

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 60TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1995) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 20TH JULY, 1995

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development (Absent - on leave)

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The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development

The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

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The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandaryal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President

The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)(Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) **People's National Congress (26)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Absent)
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Cyrida A. DeJesus, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.03 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Mr. Ivor Allen

The Speaker stated that following the resignation of Miss Gwenneth Brouet as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 8th May, 1995, and his call upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Miss Brouet's name was included, he was informed that the name of Mr. Ivor Allen had been extracted from the said list and that Mr. Allen was, on 12th June, 1995, declared to be an elected Member of the Assembly to fill the Vacancy.

The Speaker said that before Mr. Allen could take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, he would have, as required by article 167 of the Constitution, to make and subscribe the oath of office.

As Mr. Allen was present, the oath was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**(i) Congratulations and Welcome to Mr. Ivor Allen**

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. Ivor Allen on his election as a Member of the National Assembly.

He also welcomed Mr. Allen to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:

the Hon. Harripersaud Nokta,
 the Hon. Vibert DeSouza,
 Mr. Desmond Hoyte,
 Mr. Alston Kissoon, and
 Mrs. Cyrilda DeJesus, for that day's sitting,
 and to
 Mr. Winston Murray up to 10th August, 1995.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.**(1) By the Senior Minister of Home Affairs:**

(i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Fire Service for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

(i) State Paper on the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 75th and 76th Sessions of the International Labour Conference held in June, 1988 and June, 1989, respectively:-

(a) Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988, No. 167

(b) Safety and Health in Construction Recommendation, 1988, No. 175.

(c) Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention, 1988, No. 168

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- (d) **Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Recommendation, 1988, No. 176**
- (e) **Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989, No. 169.**

(Circulated)

(ii) **State Paper on the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 77th Session of the International Labour Conference held in June, 1990:-**

- (a) **Chemicals Convention, 1990, No. 170**
- (b) **Chemicals Recommendation, 1990, No. 177**
- (c) **Night Work Convention, 1990, No. 171**
- (d) **Night Work Recommendation (Revised) 1990, No. 178.**

(Circulated)

(3) **By the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs:
Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1993.**

(Circulated)

(4) **By the Minister in the Office of the President:
Annual Report of the Office of the President for the year 1994:**

- (I) **Presidential Secretariat**
- (II) **Public Service Management.**

(Circulated)

(5) **By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance:**

(i) **Agreements (2) between the International Development Association and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:**

- (a) **Development Credit Agreement No. 2559 GUA dated January 5, 1994 for Water Supply Technical Assistance and Rehabilitation Project; and**
- (b) **Development Credit Agreement No. 2168-6 GUA dated June 7, 1994 for Second Structural Adjustment Credit Program.**

(Circulated)

(ii) **Agreements (2) between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:**

- (a) **Loan Contract No. 909/SF-GY dated April 13, 1994 for the Remedial Maintenance Project for Georgetown Sewerage and Water Supply System; and**

- (b) Loan Contract No. 912/SF-GY dated February 14, 1994 for the Social Amelioration Programme.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Agreements (2) between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:

- (a) Loan Contract No. 9/SFR-GU dated February 14, 1994 for the Drainage and Irrigation Project; and
- (b) Loan Contract No. 10/SFR-GU dated July 22, 1994 for the Second Road Project.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Agreement between the Government of France and the Government of Guyana on the reorganization of debts in accordance with the third Paris Club Agreed Minute signed in Paris on May 6, 1993. Agreement dated May 30, 1994.

(Circulated)

- (v) Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Guyana on the consolidation and rescheduling or refinancing of certain debts owed to, guaranteed by, or insured by the United States Government and its agencies in accordance with the third Paris Club Agreed Minute signed in Paris on May 6, 1993. Agreement dated April 5, 1994.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the Government of Guyana on the consolidation and rescheduling of certain commercial debts insured by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) in accordance with the third Paris Club Agreed Minute signed in Paris on May 6, 1993. Agreement dated February 21, 1994.

(Circulated)

- (vii) Annual Performance Report of the Office of the Auditor General for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

NO. 10 - MONEY GIVEN TO MUNICIPALITY OF GEORGETOWN

Question by Mr. Hukumchand (For Written Reply)

- (i) How much money, by way of subvention or other transfers, was given to the Municipality of Georgetown since the Interim Management Committee was installed?
- (ii) For what specific purpose this money was provided?
- (iii) Apart from projects executed directly by the Council with such money, what specific projects were carried out directly by the Central Government and at what cost?
- (iv) Will the Prime Minister also give the names of the contractors who executed these projects and say whether or not the projects were assigned on the basis of normal tender board procedures?
- (v) Will the Prime Minister also give the cost of these contracts?
(Notice Paper No. 66 (Q10 Opp10) published 21.6.95)

Written Reply by the Prime Minister

Answers - (i) - (ii) The Interim Management Committee (IMC) was installed on 19/1/94.

Subventions given to the Georgetown Municipality are as follows:-

Year	Amount	Purpose
1994	\$30M	Rates and Taxes for Government buildings in Georgetown
1994	\$8M	To assist in the operations of the Council (payment for fuel and to Contractors for garbage disposal)
1994	\$50,007,587.00	For rehabilitation of roads, cleaning of drains, removing of derelicts from the road reserves in Georgetown. Preparation for the visit of Queen Elizabeth II.
1995	\$54M	Rates and Taxes for buildings in Georgetown.
1995	\$15M	To assist with shortfall in 1995 budget.

(iii) (iv) and (v) Project Carried out by the Ministry

Year	Description of Work	Amount of Contract	Contractor	Tender Procedure
1994	Road repairs to Barr Street, Kitty	792,285.00	R. Baldeo	Selective Tender Procedure
1994	Repairs to Lamaha Street	349,945.00	S. Sookdeo	- do -
1995	Repairs to timber bridge, 6th Street, C/ville	909,700.00	R. Baldeo	- do -
1995	Road repairs to Albert Street	838,158.40	R. Baldeo	- do -
1995	Road repairs to Fort Street, Kingston	155,000.00	R. Baldeo	- do -
1995	Repairs to timber bridge at 5th Street, C/ville	716,512.95	K. Bacchus	- do -

The Selective Tendering Procedure was used because of the amounts involved.

The Contractors have been awarded jobs based on their track record, capability and capacity to complete work within a given time and within contractual sums.

Assistance given to the City Council

1995	About 10 tons 3/4" minus stone to assist with bridge construction	approx. 49,000.00
1995	3/4" reinf. rods for bridge construction	approx. 78,750.00
1995	Limited assistance with two pieces of equipment: (a) Korean Excavator (b) Tractor Backhoe	approx. 175,000.00
1995	Joint exercise involving workers, tractor and trailer for removing encroaching vendors etc.	approx. 36,000.00

Assistance given to Georgetown Sewerage and Water Commissioners

1994	Payment to GEC pre 1994 (paid in 1994)	\$125,789,479.00
1994	Payment to GEC 1994	\$71,879,870.00
1994	British Aid-Chemicals and Pumps	£600,000 = \$125M(G)
1994	Urgent repair works in Georgetown Sewerage System	\$13M
1994	Purchase of 12 new pumps and repair of 20 Sewerage stations	\$42M
1995	Urgent repair works in Georgetown Sewerage System	\$8M

NO. 11 - PROPOSED BROADCAST LEGISLATION

Question by Mr. Kenrick Tyndall (For Oral Answer)

- (i) What is the status of Government's proposed broadcast legislation?
- (ii) When is it likely to be brought before the National Assembly?
- (iii) Is the issuing of licences for privately operated Radio Stations contingent on the passage of the legislation?
- (iv) How many applications for the operation of privately owned stations have so far been received?
- (v) Could the Prime Minister identify the applicants?
- (vi) Could the Prime Minister state what criteria will be applied in granting these licences?

(Notice Paper No. 69 (Q12 Op12) published 21.6.95)

Oral Answer by the Prime Minister

- (i) The Draft Legislation is being studied by a select committee organised by the subject Minister.
- (ii) The select committee's report and recommendations will go to Cabinet for consideration before the proposed legislation is sent to the National Assembly.
- (iii) The intended legislation will set criteria and pronounce on all matters related to the broadcast sector including regulation and registration of users.
- (iv) There has been no central compilation of these applications. Some applications include multi media capability. They are forwarded to a variety of offices and officers.
- (v) Any list to be provided would not be accurate because of #4 above.
- (vi) The Bill having not yet been finalized, pronouncements on its inclusions would be premature.

NO. 13 - FIREARMS IN REGION 8Question by Mr. Matheson Williams (For Written Reply)

- (i) Is the Minister aware of reports from Chenapau in Region 8 of an illegal trade in sidearms bought from Brazil?
- (ii) Is the Minister aware that Chenapau residents complain of being at a disadvantage when faced with miners with unlicensed sidearms?
- (iii) Is the Minister aware of the widespread need for ammunition in hinterland communities?
- (iv) Will the Minister give this Assembly the assurance that arrangements will be made to restore to licensed firearm owners the means of obtaining adequate supplies of ammunition for their hunting activities?

(Notice Paper No. 71 (Q14 Op14) published 21.6.95)

Written Reply by the Senior Minister of Home Affairs

- (i) The Minister, nor the police are aware of reports from Chenapau in Region 8 of illegal trading of side arms brought from Brazil. However, the Minister has been informed by the Police that on April 21, 1995 police from Orinduik Police Station went to Chenapau and arrested one John Washington with a .38 revolver and six rounds ammunition which were suspected to have been stolen from Armatung in Brazil. He was charged and placed before the court. Police is also looking for another person suspected of being in possession of firearms.
- (ii) The Minister is not aware of any complaint from the residents of Chenapau of being disadvantaged when faced with Miners. The records at Orinduik and Mahdia Police Stations revealed no reports by Chenapau residents of any harassment by miners in terms of the use of firearms.

- (iii) The Minister has not been apprised of any acute need
 (iv) for ammunition in the hinterland communities. However he has taken the opportunity to request of the police to enquire into this, and, if this be so, to see that arrangements are made by the Commander of 'E & F' Division to assist these communities in this respect.

He has additionally requested that consideration be given to allow persons of repute to obtain permission to sell ammunition if they are so interested and can provide adequate security.

May I also take this opportunity to remind this honourable house of my appeal made previously that it will be appreciated if honourable members in possession of information requiring police intervention could bring same to the attention of the Commander of the respective division or the Commissioner of Police so that appropriate action be pursued.

NO. 14 - PAYMENT TO STUDENT TEACHERS DURING TRAINING

Question by Mr. Matheson Williams (For Written Reply)

Is it true that while some student teachers in training at the Cyril Potter College of Education receive their salaries during training, interior student teachers receive only a stipend of \$1,800.00 a month?

(Notice Paper No. 76 (Q17 Oppl7) published 22.6.95)

Written Reply by the Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development

Student teachers in training at the Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE) are not entitled to receive salaries while at College.

Where this happens, it is due to administrative error. Steps have been taken to correct this error.

NO. 15 - MEDICAL FACILITIES IN REGIONS 7 and 8Question by Mr. Matheson Williams (For Written Reply)

- (i) In what communities in Regions 7 and 8 are hospitals/health centres/stations established?
- (ii) How is each station staffed?
- (iii) Is any affected by vacancies for more than one month?
- (iv) Can the Minister state in regard to each hospital/health centre/station the dispatch and if possible the receipt of essential drugs to each of these hospitals, health centres and health stations?

(Notice Paper No. 70 (Q13 Oppl3) published 21.6.95)

Written Reply by the Senior Minister of Health

<u>(i) & (ii) REGION # 7 FACILITIES</u>	<u>STAFF</u>
1. 72 Miles Health Centre	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
2. Bartica Health Centre	1 Medex (Reg. Sup of H.C) 1 Health Visitor (HV)
3. Bartica Hospital	2 Doctors 5 Staff Nurse/Midwife 2 Qualified Midwife 2 Staff Nurses 3 Nursing Assistants 6 Nurse Aides Ancillary Staff
4. Chinoweing Health Centre	2 Community Health Workers (CHW)
5. Imbaimadai Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
6. Enachu Health Centre	1 Medex
7. Iseneru Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
8. Jawala Health Post	2 Community Health Workers (CHW)
9. Kaikan Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
10. Kako Health Post	1 Community Health Worker
11. Kamarang Health Centre	1 Midwife 1 Medex

12. Kamarang Mobile	(Vacant) 1 Community Health Worker (Visiting Medex)
13. Karrau Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
14. Kurupung Health Centre	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
15. Mazaruni Prison	(Vacant) 1 Medex
16. Paruima Health Post	(Vacant) 1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
17. Phillipai Health Post	2 Community Health Workers (CHW) (1 doing Midwifery Course)
18. Quebenang Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
19. Waramandung Health Post	1 Birth Attendant 1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
20. Wineperu Health Centre	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
21. Issano	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)

REGION # B FACILITIES**STAFF**

1. Cheong Mouth Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
2. Itabac Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
3. Karisparu Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
4. Kato Health Centre	1 Community Health Worker (CHW) 1 Midwife - (Vacant) (Vacant) 1 Medex
5. Kopinang Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
6. Kurukubaru Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
7. Mahdia Health Centre	1 Medex 1 Staff Nurse/ Midwife 1 Nursing Assistant (Vacant) 1 Community Health Worker (CHW)
8. Micobie Health Post	1 Community Health Worker (CHW)

9. Turuka Health Post	1 Community Health Worker(CHW)
10. Tuseneu Health Post	1 Community Health Worker(CHW)
11. Kamana Health Post	1 Community Health Worker(CHW)
12. Waipa Health Post	1 Community Health Worker(CHW)
13. Kaibempai Health Post	1 Community Health Worker(CHW)
14. Monkey Mountain Health Post	1 Community Health Worker(CHW)
15. Paramakatoi Health Centre	1 Midwife 1 Community Health Worker(CHW) (Vacant) 1 Medex

(iii) Vacancies exist at the following areas:-

REGION # 7

Kamarang Mobile	- 1 Community Health Worker
Masaruni Prison	1 Medex
Paruina Health Post	- 1 Community Health Worker

REGION # 8

Kato Health Centre	- 1 Medex/ 1 Midwife
Paramakatoi Health Centre	- 1 Medex
Mahdia Health Centre	- 1 Community Health Worker

All these vacancies exist for more than one month.

In addition, Community Health Workers from Issano and Kaikan in Region 7 and Waipa in Region 8 recently completed a six(6) months updating course in maternal care and have returned to their posts.

A new batch of forty(40) Community Health Workers will commence training from 24th July. These include five(5) from Region # 7 and two (2) from Region # 8 from the following areas:-

REGION # 7

Batavia	1
Kurutku	1
Kurupung	1
Enachu	1
72 Miles	1

REGION # 8

Kopinang	1
Cheong Mouth	1

- (iv) For both Regions, Pharmaceuticals and supplies are sent on a quarterly basis.

In the case of Bartica Hospital, Pharmaceuticals were sent twice this year on a quarterly basis so far. In addition whenever supplies are finished requests are made and almost every month additional supplies have been sent according to requests.

With respect to the outlying Health facilities in Region # 7, the Medex at Bartica who is the Regional Supervisor of Health Centres makes requisition for Pharmaceuticals on a quarterly basis and takes them to these facilities when he visits. These Pharmaceuticals are sent from the Bond labelled according to facility to the Medex at Bartica. So far for this year Drugs were sent twice for the other facilities in Region # 7 apart from Bartica Hospital. Ministry of Health flies drugs in at its expense and availability of flights to Kamarang for that sub- regions.

In Region # 8, Pharmaceuticals and supplies are sent directly by Guyana Airways Corporation (GAC) to Kato, Paramakatoi and Mahdia on a quarterly basis. Drugs for outlying health posts are sent to these three locations and distributed accordingly.

One constraint is that the commercial planes very often do not have enough space to take all Pharmaceuticals and supplies in at one time and as a result there are delays in taking the drugs into these areas.

The Ministry of Health is amending its procedure for the distribution of pharmaceuticals and supplies from a quarterly to a monthly basis in order to have easier access to isolated areas in Regions 7 and 8.

At the present time all requisitions for Pharmaceuticals have been fulfilled and drugs sent out. The Chief Pharmacist is now awaiting new requisitions for the third quarter of the year.

Please see attached photocopies of requisitions for pharmaceuticals despatched to Regions 7 and 8 in 1995.

No. 16 - IMPACT ON MINING ACTIVITIES ON KAIETEUR FALLS

Question by Mr. Matheson Williams to the Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry (For Written Reply)

Will the Minister investigate the impact, if any, of mining activities in the Potaro district on the Kaieteur Fall and inform this Assembly of his findings?

(Notice Paper No. 75 (Q16 Opp16) published 22.6.95)

The Reply to this Question was deferred.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Select Parliamentary Borders Committee**
- (ii) **Funds for Guyana Defence Force and Guyana Police Force for Service in Haiti**

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs made the following statement:-

" Mr. Speaker, I have asked to make this statement in the light of recent and past experiences following upon debates in this Honourable House on two issues of National importance.

First on the establishment of a Select Committee on Border Affairs and secondly, in the case of disbursement of funds to the ranks of the Guyana Defence Force and Guyana Police Force who served in Haiti. In both cases I have been publicly accused by the Minority Leader of misleading the National Assembly. The implications here Mr. Speaker, are that I, as Foreign Affairs Minister of this country, lied on two separate occasions to this Honourable House.

Mr. Speaker, I consider these very serious charges in that the Minority Leader has raised doubts in the public domain about the credibility and integrity of the Nation's Foreign Minister with regards to his participation in the National Assembly.

Mr. Speaker while I recognise that such accusations are not uncommon in the world of politics, at the sametime, it is also important that they should not be left unanswered.

Mr. Speaker, I refer to the debate of Thursday, December 1, 1994 in this Honourable House on a Motion which I introduced proposing the establishment of a multi-party Select Committee to treat with issues affecting the country's borders.

I was accused by the Minority Leader of bringing into being a letter for the purpose of the debate on the said Motion. Moreover, I was accused of practicing "gross deception on the Members of the National Assembly and, in a way, on the public at large"

Mr. Speaker, I consider it my duty to call upon the Minority Leader, to withdraw these unfounded allegations and to reconsider his position of non-participation in the Select Committee on Border Affairs.

Mr. Speaker as regards the second issue, this has to do with the disbursement of funds to the ranks of the Guyana Defence Force and Guyana Police Force. It is to be recalled that a debate took place on this subject during the sitting of the National Assembly on 26 May 1995 when the National Assembly met to discuss Financial Paper No. 1/1995.

Certain questions were asked and reasonable answers provided based on information that was available at the time. From subsequent development it became clear that the answers provided were not satisfactory to the PNC. The issue went further not only was I accused of "resorting to palpable untruths" but that I sought to "deceive" the National Assembly and that I was "inaccurate" in the information I provided to the National Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate that the information provided at the time to the National Assembly was based on all the information at hand at the time from all agencies involved.

I wish to reassure this Honourable House that it was never my intention to invent or concoct information or figures relative to this matter.

The accusation levelled against my personal integrity and my Ministry were uncalled for and unjustifiable.

I therefore call upon the Honourable Minority Leader to withdraw his uncalled for remarks in this matter, particularly in view of the following documents I now submit to the Honourable House.

1. Memorandum of Understanding relating to the CARICOM Force for Haiti
2. Financial Arrangements Re: Participation in Haiti of the Guyana Defence Force and the Guyana Police Force
3. Letter from Anne W. Patterson Deputy Assistant Secretary of the United States Government.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**Presentation and First Reading****CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 11/1995
published 20.5.95**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to effect
an alteration to article 142 of
the Constitution in accordance
with articles 66 and 164 thereof.

PUBLIC BUSINESS**MOTIONS****ITEM 1 - CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR ORGANISATION**

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion:

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of member states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposal setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese Society;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the conclusions set out in the State Paper on the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 74th session of the International Labour Conference held in September, 1987:-

- (i) Seafarers Welfare Convention, 1987, No. 163.
- (ii) ~~Seafarers Welfare Recommendation~~, 1987, No. 173.
- (iii) Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987, No. 164.
- (iv) Social Security (Seafarers) Convention, (Revised) 1987, No. 165.
- (v) Repatriation of Seafarers Convention (Revised) 1987, No. 166.
- (vi) Repatriation of Seafarers Recommendation, 1987, No. 174,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decision of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation.

(Notice Paper No. 64 (M53 Govt44) published 17.2.95)

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 2 RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOLS OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES: THE PROTOCOL OF WASHINGTON AND THE PROTOCOL OF MANAGUA

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Sixteenth Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS), meeting in Washington, DC, USA, on December 14, 1992, considered amendments to the OAS Charter which would provide for new arrangements relating to representative democracy and extreme poverty;

AND WHEREAS the Sixteenth Special Session adopted the Protocol of Amendments to the Charter of the OAS known as the Protocol of Washington;

AND WHEREAS the Sixteenth Special Session also approved inclusion in the OAS Charter of new provisions and modifications to address the issue of the elimination of extreme poverty;

AND WHEREAS the Nineteenth Special Session of the OAS General Assembly, meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, on June 10, 1993, adopted another Protocol of Amendments to the Charter of the OAS known as the Protocol of Managua;

AND WHEREAS the Protocol of Managua addresses the problem of extreme poverty in that it specifically provides for greater effectiveness and efficiency in the area of OAS technical cooperation by merging the functions of the two existing OAS technical cooperation Councils, the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES) and the Inter American Council for Education, Science and Culture, into a new Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI);

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana signed the Protocols of Washington and Managua on December 14, 1992 and on June 10, 1993, respectively:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the ratification by the Government of Guyana of the Protocols of Amendments to the Charter of the Organization of American States: the Protocol of Washington and the Protocol of Managua.

(Notice Paper No. 77 (M58 Govt 46) published 10.7.95)

Dr. Patrick McKenzie and Mr. Manzoor Nadir spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 3 - RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION, PUNISHMENT AND ERADICATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the 24th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS), meeting in Belem do Para, Brazil, on June 9, 1994, considered and approved the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women also known as the Convention of Belem do Para;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana became a signatory to the Convention on January 10, 1995, agreeing, inter alia, to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the ratification by the Government of Guyana of the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (the Convention of Belem do Para).

(Notice Paper No. 78 (M59 Govt47) published 10.7.95)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Mrs. Pauline Sukhai
Dr. Patrick McKenzie
Mr. Moses Nagamootoo
Mr. Hukumchand

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The Motion was the put and carried.

BIII - Second Reading

ITEM 4 - LAW REFORM (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1995 - Bill
No. 10/1995 published 20.5.95

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of
Legal Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was
deferred.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Law Reform (Miscellaneous
Provisions) Act, the Motor
Vehicles Insurance (Third Party
Risks) Act and the Accidental
Deaths and Personal Injuries
(Damages) Act.
(Read a first time on 22.5.95)

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.54 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of
Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a
date to be fixed.


D.O. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

20th July, 1995.