

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

—
THIRD SESSION
—

1971
—

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 37th Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 1971

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of Communications
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Finance
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and
Social Security
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction (Leader of the House)
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Trade
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for
Co-operatives and Community Development
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Works, Hydraulics
and Supply
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests
The Honourable E.B. McDavid, Minister of Information and
Culture
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

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

(iii) Other Members

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.

(b) Members of the Opposition

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. G.H. Lall, J.P.
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. V. Teekah
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. M.F. Singh

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

Absent:

The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley,
 Minister of Health - on leave
 The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Attorney-
 General and Minister of State
 Mrs. L.E. Willems
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip - on leave
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. Bhola Persaud - on leave
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mr. L.A. Durant
 Mr. J.A. Sutton
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 20

Mr. Ram Karran, on behalf of Mr. Chandisingh, asked the Minister of Health the following question:

- Question:
- (i) Is the Minister aware that medical services in the Mabaruma and riverain areas of the North-West District have seriously deteriorated since the doctor who ~~was~~ previously stationed at the Mabaruma Hospital was transferred to Matthews Ridge?
 - (ii) Is the Minister of the view that one doctor is able to serve adequately both the Matthews Ridge and Mabaruma Hospitals and also to serve regularly the people living along the numerous and extensive rivers of the North-West District?
 - (iii) Is the Minister aware that for ~~several~~ months the doctor made no visits to the riverain areas of the North-West District, or that since March there has been no visit by the ~~river~~ dispenser?
 - (iv) In view of the urgent medical needs of the people of the North-West District, would the Minister agree at least to restore the service to its previous level as a first step to needed improvements of these areas?
 - (v) If the answer to (iv) is **in the affirmative**, how soon can the people expect to have a resident doctor at Mabaruma Hospital and regular service of the rivers by the doctor and dispenser?

The Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House) gave the following reply on behalf of the Minister of Health:

- Answer:
- (i) Due to the acute shortage of Government Medical Officers at the time it was expedient to have the Doctor stationed at Pakera Hospital, Matthews Ridge, run the Mabaruma Hospital. Now that the staffing position has improved, a Doctor has been assigned to the Mabaruma Hospital. He assumed duty on 28th October, 1971.
 - (ii) Two speed boats "Doc Talbot" and the launch "New Guyana" now serve the people in the river of the North West District.
 - (iii) Yes - but a dispenser for the Mobile Dispensary Unit assumed duty on the 13th December, 1971.
 - (iv) The same is now improved.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONMOTION TO APPROVE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1972

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1972, totalling \$197,846,560. (See Appendix to Minutes of 32nd Sitting held on Tuesday, the 7th of December, 1971).

Mr. Teekah concluded his speech.

The Minister of Education and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

Mr. D.C. Jagan was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.35 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1972.

Mr. D.C. Jagan concluded his speech.

Mr. Fowler, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Duncan spoke to the motion.

Mr. Ram Karran was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 6.30 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 8.00 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for 1972.

Mr. Ram Karran concluded his speech.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of SupplyREPORT OF THE BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Chairman of the Business Sub-Committee of the Committee of Supply (His Honour the Speaker) reported, in accordance with paragraph (2) of Standing Order No. 64 (Business Sub-Committee), that the Business Sub-Committee met on 14th December, 1971, and passed a Resolution in terms of the matters set out in paragraph (1) of Standing Order No. 64 i.e. on the allocation of time for the consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure in Committee of Supply.

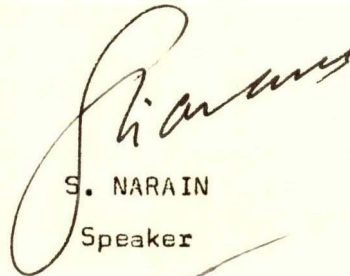
(Copies of the Resolution and of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committee were circulated to Members on the 14th of December, 1971.)

Thereafter, on a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Committee of Supply agreed with the Business Sub-Committee in the said Resolution.

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT.

At 10.20 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Housing and Reconstruction (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, the 17th of December, 1971.



S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
17th December, 1971.