

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER
FOR THE 22nd SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(1998-1999) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1999
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

Reports (3) of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund
for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEVERANCE PAY (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1999 - Bill No. 6/ 1999

The Minister of Health and Labour, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Termination
of Employment and Severance Pay Act 1997.

F.A. NARAIN
Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown
18th March, 1999

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 22ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998 - 1999) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1999
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (77)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (47)

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

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and
Parliamentary Affairs

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)

The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister of Finance

*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Education

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

*The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

*The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Local Government

*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Health and Labour

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of Information (Absent)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Livestock and Fisheries

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

*The Hon. Shaik K. Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

*The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

***Non elected Minister**

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P.

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, S.C., M.P.

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

Mr. Joseph M. DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramratan, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Geoffrey A. Fraser, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Ramsundar Sankat, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Eustace S. Rodrigues, M.S., M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

Mr. Kunkaran Ramdas, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (25)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P.

Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

Mr. Andy Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Joseph L. Hamilton, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Sherwood A. J. Lowe, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P.

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

Ms Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Kelley Andres, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

(ii) The United Force (2)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mr. Matthew R. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

(iii) Alliance for Guyana (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Albertino Peters, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

OFFICERS

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

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

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.05 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to-

Mr. Fazil Ali,

Mr. Winston Murray,

Mrs. Deborah Backer, and

Mr. Neaz Subhan.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

* By the Minister of Finance:

Reports (3) of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund
for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995.

(Circulated).

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

The Questions at Nos. 22 to 30 were for written replies and the answers were circulated.

See Appendix for the Questions and the Answers.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

A matter which Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte wished to discuss and of which he had sent a written notification to the Speaker, in accordance with Standing Order No. 11(2), was not allowed as it did not qualify as one which could properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

**TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND SEVERANCE PAY (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1999 - Bill No. 6/ 1999**

The Minister of Health and Labour, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Termination
of Employment and Severance Pay Act 1997.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

**ITEM 1 - SUMMARY JURISDICTION (LAY MAGISTRATES) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 5/1999
published 6.2.99**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT for the constitution of lay magistrates' courts; for the appointment of lay magistrates; for the regulation of their jurisdiction, practice and procedure and for other like purposes.

(Read a first time on 3.2.99)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Bernard DeSantos

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.56 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.33 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (LAY MAGISTRATES) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 5/1999
published 6.2.99

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Summary Jurisdiction (Lay Magistrates) Bill 1999.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs the Summary Jurisdiction (Lay Magistrates) Bill 1999 was committed to a Select Committee.

ITEM 2 - CORPORATIONS (PROVISION FOR CONVERSION INTO PUBLIC COMPANIES) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 4/1999 published 6.2.99

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for
converting corporations under the Public
Corporations Act 1988 into public companies
and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 3.2.99)

The following Members spoke to the motion :-

Mr. Raphael Trotman
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

8.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 3 - NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 2/1999 published 9.1.99

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Narcotic Drugs
and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act 1988.
(Read a first time on 11.1.99)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Raphael Trotman
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Mr. Andrew Hicks
Dr. Dagleish Joseph.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 3

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The following amendment by Mr. Nadir was negated:-

Deletion of “and the court is satisfied that such cannabis was in his possession only for his personal consumption,” in the new proposed subsection (2)(b) of paragraph (a) of clause 4.

Clause 4 was then passed as printed.

Clauses 5 and 6

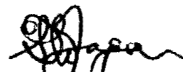
Clauses 5 and 6 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control)(Amendment) Bill 1999 was read the third time and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.28 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Friday, 26th March, 1999.



Derek C. Jagan

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.**

18th March, 1999.

Circulated 18.3.99

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REQUIRING WRITTEN REPLIES

No.22 - COMPLAINTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Question by Dr. Rupert Roopnarain:

- (i) How many complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace have been received by the Ministry of Health and Labour since the passing of the Prevention of Discrimination Act 1997?
- (ii) Please say in answering in respect of what workplaces these complaints were received and how many of them have been processed by the Ministry and with what results.

(Notice Paper No. 40 (Q23 Opp23) published 17.12.98)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Health and Labour:

Since the passing of the Prevention discrimination Act 1997- The Ministry of Health & Labour, has not received any complaints on Sexual Harassment.
Therefore having had no complaints to this effect the second question is redundant.

No. 23 - LOSSES/SURPLUSES OF THE GUYANA ELECTRICITY CORPORATION

Question by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine:

- (i) What is the amount of generation or surpluses experienced by the Guyana Electricity Corporation for the part of the year 1998 ending August 31?
- (ii) What is the amount of revenue surplus or loss experienced by the Guyana Electricity Corporation for this year to August 31?

(Notice Paper No. 41 (Q24 Opp24) published 17.12.98)

Reply submitted by the Prime Minister:

- (i) Electrical Power Utilities classify their losses broadly into parasitic losses and technical and commercial losses.

Parasitic losses, or station use as it is also referred to, is the quantity of electrical energy required to operate the station. This include the energy for lighting for the power stations, the operation of electrical motors for essential ancillary systems such as the cooling water, fuel and lubricating oil etc. This energy is never available for dispatch to the system.

The other two components of losses are technical and commercial. Technical losses are those losses that occur during the transmission and distribution of energy and part is actually required to transmit and distribute energy. Commercial losses are related to incorrect metering due mainly to faulty meters that require replacement and theft of electricity, by dishonest consumers who use various means to by-pass their meters, etc.

The total gross energy produced by the Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) for 1998 ending August 31 was 281 million kilowatt hours. Of this total 12 million kilowatts were recorded as station use. This represents 4.38% of the gross production and is generally in keeping with systems similar to that of the GEC, in terms of the mix of generating equipment.

The total technical and commercial losses experienced by the GEC up to August 31 was estimated at 98 million kilowatts, 36, 26% of the energy dispatched from the stations. It is the difference between what is dispatched and what is billed. This figure, while high in comparison to similar systems, has been historically high. The main reasons are the dual frequency supply, mainly in Georgetown at this time, which requires the operation of frequency converters, long distribution feeders, and decrepit meters. A reasonable technical loss figure for the GEC system as it is presently, would be in the order of 15%. (With an improved T.D. system, technical losses should fall to about 10%) Commercial losses therefore are estimated to be running at about 21%.

To significantly reduce this high technical and commercial loss some US\$20 million is required. This investment will rehabilitate and convert the old Georgetown system from 50 cycles to 60 cycles and will also provide for the construction of a high voltage transmission line along the West Coast and East Coast Demerara to address the long distribution feeders in these areas, which are primary sources of the technical losses. It will also provide for the change out of some 60,000 or 60% of the meters installed within the GEC's system which are defective, the majority recording in favour of the customers.

- (ii) The unaudited accounts of the Guyana Electricity Corporation (GEC) reflect a loss of G\$173 million up to August 31, 1998. This is based on total revenues of G\$3,669 million and expenses of G\$3,841 million. The main expenses were as follows: Fuel and lubricating oil, 38% Employment cost 13.5; Maintenance 16% and Interest on Loans 12%.

Employment cost includes all costs for employment including all wages and salaries, other benefits, staff training, safety and protective gear etc.

Maintenance cost includes all maintenance carried out on GEC equipment, including the cost for the Operation and Maintenance contract with the Wartsila group to operate and maintain the two (2) 22 MW Power Stations.

It should be noted that Government has not been receiving any dividends on this investment. Also, the revenue shown G\$3,669 million, is estimated from billings. It is not cash receipts, and the GEC has historically been receiving only about 75% - 80% of billings. As one may have noticed in the recent newspapers GEC has been putting on the pressure to receive prompt payments of its bills.

Considering the information on the GEC from 1993 to date one can best sum up its financial performance this way - there has continued to be a deficit or shortfall of about G\$1 billion/year but the energy delivered is now about twice as much as then, and the availability and reliability of electricity have been tremendously improved.

No. 24 - INTERMEDIATE SAVANNAHS PROJECT

Question by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine:

Is it a fact that internationally recognised Guyanese consultants executed studies necessary to the execution of the Intermediate Savannas Project?

If so, what stood in the way of their further involvement in the project?

If not, who did the preliminary studies in recent times?

(Notice Paper No. 42 (Q25 Opp25) published 17.12.98)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs:

Answer: Yes. Over the 1994 to 1998 period, nineteen (19) technical activities, (inclusive of studies, plans, proposals, projects, policy papers, promotional materials), were conducted in relation to development of the Intermediate Savannas. Fifteen were conducted by Guyanese professionals or consultancy firms, one by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and three by Caribbean experts.

The Guyanese consultants/consultancy firms which were recruited for these activities include Dr. Deep Forde, Mr. Noel Holder, David Klautky and Associates, Dr. Clive Thomas through the Institute of Development Studies (UG), Mr. John Dummett, Mr. Maurice Veacock, Terrence Fletcher and Associates, Guyenterprise, Dr. Veronica Bromes and Mr. Harry Persaud.

Answer: The Project Execution Unit (PEU) of the INSAP was established in 1997 with funds provided by the OAS.

The positions of Chief Technical Adviser and an Investment Facilitator were advertised. Short listing of applications was carried out based on pre-established criteria, which were delineated in the advertisements.

Candidates selected were interviewed by a panel and were ranked in accordance to established recruitment guidelines. Emphasis was placed on all round technical competence as well as in-depth working knowledge of various agricultural activities of the Intermediate Savannas. Two Guyanese professionals were recruited on contracts in June 1997, one of whom had an extensive technical background in the Intermediate Savannas, while the other was qualified in investment promotion activities.

At the end of their contracts in December 1997, and in the interim period which followed, the Ministry of Agriculture continued to administer the project.

Funding from the OAS for restaffing of the PEU was secured in the first half of 1998 and the positions were readvertised. Interviews were conducted and two suitably qualified Guyanese professionals were recruited in July, 1998, as was the case in 1997.

Answer - Not applicable.

No. 25 - CANCER CAREQuestion by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine:

Consequent on the welcome introduction of the National Cancer Board, can the Minister say when action will be taken to introduce short term mandatory needs for primary cancer care, in particular, the services of an oncologist and the provision of radio therapy treatment?

(Notice Paper No. 46 (Q26 Opp26) published 3.2.99)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Health and Labour:

In response to the question asked by Dr. Roopnaraine, I wish to state that since the establishment of the Guyana Cancer Board in August, 1998, the Board has presented to the Ministry a comprehensive National Cancer Control Programme, with a two year implementation plan. My Ministry has reviewed the programme and plan, and is in agreement with it. The main objective of the programme is to reduce the incidence of Cancer and also to reduce Cancer morbidity and mortality. I would like to congratulate the members of the Cancer Board for the formulation of the programme and plan.

One of the priorities of the plan is to establish a National Cancer Treatment Centre, which will have facilities for radiotherapy, and will also require appropriate staffing, including a radiation and medical oncologist. The plan calls for the construction of a bunker to house the radiotherapy equipment. The bunker has to be specially designed and built so as to prevent radiation hazard inherent with the radiotherapy unit. The bunker will therefore have to satisfy the necessary environmental safeguards. This aspect is particularly important, as the suppliers of radiation equipment are not likely to provide this equipment unless they are given assurances that the bunker is properly constructed and that radiation hazards have been contained. As a consequence, my Ministry, in conjunction with the Cancer Board has requested PAHO/WHO to recruit an architect with expertise with Cancer treatment centre design. PAHO/WHO has informed me that these architects are in short supply, but are working to expedite the process, and secure the services of a suitable person. Nevertheless, in the meantime, my Ministry and the Cancer Board are already looking at the possibility of acquiring a cobalt radiotherapy unit, so that there should be no delay between the construction of the bunker and the installation of the unit.

I also wish to state that my Ministry has already ordered, and should soon be receiving, radioactive caesium which is used for the intracavity (vaginal) treatment of cancer of the cervix, a form of treatment known as brachytherapy.

Lastly I wish to inform you that an oncologist is now working at the Georgetown Hospital, and that he is located at the old radiotherapy department building. He is treating cancer patients who require chemotherapy.

**No. 26 - ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST TEACHER OF
HELENA PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Question by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine:

On what date did the Ministry of Education submit to the Teaching Service Commission its report on investigations by its officers into the allegations of misconduct against a male teacher of Helena Primary School?

(Notice Paper No. 47 (Q27 Opp27) published 3.2.99)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Education:

The Ministry's report on Mr. Bhopaul Haruman, Senior Assistant Master, Helena Primary School, was sent to the Teaching Service Commission on June 27, 1998.

No. 27 - CHARITY WHARF

Question by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine:

- (i) Does the Minister propose to see that the Government or public sector recover all or part of the losses it suffered in the collapse of the structure described as the Charity Wharf valued at \$35 million?
- (ii) Will the Minister table any report of any investigation into the collapse of this structure?

(Notice Paper No. 48 (Q28 Opp28) published 3.2.99)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Transport and Hydraulics:

- YES - As I explained earlier to this Honourable House on the identical question posed at that time, the matter is with the Attorney General's Chambers and he has advised that the State Solicitor is proceeding with the Litigation process.
 - YES - Both copies of the Geotechnical Investigation and the Design Review report have been forwarded to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for submission to the Clerk of the National Assembly.
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No. 28 - POVERTY ALLEVIATION COMMISSION

Question by Miss Jean M.G. Persico:

For approximately four years, the Government has made allocations in the National Budget for Poverty Alleviation.

- (i) Is there a Poverty Alleviation Commission?
- (ii) If so, who are the members and what organisations, institutions and/or agencies are represented on the Commission?

(Notice Paper No. 50 (Q30 Opp30) published 3.2.99)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security:

In answer to the questions I would like to state first of all that there is no nominated poverty alleviation commission, however, this does not mean that the Government has been or is ignoring the poverty situation.

The Government of Guyana and International Agencies fully recognise the widespread nature of poverty in Guyana, when compared to Regional and international standards.

The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) and the Living Standards Measurement Surveys (LSMS) which were conducted in 1992-1993, found that 78% of households nationally did not earn enough to cover a basket of essential goods and services and are therefore below the poverty line.

It is precisely because of this inherited state of affairs that, in addition to measures that have been and are being put in place, an Advisory Committee of the Poverty Eradication Project has been established.

This project has a steering committee which comprises Dr T Gittens- UNDP, Dr. F. Sukdeo- National Project Coordinator, Dr. D. Rawana - University of Guyana, Dr. J. Jackson Committee Member, Mr. F. Baksh - U.G./Statistical Bureau, Ms. G Ramprashad - C.A.G.I./PSC, Mr. T. Balgobin - Ministry of Finance, Mr. N. Nawbatt- SIMAP, Ms. Sylvia Conway Head of Probation and Children Services and Ms. C Moore- Ministry of Housing.

The two main objectives of this committee are (1) to plan a national poverty related survey, (2) To formulate a national strategy and action plan for poverty eradication in Guyana.

This project falls directly under the Ministry of Finance and is funded by the UNDP and the Government of Guyana.

No. 29 - POVERTY AMONG WOMENQuestion by Miss Jean M.G. Persico:

- (i) What specific plans has the Government put in place to alleviate poverty among women and in what areas of the country are these plans being implemented?
- (ii) Is there any report on what has been achieved so far?

(Notice Paper No. 51 (Q31 Opp31) published 3.2.99)

Reply submitted by the Minister of Human Services and Social Security:DRAFT

During the period 1995 - 1997, the Government Poverty Alleviation Programme made available to the Women and Development programme G\$45M. The Women's Affairs Bureau immediately embarked on a Needs Assessment involving the communities in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10 using the participatory method. As a consequence, identification of the needs were done by members of the communities. A programme was put in place to address those needs.

The areas identified were:

- Life Skills**
- sewing, craft production
 - computer literacy
 - poultry production and rearing
 - home improvement
 - small business management
 - public education, legal issues, health issues

Beneficiaries

983 individual women, representatives from Non Governmental Organisations and Agencies nominated, benefitted from the programmes conducted in the Regions, while 45 persons benefitted from the Computer Literacy programme.

Geographic spread

Careful consideration and consultation was done with the Regional Women's Affairs Committees in the Regions as it relates to the communities in which these programmes were to be conducted. The aim was to break new ground which resulted in (see Appendix) programmes in 3 separate areas in Regions #1 & 2, one area in Region #3, three in Region #4, two in Region #5, four areas in Region #6, one in Region #7 and 2 and 3 committees in Regions 9 & 10 respectively.

COLLABORATING AGENCIES

Resource persons were drawn from the following agencies:

- IDCE
- GNS
- Guyana Association of Professional Workers
- Ministry of Health
- UNICEF

- Guyana Association of Women Lawyers
- Manager, Sirapana Farms (Linden)
- Ministry of Education
- IICA
- Caricom Women's Desk
- Ministry of Regional Development
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

PROJECT AREAS

- Middlesex, Essequibo
- St Cuthbert's Mission
- Buxton Women's Poultry Project
- Perth Mahaicony Integrated Project
- #68 Village, Corentyne
- Wisnar, Demerara River

EVALUATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

The programme, although successful, was not without its flaw. An evaluation of the programmes conducted in 1995 and 1996 was done in November 1996 to determine the impact of implementation of the final phase. The programme idea was a new one and contents had to be formulated and tested for suitability hence the content changed from Region to Region and community to community. Many good lessons were learned in the process and the following projects were funded to sustain women economically.

Future Plans

Out of the project, ideas of on going training was proposed. It is envisaged that more funds would be available to women and groups during 1999 - 2000 to offset rising cost of equipment and other necessary tools for production and expansion of existing projects.

The project 'Women in Political Leadership' which began in 1996 ended abruptly and funds are needed to continue up to the conclusion of the programme. A Women's Leadership Training Center and Documentation Centre will support future training programmes for women.

REGIONS		COMMUNITY	BENEFICIARIES
#1	Barima/Waini	i) Port Kaituma	16
		ii) Kumaka	72
		iii) Mabaruma	35
#2	Pomeroon/Supernaam	i) Anna Regina	42
		ii) Supernaam	38
		iii) Charity	53
#3	Essequibo Islands/West Demerara	Leonora	45
#4	Demerara/Mahaica	i) Diamond	45
		ii) Enmore	55
		iii) Georgetown	38
#5	Mahaica/Berbice	i) Fort Wellington	30
		ii) Mahaicony	48
#6	East Berbice/Correntyne	i) Corriverton	43
		ii) Rose Hall	39
		iii) Port Mourant	23
		iv) New Amsterdam	62
#7	Cuyuni/Mazaruni	Bartica	68
#9	Upper Takatu/Upper Mazaruni	i) Lethem	
		ii) Parishara	15
#10	Upper Demerara/Berbice	i) Linden	83
		ii) Kwakwani	46
		iii) Ituni	