

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORTS

[Volume 9]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE SECOND SESSION (1982) OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

18th Sitting

14:00 hrs

Thursday, 1982-12-30

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P.,
Vice-President, Works, Transport and Housing
Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P.,
Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance
Cde. H. Green, M.P.,
Vice-President, Agriculture
Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P.
Vice-President, Party and State Matters

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P.,
Minister of Education
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P.,
Minister of National and Regional
Development
*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P.
Minister of Internal Trade and
Consumer Protection (Absent)
*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P.,
Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent)
*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P.,
Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Absent)
*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.
Minister of Home Affairs

*Non-elected Members

Ministers (6)

- Cde. U. E. Johnson, M.P.
Minister of Co-operatives
- Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P.
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P.,
Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of
Economic Planning and Finance
- *Cde. Y. V. Harewood-Benn, M.P.
Minister, in the Office of the Prime Minister
- *Cde. H. Rashid, M.P.
Minister, in the Office of the President
- *Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P.,
Minister of Health
- *Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.
Minister of Labour, Manufacturing
and Industrial Development

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.,
Minister of State in the Ministry of
Internal Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P.,
Minister of State for Youth and Sports,
in the Ministry of Education

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Works, Transport and Housing.
- Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Education.
- Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs.

*Non-elected Member

Other Members (26)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent – on leave)
- Cde. M. Armogan, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P. (Absent – on leave)
- Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P. (Absent)
- 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.
- 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. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.
- Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.

Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P.
Cde. S.H Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. H.B. Walcott-Nascimento, J.P., M.P.,
Government Chief Whip
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 (10)

Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)
Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. W. Bipat, 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. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No.9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (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. (Absent – on leave)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P M.P.,
Minority Chief Whip
Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
Cde. Dalchand, J.P., 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 (Absent)

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly - Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly – Cde. M.B. Henry.

PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cde. Ally and Mr. M.F. Singh for today's sitting and Cde. Beniprashad up to 1983-01-16.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO.4/1982

“Be it resolved that this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.4/1982- Schedule of supplementary Provision on the current and Capital Estimates totaling \$35,099,150, for the period ended 1982-12-15”/ The Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance]

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

The Speaker: Cde. Vice President.

The Vice President, Economic Planning and Finance (Cde. Hoyte): Cde. Chairman, in accordance with article 171 (2) of the Constitution, I signify that the Cabinet has recommended for consideration by the National Assembly a Motion for the approval of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4//1982, Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 1982-12-15 totalling \$35,099,150.

Motion proposed.

The Speaker: We will consider the estimates as usual, as the items will be taken from both the Capital and the Current Estimates for which the Ministers are responsible.

Pages one and two, items one to ten. On page three, pages twelve and thirteen, items one to ten and nineteen to twenty-one. Capital Estimates, page one, items one to three. Page eight and nine, items seventy to seventy three. Capital Estimates, pages two and three, items ten to twelve.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud (Minority Chief Whip): Cde. Chairman, I wish to ask a few questions on item ten. I would like to know from the Cde. Vice President, the properties that will benefit from this vote. Where these properties that will benefit from this vote. Where these properties are located, the exact addresses the sums that will be paid for each property and whether those properties have been acquired, whether they are satisfied with the sum offered by the Government? We would like to know too Sir, what yard stick is used generally in arriving at the sum paid for properties acquired?

The Speaker: Cde. Were you not the last time?

Cde. Reepu Demand Persaud: I was here. I know that some Valuation Officer does it, but we would like to know the yard stick.

The Speaker: Cde. Vice President.

The Vice President, Works, Transport and Housing (Cde. Naraine): Cde. Chairman, the properties being acquired on the head is the East half of 254-256 New Market Street and South Road East and these are all together; East Half of 222 and 223 Charlotte Street. The amount required there is \$1,961,500, but negotiations are still continuing. The sums need to be

provided for because it is hoped that this would be concluded very shortly. The second property is at 191 and 192 Charlotte and New Garden Streets for \$143,000 and the third one for Soesdyke. The property now occupied by Soesdyke High School and that is \$70,000. The yard stick used in the valuation is of the Valuation Officer, but that is used sometimes very, very accurately to that value when properties are compulsory acquired. In other cases where negotiations are taking place, it may be slightly more or less.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, my query is that if negotiations are continuing with respect to the Charlotte Street property, I wonder if it correct at this stage to provide the sum. If this would not indicate or will it appear to the person involved in the other type of negotiation that the Government's mind is settled on the matter.

Cde. Naraine: Cde. Chairman, it is necessary for a sum of money to be voted in the estimates because if negotiations broke down and the device of compulsory acquisition is used, then in that situation it is necessary in law to state where the money is provided and how much.

The Speaker: Pages nine and ten, items 79-82. Capital Estimates, Page three, items 13 and 14. Pages 5-7, items 35-54.

The Chairman continues

14:10 hrs

Capital Estimates, page 2, items 6 to 9. Pages 2 and 3, items 14 to 18, Current Estimates.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, 14 and 15 deal with the Supreme Congress of the People and, if I may make the contribution at the same time, later on in the Estimates, under the Ministry of Regional Development, there is a vote for the same Supreme Congress of the People. I don't know if you want me to raise it then.

The Chairman: Let me hear about the Supreme Congress because I may be able to answer it myself.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, it is our view---

The Chairman: What are you talking about? The Supreme Congress?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: First I am talking about providing funds for the Supreme Congress and then involving in the kind of expenditure that has been reflected on the Supplementary Estimates. The amount is substantial.

The Chairman: You are talking about the Print and Non-Prints Materials?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: While this sum of \$12,300 papers under the sub-head, Print and Non-Print Materials, the legend says-

“To meet expenses in relation to the opening of the First Session of the Supreme Congress of the People...”

I can probably pose the question if you wish.

The Chairman: Ask the question.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: There is a contradiction in these two explanations. I have attempted to interpret it myself by saying the sum is coming from the subhead Print and Non Print Materials, but the vote is meant not purely for printing but for the Congress as a whole. I may be wrong. The Minister will explain. Our contribution on this vote, the approval of this vote, is - -

The Chairman: I am not allowing any debate on the Supreme Congress.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: It is not a debate. The Government is seeking approval of Parliament for a sum of money for a particular exercise in which the Government was involved.

The Chairman: A particular exercise in relation to a particular expense.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I will go with that too.

The Chairman: I am not going with you.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: that is your right and I suppose it is my right to give the position of the People's Progressive Party. We feel that the country currently and nobody disputes this –Faces/serious economic crisis. The result is that we are seeking many deaths as a result of malnutrition, absence of essential items and that kind of thing. The Supreme Congress, sir, is not a legislative body.

The Chairman: Cde. Persaud, the Constitution provides for it. Don't let us go into whether it is a justifiable institution or not. The Constitution provides for it and if you do not

think that is right then you can amend the constitution, but so far as we are concerned at this stage, it is in relation to printing invitations for the Congress and for obtaining materials, stenciling things and so on. If you wish to deal with that matter or if you want to raise it under Regional Development, that is something else. So far as this is concerned, I am not permitting any debate on the Supreme Congress as an institution and as to its justifiableness in the country now or for its meeting.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I will raise it under the other Head. I will make the point then.

The Chairman: Raise it under that. I have no problem there. The Minister will answer for that. Page 3, item 22 and page 9, items 74 to 76.

Cde. Mohamed: I wish to speak on item 75, Contribution to International Organisations and item 76, Mass Games.

On item 75, I wish to enquire from the Minister whether the Ministry has made any serious effort to ensure that the present high cost for the CXC examination be reduced in keeping with one of the arguments raised when this examination was first introduced.

Secondly, in view of the high cost of this examination, we wish to enquire from the Minister whether any consideration is being given to substantially subsidies this examination which we think would be most welcome and is something that can be justifiable.

On item 76, the sum of \$142,000 is requested for repairs to stands at the National Park. May I ask the Cde. Minister whether students who have been forced to take part in what is widely accepted as a highly unpopular exercise nowadays were also required to do repairs to the National Park stands? May I also ask the Minister whether similar sums are being spent to provide meals for the student participants after a strenuous morning work-out or to provide adequate first aid facilities for students and teachers who, as is often reported, fall ill during practices.

Thirdly, will the Minister say whether Mass games are now compulsory for students?

My final question is: Will the Minister say how many parents have received notices from the Ministry asking them to find alternatives schools for their children when they seek exemption from Mass Games on medical grounds, even though a number of them have provided medical certificates?

The Chairman: Cde. Mohamed, this is the last meeting for the year so I am not saying anything. Cde. Minister.

The Minister of Education (Cde. Chandisingh): Cde. Chairman, taking the questions as they arose. First of all, references were made to whether any efforts had been made to seek to reduce the high cost of the CXC examinations. We have been very much concerned and in the appropriate bodies that we participate in, involving the CXC, even at the Education Ministerial level of the CARICOM States, all of us have expressed concern that the cost should be kept as low as possible.

National Assembly

14:20 hrs

(Cde. Chandisingh continues)

Recognition has to be given, of course, to the fact that costs have been escalating and this is not something that only affects Guyana, it affects all of the territories that participate in the CXC examinations. Only the other day I was reading the remarks made by the Minister of Education in Trinidad, when a council meeting was held in the country and he too urged the staff of CXC to seek to keep expenses to the minimum. As you are aware, the Government of Guyana is already contributing and in that sense the Government of Guyana is subsidizing because we have to pay a certain sum annually to the CXC and this amount is rising all the time. To that extent I can say we have been concerned and this is a form of subsidy already that is being made. May I at this time, however, point out that even though the CXC costs and charges have been rising, when we looked at the GCE costs it is very clear that CXC is still lower than GCE charges.

Now, concerning the question of Mass Games. One of the questions was whether students are being made to do repairs. Well, first of all, Cde. Chariman, let me say that the Hon. Member, Cde. Mohamed, I think, has mis-stated the position in that Mass Games as part of the School curriculum is not really something that is unpopular. As a matter of fact most people appreciate what Mass Games as part of the school curriculum is attempting to do. What we now call Mass Games may be regarded as something new and as a matter of fact the form in which it is presented today and for the past three years or so, that is, the actual presentation at the National Park, this is what is seen as Mass Games. But really, if you look at the component that go to make up Mass games, such as music, calisthenics, physical education, drama and other components, these have been taught in our Teacher Training Institution and some of our schools and so what is done with the institution of Mass Games is to integrate more formally all of these separate discipline so that we shall be able to develop certain qualities in our students. I do not think it would be in order at this time to take the time to develop these points, but there will be other occasions on which we can indicate to Cde. Mohamed and others the value which we expect to gain through the institution of Mass Games.

The short answer to the question is that students are not being asked to do repairs. The repairs that are referred to here, and the amount of money, the sum of money is requested, it is for work to be done on contract in the normal way.

Means, certainly, Cde. Chairman, in the past and now meals- snacks – in one form or another have and will be provided for students when the more full scale activities begins. This is one of the things we have budgeted for and prepared for, but the sum being requested now does not involve expenditure on meals. First aid facilities – well, this has always been provided and will be provided. Adequate first aid facilities are provided.

Whether Mass Games or participation in the exercises that goes to make up Mass Games, whether this is compulsory, it is part of the school's curriculum. At the present time or in recent

times, I should say, the concentration has been for various obvious reasons in the Georgetown area. But it is our intention to generally expand to all school in this country to provide the sort of training that I referred to earlier on. Therefore, the answer is that it is part of the school's curriculum .I am not in a position at this time to say how many parents had received medical certificates, care is being taken to examine the specific conditions with respect to these requests. But you see, Cde. Chairman, there had been cases in which there appear to be some question even where some medical certificates have been submitted. I do not think this is a big problem because parents have been coming in and discussing the matter either with the School Heads or with the Ministry Personnel and on the basis of certain discussion and various evidence even on the basis of report from the school themselves , adjustments have been made. That is not being a big problem, what we want to emphasize is that the exercises children are involved in, these are not just extraneous to the system , they are part and parcel of the innovations that we have been introducing in our school system in order to make our education system more relevant to our requirement and needs.

The Speaker: Page 3, Item 23,pages 10 to 14, items 83 to 120.Cde.Persaud I think you wanted to raise something on that.

Cde.Reepu Daman Persaud: My item, sir, is 87.There is a provision here for \$333,870.The original vote for the establishments of the Local Democratic Organs was \$1 million.I would like to know how much of this amount was expended by the Congress itself bearing in mind that the Legend reads to meet expenses of the Supreme Congress of the People as well as expenditure to 1982.There is a great ambiguity in the second portion of what I have read.

Secondly, Sir, when the amount is given for the Supreme Congress of the People, I would like to know specifically for what the money has been spent?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Thirdly, whether the Minister will not agree with the proposal that at this time of serious economic depression this event which had absolutely no value and bearing and could have in no way influenced anyone or inspired anyone why at this stage when there is constrains of expenditure in so many areas that are vital and essential to the sustenance of people that Government made a decision to expend this fantastic sum for a futile exercise. I do not for a single second question what the Constitution has got. We have a Constitution but even in carrying out proposals of the Constitution unless they are mandatory provisions that impose certain actions under given conditions of the Constitution then I think the Government must exercise the reasonable discretion and expend money where money is best needed. I would fail to see this afternoon as a Member of this House which member over there can argue against that principle. I can conclude by saying that having stated our position that it was a futile exercise, that the expenditure was unnecessary and taxpayers should not have been called upon at this time when people have been already retrenched, when there is threat of other retrenchment. I heard from a senior member of one of the Corporations on a news item that many of the corporations are without stock for 1983. Leading into that kind of statement one is led to believe that people who are employed in the Corporation possibly in 1983 face the threat of retrenchment and if not dismissal.

Cde. Collymore: Just a very short question to the Minister of National Development. Page3, No.23. I would like the Minister to enlighten this House as to the reasons and what this sum is being spent on \$420,000. This is an addition to a previous supplementary of \$63,582. Can he shed some light on what it is being spent on?

The Speaker: Cde. Minister, please shed some light.

Minister of National and Regional Development (Cde. Corbin): Cde. Speaker, the questions are very simple in relation to Item 87, Ministry of Regional Development as is clearly indicated in the paper. The original sum of \$190,000 was voted. This additional sum is stated in the legend and with respect to this amount that was required for the Supreme Congress it was exactly \$40,000 which was provided. The remaining amount comprises of amount of \$180,000 which relates to stipends for captains of the various Amerindians councils in the various parts of the country who were given allowances so they will be able to provide service to the people and ensure the affairs in the community are properly looked after. So \$180,000 provides for that purpose. The other amount of \$40,000 is that sum which relates to traveling of the Councillors of the Regional Democratic Council who were able to attend meetings of the Regional Democratic Council and to do the various works related to the Regional Democratic Council and services of the people. I wish to state that included all members of the Regional Democratic Council and both P.P.P and P.N.C [Applause]. The last item relates to salary of the Regional Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Regional Officers. They are paid also for the central vote and the sum of \$100.00 in that amount is allocated for that purpose so that chairman and Vice-Chairman and Regional Officer are able to perform in a manner in which they are expected to. With respect to what it has been spent on for the Supreme Congress that is \$ 40,000. What it has been spent on is to provide

the expenditure to bring the Members of the Supreme Congress to Parliament and to look after their accommodation while they are in the capital city of Georgetown.

As you know, Cde. Speaker, we are able to bring people from all parts of the country, from the hinterland locations, the Amerindians villages so they could participate in this historic forum. That is what the money was spent for.

With respect to the third question as to whether the Minister feels this event was important enough to be held at this time I would say quite... I was disappointed that he has not seen it relevant for the people to participate in decision making at a time like this when they have been speaking of people's power. This event has been a historic event to bring people from all parts of the country particularly at this time when we are facing serious economic difficulties and it is because we are in fact in these difficulties that the views of the development are being sought so they could make a contribution. I think this event had great value and of great necessity. There was reasonable discretion in bringing off the Supreme Congress at this time. My only regret was that the Opposition failed to honour their mandate to the people of this country.

The Speaker: Which Opposition?

Cde. Corbin: The Minority, Cde. Chairman. With respect to Item 23, I had given this explanation at the last supplementary provision. This additional amount is to provide for funds which were required as a result of increase cost of stationery and a number of items which were not anticipated. Because of these increases costs of stationery, equipment, etc it has become necessary for the Ministry to have additional funds to deal with these increased costs. We have already given a breakdown in respect of the various heads of the Ministry of National Development. Thank you.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: One short question. The Minister was giving figures and I took them down. He accounted for \$330,000 but he did not account for \$3,870.

The Speaker: Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, sit down.

The Speaker: Page 9, Items 77 and 78, Page 7, Item 55 and 59, Page 2, Item 11 to 13, Page 4, Item 24-34.

The Minority Leader (Cde. Dr. Jagan): Item 26-Police, Subhead 252- Prisoners' Ration I wish to raise an objection on Item 26; page 4. That is the question of Ration allowance for prisoners. I want to ask the Minister if he is satisfied with the ration which is now being provided to prisoners, if he understood it.

The Speaker: Is it a question or an observation?

Cde. Dr. Jagan: I am posing a question based on an observation.

(Cde. C. Jagan continues)

The question is that many people are suffering from mal nutrition .Twenty five cases have been admitted to the Public Hospital Georgetown. Five have died recently. There have been cases of beri beri, nutritional deficiency. People are eating rice gruel for meals. I remember the days when I was in prison- bread and water. But now it is not even bread and therefore, I want to know from the Minister if any examination has been carried out recently to find out whether this diet- the one which is prescribed in the rules and regulations are being observed.

Number two, whether the amount provided is sufficient, our colleagues were just speaking about wasteful expenditure for the circus, when that money could have easily been spent to save people's lives in this case.

Cde. Speaker, the population in general is suffering, but in this case these are wards of the state. They are held as you know, without their permission and they should be adequately provided for-their rules and regulations, international agencies, human rights bodies and so on all over the world prescribed conditions for prisoners. I personally would like to join the Minister to go and carry out an examination at the Prisons. We have tried on previous occasions and sometimes we find blocks to get in. I would like that a commission be appointed on this question and if possible I personally would like to serve on this commission because I think it is very serious state to which we have arrived where people held in prison are dying out because of the negligence of the Government.

The Speaker: Cde. Thomas.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Cde. Thomas): Cde. Chairman, permit me to say that this head really does not refer to people who are held in prison. It refers to those people who are detained by the Police and who normally assist the police during their investigation. These people are not really prisoners and this small sum represents an additional request by the police which will assist in the field of these people who are held for some cause. This is a question of just a snack, in other cases it is just a cup of coffee and not any prolonged stay in prison. I would point out anyhow, since the member who raised the question on meals to prisoners seemed concerned about the views expressed by the Minority group about people dying and all that-that the prison is self sufficient in..... food. Apart from that for this year alone the Prisons reaped some five hundred and eight bags of rice, most of which was consumed by their prisoners. 15,130 pounds of green vegetables and provision. Another 16,666 pounds of greens and 26,414 pounds of ground provision. So by and large, they have produced approximately 40,000 pounds of green vegetables and provisions. Apart from that anyhow, they themselves are assisting in this programme aimed at being self sufficient in food and they have produced tremendously. I am satisfied at this point in time that the Prison Authorities are observing the dieter's recommended by the Ministry. I can assure that the meals given to prisoners satisfy their needs and he is free to visit the Prisons on his own or in company with me. Just last week permission was given to a group of university students headed by Dr. Ken Danns and they conducted a study. They chat with the prisoners and they will send in a report on that visit.

Cde. Jagan: There was the Production n the Prison. Well that may be a reform to get the

prisoners, but he did not give us the statistics of how many prisoners are in prison. We know that the Prisons are over loaded. They are flowing all over the place.

The Speaker: he will not be able to give you that, you will have to ask specific questions. Page eight, item 69. Cde. Jagan, Comrades, please do not interrupt. On the last occasion I told him he will have the opportunity and now he is getting that opportunity.

Cde. Jagan: I am grateful to you Cde. Speaker, for this opportunity to raise this question about what I consider to be a calamitous situation in electricity and water. I have many clippings here. One of them says “from 1978, better power supply likely by end of September. We have other clippings-one in the Guyana graphic of 1973.G.E.C.expansion scheme to cost 62 million and so on. All along we have been told time and time again that we are around the corner. We are around the corner to solving this problem. Sometime ago the T.U.C had called for a probe and in fact opposed the power rates which were increased, this was as long ago as 1974. We had approve by a committee headed by Sir Lionel Luckhoo but unfortunately the P.P.P was not represented in that Committee. However, the committee did make some very stringent remarks. For instance in the Guyana Chronicle on Saturday August 5th 1978 it stated “The Commission had noted while taking evidence that there was a high and unforgivable lack of efficiency and competence in the maintenance, staffing and training procedures of the corporation. Sir Lionel and the other commissioners had repeatedly spoken of the hope, ineptitude, carelessness and apparent total disregarded by employees of the Guyana Electricity Corporation at all levels in the affairs of the Corporation”.

Cde. Speaker, one would have thought that from that investigation we would have had an end to incompetence and mal-administration, but we come to recent times. Charles Chichester, former Editor of the Sunday Chronicle, he said that he is not a man to normally use the columns to complain about things about himself. But this is what he wrote in this editorial; this is of the 7th November, 1982, this is just prior to his death. “Earlier this year I went home around 9 p.m., sorry 21.00 hours to find lights all around except in my home. Next morning the Guyana Electricity Corporation apologized for the mistake after I had presented my bills and restored in current promptly enough. On Friday night, I got home again, no blackouts, no outages and no lights in my home.

(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

14:50 hrs

Yesterday morning the G.E.C apologized again after I had duly presented my bills”.

As I said, this is a state newspaper, normally very apologetic of the Government, but the Sunday Editor was forced to speak and he put it that if that was happening to him, then he can imagine what is happening to the ordinary man who has no strings .Who is not well placed. What is happening to him? [Interruption] You want me to quote it? He had another editorial here before this one, he talked about the “big fishes”, where he said that the small people are being caught but the big fishes were going scotch free. I did not want to tire you with that he said: “will somebody do something about those running the Guyana Electricity Corporation?” [Interruption] something about those running the Guyana Electricity Corportaion? [Interruption]

The Chairman: Comrades, if you interrupt Dr.Jagan, I will give him an extension of time and this debate will not finish because whenever a remark is made he will divert from what he is saying and give you a lecture and treatise on that topic.

Cde. C. Jagan: Cde. Chairman , we are told in another clipping that the electricity charges will go up, including fuel charges. My understanding is that, despite all the belly-aching of the Government about how the high process of oil is responsible for all our woes in this country, in recent times the price of oil went down. How then is the corporation billing people for excess fuel charge.

Something is wrong. There are constant increases, and taxpayers have no say in what is going on in this country. They are reprimanded with a gun, told to pay or the electricity lights are cut off; \$50 to reconnect. As I said, sometimes out of negligence, the lights are cut off, as Charles Chichester pointed out. Apparently, it is time for another enquiry into this corporation. The P.N.C. is totally incompetent to deal with this matter and has been so since 1964.

I have another little clipping here from the P.N.C. manifested in 1964, where the party said that it will solve this problem; it will bring in hydro and everything else. Up to today we have not got one single hydro electric project in this country. Yet there is abundant water potential for hydro electric development. Not one project, Tumatumari was there before you came in, a little dam, and what is it doing? How many megawatts? Tell us what it is supplying and whom. [Interruption]

The Chairman: Comrades, it seems that I do not speak English. I just said that if you are going to divert Dr. Jagan from his contribution, we are not going to finish. You will have an opportunity to reply. Tell him about Tumatumari then.

Cde. C. Jagan: Tell us about Mazaruni. Tell us about the recent talks in Brazil. The President went to see one of the biggest hydro electric projects recently in - -

The Chairman: Dr. Jagan, you promised me that you were not going into that.

Cde. C. Jagan: The P.P.P brought the first hydro electric consultant to Guyana, why is that after all these years when surveys have been carried out, the whole potential has been

displayed, we do not have hydro electricity? How long are the Guyanese people to suffer? Not only the Guyanese consumer, but production. They is constant talking about production. Can you produce without electricity? Every day there is a shortage; there is a black-out. People cannot carry on with their production facilities. The Government must come forward and tell this House properly what is the situation, what the plans are and how long we are going to be plagued with this question of constant black-outs and charges upon charges heaping up. It is not good enough.

We were told that government brought consultants from England I understand that is costing the taxpayers of this country a packet of money, that what it is costing us for one British expert; it would have cost for a dozen other experts from Third World Countries that is a fact. Taxpayers have to pay for it we do not have any say.

Cde. Chairman, I think we have a motion in Parliament calling for rates to be put before a commission or a board before they are increased so that the commission or Board can go into all the factors to see whether there is any justification for increases. This happens in Barbados. It happens in Trinidad. Why does it not happen in Guyana? We have a circus about consulting the people, bringing them all here, but why are the people not consulted on a matter on a matter like this when it affects their stomach and their pockets. They are not consulted but they are brought for a horse show, a big show, throwing away money.

Let us know what the British experts have done, these highly paid people. I understand most of them are living at the Pegasus Hotel. How much is it costing us a day to keep all of them there? We taxpayers have to pay for that. Go and look at our electricity bills and you will see how they are climbing like kites. No answer. This must be investigated. I am proposing that this Parliament appoint a Parliamentary Committee to investigate all increases, whether they relate to water rates, electricity, or telephone. These increases should not be left to the whim and fancy of the Government, nor should the Corporations be allowed arbitrarily to raise these rates. This would be in keeping with what is constantly being said about people's participation and democracy, something which is being bandied about so much in this country.

What is the position with respect to turbines? We understand that we bought gas turbines. I do not know who advised on that because I understand they are very, very expensive to run.

I now speak about water, water is essential to life. Even Ministers of the Government now have to fetch water with calabashes. The members of this Government should resign when they have reduced this country to this stage, when people have to go back to primitive methods in this day and age. People are suffering all over the country. Why? Here is a country with abundant rainfall. So many rivers, so many waterfalls, and yet people cannot get water in their homes. We were told, when GUYWA was set up, how we are going to get efficient and cheap system of water supply. Sugar workers were not paying a penny for water rates and all that. Now they have to pay and they do not get water.

(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

15:00 hrs

In Georgetown, I do not know when last some people had baths. There showers are not working. They have to resort to fetching the water. In Freedom House now, go in the morning right in the heart of the city, toilets cannot be flushed; there is no water to wash your hands. What kind of Government is this? They cannot even give people water. I am not talking about food, water, which is given by nature, free! In abundant quantities .We are not in the Sahara. We are in Guyana with a lot of water. We can get water from rainfall. Cde. Speaker, I want to ask why it is during a week or two weeks ago when there was a lot of black-outs, why is it that there was water supply out and off too at the same time? It is due to electricity? I understand that they have their own stand- by generators like so many other companies. They do not have it? Well, perhaps you could explain what is it that many of these, in view of the fact if they do not have then as I understand it, the time has come when they must have their own generators. If they have their own pumps to pump water then they must be provided .Certain industries have stand-by equipment. They have stand-by equipment. Water is an essential service. How many quarter million dollars you spent for the circus that could have been spent for standby generators. Yes, priorities, so we must be given an answer to this question because water problem is affecting people too all around this country. They have to go around in little carts and trolleys to carry water, sometimes miles to their homes.

Sometimes we are told that the central electricity supply is out off, at other times we are told they don't have spare parts. They do not have this, they do not have that. Constant excuses but no water, there is no fuel, why was there no fuel. At long last towards that end of the black-out period, the Corporation gave an excuse that the thing broke down. Guynec was praised, I believe, because they were so instrumental in getting some parts which solved the problem. But, Cde. Speaker , there was another explanation that the fuel did not arrive in time. The fuel did not arrive in time and was diverted some place, to Turks and Cayman and Montserrat and some other place. How in the name of heavens fuel is not in the tanks? Cde. Speaker, in the 80 days strike of 1963- -

The Speaker: That was not accurate, only a special fuel was not available in the gas turbines.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: If Bunker C was available for the other machines and a special type of fuel was not available for that, you must give an explanation for this .Why not? I remember when I was Minister of Trade and once there was a shortage of cooking oil. I called the officers and told them the next time there is a shortage their heads gon roll. I told them that their job was to see that enough supplies were in stock in time. When the eighty-day strike of 1963 was called, when the Cuban tanker brought the supply.

The Speaker: You should complement Cde. Naraine, because he was the Chief Officer at that time [Laughter].

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Yes, he wrote out the cable to Fidel Castro to send the tanker to break the

P.N.C. strike, now he is in the P.N.C. and he can't solve the problem now. So Cde. Speaker, I am saying this also bungling or is it that they do not have money, which is it? Tell us. It is that you are so inefficient that you did procure and store and keep that kind of fuel for the turbine or whatever it was, or that you don't have money for it and, therefore the boat did not come, it got diverted somewhere else, there was no strike.

The Speaker: The Vice-President sent me a piece of paper, he says to tell you that he didn't have to pay Castro for the oil.

Cde. Jagan: Oh, he didn't have to pay? That is international solidarity./[Laughter]/ to fight counter-revolution. Ask Chandisingh he knows about that too. Yes, Cde. Speaker, so really and truly the Assembly and the people of Guyana having this recurring decimal of problems need a proper answer to these problems. I do not think it is going to come simply by changing a manager has done recently or trying to get explanation from time to time. I think what we need is a thorough overhaul, a thorough examination in which not just the Government side is involved but the whole country. The Minister, I noticed he is not here, presumably somebody will speak for him- should tell us what concrete measures they have taken for the solution to this problem. I respect, it is not mainly the question of consumers electricity. Lenin once said Communism is electricity. Meaning without electricity you cannot produce, you cannot solve the problems of the people. Here we are in crisis. We are constantly talking about increased production and productivity. Surely electricity is an absolute essential if we are to achieve these goals, those objectives. So I would like not only to have assurance from Government that things like lack of fuel will happen again but that we have this Parliament agree to the appointment of a Commission of a enquiries, because it seems that the last one, despite all the caustic remarks they made did not seem to have solved the problem. It seems that you need a continuing committee which is not only going to look at, but also from time to time, periodically check to see that this place is put in order./[Applause]/.

Cde. Dalcahnd: Cde. Speaker, just one question on Item 79 Subsidies. If you observe here GUYWA got at first nearly \$8,000,000. Now they are asking for an additional \$637 to pay subsidies. GUYWA today is perhaps one of the worse operating corporations that Guyana ever had. In the rural areas the water situation is terrible. There is no water in many areas. They have good wells, Cde. Seeram said so as junior Minister that when he became Chairman of GUYWA he will produce aggressive water .they have good wells but Comrades the money is being wasted. They don't even have bolts and nuts to repair pipelines in the area last year water rates went up for \$20 to \$50. This year there are indications it will go from \$50 to \$75. Another 50%. What is GUYWA doing with all that money. This is my question. They do not have experts. There are broken lines throughout the country. Mismanagement. I want to ask this Parliament to let them tell us how much it is costing Government to run this water supply of this country. I want to know the amount. I want to know when last GUYWA's accounts were investigated. I want to know when the Officers of GUYWA are going to pay good care to the supplies are being maintained. For example, the Cde. Leader of this Minority was saying about wastage of money and electricity. Today all the systems they have are being operated by electricity and when there is a black-out the staff of the Pumping station will sit down. If no electricity comes back they go home, so the whole time they are being paid and nothing being done.

The Speaker: What do you want them to do?

Cde. Dalchand: I am asking that Parliament set up a committee to investigate this GUYWA and water supply of the country.

The Speaker: the Leader of the Minority said that.

Cde.Dalcand: I am supporting this called that we do this because it is important and essential for this country.

The Speaker: Cde. Rashid.

The Minister in the Office of the President (Cde. Rashid): As is generally known, Cde. Speaker, over the last two years the Guyana Electricity Corporation had been experiencing severe difficulties. We have had two commissions to investigate and we all know the results of the works of their communications. However, we are facing with a serious problem, not because the Government has ignored an important need of the people because the record stands out quite clearly. It was this Government which is responsible for extending electricity service from the urban centres into the rural areas. It was this Government, Cde. Speaker that built or was responsible for making all locations to provide a new electricity stations so that rural inhabitants could enjoy what we consider to be a basic service. The Garden-of- Eden, Versailles, Sophia and a number of other station were never even considered before came into office.

Unfortunately, these services have broken down and Government at the moment is paying keen attention to putting right the defects to the equipment. We recognize at this time that we do not have the resources to carry out the change and to restore fully the power supply. As a result, we have got to seek overseas assistance both in terms of finance and also managerial services to restore the reliability to the utility. Presently the Guyana Electricity Corporation is receiving assistance from experts recruited from the United Kingdom through a loan obtained

from the world bank. The consultants from B.E.I British Electricity International must be commended for working along closely with Guyanese to bring about some improvements to the service.

But most recently and I have the impression from Dr. Jagan's contribution this afternoon that he was concerned with the recent breakdown of service starting from 10th of this month and ending sometime on the 21st there has been a serious spate of outages and I wish to explain the reasons for this difficult situation. But before I do this I would like to make a general remark on the present position of the Guyana Electricity Corporation and in particular to the Georgetown Inter-connected System. This system which comprises of four power stations and distribution net work covering an area bound on the North by the Atlantic Ocean, on the East of Nootenzuill, on the south of Timehri and on the West by Parika. The power stations are located at Kingston, because of switch gear arrangements, Ruimveldt, Garden of Eden and Versailles. The installed capacity in these four stations of the Georgetown Inter-connected system is 82.2 megawatts. However, because of switch gear arrangements it is not possible for the Kingston station to deliver more than 30 megawatts to the system. Hence if all the power units are capable of delivering their designed ratings, the maximum available in the G.I.S, Georgetown Inter-connected system the power would be 2.8 megawatts. In practice power units do not deliver 100% of the designed ratings on capacity. The peak demand in the Georgetown Interconnected system is of the order of 35 megawatts. The Georgetown Inter-connected system is also connected by transmission lines to the Guymine power station in Linden and since November, 1962 the Electricity Corporation has been buying about 2 to 4 megawatts of power from Linden on a continuous basis. There are, however, some technical problems in this arrangement and from time to time there are interruptions of supply caused by what the technicians call a tripping out. But our technicians are working on this problem and we hope that they will be able to overcome it so we can get a continuous supply. At present much of the equipment in the Georgetown Inter-connected Service is in need of rehabilitation and schedule maintenance.

(Cde. Rashid continues)

Only two out of three steam turbines at the Kingston Power Station are operational. The third is in the final stages of rehabilitation and is expected to come on stream in late January next year. One of the gas turbines is undergoing repairs in Canada, three of the four diesel units at Garden of Eden are under repairs and the one unit which presently in operation is providing only three megawatts. This machine was recently overhauled, but the final commissioning will take place on the return of a senior Engineer from the United Kingdom who is in charge of the overhaul of this piece of equipment. At Versailles the two of the four units are operational but admittedly they are unreliable, the two other units are in need of rehabilitation. At Ruimveldt one of the two units is operational and the other is in a final stage of repairs.

If I may now go on to explain the specific reasons that led to the development on the 10th and after the 10th, I would do it in this way. The loss of capacity was a result of the failure of the number two boiler-feeder pump and the failure of the number three boiler-feeder pump. We had problems with these two feeder pumps. These pumps transfer boiler feeder water from storage to the boiler where it is converted into steam. The failure of these pieces of equipment to function properly reduces the output of the two steam turbines from 17 megawatts to 6 megawatts. The number two pump failed on the 10th and is under repairs, it was decided to repair the number one boiler feeder pump and use that to replace the number three pump. This operation was successfully completed with the assistance of workers for the Guyana National Engineering Corporation on the 21st and I am sure that the Leader of the Minority Party would have noticed after that date remarkable improvement in the supply.

The loss of generation following failure of the number three pump was compensated for to some extent by the running of the gas turbine longer each day. It was hoped, however, that butane which is the fuel for the gas turbine would have arrived on that day, that is on the 13th. However, the fuel did not arrive on the 21st December and then the quality that was ordered was not delivered.

Cde. Speaker, these are factors beyond our control and we cannot guarantee in the future, no repetition of fuel problems. We place our order when the foreign exchange situation permits the release of foreign exchange for the exchange of fuel but then when the order is placed there is no assurance that the fuel will arrive on time and this factor-work injunction with the failure of the feeder boiler resulted in that serious shortage of generating power between the 10th and the 21st, but we were very much conscious, of the difficulties our people are experiencing not only the residential customers, but also to customers who require electricity for production. We are aware of the problem, we know how serious the difficulties are and the effect of life stages every time there is a failure of the Guyana Electricity Corporation to provide electricity for one reason or another, we feel very hurt. We experience difficulties and as the Leader of the Minority mentioned that whenever these difficulty come about, even the Government Ministers are forced to bear the burden and discomfort with the masses of our people. But we are working vigorously to restore the service. We cannot be emotional about the problems. We accept that there are difficulties, and call for the understanding and the commitment of the Minority Party and other

interested groups in our society in helping us to overcome these problems. We appeal to you to be patient, do not attempt to exploit these difficulties for narrow Political gains, but to look at the border aspects of the national interest. We talk about working for the benefits of the people, working to build socialist society, but we cannot succeed ---

The Speaker: Cde. Ramsaroop, I really cannot understand what is going on please go in your chair because I would expect some answer. As Leader of the House I would expect you to help me to bring some dignity and decorum. I had cause to mention when we had the Supreme Congress that when a member is addressing the Speaker or the Chairman, people should not walk in and between, up and down and instead of getting some examples and leadership from senior members, what do I have -a walking in and a walking out, to and fro. I mean, what example we are giving. I think that you should help me in the dignity of this House and you yourself are contributing to it. There are other senior members, I am not talking only of you please do not let it occur again. Yes Cde. Rashid.

Cde. Rashid: We want to appeal to all groups in or society to help us to resolve these problems. We believe in consultations and involvement of every sector and are proposing to set up a Consumers Consultative Committee in which will have wide representation and will be involved in examining the tariffs which the Guyana Electricity Corporation proposing. The Guyana Electricity Corporation is not in a position to subsidize the services provided. It has got to cover all its cost. It has got to bear its costs because the resources simply are not available in other sectors.

15:30 hrs

(Cde. Rashid continues)

I told you that we have to seek assistance from abroad and expect to conclude agreement on a loan for about \$2.5 million to purchase spares, but this will take some time to materialise. I would like again in closing to appeal for understanding during this critical period. Thank you.

The Chairman: Cde. Van West-Charles.

The Minister of Health (Cde. Van West-Charles): Cde. Chairman, it is a fact that the citizens of Georgetown have been experiencing some difficulty with the supply of portable water. I think the reason is clear after my colleague Cde. Rashid has explained to you the problem with electricity supply within in Georgetown; most of the stations are powered by G.E.C. As a result of the problems that G.E.C. is having at the present moment, the motors which are driven by power are burnt and they have to be re-wound. Therefore, at the time when these things happen, the residents experience that difficulty with the supply of potable water. However, I think over the past two weeks the crisis has been most severe but I am happy to report that all the machines that were burnt have already been re-wound. They are in place and a new well has been completed in the North Ruimveldt area. The pump will be placed within a day or two. I can say that the people within North and South Georgetown will be having a very good supply of potable water.

However, the presentation made by the Leader of the Minority was one in which he tended to give a picture that the water supply within the country is in crisis. I beg to differ. Throughout the regions there are a number of wells which have been placed and drilled by the Guyana Water Authority and within the regions, with the exception of Region 4, the majority of the wells are powered by diesel engine. Therefore it is not true to say that all the wells are electrically operated, as presented by Cde. Dalchand. We can go through the catalogue of wells which are powered by Diesel and this is here for them to see what they request. It is a fact that sometimes those that are powered by electricity have problems, but they are in a minority.

I have here a report put out by Pan American Health Organisation, 1982, in which is given the status of the water supply services in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Guyana ranks high up among the countries within Latin America and the Caribbean. In terms of the urban water supply, Guyana is about No.6 of over 32 countries and in terms of the rural supply, we are No.3 with two countries being ahead of us, namely, Barbados and St. Kitts whose populations are far less. This is in the entire Latin America and Caribbean region. I think that something this Government should be proud of. One really cannot palpate these resources when one is out of the country 99 per cent of the time during the year, but I can appreciate his difficulty.

In terms of continued expansion within the water sector, we have coming on stream – they should be completed by now – a Riverstown well on the Essequibo Coast, one at New Hope on the East Bank, one at North Ruimveldt and, as I just mentioned one at No.57 Village on the

Corentyne. Linden Water Supply will be improved within another few months with a project worth over \$11.2 million. Bartica will be having a pure water scheme-treated water-within another few months and within the Rupununi we have just completed drilling 36 wells. Thirty-three pumps have already been installed and overhead tanks operated by windmills at Annai and Karasabai.

I said there is a problem in Georgetown but, generally, for a country of our size, with the problem we face, the people of this country are well served with water. Despite that, I think it is imperative that we utilize, as the Leader of the Minority mentioned, the rain water which is abundance and the Ministry of Water and Environment, along with the W.R.S.M, mounted a course for the construction of vats-and that is going on right now to encourage people to use some of the rain water for other domestic purposes.

A survey done by the United Nation Agencies in Guyana shows that Guyana, among developing countries, had a higher rate of consumption of water compared with the rest of the developing world. The average rate of consumption per head is 30 gallons a day. In Guyana we have a consumption of approximately 100 gallons a day per head. We grant that some of this accountable to wastage and we have just ordered, with the assistance of the E.E.C., some leak detection equipment which will allow us to discover the leaks whenever possible.

In relation to Cde. Dalchand's question about the subsidies: To produce water in Guyana it costs over \$325 per year per head and the increase which you observe is in no way paying the real cost of water. The production of water is heavily subsidized in Guyana and that is why we are trying to educate our people to use the water properly and to prevent wastage. Therefore, I concede that there was a crisis within the urban areas but generally the water situation within the entire region of Guyana is on a good footing.

Cde. Dr. Jagan: Cde. Chairman, the remarks made by Cde. Rashid really show up a very alarming situation when he gives the figures for the amount of generating capacity we have and how many are actually working and how many are in a state of disrepair. He did not say whether the Government plans to buy any new generating capacity because what we are dealing with is equipment which is aged. I don't think the Government has bought any major piece of equipment for several years. He told a couple of million dollars worth of spares. I do not know whether that is going to solve the problem.

The other Minister spoke about the question of water. Well, he made a slur about my being absent from the country 99 per cent of the time but I can assure him that the time I am here I know more about the country than he does.

The Chairman: that was an unfortunate remark.

(Cde. Dr. Jagan continues)

15:40 hrs

And I go to the countryside often, Cde. Speaker, the point is that how must be living in a fool's paradise not knowing really what is happening in the country. If he can say that the problems in the country are being tackled. If he drives any day in the country he will see what is happening, where the people have to be fetching water with trolleys. To compare this to Latin America is no real comparison. As he said they do not have foreign exchange. Latin American countries are in the state where they are, because of the state of dependent under-developed distorted capitalism for many years and that is why they cannot have water facilities. They cannot have normal decent facilities to give the people. We are heading in that direction. It is only that we have just started on that road of dependent Capitalism, distorted under-developed Capitalism, and therefore, what he is giving us to make a blowing picture compares with nothing at all because every year the situation will deteriorate. I am saying statistics can tell a lot of lies. I am trying to put those statistics in the proper context because as he admitted, if the electricity supply is not there the pumps can't work I know as a fact, in many country areas going in the Eastern Berbice for example, when the general electricity supply is cut off, frequently spares are not there. The spares and the oil, all the fuel are dependent on foreign exchange. That is worse because the debt burden every year is getting the higher percentage of our foreign exchange earnings. And so we are going to get in a worse position year after year, and it would not be very long before we are down in the list as we are now with highest infant mortality rate- the lowest in the Caricom States.

The Speaker: Cde. Dalchand you want to say anything?

Cde. Dalchand: No, Cde. Speaker.

Cde. Rashid: Cde. Speaker, in the short and medium term because of the present economic situation we have got to concentrate on rehabilitating the present equipment. There simply are not resources available locally to put in new equipment. But in the long run we are moving to rely on indigenous sources of energy like hydro-power. Studies are being conducted at the present moment on expanding the Tuma-Tumari facilities to increase the capacity and there are a number of other studies of smaller hydro-power possibilities .But in addition to that there is the possibility of utilizing the bagasse from the sugar industry from which I think, as a source of energy on which the viability of the sugar industry as a sourced energy on which the viability of the sugar industry may depend heavily. We are working very consciously to ensure that we reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy and to look inwardly to exploit those possibilities for the development of the electricity supplies.

The Speaker: Pages 7 and 8, Items 60 to 68. Comrades, this complete consideration of the entire item.

Question-

That the Committee Supply approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper

1982-12-30

15:40 – 15:50 hrs

No.4/1982-Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimate totaling \$35,099,150, for the period ended 1982-12-15.

put and agreed to.

Assembly resumed.

Cde. Hoyte; Cde. Speaker beg to report that the Committee of Supply has approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.4/1982 and I move now that the assembly doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

Question put, and agreed to.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, “that this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed. /The Vice-President, Party and State Matters.”

Adjourned accordingly at 15:47 hrs.