

T H E
P A R L I A M E N T A R Y D E B A T E S

O F F I C I A L R E P O R T

[Volume 7]

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA.

223rd Sitting

2 p.m.

Wednesday, 10th September, 1980

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (63)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P.
Speaker

Members of the Government – People's National Congress (46)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Burnham, O.E., S.C. (Absent)
Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, O.E.,
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
National Development

Senior Ministers (11)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C.,
Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A.
Minister of Works and Transport

Cde. B. Ramsaroop,
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs
and Leader of the House

Cde. C.V. Mingo.
Minister of Home Affairs

*Cde. H. Green
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)

*Cde. H.O. Jack.
Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)

*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P.
Minister of Finance (Absent)

*Cde. G.B. Kennard, S.C.H.
Minister of Agriculture (Absent-on leave)

*Cde. 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.A. Tyndall, A.A.,
Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

*Non-elected Ministers

Ministers (2)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
Minister –Regional
(East Berbice /Corentyne) (Absent)
- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P.
Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)

Minister of State (10)

- *Cde. F.U.A. Carmicheal,
Minister of State –Regional (Rupununi)
- *Cde. P. Duncan J.P.,
Minister of State, –Regional (North West) (Absent- on leave)
- *Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P.
Minister of State-Regional
(Mazaruni /Potaro) (Absent)
- Cde. J.P Chowritmootoo, J.P.,
Minister of State –Regional
(Essequibo Coast /West Demerara) (Absent)
- Cde. J.R.Thomas,
Minister of State, Ministry of Education,
Social Development and Culture.
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin,
Minister of State for Youth and Sport,
Ministry of National Development
- Cde. S.Prashad,
Minister of State –Regional
(East Demerara /West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C Van Sluytman,
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture (Absent)
- *Cde. F.U.A.,Campbell,
Minister of State for Information
Ministry of National Development (Absent)
- *Cde. H.Rashid,
Minister of State,
Office of the Prime Minister.

Parliamentary Secretaries (6)

- Cde. M.M. John,C.C.H.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and
Government Chief Whip (Absent)
- Cde. E.L Ambrose,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. M.Corrca,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Education, Social Development
and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade
and Consumer Protection.
- Cde. C.E Wrights, J.P,
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Economic Development and Co-operatives.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works and Transport (Absent)

*Non-elected Ministers

Other Members (15)

Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H.,
Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley (Absent)
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler
Cde. J.Gill
Cde. W. Hussain
Cde. K.M.E. Jonas (Absent)
Cde. P.A. Rayman
Cde. A. Salim, C.C.H.
Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S.
Cde. C. Sukul, J.P.
Cde. H.A.Taylor (Absent)
Cde. H.B. Walcott, J.P
Cde. L.E. Willems
Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)
Cde. C. Jagan,
Leader of the Opposition (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran,
Deputy Speaker

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan (Absent)
Cde. Reepu Demand Persaud, J.P., Opposition Chief Whip
Cde. Narbada Persaud
Cde. C. Collymore
Cde. S.F. Mohamed (Absent)
Cde. I.Basir
Cde. C.C. Belgrave
Cde. R.Ally
Cde. Dalchand, J.P
Cde. Dindayal
Cde. H.Nokta (Absent)
Cde. P. Sukhai

(ii) Liberator Party

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

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

National Assembly

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave to Members

The Speaker: Leave has been granted to Cde. Kennard from the 8th to 13th September and to Comrades Clarke and Duncan for today's Sitting.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Late Receipt of Notice of Sitting

Cde. Ally: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to draw your attention to the fact that on Friday last at 12.30 p.m., I received a telegram to attend Parliament at 2 p.m., that was for 5th September, 1980. I am living 109 miles away from here. It was not possible for me to attend.

Yesterday afternoon I received another telegram at 5.30 p.m. This is not the way to treat Members of this House. I just asked, I had to make a request before I received the Financial Papers. Can I make any contribution? I want to make a contribution. Is this possible for me to do it efficiently? I only wish that this will not happen again. Cde. Speaker, I am asking you to look into this matter for me.

The Speaker: Yes: Cde. Ally, I appreciate all that you have said and I agree with you. Equally when you have a personal explanation you must come and tell me what is the nature of it. However, the staff of Parliament can only act upon the information they receive. If we are told today that the House will sit on Friday, we can only act upon that information. We do our utmost and the Clerk does his best to get information to members as early as possible.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-FIRST READING

The following Private Bills were introduced and read the First time:

- (1) Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company (Amendment) Bill 1980-Bill No.15/1980.
- (2) Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Life Insurance Company (Amendment) Bill 1980 –Bill No.16/1980. [Cde.Willems]

National Assembly

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO.1/1980

“Be it resolved that the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.1/1980 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1979), totaling \$6,668,754.”/The Minister of Finance/

Assembly in Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance: (Cde. Hope): Cde. Speaker, in accordance with article 80 (2) of the Constitution I signify that Cabinet has recommended for consideration by the Assembly the Motion for the approval of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.1/1980 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1979) totaling \$6,668,754 and I now move the Motion.

The Chairman: We will now consider page by page the schedule to the Financial Paper. We will start at page 1 and we will take items 1 and 2 on the Current Estimates .Cde. Collymore.

Cde.Collymore: Cde. Chairman, item 1, Head 11 - Prime Minister – Guyana Defence Force, subhead 9 - Other Expenditure .The legend says “Voted provision inadequate” and the Government is seeking \$800,000 more. This is for expenditure relevant to last year but this money is going to be spent this year for last year so that we can deduce that -

The Chairman: I do not follow that, that the money will be spent this year for last year. It was spent last year and will be voted for this year.

Cde. Collymore: We are going to expend \$3.4 million more. As I said before in this honourable House, we do not object to having an Army. An Army is necessary, but under this particular provision we would like here again to object most strenuously against the way the Army is being made to perform and I would like to ask the Minister responsible if the Army could not be made to perform in a way which would make it popular. I am speaking about the military exercises .These military exercises are “anti-popular” and how they are being carried out and where they are being carried out we can only come to the conclusion that it is meant to intimidate workers and to intimidate farmers and to pursue a kind of racist line. I would like to ask the Minister responsible if the Army could not be made to function in a manner which would meet with approval of all the sectors in this country.

Within six months there were two military maneuvers in Guyana.

We want to know why. In December 1979, there was a military manoeuvre and in July this year there was one, and these manoeuvres were carried out in a way in which the workers and farmers felt highly intimidated. We would like to raise very strong objections and to ask the Minister to give us some assurance that the Army is not being made an enemy of the people, that the Army is not being put on a collision course with the masses. We are very, very alarmed and very, very perturbed over it.

Just to mention another aspect of the Army and to ask the Minister some question, quite recently- to the exact on Saturday, 16th August, 1980- the Army carried out some manoeuvres in Leguan. These were not national manoeuvres like the two I mentioned just now. These were local, regional kind of manoeuvres. They intimidated the people in Leguan and we got some feedback. We were told that there were 75 soldiers in full battle gear and they raided five premises.

The Chairman: As I understand this matter, we are voting \$800,000 for inadequate provision in respect of the Guyana Defence Force for 1979. As I see it, your remarks must deal with 1979: its performance, its operation, in so far as 1979 is concerned. I would not stop you talking about 1979 but 1980 I will not allow.

Cde. Collymore: I am speaking about 1979.

The Chairman: Did you just say August, 1980?

Cde. Collymore: The trend has been established and I am protesting it. I just want to reinforce my argument. It is continuing this year. This is for 1979 but it is to be paid in 1980.

The Chairman: I will have no argument

2.15 p.m

Cde. Collymore: Cde. Chairman, I would like to protest that about the Leguan incident.

The Chairman: When was the Leguan incident, 1980? Please let us deal with 1979. If not, I will ask somebody else to speak.

Cde. Collymore: I will try another time to raise it.

The Chairman: Is any comrade replying to this? No? All right then, item 3. Item 4.

Cde. Collymore: Item 4, Head 21 - Ministry of Home Affairs, subhead 21, (New) Funeral Expenses of the Late Vincent Teekah. Minister of Education, Social Development & Culture.

We note here that the Government is seeking a large sum of \$14, 000 to provide for expenses in connection with the State funeral of the late Minister Vincent Teekah, Cde. Chairman, of course he was a senior Minister. I do not object to it and he should have been buried with the National Honours due to him in keeping with his status as a senior Minister. We would like to ask the Minister of Home Affairs if he is satisfied with the way in which this senior Minister, his Cabinet colleague, met his death. This death occurred on October 24th, 1979. We are now talking about matters occurring in 1979.

The Chairman: But we are talking about the funeral and expenses for the burial.

Cde. Collymore: But the man has to die before he has a funeral. I want to know if the Minister is satisfied with the way he died.

The Chairman: I am saying that we are dealing with the funeral expenses.

Cde. Collymore: Cde. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if he is pleased, if he has started investigations, if any investigations are going on --

The Chairman: Any other person wishes to speak on this matter? No? Then, items 5, 6 and 7.

Cde. Ram Karran: I do not know if there is anything arising under items 5 and 6 but I would like to ask the Minister of Works and Transport if he could explain in some detail the need for expenditure of nearly \$1. million. Head 39 - Ministry of Works and Transport (Transport) and Harbour, then Transport and Harbours, subhead 1 - Net Deficit on Transport Services. Could he at the same time tell us what is this second Dahari report. Is it a man, or is it a place? If there was a first report, what is the second? I do not think I have heard anything about this report as a Member of Parliament. What about the first? It seems to me, Sir, if I may make a comment, that this deficit, if it relates only to the steamer service, is excessive. The Hon. Minister might be able to tell us in some more detail about it.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister.

The Minister of Works and Transport (Cde. Naraine): Cde. Chairman, the sum of \$928,537 relates to the Dahari report described here as the second report because there was an earlier report by Dahari where he looked into the question of super sessions and certain posts not properly graded out of the 1973 revision of salaries. There was the first report where a certain section of the Transport and Harbours Department was dealt with and he did a second report, which dealt, particularly, with the regrading of posts.

Out of that second report he recommended certain changes and this resulted in additional expenditure of \$328,537. The union had put up certain proposals which were eventually accepted in a modified form for the victualling of sailors on the various ships and this accounted for \$230,500. Then there was the question of the forty-four hour week which arose out of the agreement with the T.U.C and this accounted for an expenditure of \$85,127.98, all making a total of \$644,164.98.

The difference between this sum and the sum being sought was required for the general provision of subsidy to the Transport and Harbours Department. The sum that would ideally have been satisfactory to the Transport and Harbours would have been about \$ 7. Million,

but it was not possible to provide that very large sum. As a result the expenditure was reduced and in the 1980 Estimates certain repair and reconditioning work on ships had to be deferred. It is not only the ships because the Berbice/Potaro services, which is a land service, is also run on a subsidy. One of the main reasons for this high subsidy at this particular time is because of increasing costs, coupled with the age of some of the ships. These are the two main reasons. The Cde. Member from the other side might have been following events where a numbers of new ships are being constructed to replace the older ships. Hopefully, with that and increased traffic, this heavy subsidy may take a reverse direction.

The Chairman: Items 8, 9 and 10.

Cde. Ram Karram: I have a very short question on item 8, Head 70 - Ministry of Health – Medical, subhead 5 - Maintenance of Vehicles. Could the spokesman for the Ministry of Health indicate to us the size of the fleet that requires this large amount for maintenance.

Cde. Ally: Items 9, Head 70 - Ministry of Health –Medical, subhead 20- Mosquito Control Service. Where will this sum of money be spent to control mosquitoes, just in the Greater Georgetown area? Mosquitoes are really creating havoc in the Coast, in the rural areas, and there are tall bushes and stagnant water which the Ministry of Health is suppose to look into. For instance, some years ago we had the local Sanitary Inspectors in those areas and they used to see that the bushes within the residential area were cleared. But there is nothing going on at the moment. When you ask the local Sanitary Inspector what he is doing about the bushes, he says it is under the control of the Local Authority at the moment. I wish the Minister would tell us what these things are all about. These bushes and the stagnant water are breeding grounds for mosquitoes and they are creating havoc for the people, especially on the Corentyne at the moment.

2.25p.m

Cde. Hope: Cde. Chairman, on the question asked by the previous member, if I remember correctly, my advice is that that the Ministry has about 50 vehicles at the moment.

That is an estimate, the figures could not be given very precisely .

With respect to the Mosquito Control Service, my information, Cde. Chairman, is that at the moment the Ministry's efforts are being directed essentially at controlling malaria mainly in the hinterland and most of its resources are being used in that direction. If there is a mosquito problem on the coastlands, we will know that the coastlands have never been devoid of mosquitoes .What has happened is that the coastlands have been made devoid of the malaria mosquitoes and we are ensuring, the same thing happens in the hinterland. In the meantime, when the Ministry is able to control the situation in the hinterland, it will then be able to use its limited resources on the coastlands to some extent.

The Chairman: Items 11, 12 and 13. We will go over to Capital Estimates. Item 1.

Cde. Ram Karran: Sir, I look at this legend here under item 1, Division V - Prime Minister, subhead 4- Guyana National Service, for the sum of \$2, 600, 000, which says: "Voted provision inadequate". I think that the Government, and I say this advisedly, treats this House and yourself, Cde. Chairman, with contempt when it puts this legend here.

We are not dealing with the Army; we are not dealing with any sensitive arm or area. I am sure that you will agree with me that the Minister should put some explanation rather than treating us with contempt and scorn. I think that the Minister who is acting ought to get up and tell us what such a large sum of money is going to be used for in the National Services.

If we want to have a system of Parliamentary Government let us have it, or if we want to have a dictatorship let us have that, but do not come and throw a scrap of paper at us and tell us that the provision is inadequate and we want \$2,600,000. You cannot do that to your wife, yet you come here and do it to the nation.

The Chairman: Cde. Rashid.

The Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Cde. Rashid): Ever since the establishment of the National Service in 1974, it has grown not only in age but also in maturity, despite obviously severe constraints. Its growth could be described as phenomenal and this explains the rationale for the Supplementary Provision. Not only is the organization responsible for training and orienting the young Guyanese but, equally important, is its contribution to the massive production drive in which the entire nation is involved.

The National Service, for instance is responsible for the production of cotton which is vital for the operation of the textile mill and hence is making an important contribution in ensuring that we in Guyana clothe ourselves in the near future. It is also engaged in the production of legumes thus contribution to our self- sufficiency in food production.

In the industrial field, the National Service is also engaged in serious production. In this respect I want to remind this House of the work the Guyana National Service is doing at the Hooper's quarry. This quarry is an important source of stones needed to protect our sea defences. The products of that quarry are also required for the major agricultural schemes in this country - the M.M.A., the Tapakuma and the Black Bush.

It is as a result of these diverse and ever-expanding activities that additional finances were required. For instance \$1.7 million of the \$2.6 million was required for the purchase of

spare parts for that quarry. It is important that we appreciate the legitimacy and wisdom of expending financial resources for these purposes.

Part of this sum was also utilized for the payment of salaries. You are no doubt aware that the National Service is expanding. More and more young people are going into Service to make their contribution at a very young age. These two factors, Cde. Speaker, account for this \$2.6 million supplementary approval sought.

Cde. Ram Karran: Just a supplementary question to remind my friend that there is a thing called double entry book-keeping. Unfortunately, I do not have my copy of the Estimates. One would have thought that such information ought to have appeared here. /Interruption/ I was merely making the observation and I ask the Hon. Minister to look up in the Estimates for the provision on quarries. It seems to me to be a very bad system of book-keeping to show the amount of monies to be spent on the quarries under the National Service because in that way nobody will be able to follow what the Estimates are about. Even if legend was included here, one would follow.

National Service gives one the impression of something else rather than quarry maintenance or development .May I go on to item 3?

The Chairman: We will deal with item 2 first. Yes, we could go to item 3.

Cde. Ram Karran: Division XX11 - Ministry of Works and Transport, subhead 22 - Purchase of equipment. Here again we are treated with the same sort of comment. To provide for the purchase of 40 cars. At one time we were buying cars for Ministries. Have we started that game again? Surely, this House ought to be treated with some sort of respect by the Hon. Minister who defends this head to tell us what these 40 cars are for. What are they going to be used for? Do we not have a fleet of cars to transport V.I.P.S when they come to Guyana? Do we need to expand that fleet? Can we afford to expand the fleet? Can we afford to expand that fleet at this time of very serious deficiencies and so on? These are questions that are relevant to an item like this.

The Chairman: Cde. Minister.

2.35 p.m

Cde. Naraine: Cde. Chairman, this provision for the purchase of 40 cars is not for the Ministry alone. What we did was designate the Ministry of Works as the institution to purchase 40 cars that came into the country to Guyana Gajraj.

(Cde. S. Naraine continues)

In turn, these cars are allocated to private people as well as to the Ministries and the officials working in the Service. That sum paid for the cars was credited to revenue. In fact, for Government use, seventeen cars were purchased and some are kept in the pool. There is a general pool and some of the older cars were there since 1972 and had to be replaced. I think that we will remember that some of those older cars were advertised for sale and had actually been sold. The new cars will replenish the fleet.

It is true that a number of Ministries, instead of taking travelling allowances paid by the Parliament, have opted to take the use of the Government car run fully at the expenses of the Government and --/Interruption/

The Chairman: Cde. Naraine, you may continue addressing me and not regard the number.

Cde. Naraine: I am sorry, Cde. Chairman, Some of these cars-I cannot give the exact number-were allocated to Ministers and the remaining cars are in the car pool run by Plant Maintenance and Hire Division.

The Chairman: This completes consideration of all the items.

Question-

“That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.1/1890 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (advances made from the Contingencies Fund in1979) totaling \$6,668,754,”

put, and agreed to.

Assembly resumed.

Cde. Hope: I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1980 and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

Question put, and agreed to

Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER No.2/1980

“Be it resolved that the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out In Financial Paper No. 2/1980 –schedule of supplementary Provision on the Cabinet Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund as 15th August,1980), totaling \$8,424,393” [The Minister of Finance.]

Assembly in Committee of Supply.

Cde. Hope: In accordance with article 80(2) of the Constitution I signify that Cabinet has

recommended for consideration by the Assembly the Motion for the approval of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.2/1980 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund as at 15th August, 1980) totaling \$8,424,393, and I now move the Motion.

The Chairman: We will consider the items on each page. Item 1. Item 2 .Item 3.

Cde.Ram Karran: I understand from the Cde. Minister Rashid that cotton is coming in. May I ask how early the mill--

The Chairman: We are on the Current Estimates, Cde. Ram Karran. Item 4, Item5, Item 6 Item 7.We now move on to Capital Estimates. Items 1, Item 2, Item 3, 4 and 5.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: Cde. Chairman, I looked at the Budget Speech.

The Chairman: Can you tell me which item you are speaking on?

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I am dealing with item 4, Division XX – Ministry of Economic Development, subhead 25 - Guyana Glass Works, and the items 5, Division XX - Ministry of Economic Development, Sub head 27- (New) Working Capital - Textile Mill. I looked at the Budget Speech and I wish to quote just the relevant lines on page 37 of the 1980 Speech. The Minister was talking about projects that are scheduled for completion in 1980:

“In the course of this year, several major projects are scheduled for completion. These include the Textile Mill, the Glass Factory,”

and there are other factories named there but I am only dealing with those two on the Supplementary Paper. I looked also at the Estimates which show the projects completed. And then when I looked at the legend for the Supplementary votes I would say that it is misleading because if you read the original estimate that was presented and if you read it in conjunction with the Budget Speech, you assume that the money voted at the time the Budget was presented was to complete the project. There can be no other interpretation. It is clear. But when one looks at the Current Estimates on 3 and 5, one finds that they are “To provide additional funds for the construction of the Textile Mill.”

I would like to ask the Minister what is the position because in the original estimate this was to complete the project. Now he has informed us that these are additional funds for the construction. What stage of the construction? What is the total sum envisaged for the construction of the Mill? What other expenditure is envisaged to get the Mill going bearing in mind that this particular Mill, the Textile Mill, is receiving a lot of publicity. I think that Parliament of all the places ought to be fully informed so that we may be aware of what is taking place and to what extent public funds are involved.

We must also know about the management of the mill, under which agency it will function. I recall that there was some publicity in the Press about staffing. We need to know about the staffing position, about the way the Mill is going to be operated under which agency it is to function, accountability in relation to the Mill bearing in mind that public funds are involved.

Finally you have the point as to whether more funds are going to be required for the completion of the Mill. "To provide additional funds for the construction of the Textile Mill". One would have expected that the additional funds would have been the final amount bearing in mind that we have already voted for the completion of the Mill. What is the total cost of the whole project? Similar question will arise for item 4, Guyana Glass Works. The legend states: To provide additional funds for the construction of the Glass Factory. The legend at subhead 25 of the 1980 Estimates of Expenditure says: To provide funds for the completion of the glass factory". Let us know what stage it has reached and so on.

2.45 p.m.

I omitted to ask the Minister - Cotton is coming in-what is the Capacity, the production, how much cotton is coming in, what is the total input, we want to be assured in the House so that the information could be conveyed to the nation as to the viability of the project. We are not opposed to industry being managed by the Government, but we want to ensure, as Members of this House, that they are run effectively and all the concerns are viable. I think we need an explanation. This relates to item 3, Division XX - Ministry of Economic Development, subhead 14 - Cotton Textile Mill.

From my calculation, looking at the estimates we had voted for the Glass Factory it is already \$17,663,000. I understand that the Textile Mill is somewhere in the vicinity of \$30 million. The Minister probably can help us with the information. I have only looked at the estimate before me and I am not in the position to give figures as I have given for the Glass Factory.

Of course, that provision against item 5 deals with my original enquiry. Working capital, I assume, has to do with finding material. I wonder if it has to do with administration, if I extend that, and we would like to know how the administration will be constituted, how it will function, whether it will be a Corporation, What will be and, if so, who are the people appointed to manage the affair, apart from the publicity I saw in the press with respect to staffing. I am sure the Cde. Minister will be disposed to give us answers to these questions.

The Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Cde. Hoyte): Cde. Chairman, like the Hon. Member Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, the Government is particularly keen that these enterprises should be managed as efficiently as possible. I think, however, that the member is splitting hairs when he makes a differentiation between completing and construction. To set his mind at rest, I should tell him that the Textile Mill is completed. As the papers indicate, these sums were advanced from the Contingencies Fund to provide monies for the construction and completion. The Textile Mill is completed, it requires working capital and the member has shown a shrewd appreciation of the nature of working capital. It is to buy the inputs to enable the company to operate.

The Textile Mill is a company incorporated under the Laws of Guyana. It has its Board of Directors and it had its management, technical and other staff, as any other company would have. Similarly, the Glass Works is a Company with its Board and staff.

The Glass Factory is virtually completed, the works are virtually completed. We are awaiting now firm indication from the Guyana Electricity Corporation as to the date when it would be able to supply the power which is needed for the operation of the works. Members will appreciate the fact that glass works would be an energy-intensive operation and a twenty four hour a day operation. It is like the bauxite industry. Once stove furnaces are heated and the operation starts, well then, operations continue from day to day without stopping, so one has to be quite sure that the power is available. We are waiting on G.E.C. to indicate when power would be available and to make the necessary connection.

I think that Members of the opposition do themselves a disservice when they stay away from functions which are of a national character, particularly functions which are designed to give members of the public an opportunity to understand what is happening in the developmental sphere of the country. I would extend an invitation to the Hon. Member and his colleagues to visit the Glass Works, the Textile Mill and indeed any development project at any time they so desire. The Government will be happy to make the necessary arrangements so that they could see for themselves, they could ask questions and apprise themselves of all facts and obtain all the information which they desire.

The Chairman: Item 6, Division XXXIII, Ministry of Works and Transport (Works)
Subhead 22.

Cde. Dalchand: Item 6, Purchase of Equipment. I would like to find out whether the legend is correct. I see the Voted Provision is \$44,000. They are now asking for \$ 106,000 and the legend states: "Voted provision inadequate to pay freight charges..." They are buying equipment for \$44,000 but freight charges---

The Chairman: Some other question, Comrade. When you buy equipment, you must pay for the cost of freight. What other question do you have to ask? Item 7.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud: I have one short question on item 7, Division XXIX, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture IDA projects – Second Education Project, Subhead 1, Civic Works. I think the Minister who will answer is aware that we have inadequate space in most of the schools in the country, inadequate facilities in many buildings

without seeking to identify any in particular. But some of the buildings are really dilapidated and some probably would qualify for disqualification for people to inhabit them. I think, talking about education, talking about uniform, we need at this point in time a Committee to look at the condition of our school buildings, a national committee, space facilities with a view to providing the kind of accommodation and facilities for people to study in comfort and do well in their academic pursuits. But many school buildings are in a very bad state and I think we need our school buildings to be looked at immediately. We need more buildings, more facilities. The Government has been using a lot of make shift buildings, particularly at the nursery level, borrowing, renting facilities that are far from being reasonable for education, we need to look at what facilities could be offered to young children going to nursery schools. Nothing is being done in this direction and I know that many people who have been making their facilities available to the Government, particularly for nursery schools, want them back for their own use and they cannot get them despite the fact that they have been writing to the Ministry of Education.

We want to know what is being done in so far as rebuilding existing ones that are in a bad shape, whether new buildings are going to be erected, what is going to be the position of our nursery schools.

The Chairman: Cde. Thomas

The Minister of State, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture (Cde. Thomas): Cde. Chairman, this provision does not cater in a general way for improvement of facilities in existing school buildings. It caters for the programmes which falls under the second education project as you already know those schools are now being constructed throughout the whole country. We spoke about the work being done at Rosignol, Annandale, Skeldon, Line Path, Cummingslodge, St. Ignatius, Canje and Lodge, for example.

The question of school places is a burning one which all developing countries are now facing. But while we try to tackle the question of school places we also try to improve on the quality of education. Given our circumstances and resources, we must not only think in terms of quantity, in terms of class rooms and all of that, but also in terms of quality. I hope that when we come back for additional provision to improve on situation in so far as the state of school buildings is concerned, we will get the support of the Hon. Member.

2.55 p.m.

The Chairman: Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. This completes consideration of all the items.

Question-

That the Committee of Supply approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1980 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund as at 15th August, 1980) totaling \$8,424,393,

10-9-80

2.55 p.m.

Put, and agree to.

Assembly resumed.

Cde. Hope: I beg to report that the Committee of Supply has approved of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No.2 of 1980 and I now move that the Assembly doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution.

Question put, and agreed to

Motion Carried.

Resolved, “That this Assembly do now adjourn to a date to be fixed”.

/Cde. Ramsaroop/

Adjourned accordingly at 2.55 p.m.