

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 2ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND

SESSION (1990) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 1990

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

- * Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (62)

Prime Minister (1)

- + Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister (1)

- + Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

- + * Cde. K.S. Massiah, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

- + Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development
- + Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (10)

- + Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
- + * Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
- + Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Planning & Development
- + Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism
- + Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
- + Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President
- * Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education
- * Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works
- * Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

Ministers (8)

- + Cde. Ursula E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Regional Development (Absent)
- + Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister of Labour and Co-operatives
- + Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities
- * Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- + Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister
- + Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of the Public Service (Absent - on Leave)
- + Cde. Stella Odio-Alli, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- + Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Culture & Social Development

+ Cabinet Member

* Non-elected Member

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
(Absent)

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent) Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(i) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent - on Leave)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, A.A., M.P.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly (Absent - on leave)
Cde. G.E.F. Moses, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Deputy Clerk read prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Burnham up to 8th February, 1990;
- (b) Cde. Corbin, Johnson, Dr. Harding, Anna Ally and Stephen for that day's sitting, and
- (c) Cde. J. Jagan up to 25th February, 1990.

(ii) Broadcast of Debate

The Speaker informed Members that in accordance with approved practice he had given permission to the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation to record for broadcast excerpts of the debate on the motion seeking approval of the Government's policy adumbrated in the President's Address. The time used for the broadcast of the excerpts would have to be allotted to Members of the Assembly in proportion to the Party representation in the Assembly.

(iii) Inaccurate Press Reports

The Speaker referred to the publication of an article in an issue of the Mirror dated 28th January, 1990, claiming that he had referred to the Leader of the country, Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., as the Leader of the Party to which the Speaker had belonged. He said the article was a complete fabrication and distortion of his remarks and that if the Mirror or the Guyana Chronicle or the Stabroek News persisted in publishing inaccurate matters in respect of the proceedings of the National Assembly, they would not be permitted in the Chamber during sittings of the Assembly.

The size and character of groups eligible for cash supplements under this Programme were based on an assessment of needs using health and income indicators. Those at risk of major under-nourishment were found to be pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under five; and those at risk of the most serious deprivation were old-age pensioners and recipients of public assistance, whose income, before receipt of cash relief, was fifty dollars or under, per month.

Retired waterfront workers, or any other workers, therefore, assessed merely on the basis of the amount of their pensions, without investigation of other sources of income or assets would not qualify. Further, because the amount of the Fund is fixed and the target population already quantified, it is not possible to accommodate this group at this time.

No. 3 - PAYMENT OF SIMAP BENEFITS

QUESTION: (i) Will the Minister give an up-to-date report on the payments of SIMAP benefits to pregnant and nursing mothers and in favour of children up to the age of five years?

(ii) In view of the continuing need for support, will the Minister say whether she intends to apply these payments and those to old age pensioners and to any other groups for an additional period?

(Notice Paper No.10 (Q3 Opp 3) published 1990-03-16)

ANSWER: From the figures supplied by the Ministry of Health, which totalled 90,000 beneficiaries originally, after the Regional lists were reviewed and valid claims addressed, the number was increased to 134,656. It was calculated that each beneficiary would receive one hundred and forty seven dollars per month for three (3) months.

Up to the week ending 90-04-07 a total of G\$16,140,159 was paid by way of 109,797 transactions. Almost all of these were first payments. Second and third payments combined in one transaction have been started in six Regions - 1, 2, 5, 6, 8 and 9 - and will extend to the remaining Regions shortly.

Some municipalities and regional authorities have assigned additional responsibilities to staff to deal with SIMAP, and one effective spin-off so far has been an increase in the number of women and children attending clinics.

TCde. Basir seconded the motion.

The Minister of Regional Development and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

Thereafter Cde. Nokta replied.

The Minister of Regional Development concluded the debate.

The motion was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Kwayana
Cde. Belgrave
Cde. Basir
Cde. Nokta
Cde. S.F. Mohamed
Cde. Collymore
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. J. Jagan

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AGAINST

Cde. Fernandes
Cde. Ajoodhia
Cde. I. Ally
Cde. Abrahams
Cde. Khan
Cde. Vandenburg
Cde. P. Singh
Cde. Griffith
Cde. B. Persaud
Cde. Marshall
Cde. Geddes
Cde. Edwards
Cde. Deygo
Cde. DeJesus
Cde. Deen
Cde. Calistron
Cde. Melville
Cde. Munroe
Cde. Doobay
Cde. Gill-Mongo
Cde. Fowler
Cde. Habibulla
Cde. Bancroft
Cde. Persico
Cde. Odie-Ali
Cde. Sawh
Cde. Harewood-Benn
Cde. Thomas
Cde. Corbin
Cde. Burnham

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ADJOURNMENT.

At 2.27 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday 11th May, 1990.

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S.NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.