will do it. People should be educated in to buying things that are necessary; things that will get cheaper brands. We have the case of tomato paste. That is what people must understand. We will produce, but until we produce we must control people's areas of operation, we will have to remove the brand.

I think the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran made an important point and supports my argument. He spoke about corned beef and fowl foot, we do not produce it here but the people want corned beef.

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The next price on corned beef, which will come, is very high because, as you know, Argentina, which used to supply corned beef to this country, is now out of production. Because of foot and mouth disease, they will not produce corned beef for two years but still, in spite of the high quality of beef sold by my hon. Friend Mr. Yacoob Ally, people want corned beef, and so up to now we have to import it, but it hurts the Government to import corned beef to be sold at something like \$1.50. Argentina cannot produce corned beef: the only source will sell here at \$1.50. We try to import from France and it comes with a fowl's foot. It is the taste of the people which slowly and surely we will change.

The hon. Member Mr. Harry Lall made the point that the purchasing power of the small man had been reduced, because imports had dropped. It is a fact that there has been a drop in imports but purchasing power of the small man was not reduced because the drop in import is in an area where the small man does not reach. In fact, for the first six months of 1971, food imports jumped by \$2 million and the drop in the imports was really in the machinery and transport equipment which dropped by \$10 million, so if we are going to look for the purchasing power of the small man we must find it in the food and textile area and there has been no drop.

To sum up my little contribution to this debate, I should like to just emphasise one or two points. We have inherited habits; we have inherited a way of life that is based, to a very great degree, on imported goods, and imported standards. In order for this country to go forward, we must within our – selves take conscious decisions to change those habits, to produce more locally, and to import less. We must be indigenious. Sir, if you went into one of the dress shops,

every single fashion book there is produced abroad and none of the people to whom the clothes are put to prove the fashion looks like any one of us here, but that is the type of thing we have taken over. This was the standard that was set for us and those who set the standard never tried to instil in our people that in order to maintain that standard we must produce and produce more. Therefore, in very simple language, it is necessary for us to produce more which will have the direct result of importing less.

We have some staggering figures in this country. The Guyanese nation consumes 20 million pounds of potatoes every year. The Guyanese nation consumes 2 million pounds of split peas every year. These are some examples of things that we can grow here. Perhaps I should give of a little bit of my experience. Split peas are used primarily in Guyana right across the country to make dhol. Dhol is not split peas. Dhol the end product. For seven days recently, those who have been to India will bear this out, we had no dhol in India made with split peas, and there are several kinds of dhol. We have got accustomed to eating split peas dhol. It is necessary for this whole nation to realise that we have been living at a standard which is not matched by our rate of production and therefore, we must consciously take the decision to produce more and consequently import less.

One final point. The hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye made the important point that quite a large part of our hire purchase credit goes towards the purchase of consumer durables. Here again. I will put it very simple. A lot of people want to buy motor cars and motor cycles when they really cannot afford to do so. It is not their fault. It is this high – powered salesmanship. One goes into a shop and sees \$110, and signs the agreement, he realises that he is paying 20 per cent interest for two years.

These are the things about which people must know. High – pressure salesmanship. High – pressure advertising puts people in a position to spend money that they can ill afford. There are products of equal value but not carrying all this advertising. I am not criticising anybody. I am

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saying that this is a legacy which the imperialists left here. They used this country, or a country like this, for their markets. We must pay for their employment abroad.

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I think that I have said as much as I would like to say in this debate, but I should like to make one final point. I was very happy that the hon. Member, Mrs. DaSilva, after saying that there were over 900 co-operatives, could point to the failure of only one co-operative. *[Applause]*

Mrs. DaSilva: To a point of order. I did not point to.

Mr. Speaker: A point of order must refer to the Standing Orders. Hon. Member, Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Sutton: Mr. Speaker, it would be most tragic if, in the circumstances of what we see, hear and have to put up with in this House, we could not preserve our sense of humour. It is really terrible when there are misconceived statements from high places. I shall come to that in due course.

I have risen to my feet to try to make some constructive comments on the Budget Speech, as presented to this House. As a matter of fact, the presentation of the Budget Speech has lived up to its usual form. There are many average and below average people in this country who do not study things for themselves, but are prepared to accept what other people tell them. Unfortunately, they have a deep reverence for the written word and once something appears in writing they are not prepared to question it.

Now, as I started off by saying, in accordance with well – established patterns, the Budget Speech, as a speech in itself, leaves nothing to be desired, but when on relates what has been said

in the speech to the actual events, then one realises the difference between what the Government says and the Government does.

The hon. Minister of Finance started off early in this speech by introducing the subject that has upset so many minds during this year of our Lord, 1971, namely, the DEMBA issue. In order to compare what the Government says with what the Government does, it is necessary to repeat, for the benefit of all my listeners, the exact words enunciated in this speech. On page 4 of the Budget Speech, it is stated:

“It is no exaggeration to say that the future of Guyana is inextricably bound up with the success of the bauxite industry. It must become the focal point for rapid expansion of the whole economy, generate new industries and establish the linkages which economic common sense indicates.”

That is obvious to any person who is capable of thinking. The Minister goes on to say:

“For this reason Mr. Speaker, the continued viability of the operation at Linden became a matter of overriding national priority. The public exchequer was used fully- and unapologetically- to ensure the flow of the financial resources required for the operation during the transitional period. Of necessity, other priorities were displaced and projections, hopefully valid at the beginning of the year, underwent quantifications as the implied assumption which formed their basis were falsified and distorted by the turn of events.”

That, too, is abundantly clear, but in view of the fact that this Budget Speech is expected to be an enunciation of clear policy of the Government, in which case one would expect a proper explanation, or setting out, of changes of direction or economic emphasis in such a manner that the average intelligent citizen could understand, one would have felt that it would not be good enough to just gloss by and later on say that the shortfalls were due to need of the bauxite industry, which were unforeseen.

The hon. Minister says that the bauxite industry must become the focal point for the rapid expansion of the whole economy. Our whole economy, the Government says- and we must all

agree- is to a very great extent dependent on the success of the bauxite industry which has now been taken over, possibly rightly so, by the Government.

But, let us continue to look at this situation. We have been told that the shortfall in collection of our income tax is largely due to the postponement and payment of income tax by the Demerara Bauxite Company Limited, but if one examines the words that are written, one would notice that Minister of Finance did not say “wholly” due. He said largely due. We must then come to the conclusion that even if the bauxite tax has been collected, there would still have been a shortfall.

In view of the fact that everyone in this country, no matter what the standard of his intelligence may be, is hopefully looking forward to the success of the bauxite industry then, with the Government’s own pronouncement that it will invite dialogue – the Minister of Trade said a long while ago that he was surprised at the behaviour of the Opposition – one would have expected that these airy statements would not have been made. It would have been very easy to say that the shortfall from the bauxite income taxes was \$X million and that the dislocation was caused by having to inject \$X plus \$2 million. In this way we would have been kept **au fait** with the situation and everybody would have been encouraged to stand four- square with the Government in this laudable attempt to own and keep improving such an important sector in our economy.

What do we find? Even in this House things are clothed in an atmosphere of mystery, as if some sleight of hand is going on. Are we to wake up a year from now, or two years from now, to hear that everything is beautiful and then, like Global Agri, we have terrific sensation to contain? Up to now cannot get the details concerning Global Agri from the Government.

Is every important enterprise, which this Government is undertaking on behalf of the people, to be shrouded in this mystery? Will we only know that our death is imminent when we are told that we are to die next week because of some failure? Let us have the projections so that

we know that beforehand. How do members of the Government expect us to accept sweeping statements when they tell us that everything has been dislocated, that priorities have been thrown aside and although the approved Estimates projected a surplus of \$57,889, we end up with a deficit of \$23,727,939?

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How can we accept any statement from a Government which does not give us all the facts? You must know how much you expect, what projection of the profits. It is rumoured that you had to pay a deposit of X dollars we do not know. All we know is that have some “never never” basis to pay \$100 million as a result of acquiring the concern and that you are expecting percentage increase. We are told that this would be told for profits. Do you not think the citizens of the country and established people who represent them should know what the projections of the enterprises are? We have invested all this money; you told us that we have acquired this enterprise and that it is this “never never” basis that you will pay off at some future date, but this bauxite company is growing concern with markets that exist but you say you are doing very well but we should get some figures so that we can all understand. Anyone can read the reports of Canada; it is there for anyone to see. ALCAN is prepared to show the projections of what they are expecting to do in the bauxite industry. Why can't this Government give the people of this country a projection of what it is led to expect rather than we all sit down and wonder whether this is another ... It is such an important sector of our economy the Government has taken over and the Government ought to give us as much information as it can to let the people of this country know in which direction their lives are going. It must not be a closed secret. We are all involved. This is not a question of party politics. This is a question of the Government holding the assets of the citizens of this country in trust and it must give an account of it for which the people can understand. Let us know how the risk that you are taking, and do not treat us like little children. In this manner, through criticism, you might be able to get great ideas and you will still remain the boss.

Why not show some intelligence and let people see that come what may you intend to use all the assets to ensure that the bauxite company will because come high or low water ... Explain to people and let them understand what is happening. If people understand what is happening you will their support and even though you are right and they do not understand they object to being led like sheep to the slaughter in an atmosphere of total ignorance.

As I said before the document is well written as a document, but what really does it bear to the actual facts? We noticed notwithstanding a lot of years have passed since the Amerindian Land Commission was appointed in order to let everybody know that the Amerindians would be given a square deal and we have not heard a single word as the implementation of the recommendations of the Amerindians Lands Commission. Government mentioned about scholarships. It mentioned about bringing these people into the ordinary system of Guyanese life. We want to know what this Government is doing in addition, so far as the recommendations of the Amerindian Lands Commission are concerned. This is something which the Government should understand.

We came to the situation as mentioned by the Government – the existing bans which ensure that feed ourselves, clothe ourselves and house ourselves by the end of 1976. The Government tells us that this question of feeding ourselves import substitution is *sine quanon*. We accept that, there is no question, but what we would like to know is this. The Government should certainly recognise the inherent risk of try to remove something to which the people have become accustomed before finding something which can be put to its place.

3.25 p.m.

It must have caused the Prime Minister, and the Deputy Prime Minister, some concerned when it was noticed yesterday evening how much the House was shaken when it was realised that Minister of Trade did not appear to have a proper appreciation of his responsibility, as evidence by his remarks addressed to all members of the Opposition with the carefully stated

exception of the hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye. In these circumstances I am led to conjecture on whether the hon. Member Dr. Ramsahoye is pleased to be made an exception by not being included as one of the irresponsible members of the Opposition, to whom the Minister of Trade's remark applied.

Hon. Minister deplored the lack of recognition by the members of the Opposition of all the good things the Government had done for the benefit of the country, namely, the Soesdyke – Linden road, the Corentyne highway, the Madhia – Linden road, nationalisation of Demba, but these uniformed Members of the Opposition could only pick on the petty details like the shortage of garlic. Apparently, the hon. Minister had never been able to observe the niceties of the system of Government to which we all are supposed to subscribe. If this system is to operate in the interest of all the citizens of the country, as it was designed to do, the duty of the Opposition is to oppose, expose, constitutionally depose. In this manner, the Government of the day is kept on his toes and if the Opposition plays the part it is intended to play, then it is primarily its duty to highlight the shortcomings of the Government, wherever they may occur, and these errors of commission or omission of which the Government is guilty.

On the other hand, it is the Minister's bounden duty to provide clarification by explanation of all acts or situations for which his Ministry is deemed responsible. To me, it is not important, but is what the Constitution of the land says and interprets as his responsibilities to this House and, therefore, it is his duty to answer all proper questions which are addressed to him. We, on this side, think it fit and proper to explain why goods have been in short supply, the supply of which is the absolute responsibility of his Ministry. One is led to wonder what the Ministry of Trade considers to be the responsibilities of his Ministry and what questions he considers it should be his duty to answer.

Now today, the hon. Minister of Trade speaks forcefully about change of habits. He speaks of the poor habit we have of wanting to use Nescafe when we can use coffee. *[Interruption]*

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Minister of Trade, please allow the hon. Member to continue.

Mr. Sutton: does the Minister not know why people have come to use Nescafe rather than coffee? Does he not know that the modern pressure of living is such that people want to make coffee in five minutes and not in half an hour? Does the Minister of Trade not know that people can afford to buy it and even those people, who he thinks should not be in a position to buy it, prefer to gain the half hour using Nescafe rather than buying coffee, grinding it and producing it in the old method? All Guyanese, at least I am one of them who would prefer ordinary brewed coffee to Nescafe, but one seldom of time to prepare this. That is why people use Nescafe, and in thinking of import substitution, it is well that Government considers the people's habits and try to produce in this area thing that can be produced in a modern manner. If the members of the Government think they can push people backwards 50 years by forcing them to eat in a manner in which they ate 50 years ago, they are just fooling themselves. The hon. Minister speaks of the question of the people's slavish use of split peas. Apparently, he is not aware that is country imports, whenever it can obtain it, dhol from India, various types of dhol to be used in conjunction with split peas. He should know that better than I. But because this field of operation is part of my business, the Minister of Trade will learn that the question of shortages is not the price is wrong. Imagine a place like the External Trade Bureau being in a position where it waits, and shortage crops up, on one quotation from one importer which it considers too high and then wait until it can get others. If, like in other countries this operation was intelligently carried on, the E.T.B. would publish a notice asking for quotation from all sources, and instead of receiving one, it would have got a couple of dozen from which to choose.

The Government of the E.T.B. find it so difficult because they have gone out of their way to kill or mutilate the machinery of competition. The Government is trying to tell the people that it needs the E.T.B. in order to control prices. Prices were effectively controlled during the war but they want to do is not to control prices, they want to reap the benefits of trade themselves. They are hurting several citizens in the country by trying to do this. We were talking about the question of 10 per cent service charge and 10 per cent surcharge. What is the final yardstick? The

man in the street, who, the Government says, will be a real man, wants to know what his goods cost. He is not concerned whether its cost is determined by a surcharge or service charge, or an effective E.T.B. or ineffective E.T.B. He wants his goods, all things being equal, at the lowest possible cost.

3.35 p.m.

They now tell you that they have eliminated the sharks, known as commission agent. Commission agents imported potatoes at a commission of 3 percent. The E.T.B., unfortunately, does not know that certain people who it has operating as experts are only comparative beginners at the game and do not seem to be aware that merchants, at certain times of the year, were accustomed to buy on conditions which were allowed for the protection of the people, that is, perishable goods – potatoes, onions, garlic – were brought into this country guaranteed “sound on arrival”.

What do we find now? Let us see how the E.T.B. operates to protect the small man, who is being made a real man. The importer sends an order to the E.T.B. E.T.B. sends it to the exporter. The exporter makes the goods and they come down. Who pays for this? The people. When the good arrives 10, 15 or 20 percent bad, as potatoes came not too long ago, what protection does the merchant get? Did it occur the E.T.B. to see, in the interest of the small man who is being a real man, that those potatoes should be guaranteed “sound on arrival”? It did not think of small things like that. The officers see that a service charge of 10 percent is collected, that surcharge, where necessary is collected and come hell or high water the persons must pay.

The E.T.B. will then wake up to the fact that \$X were paid for 100lbs of potatoes and owing to the fact that 30 or 40 percent were bad, the remaining 60 or 70 percent have to be sold at a price which is intended to cover 100 percent. The External Trade Bureau took no steps to protect the people. By protecting the merchants, E.T.B. would protect the people because merchants used to bring potatoes that were guaranteed “sound on arrival”. The hon. Member, Mr. Ram

Karran, is very conversant with these things. I remember that years ago he had bought some potatoes and visited my office and asked "What are you going to do about this? These potatoes are 30 percent bad. We are not got to pay for them." We gave him a rebate on his cheque. The agent who had imported the potatoes knew his business. He had covered himself by insurance and the merchant was protected against loss. Therefore, the consumer was against loss. Ask the E.T.B. whom it protects against loss on perishables? Has the E.T.B. ever heard of this form of protection? Members of the government will tell you that the people there know all about the business and will also say that this is not their baby.

The hon. Minister of Trade objected to a petty thing like the shortage of garlic being mentioned. This is just an example.

Any person in the business will know to sell well you have to buy well and the E.T.B. is a farce. It is increasing costs. Notwithstanding that is true, to a certain extent that foreign prices have increased, if one examines the increase in the control prices and the main examine the main increases in other parts of the world, one will see that they bear no relation to each other. But the little man, who is being made a real man, is subsidising inefficiency and gross negligence, in the External Trade Bureau. One wonders whether it is being run by bakers or business men.

I can speak on this for a long time, but my point has been made for the benefit of those people who want to understand. If there are some who cannot understand I can take no blame for that.

I moved away from the question of import substitution because I was disturbed by the obvious poppycock that was spoken on the reason for goods being short or not. The reason is inefficiency and nothing else. If you do not know when to order who is to blame for that? You wait until you need an item and then you order it. Little do they know that these things are ordered 9, 10 months in advance. There is a market survey of what the next year's crop will produce and you

place the order for your basic supply in advance to get the best prices. When the prices move your orders are confirmed. The members of the Government know nothing about that.

In the case of cement, they said, “What! Order six months in advance? Do not let us waste time with cement.” When the crisis came they said they were not responsible for the cement shortage. They said, “As of now” – this was some time towards the last half of the year 1969 – “we intend to control cement.” In the meantime they left it in the hands of people who were controlling it. They asked, “What are the prices?” They told the prevailing prices. I wonder if it has sunk into their hard sulks yet that prices commodities like cement are fixed in the months of October and November in one year from the year and will hold good except in the case of a catastrophe involving the supply of raw materials. Therefore, people who want to their supplies up to December, place their orders in September and October for the following year.

When the E.T.B. made inquiries it did not place its orders then. It attempted to place in November. The officers were told “Orders were already filled and therefore the price had gone up by 10 cents.” They said “No. We are not paying the high price. You are hijacking us. We are going to get our cement from somewhere else.”

They proceeded to investigate the rest of the world to get cement. After a painstaking investigation – the results of which they could have obtained right here: any experienced dealer would have told them – they found out that cement prices do not operate by accident and all suppliers of cement for that year had increased their prices.

What did those jokers do then? They said, “Your prices are too high.” They came back to Trinidad and said, “We are going to take the 10¢ increase.” Trinidad said, “Sorry. All orders are booked. You cannot get until next year June.” They said, “Trinidad does not want to sell us because they wants to embarrass us.” What happened? They went to Colombia and Venezuela. Every experienced merchant in the street knows that they are high -cost cement areas.

All of this took place because they did not know that it was necessary to place orders for one year's supply of cement a few months before the end of the previous year. We are not sufficiently important; we do not buy enough cement for people to disturb their price structure to get at us. We are fooling ourselves about our importance if we think that. The suppliers set a price and we either pay it or clear out if we do not which to pay it.

When the E.T.B. went to Trinidad for cement, it could not get the cement and that was why cement was in short supply here. It was not a question of goods not being there. Goods are not there if you do not know when to order them. They are some commodities which have to be ordered two years in advance. You have to get a market report at the end of one year to know what you are going to do the next year.

I wonder what the E.T.B. is doing now. Do the people there know that if commission agents were handling it they would have been getting the projection of prices for next year's season for potatoes and onions although the season does not start until next six months from now. They know nothing about that and when April comes they will try to buy and all their difficulties will increase because they have banned potatoes, onions and garlic from the Portuguese market. That, of course, is their business, and I am not here to examine that. It is their policy, but in the light of banning certain supplies from the traditional markets, these jokers made no attempt to know where they were going to get their supplies if they did not come from Madeira.

What is happening now? It is well known joke on the street that they are getting onions through New York. The marks have been taken off and they are getting them as onions of American origin. Everyone knows that America cannot produce one pound even in the South. I gave myself the pleasure of paying a visit to the bond where these onions were stored. All of us know the varieties of onion from the different sources because we are familiar with them. As soon as we look at them we could tell which is from Madeira, which from Canada and which from America. I went into the bond and I saw Madeira onions stamped "Produce of U.S.A." These jokers accepted them because they did not know better.

We are talking about the question of import substitution. This is something everyone must admit is a goal at which this country must aim. This is important if independence is to be meaningful. No one breaks down a house before having a tent to live in. Take for instance, you say eddoes can be substituted for potatoes but you buy the eddoes and boil it and you find you cannot eat it, it is watery. Therefore people turn back to potatoes.

About price controls, the thought I would leave with the Minister of Trade is that the Government has got one hope in a million of not controlling prices in a market of shortage; you can only control prices effectively when goods are in great supply.

I do hope that hon. Minister of Trade will bear these points in mind the small man will continue to be a small man.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member Mr. Sutton I think the time allocated to you was sixty minutes. I reminded you just now that you only have eight minutes in which to wind up and make all your points.

Mr. Sutton: We have been told that Public Corporations will be made to run along business lines. By that we understand it to mean that it will be able to pay its subsidy. I really wonder when I look at the Revised Estimates for 1971 and note the figures shown for the Guyana Marketing Corporation, it is a bit difficult for me to understand because on the original estimates the amount of \$500,000 was asked for as subsidy for the Guyana Marketing Corporation. I remember very clearly in an early Supplementary a small sum was asked for the Guyana Marketing Corporation and you will remember at our consideration of Supplementary Estimates again another small sum of \$300,000 was asked for the Marketing Corporation and still I see the revised estimation down to a figure well below those figures. If those figures are added together I can only conclude that realising as we all realise long ago that it is something that needs a little more getting into. Therefore, one can only assume that money which was voted

was not released to the Guyana Marketing Corporation that is the only explanation. Possibly the Minister can be good enough to tell us whether that is so.

3.55 p.m.

We were talking about the public viability of the public corporation through Guystac. Because Guystac is a new corporation which, we all hope, will serve the purpose it is intended to serve, if these corporations are to be run on business lines, the expenses of Guystac will have to be allocated pro rata to the various corporations and Government companies which Guystac will manage, or else their profits will only be an illusion.

We come a question which the Government states very piously on page 9 of the Budget Speech.

“The unsatisfactory state of affairs which enable foreign owned companies to raise capital on the local market indiscriminately and to issue prospectuses which did not make full and accurate disclosure of pertinent facts were corrected by the enactment of Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1971.”

I wonder if this Government's responsibility only extends to protecting its citizens from rapacious people who happen to be foreigner or foreign – based. Is the Government's responsibility to protect the citizens all along the line, from local rapacious people as well, and if so, is the Government not expected to see that all money, which is spent by anyone, that is not their own money, must be properly spent for the benefit of the people for whom they claim they operate? What I am about to say, I would again say in passing, as I did at the consideration of the pervious to the last supplementary on the question of the interjection of what, for this country, are huge sums of money into the Daily Chronicle Ltd.

The Government in our view, and I sure in the view of all thinking citizens, be the Government supporters or not, must see the necessity of the Government putting up a projection

as the profitability of the Daily Chronicle Ltd., as every other investor by the Government's own law is supposed to do. The Government has issued no paper on this. We hope that the returns, which are made by all other companies, will be duly made to the Register, and a year from now we will be able to go there, if they are not published, and read the balance sheet, because as far as we know, it is a public company. But certainly, the citizen of this country have a right to know that this money that is being injected is a proper investment and those workers who are going to benefit from having shares in the company will, in fact, so benefit; and the question of their money being lost through their investing in the Chronicle will be clear and anybody who goes into the Chronicle will know he is going in to help the Government, not necessarily for a profit. Such persons may ask themselves: who are we in fact helping? Is this a right issue for the Government to go into? They may find that they are being forced to help a section of the country which is represented by only one party, nobody else.

We come to the question, as enunciated of page 10 of Budget Speech, of changing perspectives in the field of trade and co-operation.

“During the year, diplomatic rations were established with Columbia, Peru and Chile in our continuing search for new patterns of relationship and opportunities for co-operation and action in the field of international affairs. But our national economic interests took us further afield...”

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, I think it is time for the suspension of the Sitting. The Sitting is suspended for half an hour.

Sitting suspended at 4 p.m.

4.35 p.m.

On resumption—

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Minister of Finance

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Hoyte): Your Honour, I crave your indulgence to make a brief statement which I have discussed with hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran. With his leave and your leave, I propose to make a statement.

As a result of the international monetary crisis and the arrangements which now seem to be in train for resolving that crisis between the United States of America and the rest of the “Group of Ten”, the Government has considered it necessary and desirable to take certain steps to protect Guyana’s position. Consequently, the President has been advised to issue an Order under Section 3 (4) (b) of Exchange Control Ordinance of 1958, the effect of which order is to extend the scope of Exchange Control Ordinance of 1958 to all territories and to all currencies including sterling.

I propose to introduce to this honourable House, tomorrow, the Exchange Control (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 1971, in order to give further effect to Government’s decision to extend exchange control to our territories. I propose also to ask the leave of the honourable House, because of the extreme urgency of the measure and the nature of the legislation, to take the Bill through all of its stages. In order to facilitate hon. Members, I am arranging for cyclo-styled copies of the Bill to be circulated to all hon. Members before the House rises this evening.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member Mr. Sutton.

Mr. Sutton: At the time the House rose, I had just started to comment on the changing trade patterns as set out in the Budget Speech.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member Mr. Sutton, may I just mention for your information that with the consent with both sides of the House, a further extension of only 15 minutes will be granted to you.

Mr. Sutton: Thank you very much sir. It is noted on page 10 in the Speech made by the hon. Minister of Finance, that he speaks of changing perspectives in the field of trade and co-operation.

4.40 p.m.

Perhaps one would have expected, if a certain amount of uneasiness was to be avoided, that the hon. Minister would have spoken of “widening” perspectives in the field of trade and co-operation.

That causes me to wonder whether the Government proposes to have a complete change in its trading patterns with its traditional trade partners or whether it is just adding other trade partners to the now well-established pattern. They are instances of certain territories changing their trade patterns when they thought it fit to do so. These countries thought that they were being taken advantage of and broke off entirely their links with their traditional trade partners.

With regards to the question about changing perspectives – which I hope means “widening” perspectives – I hope that the Government will at times bear in mind that the need to earn enough money for our produce is important. Unless the Government is satisfied that protected prices are for the items we can export and unless the benefits are clearly greater than the benefits now enjoyed, it would be very unwise to consider changing the present pattern in order to institute another pattern.

We note that the Government hopes to sell its sugar – I hope it is only a portion – outside our well-known contractual arrangements, that is, it will now sell to China. I hope that it will

ensure that it will obtain markets for all the sugar we can produce and we do not risk finding ourselves in a position in which Cuba found herself when, after exchanging the American market, where she had a preferential price, for the Russian market she is today barely getting half the price that she enjoyed in the American market.

I have always subscribed to the policy which has been practised by the United Kingdom, that is, trade wherever tax is possible provided that you are satisfied that you are getting reasonable return for your produce or whatever you can manufacture. To trade with a particular country because of political persuasion could be very dangerous indeed. I therefore hope the Government, when changing its perspective in the field of trade and co-operation, as stated on page 10, will bear these points in mind and that it will not mistake the bone for the shadow.

I notice that in speaking of our drive to clothe, house and feed ourselves it was said that we hope we get help from China to put down a textile factory in this country. On the face of it, this seems a very laudable action, indeed, because it is high time as everyone realises, that produce a greater proportion of the things we need.

We must, however, also exercise a due amount of care or we may find that substitution in fact may be worst than our present position. We have to be careful if we go into the industrial enterprise, such as the putting down of a textile factory seem to connote. We have to assess properly the availability of raw materials, the acquiring of necessary know-how to produce the items with greater advantage for ourselves, bearing in mind the absorption of labour and our being able to control, much more closely, the quality and type of goods our people should have.

On the question of the total economy of the country, it has been mentioned in the Budget Speech that our imports bill is projected to reach the sum of \$270,000,000 in 1971, as compared to \$268 million in 1970. That statement is made on page 13. This clearly highlights a very dangerous situation as this rise was in spite of the lower investment activity.

The Government has said in the Budget Speech that the investment activities have been very sluggish. It is a fact that the measures that have been recently instituted do not seem to hold out any great hope that foreign investments in this country could be expected to any greater than they have been in the immediate past. More probably they will be rather worst.

On the question of the total economic situation of the country, it is stated that exports will show some improvements due to the increase in the value of sugar estate quotas of about \$16 million. At the same time it has been stated that the position in bauxite will remain roughly the same.

It is also stated that the exports of rice will be in the vicinity of \$20 million as opposed to \$18 million in 1970 notwithstanding the lower production experience in 1971. This would seem to indicate that there was a sizable carry-over from 1970 to 1971 in order to enable us to export \$20 million in rice. To some extent it may have been accounted for by a slightly improved price but it is noted that the amount is an additional \$2 million notwithstanding a drop in our production which would cause one to come to the conclusion that the carry-over from 1970 to 1971 was considerable, as I have said, and that it just permitted an increase in exports notwithstanding the decrease in production.

I may say that hon. Minister of Finance has certainly been a master at understatement when he says in the third paragraph on page 14:

“As the net inflows of capital are expected to lower in 1971, than in the previous year, it is projected that this would have a slight adverse effect on our foreign reserves.”

It will be noted what effect the Capital Issue Act must have on our investments, and we wonder what yardstick is being used here when we talk about the expected flow of investment. We wonder if it is to come from local sources and, if not, where it will come from.

It is to be noted that Minister was discussing bauxite nationalisation in the Budget Speech, he stated that the industry has never been as buoyant as it is now. That is a very heartening statement and we hope that no matter that the plans for improvements may have been made previously – a lot of them may have been made before we took over the industry – yet we hope that this buoyancy will continue and that this most vital sector of our economy will be successful.

Again I would ask the Government to do all it can to keep to country aware of the position as far as GUYBAU is concerned so that without fear, favour or partiality, all of us will enjoy getting for square behind the Government in this exercise since its success is so important to every single one of us.

4.50 p.m.

In view of the shortness of time at my disposal I shall like to refer to what is the meat of this Budget Speech as shown on page 24. I shall to read a paragraph, of course I am sure other experts here the majority of the members have not really studied the figures and repetition would serve a very useful point.

“The actual yield of the revenue (\$128.3 MN.) was \$17.3 MN. less than estimated - \$4.6 MN. (3.5%) lower than the actual receipt in 1970. At \$33.8MN. import duties yielded \$4.0 MN. less than the estimate and\$1.7 MN. less the actual receipts in 1970. This shortfall in revenue is a result of a variety of factors: the phased reduction in import duties in keeping with our obligations under the CARIFTA Agreement, the full impact of local substitution for imported inputs for the bauxite industry; and a lower level of durable imports, which partly reflects the increasing use of local commodities, especially foodstuff, at the expense of imported commodities. The other major element of revenue – income tax – yielded \$45.7 MN. or \$8.0 MN. less than estimated and \$4.4 mn. less than in 1970. This shortfall resulted in the main from the non-receipt of the greater part of this income tax from Demba. It should be noted that this tax has not been lost, but only deferred. Under the compensation agreement, it is a charge against the first instalment.

Capital receipts totalled \$43.9 mn., comprising \$28.3 mn. from external loans, \$14.5 mn. from internal loans, \$0.4 mn. from miscellaneous capital revenue.

There was an overall deficit of \$23.7 - \$9.3 mn. on the Current Estimates and \$14.4 mn. on the Capital Estimates. This is not an isolated phenomenon. It arises naturally from the unique events of 1971.”

No attempt has been made to say how it will be contained.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, Mr. Sutton you have three minutes more, instead of reading all of that you may make your point.

Mr. Sutton: I will only speak for two minutes more. If we examine the projection revenue as stated in the Estimates which we are about to consider in detail in another few days it is difficult to escape the conclusion that these Estimates have been prepared with a specific purpose of justifying the expenditure that this Government finds itself bound to pursue rather than a true estimate of which our estimate is likely to be. It is difficult to explain when we look at the Estimates for 1972. We find inland revenue has projected \$70 million when the Approved Estimates for 1971 gave us \$69,650,010 and the Revised Estimate gave us \$57 million, a shortfall of \$10 million, which has in part accounted for the shortfall from income tax which was not collected from DEMBA. Why is it? It could have been so much better if the Government had told us what is the revenue income tax which was not collected from DEMBA and which would therefore justify this figure of \$70 million.

Another point is this: you will notice that the Revised Estimate in 1971 was \$309,200 and what we find interesting is that there is projected for 1972 \$4,266,000 which is nearly four times what we got for 1971. It is difficult to see how the Government can justify these figures. We hope that the Government will clarify these points and it will not leave us to find out. It must not lead us to believe that we are moving towards something good when in fact we are wallowing in morass.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Mr. Chandisingh.

Mr. Chandisingh: Mr. Speaker, my first observation of the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance is that this Budget Speech despite its apparent assurance of bright prospects for the future it seems to evince a mode of uncertainty for the future. In other words, there is a certain clandestineness about it. Foreexample, where goals are set these are merely stated without any effort being made to show these goals are to be attained. In the field of housing, one may mention in passing that the Government speaks in terms of the need for building something like 13,000 housing units per year from 1972 to 1976, but no indication has been made in the Budget Speech or elsewhere to say exactly how this would be achieved.

5 p.m.

As a matter of fact, one may say that this particular Budget Speech reflects a certain vagueness about it. Is this a case where objective conditions have resulted in such a Speech being put before us?

Earlier on, pervious Budget Speeches, the hon. Minister of Finance concerned has regaled us particularly with the prospects for development, perhaps in the expectation that a large amount of foreign aid would be received by this Government, and so the mood in the previous Budget Speeches have been quite different. But one notes a change in mood, up to the previous Budget Speech by the previous Minister of Finance, one could detect this change taking place from one of hopefulness of obtaining massive amounts of aid from abroad, from the imperialist capitalist sponsors of the Government, to the complete turn where we see all the foreign aid is lumped together and is characterised in a negative manner. There is not the same ebullience that one discerned in the past.

This is a rather deceptive line being put on by the Government. If we look at the Budget Speech, there are several references, there is no need for me to quote all of them, which seem to

indicate that the developed countries and the world are concerned with their own interests, and that the interests of the developing countries are left behind when any conflict arises between the two. I would say that is a correct assessment when the hon. Minister of Finance is referring to the capitalist camp, particularly with respect to the United States' aid which has come to this country in the past. Our party has always from the very beginning warned about this. Now the Government has come to realise from bitter experience that what we said was true, but rather than draw the correct conclusions from such a position, the Government is seeking to give the Guyanese public the false image that all aid is designed to raid the given country.

On page 6: "aid is a euphemism for bargain – driving." These references merely provide an excuse for not turning to course of basic socio economic transformation in Guyana, to the course of scientific socialism. The Government persists in its mistaken policy of this queer animal, so to speak, which it calls "co-operative socialism." It is not a fact to say that all developed countries are in the same position with respect to foreign aid. We have, in the past, shown concretely the experience of countries like Cuba and I don't think anyone doubts the fact the Cubans economy is moving forward with great stride even though we all appreciate the difficulties involved in development. We do not say that overnight a country can save its economy, but in a country like Cuba which has adopted a genuine socialist position and has aligned itself properly with the socialist world, we see a different picture taking place.

Let me refer to another country which has had rapid development, this time, a country in Eastern Europe, that is Bulgaria, which I had the pleasure of visiting earlier this year, a country which was one of the most backward in Eastern Europe and in terms of a country such as ours, it might have been described as one of the under developed countries, even in our part of the world. Bulgaria has advanced tremendously, the income of the farmers has gone up three times in the past ten years, and similarly in other respects. I just refer to this fact in order to establish that many of the assertions made in this speech are not based on the fact of the situation, but are merely used by way of an excuse to remain within the capitalist orbit and, at the same time, to

derive whatever benefits that maybe derived from misleading the Guyanese working people into believing that they and their Government are really moving to a new era of socialism.

There is another aspect of this Budget Speech that I would like to touch on, and also apart from the speech we know the Government has enunciated as its goal the development of labour-intensive industries. We have been told that the way out for Guyana which has a large unemployment problem to embark on labour intensive industries. I am not for one moment at this stage attempting to say that this is wrong, but the public has been presented with the opportunity of being able to judge, we have not seen any economic study which have studied this question in depth.

We have heard there is to be a new development programme. We were told recently this was a new ten-year programme. I do not know what this means from the Minister's reference in his Speech, it may seem to indicate that this plan will run for 5 years from 1972 to 1976, but the point is, we have not been presented for a proper basis for being able to see whether the Government is embarking on the correct policies even in this respect, whether they should be labour intensive or capital intensive or a balance between the two. I make this point because this question is a very complex question for underdeveloped countries and I do not think there is one rule that can be followed by underdeveloped countries, namely, that all underdeveloped countries must embark purely on labour-intensive activities and industries. For example, have this Government's economists considered the peculiar situation of Guyana where we have a high rate of unemployment estimated anywhere from about 25 percent of the labour force, and calculated the amount of industries and the types of industries which can absorb all of this unemployment within a short space of time, and at the same time generate wealth rapidly for the creation not only of new industries but to provide the health and every other social services which are required?

These are some of the points on which we have not heard from the Government either, as I have said, in the Budget Speech or even generally speaking. We would like the Government to tackle such questions seriously and involve the Parliament in their solution or their discussion on them.

I really would like one of the Government speakers to give us some more information on what it referred to as “Labour Contract Society” on page 21. We are told that –

“In keeping with the drive to improve unemployment, a new type of Co-operative Society, the Labour Contract Society, will also be organized particularly among the unemployed and underemployed to do work with a pronounced labour bias”

What does the Government have in mind? We cannot be blamed if we look askance at such bold pronouncements when we know what has happened in the past and is happening at the present time with these co-operative societies. Reference has been made time and again at the Greenland Co-operative Society. We would like the Government to explain what it has in mind when it speaks of such societies.

Passing over some of the statements made in the Budget Speech, I would like to refer to what is set down here as allowance to the small man. One of these allowances how to do with medical expenses, hospitalisation expenses, consultant fees, dental fee and so on, but the allowance will be granted proper receipts, and it is well known, that many people because of poor health facilities and the corruption which goes on at certain levels, never get receipts for the payment that they make.

I am referring not only to the legal official fees, whether they be \$6 or \$10 for consultation or for operations. I am referring to the well-known fact that certain consultants and others demand from sick people very high fees, \$60, \$100, and more, if they are to receive hospitalization and these fees are in addition to the fee that may be required for operations. We all know that these charges which are not recorded and no receipts are given, so that other

persons who might otherwise benefit from such provision will find themselves actually not benefiting.

If we turn to the allowance with respect to the rental of dwelling housing, we see that it carries a minimum of \$2 and a maximum of \$10 annually. I would say that this is a mere bagatelle. It is perhaps not even worth the time and energy that one would have to spend in getting around the red tape, in filling up forms and so on. I cannot characterise it as the hon. Minister of Finance did when he said that the allowances were not spectacular. That statement was one of the greatest understatements heard in this House at any time.

I want to point out that they are some people who perhaps may not have considered the full implications of these allowances and who believe that there is something in this Budget Speech for them. The tendency is to believe that although it is nothing much, nevertheless it is something. My opinion is that these allowances cost more harm for the reason that they lead people to believe that they are getting something in this Budget when, in actual fact, they are getting nothing really tangible.

The hon. Minister of Finance, although he says he never describe the Budget as a tax-free Budget, nevertheless did indicate that no new proposal would be made. I should point that the way in which this has been done, as in the case of health, is that the social services have been cut down. The Government has been cutting down social services all the time and we have seen that there has been no exception this year to that practice.

Furthermore, although the hon. Minister says that they are no new revenue in the Budget, on looking at page 9 of the Estimate for 1972, we see that Government has already estimated the sum of \$550,000 new revenue for 1972 to come from the Corentyne Road tolls, which the Government possesses to charge. A sum of over half a million dollars has been put aside on the revenue side of the Estimates for tolls which are to be collected on the Corentyne road.

There were, also, the postal increases. It is quite clear that the Government, in the first place, is not correct; it is misleading the nation when it pretends that there is no new revenue proposals while, at the same time, indirectly by other means, it is either more money from the public or putting squeeze on people, telling them that they must do everything by self-help – “Feed yourselves, clothe yourselves, finance yourselves, house yourselves, do everything now by self-help!” If the people must now do everything by themselves, what is the role of the Government? The Government is neglecting its responsibility.

Let me turn my attention to certain aspects relating to health. It was understood that previous Minister of Health was not very happy over the amounts of money voted from time to time for health, particularly for the capital side of health. One would have thought after so many years of this Government’s rule, so many years of neglect to health and the expansion of health services, that at least by 1972, even out of shame, the Government would have done something more in respect of health. We see that a miserable sum of \$777,000, not even one percent of the capital budget, is to be expended on development for health expansion.

5.20 p.m.

If we look also at the Recurrent Estimates we will note that this down grading of health on the scale of priorities of the Government has continued. On page 28 the Report of the Ministry of Health for years ended 31st December, 1969 a comparison is given of the percentage for certain years of the amount on health on the Recurrent Budget. In 1965 the amount spent for health represented 12.1 percent on the Recurrent Budget. In 1966, this amount represented 10.2 percent; in 1967 and 1968 it was more or less the same – 10.3 percent. But looking at the figures for 1971 we see that this has dropped to 9.4 percent. Perhaps we thought that this would be annual occurrence in that one year. But in 1972, Mr. Speaker, the amount being spent on health on the Recurrent Estimates has taken the nosedive – from 11 percent to 8.4 percent. So we see from 12.7 percent in 1959 we end up in 1972 with only 8.4 percent going to health in the Recurrent Budget.

Another point to note too is that even the amount that is voted, quite often, is not realised in terms of material works done. I recall for example the operation theatre at Georgetown Hospital. About three years ago these operating theatres were in the course of construction and only recently the people have been fortunate to have these new operating theatres put into operation.

I should just like to refer to general shortcomings which are well- known. We have the continued problem of drug shortage. We have mentioned in this House about the unavailability of drugs to patients. In the first place, we made this observation the Minister of Health had brushed aside our assertions on the terms that crack pot were making these claims. But I wonder if this was official. I noticed recently that there was a report in the press that the administration of health had recognised this problem and was just taking steps to see if the drugs were in adequate quantities. We can only hope that is on the level and that this will be carried out. This is a rather disgraceful and shameful situation.

Without taking up too much time on this situation let me refer to the question medical services. Generally speaking, medical services in Guyana have been going from bad to worse since this Government has taken office. Only recent, I visited certain outlying areas such as North West District and more recently some of the island in the Essequibo River. I also visited the Bonasika area and it was clear from what the people said that they do not even see a doctor now. In the past when the P.P.P. was in office they said a doctor use to visit: for example, the Berbice River, in the Bonasika, in the Essequibo Islands, and other surrounding areas, and the North West District also. I was told by people all over that they have not seen a doctor for some time now. Even the dispenser who is still supposed to come around is not seem for months. When the boat is unavailable the dispenser is available, when the vote available the dispenser is elsewhere.

At Mabaruma this Government changed the whole situation. A doctor was stationed at Mabaruma. But for some time now the Government changed this practice and the people in the

area so not see a doctor there any longer. A Question on this has tabled so I do not want to speak further on it. We that hon. Minister will due course find it possible to improve the situation in these areas.

Furthermore the same situation obtains in the Berbice River, the people have not seen a doctor for a long time. The same situation is going on all the time. In Georgetown, New Amsterdam and in other areas we find that situation is going worse the poor people are being fleeced. Whenever we complain about this thing the Government Ministers defend their Government or regime, they deny these things even though the general public is fully aware of the suffering that goes on. As a matter of fact, we criticize the Government for introducing private practice after four o'clock which was given to this Government to certain doctors. A former Minister was able to point out that too was not in favour of this. The whole question private opens the door to such corrupt practices, such penal practice adopted but some doctors because they want to make as much money as possible. We put the blame square on this Government to put an end to this practice. The small man cannot take it any longer. The small man, as many people say, is becoming a dead man or a mini man. These are the comments. It is hoped that the Government which purposes to look after the welfare of the public will wake up and realise that it must do something for the small man.

I just want to touch on this question of the medical school and medical training. We on this side have also made this point and about two years ago we urged the Government that we should set up a medical school in Guyana We have just given the reason for this. Recently we noted a few months ago that there was a report in the press that a team from the University of the West Indies came here and were advising the Government or have been in consultation towards to setting up the medical school or institute for medical training. We would be very happy indeed if the Government moves on this to proceed to establish a medical training in Guyana. We note further that the proposals were dismissed. I hope the hon. Minister would explain that the training would not be completed in Guyana but that the last two years or so the students would have to spend at the university of the West Indies. We are convinced that a feasible plan can be

implemented where by complete training can be given right here in Guyana. Furthermore, it is much better to give the Guyanese medical students training in their own home so as to learn in their own atmosphere.

5.30 p.m.

It would be a very simple thing, as a matter of fact, to establish such a school to take care of our needs. For example, we know that Suriname has such a school, but I saw recently when I was on a visit to Bulgaria, and I look at the medical situation, how they change over from the system such as we have here, private practice, to provide complete medical treatment for all their people. It was very interesting and, furthermore, with discussions with certain officials over there in the medical field, they said it was quite feasible for countries such as ours, even with our population, so far as their experience went, to establish a proper medical school.

This is the opinion we can get anywhere. Even if one should consult his local specialist who has been thinking about this matter, one will realise that it is a feasible proposition. All it would need is some improvement to the Georgetown Hospital by way of classrooms, or some other pace, and to get a few additional consultants, people of that category. In this connection, we would suggest to the Government to think quickly about this question of relative value of recruiting ordinary G.M.O.'s to do the actual work as is done at the moment, or to switch over the balance to recruiting from abroad for a short period of time, higher consultants, who would be able not only to work here, surgeons and so on, but would be able to devote sometime to the medical education of Guyanese medical students. In other words, to perform the duties of lecturers.

Without taking more time on this question, I would say, first of all, we would be happy to note if the Government is seriously taking our proposal, which we made a couple years ago, even though at the time the then Minister cuckooed the whole idea, and when we spoke of one for at least 1,000 of the population as a start, the then Minister, hon. Members would know, ridiculed it

and thought this was fantastic. This is one of the key questions, providing Guyanese doctors whom we can train and ought to train in relation to improving the standard of health in Guyana.

May I, in passing, ask the hon. Minister what has happened to the national health plan. We were told in the 1969 Report of the Ministry of Health that a new national health plan was in process of the preparation and would be presented in Parliament in 1970 for approval by Parliament. Well, 1970 has gone by. In the President's Speech this year, we were also told that the plan is almost ready or about to be completed, the were just now asking people to make their comments about something the public had not seen – a rather queer arrangements. But what has happened to this national health plan? Is the Government just groping along with each change of Minister? Is it having new ideas?

This question of health and the Minister of Health has had up-setting experiences. Ministers have been change so often that is why one wonders if with the advent of every new Minister, the plans and ideas change. We hope the new the new Minister who has taken over will try to do a more positive but, from experience in the past, we have seen that no matter what changes we have of Ministers, the point is the health services have been deteriorating all the time. The time has come to call a halt to this.

I have already referred at the beginning to the statement made in the Budget Speech that the Government intends that 13,000 housing units a year should be built for the years from 1972 to 1976. Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope no one misinterprets what I say. We would be most certainly happy to know that 13,000 housing will be built every year from next year until 1976. As a matter of fact, we have been urging that the Government does much more than the Government has been doing in the past but when one looks at the actual record, that is, for the past seven year including this year, the Government by its own efforts, has built something like 700 houses, roughly 100 a year. One is loathe to place much confidence on this bald statement which is projected without any concrete information as to how this will be achieved. Undoubtedly, the Government includes in this figure, houses built by private individuals, and I am aware of this,

but we know private individuals have been helping themselves all along. It is not now that people have been helping themselves to build houses or to feed themselves. This what the people have been doing all along, one might say, even in spite of the activities of this Government, but what are concerned about is how the Government intends to implement this vast programme in view of its past dismal record in the field of housing.

I should like in conclusion to refer to page 34 of the Budget Speech, to the statement made by the hon. Minister. He said.

“Now that the year of Consolidation is almost ended, I believe that all Guyanese now have a keener perception of Government’s philosophy and a keener perceptive of Government’s policies.”

5.40 p.m.

I would be inclined to say “Yes” to this, but the Guyanese people, now that the Year of Consolidation has almost ended, are able to perceive more keenly on the Government philosophy and policies.

The way people see these policies is this: they are leading not just to stagnation, to deterioration; they are leading to persecution, discrimination, corruption, squander mania. The Guyanese people condemn this Government for the stand it has taken.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply.

The Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply (Mr. Green): Mr. Speaker, it required no genius to make the very general charges made by my hon. Friend with respect to the Budget Speech and the programme for action, as outlined by the colleague, the hon. Minister of Finance, A few days ago in this honourable House.

Some of the sweeping charges that were made will be dealt with by me very shortly, particularly those with reference to the activities of the Ministry of Health. Just to give an example of the ease with which statements are made in this House. A moment ago, in referring to the establishment of a medical school in Guyana, the speaker admitted that he was aware from information gleaned, he says, from the Press that a team from the University of West Indies had come to Guyana to supervise the Government.

I was making some notes and thought that I would at this stage wish to congratulate the speaker for his observations. But then he went on to over-simplify a serious matter by suggesting that to provide a medical school all that was required was to improve some buildings at the existing Georgetown Hospital. Those of us know, or understand, how much it takes and involves to produce a doctor will recognise how absurd this observation is.

We were also told that the medical services are going from bad to worse and that the Government is neglecting the expansion of the health services. Then the speaker attempted to look at the Estimates, as present to the honourable House. He did some arithmetic, which I think is correct, and suggested that Government has been spending less and less on health.

Again, we understand the working of a Government, we cannot look at the Estimate under a particular head and concluded that this sum allocated by the Government for health services. Portfolios and subjects are merely for administrative convenience. If you take the Ministry, for which I am substantively responsible, you will find in there several sums that in fact reflect activities in other sectors of the national programme.

In fact, to take the argument of the hon. Member to an absurd position, if you look at the Estimates for the Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply and also note the amount of work done by the Ministry by the way of warrant, you would be able to say that the Government has

placed a high premium upon this Ministry. But in this very Ministry, sums allocated this year will take of the services in the important sectors of agriculture, to wit, sea defenses, drainage and irrigation and so on.

You will also see there, sums allocated for the maintenance of Government buildings, and hospitals are Government buildings. You will see sums for the cultural centre allocated there and this, in fact, is a matter that is concerned with the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Therefore, to attempt to deceive this honourable House by making calculations and suggesting that the sums allocated under a particular head indicates the interest, or the bias, the Government places on particular service is inaccurate.

The Government health services, in spite of what has been said, continues to make an invaluable contribution to the social and economic well-being of the people. This is in spite of the total mess and lack of any plan previous to the advent of the People's National Congress Government. Here I may pause to pay tribute to the previous Minister of Health, Dr, Sylvia Talbot, for expending considerable energy to bring out what is now a fact, the health plan, to which I will refer to in a few minutes.

May I take one or two items to establish what has been happening in health? The training programs for the public health inspectors, the persons who deal with the people, was reorganised to ensure that these officers are better prepared to discharge their responsibilities in preventing and promoting health in communities. This programme began in March of this year, under the capable guidance of the previous Minister. It is proposed that the programme be extended over two years.

This type of activities cannot be easily read into the Current or Capital Estimates. A senior public health inspector, who has done post basis training overseas, has been assigned as director

of this particular programme. Also, an experienced health inspector has been assigned entirely, as from last month, for training in the Ministry of Health. I may observe this the first time that we have assigned such an officer full time to this particular exercise.

A comprehensive nutrition survey began on the 24th April of this year. This ended in June and in collaboration and association with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Co-operation and Community Development and with the assistance of Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute this was successful. We expect the report early in 1972.

I need not go into details with the respect to the reason for this report because, unless we can understand what are the habits of people and give them proper advice and education, nutrition will remain a serious problem. What we are attempting to do in the Ministry of Health is to prevent more, in which one will need to expend less time and money and cure.

The enrolment of nursing students for September 1971 was 140, which was more than the previous year. The basic nursing education curriculum has been revised to put emphasis on midwifery, psychiatric nursing, community health, health education and other areas of vital importance to nursing in Guyana.

5.50 p.m.

Nursing assistances continue to be train twice yearly at the Georgetown Hospital. These nursing assistances work under the supervision of a graduate Nurse and are trained, as in the other instance, over a period of two years.

Mr. Speaker, I may pause for a moment to deal with another point raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Chandisingh when he referred to the problem of obtaining the services of doctors in Guyana. A few weeks ago I fortunate enough to stumble upon some file which bore his signature which he himself as Minister was attempting to tackle this problem, and I say he attempted without

success. Today we have succeeded in bringing to Guyana, several doctors mainly of Indian origin, from other parts of the East and a number of Guyanese who have come back to serve their country. So, Mr. Speaker, you will see other parts of the East and a number of Guyanese who have come back to serve their country. So, Mr. Speaker, you will see that some effort is being made to improve the health services in Guyana.

We have, for example, set up a Food Hygiene Unit in the Public Health section in each County. This now under the supervision of the particular Medical Officer of Health. From the middle of July of this year all food handlers whether employed in business or doing their own thing, selling around the place, are required to have a medical examination which will be free of cost and will include a general physical health examination, a chest X-ray, a blood test and a stool test. This is a serious effort to prevent disease, to prevent problems. We know that in many parts of the world people contract ailments, particularly abdominal ailments merely because they purchase or are forced to purchase food that is either adulterated or has been made unclean or unwholesome by the way it is handled by people who sell foods. We have had fair success so far with this because in the County of Berbice alone we have had five hundred such persons examined. We discovered, you will be surprised to learn, sir, that over three hundred of those persons had what is put in medical terms, VDRL. Some have reported for treatment, others have not. We proposed to come to this House to strengthen legislation that will make it compulsory and a serious offence for people who handle food once they have been identified as having some form of communicable disease and they failed to report for treatment. But we will need the sympathy, the understanding and co-operation of all concerned.

Mr. Speaker, another function of this unit to which I referred is to inspect places where food is sold or manufactured. A Senior Public Health Inspector in every County is responsible for this exercise under, of course, the respective Medical Officer of Health. I understand from some reports I have received that some of the Inspectors have not had a very welcomed reception in the execution of their task.

My hon. Friend referred again to the down-grading of health, but you will remember that earlier this year the Private Hospitals Bill was introduced in this hon. House and we hope it will be piloted through this Chamber by the substantive Minister early in the coming year. This Bill seeks to provide for inspection, licensing and control of private hospitals. Some private hospitals operate as though they are a law unto themselves and some of the managers and operators of the private hospitals are well known to some of my friends across the Floor.

The final plan to which my hon. Friend referred and said he had heard nothing is about the National Health Plan. This Plan was circulated since June this year to interested parties and organisations and they included the medical profession and a large number of institutions and organisations which are directly concerned with the health of the nation. The objectives of the Plan are to improve the health services of the country both qualitatively and quantitatively, to obtain the maximum utilisation of available financial resources and human resources, to place, as I said earlier, emphasis on prevention and the promotional aspect of health care, to integrate the curative and preventative services so that the concept of a comprehensive health care for the individual and his family can be developed for the first time in Guyana, and naturally to reduce mortality rate and to increase life expectancy for the inhabitants of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. It is intended that this Plan will articulate in rather general terms the Government's health policy and set objectives designed to meet the needs which have been identified. The Plan is a blue print for action and the Ministry will not be inflexible because when the proposals are received from the various organisations we will be willing to look at them and affect the necessary changes in keeping with the dynamics of health and national development. As I said the major emphasis will be on the integration of the health services and the decentralisation and proper supervision by regions.

During this year the Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply completed the renovation of buildings outside the Mahaica Hospital Compound to house spastic children who are very seriously handicapped and at the moment left to the mercies. There is a club known as the

Business and Professional Women's Club which has opened an account at the Guyana National Co-operative Bank to raise funds to assist these children.

6 p.m.

The Ministry of Health at the moment is making arrangements for the establishments of this home. A committee of management is proposed, made up of representatives of the Mahacia District Council, interested organisations and Ministry of Health, and since the Opposition through my hon. Friend Mr. Chandisingh has expressed an interest in health, I hereby offer, if the members are willing to accept, membership on this Board which, it is proposed, should be in operation early in the new year. I make this offer in all seriousness because we need to help the people in this particular area in these particular circumstances.

Reference was made to this House some time ago, to the situation at the hospital when we came for supplementary provision. This House will be happy to learn that the Government accepted the feasibility study on the redevelopment of the Georgetown Hospital and we have already initiated action. The study revealed that the existing hospital is ideally suited for a redevelopment programme which we planned to phase over a 20-year period. In fact, action has already been taken, and this reflected in the Budget, the first project, that is, to remove the doctors from the flats there so that the hospital can be expanded in phase two. A contract has already been awarded for the construction of a block of flats to house the medical staffs, and work should commence within the next few days, if not, early in 1972.

Mr. Speaker the Food and Drug Act was passed in this Assembly in July of this year and was given assent to His Excellency the President on 1st August this year. The Act, as we recall in this House by then Minister, seems to prohibits the sales of harmful, unfit, adulterated, and insanitary foods and cosmetics, to prohibit the sale and injurious devices, to prohibit various forms of misleading labelling and advertisements with respect to foods, drugs, cosmetics and other devices, and generally, to maintain high standards in Guyana.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that only recently, as was referred to in this House today, we discovered a strange object in a tin of corned beef imported into this country. This Act will strengthen the hand of the Ministry and the Government to take prompt and proper action with respect to this type of problem. In fact, the analysis made by the Analyst Department attached to the Ministry of Health, revealed, though the other tins examined did not have this strange bird's foot, that the protein content was far below what is expected in corned beef. I am sure the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture will make this pointer during his contribution in the House and stress the importance, as set out in this Budget Speech, of import substitution particularly with respect to food so that we can have fresh food in spite of what another of this House thinks.

The Ministry of Health, says my hon. Friend Mr. Chandisingh, is going from bad to worse, but the Ministry like other sectors of this Government been involved with several self-help projects. We note that the Campbellville Health Centre was completed a year ago, the residents of West Berbice completed by self-help the Fort Wellington Hospital, which was originally a five bed institution, but gradually because of the demand on the excellent quality of service provided was expanded to a 12-bed hospital, and since the opening of this hospital, 15,000 out-patients were treated and over 1,000 admitted.

Reference was made to the lack of visits by doctors and dispensers. As I said earlier, it takes no genius to make general remarks and criticisms without attempting to identify specifics. At Santa Mission in the Demerara River, a maternal and child ward was established this year and I am assured that the health visitor from Soedyke pays regular visits in this area. We also attempt in this area to go into the rather distant areas, like St. Cuthbert's Mission, St. Francis Mission, and the other areas spanning the Demerara and Mahaicony Rivers. In the Pomeroun, a maternity nurse was assigned and this is an area that was without the services of nurse for many years.

As I said, we are aiming for prevention more than cure and the health education of the Ministry was responsible for a number exhibitions, radio broadcasts, leaflets, to provide

information for young people and old, with respect to the opportunities offered in the Ministry of Health and with respect to tending the health of the nation. I wish to refer to an area of signal success in the health services of Guyana. That is, the malaria, yellow fever, and filarial eradication programme. The malaria eradication programme continues and Guyana today is at the stage where almost eradication has taken place and few countries can boast this. In fact, the programme has moved from the attack phase into the consolidation phase, particularly in the hinterland areas.

6.10 p.m.

In fact when I say that we have almost completely eradicated this scourge, it is useful to note the complete eradication has been accomplished on the coastlines of Guyana.

The yellow fever campaign, which started in the early months of 1969, and the other areas to which I refer namely, filarial, has also met with considerable success.

At Georgetown Hospital, the spirit of self-help has taken a useful turn and I wish to list some of the things done to invite the members of the Opposition to participate in the future. Painting of the interior section of all medical and surgical wards and of the seaman's ward was done by self-help. Painting of wards 5, 6 and 7; building of pre-natal clinic; building of concrete floor around the artisan's shops; painting of the guard lodge; painting of the houses of Dr. Skinner and Dr. Das Gupta; sealing and painting of the Medical Record Department; renovating and painting the servant's quarters to house anaesthetic medical offices; putting down concrete base for water cooler at medical out-patient department.

This is an effort for which I am particularly proud. Over the past few weeks we staved a kitchen garden in space which was not used for years in the hospital compound in Georgetown. From the 1st to 12th of December of this year we realised 670 pounds of green and vegetable.

The new operating theatre was referred to by my hon. Friend. The theatre was handed by the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply to the Minister of Health on the 27th of November of this year. This theatre has allowed for two additional rooms for operation and when fully used the number of operations that are performed will double. We hope by the end of this year to pull the long waiting list for operation at the Georgetown Hospital.

We are aware, like the hon. Member said, that the needs of developing countries call for emphasis on para-medical training. This in a relatively poor country like Guyana is particularly true as we do not have the facilities and cannot afford, at this of our development, facilities for training medical students. Therefore, para-medical programmes have been organised and are receiving special attention. They are four schools for nursing, two of which are sponsored by the Government – one being located in Georgetown and one in New Amsterdam. – The other two are run by private agencies, one by St Joseph's Mercy Hospital and the other by GUYBAU in Linden. In addition, a public health nursing education programme is carried out by the Ministry of Health and we hope to increase the intake during the next reporting period.

Apart from that there is training the public health inspectors. This is a two-year programme leading to a certificate in medical technology and is being conducted by the University of Guyana in collaboration with the Government. The average intake is usually 20 persons annually. There is also a four-year course in pharmacy leading to a degree. We call the people chemist or druggist.

In addition, there is to be a one-year course of training in basic dispensing for registered nurses, which we conduct at the Government pharmacy in Kingston. The idea here is that after they have qualified we take these persons who will have had the advantage of both the formal training as a nurse and the dispensers' course and send them out to serve in the remote parts of Guyana.

I have attempted to deal with some of the matters raised by the hon. Member Mr. Chandisingh. May I refer briefly to the Development Plan on page 21 of the Budget Speech? I quote:

“The plan will contain projects and programmes aimed at

(a) feeding the nation...”

It goes on to say that-

“The attainment of the level of production required to make unnecessary the importation of all but the barest minimum of foodstuff premises a revolutionizing of the agricultural sector.”

As I said a moment ago, the Ministry for which I am responsible for has taken account of the developing programme and the thrust in to the agricultural sector. This year we will assist in giving a fillip to agriculture by spending \$2 million on the first phase of a five-year scheme to increase the drainage on the coastland by a dependable method of pumping. We hope, during the course of next year, to complete construction of work to provide drainage and irrigation facilities to Boerasirie internal works, to do work on Cane Grove and Philadelphia.

The second phase of work is to provide internal drainage and irrigation facilities in the Vergenoegen/Parika/Naamryk area. I give this information to this honourable House so that we will recognise the consistency with respect not only to the presentation of our budget, but with respect to the national objective and goals for, if we are to feed ourselves, drainage and irrigation is vital.

6.20 p.m.

In fact, I say it is absolutely necessary.

I understand the during this debate the hon. Member Reepu Daman Persaud referred to the fact that an area of water control was still in the hand of the old estate authorities I think I told this House some time ago the Government will bring before this hon. House legislation of a National Water Authority. Since then we have, in fact, completed draft legislation for this Authority. The objective the Water Authority is ensure that a single authority will have a general oversee and to be able to oversee all water resources – ground water, surface water, etc. so that there will be no wastage, so that the necessary sanction could be applied to some of the existing Authorities who, for their own purpose – and I agree with my friend the hon. Member Mr. Persaud – have been over years indiscipline. That legislation will come to this house no later than mid-February of 1972. I hope that we will have the full support of the house when the measures are brought.

Mr. Speaker, in attempt to make sense of national plan one must provide what the economist call the infrastructure for development. Through my Ministry we are making a serious effort to provide these facilities and next year we will see an expansion of the pure water supply programme. We propose to have wells at places like Lancaster and other parts of the country and at Black Bush Polder. This is in addition to the project area covering East Bank and East Coast of Demerara. We to assist to assist in other infrastructural work like protecting our Coast by sea defence. Mr. Speaker, I am sure like the rest of us you take you family for a drive along the seawalls some evenings and you will have noticed that the seawall between Kitty and Liliendal has been completed. During this year we will be tackling the area from Kitty to Fort Groyne to rehabilitate the seawall to protect the City of Georgetown. The coastal roads are being improved, for how else will we bring our agriculture produce unless there are safe roads for the farmers and others to bring their produce to centres. As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have completed the surfacing of the Corentyne highway and we are proceeding apace construction of three toll stations and hope to have this completed by February next year, so that the farmers will be able to move with comfort and speed to transport their agriculture from their farm to their marketing centres.

Mr. Speaker, the national self-help road is progressing satisfactorily. The hon. Prime Minister ought to be in a position to deal with the achievements with respect to the national self-help road when he winds up this debate on Thursday of this week.

I wish to congratulate my colleague the hon. Minister of Finance for the Budget Speech and for proposals for the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventy-two. We can look to the future with good heart. To develop a country like Guyana, there is need for understanding, there is need for dedication, there is need for all of us to be prepared to make real sacrifice, and lastly, there is need for all of us to give our labour honestly, so we can realise the hope of this Government for a successful future and the enhancement and the improvement of the lot of the ordinary citizens of Guyana. *[Applause]*

Mr. Ramsaroop: Your Honour, I beg you leave to move the suspension Standing Order 9 (1) to permit us to go one hour hence to continue this debate.

Question put and agreed to

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member Mr. Malcolm Corrica.

Mr. Corrica: Mr. Speaker, I rise like my hon. Comrade not defend the Budget Speech because I have not heard and of the hon. Member opposite really attack this Budget, the most they did was to go on a wild excursion of irrelevancies, - [**Hon. Members:** "Hear, Hear."] – but to assist them to come to the true topic of discussion which is the Budget Speech. I will try to education or may I say enlighten the hon. Member because they seem to be either wilfully or honestly unaware of the true facts, and I repeat facts, because this word seems to make them dance "nagara" in their seats when they hear it. *[Laughter]*

In my contribution I will draw the hon. Members' attention to the invaluable opportunities that this P.N.C. Government has made available to the small man without decimation.

Not giving little handout here and there, as the hon. Member Mr. Van Sluytman said yesterday, little tractors here, little tractors there, in the guise of incentives but getting them together – I am speaking about the small man – organising them in the form of co-operatives. The hon. Members opposite will agree that is a real step and the only step and progressive Government thinking about socialism will take. [Hon. Member (Government): “Hear, hear.”]

At some time I want to know whom they are really representing, if they are representing the workers, the small man so to speak, or the sharks, but thinking seriously and after listening to certain statements, I can call name, the hon. Member Mr. Roshan Ally and the hon. Member Mr. Ram Karran, I have arrived at the conclusion that they are representing the sharks, because, God Bless the P.N.C., we have heard in this house – just the other day while debating the Supplementary Financial Paper – about small men having trucks and tractors. We try to help the small man in meaningful ways so that he will be able to contribute meaningfully to the nation’s development. I repeat myself by saying that there is no other way to do this by organising them through the co-operatives.

We did not stop there. Knowing that those problems which they will have to face will call for hard work and serious work, we did not leave them on their own, we went about educating them, giving them technical knowledge, managerial skills, etc. It is consistent, and I must congratulate hon. Member Harry Lall for recognising this consistency of the Government, when he said from year to year we keep saying one thing, we intend what we speak. I will quote here from a little booklet. I am not quoting from Marx, or Stalin or Lenin. Those boys were great, they did their thing in their era, in the relevant situation this is the power of co-operative ownership. This is how a speech made by the most progressive political leader in these parts, the hon. Prime Minister. [**Hon. Members** (Government): “Hear, hear”] He was speaking to small men in 1969:

“The Government which you elected and which I lead is willing to its part. The Government is at present undertaking the complete re-organisation of the Co-operative Development Department and this involving considerable expenditure.”

He was very sincere in giving the facts that they can understand. One has to know the facts or else one would not know where one is going. The Department is being stream-lined and divided into specialised divisions. Each division will be equipped to deal with the special problems arising in the various sectors of the economy. For instance, agricultural co-ops will be able to obtain advice and direction from persons in the department with special skills in agriculture, and so on.

We will hear about how many co-operatives fail but if a co-operative should fail, how many does one individual lose? But we would not hear about individuals who go into business with thousands of dollars and fail, so therefore, if one fails in a co-operative he loses less than if he fails as individual. Mr. Speaker, you do not have to go to high school and collage to know this.

The Opposition should appreciate the emphasis we are putting on the agricultural sector and, as my hon. Friend mentioned yesterday, we are not placing all our eggs in one basket. We are diversifying and already this programme is bearing fruit. Just the other day, during the P.P.P. regime, we used to import chicken meat in large quantities.

6.40 p.m.

We have been able to get the small man involved alongside the big man in this business and today we do not have to import that commodity. When I was a boy I would have thought it was impossible for us to develop our poultry business on such a large scale. The hon. Member can “mouj” – [*Laughter*] – because he had a lot of Indian delicacies this evening for tea.

We intend to head towards self-sufficiency through the co-operative. It is difficult to understand the members of the Opposition. They said that we are not tackling the unemployment problem. They said that we care nothing about the small man and yet when we came here for money for a rehabilitation programme at Matthew’s Ridge, they kept noise. When we came for money for the expansion of the Kibilibiri project, they kept noise. They have convinced me that

they have no intention of supporting the Government for supporting the small man because that would put the final nail, so to speak, in the coffin of the P.P.P.

No Government can provide employment for all its citizens. I doubt whether any Government can provide employment for 50 percent of its citizens, but where we have not given employment directly we have given it indirectly. To the unemployed we have given land so that they can enjoy self-sufficiency, while improving productivity.

[**Hon. Members:** “Hear, hear!”]

As I said, we must have failures, cowards falter, but danger is quickly overcome by those who are nobly dare. I would have expected the hon. Member Reepu Daman Persaud, when speaking about assistance for small men and getting them together talk about culture, but could make this house knowledgeable of the fact, even though it is not in the Budget Speech, that, even in my field, entertainers are organising themselves in a strong unit to be able to make a meaningful contribution to nation and to do their own promotion and production.

I do not know if hon. Members opposite are aware of the amount of revenue entertainers can bring to a country. Only the other day we heard about a Jamaican who received an award from his Government for selling over \$1 million in records produced in Jamaica. We hope that in the next few years we will reach that mark instead of sending money out of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to be long because I am not gifted in long speeches. I shall touch on my points briefly. I shall speak now about E.T.B and the good it has in reality done to the small man. As the hon. Minister said we cannot control the prices of other people's goods. I do not know whether these hon. Members have any black magic with which they could do this. The hon. Member, Mr. Ram Karran, has a very suspicious look. *[Laughter]* We are not setting out to reach any kind of Utopia. We are speaking about realities, the things that can be achieved. Our programme is a relatively short one, from now till 1976, that is, five years. The hon.

Member over there was speaking about happened in Bulgaria, I believe, in ten years. We are speaking about a five-year programme and he is speaking about a country that made “X” amount of progress in ten years.

The E.T.B. in fact has done considerably well for the small man. We know that if it had not been for the E.T.B., the prices of goods, although they have been raised, would have been double or three times the amount because of the speculators, the sharks, whom the hon. Members seem to be representing. I shall always be puzzled to understand how a party that professes to be socialist could represent these sharks. Maybe it is because it has very large commercial establishment, such as GIMPEX. I sympathise with the hon. Members.

6.50 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, about the tax relief, since this Government has come into to power the small cannot really say that he has not derived anything. Up to this day he does not have to pay a licence to ride his bicycle. And we know that that is a small man’s way of transport especially in Guyana. The only place I believe a does not use a bicycle is the Linden Highway because they are too many hills but everywhere else. If we look in this entire Budget you will see that the small man has been granted incentives. The small man who is poor with children is going to derive most of these benefits.

The hon. Minister of Trade (Mr. Singh) was speaking about persons changing their attitudes about certain things. They are certain hon. Members who might have different ideas about things but all he meant was that we need to decolonise ourselves. Because, sir, you know as well as I know, there are thousands of strong Guyanese who has grown in this country without ever tasting lactogen. I do not even think I had lactogen. Hon. Members opposite should listen to buy local songs, read about things that can be produced locally. We know about plantain flour and milk. This is better than any lactogen. Because there are certain children if you give them lactogen they get diarrhoea, but plantain flour has iron.

If we really want to reap the fruits of impendence, to call ourselves an independent nation, we must try to decolonise ourselves, to change our appetite, our way of dress. For instance, we have done nothing really meaningful in doing away with suits and using shirt jacks. By now would have been sweating from head to toe and feeling most uncomfortable. What I should like to say is that the Government as I read in this little booklet is willing to do its part giving the small man a sense of dignity, a sense of ownership and all in all a sense of responsibility, and it is left now to the small man to take up the challenge. If this Co-operation Republic fails in any form it is not for the lack of the right guidance by the Government but small people does not understand that action does not always bring forth happiness because there is no happiness that can be achieved without action. [Applause]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member Mr. Roshan Ally.

Mr. R. Ally: Mr. Speaker, I have seen where the hon. Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech made certain that they were 992 co-operative societies in the year 1970. There were also 115 new co-operative societies which were formed in 1971; therefore, there are 1,107 co-operative societies. Then he went to state that twenty one of the new co-operative societies are really agricultural co-operative societies. What the hon. Minister failed to tell us since this is a Co-operative Republic is how many of these co-operatives today are making progress in the country how many are not making progress and the reason for their not making progress, and within this year and next year how many of these co-operative societies will be willfully destroy by this Government.

Mr. Speaker, I should start from the extreme end of East Bank of Berbice and that is Brandwagt/Sari Land Co-operative Society. This co-operative had sixty-four settlers; today only six have remained there. Mara where sixty families were settled, today only eleven families are there. Why? This Government has been putting pressure on these people from time to time.

Draining at the moment is a problem for these people. The drainage trenches are silted with grass up to the 4th of this month because of the heavy rainfall the entire house and kitchen went under water. And that is not all. A midwife was sent the Brandwagt/Sari, Mara and Ma Retraite area but this Government has removed the midwife their and now the people have been left without that service. A dispenser was at Mara but at the moment the settlers are complaining that this dispenser in most cases cannot be found. When these people complain to the officers concerned what answer do they get from them? The answer that was given to them is this: “Oh! People your eyes are blind you cannot understand, you are hard of hearing; the Government is calling on you to remove from here. Are you not seeing that this is a way of working on the land up to Calabash Creek?”

7 p.m.

“Are you not seeing surveyors working on the land at Cabbage Creek? We are bring new people here, we do not want you on this land.” This is how Government is treating the co-operative societies.

The members of the Government are talking about co-operative but I say that this word on the booklet should be erased. It has no right to be there. We have about 100 co-operative societies on the East Bank Berbice. In 1968 the Sisters Land Co-operative Society met the hon. Prime Minister when he can then have 1968 Elections. The members had a talk with him and the asked him to do something so as to help them where drainage was concerned. They also told him that the land they have is too small and because of that they cannot make any real progress. The hon. Prime Minister promises to look into the matter but on to this day, nothing has been done. The man who met the Prime Minister as the head of the co-operative Amos Stephen he was then Chairman of the Local Authority of that village. Mr. Amos Stephen, as strong activist for the P.N.C., appealed, and the Prime Minister promised, but immediately after the Elections the people wrote him a letter and the received no reply. The people came to Georgetown a few months later and had a talk with him. He said he would look into the pros and cons and up to this

day they are still waiting. I met the present Chairman of the Local Authority. He is Basil Casey. He said that all that Mr. Stephen told him was true and correct and that the present Government has neglected its duty to the people on that bank.

All the settlers on that bank are co-op societies and all these settlers save and except the settlers at Sisters, Mara, Ma Retraite, and Brandwagt/Sari, will have to drink trench water. The East Bank Berbice Land Co-operative Society has an area of 5,000 acres of land. This land was given by the P.N.C. This society from the time it got the lease from the Government was involved with a big businessman, a P.N.C. man from New Amsterdam who filled an injunction against this society restraining it from going on the lands. They were in Court for several years and the Court ruled in favor of the co-operative society but when the people approach the Government again, they learnt that for all these years in Court, Government was still charging the lease. The people several times to Government and after Government was determined that they will have to pay the lease from the year the lease was given to them, the people threatened Government that they will take it to court. Only then did Government decide to write off \$3,000 as lease due for the year they were in Court. This land co-operative owes Government \$9,000.

Since this co-operative society took the land, it has not been beneficially occupied up to this day. The members of this co-operative society approached the Government to do one little thing. They own a dragline but they are doing the internal work with the dragline. They also own a bulldozer; this is also occupied with internal work of the society. All they are asking Government is just to provide the drainage for them and charge them drainage rates. This Government has no interest in the small man and will never do it.

Since last year when we had the Budget before this House, I asked the Government to do something about that road on the East Bank Berbice. The Minister promised to do something about it but anyone can go there and see. On the 8th of this month I am going through this road and saw a bus fastened in the middle of the road, two tractors were pulling it out. On the 4th of this month, I was near the New Amsterdam where there was a big crowd. When they asked what

it was all about the people said that they were waiting on the Mara truck their supply of plantains and what not. The truck arrived two hours later than they expected. When he got here the driver said, "Thanks to the Lord that I got here." I should like to say that hundreds of gallons of milk from the East Bank Berbice had to go to the drain. Because they could not transport it to New Amsterdam the housewives of New Amsterdam had to do without milk. The road is extremely bad and what this Government should bear in mind is that there is no doctor on that bank and when the people want to see a doctor they will have to travel from Brandwagt/Sari to New Amsterdam. I think this Government has no sympathy for the poor people living there.

7.10 p.m.

If there is an emergency, a pregnant mother is ill in the night and as to travel to New Amsterdam, just imagine what would happen to her before she reaches there. She would surely deliver or die before she reaches the hospital. These people have no sympathy for the people who live in the area. The people at the bank has asked to appeal to the Government and to say if the intention is to repair the road it should not be surfaced with bitumen because it can ill afford tolls. This Government has declared that tolls will be charged on every road once it is repaired. The people are asking for simple road. They want a burnt earth road. Government is now putting sand on the road. A few people have been shovelling the sand from the parapet and throwing it on the road and when the rains come the whole road becomes slush and vehicle can move on it.

I met a man at Maka on the East Bank, a strong P.N.C. supporter, who did not want to even talk to me. He told me, "Mister, I want to tell you something. The government is wicked though I am a member of it and a strong supporter of it. The Government places a loaf of bread in front of you and says, 'Come and get it', but at the back of the bread there is a gun and a finger on the trigger. How are you going to get the bread? This is the type of Government we have today." This is true; the man told me so.

There are seven Agricultural Land Co-operative Societies at the rear of the Black Tree cattle pasture and these seven co-operative societies gave leased 15,000 acres of land. Most of them have already put the land under cultivation. Many of them have planted and reaped crops but for the past four years they simply cannot do anything on the land. They have lost a crop on its owing to ingress and egress. They have asked this Government to repair the road for them at No.52. The land is there is they would not have purchase land now. The reserve is there, it was planned for a road. The people have further agreed that if the Government prepares this road they are willing to pay a toll on it, but not on the Corentyne Road because this would be a new road.

These co-operative societies are already involved in expense amounting to \$3 million and they are heavily indebted to the Credit Corporation and a few individuals. They got the best drainage, even better than that at Block 3, because the drain through the Canje Creek. All they are asking is for the Government to prepare a road so that they can ingress and egress. This Government will never do it. The members of the Government say that they are helping the poor man; they want to make the poor man, as I said before, a dead man.

These farmers are saying that if the Government cannot prepare a road then they should be brought forward to front lands. The agricultural officers, and everyone else, agree that it is possible to bring them forward to the cattle pasture and take the cattle to the back and thus they would find means to ingress and egress. I think Government should something about area of 15,000 acres of land that is under drainage and irrigation already.

I am going to turn to the Government's agricultural policy. Its policy as I am say is farce. The Government does not believe in agriculture. The members of the Government are paying lip service to agriculture but they just do not believe in agriculture. These co-operative societies are all agricultural co-operative societies.

I turn now to Black Bush Polder. Government is breaking settlers' houses every now and then. Sometime during this year heard there were 32 houses to be pulled down. I went to

investigate the matter and the administrator told me, “Not 32, Mr. Ally; 200 houses are on the list. And we are going pull down all. Owing to the weather we cannot start.” I there and then asked him to do something about it and he said he is in sympathy with the people.

Mr. Speaker, I went through the scheme myself with a few settlers and counted the plot that were vacant where settlers have be forced out of the scheme. Today 185 plots were unoccupied and each plot measures 17 acres. That gives us 3,145 acres of land, with drainage and irrigation lying idle today. These are plots where people have residential areas and rice cultivation areas. The people who occupy the land on both sides of these vacant plots are claiming the residential areas automatically become a feeding ground animals and insects. This is affecting the people on both sides of the vacant plots. In the rice fields the same thing is happening because bush is growing on these unoccupied plots.

Mr. Speaker, there are also four fields in which the farmers we forced out owing to the cattle nuisance. They had to leave their land and run. Each field has four sections, so there are 24 fields, and each field measures 225 acres this is equivalent to the 5, 400 acres. I am talking about other lands at the back of Black Bush Polder.

Mr. Speaker: I do not follow your mathematics. If they are four plots with 225 acres, how does that come to 5,400 acres?

Mr. Ally: Each plot has four sections which gives us 24 fields. Each field measures 225 acres. So 24 times 255 is 5,400, to 3,145 and that gives you 8,545 acres of cultivated land lying ideal to today when they are thousands of people who are land-hungry, who want jobs and lands; they want to live. This Government will never give them the land. All this Government is doing just putting people off the land. I do not know the reason why but it is putting pressure all the time on the poor people and chasing them out from the land.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has done any drainage and irrigation; it is the P.P.P. which has done so. The P.P.P. government had put people to live as they are in heaven, the people are saying now that the P.N.C. Government is making the feel as if they are now living in hell. I think that if this Government really wants to help the small man, if it has any interest in agriculture, then I will see that those lands be given to farmers who will be able to work the land.

The Government has actually compelled the people to leave the land and come in front. They were told if they leave the land and come in front they will be offered house lots and seven and a half acres of rice lands. The people are offered this land and are told that they must pay whatever is due for the seven and a half acres of rice land. The people said that they did not understand that. They said: "Whatever amount is due on the land we occupy we are going to pay that amount". Since these people have refused to do this what has been happening? The officers from the Land Development Department, I think through the Ministry of Agriculture, have been taking other people to the land and these people are paying one cent to get on the land. When we talk these things some hon. Members say that we are prejudiced. I was born and grew up among Negroes; my friends are Negroes. The point is this: it is not that this Government us taking the Negro population to the land or giving them jobs but it is giving lands to those who assisted it to rig the last General Elections.

There are many people still. One man told a Magistrate quite recently that he had to steal; his children were hungry and he had to give them sugar water and bread for breakfast. The hon. Minister of Trade spoke about cheese but he fails to understand that they are thousands of poverty-stricken people who cannot tell you the taste of cheese. But because he is eating cheese and a number of the other Members is eating cheese so the Government has dropped the price of cheese a few cents.

I was just explaining the situation where officers from the Land Development Department are moving out people, telling them to come out. I want to show another case where in 1968 this Government established a settlement at Black Bush Polder which is now known as Zambia. The

plots the people in that area had their possession were all level lands. These farmers levelled the lands at their own expense. The Land Development Department promised the farmers that they will be removed from the lands they were occupying and will be given lands elsewhere and if lands were not there to their approval the Land Development Department will level it. The people said that once the promise is made and the Land Development Department decides to bulldoze and make it level they will go.

You will remove these farmers while they cultivated a crop for that year and so they would charge any rent. In 1969 they could not have planted because they were late. In 1968 they could not ask to pay any rent but in 1970 it appeared on the notice paper. The farmers raised their voices about it and they were told if they cannot pay they must go. These people are up to this day still drinking trench water. The Government has sympathy for the people.

Mr. Speaker, at the moment the School at Mibikuri is in a sad state. There is a lot of vandalism going on there. The floor boards and windows are missing. This Government talks about vandalism; the people of who committed the biggest acts of vandalism are those from the Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply. It has been alleged that 141 windows were stolen.

7.30 p.m.

Nobody can give account of this, but the hon. Minister removed it. They had gone with the windows. [Interruption] The hurts but I will have to speak it.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, do you have much more to say?

Mr. R Ally: I do not know, sir, I think I will take another 30 minutes or so. I asked a question here and the hon. Minister of Agriculture, when answering the question whether it is Government's intention to compensate the farmers whose crops were destroyed, said that nobody

will be compensated because their own cattle destroyed their crops. But this is not so. The cattle belong to a P.N.C. activist named Orin Campbell. I understand he was given the necessary permission to remove any cattle found in cultivation area but he is removing the people's cattle because they want to take their settlers there to rear pigs. He is using his own cattle against the people. Mr. Speaker, this very man appeared in Court for cutting up persons. This stray catcher is using his house as a P.N.C. office. Sir, you should see this Orin Campbell riding his horse, chasing settlers as though they were wild animals.

This man went and set fire to another man's house. It is P.N.C. against P.N.C. It aches me to know that hon. Ministers and Members of the House know the facts but they try to hide them. They set the people to do these things.

Mr. Speaker: Hon Member Mr. Roshan Ally, what are you accusing the hon. Minister and hon. Members of the House of? I will not permit that.

Mr. R. Ally: Sir, I apologise. This is really bad but what is worse is that most of these dams and trenches are already damaged by cattle. One can hardly tell which is a trench and which is a dam. I do not understand it. Money will come from the pockets of the Government, but the poor taxpayer will also have to pay. They have to dig and rebuild the dam.

The hon. Minister told us not too long ago that the settlers who own cattle are cutting the wire. I went to see for myself. I asked several people questions, even those on the Drainage and Irrigation Board, how that wire was destroyed. Two of them and when I reached the fence I noticed that from the time the wire was put there, the bush started to cover it. When the rain fell rust was formed. Every wallaba post has a wood ant's nest. The wire was cut with cutlasses in the area opposite to the Campbell and Brothers' area. There were two other bad areas but the wire was replaced. This was done by the owners who live at the back. As I said before, they were sent to get the people from the land.

Earlier this year, the people were made to understand that 200 houses were made to be broken. In June, hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Reid went to Black Bush Polder the farmers took him along with Administrator to see for himself what is going on. The hon. Deputy Prime Minister's eyes began to water when he saw the hundreds of cabbage because he was surprised to see such a thing at Black Bush Polder. When these people to Georgetown the Guyana Marketing Corporation in Georgetown carried the wholesale price of cabbage 16 and 17 cents a pound.

The P.N.C. Town Council is not allowing the farmers to sell in the market and so the hands of the people are tied to selling to the Guyana Marketing Corporation. If anybody wants to take the challenge, I can prove. These people are not allowing the farmers to sell in the Greater Georgetown area just because they saw so much cabbage at Black Bush Polder. It means that the people must be put under pressure.

7.40 p.m.

But this made the settlers laugh: a few days later the hon. Deputy Prime Minister was in Zambia and in addressing the Zambians he said: "All yuh ent shame? We giving you pure water to drink. The coolie is drinking trench water. We giving you ration. We find employment for you and we giving you three cows and rum to drink every year. The only thing short at Zambia at the moment is a dancehall. Behave yourselves and we will a dancehall too." He promised them everything. He told them that two ochro tree and three cassava trees cannot---

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member, Mr. Roshan Ally, you have five minutes more.

Mr. R. Ally: Because of this, I shall have run through. Not only the people in the markets in Georgetown, but the people in New Amsterdam, the people in Black Bush and the people in the co-operatives on the East, Berbice River, are affected.

A few mornings ago 16 and 20 cents used to be charged for an empty bag space in the open air market. Since the P.N.C. Town Council has taken office in New Amsterdam, it has changed the whole policy at the New Amsterdam market. Now the sum of 10 cent is charged for a bag of space and the goods are taxed. Vendors have to pay one cent for every squash, three cents for every bunch of plantains, four cents of every bunch of bananas, one cent on every pineapple, twelve cents on every bag of fruit, twelve cents on every bag of cucumber, eight cents on every bag of rice, four cents on every bag of plantain and one cent on every bunch of cabbage. The farmers, instead of paying 16 cents for a bag of space, are now paying \$3 to \$4 each to occupy a bag of space in the market.

If this Government believes in agriculture, then it should allow all agricultural machines, spare parts and agricultural tools to enter duty free and should control the prices of these machines, spare parts and agricultural tools.

I should like to ask the government also to make all insecticide and weedicides used in agriculture duty free, otherwise it should explain the subsidy that was there before. All fuel used in agriculture should but duty free.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, “That this Assembly do now adjourn until Wednesday, 15th December, 1971, at 2 p.m.” [**The Minister of Housing and Reconstruction** (Leader of the House)]

Adjourning accordingly at 7.43 p.m.
