

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

Volume 10/

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE THIRD SESSION (1983) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA

17th Sitting	14:00 hrs	1983-12-08
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MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (58)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P.,
Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P.,
Vice-President, Production

Cde. H. Green, M.P.,
Vice-President, Social Infrastructure

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P.,
Vice-President, Party and State Matters

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P.,
Vice-President and Attorney General

Senior Ministers (6)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,
Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,
Minister of National Mobilisation

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., (Absent – on Leave)
Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.,
Minister of Home Affairs

*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P.,
Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P.,
Minister of Finance and Economic Planning

*Non-elected Member

Ministers (7)

Cde. U. E. Johnson, M.P.,
Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.,
Minister for Youth and Sports, within the Ministry
of Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.,
Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency
of Social Infrastructure

*Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P.,
Minister of Information and Public Service

*Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,
Minister of Health and Public Welfare

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.,
Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.,
Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade
and Consumer Protection (Absent)

Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P.,
Minister of State in the Ministry of Regional
Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the
Ministry of Health and Public Welfare

Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., (Absent – on Leave)
Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry of
Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the
Prime Minister

Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary within the Ministry
of Agriculture

*Non-elected Member

Other Members (23)

Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.
Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
Cde. E. B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P.
Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
Cde. E. Melville, M.P.
Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.
Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)
Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. N.R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P.,
Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P.,
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

(Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

(Absent – on Leave)

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Cde. M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

Question No. 5

Cde. J. Jagan: Cde. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Health Question No. 5, standing in my name.

QUESTION: Will the Minister say whether medicated salt for the control of malaria is still being distributed to people in the border areas of Guyana?

Cde. Van West-Charles: Cde. Speaker, this question relates to the distribution of medicated salt. The answer is no.

Cde. J. Jagan: May I ask him why is medicated salt not being used since we know that it is one of the best means of preventing the spread of malaria, particularly on the border areas. It is very important.

Cde. Van West-Charles: Here again Mrs. Jagan is misinformed. In Guyana there are two types of malaria. In Rupununi we have both types and in the other areas it is the Vivax. For some time, since 1960, medicated salt was used in the Rupununi but this was curtailed as a result of the growing resistance being experienced not only in Guyana but throughout the world.

In relation to the use of medicated salts within the North West and the Pomeroun, this was used up to 1982 and withdrawn. This is on the advice of the World Health Organisation; that after having used medicated salt for some time there must be a withdrawal period. In Africa and Asia they have begun to experience the resistance to Vivax because of the use of medicated salt.

Cde. J. Jagan: What precautions are you taking to eradicate the two varieties of malaria?

Cde. Van West-Charles: During 1982 a PAHO Consultant was down here and together without specialists we visited both areas. We did studies and the plan is to carry out an extensive programme of spraying the villages and all the houses in both the North West and Rupununi areas. We have also spoken to the airlines, both the state and the private airlines, about spraying their aircraft after having visited malarious areas.

Cde. J. Jagan: May I ask –

The Speaker: No more.

Cde. J. Jagan: Thank you very much.

Subsequently, the Desiree Bernard Committee made some new recommendations. Guysuco, for example, is one of the public entities that made approaches because of the fact that they are engaged in the whole question of industrial training. In keeping with this Bill it seeks to give effect to the recommendations.

Clause 10 of the Bill provides for the deletion of part 3 of the Schedule to the Act, that is the deletion of the Convention on night work for women which was revised in 1934, thus enabling all women to work by night in any public or private industrial undertaking. The W.R.S.M. which is a very important institution in this country also recommends this approach. The argument is sometimes advanced that in the socialist climes women are exempted from certain types of jobs and they do not do night work. That point of view is not necessarily true and it would not be true to argue that this approach is a backward step. It would not be true to argue that it is a step of retrogression. Rather, in the view of this Government it is a progressive step which is designed to remove the discrimination which women have suffered for so many years. Nearly 20 to 40 years ago that might have been relevant, but in this day and age when many organisations, apart from the W.R.S.M. and CASWIG, speak of equality, I think that we all should be supportive of this important measure.

The Long Title of this Act is also said to be amended by Clause 2 of the Bill to reflect the amended conversion of the Act as such, the new nomenclature, the Employment of Young Persons and Children. I therefore move the Second Reading of the Bill and ask that it be read a Second time.

Question proposed.

Cde. Ram Karran: Your Honour, I recall the story of the man coming off duty in the early morning in the vicinity of Urquhart and main Streets, walking one very cold morning. As he passed one of those houses he was asked if he had the time. The man is alleged to have replied, "I have neither the time nor the inclination." It is not from the social angle alone that one refers to the backwardness of this measure. One recognises today that even policemen are afraid to brave the roads at night. What about our precious women? What about the decent able-bodied men who fear the dark because of the very serious social conditions in our country? Even if the Government was persuaded to have this measure, the social conditions of the country require them to have held their hands on this Bill.

Cde. Speaker, on the question of ... it must be a ... of imagination by Cde. Ram Karran to say that they sent a letter to the Minister of Manpower and Labour. That is not true and he went on to quote the ILO convention. I know the P.P.P. Cde. Speaker, when it suits them they go for it and it is for this purpose they quoted from the ILO Convention, but when it is for this purpose they quoted from the ILO Convention, but when it suits them they say we should not worry with the ILO Convention. We are not going to ... but we are going to build a society dependent on our historical and other circumstances and in the view of this Government Cde. Speaker, we are convinced that this step is a progressive one and it is going to create employment opportunities for the women in this country and I want to tell this House that posterity will not blame me, austerity will praise me.

