

# Official Report

*PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2012) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN*

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16<sup>TH</sup> Sitting

Monday, 23<sup>RD</sup> April, 2012

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*The Assembly convened at 2.03 p.m.*

*PRAYERS*

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

### **Internet access by Members of Parliament in the House**

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members good afternoon and welcome once again. I trust that we all had an enjoyable and restful weekend. By way of announcement, the only one I wish to make is one that arose out of circumstances which were put over to me on Friday evening. That is to do with access to the parliamentary internet service. Members of Parliament have complained that the signal being received was of a very bad or small bandwidth and most were having difficulty accessing the internet. I, myself, whenever I have gone into chamber have noticed this. As a result the Information Technology (IT) Department has taken a decision on a temporary experimental basis only, to attach a key or password to the system so that, as a priority, all Members of Parliament will have access to the internet.

I believe that in discussions with the Clerk thereafter, we will be approving access to members of the press. I think that we can all agree that the open-ended arrangement that we had before is not only unsafe, but it was not providing the service that the Members expected to have and are entitled to have. As a result of the discussions that I have had with the IT Department on Friday

evening, I am reporting that steps have been taken. Some of you may have noticed that you can no longer automatically access the system. I believe that a password has been provided at the desk of every Member of Parliament. As I said it is on an experimental and temporary basis for now. I am sure that with the assistance of the Clerk, the Public Relations Officer and others, we will be extending it. Certainly, we need to contain rather than to have the expansive and free open arrangement that was in place before. Thank you very much.

## **PUBLIC BUSINESS**

## **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

### **MOTION**

#### **MOTION TO APPROVE THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2012**

“WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana requires that Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for any financial year should be laid before the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution also provided that when the Estimates of Expenditure have been approved by the Assembly an Appropriation Bill shall be introduced in the Assembly providing for the issue from the consolidated fund of the sums necessary to meet expenditure;

AND WHEREAS Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of Guyana for the financial year 2012 have been prepared and laid before the Assembly on 2012-03-30.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2012, of a total sum of **one hundred and seventy nine billion, six hundred and ninety six million, five hundred and forty six thousand dollar(\$179,696,546,000)**, excluding **thirteen billion, and eighty for million, seven hundred and thirty five thousand dollars (13,084,735,000)** which is chargeable by law, as detailed therein and summarised in the under mentioned schedule, and agree that it is expedient to amend the law and to make further provision in respect of finance.” *[Minister of Finance]*

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members we will continue this afternoon our consideration of the 2012 Estimates. We will resolve ourselves into Committee of Supply to continue consideration of those Estimates. I will ask the Sergeant-of-Arms to remove the Mace.

*Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply*

*In Committee of Supply*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members we are now in Committee of Supply.

**Agency: 13 Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 131 – Main Office – \$84,716,000**

**Mr. Bulkan:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6116 – Contracted Employees – can the Hon. Minister provide a full and complete breakdown, that is, designations and emoluments, for all of the employees under this heading please?

**Minister of Local Government and Regional Development [Mr. G. Persaud]:** Mr. Chairman, they are the Permanent Secretary who earns \$480,816, Hinterland Co-ordinator \$362,763, Advisor to the Minister \$302,661, the Personal Assistant \$99,036, Confidential Secretary \$71,569, Personal Assistant to a Minister Within \$70,060, the Community Developer Co-ordinator \$64,984, Vehicle Driver \$63,558, the Confidential Secretary to Minister Within \$62,778, Confidential Secretary to Permanent Secretary \$49,827, Vehicle Driver \$46,402 and Vehicle Driver \$39,127.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Trotman:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer the Hon. Minister to line item 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants – can the Minister say how many vehicles are assigned to the Main Office of his Ministry?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Five vehicles are assigned to Programme 1.

**Mr. Trotman:** Are all of them in working condition?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6261 – Local Travel and Subsistence – can the Minister say who benefits under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Local Travelling and Subsistence is used by all staff on Programme 1 particularly the two Ministers, Hinterland Co-ordinator, Advisors, Personal Assistants and Confidential Secretaries.

**Mr. Trotman:** I would like to refer the Minister to line item 6265 – Other Transport, Travel and Postage – and ask the Minister who travels under this head.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As I said, most of the Officers in Programme 1 use this head to commute. This head is intended for airfare. It covers particularly both Ministers in the Ministry, the Permanent Secretary, the Hinterland Co-ordinator, Advisor and, like I said, other staff as the need arise.

**Mr. Trotman:** I wanted for my own benefit and certainly I believe for the benefit of the House, for the Minister to say why it is that these two line items which fall under the same category- Transport, Travel and Postage- are separated and if in fact there is a duplication in relation to travel that takes place under these two heads.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am not sure what the Hon. Member is requesting, but if he can identify which head he wants me to deal with individually, I will only be too willing to facilitate.

**Mr. Trotman:** If you look at the Estimates you will see that line item 6261 talks about Local Travel and Subsistence. That falls under the general subhead of Transport, Travel and Postage. Then, when I look at line item 6265, I see other Transport, Travel and Postage. Therefore, my concern is whether in actual fact there is a duplication of expenses under these two heads. If so, the Minister is being asked to say why.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I believe it is self evident, at least from the lay persons' view, that there appears to be two estimates for transport, travel et cetera under local travel and subsistence. Could you just clarify?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is the line item description for all the Budgets presented so far in the House. In order, based on you guidance, that we need to explain it, I will

so do. Line Item 6261 deals basically with road and river transportation. Line Item 6265 basically deals with air transportation. So, there is no room for duplication.

**Mr. Chairman:** Much appreciated, thank you.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask a supplementary question on line item 6116 – Contracted Employees – I heard the Minister speaking in relation to vehicles going to advisors. Under this subhead of contracted employees, I would like to know how many Advisors there are in this Ministry, what are their names, their salaries and the allowances of the advisors. I will ask supplementary questions as I go along.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am sure that the Hon. Member did not hear the first question or the response, because I requested a repeat of the first question myself. So, I am only too willing to repeat the names of the designations. We have one Advisor to the Minister in the Ministry, and that is the designation of the individual. The salary for that Advisor is \$302,661.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** A supplementary question: what is the name of this Advisor?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I will only answer that question if you so rule. It is not a norm for us to share the names of persons in this Assembly.

**Mr. Chairman:** I see no difficulty in sharing the name, even though it is not a norm. Bearing in mind, Hon. Members, that as we share names we are exposing persons, so let us be aware of that. I will allow the question.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Very well Mr. Chairman. Based on your ruling, as I said I am reluctant, but I will go with your instructions. The name is Mr. Clinton Collymore.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** Is this high salary Advisor provided with other perks? Does the Ministry pay his electricity, telephone or chauffeur? [Neendkumar: What line item?] It is line item 6116. Do you want to take over Mr. Persaud's work? That is how we are going to get the information of the fat cats; we are coming to all of them. [Hon. Members: inaudible.] Do not worry about Mr. Collymore. We are coming to Mr. Nokta and we are coming to you Ms. Teixeira.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I will not respond to the term used, “perks”. I do not understand what that means and I do not wish to respond.

**Ms. Teixeira:** Mr. Chairman, I do hope you will protect some of us from being threatened by other Members from the other side of the House. I hope you will do so Mr. Chairman and I look forward to that. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Like every other citizen I have been reading what is happening in the Newspapers, a lot of what has been happening here has been playing out over the last few days. Indeed, I will offer the protection of the Chair if I feel that a Member is under threat. I will ask that we refrain from making personal comments or statements by one Member against the other. We may go to the person’s office, but not to the person themselves. Hon. Minister the question is whether this advisor has any facilities or benefits coming with the office.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The Advisor to the Minister has additional allowances. Those allowances include duty allowance, a gardener and a maid allowances.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** A follow up question through you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say that I intended no threat. I understand that when I read the Chronicle Newspaper that I am reminded that if I left the protective arm of the People’s Progressive Party (PPP), I will meet the same state of Vincent Teekah. There is threat out there on my life, but I have not chosen to mention it. Now that it is mentioned in here, I should say that my blood would run on the head of others. But, just to ask, has it been monetised? [Neendkumar: You are senile.]

**Mr. Chairman:** Alright. I have just asked that we do not have personal comments by one Member against another. That word is not to be used against any Member of this House.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** Mr. Kumar was identified with those words on more than one time. Can we have a monetisation of these allowances? How much does it cost the taxpayer?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I only hope that the Hon. Member was not insinuating that he got any threat from me. I just want to set that clear. The maid allowance is \$25,000, gardener allowance is \$25,000, and duty allowance is \$10,000.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** A follow up question: I understand that there are two Ministers in this Ministry. Which one of the Ministers is this Minister's Advisor advising? Who is he advising?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** He is advising both Ministers.

**Mr. Allen:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Line Item 6281 – Security Services – can the Minister explain the reason for this large increase?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6281 – Security Services – the Ministry of Public Works, up to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 was taking care of security for the entire compound. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2012, the Ministry of Local Government has taken over security responsibility based on its own need. Specifically, this increase caters for the security at the Permanent Secretary's residence and the second bit was the security at the home of the Hinterland Co-ordinator.

**Mr. Allen:** A follow up question: Can the Minister say whether the security service method used for selecting was an open tender or a selective tender, and which is the security service that is employed here.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Hon. Member got it right, it was as would be expected, an open tender. The security provider which took over during March of this year is Strategic Action Security.

**Mr. Trotman:** I would like to follow up on the same line item, 6281 – Security Services. My concern is that the amount awarded for the contract to provide security services to the two buildings, if I heard the Minister correctly, seems to be exorbitant and rather huge. I am wondering if it is that the Minister cares to relook that figure based on the fact that for services provided for two buildings, the Permanent Secretary's residence and the other building that he referred to, as I said, seems to be a very considerable amount and I believe needs to be re-examined. I am wondering if the Minister is prepared to do a re-examination of that figure.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not think that the Hon. Member heard me correctly. I said additionally security to the Permanent Secretary's residence and that of the residence of the Hinterland Co-ordinator. I do not share the view that there is any exorbitance.

**Mr. Trotman:** Can the Minister then tell us exactly how many buildings are provided for by this security company?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Three buildings, Mr. Chairman, four locations.

**Mr. Trotman:** Can the Minister identify the relevant buildings that he is referring to?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The two that I named before, the Permanent Secretary's residence and the Hinterland Co-ordinator's residence, the Advisor's residence and an internal security at the Ministry for the two Ministers.

**Mr. Allen:** When we look at the Estimates we will see that for the addition of two buildings we have got \$6.173 million as the increase. Can the Minister tell us exactly what the cost is for each of those two buildings that caused this type of increase?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The charge is per hours of services provided. There is a fixed charge per hour.

**Mr. Allen:** A follow up question to that: Can the Minister provide this House with the cost per hour that he is paying this security service?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is \$280 per hour and on Sundays and holidays it is \$400 per hour.

**Mr. Sharma:** Line Item 6116 – Contracted Employees – could the Hon. Minister indicate what is the vacation allowance and gratuity that will be paid to this Advisor for this year and whether the Advisor entitled to a government vehicle with fuel or a duty-free vehicle. Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As was explained previously by many Ministers before me, contract gratuity sums for all employees is 22.5%. Also, vacation allowance for all contracted employees is one month's salary. With regards to whether the advisor is provided with a vehicle and fuel, the response is yes.

**Mr. Sharma:** A follow up question: I would like to know that amount of money that will be paid. I know it is one month's salary and I know that it is 22.5% twice a year. I will like to have the cost please.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, are you in position to make that arithmetic calculation right now?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No, Mr. Chairman. I think that the information required was provided. All the Hon. Members has to do is the mathematics. I do not have a calculator here Mr. Chairman.



**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, the Minister gave the monthly figure and I believe that it is relatively easy to calculate, but if there is an insistence I will obtain it from the Minister and I will get it for you.

**Mr. Sharma:** My calculation is roughly about \$1.3 million in addition to his salary per month. Thank you.

**Mr. Bulkan:** A follow up to line item 6116 – Contracted Employees – can the Hon. Ministers say of these 12 employees under this heading how many, if any, have been employed within the past twelve calendar months? If so, can the Minister say if these positions were advertised and whether any of them are persons occupying a senior position, and what are the relevant qualifications, if any? Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One person was appointed over the last twelve months. That was a Permanent Secretary to replace another Permanent Secretary who was moved elsewhere. All the other employees were there. With regards to whether these positions were advertised and so on, as the need would have arisen, then we would have sought to source the persons with the competent skills and expertise to fill those positions.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Forgive me please Hon. Minister, but I did not quite follow your answer as to if the position was advertised.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We do not advertise for the position of Permanent Secretary.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Thank you Mr. Minister.

*Programme: 131 – Main Office – \$84,716,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 132 – Ministry Administration – \$45,891,000**

**Mr. Bulkan:** Mr. Chairman, just for clarification, I am not quite sure when you say that there is no Capital Expenditure. There is indeed capital expenditure under this Ministry on page 419.

2.33 p.m.

**Mr. Chairman:** I meant for Programme 131, Main Office. Sorry. Any questions Hon. Members? This is for Current Expenditure for Programme 132, Ministry Administration.

**Mr. Trotman:** Mr. Chairman, under line item 6111 – Administrative - can the Minister say what are the designated positions held by personnel under this head and what are the relevant emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Assistant Secretary General, Senior Personnel Officer, Chief Accountant, Accountant, Senior Registry Supervisor and Personnel Officer.

**Mr. Trotman:** The second part of the question; what are the emoluments paid to each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Assistant Secretary General, \$102,133; Senior Personnel Officer, \$102,133; Chief Accountant, \$97,492; Accountant, \$80,538; Senior Registry Supervisor, \$60,532; Personnel Officer, \$57,355.

**Mr. Trotman:** For the purpose of satisfying my own ignorance, can the Minister say what the Deputy Secretary General does?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I cannot recall sharing information on the Deputy Secretary General. We do not have that position.

**Mr. Trotman:** The position of Assistant Secretary General. I am sorry I said Deputy Secretary General.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Assistant Secretary General's role is clear by way of job description provided by the Public Service Commission.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is that description available anywhere for the Hon. Member to acquaint himself with?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, that is with the Public Service Ministry and it can be uplifted at any time.

**Mr. Chairman:** Can it be provided at any time?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, the Hon. Minister of the Public Service Commission will provide that within 30 minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you very much Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Trotman:** Mr. Chairman, I thought that the Minister who is defending his allocation will be in a position to clarify, for those Members of Parliament who do not know, what these positions are. To try to just foist it off is something that I find a little disturbing. Perhaps the Minister may wish to reconsider his answer and provide the information. He is the person on the spot and will know what the officer does in his Ministry. I believe he is best placed to identify what the officer does.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, part of the reason for these debates and the question and answer session is to elucidate and to elicit some of the responses we are getting. It is for you at the end of it to make your assessment. You have made an assessment, but the Minister has said it can be and will be provided within 30 minutes via the subject Minister of the Public Service.

**Mr. Trotman:** I have a further question on this line item. Perhaps other Ministers may give some consideration to this in the future. I notice that in every ministry there are several administrative departments all operating, presumably, from the same building. I am wondering if these administrators are all required. I notice under Main Office of the Ministry that we are looking at that there is no one identified in this section and hence my question.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I thought that was a general statement. I did not get the question.

**Mr. Trotman:** The question is if these departments can actually function without administrative personnel as in the case of the Main Office.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I still have not heard the line item.

**Mr. Trotman:** I started off by saying line item 6111.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am sorry, I did not hear you.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think that because there is zero indicated there, the question is whether or not there is any support staff for Ministry Administration. Where does the support staff come from? Is it shared? What is happening there?

**Mr. G. Persaud** Mr. Chairman, the Assistant Secretary General (ASG), is an administrator, the Senior Personnel Officer is an administrator, the Chief Accountant is an administrator; the Senior Personnel Officer administrates the personnel arm. The Chief Accountant administrates the financial arm; the ASG administers the administrative arm in the Ministry.

If I may, Mr. Chairman, the reason I responded the way I did with regards to the duties and responsibilities of the ASG is because if we continue to respond to these queries we will have to walk with the big book from the Public Service Ministry for each job designation and everything they do.

**Mr. Sharma:** Mr. Chairman, could the Hon. Minister indicate to this Committee of Supply under line item 6281 - Security Services - the reason for the increase of over \$3 million?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As I said earlier, we have taken over security responsibilities for the compound of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The increase in charges is to meet the taking over of the security responsibility including managing of the main gate into the compound.

**Dr. Ramayya:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if Mr. Nokta, under line item 6116, is a contracted employee and if so, what is his salary and the fringe benefits that come with the job.

**Ms. Teixeira:** Mr. Chairman, I remember in other budget debates when similar questions were raised, not specific to a line item, Members were asked to put those questions to the House as Questions on Notice or Oral Questions. In fact, Mr. Lumumba and I were the subjects of such questions after the last budget. Therefore, I think that may be the best approach.

**Mr. Chairman:** This is the Tenth Parliament and I think the question is a valid one. We all know that Mr. Nokta provides services. I do not think there is anything...

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, Mr. Nokta is not appointed as a contracted employee under this programme that we are dealing with.

**Mr. Chairman:** Very well.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** Just a follow up question, through you, Mr. Chairman: Can the Hon. Minister state if Mr. Nokta is employed in his Ministry as a contracted employee? If we are going to do this as my friend said we are going to have scattered bullets. We are going to have to question every single line item until that answer is given. We want to know who these people are. We see them. He was on the street demonstrating among contracted employees.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I have made it very clear that Mr. Nokta is not appointed under this programme. I cannot answer questions under the programme for another programme. Mr. Nokta is appointed in the Ministry. I will only do this once. The Estimates for the programme to which he is appointed was just approved by the Assembly, so we cannot go back. If we think it through and ask our questions per programme, ... [Mr. Ramjattan: You are smarting us?] Mr. Chairman, this has nothing to do with being smart; it is all about doing our work here.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, indeed the Standing Orders say once we have passed or approved a programme or head we cannot recommit and ask any questions on it. Unless Hon. Members can show that the Hon. Minister is being less than truthful then I will have to accept his word. In the meantime we can continue looking, but the Standing Orders say we cannot go back.

**Mr. Allen:** Mr. Chair, line item 6114. I see there is a reduction in staff but there is an increase in salaries. Can the Hon. Minister please explain the reason for this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Three Typist/Clerk I were promoted to Typist/Clerk II. So while there is a reduction in terms of number of persons from nine to seven, three persons were promoted within the same scale. That is the reason why there is the increase.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Mr. Chairman, line item 6116. Can the Hon Minister provide details for employees under this heading, their designations and emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Expenditure and Planning Management Analyst \$158,962; Vehicle Driver \$53,162; Accounts Clerk II \$53,161; Radio Operator \$58,603; Store Keeper \$50,114; Accounts Clerk \$45,338, Cleaner \$40,935; Office Assistant, \$40,935; Radio Operator I, \$39,127, Handyman, \$35,864; Office Assistant \$35,864.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Trotman:** Under line item 6116, I have noticed the Ministry increasing its complement by three persons. I am asking the Minister to identify the three positions which have been added or are going to be filled and the emoluments that go with them.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The budget in itself does not cater for vacancies so when there is a number that indicates the staff in place. The three persons that were added are an Accounts Clerk, a Handyman and an Office Assistant.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Line Item 6442 - can the Hon. Minister advise which of the buildings this allocation refer to?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Outward maintenance of this building is done by the Ministry of Public Works and internal maintenance by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The allocation here is to do maintenance work within the Local Government Secretariat and the Registry in the Ministry.

*Programme: 132 – Ministry Administration - \$45,891,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 132 – Ministry Administration - \$2,400,000**

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Mr. Chairman, Project Code 1900600: can the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown for the allocation for each of these activities?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Payment of retention Haslington Market - \$1,492,000; Market Tarmac, Mabaruma - \$29,743,000; Moruca Tarmac - \$29,957,000; completion of market at Mahaica - \$51,077,000; completion of works at Tipperary Hall - \$3,185,000; resurfacing of the Ministry's compound - \$1,500,000.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Allen:** The Minister said these works are to be completed. Can the Hon Minister say what percentage of works has been done in each of these projects in Region 1?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member and Hon. Minister I believe that inadvertently Mr. Bulkhan went into Programme 133. Programme 132 is for Land Transport and Office Furniture and Equipment, project codes 2400100 and 3500100. We can confine our questions to those two project codes, please.

**Mr. Allen:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, Project Code 1900600.

**Mr. Chairman:** No, that is at Programme 133. We have not reached there as yet. We are dealing with projects 240100 or 3500100.

**Mr. Sharma:** Project Code 3500100 - Office Furniture and Equipment - can the Hon. Minister state the quantity of the equipment listed in Volume 3 in terms of servers, desks, chairs, photocopiers et cetera. What is the quantity for each item?

I notice that Volume 3 is supposed to be specific and give a very good description so we could have a better understanding of what is happening, but that information is not given to Members of Parliament.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One server, two writing desks, two executive chairs, one heavy duty photocopier, two filing cabinets, two water dispensers.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** Mr. Chair, on Project Code 3600100 - Solid Waste Disposal.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member we are not at Programme 133 as yet. We are still at Programme 132.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** I am sorry. [**Mr. Neendkumar:** Sit down]

I see your able assistant Mr. Neendkumar is running the National Assembly from the back.

**Mr. Chairman:** Some parliaments have assistant speakers including deputy speakers.

*Programme: 132 – Ministry Administration -\$2,400,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 133 – Regional Development – \$147,881,000**

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency - I wonder if the Minister can inform this House what are the specific expenses that fall under this head and, of course, their value.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This head caters for the payment of Regional Chairmen, Regional Vice-Chairmen and Regional Executive Officers. Regional Chairmen are paid \$218,278 per month; Regional Vice-Chairmen are paid \$163,709; Regional Executive Officers are paid \$247,526 per month.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow-up question to the same item: Are these the only expenditure relating to this line item Hon. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Ms. Sharma:** Mr. Chairman, in respect of line item 6211 the Hon. Minister did say this head includes Regional Executive Officers (REOs). If so, that is a contract position and should be under contracted employees. Is it correctly stated here? Does this include contract gratuity, vacation allowance and all the other benefits a contract employee would receive?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Can I have a repeat of that question please?

**Mr. Sharma:** Line Item 6211, does this item cater for the emoluments for the REOs? If so does it include vacation allowance, contract gratuity as would be better stated under contracted employees. I just want a clarification on this matter.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Expenses specific to the agencies caters to the payment of the salaries and benefits of the Regional Chairmen, Regional Vice Chairmen and Regional Executive Officers.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you, but the question I am asking is if it would not be better for the REO to be under contracted employees? Why do we have two separate heads dealing with a public service post? The REO is just like the Permanent Secretary, an accounting officer, head of the budget agency, but his salary and other benefits are stated under expenses specific to the agency.



**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, once again the REOs benefits and salaries are paid under line item 6211.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister and Member the question whether perhaps this should be under a different head. But that is more a matter of policy and would not go to this head precisely.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. If it is a matter of policy, I understand.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is a matter of policy.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6302 - can the Minister say who will be trained, what is the nature of the training programmes, what is the number of persons already receiving scholarships and which institutions, local and overseas, are they attending? What number of persons it is intended to award scholarships to for 2012 and the intended locations.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is no scholarship under this programme but rather the programme is intended to offer training at six levels. The training of property appraisers, training in fiscal management and accountability (includes our overseers and chairpersons for the 65 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs)); procurement procedures; budget preparation ,planning of multi-year projects (includes accounting and administrative staff from RDCs and NDCs); financial management and accountability with regards to monitoring and evaluation; orientation seminars for new councillors – this is a continuing process both at the level of RDC and NDC; and Orientation Seminar Phase II for the recently appointed councillors at the RDC level. Those would be our training interventions under this programme for 2012.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line Item 6248 – Other - I find this head always a little worrying to deal with. Can the Minister say what are the other goods and services purchased under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6284 caters for the payment and meeting operation costs for the Lusignan land-fill site. That is solely what the allocation is for. The increase as we would have seen was because there was a change in contractors during the course of last year.

**Mr. Trotman:** Mr. Chairman this is not a follow-up question, but I want to go to another line item. It is line item 6312 - Subventions to Local Authorities. Can the Minister identify the local authorities and the amounts which each of them will receive under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This subvention of \$5 million dollars is intended to provide support during the year to local authorities, that is Neighbourhood Democratic Councils and municipalities, which encounter difficulties meeting certain costs. So that sum of money, while the Ministry has some idea in terms of what will be their needs, will be better described based on the requests presented to the Ministry.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up question Mr. Chairman - can the Minister explain the disparity between the amount given in 2011 to that given in 2010 and what is intended to be given in 2012?

*3.03 p.m.*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** In 2011, the Municipality of Linden had difficulties in terms of making payments for their employees, so they were given \$27 million. In 2011, the Municipality of Georgetown had difficulties meeting certain operational costs, enhancement and also dealing with major irrigation works and they were provided with \$120 million. The Ministry of Public Works was given \$15 million to assist with the corrective work at the Le Repentir Cemetery.

**Mr. Trotman:** Follow up question Mr. Chairman. In relations to the amount given to the Georgetown Municipality, was this money given to the municipality or did the Ministry carry out works on behalf of the municipality.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** If that was the case I would have so stated. The money was given to the Municipality of Georgetown.

**Mr. Sharma:** Line item 6312 – Subventions to Local Authorities, since most of the questions were basically asked, my question is presently going to be, when last was financial statements submitted by these various Municipalities and NDCs; when was the accounts last audited?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, for this line item 6312 – Subventions to Local Authorities, I really cannot see the niche between the two.

**Mr. Chairman:** These are the Annual Budget Debates and I believe there should be some latitude. Because save and except a Member brings a questions which the answer will have to be given, if the answers could be given, if not today, at some later stage, I believe that this is the

opportunity for as many questions to be asked and as many answers to be given. Indeed, the Member would be entitled to the answer if he asks the question in written form or puts it in as an Oral Question tomorrow. It would have to be provided within a week or two. If in fact the Ministry needs some time, I know it is a frequent complaint, I have heard it coming out of the Ministry of Local Government that Subventions or moneys are being sought to rescue different local democratic organs and they do not seem to have their houses in order.

I think it is a very valid question and I would have no difficulty if the Ministry says it needs some time to prepare a statement to that effect. But indeed you are right; it does not fall precisely under the rubric of this Head.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, if you so advise then we will seek to provide.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you very much.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I would appreciate the submission. However, the question was in relations to, if these entities not submitting financial statements, should they be given the further moneys?

**Mr. Chairman:** Well that is a different question Hon. Member. We first have to get to which entities have not submitted and whether or not as a matter of policy they should still be bailed out. It is like when certain countries do not meet certain targets and standards, then there are delegations to the IMF and the World Bank saying do not resupply them with financing, so that is a matter for policy. But certainly, once you are armed with the answers you can then decide whether you wish to frame other questions or even a motion on the matter later on.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you Mr. Chairman that was the method which I was going to.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Hon. Members I wish to put the question.

*Programme: 133 – Regional Development - \$147,881,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 133 – Regional Development - \$1,078,954,000**

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Mr. Chairman, I take it that the question which I had earlier asked, prematurely, still stands or should I repeat it?

**Mr. Chairman:** You can repeat it please.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Project 1900600 – Infrastructural Development, can the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown of the amounts allocated to the respective activities?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Payment of retention, Haslington Market \$1,492,000; Construction of Tarmac Mabaruma \$29,743,000; Construction of Tarmac Moruka \$27,957,000; Mahaica Market \$51,077,000; Tipperary Hall \$3,185,000 – that is for the completion; and resurfacing of the Ministry's compound \$1,500,000.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Allen:** Under the same line item, could the Minister say what is the percentage of work that was done and if this work is to be completed - the Mabaruma and Moruka Market Tarmac - and how much money has been advanced to these projects?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The mobilisation advance paid to both contractors was 10% of the contract sum and the work has commenced.

**Mr. Allen:** Could the Hon. Minister say, at the Mabaruma Market Tarmac, the percentage of work that has been done?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As I said work has commenced and it is at the level of land preparation. I cannot give the percentage; I know that the only payment made so far is the mobilisation advance to that contract.

**Ms. Ferguson:** Just a follow up to Project 1900600 – Infrastructural Development, the Hon. Member Mr. Bulkhan asked a question, what works are to be done at the various market tarmacs and I overheard the Hon. Minister saying, works has to be done at Tipperary Hall. Could he advise what works are to be done at the Tipperary Hall? My recollection is that the Hall has been

completed and handed over. Could he inform the House as to the nature of works to be done at Tipperary Hall?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** In the interest of time I will not seek to correct some incorrect statements that were made there, but I will be brief. The Hon. Member, Mr. Bulkhan, requested me to share the sum allocated for each project; that is what he requested me to do and that is what I did.

With regards to the Tipperary Hall I clearly stated that this is for the payment of the retention.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** Mr. Chairman through you, under Project 3600100 - Solid Waste Disposal Programme, as I quoted earlier, it is a \$4 billion project and I noted provision is being made for institutional strengthening and capacity building. Would the Hon. Minister say whether in view of the fact that the Haags Bosch Landfill Site is being used and as there is indiscriminate dumping of solid waste if:

- (a) This allocation would include allocations for introducing solid waste management law and
- (b) Efforts are on the way or will be on the way to train specialised prosecutors to deal with the indiscriminate dumping of waste and the sanitation problems that ensued consequently.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, my only difficulty is with the generality. If I get specific questions then I can respond, but I glean from the bits that there are two assumptions, one is that there is indiscriminate dumping of waste around and I do not know if whether that was a reference to Haags Bosch Landfill Site or where ever it is. The other bit is in terms of whether there will be training for special prosecutors, the response to that is no, the programme does not cater for this.

But in the interest of all of us, the programme has a number of components at this stage, capacity building consultancy and under that its institutional strengthening and supervisory consultancy; community participation and public awareness that is where this programme will intensify; construction and operates - Haags Bosch Landfill Site, is the other component; waste collection from the NDC; rehabilitation, expansion and closure of the LeRepentir; and treatment and disposal of health and hazardous waste. Those are the components of this programme.

**Mr. Nagamootoo:** A follow up please Mr. Chairman. We understand all those components, they are here in the ledger. Of the \$4 billion, we note that \$2 billion has already been committed to this project. I did not say there was indiscriminate dumping at the Haags Bosch Landfill Site. I am talking generally that there is need for a law to deal with it and I am telling the Hon. Minister, through you Sir, that this project does provide for it. For a legislation to be introduced to deal with solid waste management, in view of the hazardous and other dangers...

[**Ms. Teixeira:** You drafted it?] Yes, I drafted it, so that answer he is giving there could not have really been an answer that would inform us of how this money is being spent.

[**Mr. Needkumar:** You got paid already!] I was never paid by the Government of Guyana Sir. [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Hon. Member. I do not think that that was a question requiring an answer Hon. Minister. It was for the edifying of the House. Hon. Member Mr. Ramjattan, did you have a question?

**Mr. Ramjattan:** Yes, just a follow up on that. Could the Hon Minister indicate what the amount for institutional strengthening and capacity building is and what is the amount for public awareness in community participation out of this \$675 million?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, if you permit me, I wish to assure the Hon. Member, Mr. Nagamootoo, as was stated in the Hon. Dr. Ashni Singh's Budget Speech, the Solid Waste Management Act will be given implementation during this year; that was an assurance given.

With regards to the capacity building component, \$25 million and the Public Awareness, \$20 million are allocated for those two activities.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** A follow up. This capacity building, what does it entails – doing what or training what? Is it prosecutors or whatever? That is what we are trying to get at.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The capacity and institutional strengthening component deals with the fifteen NDCs under this programme. All fifteen NDCs in Region 4 are involved in this programme along with the municipality. What is intended there is to give the necessary kinds of training and skills sharing so that we can have a proper accounting system in place across all sixteen Local Government organs and at the same time provide the necessary expertise with regards to conflict

resolution in dealing with clients, customers and so on. To provide additional knowledge with regards to the whole concept of solid waste management collection, disposal and what have you.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** I just want to ask a follow up on that, because in the Project Profiles under the Description of Project, Item 4, there is a waste collection for the NDCs. Could the Minister indicate how much is the NDCs going to benefit out of this \$675 million, under that Item 4 sub-head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** \$110 million.

**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 2601300 – Power Generation: Can the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly how many solar lighting systems will be provided to the Dora and Low Wood communities?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One each.

**Ms. Selman:** Thank you Hon. Minister. Can you identify or outline the criteria for distribution of such lighting systems?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These communities would have made their request during the year 2011. We would have considered the request in working with other Ministries and agencies and then we would come up with the shortlist. That is how we...

**Mr. Chairman:** is there a criterion? Because I, myself, am aware that some communities feel they are not getting and some are getting for all kinds of different reasons. Including political reasons are being bandied about as to why some communities are benefiting and why some will not be benefiting. So I think it is a fair question that has been asked. Is there a criterion that can be shared with the Hon. Member and the rest of the House? Certainly there must be some basis on which a community gets solar panels and some do not.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, the criterion is very simple. If there is a health hut in any one of these communities that has a refrigerator and does not have the necessary power to allow for the storage of vaccines, then that is the only criterion that needs to be satisfied.

If it is a school in the remote Hinterland area where computers were made available to those schools and there is not a reliable source of power, then that is the only criterion. This programme deals with Government buildings, so it is not a community based programme.

Mr. Chairman, we do not hear that bit that you would have heard – political reasons – for these distributions.

**Mr. Chairman:** Oh we hear them. We are not saying that they are right or wrong, but certainly I will tell you what we hear. Hon. Prime Minister, do you wish to supplement that answer?

**Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs [Mr. Hinds]:** Mr. Chairman I do not know if it will help, but there have been a number of initiatives going back maybe twenty years on PV (Photovoltaic) Solar Systems. Some of them were by individuals and even individual groups may have addressed health huts as the Minister said and so on. But I thought I should speak, because as it is known we do not have a programme for some 11,000 systems/homes and we are getting on with that. That was initially a follow-on on a Hinterland component in the unserved area in the electrification programme. In that programme we may have done about 2000-3000 systems/homes, we are doing another 11000 systems/ homes.

We know that some areas in terms of individual homes between the grid of G.P.L. and maybe in the Hinterland and some of the intermediate places like Low Wood, maybe we have not yet addressed individual homes, but we do recognise it is something we have to get to.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Hon. Prime Minister.

**Ms. Selman:** Can I have a follow up? The very Project, can the Hon. Minister provide us with the number of solar lighting system for each of the areas that have been identified here?

**Mr. G. Ganga:** I will call that list out. It is one...

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it a very long list?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Not very long Sir. It is one each and it is at Akawini, Saint Monica Mission, Martindale, Upper Bonasika, Northern Hog Island Primary, Fort Island Primary, Dora Primary, Laluni Primary, Susannahs Rust Primary, Kimbia Primary, Hururu Primary, Rockstone Primary,



Great Fall Health Centre, Waruni, Ebini, Dora, Moblissa, Low Wood, Laluni, Fort Island, Makouria, Kara Kara, Kabakaburi – these are all health centres - one each.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, Ms. Selman, did you get that full list.

**Ms. Selman:** Yes thank you Mr. Chairman, but we visited Saint Monica Mission and believe that there is already one there because that health centre has been operating for a long time.

**Mr. Chairman:** Well again Hon. Member these are the questions and these are the answers put. Hon. Members are free to come with motions or to use other parts of the Standing Orders.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman may I?

**Mr. Chairman:** Please Sir.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I said Saint Monica's Primary School, I did not say the health centre for Saint Monica Mission.

**Ms. Selman:** Thank you very much Minister.

**Mr. Scott:** Under Project 1900700 – Project Development and Assistance, the subvention dealing with Local Governments and Municipal Markets and so on, can you say what has been earmarked for the capital allocation for Kitty Market and if so how much?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Kitty Market is the business of the municipality. I think that question would be best directed to the Municipality of Georgetown.

**Mr. Scott:** A follow-up Sir. Under the subvention that you give to the municipal markets and councils, can you say whether you have earmarked any money under that subvention in the same way that you have rescued the markets and towns last year, like the Cemetery? Do we plan to rescue the markets the same way and if so by how much?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The subventions that are given to the NDCs and the municipalities as allocated there is the same that was given last year. The NDCs and municipalities will determine how they will expend that subvention. The Municipality of Georgetown - \$20 million, how they will expend that on what project. So this subvention here is to the entity and not to a specific project.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you, I think the answer is understandable enough.

**Mr. Sharma:** I have a question in relations to the Power Generation under project 2601300, I know most of the questions were answered, but it is an observation on the remaining. The indication in the ledger in Volume 3, the Capital Project Profile, is all alluding to solar lighting systems. Should that not be better described as solar power systems? Because I had the idea that it was for lighting purposes, but then I understand that it will probably be used by the Education Department for computers and the Health Sectors for refrigerators. So that is an observation.

My other question is in relations to project 1900600 – Infrastructural Development. Could the Hon. Minister provide us with the amount that will be given as capital subventions to the various NDCs and municipalities? Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I am not certain whether the Hon. Member is referring to 1900600...

**Mr. Sharma:** Yes, that is the current question, thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That in its self has no subvention.

**Mr. Sharma:** Oh sorry, that was a mistake; it should have been 1900700 – Project Development and Assistance.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, a quick answer to that would be the same that was given last year, but I do not think that would be fair to the Hon. Member.

**Mr. Chairman:** Because he was not here.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament and it is entitled to new answers; its own answers.

**Mr. Chairman:** Sixty five NDCs, \$3 million each, and the remaining sum is distributed between the municipalities.

**Mr. Sharma:** A follow-up. I do not know if the Minister can provide the information for the Municipalities today or at a later date. Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Will do Mr. Chairman at a later date.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you very much Sir.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow-up on the same item. Does the Hon. Minister believe the subvention, the allocation of \$3 million each to the NDCs, is considered to be enough? If the answer is no, what steps are the Ministry taking to ensure the NDCs are adequately funded to carry out the mandate for the various activities they are expected to perform?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, an opinion is solicited. I prefer to keep my opinions to myself on this issue. There is only one comment I can make on this; we must not forget that the \$3 million is not all that is available to the Neighbourhood Democratic Council for them to execute their mandate.

All the taxes and revenue collected are kept by those local authority bodies to provide the various services and execute their works.

**Ms. Hastings:** Project 3600100 – Solid Waste Disposal Programme, could the Hon. Minister tell this House what amount of this allocation has been earmarked for Region 7?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I know that this is not the response the Hon. Member was looking for. There is nothing for Region 7 in this one; it is the Haags Bosch Solid Waste Development Facility.

**Ms. Hastings:** Why I asked is because I have visited Bartica this morning and they have a problem with their waste disposal.

**Mr. Trotman:** Project 3600100 - Solid Waste Disposal Programme, I want to ask the Minister if he can tell this Hon. House how many of the proposed cells have been activated at the Haags Bosch Landfill Site since this project got underway?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Cell 1 is in operation.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you.

**Mr. Trotman:** As a follow-up question, can the minister say when the other cells will be activated so that the landfill site can operate at maximum efficiency?

*3.33 p.m.*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. All three types of waste are being handled presently, after the medical waste has been sterilised; they are handling that. There is a plan to give special treatment for medical waste and that will unfold during this year, as is stated in the budget.

**Mr. Trotman:** As a follow-up, I wonder, in view of the fact that the proposed treatment of medical waste has not begun but the site is actually dealing with medical waste, if what is transpiring there is in the best interest of persons involved in the community and in the actual landsite operation.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As I said, the medical wastes are sterilised before they are placed into Cell 1. That process will be accelerated with the hydroclave that was recently commissioned. When the waste is sterilised it still has to be deposited.

**Mr. Trotman:** As a follow-up question, mine being a health concern, I wonder where it is this sterilisation of the medical waste is taking place.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** At the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation.

**Mr. Trotman:** As a follow-up question, can the Minister say if the people who are charged to operate the landfill site are endowed with the technical expertise to efficiently carry out this question?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I can give a quick response, yes.

**Mr. Trotman:** As a follow-up, as the situation now exists, can the minister say if all of the health concerns of residents in the immediate area of the landfill site have been addressed? If not, why not?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The direct response is “yes”, but if there are additional concerns we, at the Ministry, are willing to address them.

**Mr. Trotman:** In view of the Minister's statement, does he not feel that it may be important for his Ministry to carry out random checks to find out if, in fact, there are problems which may not have been brought to his attention which are affecting residents in the community which need to be addressed?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I do not know whether your Ministry had that capacity but...

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Suggestions are noted, Mr. Chairman, but let me assure the Hon. Member that we have a fulltime engineer, outside of the contracting firm, that is there during the entire period of operation and the public awareness programme that we are bringing onboard. We will also seek to engage residents and community leaders with regard to issues on solid waste

**Mr. Trotman:** As a follow-up, is the Minister saying that a fulltime engineer is capable of addressing the health concerns that the people in the community may have about the operation of the site?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not want to go down the road of speculation and making assumptions; I repeat, if there are concerns about that then the Ministry is willing to sit and listen to those concerns and seek the bring solutions to bear to those concerns. We are committed to that.

**Mr. Trotman:** Thank you, Minister.

**Mr. Allicock:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Can the Hon. Minister say, on the same line item 3600100 - Solid Waste Disposal - whether there is provision made for proper installation of a solid waste facility in Lethem since that community is one of the fastest growing ones? I am quite certain that he knows about the seriousness of the waste that is already building up. I just would like to know if there is anything for the Lethem area.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Similar to the response given to the Hon. Member from Region 7, I have the echo that same response to the Hon. Member from Region 9. This IDB programme is cast in Georgetown, especially Haags Bosch. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I was going to ask the question whether your Ministry would see the good sense in allowing not just a guided tour but an informative tour for Members of the House who may be interested in visiting this site with experts so that it could be explained to

them what is happening as things unfold. This is outside, of course, of the estimates. At some time in the near future we can organise such a visit.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I think it is a worthwhile suggestion and we are willing and ready to accommodate that request, given two days notice.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. I will follow up with the clear of the National Assembly to see if Members are interested in going on such a site visit with experts and, of course, to be accompanied by our own experts to observe, first hand, what is happening. Thank you very much for your offer, Hon. Minister.

*Programme: 133 – Regional Development – \$1,078,954,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mr. Chairman:** I wish to thank Hon. Members for their questions, which were very good questions. Thank you, Hon. Minister and your staff, for your answers which were very precise and you were on top of your answers. Thank you very much.

Hon. Members, I wish to state as well that as per the commitment given, I have received copies of the job descriptions for both the Principle Assistant Secretary and the Permanent Secretary. The Minister did say that within 30 minutes this would be available and that was met within the 30 minutes. I have asked the staff to make four copies of each so any member who is interested may indicate and I will send them to you. Thank you very much, Hon. Minister and to your staff again.

**Agency: 71 – Region 1: Barima/Waini**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 711 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$90,408,000**

**Mr. Allen:** Line item 6116: We see that there is a large increase in contracted employees. Can the Hon. Minister tell us the categories of these new employees and their emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The two new employees are: Registration Clerk - \$39,127; Senior Personnel Officer - \$102,141

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency: Can the Minister outline to this House the nature of these expenses under this head and the cost of each item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line item 6211, for all Regions, caters for the running of the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) – the meetings of the council, traveling and subsistence for council members as well as meetings of sub-committees of the council and outreach meetings of the council, inclusive of stipends for members of the council. Line item 6211 is a specific head that deals with the Regional Democratic Councils and expenses related to these vis-à-vis, as against, the Regional Administration.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6293 - Refreshments and Meals: Could the Hon. Minister explain which department utilises this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under this line item, the Members of the Regional Tender and Administrative Board, when they meet, the Senior Regional Administrative Council when they meet for their weekly Monday meetings, Programme Managers and Programme Heads and also all departments have their water supply catered for under this “Refreshments and Meals”.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Line item 6312: Can the Hon. Minister give the information as it relates to the subvention to, I presume, the Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs)? Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are two Neighbourhood Democratic Councils in this Region which are Mabaruma/Kumaka/Hosororo NDC and the Port Kaituma/Arakaka/Mathews Ridge NDC. These two NDCs do not collect rates and taxes as the other NDCs do. As in the case of the Port Kaituma NDC, they collect tolls but they do not collect rates and taxes. So to keep these two councils going, their administrative costs are met by this subvention from the region. It is, I think, \$60,000 per month for both NDCs.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6231 - Fuel and Lubricants: I noticed that in 2012 there is an increase of over \$2.4 million under this head and I wonder if the Minister can indicate to this House what specific purposes these fuels and lubricants are used for under this head in Region 1.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The administrative programme is generally to provide for the payment of salaries to the various sub-regions. That is, moving of the administrative people around and the particular increase in this year's, 2012's, budget is because the Amerindian Village Council Elections are due this year and the Regional Executive Officers are deemed as the returning officers. They would have had to visit these areas to take the nominations and conduct the elections.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** I come back to line item 6211 - Expenses Specific to the Agency: What is the stipend paid to the Regional Councillors of Region 1?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is \$10,000 per month.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** Is anything being done to increase that?

**Mr. Chairman:** I too was wondering when it would be increased across the board, nationally, for all.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Dealing with Region 1...

**Mr. Chairman:** I was just thinking out loud.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I hear you loud...

**Mr. Chairman:** At the backbone of our democratic system, our councillors ought to be getting more. I am sure that we would all agree to that. The question concerning Region 1: Is there anything in the pipeline for an increase for them?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We await the submission of recommendation coming from the council and we hope that we get that in time for the preparation of Budget 2013. Thank you.

*Programme: 711 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$90,408,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 711 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$19,774,000**



**Mr. Allen:** Programme Code 1901100: Can the Hon. Minister say where in the Barima River and Aruka River, respectively, these works will be carried out?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The empoldering work is intended for Sacred Heart, Saint Dominic's and Arukamai.

**Mr. Allen:** Can the Hon. Minister give the breakdown of what is expected to be spent for each of these locations?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am not sure if the breakdown is with regard to cost or beneficiaries. Can you please specify?

**Mr. Allen:** Cost, Mr. Minister.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** \$7 million for the Barima River Area and \$8 million for the Aruka Area.

**Mr. Allen:** Can the Hon. Minister say what work entails in these two projects – the exact work?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As the words suggest, it is the empoldering of one square mile of farm land so as to allow farmers to do their farm cultivation without the big threat of flood.

**Mr. Sharma:** My question is not really a question but concerns information for my own purpose. I noticed in this particular project, Agriculture Development, under Programme 1, that Region 1 does not have a sub-programme for Agriculture; why is this?

**Mr. Chairman:** It is a fair general question which I will allow. Is there a programme for agriculture for Region 1 and where could it be found?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is a programme and it is reflected where it is there.

**Mr. Sharma:** This programme is Programme 1 but in other regions one will notice that they have a separate programme for agriculture. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member is just trying to figure out why the pattern is not the same or why the pattern is not followed so that there is a separate programme for agriculture, as in the case of others.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I understand what the Hon. Member is asking but that is a policy issue and that may have to be reviewed.

**Mr. Chairman:** Very well, thank you, Hon. Minister.

**Mr. Allen:** Programme Code 2502500: Can the Hon. Minister say, concerning the items to be purchased, where they will be purchased for and the quantity?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two brush cutters: 1 each for Port Kaituma and Moruca; 2 refrigerators: 1 for Port Kaituma Guest House and the other for Moruca Guest House; 1 radio set and this is for the Administrative Building in Moruca; 1 fax machine which is for the Regional Chairman's Office in Mabaruma; 1 stove for the Port Kaituma Guest House; 2 double-bunk beds for Matthews Ridge Amerindian Hostel; 5 fire extinguishers: 2 for Port Kaituma's Administrative Building, 1 for Santa Rosa's Administrative Office, 2 for Mabaruma's Administrative Office; 1 GPS system for the Public Works Department in Mabaruma; 1 satellite telephone for the Regional Administration in Mabaruma; 2 filing cabinets: 1 for the Mabaruma Administrative Office and the other for the Public Works Department in Mabaruma.

**Mr. Allen:** Programme Code 2502700: What is it? Is it a purchase for a staff office? Where is this office located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Staff quarters; which is where various staff members will be housed.

**Mr. Allen:** Region 1 is divided. Where in Region 1 is this furniture going? Which of the staff quarters?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is across the sub-regions. I believe if the Hon. Member can ask the question the way he asked it before, I would be able to answer. Should I, Mr. Chairman, volunteer...?

**Mr. Chairman:** If you feel so inclined you will be doing well.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** 4 three-piece suites: 1 for the Regional Executive Officer's (REO's) Quarters in Mabaruma; 1 for the Port Kaituma Guest House; 1 for the Assistant Regional Executive Officer's (AREO's) Quarters in Moruca and the other is for the Mabaruma Registry Area. 3 refrigerators: 1 for the REO's Quarters; 1 for the AREO's Quarters in Port Kaituma and 1 for the AREOs Quarters in Moruca. 2 double-beds which are for the Moruca Government Guest House;

2 washing machines: 1 is to be placed at Mabaruma and the other at Kaituma – both guest houses.

*Programme: 711 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$19,774,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 712 – Public Works – \$185,912,000**

**Mr. Allen:** Line item 6113 - Other Technical and Craft Skilled: Can the Hon. Minister explain this for us?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Would the Hon. Member please say to me what it is that he wants me to explain.

**Mr. Allen:** What does this entail and where are these persons located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you. Overseer (buildings) – Mabaruma, Overseer (roads) – Mabaruma, Senior Electrical Technician – Mabaruma, Electrical Technician – Moruca Power House, Electrical Technician – Mabaruma, Transport Officer – Mabaruma, Linesman – Mabaruma, Carpenter III – Mabaruma, Carpenter II – Mabaruma, Carpenter II – Moruca, two Equipment Operators – Mabaruma.

*4.03 p.m.*

**Mr. Allen:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: We have seen that there is a reduction here but an increase in salary. Could we have the categories of those workers and their remuneration?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** A Senior Superintendent of Works was replaced by a Regional Engineer. While it was one person for one person, the salary will definitely increase. The two persons who were off were as a result of two deaths. They were at the level of Electrical Technician. That is the reason why there is a reduction in number but a slight increase in emoluments. The employees are Regional Engineer, Electrical Technician, Linesman, Heavy-Duty Driver, Driver/Mechanic, Driver and the others, all being Labourers.

**Mr. Allen:** Line item 6281 – Security Services: There is a large increase in this sum. Could the Hon. Minister say the reason for this - security service employed and locations the security mans?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The increase covers the three additional areas. Those are the boathouse at Santa Rosa, the boathouse at Mabaruma and the Santa Rosa Power Station. They are all given twenty-four-hour coverage, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Sharma:** Line item 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants: Could the Hon. Minister say the reason for this \$72.5 million budgeted for fuel? Is it as a result of the power generation project which is taking place in Region 1? If there is revenue to be collected, could he state the revenue estimated to be collected?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Hon. Member is correct. There is a larger generator now, in Moruka and, also, there is the extension of the electricity supply in the Mabaruma sub-district to Barabina. That, in itself, will result in greater fuel consumption. With regards to the electricity tariffs to be collected, I do not have that information at my disposal.

**Mr. Sharma:** I will appreciate it if the Hon. Minister can supply that information and say if the money is being paid into the Consolidated Fund or what arrangement there is to deal with the collection of this revenue.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, the two questions are that information be supplied and, the Hon. Member also wishes to know, what the arrangements are in terms of how the revenue is dealt with. Presumably, it is paid into the Consolidated Fund and he needs to know the process.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, all revenues collected in Mabaruma are paid into the Consolidated Fund.

**Mr. Chairman:** He presumed that. He needs to know the process through which that is done.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is only one procedure for paying moneys into the Consolidated Fund and that is the procedure that is followed in every case.

**Mr. Sharma:** Mr. Chairman, there should be some process which is established, but in addition to that, is the place metered or is there a pattern where there would be an established amount for light or refrigerator? It is in that context.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are fixed charges based on the number of bulbs and the number of pieces of equipment that consume electricity.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Line items 6251 – Maintenance of Roads to 6255 - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure, under heading “Maintenance of Infrastructure”: Could the Hon. Minister say where the maintenance of infrastructure will be done and the cost allocated to each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line item 6251 - Maintenance of Roads: Akwero, Moruka - \$1 million, Mabaruma to Wauna - \$4 million, \$3.5 million for the purchase of laterite sand to do road maintenance in the Mabaruma subregion.

Line item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges: Replacement of members on bridges at the Amerindian Hostel, Mabaruma - \$2 million and Kobarimo Landing - \$500,000.

Line item 6253 – Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works: De-weeding and de-silting of canals at Koko, Moruka - \$500,000, Barima end - \$2 million, Mabaruma - \$1 million, Wanaina - \$850,000 and Wauna - \$1 million.

Line item 6254 – Maintenance of Sea and River Defences: Works will be carried out at Akwero - \$1.8 million, Waramuri in the Moruka subregion - \$1.2 million.

Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Amerindian Hostel at Matthews Ridge - \$500,000, power house at Mabaruma - \$900,000, guest house (annexe) at Mabaruma - \$700,000, Amerindian Hostel at Kumaka, Mabaruma - \$700,000 and administrative compound at Mabaruma - \$1.2 million.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** A follow-up. Line item 6254 – Maintenance of Sea and River Defences: Could the Hon. Minister confirm if he said sea defences will be done in Akwero, Moruka and where exactly?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The legend is self explicit - sea and river defences.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: I wonder if the Minister can say how many buildings come under the purview of the Public Works Department of Region 1, where they are located, the specific works that are to be carried out on the respective buildings and costs are associated with those works.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There would be general repair works to floor, walls, windows, doors, ceilings, gutters, electrical and plumbing to the following buildings under this maintenance programme in 2012 - the Regional Administrative Office - \$6 million, the guest house (annexe) - \$4 million, Sub-treasury Officer's living quarters - \$3 million, repairs to the roof, ceiling, step, gutters, platform, electrical works, plumbing works, windows, doors at the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) staff quarters - \$2.5 million and the guest house at Moruka - \$5.5 million.

**Mr. Allen:** Line item 6117 – Temporary Employees: Could the Hon. Minister say where those temporary employees are located, in region?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All of those temporary employees are located in the Mabaruma sub-district.

**Mr. Jones:** A follow-up, Mr. Chairman. Could the Hon. Minister explain why there is a reduction of temporary staff, but, yet, there is an increase in the request?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The allocation that was given for 2011 was \$4,024. It means, therefore, that that staff would have - the reduction would have taken place in 2011, the latter part - to meet certain benefits and those benefits would be paid from this year's amount.

**Mr. Sharma:** My question is in relation to the question that I posed earlier about the documents which I asked the Minister to supply. Most importantly, what is the fixed rate for light bulbs, refrigerators and other appliances in the home? I would like to have this information so that I can look at it, with the situation in Linden, to see if Region 10 can adopt a similar pattern. If there was any feasibility study carried out for Region 1, I would like to have that, too.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I find that this is an abuse of this system. I do not think you may agree with me, but if we are going to go down this road, Mr. Chairman, there are other avenues open to all of us in this House to solicit specific data and information that we want. We cannot use this system to collect, here, our data for any and everything. We are dealing with our Estimates and our questions should really be directed to them. I am dealing with Region 1. If the

Hon. Members want, they can contact the Ministry and agency. But to ask me to provide research data and additional information, to people, that have no relevance to my figures and my budget, I think it is asking too much.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, you are correct. I have noted that, unlike all of the other Ministers, you carry the heaviest load in the consideration of the Estimates, because, apart from your own Ministry, there are the ten regions. At the same time, the Tenth Parliament has the highest number of new Members of Parliament (MPs) entering and so we must strike a balance. I have continuously said that Members are free to explore and to solicit the answers they need through questions, oral or in written form, or through motions. I will not permit the question, Hon. Member, but that is not to say that you are not entitled to the answer. In the interest of being able to complete our work...In fact, I am actually now looking through the Standing Orders because at some point in time I may have to put the question because we have a limited period of time to complete. Whilst there has been a degree of latitude, we will have to move on. The question would not be appropriate for these Estimates.

**Mr. Sharma:** The question is in relation to line item 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants - and I am requesting the information from the Minister. I probably gave the Minister too much information. That is not the Minister's concern. I want the information I requested and the related line item for Region 1.

**Mr. Chairman:** As I said, I do not consider the question to be appropriate for this exercise, but it may be asked on a subsequent occasion, either orally or in written form, and the answer will be provided.

**Mr. Trotman:** I refer to line item 6264 – Vehicle Spares and Service: I want to ask the Minister, how many vehicles are at the disposal of the Public Works Department of the Ministry in Region 1? How many of those vehicles are roadworthy? How many are slated for repairs? What is the nature of the repairs? What are the costs associated with the repairs in each individual instance?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Part of the enquiry I can respond to. The other part is that I have not mastered the art of seeing which is going to break and when. So, I would not be able to answer that part in terms of what will need servicing and maintaining during this year and what would be the cost. What I can do, however, is to share very clearly what the Ministry has. There is one pickup, three

motorcycles, one canter, one tractor, one roller, one truck, one backhoe, one power plant, three brush cutters, and one motor grader. Those are the equipment which are in the Public Works Department.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up, Mr. Chairman. I had asked this question before. Perhaps, I am subject to clarification again. I thought that when these budgets are prepared they are prepared on the basis of knowledge of what is to be done. My question assumes that the persons who requested the amounts had provided the information on what they wanted to have done, hence, the question. If this is not the case, perhaps, I can be guided as to what really the situation is and how these budget preparations are done.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** In some cases if the equipment, or in this case the vehicle, is not working or it is down, yes, there can be an assessment of what is needed to make it roadworthy again. This line item basically caters for the regular servicing of those vehicles. A vehicle may not be down, but if it is not serviced, it will definitely be down. Frequent servicing has to be offered to these vehicles. That is known. They must be serviced. The difficulty is the predictability to determine which vehicles will not be down, for what reason and when.

**Mrs. Garrido-Lowe:** Line item 6284 – Other, under heading “Other Goods and Services Purchased”: Could the Hon. Minister explain how the \$1million under “Other” is intended to be spent?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under this line item, we cater for the Public Works Department’s advertisements of tender, preparing, printing and photocopying of contract documents, payment of relief workers – temporary workers for if the Ministry has to cut lines, from time to time.

**Mr. Sharma:** I listened to the Hon. Minister mentioned, when addressing the line item 6264, Vehicle Spares and Service, that the Ministry is not aware of the works to be carried out. That is not entirely true. The Ministry would provide that information to the Ministry of Finance. There would be routine services and major services. I am asking the Minister to utilise the form that was presented to the Budget Office and tell this House what are the major repairs for the vehicles or the routine costs of repairs for the vehicles.



**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not want to get into this because I do not understand if the Hon. Member is hearing what I am saying. In my explanation to the Hon. Member Mr. Trotman, I said that if a vehicle or piece of equipment is not working, while preparing the budget an assessment can be done to know exactly what is needed to make it roadworthy again. I said that what we s know is the regular servicing period, but it is almost an impracticable task for us to assume what is going to break when and what will need repairs when. That is what I said to this honourable House. So I find it somewhat distasteful for the Hon. Member to say that what I said was not true. That is what the Hon. Member said. I think we have to be responsible people in here, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Sharma:** I do not know if it is proper to request that the Permanent Secretary of the agency speak on this matter or ask the Hon. Minister of Finance to clarify it. I have been dealing with budgeting matters for the past sixteen years and what the Hon. Minister is saying is not entirely...

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, you have asked a question and an answer has been given, albeit it may appear to be unsatisfactory to you. I recommend that you follow this matter up with a specific question in written form, stating precisely what it is you require and in due course the Minister may consider it. In the meantime, I wish to proceed.

**Mr. Sharma:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would accept if the Hon. Minister says that this is a matter of policy, because when he is not giving straightforward answers it is a policy matter. Probably, this is a policy matter too.

**Mr. Chairman:** He has stated what the practice is, that it is difficult to anticipate, outside of the regular schedule for a particular vehicle - what will break when and where and what the cost is going to be. So there is going to be a kind of a blanket estimation for wear and tear on the fleet, given, perhaps, the terrain that has to be traversed, if it is Region 1, and so it can be anticipated what parts are likely to be destroyed before others. I take it that that is the policy and practice. I propose and suggest to you that you put a formal question to the Minister.

*Programme: 712 – Public Works - \$185,912,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 712 – Public Works - \$87,118,000**

**Mr. Allen:** Project 1100200 – Bridges: Could the Hon. Minister say how much of the work that was earmarked for the Oronoque revetment was completed and when the remainder should be completed?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This work has experienced some serious difficulties with regards to contractor and scope. It is about forty-nine per cent completed now and we are expecting that the completion of this work would be, at the latest, 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

**Mr. Allen:** A follow-up. Could the Hon. Minister say how much money was already advanced on this project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Payment to date on the project is \$14,703,000.

**Mr. Allen:** Under the same project, could the Hon. Minister say, the revetment work at Kumaka, when the project is expected to be completed and the amount of work that has been done so far?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That revetment work is not a part of the scope of work or the projects under the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, nor it is of Regional Democratic Council of Region 1.

**Mr. Allen:** I am finding it hard to believe that. When we look at the capital project, we look and see that rehabilitation of bridges and revetments at Kumaka, San Jose, Moruka. Could the Hon. Minister say why it is there?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Now that the Hon. Member has identified Moruka, well then we know that ...He spoke about revetment, and he was not specific. I mistakenly thought that he was speaking about the revetment work at Mabaruma. Could the Hon. Member please repeat the question?

**Mr. Allen:** Could the Hon. Minister say the percentage of work that was done on the revetment at Kumaka and the amount of money that was already advanced on this project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am advised that this work has not commenced. There has not been an award as yet.

*4.33 p.m.*

**Mr. Allen:** There is a revetment work going on at Kumaka waterfront, Northwest District and the regional Minister is saying that the work has not commenced. There is work going on which had to be halted. Could the Hon. Minister explain what is happening in this region?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It seems to be some difficult here in terms of location. While the regional administration is responsible for everything within its boundary, at the governmental level various Ministries and agencies make intervention and those interventions are supported by budgetary allocations in those respective Ministries and agencies' allocations. So those agencies are responsible for those places. I particularly asked the Hon. Member if he was enquiring about the revetment work which has made headline in the Mabaruma waterfront and he said that it was Moruka. Now he is asking me about Mabaruma and seems to be mixing the two projects up.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, you did say Moruka and I know that it is Mabaruma that has that perennial problem.

**Mr. Allen:** Yes Mr. Chairman, but the Moruka issue is the San José.

**Mr. Chairman:** But we are dealing with the revetment.

**Mr. Allen:** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** The revetment is in the Mabaruma Subregion.

**Mr. Allen:** The revetment that really needs the attention is the one that is being done at Mabaruma. So I am asking that the Hon. Minister say to us, what is happening with that project? Who is responsible for the money that has been paid for that project at Mabaruma?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As I stated, that project is not under the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development or under the regional administration. That project is being coordinated by another agency and that question would be better answered by it.

**Mr. Chairman:** Which agency is that, Hon. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is the Ministry of Public Works and Regional Development, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Allen:** If I may. Under the Ministry of Public Works and Regional Development presentation, here, there was nothing stated about that project in its budget. Nothing was mentioned here about it. Please, could the Hon. Minister explain to us?

**Mr. Chairman:** No. Hon. Member. I would have to answer that. There must have been. Maybe we were not as diligent as we ought to be, as Members, in finding it but it would have been there. The difficulty is that that agency has passed and we cannot recommit, but it must have been contained in there. So the Hon. Minister would have been right; it is not a matter for his remit to answer. Again, Hon. Members, I am saying that there is nothing stopping a Member from approaching the Minister of Public Works and Regional Development, during the break, apprising him or herself of what is happening, so that when he or she goes back he or she can speak with authority of what is really happening. So do not feel that this is the end all of all the processes in so far as gathering information is concerned. You may approach a Minister, you may visit a Minister when you are in Georgetown, if he or she is available, at his or her office, or you may ask to see him or her during the break at 5 o'clock and get that information. It is an ongoing process. Is there any other question, Mr. Allen?

**Mr. Allen:** Yes Cde. Chairman. Project 1400400 - Roads: Could the Hon. Minister say, the completion and upgrading of roads within the Matarkai Subregion, how much of this money is allocated for it and when will this project start?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is not any of those roads for the Matarkai's Subregion under this allocation and that is because there has been an agreement between the company there and the Government which commenced in 2011 for the maintenance of those roads.

**Mr. T. Williams:** Hon. Minister, this is just a follow-up to the previous one. Is that company Reunion Manganese Inc. which you were talking about?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes. Thank you Hon. Member.

**Ms. Garrido-Lowe:** Project 1100200 - Bridges: Rehabilitation and revetment of the Kumaka/San José Bridge, could the Hon. Minister say how much money is allocated towards this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Ten million dollars is allocated to that bridge and revetment. Sorry, I am advised that it is \$19 million.

**Mr. Allen:** Project 2401500 - Land and Water Transport: Could the Hon. Minister say the type of vehicle that is expected, when it will be purchased and the location at which it will be assigned to?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It would be a Hiab truck and it will service the Mabaruma Power and Light. The projected cost is \$4.5 million and when the public procurement and tendering process is completed then the Ministry will be able to make the purchase.

**Mr. Bulkan:** I would like to go back to the previous project 1400400 – Roads. Could the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown of the sum allocated here, the respective quantities for each of the activities listed under profile reference number 262?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Seven million six hundred and eighteen thousand dollars for the completion of 11 Miles road to Manawarin, \$10 million to upgrading of the Khan Gate to Wanaina Bridge road and \$7 million to the upgrading of the Kumaka District Hospital road to Bemichi Airstrip in Moruka.

**Mr. Allen:** Project 2601400 - Power Supply: Could the Hon. Minister say the items and the quantities to be purchased for the Moruka electricity distribution and the sum allotted for the Barabina extension project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Items to be purchased for the Moruka distribution network are transformers, cables and accessories to the tune of \$6 million. For the Barabina extension project, it will be \$15 million.

*Programme: 712 – Public Works – \$87, 118, 000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 713 - Education Delivery - \$684,516,000**

**Ms. Ally:** Line item 6281 - Security Services: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, are these services provided for schools and if so which are the schools and do they have twenty-four-hour services?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Hon. Member is correct. The security services are provided at the schools, they are for twenty-four hours service and some of the places are the learning resource centres in Mabaruma, Kaituma and Moruka, teachers' quarter at Kwabanna, Santa Rosa, Wauna and Port Kaituma. Yes, there are security services provided to thirty-eight school buildings and the increase caters for an additional six school buildings at St. Anslem's, Kwabanna, Unity Square, Sacred Heart and Karaburi.

**Ms. Ally:** A follow-up, Mr. Chairman. Are these all the schools in Region 1 which get twenty-four hour service?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are not all the schools. The areas where security is not provided there has been established relationship between the village council and the regional administration to provide oversight.

**Mr. Allen:** Under the same line item, could the Hon. Minister say what is established between the council at Port Kaituma and the Ministry where security is concerned? Why I am saying this is because at Port Kaituma the schools do not have no security since June. Just before school was closed, at the Port Kaituma Secondary, a student was robbed; complaints were made to the administration about security in that Subregion and nothing was done. The police were investigating the matter of a student being robbed by a man armed with a weapon who went into the dorms because there was no security. None of the schools at Port Kaituma has security, only the administration building.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think we will take that as a statement, because I do not think that is a question for the Minister, but it is noted.

Hon. Members, I am growing increasingly concerned about time. I have been conferring with the Clerk and he reminded me that our resolution passed and adopted by this Assembly, on the 16<sup>th</sup> April, stated that we shall proceed as per the schedule set out. At 5 o'clock we should have completed up to, I think, Region 3. We are still at Region 1. The resolution also states that "The proceedings at the sittings of the Committee of Supply during Considerations of the Estimates of Expenditure should, if not previously brought to a conclusion, be concluded at the time recommended in the schedule attached." In other words, by right, whether or not we would have finished, it would appear that I have a duty to put the questions and finish where we are. I,

unfortunately, unless the House by a resolution moves otherwise, am duty-bound to put the questions, because at the rate at which we are going we would not finish the ten regions for another two or three days.

I know that there are many questions. I invite Members to speak to Ministers and their staff to put questions in writing and to visit with the Ministers. I am sure the Ministers are receptive to meeting with Members and accepting questions. We may have to apply the scissors to some of the questions which will be asked. So I will take just about two more questions on this and I am going to say that we move on.

**Deputy Speaker [Mrs. Backer]:** If I may. We did not begin at two o' clock the consideration of the Estimates. I think, if you are minded, Sir, to exercise the guillotine, that the Clerk should be able to tell you at what time we went into Committee of Supply.

**Mr. Chairman:** It was 2.07 p.m. precisely. It was seven minutes after two o' clock. We started promptly at two o' clock and at seven minutes after two o' clock we were in Committee of Supply and considering the Estimates. So I can give some latitude by seven, or so, minutes. So let us proceed. I have a very good timekeeper.

**Ms. Ferguson:** I have recognised, under line item 6115 – Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled - under the staffing details, there is a reduction in the staffing for this year but that there is an increase in the allocation budgeted for this year. Could the Hon. Minister explain to the House the reason for the increase in the budgeted amount as against the reduction in staffing?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The increase, in itself, that is reflected there, when compared with the allocation for 2011, would have shown that it is not an increase, it is a decrease. What the Hon. Member is actually looking at is what was expended in 2011 as against what was allocated. We know how the education system works, that in September the vacancies are determined and in October they are filled. That is how it works. Some people are fortunate to be captured in the 2011 payroll depending on when they came on in the first term of the school year.

**Ms. Ally:** Line item 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister to provide a listing of those buildings which are to be maintained.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Port Kaituma Nursery School, Hosororo Primary School, Arukamai Primary School, Kokerite teachers quarters, boys dormitory, Mabaruma Compound, Mabaruma Secondary School, Hobodia Nursery School, Shiba Nursery School, Waramuri Primary School and Wauna Primary School. Those are some of the schools which have been listed for maintenance this year, but I am certain that if other schools are identified and they are maintenance resources that such maintenance work could be done.

**Ms. Ally:** A follow-up. Could the Minister say whether the maintenance of those buildings are directly connected to the school *per se* and whether amenities, such as toilet facilities and walkways, and those kinds of things, are involved under this line item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Hon. Member is correct that the walkway and the sanitary blocks will be done under other infrastructure.

**Mr. T. Williams:** Line item 6291 - National and Other Events: Could the Hon. Minister explain what are some of the national and other events which are estimated for here?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under this line item, apart from the national events that are calendared in Guyana, the education department would often have other activities such as inter-schools soft ball cricket, under 17 football competition, science fair, heritage week, World Aids Day to name a few.

**Mr. Bulkan:** Mr. Chairman, duly mindful of your earlier statement that you are duty-bound in a very short while to put the question in relation to the Estimates, I believe you said up to Region 3, and being aware that the remaining time would not be sufficient to even remotely answer the many questions that Hon. Members here have, may I respectfully ask, in view of that, if the Hon. Minister would provide an assurance that questions which are submitted to him in writing, before the end of this week, would be treated as if they were being asked in this Committee?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, I was going to ask the Minister, as a favour - it would not be statutorily, or by Standing Orders, a requirement on his part to answer - to extend to me, as Speaker, to facilitate Members who would have questions, because none of the questions have not been questions which have not come up before, year after year, for example, National and Other Events. So if Members would be good enough to reduce their questions into written form



and the Minister would be good enough to indicate his willingness to answer them, I am sure, that it will be yes.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I can only make a commitment if those questions are directly related to the Estimates.

**Mr. Chairman:** Agreed. That is understood.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** If they are directly related then I have no objection, save and except I would like to set our own timetable rather than the Hon. Member setting it for us.

**Mr. Chairman:** What is your timetable?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I would say in the new week, Mr. Chairman. It is no later than Thursday of the new week.

**Ms. Ally:** Mr. Chairman, am I to understand that you are saying that you are going to put Regions 2 and 3 without entertaining any questions?

**Mr. Chairman:** I never said so

**Ms. Ally:** You never said so.

**Mr. Chairman:** I would not say so.

**Ms. Ally:** Because I would respectfully...

**Mr. Chairman:** Contrary to whatever murmurings may have been going out there, I would not do such a thing. I will entertain some questions, but I may not be able to entertain all the questions.

**Ms. Ally:** Well, I will be happy, Sir, because I was just about to ask respectfully...

**Mr. Chairman:** Whoever told you that, please tell them that that is a preposterous proposition which I would never entertain.

*Programme: 713 - Education Delivery- \$684,516,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 713 - Education Delivery - \$57,700,000**

*Programme: 713 - Education Delivery - \$57,700,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme: 714 – Health Services - \$299,757,000**

*Programme: 714 – Health Services - \$299,757,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 714 – Health Services - \$ 44,900,000**

**Mr. Bulkan:** Can the Hon. Minister provide the quantity and the cost for the items listed under capital project, profile reference number 266?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Which one, Hon. Member?

**Mr. Bulkan:** I am sorry. I think that was “Education Delivery.” I believed that has already been approved.

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes. We are at “Health Services” now.

**Mr. Trotman:** Project 1202400 - Buildings - Health: Could the Minister state the cost associated with all of those items that are listed here to be addressed?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are the retention for nurses hostel - \$1.5 million, rehabilitation of Kumaka District Hospital - \$10 million, construction of health hut at Kokerite, Barima River - \$7,500,000, construction of Medex living quarters at Baramita - \$10 million, extension of mortuary at Matthews Ridge Hospital - \$3 million.

*Programme: 714 – Health Services - \$44,900,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

5.03 p.m.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, it is now 5.00 p.m. and we are scheduled to take the break. However, I mindful to go on for about fifteen, or so, minutes, if that is okay with Members of the House to see how far we can get into with the other regions. So unless I sensed that you wish to break, I will go for fifteen minutes.

**Agency: 72 Region 2: Pomerroon/Supenaam**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 721 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$103,965,000**

*Programme: 721 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$103,965,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 721 – Regional Administration & Finance - \$3,850,000**

*Programme: 721 – Regional Administration & Finance - \$3,850,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 722 – Agriculture - \$202,193,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: Could the Hon. Minister provide us with the designations and emolument of the new seven contracted employees?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are two Rangers, one Labourer and four Sluice Attendants.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister provide us with the information of the five most senior positions in this category and the emolument that goes with them?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The highest is the Regional Engineer - \$159,053, Rangers - \$57,765, Labourers - \$35,864 and Sluice Attendants - \$49,945. Those are the categories which are here.

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6281 – Security Services: Could the Minister identify the security service or services which provide those service/services? Could the Minister state the method used in arriving at the contracted security company which was identified?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Name of the security company - Strategic Action Security Limited. Method of award - open tender through the procurement procedures at the national level.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6253 – Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works: Could the Minister identify the drainage and irrigation works that are to be undertaken, under this line item, and where the works will be located?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Weed, clean and maintain trenches - Good Hope, Zorg en Vlygt, Hoff Van Aurich, Three Friends, Mainstay, Anna Regina, Henrietta, Devonshire Castle, Walton Hall, Dartmouth, Bounty Hall, Andrews, Better Hope, Somerset and Berks, Cozier and Manikuru areas. Weed, clean and maintain trenches in the same areas. Weed, clean and maintain trenches and façades in the same areas.

**Mr. Bulkan:** A follow-up to the same item, Mr. Chairman. Could the Hon. Minister provide the respective amounts allocated to each of the areas of activities?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Weed, clean and maintain trenches - \$14,819,850 at a cost of \$45 per rod; weed, clean and maintain trenches and flood relief at \$35 per rod, that is \$24,344,600; weed clean and maintain trenches and facades at \$45 per rod - \$6,120,900.

**Mr. Bulkan:** A follow-up please, Mr. Chairman. I take it that the demand for those very services are far and in excess of the areas that have been identified. Hon. Minister. Do you care to inform Hon. Members what are the criteria used for selecting the particular areas which have been selected?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These basically are all the major drainage and irrigation systems that are there in the region, outside of the Pomeroon area. So there is not any omitted.

*Programme: 722 – Agriculture - \$202,193,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 722 – Agriculture - \$129,100,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister tell us how much of the moneys will be spent for the construction of irrigation checks at Good Hope?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That would be \$3 million, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up. I wonder if the Minister can give us some precise information in relation to the cost of all the works under this project.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes Mr. Chairman, I can do that.

**Mr. Trotman:** Could I have that information, Mr. Chairman?

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it available now?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is not a photocopying service here, but we can give it to you, Mr. Chairman, but we need to get back our original.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Clerk's office can provide that.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Will do, Mr. Chairman.

*Programme: 722 – Agriculture - \$129,100,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, though I have said 5.15 p.m. I believe that this is a convenient moment at which we can take the suspension. I am asking the Clerk, please, to arrange a meeting of the Business Sub-Committee for us to meet to discuss how we proceed, and that meeting, Sir, could be convened at twenty minutes to six o' clock or there about, so that the notices could be sent.

Hon. Members, the suspension is taken now for exactly one hour and I wish to announce that I have an official engagement at 7.00 p.m. and so the Hon. Deputy Speaker will be presiding at the resumption. Thank you Hon. Members.

*Sitting suspended at 5.12 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 6.12 p.m.*

*Mdm. Deputy Speaker in the Chair.*

**Mdm. Deputy Speaker:** We will now resolve ourselves into Committee of Supply to consideration of the Estimates.

*Assembly in Committee of Supply*

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Members when we took the break we had just completed pages 272 and 273 – “Agriculture.” We complete both current and capital expenditures.

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 723 – Public Works - \$81,166,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6116 - Contracted Employees: Could the Hon. Minister indicate the designation and emolument of the contracted employee?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is a Vulcanizer and the salary is \$39,127.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6113 – Other Technical and Craft Skill: We see an increase of five employees. Could the Hon. Minister please give this House the list of duties, designation and...?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are five additions: Two Carpenters - \$52,627 per month, one Plumber - \$42,293, one Equipment Operator - \$ 47,468, one Carpenter Chargehand - \$54,411.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads: Could the Hon. Minister please give specifics as to the roads which are to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Maintenance of Roads: Somerset, Dartmouth, Paradise, Devonshire Castle, Danielstown, Lima, Richmond, Henrietta, Anna Regina, Bush Lot, Aberdeen, Affiance, Queenstown, Golden Fleece, Suddie, Airy Hall, Supenaam. Those roads are to maintain their crusher run surface. Adventure, Johanna Cecelia, Golden Fleece, Cullen, Queenstown, Affiance, Reliance, Bush Lot, Henrietta, Richmond, Danielstown, Walton Hall, there will be the filling of potholes on those roads - mixed loam, clay and sand surface. Double Bituminous Surface Treatment (DBST), sealing of the various potholes and maintaining surface - Anna Regina,

Henrietta, Lima, Sparta, Dartmouth, Charity, Cotton Field, Queenstown, Suddie, Adventure and Supenaam. Asphalt surfaces - Anna Regina, Henrietta, Lima, Sparta, Dartmouth, Charity, Cotton Field, Suddie, Adventure and Supenaam.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges: Could the Hon. Minister give specifics as to those bridges which are to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Rehabilitation of timber bridge - Henrietta back street, general repairs to bridge leading to Henrietta facade, general repairs to walkway bridge at Anna Regina Market, general repairs to walkway bridge at Cotton Field Community Centre, general repairs bridge leading to Bush Lot Market, general repairs to bridge leading to Bush Lot old market, purchasing of building materials to undergo routine works, pending repairs to other bridges.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister explain what those other infrastructures are?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Water trestle at the State House compound, water trestle at the Youth and Sport compound, at Cotton Field, repair to vehicles shed at Anna Regina Public Works compound, repair to chain-link fence, Amerindian Hostel at Suddie, repair to chain-link fence Amerindian Hostel at Supenaam, repair to chain-link fence, Amerindian Hostel at Charity.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: Could the Hon. Minister explain which buildings are to be maintained and the cost attached to each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Amerindian Hostel at Suddie - \$600,000, Amerindian Hostel, Charity - \$1.3 million, Environmental Health Officer's living quarters, Suddie - \$600,000, Sub-treasury Officer's living quarters, Cotton Field - \$600,000, drainage and irrigation building, Anna Regina - \$1.5 million, drainage and irrigation building, Suddie - \$1.5 million, State House main building, Anna Regina - \$1.5 million, Regional Democratic Council stores building, Anna Regina - \$1 million, carpenters' workshop, Anna Regina - \$1 million.

*Programme: 723 – Public Works - \$81,166,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 723 – Public Works - \$90,000,000**

*Programme: 723 – Public Works - \$90,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 724 – Education Delivery - \$1,087,622,000**

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6284 – Other: Could the Hon. Minister explain the \$24 million under the caption “Other”?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under this line item 6284, Other, there is the services of part-time cleaners are engaged, payment of stipend for invigilators, Grades Two, Four and Six Assessment Examinations as well as payment of invigilators for all other exams being held in the region. That is not only for invigilators, also supervisors.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: We see a reduction by three, but there is a request of an increase of \$22.147 million. Could the Hon Minister explain?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under this line item the reduction is based on what was expended in 2011. It is not necessarily what was allocated in 2011.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6294 – Other: There is another caption “Other”, \$1.5 million requested. Could the Hon. Minister explain what falls under “Other”?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under line item 6294, Other, work study students are paid their stipends, gifts are provided for teachers who would have given yeomen service to the education sector in the region at the time of their retirement and also under this line item tokens are provided to students who would have excelled at the various national exams within the region.

**Mr. Jones:** A follow-up, Cde. Chairperson. Could the Hon. Minister just indicate to this House how much is that stipend provided to students?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is \$15,000 for the period per student.



**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: We see a request for \$34 million. Could the Hon. Minister indicate to this House those buildings which will be maintained and the cost attached to each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are the education building, and this is the maintenance programme, Head Teachers' quarters at Dredge Creek - \$1 million, St. Johns Primary School - \$2 million, Suddie Primary School - \$2,100,000, Sparta Primary School - \$2 million, Aurora Nursery School - \$800,000, Flora Nursery School, that is in Dartmouth - \$1.5 million, Liberty Primary School, Pomeroy - \$1 million and Riverstown Primary School - \$2 million.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Sorry Mdm. Chairperson. I still have one more list.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Sorry Hon. Minister. I thought you have finished.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** My apologies Mdm. Chairperson. I thought I was finished too.

Education Office at Cotton Field - \$2 million; Education Sub-office at Charity - \$1.5 million, Akawini Nursery Class - \$1.5 million, Anna Regina dormitory - \$2 million; Maud Barrow's Primary School - \$2 million, Queenstown Primary School - \$1 million, Charity Primary School - \$2 million, Tapakuma Primary School living quarters - \$2 million.

**Mr. Trotman:** I want to ask a follow-up in relation to line item 6116 – Contracted Employees. For 2012, under this line item, \$22.147 million has been appropriated, but when we look at 2011 - I am not sure if this question is going to be allowed - I notice that \$28.385 million was allocated and, in actual fact, only \$19.208 million was spent. I wonder if the Minister can explain the disparity in the two amounts.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I think it is a very fair question. Persons who would have joined the education system in September would have only been paid a three or four-month salary, and so in the year 2012 a twelve-month salary will have to be catered for them.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: I see a request for \$16 million. Could the Hon. Minister explain what those infrastructures are which have to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** General repairs will be done to fencing at the following locations: Cotton Field Secondary School, Anna Regina Secondary School, Akawini Primary School, Reliance (annexe), *Mabel Sandy* Primary School, Dredge Creek Primary School, Capoey Primary School, Suddie Primary School (annexe), Hampton Court Primary School, Aurora Primary School and Riverstown Primary School.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6302 – Training (including Scholarship): I see a request for \$4 million. Could the Hon. Minister indicate to this House how many persons are expected to be trained and in what field or fields?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be for the orientation, seminar/workshops for newly appointed administrators, starting at the level of Senior Masters/Mistresses, Head of Departments, Deputy Heads and Heads who would be part of this training.

*6.34 p.m.*

Also, the holding of sub-committee meetings at the nursery and primary levels as well as subject committee meetings at the secondary level would be done. Measurement and evaluation workshops would be conducted as well as training programmes for invigilators/supervisors with regards to supervision of examinations. It is also planned that attention would be paid, this year, once again, to the Allied Arts and so there will be training in music, art and craft as well as there will be a continuation of the parents/pupils/students guardian seminars and workshops.

**Mr. Jones:** Mdm. Chairperson, line item 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants – a request for \$4.5 million - could the Hon. Minister explain which vehicles are to utilise this fuel and lubricants, and if any fuel and lubricants would be utilised to transport students from lower Pomeroun to the Charity Wharf for them to get to school?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The allocation here is basically for two vehicles and boat and engines to be used by the education department, as well as cooking gas for the dormitories and science departments in the various schools across the Region. The canter and the pick-up provide transportation services to transport not only teaching learning materials but also dietary materials that are required for the dormitories and such like.

**Mr. Jones:** A follow-up question - could the Hon. Minister indicate whether the fuel and lubricant for the outboard engine would be used to transport students from lower Pomeroun to Charity Wharf?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mr. Jones:** A follow-up question - I do not know if the Hon. Minister or the regional authority is aware but students of the lower Pomeroun have been out of a river boat for the past ten years of which a private resident has been providing that service. It came to an end in January 2012 and to date students have not been provided with a boat to transport students. As such, parents have to front \$1,000 a day per child for them to get to school. We are wondering if, by chance, any boat and engine would be provided to this community to get the students to Charity Wharf.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I have heard the Hon. Member. From the Budget here, the response is no, but certainly I have listened to the Hon. Member and once situation has been verified; we will do whatever we can if we can assist in that situation.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I think it came up in the actual Budget debate. Someone mentioned that so it would be very good if what the Hon. Member is saying is accurate, as you said, if it is possible, some relief could be had for those students.

*Programme: 724 – Education Delivery – 1,087,622,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 724 – Education Delivery – \$65,500,000**

*Programme: 724 – Education Delivery – \$65,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 725 – Health Services - \$393,514,000**

**Mr. Jones:** Line Item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges – request for \$4.1 million- could the Hon. Minister indicate to this House those bridges to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The bridge at Hackney Health Centre - \$2.5 million, the bridge at Barakara Health Centre - \$1 million and the bridge at Kabakaburi Health Centre - \$600,000 are the bridges to be maintained.

**Mr. Jones:** Line Item 6113 – Other Technical and Craft Skilled – I see a request for \$59.395 million and I note that there has been an increase in staff from 79 to 92, but the request seems to mirror that of last year's. Could the Hon. Minister explain?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Six community health workers were appointed, one Rehab Assistant, two Audiological Practitioners, two Midwives and two Staff Nurses. What happened is that these officers had joined at different periods during 2011 and so what we are seeking to do is to ensure that we have a 12 month salary for them in 2012.

**Mr. Jones:** Line Item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - \$7 million is being requested. Could the Hon. Minister indicate to this House those other infrastructure to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** General repairs to fences across the following locations: Siriki Health Post, Kabakaburi Health Post, St. Monica Health Post, Karawab Health Post, Abrams Creek Health Post, Windsor Castle Health Post, Huis t' Dieren Health Centre.

**Mr. Jones:** Line Item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings – request for \$17 million: could the Hon. Minister indicate those buildings to be maintained and a cost attached to each?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Maintenance of buildings: Abrams Creek Health Post - \$1 million, Kabakaburi Health Post - \$1 million, Living Quarters at Suddie - \$1 million, Baracara Health Post - \$1 million, Uleen, that is at Karawab Health Centre - \$1.5 million, Aurora Health Centre - \$600,000, Wakapau Health Centre - \$1 million, Windsor Castle Health Centre - \$600,000, Columbia Health Centre - \$1 million, Suddie Hospital, main building - \$3.8 million, Suddie Hospital, board room building - \$1 million, medical records building - \$1 million, old nurse hostel, bottom flat - \$1 million.

*Programme: 725 – Health Services - \$393,514,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 725 – Health Services - \$57,500,000**

**Mr. Trotman:** Project Code 1100300 – Bridges – I wonder if it is that the Minister can tell us what the dimensions of these bridges are and what would be the associated costs.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of bridge leading to Dredge Creek Health Centre – 60’x8’ and cost \$5.5 million, construction of bridge leading to Abram Creek Health Centre – 45x8 and costs \$4.5 million.

**Mr. Jones:** Mdm. Chairperson, having just brought the Minister’s attention to the boat in lower Pomeroun, I note project code 2401600 – Land and Water Transport – request for \$7.5 million to purchase boats: could the Hon. Minister indicate where these boats will be used – in which area they will be utilised?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The boats would be used by health workers in the following areas: Charity, Hackney, Friendship, Wakapau, Mora, Mashabo and Capoey.

**Mr. Trotman:** In relation to project code 1202700 – Buildings – Health – can the Minister give us the specific costs for the three phases of the works that are listed here?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Extension of Mora Health Post - \$10 million, construction of Health Post at Mashabo - \$14 million, rehabilitation of Siriki health post - \$8 million.

**Mr. Trotman:** A follow-up question - I wonder if the Minister has any idea of when it is that these works will be undertaken and completed.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As soon as the procurement process is through, following, as prescribed in the Procurement Act, a tender being awarded, the process will commence. In terms of completion, that will be determined by the contract.

*Programme: 725 – Health Services - \$57,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Agency: 73 – Region 3: Essequibo Islands/West Demerara**

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme: 731 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$128,359,000**

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6116 – Contracted Employees – I notice that for 2011 and for 2012 there is the same number of employees, but there is an increase in salaries.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, that is very factual. One of the contracted employees joined during the course of 2011.

**Mr. Adams:** Line item 6281 – Security Services – could the Minister say the name of the security service, if it is this very service that provides security to schools and if all our schools in Region 3 are having 24-hour security?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I will deal with one part of the question because the Programme is Administration. The other part can be asked when we are dealing with Education. The name of the security company is Strategic Action Security Services.

**Mr. Adams:** Can we get the per hour rate for the security service? There is much reason for asking, Sir.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is \$145 per hour.

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6294 – Other – can the Minister explain this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This allocation would be used to further enhance the skills of our staff in the Accounts Department, particularly with training, to use the Integrated Financial Management and Accounting System (IFMAS).

**Mr. Adams:** I will look out for that. Line Item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) – who are set to benefit?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, my apologies. The explanation I gave just now was intended for line item 6302. The category “Other” is to purchase wreaths and cards, and the annual get-together.

*Programme: 731 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$128,359,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 731 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$2,700,000**

*Programme: 731 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$2,700,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 732 – Agriculture - \$229,322,000**

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6133 – Benefits and Allowances – can the Minister tell us who the recipients are?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, the benefits and allowances under line item 6133 are for the staff at line items 6111 to 6115 (Administrative, Senior Technical, Other Technical and Craft Skilled, Clerical and Office Support and Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled) under the Agriculture Programme.

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges – can the Hon. Minister tell us where these bridges are going to be repaired?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Salem Old High Level bridge - \$1.5 million, Salem Blake Facade Mora Turn - \$1.5 million, Samaru Dam across Kashmir Middle Walk - \$2.2 million, the 3 and R bridge at Windsor Forest - \$1 million.

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure – can the Minister explain?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Other infrastructure- servicing and repair of river sluice, doors, wrenches and pulleys at Den Amstel - \$700,000, repairs to river sluice doors at Zeelugt - \$900,000, repairs to river sluice doors, servicing, wrenches, pulleys at Salem River sluice - \$1 million, similar works at Ruby - \$1.2 million, Maripa River sluice: servicing of river sluice, doors, wrenches and pulleys - \$950,000, Hubu River sluice: maintenance work - \$1.050 million, Kashmir, Pouderoyen - \$1.2 million, Salem main drain, western side - \$1.3 million.

**Mr. Trotman:** I want to direct the Minister's attention to line item 6253 – Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Work –I would like to ask him if he can pinpoint the areas in the Region where these works will be carried out and if he can identify the costs that are specific to each area in which these works will be carried out.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All the works are weeding and cleaning and will be done at the following areas: Georgia Collector drain - \$2 million, new line Irrigation at Vreed-en-Hoop - \$1 million, Bordeaux Sideline Dam - \$2 million, Windsor Forest - \$2 million, Ruby main drain - \$2 million, Parika main drain - \$2 million, Tuschen West and Cross Sideline Dam - \$1 million, Tuschen East Sideline Dam - \$1 million, Tuschen Middle Walk - \$864,000, La Jalousie West Sideline Dam - \$1.4 million, Windsor Forest Middle Walk - \$2 million, Zeelugt East Sideline Dam - \$600,000, A-Line main drain - \$2 million, Centre Line main drain - \$1.650 million, B-Line tailwater conservancy - \$2.2 million, Ruby/Boerasirie Distributory - \$2.5 million, B-Line tailwater to River sluice - \$800,000, Naamryck Escape Channel - \$1.2 million, Parika/Hydronie Crown Dam - \$1.5 million, Ruby K1 6 to K1 8 - \$1 million, Parika West irrigation - \$2.686 million, Bonasika trench - \$3 million and Alik drainage canal - \$3 million.

*Programme: 732 – Agriculture - \$229,322,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 732 – Agriculture - \$56,600,000**

*Programme: 732 – Agriculture - \$56,600,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 733 – Public Works - \$89,733,000**

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings – can the Hon. Minister list the buildings that are to be maintained under this line item?

*7.04 p.m.*



**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mdm. Chairperson. They are, under public works 6242 – Maintenance of Roads, WD 26, Regional Administration Building in Vreed-en-Hoop, Regional Stores in Crane, Staff Quarters at Nismes, Regional Administration Sub Office and stores in Wakenaam and the Regional Sub Office at Leguan. Thank you Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads - can the Hon. Minister give us a listing of roads that are going to be constructed?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under the category -“Maintenance of Roads” there are Free and Easy on the West Bank of Demerara, Bendorff towards Morasi on the East Bank of Essequibo, Crane on the West Coast of Demerara and the stockpiling of crusher-run as well for further maintenance.

**Mr. Adams:** Line item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges - can the Hon. Minister help us with the number of bridges to be maintained under that head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These would include the Belle Vue Main Access Bridge, Hermitage Bridge and other materials would be stockpiled to treat with other bridges across the Region.

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6284 – Other - can the Hon. Minister explain what “other” means under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These would include internet charges for the Public Works Department and maintaining of the boat and trapping of bees are part of line item 6284.

*Programme: 733 – Public Works – \$89,733,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 733 – Public Works – \$280,500,000**

**Mr. Adams:** Project Code 1400600 – Roads – where the legend states “upgrading of community roads”, could the Hon. Minister say where these roads will be upgraded?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be the upgrading of Marias Lodge South Road to DBST, the upgrading of North Section Canal No. 1 Road, the upgrading of South Section Canal No. 2 Road, the upgrading of Stewartville, Sarah Lodge First Cross Street, the upgrading of Pleasant Hope,

Naamless Road on the East Bank of Essequibo, the upgrading of La Bagatelle Factory Dam and Cross Street and the upgrading of Philadelphia Road, East Bank Essequibo.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Under the same line item, could the Minister provide the nature and scope including the length of the respective roads to be upgraded and the respective costs attached to each.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson it is unfortunate that the question was not asked earlier. Nonetheless, I will provide the information as requested. Marias Lodge going to South Road is a DDST surface, 1000 by 10 feet wide and it will cost \$8.5 million. North Section Canal No. 1 Road dimensions are 2000 by 10 feet and will cost \$8.5 million and it is a crusher-run surface. Canal No.2 road will be a crusher run surface and the dimensions will be 2000 by 10 feet and will cost \$8 million. Sarah Lodge First Cross Street will be 800 by 10 feet and will cost \$6.3 million and that is a DDST surface. Another DDST surface will be place at Naamless with dimensions of 1000 by 14 feet and will cost \$8.7 million. The upgrading of La Bagatelle Factory Dam and Cross Street with DBST 1000 by 10 feet will cost \$8.5 million. Upgrading the Philadelphia old Masjid road to DBST with dimensions of 600 by 12 feet will cost \$6.5 million.

**Mr. Jones:** Mdm. Chairperson, Project Code 2401700 – Land and Water Transport – the legend refers to the purchase of an outboard engine, could the Hon. Minister indicate where this outboard engine will be used and in which department?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, the engine is intended for the Public Works Department and it is to assist with movement in the Demerara River.

*Programme: 733 – Public Works – \$280,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 734 – Education Delivery – \$1,528,631,000**

**Mr. Adams:** Line Item 6117 – Temporary Employees – I noticed that it has increased to five, can the Hon. Minister give us the designations and emoluments of the temporary employees in education.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** These are Volunteer Services Overseas (VSOs) that we have and they are stipend at \$30,000.

**Mr. Adams:** Thank you very much Mr. Minister. Mdm. Chairperson, line item 6252 – Maintenance of Bridges – for education, can the Hon. Minister tell us where these bridges are going to be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The bridges to be maintained are La Bagatelle Nursery, Fort Island, Malgre Tout and Philadelphia.

**Ms. Ally:** Mdm. Chairperson, the question I will ask will require an answer for all of the Regions. I am wondering whether for this question that I am posing, I can ask the Hon. Minister to provide the information for all the Regions. I am interested in knowing at line item 6281 – Security Service – whether this includes schools, the number of schools in each region that has security and whether they have 24-hour security and the security service that provides this security. So, it is a question that I would want to repeat for all of the other Regions. If the Minister, maybe within a week, can provide that information for me I will be very happy. Thank you.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Based on Ms. Ally's request, how many questions did you get Hon. Minister? I think she asked four questions. I just wanted to confirm, because if you are agreeable that you will provide it for every – I suppose it will be for Regions 3 to Region 10- are you asking for Ms. Ally?

**Ms. Ally:** All of the regions - Region 1 to Region 10.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Well then it will follow that if the Minister is in agreement that we will not have any question on that particular line item as we go to the other Regions. Hon. Minister if you agree, then it will mean that, at least for the rest of the night while I am presiding, and if it is okay with the Alliance For Change, I will not permit any questions on that line item once there is an agreement that the Hon. Minister will answer, unless of course, the question is outside of that. Are you with me Hon. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes Mdm. Chairperson. I will commit to provide the information for Region 3 to Region 10.

**Ms. Ally:** Region 1 to Region 10.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Sorry Mdm. Chairperson, we have completed Region 1 and Region 2. I want to make sure that we keep the things the way they are.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Yes, we are finished, but I personally would be happy, if for completeness, you include Region 1 and Region 2.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The commitment Mdm. Chairperson is from Region 3 to Region 10. I am committing to do that. The four parts of the question, if I get it correctly, are the number of schools, the number of schools with security, whether they are 24-hour security and the name of the security company.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Ms. Ally is that correct?

**Ms. Ally:** Yes, Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** So we will only allow questions asked on that line item if it is outside of those four questions. What time period are we looking at Hon. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Latest by next Thursday Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Latest by next Thursday and that is under line item 6281.

*Programme: 734 – Education Delivery – \$1,528,631,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 734 – Education Delivery – \$280,500,000**

*Programme: 734 – Education Delivery – \$280,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 735 – Health Services – \$541,270,000**

*Programme: 735 – Health Services – \$541,270,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 735 – Health Services – \$46,900,000**

*Programme: 735 – Health Services – \$46,900,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Before we begin Region 4, I want to announce that having sought and gotten the approval of both whips that we will not have an official break. I understand that snacks are there, but I am sure no one is hungry as yet. So, as Members feel the need you are free to leave and to come back. I have indicated and I am sure you will agree with me that the Hon. Minister, Mr. Ganga Persaud, has been at it for a long while and I have indicated to him that he has the option, if he requires, a 10 minutes, at the most 15 minutes break. He can indicate that to me, and at that time, if he wants to break we will have a 15 minute break. Barring that, we will continue until the Minister indicates to me that he needs a break. With those words, because we would want to get through, but I am committed to giving the Hon. Minister a break if he so desires.

#### **Agency: 74 Region 4 Demerara/Mahaica**

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 741 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$120,171,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Thank you Mdm. Chairperson. Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees – can the Hon. Minister state the designation and the emoluments of the top five persons in this category?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are the Clerk 2 General at \$53,161, Accounts Clerk 2 at \$53,161, Security Supervisor at \$50,114 and a Typist Clerk \$45,356. Those are the top five Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mr. B. Williams:** If it pleases you Mdm. Chairperson, on the same line item 6116, there is \$3 million increase from last year to this year. That is in respect of three additional contracted employees. Mr. Minister is it that those three employees are averaging a million dollars a month?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No, Mdm. Chairperson. As I explained earlier, persons would have joined at different parts in 2011. So, the expenditure as reflected in 2011 will not reflect a 12 month salary for those persons. They are on the payroll, so you have to reflect twelve months for them in 2012. That is the reason why you see that.

**Mr. B. Williams:** A follow up question please. All I am explaining to the Minister is that he has three additional contract employees from 2011 in 2012. Equally, the sum goes up by \$3 million. That is what I am saying to the Member.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson that is exactly what I am explaining, that in 2011 these three employees would have joined at varying times in 2011. So, only part of their salaries would have been reflected in 2011. Now, in 2012 a twelve month salary is reflected for those three employees. So, you cannot use that expenditure as of 2011 and then say it is three employees.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I think what Mr. Williams is saying, Hon. Minister, is that for 2011 you have eighteen and this year you have twenty one. I think that seems to be his concern. I am just flagging that.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I understand that Mdm. Chairperson.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6281 – Security Services – can the Hon. Minister identify the security company which provides the services? Can the Minister state the method used in arriving at the identified security company contracted? Can the Minister also say what is responsible for the increase in the budgetary allocation?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The security company is Strategic Action Security services. The process followed every requirement in the Procurement Act.

**Mr. B. Williams:** May I respectfully refer you Mdm. Chairperson to line item 6211 – Expenses Specific to the Agency – there is an increase by \$3 million. The sum is \$11,500,000. What are those expenses specific to this agency?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6211 meets all the costs incurred by the Regional Democratic Council, including travelling to meetings, stipend for Councillors, refreshment for Councillors and also RDC Meetings, RDC Sub Committee Meetings and RDC outreach programmes.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6284 – Other – can the Hon. Minister indicate what other goods and service classified as “Other” are to be purchased under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Line Item 6284 is used to pay temporary cleaners, also for the washing of curtains, tablecloths, bank charges and those kinds of expenditure.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) – can the Hon. Minister state whether any persons will be awarded scholarships and in what areas? If not, could the Hon. Minister explain the nature of the training programmes?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There will be no scholarships under line item 6302 under this programme. The programme will seek to cover transportation and other costs for administration employees under this programme to attend Public Service Ministry Training Programmes for in-house training programmes and also, for retraining of staff under the administration programme, conducted by the Regional Administration of Region 4.

*Programme: 741 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$120,171,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 741 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$3,000,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 2506800 – Furniture and Equipment – could the Hon. Minister identify the type and quantity of equipment and furniture to be purchased?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Under this line item, it is intended to procure 20 electrical fans, 10 executive chairs, 12 water dispensers, 12 filing cabinets, one bookshelf, eight tables, seven refrigerators, two canisters and ten desks.

**Ms. Ferguson:** Just a follow up question to the line item. Can the Hon. Minister say where these equipment will be assigned? Thank you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Three fans are going to the Registry Department, four to the Personnel Department and four to the Public Works Department, also to the Regional Vice Chairman's Office, AREOs, typist Clerk at Timehri, Welfare Officer's Office at Enmore, to an Overseer, Typist and a Ranger at Cane Grove Offices. The Executive Chairs are going to the Local Government Department, Personnel Department, Accounts Department, Registry and Works Departments at Triumph, the Regional Vice Chairman and AREOs office at Timehri. Eight water dispensers will be distributed at Triumph's Regional Office, two at Timehri's Sub Office, one at Enmore's Sub Office and one at Cane Grove Sub Office. As for filing cabinets, six will go to Triumph's Regional Office, 2 to the Timehri Sub Office, two at Enmore's Sub Office and 2 at Cane Grove's Office. The bookshelf will go to the Regional Administration's regional board room. As for tables, three will go to Triumph's Regional Office, two to Timehri's Sub Office, one at Enmore's Sub Office and two at Cane Gove Office. Three refrigerators will go to Triumph's Regional Office, two at Timehri's Sub Office, one at Enmore's Sub Office and one at Cane Grove Office. Both canisters are for Triumph's Regional Office. Six desks are for the Regional Office at Triumph, two for Timehri's Sub Office and two for Cane Grove's Sub Office.

**Ms. Selman:** Mdm. Chairperson, may I ask a follow up please?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Go ahead, Hon. Member.

**Ms. Selman:** Can the Hon. Minister say what method would be used for procuring the items?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Procurement will be done in keeping with the Procurement Act.

*Programme: 741 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$3,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

7.34p.m.

## **Current Expenditure**

### **Programme 742 – Agriculture – \$189,884,000**

**Mr. B. Williams:** Line Item 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works - \$87 million is voted this year. Could the Hon. Minister indicate where the drainage and irrigation works would be done?



**Mr. G. Persaud:** Unity/Vereeniging NDC, 14,000 rods; Grove/Haslington NDC, 15,000 rods; Grove/Haslington NDC, 4,800 rods of dams; Enmore/Hope NDC, 1,200 rods; Buxton/Foulis NDC, 18,000 rods; Beterverwagting (BV)/Triumph NDC, 8,000 rods; Better Hope/LBI NDC, 1,200 rods; Plaisance/Industry NDC, 7,000 rods; excavation of Eccles/Ramsburg Canal, 800 rods; excavation of 600 rods at Diamond/Herstelling NDC; excavation of 2,500 rods at Golden Grove/Diamond; Success/Caledonia NDC, 24,000 rods; 8,000 rods Soesdyke; and maintenance of sluices across the region.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Could the Hon Minister indicate what sum from the \$87 million under this Head is being spent on the East Coast of Demerara.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, I will request the assistance of the Hon. Member. I will call the sum on the East Coast and the Hon. Member will do the Mathematics. Unity/Vereeniging, \$13 million; Grove/ Haslington, \$6 million Grove/Haslington, \$2 million; Enmore /Hope, \$3 million; Buxton/Foulis, \$7 million; BV/Triumph, \$5 million; Better Hope/LBI \$3 million; Industry/Plaisance, \$5 million.

**Mdm. Chair:** It appears to be \$44 million.

**Ms. Selman:** A follow-up question - could the Hon. Minister say how much of the allocated amount will be spent in the following NDCs: Diamond/Herstelling, Eccles/Ramsburg, Success/Caledonia, and Soesdyke?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, like everything else I seek the cooperation of the Hon. Member to do the Mathematics. Eccles/Ramsburg, \$2 million; Diamond/Herstelling, \$1.5 million; Golden Grove/Diamond, \$6 million; Success/Caledonia, \$2 million; Soesdyke, \$5 million; maintenance of sluice on the East Coast, \$4 million; maintenance of sluices on the East bank \$5 million.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6261 - can the Hon. Minister state who are the beneficiaries under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The 72 employees listed under the agriculture programme.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6281 - can the Hon Minister identify the security company that provides the service and state whether the system of competitive bidding was utilised.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Strategic Action Security; and I wish to assure the Hon. Member that all security services engaged in Regions 1 to 10 went through the procurement procedures outlined “to the t”.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister name the other bidders?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** RK’s Security Services, Brans Security Service and Home Safe Security Service were the other bidders.

**Mr. Jones:** In line item 6264 - Vehicle Spares and Services - I see an allocation requested of \$200,000. Is this to maintain the regional administration fleet of vehicles? If so, how many vehicles are maintained under this line item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, if the Hon. Member is referring to 6264 I am seeing \$4 million.  
[**Mr. Neendkumar:** Chris is what happening to you, you dropping back like the others.]

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Proceed Hon. Minister, if you could get beyond Mr. Kumar.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mdm. Chair; two tractors and two trailers.

*Programme 742 – Agriculture - \$189,884 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme 742 – Agriculture - \$36,000,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 1701200 - can the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown of the cost of each of the scheduled works?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of revetment, greenheart wood: Enmore, \$5 million; Section A, Clonbrook, \$3 million; Cane Grove North, \$5 million; Buxton Middle Walk Road, \$9 million; Soesdyke, Nigg/Akindren \$1 million; Craig Bushy Dam, \$5 million; Melanie/Paradise, rehabilitation of drainage canal, \$8 million.

**Ms. Selman:** Can the Minister inform us of the materials to be used in relation to the revetment?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, maybe I spoke too quickly; it is greenheart wood.

*Programme 742 – Agriculture – \$36,000,000 - agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme 743 – Public Works – \$159,512,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6116 - can the Hon. Minister state the designations and emoluments of the four contracted employees?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Engineer, \$151,823; Vehicle Driver/Mechanic \$42,675 and Vehicle Driver, \$39,127.

**Mr. B. Williams:** On that same line item I see that there has been no increase in the number of contracted employees yet the total sum budgeted has increased by \$2 million. Could the Hon. Minister explain how the sum moved from \$4 million to \$6 million without any additional employee?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** A Superintendent of Works retired and so a Regional Engineer has been appointed. The number remains the same but the designation has been changed and the salary has changed.

**Mr. B. Williams:** I will move from that answer. I will try to fathom that answer in the interim.

Mdm. Chair I refer you to line item 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings - the total sum budgeted is \$14,050,000, might I respectfully ask the Hon. Minister whether the works on the buildings he identified includes the Victoria Primary School on the East Coast, the Vryheid's Lust Nursery School, and the Ann's Grove Primary School?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** We are dealing with the public works programme. I will be in a better position to answer such questions when we get to the education programme.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6242 - can the Hon. Minister identify the buildings for maintenance on the East Bank of Demerara which will benefit from this allocation and the estimated cost?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** May I take the liberty to share all the buildings, less I have to go back to the list for the East Coast of Demerara, if that is okay with you, Mdm. Chair.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I am at your disposal.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you, Mdm. Chair. Rehabilitation of RDC Office at Timehri, \$2.5 million; repairs to Grove Craft Centre East Bank, \$1 million; rehabilitation to the Regional Democratic Council Region 4 Sub-office at Cane Grove, \$2.5 million; rehabilitation of living quarters at Triumph, \$2 million; rehabilitation of District Development Office, Enmore sub-office, \$2 million; rehabilitation of living quarters Triumph North, \$1.2 million; rehabilitation of Administrative Building, Paradise, \$2 million.

**Mr. Trotman:** Mdm. Chair, I refer to line item 6272 - Electricity Charges. I wonder if the Minister could give the reasons why the electricity charge under this head has increased by almost 50%, and if he can indicate which buildings under public works are being catered for here.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I have to disappoint the Hon. Member because we are not dealing with buildings on this item, but with drainage pumps. Mdm. Chair, two additional drainage pumps, one at Cane Grove and one at Craig which were previously subsidised by National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) will now have to be catered for by the Regional Democratic Council, thus the increase.

**Mr. Trotman:** I heard the Minister say two additional pumps. Can he indicate what is the total amount of pumps catered for under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud;** Mdm. Chair the number is six.

**Mr. Trotman:** Thank you.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Line Item 6251 - Maintenance of Roads - \$35 million. Could the Hon. Minister indicate whether roads are earmarked for the East Coast of Demerara?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, in the interest of time should I go through the list or just give a response? I seek your guidance.

**Mr. B. Williams:** I would be grateful if the Minister answers my question, Mdm. Chair.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, the response is yes.

**Mr. B. Williams:** A follow-up question. Do those roads include Ann's Grove Main Access Road, Victoria, Triumph, Vigilance, Friendship...

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, I am sorry, I would not be able to remember all those roads the Hon. Member is calling out. If he could please pass me a list I would be in...

**Mr. B. Williams:** I am giving the village the roads are in.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Please, Mdm. Chair, if he could give me a list.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** We can do this in various ways. Mr. Williams, perhaps you can ask about two villages, and then follow-up for the rest or the alternative is to submit the entire list to the Minister and he could give you an answer. It depends on your preference...

**Mr. B. Williams:** As it pleases you Mdm. Chair, I was wondering if the Minister wants to give me his list of the East Coast. He should state it here.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, if you recall that is what I attempted to do. And the Hon. Member said no, answer his question. That is what I asked, whether I should read it out. I will now read the list of roads.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** You are reading the list of roads for the East Coast, Region 4.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Region 4 proper, Mdm. Chair.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** He is particularly asking about the East Coast.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Rehabilitation of Narine Street, Better Hope; rehabilitation of Oleander Gardens, East Coast; rehabilitation of First Street, Annandale West, East Coast; rehabilitation of Ann's Grove Main Access Road, East Coast; rehabilitation of Sunil Street, West Enmore; rehabilitation of Unity, Middle Walk Dam, East Coast; rehabilitation of Third Street Annandale, East Coast.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Do you have a follow-up question, Mr. Williams?

**Mr. B. Williams:** No, it is just to observe the route the Minister adopted was much shorter because the list I have he would not have been able to be finished by now. But he never mentioned 99% of the places I have on my list.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6252 - can the Hon. Minister state whether the bridge located at the Covent Garden Primary School will be rehabilitated and if yes what is the estimated cost?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I will read the list of the bridges that will be done in Region 4 under this allocation.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Minister, I think in all fairness there was a specific question about one bridge. The answer would be a “yes” or “no”. If it is yes, what is the cost? So you do not have to go through the list.

**Ms. Selman:** Hon. Minister, can you state whether the bridge located at the Covent Garden Primary School will be rehabilitated, and, if yes, what is the estimated cost and the dimension?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, this is the Public Works programme maybe that question can be better answered when we get to Education.

**Ms. Selman:** As directed, Sir. Mdm. Chairperson, line item 6255. I am not sure whether this comes under Public Works, but I will ask the Minister. Can the Hon. Minister state whether the Timehri docks have been identified for rehabilitation, and, if yes, what is the cost for the complete rehabilitation?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, the response is no.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Could the Hon. Minister indicate under this item...

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Which head are we on Mr. Williams?

**Mr. B. Williams:** The same head - Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - line item 6255. Could the Hon. Minister indicate whether the sanitary block at Plaisance Secondary School will be done under this item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, once again I would be in a better position when we get to Education to answer that question. We are at Public Works.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6281 - can the Hon. Minister state the security company, the number of security personnel to be provided, and the hourly rate?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The security company is Strategic Action Security Services; five security guards; and \$145 per hour.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister say what method of procurement was used? And which are the other companies that bided?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, as I said then and I repeat again every aspect of the Procurement Act was adhered to in the procurement of this security service for Region No. 4.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I think the other part of the question was the other security services that bid.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Brans Security Services, RK's Security Services and Home Safe Security Service.

*Programme 743 – Public Works – \$159,512,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme 743 – Public Works - \$59,700,000**

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Project Code 2404700 - Land and Water Transport - \$6 million for one vehicle. Can the Hon. Minister state if this vehicle is intended to be used by the Regional Chairman? In the unlikely event the answer is no, is the Hon. Minister aware (a) that the vehicle assigned to the Regional Chairman is over 19 years old and, (b) that there is no vehicle assigned for use by the Regional Vice Chairman.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you Mdm. Chair, this is public works. I am sorry the Regional Chairman is not catered for under this programme. We already approved that programme which is Programme 1. I will not seek to break the rule of this House by going back there. The vehicle is intended to be used by the Public Works Department to enhance their monitoring and evaluation capabilities, and inspection of works.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow-up question- there were some other parts to the question Hon. Minister.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, I responded to those very clearly. They are not related to this line item, and this is not a debate but the Committee of Supply.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** With all fairness to Mr. Bulkhan, I think the question he asked is if you are aware that the vehicle is 19 years old and that there is no vehicle for the vice chair.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair I am unaware. What I know is that we are procuring a new vehicle under this programme.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** You are unaware that the vehicle for the Chairman is 19 years.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mdm. Chair.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** Thank you Hon. Minister.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Project Code 1400700, Construction/Upgrade of Community Roads. Might I respectfully refer to the profile which reads:

“The project includes construction and upgrade of roads at Victoria, Dochfour, Enmore, East Coast; Land of Canaan, Supply, East Bank Demerara, and KuruKururu.”

Might I respectfully ask the Hon. Minister, when he says roads in Victoria, how many roads is he looking at and what is the cost of the works for Victoria?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Victoria Middle Walk Road, double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) \$7 million.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Much obliged.

**Mr. Trotman:** Project Code 1100500 - Bridges - can the Hon. Minister indicate to this House what are the dimensions of each of those bridges to be constructed and the associated cost?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Vigilance First Street, 24x8, \$3 million; Buxton linking Cummings Street to Buxton Side Line, 30x10, \$4.3 million; Golden Grove, 30x12, \$3.5 million; Melanie Third Street to Non Pareil, 30x12 \$3.5 million; Little Diamond, 35x12, \$4.4 million.



**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 1100500 - can the Hon. Minister state how much of the budgetary sum will be spent on the construction of the bridge at Little Diamond on the East bank of Demerara?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chair, I just stated that before I took my seat.

**Mrs. Baveghems:** Line Item 1400700 – Roads - could the Hon. Minister say if any sums are assigned for the roads in KuruKururu?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Are there any provisions for KuruKururu under this head Hon. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mdm. Chair.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** I would like to return to project code 2400700 - Purchase of Vehicle for \$6 million. My question to the Hon. Minister, firstly, is the Minister aware that for every other region with the exception of Region 4 new vehicles were acquired as recently as 2011?

*8.04 p.m.*

Secondly, is the Hon. Minister aware that the general fleet of vehicles in Region 4 is in less than satisfactory condition?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I cannot see a line item relevant to what the Hon. Member is talking about. We are dealing with a line item, “Purchase of Vehicle for Public Works Department”. I am unaware of all the assertions made by the Hon. Member. As I said, I think we are in Committee of Supply, you know it more than I do, I would respect...

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Yes, I would echo what the Speaker has said, that Members are free to ask questions; they can also submit them in writing. I would want to encourage Members, not only from the Opposition, but also from the Government benches, that if, they have questions to ask of any Minister they make use of the other provisions we have.

**Mr. Bulkhan:** A follow up please Mdm. Chairperson. The Hon. Minister said that he is unaware of what the line item is. It says there on the title, “Land and Water Transport”.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** We are dealing with Public Works, Hon. Member, Mr. Bulkhan. I am suggesting that if there is a more general question, you should make use of the other provisions of asking and submitting written questions to the Minister, where I am sure he will feel obliged to respond to you.

*Programme: 743 - Public Works - \$59,700,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 744 - Education Delivery - \$2,015,108,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Workers - could the Hon. Minister state the designations and emoluments for the nine Contracted Employees?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** One Handyman, one Typist Clerk, one Security Assistant \$40,935 each; Typist Clerk II - \$39,127, Library Assistant \$39,127, Systems Development Officer \$66,052; Library Assistants – two of them - \$40,852.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings - could the Hon. Minister say whether the Little Friends Nursery School on the East Bank of Demerara and any other buildings on the East Bank of Demerara will be maintained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Little Friends Nursery School, Friendship, East Bank Demerara, Region 4; Mocha Primary School, East Bank Demerara; Covent Garden Secondary School, East Bank Demerara; Timehri Primary School, East Bank Demerara; Soesdyke Primary School, East Bank Demerara; Pearl Nursery School, East Bank Demerara; Yarrowkabra, Linden Soesdyke Highway; Diamond Primary School, East Bank Demerara; VSO Building, Friendship Secondary School, East Bank Demerara; Education Sub-Office, East Bank Demerara, Eccles Nursery School, East Bank Demerara; Saint Cuthberts Primary School, Linden Soesdyke Highway and Craig Primary School, East Bank Demerara.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Might I respectfully referred the Hon. Minister to line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings. Hon. Minister, could you say whether the Golden Grove Secondary School will be repaired under this item? Let me give you a couple more, Victoria Primary

School, Anns Grove Primary School – Anns Grove Secondary School are they contemplated or encompassed in your proposal to spend \$64 million this year on the maintenance of school buildings?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Follow up, Could the Hon. Minister indicate which of the four will be maintained this year?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, I do not know if you would agree with me, but if I go through this list, I think, it will ease all... I have finished the East Bank Demerara on this list, should I go through the East Coast Demerara?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** No, the question specifically is whether Golden Grove Secondary School, Victoria Primary School and Anns Grove Primary and Secondary Schools, are included in the \$64 million which has been in the Estimates for maintenance.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I answered yes Mdm. Chairperson, and then I was told which. So...

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Is the answer yes to all four?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No. Golden Grove Secondary School, yes Mdm. Chairperson. We can play this game you know.

**Mr. B. Williams:** You are sounding vex.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Victoria Primary School, yes Mdm. Chairperson and can you remind me of the other two?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Anns Grove Primary and Secondary Schools.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Anns Grove Primary School, yes Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** That would be the third one.

**Mr. B. Williams:** And Anns Grove Secondary. What is happening to my successor? Do you have that?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No Mdm. Chairperson, not Ann's Grove Secondary School.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Do you have Enmore Nursery School? Just answer.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Well Mr. Williams if you are finished asking the question you have to sit so the Hon. Minister...

**Mr. B. Williams:** This is the last question I am asking.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Mr. Williams please sit so that the Hon. Minister can stand to answer the question. The question Hon. Minister... [*Interruption*] Members, colleagues, Hon. Member, Mr. ... Hon. Attorney General, I know that we are getting a bit frazzle, it is late. Remember you can go outside at your convenience and have a cup of coffee or something light to eat and then come back. Hon. Minister, could you provide that answer, whether the Enmore... Is it the primary or secondary school Mr. Williams?

**Mr. B. Williams:** It is the nursery school.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Is Enmore Nursery School a part of the list of schools to be rehabilitated?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No, Mdm. Chairperson, it is not.

**Ms. Ally:** How can you leave out Enmore Nursery School?

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure, could the Hon. Minister state if whether the bridge located at the Covent Garden Primary School will be rehabilitated and what is the estimated cost?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The bridges are, Covent Garden Primary School - \$1.3 million...

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Covent Garden Primary School specifically.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Victoria Northbrook Nursery School - \$1.4 million and LBI Primary School - \$2,020,000.

**Ms. Ferguson:** Follow up. Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure - could the Hon. Minister say whether any provision under this allocation has been made for the

maintenance of school compounds in Georgetown, specifically North Ruimveldt Secondary School and others.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Unfortunately, the Region's budget does not take in the boundaries of Georgetown.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Might I respectfully refer the Hon. Minister to line item 6255 – Maintenance of other Infrastructure. Could the Hon. Minister say whether rehabilitation on the sanitary block at Plaisance Secondary School will be done under this Head?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Mr. Williams are you finished with the question.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Yes, sorry Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Maintenance of sanitary block at Mocha; Maintenance of sanitary blocks at Diamond Secondary School...

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Minister the question is a very specific question. Is the sanitary block at Plaisance Secondary School covered under that?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, I will answer this and then two minutes later I will be asked three more questions by the [inaudible] Hon. Member on this very list. If that is the way you want us to go I can go Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Member you cannot answer a question that has not been asked.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Very well Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** The question is confined to the Plaisance sanitary block.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** My apologies Mdm. Chairperson, the answer is yes.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Thank you and there is no need to apologise.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Follow up. Might I suggest respectfully that the Hon. Junior Minister assist the Senior Minister of Local Government, who is becoming somewhat tired.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Can I say thanks, but it is not necessary. Let the Hon. Member please not dictate to us what to do.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Well let us continue; Bro. Persaud let us continue. Could the Hon. Minister say whether the rehabilitation to the septic tank at the Blossom Scheme Nursery School at Enmore will be done under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson I have to find it.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Take your time.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No, Mdm. Chairperson, it is not catered for.

**Ms. Selman:** Line Item 6302 – Training (including Scholarships) - could the Minister tell us what is the nature of the training programmes and who will be the beneficiaries of these programmes?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The training will be for invigilators and supervisors for all of the examinations across the region; orientation workshops for newly appointed education officials at the various tiers of the system; orientation workshops and seminars for communities and child friendly schools; and parents’ workshops and seminars – school, home and community.

*Programme: 744 - Education Delivery - \$2,015,108,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 744 – Education Delivery – \$55,950,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Project 1203300 – Buildings - Education, could the Hon. Minister say what is the dimension and cost of the construction of the teachers’ quarters at Golden Grove and Low Wood, East Bank Demerara?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of nursery school at Golden Grove, 70x30 – cost \$19 million and construction of teachers’ quarters at Low Wood 24x12 - \$6.5 million.

**Ms. Selman:** What is the cost for the rehabilitation of the Saint Cuthberts Mission Primary School and the extension of the St. Marys Primary School?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Could the Hon. Member please repeat that question?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Saint Cuthberts and St. Marys, the cost of the rehabilitation. Did you also ask for the dimensions?

**Ms. Selman:** No, Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Just the cost.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Rehabilitation of schools, Saint Cuthberts Mission - \$9 million and extension of school, St. Marys Primary School, Soesdyke - \$9 million.

**Mr. B. Williams:** Might I respectfully refer the Hon. Minister to Project 2503400 – Purchase of Furniture and Equipment - Education, Project Profile Ref 305 and it reads as follows:

“The project includes purchase of school furniture and equipment such as types A,B,C and D desks and benches, screens and filing cabinets,...etc.”.

Might I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is proposed to supply the Golden Grove Primary School with furniture on this occasion, desks, chairs, benches and the likes?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** At this stage it is not programmed to do so, but I am certain that if a need arise, then that need will be responded to.

**Mr. B. Williams:** If the need arise? Follow up. If the need arises, what are you saying? The need exist. I have seen it with my own eyes. [Member: Did you request it?] It is requested; yes that is why I am asking. [Nandlall: Inaudible] It is in the request in the budget for the region.

Mdm. Chairperson I am directing my question to the Hon. Minister, I had the impression the Hon. Member is suggesting he could rectify that, notwithstanding it is not budgeted for. Is that an undertaking that we are having from you?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, I have said to the question, it is not here. You have advised me and correctly advised me that I only answer what is asked. Thank you Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** That is right. It is not there.

**Mr. B. Williams:** No compassion for the little children.

*Programme: 744 – Education Delivery - \$55,950,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 745 – Health Services - \$270,653,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Workers - could the Hon. Minister state the designations and emoluments of the two new contracted employees?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The designations are one Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and one Cook. The CEO is \$162,000 and the Cook is \$45,354.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructures - could the Hon. Minister indicate which infrastructure is to be maintained under this item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Installation of lights and signs at the C.C. Nicolson Hospital; installation of security lights at the Regional Health Office; rehabilitation of fence and driveway, Timehri; repairs to gate and security lights at Buxton Health Centre; rehabilitation of fence, landscaping walkway, drainage of compound and repairs to water supply system at the Supply Health Centre; rehabilitation of fence, landscaping concrete walkways, drainage of compounds and repairs to water supply system at the Lusignan Health Centre; rehabilitation of trestle, gate and fence at Silver Hill; installation of lighted signs and security lights at Melanie Health Centre; corrective maintenance to the plumbing network at Dora; repairs to fence and gate – Admin Office, Friendship; repairs to gate, repairs and installation of security lights, installation of lighted signs at Plaisance Health Centre; landscaping of compound at Timehri; repairs to gate, installation of security lights, installation of lighted signs at the BV Health Centre and corrective maintenance works to the plumbing network at KuruKururu.



**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings - could the Minister say how many buildings make up the complements used by the Ministry of Health in Region 4, under the Regional Health Service in Region 4 and could he also say, which buildings are slated for maintenance work during this year?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** In Region 4, there are twenty four Health Service buildings, that will benefit from the maintenance allocation in 2012: doctors quarters at Timehri; C.C. Nicholson Hospital at Nabaclis; Health Post at Yarrowkabra; Victoria Health Centre; Dora Health Post and living quarters; East Bank Demerara Regional Hospital; Mahaica Health Centre; Grove Health Centre and living quarters – Golden Grove; Supply Health Centre and Medex Quarters – Supply; Health Centre – Timehri; rehabilitation of living quarters at Cane Grove; rehabilitation of the Saint Cuthberts Mission Health Centre and living quarters and maintenance of living quarters at Mahaica.

**Mr. Jones:** Line item 6113 – Other Technical and Craft Skills. I see an indication of six new members of staff, could the Hon. Minister indicate their designation and emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two Midwives and four Community Health Workers (CHW).

**Mr. Jones:** What are their emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Midwives - \$57,383 and the CHW - \$52,045.

**Ms. Selman:** Line item 6281 – Security Services - could the Minister identify the security company and can you state the method used at arriving at the contracted company?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Could the Hon. Member please repeat the question?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** The name of the security service and the method used to identify them or the service.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Strategic Action Security Service. The company was selected from an open tender procurement procedure.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister tell us who the other bidders were?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** RK's Security Services, Brans Security Service and Home Safe Security and Domestic Service.

**Mr. Jones:** Follow up. Could the Hon. Minister please state the business address of this company?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Which company Mr. Jones?

**Mr. Jones:** The one that won most of the bids.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** The Strategic Action Security Services.

8.34 p.m.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Charlotte Street, Georgetown, Mdm. Chairperson.

*Programme: 745– Health Services – \$270,653,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 745 – Health Services – \$39,500,000**

**Ms. Selman:** Thank you, Mdm. Chairperson, Project Code 1203500: Can the Hon. Minister state the dimensions and cost for the rehabilitation of the Health Post and Medics Quarters at Mocha, East Bank and Low Wood?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The existing building is being rehabilitated in Mocha Arcadia and the cost is \$5 million.

**Ms. Selman:** Could the Hon. Minister further provide the breakdown of the remaining projects as described in the project profile, under the same project code?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of sheds in the waiting area – C.C. Nicholson Hospital; Cane Grove Health Centre; extension and land filling to the administrative building – Friendship, East Bank Demerara; construction of health post – Low Wood, Demerara River; enclosing of the ground floor of doctors' quarters – Friendship, East Bank Demerara.

**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 2506900: Could the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown, based on the items outlined, of the cost for each of these?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** What Project Code are you on?

**Ms. Selman:** Project Code 2506900 and it is on profile page 309.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** 1 set of orthopaedic instruments; a set of gynaecology instruments...

[**Mr. B. Williams:** What is that?] ...I do not know. 2 Infusion pumps; 1 chemical analyser; 1 ECG (electrocardiograph) machine; 1 oxygen gauge and 1 suction machine.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Member, Mr. Williams, do you have a question?

**Mr. B. Williams:** I do not think that the Hon. Minister was complete. He left out the category after gynaecology.

*Programme: 745– Health Services – \$39,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mdm. Chairperson:** That finishes Region 4. Members, we have three more regions. I sense that our Minister is tiring, as he ought to. Hon. Minister would you want a 10 or 15 minutes recess or do you want to proceed?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Not at this stage, Mdm. Chairperson. I think that we should continue.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Very well, but please remember that you just need to indicate to me if you feel that the strain is too much.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you very much, Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I will indicate to you if I feel that the strain is too much also.

**Agency: 75 – Region 5: Mahaica/Berbice**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 751 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$69,047,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Thank you, Mdm. Chairperson. Line item - 6116 Contracted Employees: Can the Hon. Minister say which category will receive the increase of 7 persons and what are their emoluments?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** 4 Typist Clerks with salaries at \$36,229, 3 Accounts Clerks – \$49,223.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6291 - National and Other Events: Who will benefit from the “National and Other Events”?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As the title suggests, “National and Other Events”, the allocation under line item 6291 is to participate, celebrate and commemorate the national events on the calendar.

*Programme: 751 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$69,047,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 751 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$3,000,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Thank you, Mdm. Chairperson. Project Code 2503900 - Office Furniture and Equipment: Which department will benefit from this supply?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** All of the departments that fall under the administrative programme.

**Ms. Wade:** As a follow-up, can you please identify them, Mr. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Regional Accounting Unit, the Tender Board Secretariat, the Personnel Department and the Registry Department.

*Programme: 751 – Regional Administration and Finance – \$3,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 752 – Agriculture – \$112,791,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6251 - Maintenance of Roads: Could the Hon. Minister say what criteria is being used to identify these roads where these works will be carried out? How much will be spent on each road?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** “The criteria for identifying roads”, in order to answer that we would have to go back to how we arrived at Budget 2012. It would have started with consultations at the various community levels, NDC levels, programme levels, discussion at the various sub-committees of the Regional Democratic Council (RDC), then approval by the RDC would be given, then it is forwarded to the Ministry of Local Government and to the various Ministries – in this case the Ministry of Agriculture, then to the Ministry of Finance – and then to our Honourable House.

With regards to the roads which will be identified: Market Road at Esau and Jacob, Burma; maintenance of road – Champagne, Mahaicony; maintenance of road – High Park, Mahaicony; maintenance of road – Rosignol/Zee Lust NDC; maintenance of road – Abary; maintenance of road – Novar/Dundee.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I think that the other part of the question was “How much” – the cost associated.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Sorry, Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** That is okay.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Esau and Jacob, Burma - \$4 million; Champagne - \$3 million, High Park - \$3 million; Rosignol/Zee Lust - \$2 million; Abary – \$3.5 million; Novar/Dundee - \$2.5 million.

**Ms. Wade:** Mdm. Chairperson, line item 6252 - Maintenance of Bridges: Where will these works be carried out and how much will be spent on each bridge?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Recess Village - \$2.5 million, Calcutta Village - \$2.5 million, Bush Lot Village - \$1.5 million, No. 11 Village - \$1 million.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6253: Could the Hon. Minister say where the irrigation works will be carried out and how much will be spent on the projects?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yankee Branch to Industry Canal - \$33,000; Bellamy to End of First Depth - \$49,500; Wash Clothes to Perth - \$120,000; Perth to Felicity - \$21,250; Perth Biabu to Grass Hook, Mahaica River - \$85,000; Mahaica River to Prospect - \$45,750; Mahaica River to Dantzig - \$45,500; Mahaica River to Belvidere - \$45,000; Cross Canal to Mahaicony Branch Road - \$45,000; End of First Depth to Bellamy Drain - \$58,350; Industry Canal to Bellamy Drain - \$63,350; Industry Canal to Bellamy Drain - \$63,950; Industry Canal to Bellamy Drain, again - \$59,800; Mahaicony River to Cottage - \$77,000; between Mahaicony River and Cottage - \$116,250; from Mahaicony River to Perth Biabu Canal - \$133,350; Wash Clothes to Mortice - \$58,350; No. 10, east to west, from Mahaica River to Mahaicony River - \$191,125; Handsome Tree to Industry Canal, behind Planters Hall - \$41,250; Yankee Canal to Handsome Tree Canal - \$39,500

**Mdm. Chairperson:** How many more do you have, Hon. Minister?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Two pages, Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Would you be prepared to have them copied and given to the Hon. Member?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, you said that I must not answer questions that were not put to me.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I am asking you. I am putting a question to you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes, Mdm. Chairperson. If you ask I definitely will.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I think that that would be a sensible alternative.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you very much.

*Programme: 752 – Agriculture – \$112,791,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 752 – Agriculture – \$75,000,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Thank you, Mdm. Chairperson. Project Code 1300900 - Drainage and Irrigation: Can the Hon. Minister please give the National Assembly a breakdown on how the money will be allocated in the various areas mentioned?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Re-engineering, construction of Cottage/Planters Hall Drain - \$18,400,000; rehabilitation and extension of Governor Light/Mokomoko Drain from Mahaicony River to Perth Biabu - \$14,700,000; construction of southern embankment at Wash Clothes Canal \$7.4 million; heightening of the embankment at Biabu/Grass Hook - \$6 million; rehabilitation of a sluice at Rutherford Canal, Mahaica - \$8.5 million; construction of heavy duty bridges at Wash Clothes Canal - \$5 million; construction of heavy duty bridges at Yankee Branch Canal - \$5 million; construction of heavy duty bridges at Biabu/Grass Hook - \$5 million and construction of heavy duty bridges at Dantzig/Columbia - \$5 million.

*Programme: 752 – Agriculture – \$75,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 753 – Public Works – \$94,709,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6242: Could the Hon. Minister name the buildings and provide a breakdown on how the money will be allocated to each project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Rehabilitation of Regional Accounting Unit, Building B, 291A, Fort Wellington - \$3 million; rehabilitation of Building B, 130, RDC Main Office - \$800,000; rehabilitation of Building B, 331, Regional Accounting Living Quarters - \$1.3 million; rehabilitation of Building B, 131, RDC Board Room - \$1 million; rehabilitation to RDC Sub-region Office No. 1 at Mahaicony - \$500,000; rehabilitation of Living Quarters of the Senior Regional Office, Fort Wellington - \$800,000; rehabilitation of Building B, 132, Living Quarters of the Senior Regional Officer, Fort Wellington - \$800,000 and rehabilitation to Building B, 289, Guest House - \$1 million.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6251: Could the Hon. Minister name the roads and provide a breakdown on how the money will be allocated to each project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** General rehabilitation to Burma Branch Road - \$9 million; general rehabilitation to De-Hoop Branch Road - \$6.5 million; general rehabilitation to eight cross streets in Bush Lot - \$7 million; general rehabilitation to Shieldstown Main Entrance - \$3 million; general rehabilitation to the first cross street in Cotton Tree - \$2.9 million; general rehabilitation to the first cross street in No. 8 Village - \$5 million; general rehabilitation to Forbes Avenue, Ithaca Village - \$3.6 million; general rehabilitation to Midwalk, Saint John Village - \$2 million; general rehabilitation to James Avenue, Perth/Mahaicony - \$4 million.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6281, Security Service: I have noticed that in 2010 and 2011, both times, the amounts were within \$22 million and \$25 million and for this year I notice that there is a zero. Can the Minister please explain?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, I think that you would advise that if there is a “zero allocation” there is zero discussion.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Well, if there is a zero... I know that you have been on your feet for a long time, up and down, but if you can indicate why there is no... Does it mean that we now have internal security or something like that?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** No, Mdm. Chairperson. It was because of project budgeting. What would have happened was the security personnel that were incorrectly being paid under Public Works should have been paid under Education and I think that they are correctly placed this time in this budget.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Thank you for that explanation.

*Programme: 753 – Public Works – \$94,709,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 753 – Public Works – \$87,000,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Project Code 1100600: Could the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown on how the money will be allocated to each project? We are speaking about bridges.



**Mr. G. Persaud:** Construction of RC structure at Recess, along Bellamy Canal - \$2 million; at Calcutta, along Bellamy Canal - \$3 million; Zorg en Hoop - \$3 million; Dundee - \$3 million; Tapin Street, Ithaca - \$3 million; First Street, El Dorado - \$3 million.

**Ms. Wade:** Project Code 1400800: Could the Hon. Minister say what criteria is being used in identifying the community roads? My reason for asking is, during my time in this National Assembly during the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament, I have been asking that there be a street next to the Coco Cabana, next to the Belladrum Bridge, and I have noticed that there is no provision to accommodate this street. I am wondering if the Minister could explain why it is that this street has not been allocated for.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mdm. Chairperson, can you please help me to identify the question?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** The question is: Why is there no road in the area of Coco Cabana... Which is the area, again, Ms. Wade?

**Ms. Wade:** No. What criteria are being used to identify these community roads?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** What criteria are being used to identify the community roads?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** As was explained earlier, the process starts from the community, goes through to the RDC and in that process they will prioritise. Whatever allocation is made will determine at what point on that list of priority the cut-off will be.

**Ms. Wade:** As a follow-up, I am glad that the Minister stated that it started from the community because this street was damaged by BK International Construction Company which went up and down that street to build the seawall. I think that with all fairness to that community, this street should at least be repaired.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** It is not a question but Ms. Wade has brought to your attention, Minister, for consideration and perhaps there could be a way, if there are supplementary provisions at some time... At least, Minister, it has been brought to your attention, officially.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Thank you, Mdm. Chairperson.

**Mr. Trotman:** Project code 1400800: There are a number of roads slated to be rehabilitated under this code. Can the Minister identify the specific cost attributed to every aspect of the works?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I do not want to believe what I think I interpret that question to be asking. May I ask the Hon. Member to please restate the question?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Member, would you be kind enough?

**Mr. Trotman:** Can the Minister, in relation to the items under this Project Heading which is identified for works, state what the costs are that are attributed to every aspect of the works that are identified here?

*9.04 p.m.*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I will answer based on my interpretation. Construction of street along Bellamy Canal - \$7.5 million, construction of Number 10 and Number 11 sidelines at Number 10 and Number 11 villages - \$6 million; construction of streets in Fort Wellington - \$7.7 million, upgrading of fourth cross street, Onderneeming - \$2.8 million, rehabilitation of eight cross streets in Sections A and B Bush Lot - \$9 million, upgrading of Health Centre street at Number 28 village - \$7.5 million, construction of first cross street and main entrance, Number 5 village - 4.5 million, construction of third cross street, Number 30 village - \$3 million and construction of streets in Ithaca - \$5 million.

*Programme: 753 – Public Works - \$87,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 754 – Education Delivery - \$846,127,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: Could the Hon. Minister identify the buildings which will be maintained and the amount of money which will be spent?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Number 5 Nursery School - \$550,000, Belladrum Nursery School - \$900,000, Zee Zight Nursery School - \$795,420, Number 8 Nursery School - \$800,000, Trafalgar Nursery

School - \$750,000, West End Nursery School - \$850,970, Blairmont Nursery School - \$900,000, Hopetown Nursery School - \$800,000, Salvation Army Nursery School - \$740,000, Linchfield Nursery - \$574,000, Bush Lot Secondary School - \$1,364,000, Rosignol Secondary School - \$2.1 million, Bygeval Secondary School - \$1.5 million, Mahaicony Secondary School - \$2.5 million, Number 8 Secondary School - \$1.8 million, Fort Wellington Secondary School - \$880,000, Hopetown Practical Instruction Centre (PIC) - \$832,000, Belladrum Secondary School - \$2.4 million, Rosignol Primary School - \$1.7 million, Latchmansingh Primary School - \$1.9 million, Novar Primary School - \$2 million, Strath Campbell Primary School - \$2.9 million, Ithaca Primary School - \$1.5 million, Number 5 Primary School - \$1.3 million, Woodley Park Primary School - \$900,000, Bath Primary School - \$1.8 million, Mahaicony Primary School - \$849,000, Calcutta Primary School - \$853,000, Linchfield Primary School - \$935,000, Blairmont Primary School - \$1.1 million, Hopetown Primary School - \$793,000 and teachers living quarters, Bygeval Secondary School - \$2.3 million.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6273 – Water Charges: Could the Hon. Minister say whether this \$7.5 million is for payment for water to be used by schools?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes Mdm. Chairperson.

**Ms. Wade:** Could the Hon. Minister say what does “Other” include here – the \$20 million?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Which is line item are we under?

**Ms. Wade:** It is line item 6284 – Other.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** At line item 6284, part-time cleaners are paid from this allocation. Outboard engine operators, supervisors and invigilators for examinations and part-time cooks at the hostel are being paid from this allocation as well.

*Programme: 754 – Education Delivery - \$846,127,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 754 – Education Delivery - \$66,100,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Project 2503800 - Furniture – Education: Could the Hon. Minister name the schools that will benefit from the allocations and the amount they will receive? If it is a long list, Madam, I will like if the Minister could provide the honourable House with the list.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Minister, the Hon. Member has asked that if the list that you are about to read is a long one, and I would ask you to use your discretion, that you provide it in writing. If it is not a long list, a verbal response will suffice.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is of two pages, Mdm. Chairperson. What should I do?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** You be the judge. You have the list in front of you.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Fort Wellington Secondary School, Rosignol Secondary School, Mahaicony Secondary School...

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Remember that the Hon. Member is also asking for the sums allocated. If you feel you want to read it..., if not, you can have it submitted to her.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** ‘B’ type furniture: Fort Wellington Secondary School – thirty pairs, Rosignol Secondary School – thirty pairs, Mahaicony Secondary School – thirty pairs; Novar Primary’s Secondary Department – ten pairs and Woodley Park Primary’s Secondary Department – ten pairs.

‘C’ type furniture: Novar Primary’s Secondary Department – ten pairs, Bath Primary School – twenty pairs, St. Francis Primary School – twenty pairs, Rosignol Primary School – twenty pairs and Cotton Field Tree Primary School – thirty pairs.

Combination chairs: Belladrum Secondary School – eighty, Bygeval Secondary School – eighty, Bush Lot Secondary School – forty, Number 8 Secondary School – fifty, Hopetown PIC, Industrial Arts Department – twenty and Hopetown PIC, Home Economics Department – twenty.

Teachers’ chairs: Fort Wellington Secondary School – eight, Rosignol Secondary School – eight, Mahaicony Secondary School – eight, Novar Primary’s Secondary Department – five, Belladrum Secondary School – eight, Bygeval Secondary School – eight and Bush Lot Primary School – five.

Teachers' table: Fort Wellington Secondary School – eight, Rosignol Secondary School – eight, Mahaicony Secondary School – eight, Novar Primary's Secondary Department – five, Belladrum Secondary School – eight, Bygeval Secondary – eight and Bush Lot Primary School – five.

School cupboards: Fort Wellington Secondary School, Rosignol Secondary School, Mahaicony Secondary School – five each, Novar Primary's Secondary Department – four, Belladrum Secondary School and Bygeval Secondary School – five each, Bush Lot Primary School – four, Number 8 Secondary – three and Woodley Park Primary School and Woodley Park Nursery School – two each.

Nursery sets: Gordon Nursery School – two, St. Francis Nursery School – three, West End Nursery School, Aparabelle Nursery School, Bush Lot Nursery School, Waterloo Nursery School, Bath Nursery School, Shield's Town Nursery School, Ithaca Nursery School – two sets each, Hopetown Nursery School – three, Cottage Nursery School – two, Carlton Hall Nursery School – one, De Hoop Nursery School – two, Perth, Strath Campbell and Mortis Nursery Schools – one set each, Liberty Hall Nursery, Cotton Tree Nursery and Zee Zight Nursery – two sets each, Number 8 and Number 5 Nursery School – one set each and Woodley Park Nursery School – two sets.

Chalkboard: Fort Wellington Secondary School, Rosignol Secondary School, Mahaicony Secondary School, Novar Primary's Secondary Department and Bygeval Secondary – three each.

Filing cabinets: Regional Executive Officer's office – one, Level Officers – four, one each, Information Technology Office – one and General Office – one.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Thank you very much for that exhaustive list.

**Mr. Trotman:** Project 1203600 - Buildings – Education – “Completion of drains and construction of annexes”: I wonder if the Minister can indicate to this House what the dimensions are of the drains to be done during this period. Could he also say what the dimensions of the annexes at Fort Wellington School and Rosignol Secondary School and Woodley Park Primary School are, which are to be completed?

**Mdm. Chairperson:** What are the names of the three schools?

**Mr. Trotman:** The three schools are Fort Wellington and Rosignol Secondary Schools and Woodley Park Primary School, and the costs associated with those works.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Fort Wellington Secondary School dimensions – eighty feet by thirty feet and it will cost \$18.5 million; Woodley Park – eighty feet by thirty feet and it will cost \$18.5 million; Rosignol Secondary School (annexe) – seventy feet by thirty feet and it will cost \$12 million and Number 8 Secondary School - \$6.5 million.

*Programme: 754 – Education Delivery - \$66,100,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 755 – Health Services - \$270,126,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: Could the Minister say the designations of the five new contracted employees and what are their emolument?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are one Driver, one Porter, one Nurse Aid, and two Accounts Clerks.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** The Hon. Member also asked for their emolument, Hon. Minister.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The emoluments are for Accounts Clerks - \$45,338, Nurse Aid - \$41,994, Porter – \$39,127 and the same for the vehicle driver – \$39,127.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: Could the Hon. Minister say whether the nurses living quarters, that is the hostel, in the Government compound at Fort Wellington is included for maintenance? If it is no, why is it not?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is not. These, which are listed, were found to be in higher priority than the one.

**Ms. Wade:** Hon. Minister, remember that nurses are travelling from as far as Mahaica. Line item 6242 - Maintenance of Buildings: Could the Hon. Minister identify the buildings and inform the House how much will be spent on each building?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are the hospital complex, that is at Mahaicony - \$3 million, hospital complex, Fort Wellington - \$3 million, living quarters, Mahaicony - \$1.5 million, living quarters, D 176, Mahaicony - \$1.3 million, living quarters, D 218, Mahaicony - \$1.2 million, living quarters, D 66, Mahaicony - \$1 million, living quarters, Mahaicony - \$800,000, Baiabu health centre and living quarters - \$1.5 million, living quarters, B 336, Fort Wellington - \$1 million, living quarters, B 237, health centre and living quarters, Ithaca - \$800,000, B 179, health centre and living quarters, Rosignol - \$800,000, D 34, health centre and living quarters at Strath Campbell - \$800,000.

**Ms. Wade:** Line item 6281 – Security Services: Could the Hon. Minister indicate to this National Assembly what is responsible for the almost six hundred per cent increase in the allocation? And could the Hon. Minister state whether there was a tendering process, which security firm was awarded the contract and how many sites are being covered?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Was the Hon. Member's observation at zero? Now the zero has become figures. So they are correctly placed.

**Mdm. Chairperson:** I think that the Hon. Member also asked other questions, in terms of the security service and how many buildings are being provided with security service.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are fifteen health facilities and the security company is Strategic Action Security Limited.

**Ms. Wade:** It is just a follow-up. Hon. Minister, could you please name the health facilities which are covered?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are Mahaicony Hospital, Belladrum Health Centre, Linchfield Health Centre, Number 28 Health Centre, Bush Lot Health Centre, the old as well as the new, Fort Wellington Hospital, Cotton Tree Health Centre, Rosignol Health Centre, Ithaca Health Centre and Dundee Health Centre.

*Programme: 755 – Health Services - \$270,126,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 755 – Health Services - \$36,000,000**

**Ms. Wade:** Project 1203700 - Buildings – Health: Could the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown of how the money will be allocated to each project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be for the extension and rehabilitation of centre at Fort Wellington Hospital - \$7,000,000, construction of reservoir and water filtering mechanism at Mahaicony Hospital - \$7,000,000, major rehabilitation and reconstruction of the central air conditioning network and unit at Mahaicony Hospital - \$7,000,000, completion of Bush Lot Health Centre - \$5,000,000.

*Programme: 755 – Health Services - \$36,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Mdm. Chairperson:** Hon. Members that completes consideration of the Estimates for Region 5. There are two regions left to go, Regions 6 and 7. I was trying to outlast the Hon. Minister. I must confess that I am unable to do so and there will now be a ten-minute adjournment. Let us come back, slightly refreshed, and seek to get through the other two outstanding regions.

*Assembly resumed.*

*Sitting suspended at 9.25 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed at 9.36 p.m.*

*Mr. Speaker in the Chair.*

**Mr. Speaker:** The session is resumed. I wish to, firstly, thank the Hon. Deputy Speaker, Mrs. Backer, for conducting the session so ably. I was getting reports. We will resolve in Committee of Supply.

*Assembly in Committee of Supply*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, it is twenty minutes to ten o' clock and there are two regions to be completed. You would appreciate that, I believe, because of the time of the night, and given the fact that we are all tired, we will be approaching this with some dispatch, the last two regions.



**Agency: 76 Region 6: East Berbice/Corentyne**

**Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 761 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$94,869,000**

**Dr. Ramayya:** I would like to ask the Hon. Minister a question concerning the administrative cost which in 2011...

**Mr. Ramjattan:** What is the line item?

**Dr. Ramayya:** It is line item 6111 – Administrative. In 2011, it was \$10,253,000 and in this budget it is \$7,961,000. What is the reason for the dramatic drop, as we know, we are progressing and there is supposed to be more administrative people? What is the reason for this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** A Principal Personnel Officer was transferred to the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security and Labour and an Assistant Secretary General was transferred to the Regional Administration Office, Region 8. The two positions are no longer on the establishment and that is the reason why there is a reduction.

**Dr. Ramayya:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: I am seeing here, for contracted workers, from twenty-four there is an increase to thirty-three. I would like to know the salaries for the increased number of those workers.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Typist Clerk 11 at a salary of \$36,229, one Office Assistant – \$33,207, one Clerk 11 General - \$41,980, one Deputy Regional Executive Officer - \$172,838, one Cook - \$36,229, one Revenue Runner - \$36,229, one Accountant - \$74,572 and one Accounts Clerk 11 - \$41,980.

*Programme: 761 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$94,869,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 761 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$6,000,000**

*Programme: 761 – Regional Administration and Finance - \$6,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 762 – Agriculture - \$416,422,000**

**Dr. Ramayya:** The question to the Hon. Minister is, for fuel and lubricants...

**Mr. Neendkumar:** What is the line item?

**Dr. Ramayya:** The line item is 6231 – Fuel and Lubricants. I just want to have an explanation for the amount allocated for fuel and lubricants for the number of vehicles in Region 6, where these vehicles are being used and how many of each type of vehicle is there in Region 6.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are four pickups at Whim, one Massey Ferguson tractor at Whim, one New Holland Tractor at Whim; a truck at Whim; a backhoe at Whim; motor grader at Whim; two Bobcats, one at the Whim Neighbourhood Democratic Council (NDC) Office and one at the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) Region 6 compound in New Amsterdam; three motorcycles at Whim, one John Deere pump at Number 43, one pump at Liverpool, one pump at Borlam, one at Seawall, one at Manarabisi, one pump at Canje (NDC), one at Eversham, one at Crabwood Creek NDC, one flow pump at Manarabisi and another flow pump at Mibikuri, five excavators, all at Whim, one durasan at Whim, one Massey Ferguson tractor at Whim..

*9.44 p.m.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, could you make that list available?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is the last item.

**Mr. Chairman:** Very well.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is one trailer at Whim.

**Dr. Ramayya:** A follow up. Line item 6253 - Maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation Works: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about maintenance of drainage and irrigation works and in which geographic areas the work will have to be done in 2012.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, again, I would ask, before you start to answer, if you have it listed and you are prepared to share that list, rather than go through it, we would appreciate that.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Will do.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Member, will you accept the list in written form?

**Dr. Ramayya:** Yes Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** It will serve you well on television. I had asked that any document being shared must pass through the Parliament Office, so that there could be a record and other Members who may wish to have access to those records, from time to time, may also. I have noticed that the document went straight across. So it is for identification purposes for tonight but if it could be sent up, a photocopy would be done for the Member and it will be sent back this evening. If it could be upfront, to the Clerk's desk, I would appreciate that.

*Programme: 762 – Agriculture – \$416,422,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 762 – Agriculture - \$127,000,000**

**Mr. Trotman:** Project 1301000 – Drainage and Irrigation: Could the Minister identify, for the benefit of this House, the cost associated with the various works that are to be carried out under this head?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be to excavate Number 51 main drainage canal - \$7.1 million, excavate Vryberg drainage canal - \$4.7 million, reconstruct Joanna cattle bridge - \$8.8 million, construct RC regulator with timber revetment at Manchester village - \$4.5 million, construct timber revetment, Zorg en Vlygt sluice - \$7.2 million, timber revetment at Plegt Anker access bridge – \$7.2 million, construct timber revetment, Orealla...

**Mr. Chairman:** Is it a two or three-page list that you have?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is two pages.

**Mr. Chairman:** Are you going through the entire two-page list?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am finished with one page, Mr. Chairman

**Mr. Chairman:** I am sorry, go ahead.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Timber revetment, Number 51 - Number 52 villages - \$6.1 million, construct back-lift at Lesbeholden - \$7.1 million, two timber bridges at Lesbeholden- \$14.5 million, reconstruct two timber bridges at Mibikuri - \$14.5 million, construct RC drainage structure at Sandvoort - \$8.5 million, timber revetment at Adventure village- \$3.9 million, timber bridge at Rotterdam - \$7.6 million, elevation, Manarabisi - \$5.5 million, sealing breaches at Belmont dam- \$5.9 million.

*Programme: 762 – Agriculture – \$127,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 763 – Public Works – \$143,770,000**

**Dr. Ramayya:** I would like to ask the Hon. Member, line item 6251 – Maintenance of Roads - what is the specific geographic areas of the roads which are to be maintained?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, before you answer could I proffer, perhaps a question that states, “Can a list of the roads be supplied?” In other words, if you start asking those questions..., because I presume that there is a list and if that list can be supplied to the Members...

**Dr. Ramayya:** By the same token, Mr. Chairman, the maintenance of bridges, if those...

**Mr. Chairman:** You would like to know which are the bridges in the region.

**Dr. Ramayya:** ...can that be supplied to us.

**Mr. Chairman:** I am sure that those are known in advance by the Ministry and if they are known they can be provided orally and in written form, and at this hour preferably in written form.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is available and the staff can collect it now.

**Mr. Chairman:** Dr. Ramayya, would that suffice you, to have them all?

*Programme: 763 – Public Works – \$143,770,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 763- Public Works - \$115,700,000**

*Programme: 763 – Public Works – \$115,700,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 764 - Education Delivery – \$1,922, 326,000**

**Dr. Ramayya:** Line item 6242 – Maintenance of Buildings: I would like the Hon. Minister to identify those buildings please.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, there is four pages.

**Mr. Chairman:** Please, if you be so kind as to supply those four pages to the Hon. Member. I am sure he would appreciate that a month from now, or so, if it come in written form.

**Mr. Trotman:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Minister identify the infrastructure which is to be maintained under this line item?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is one page. Should I go through?

**Mr. Chairman:** Go ahead.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The maintenance are Savannah Park Nursery School - \$2 million, Sheet Anchor Nursery School - \$500,000, Number 72 Nursery School - \$400,000, Alness Nursery School - \$300,000, Number 1 Reef Nursery School - \$400,000, Mount Sinai Nursery School - \$1.8 million, Viola Nursery School - \$700,000, Philippi Nursery School - \$200,000, Delphi Nursery School - \$300,000. Princeton Nursery School - \$400,000, Lesbeholden Nursery School -

\$200,000, Springlands Nursery School - \$200,000, Fryrish Village Nursery School - \$500,000, Hibiscus Nursery School - \$300,000, Number 54 Nursery - \$300,000;

Cropper Primary School - \$700,000, Number 56 Primary School - \$600,000, Cumberland Primary School - \$600,000, Wellington Park Primary School - \$100,000, Number School 43 Primary School - \$400,000, Rose Hall Town Primary School - \$600,000, Overwinning Primary School - \$500,000, Corriverton Primary School - \$800,000, Bohemia Primary School - \$300,000, Gibraltar Primary School - \$400,000, Fort Ordance Primary School - \$600,000;

New Amsterdam Secondary School - \$400,000, Canje Secondary School - \$2.5 million, Skeldon Line Path Secondary School - \$300,000, Skeldon (annexe) - \$400,000, Lower Corentyne Secondary School - \$100,000, Winifred Gaskin Memorial Secondary School - \$200,000 and New Amsterdam Practical Instruction Centre (PIC), Industrial Arts - \$200,000.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** Line item 6281- Security Services: Could the Hon. Minister indicate why is there this increase, from \$85 million to \$140 million, please? It looks like a heavy jump.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The increase is due to the increase in number of guards, from two hundred and three to three hundred and sixty-eight.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** This is for all of the locations in the ...

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is for the education sector, Mr. Chairman, in the region.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** Line item 6284 – Other - the \$43 million: What basically is that for?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This is for payment of supervisors and invigilators for all exams - Grade Two, Four and Six Assessment Examinations, Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) examination, and payment of part-time sweeper/cleaners.

**Dr. Ramayya:** Pertaining to the same question our parliamentarian asked about, Security Services, if the Minister can furnish us with that information as to how many persons are located at schools, if it is for twenty-four hours or if it is eight hours per day, because I will tell you, Mr. Chairman, that there are some places, at the schools, where there is no security, from the information I am getting, and, as a result of that, I know they will be a lot of schools. So if that information can be given to us, then I can do my own investigation.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** If I may. The Hon. Member Ms. Amna Ally requested this information and the Mdm. Chairperson stated then that this request, or this question, once it is in the same mode, should not be entertained. We have made a commitment to provide that information to the Hon. Member.

**Mr. Chairman:** Very well, but that would mean that Ms. Ally would have to share it.

**Hon. Members (Government):** It will go to the Clerk.

**Mr. Chairman:** It goes to the Clerk.

*Programme: 764 – Education Delivery – \$1,922,326,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

*Assembly resumed.*

**Mr. Speaker:** I now invite the Hon. Prime Minister to move a motion as it is now 10 p.m.

**Mr. Hinds:** I would like to move the motion that Standing Order 11 be suspended so that we could continue to the end of the scheduled business.

*Question put, and agreed to.*

*Standing Order suspended*

*Assembly in Committee of Supply.*

## **Capital Expenditure**

### **Programme: 764 - Education Delivery – \$53,500,000**

**Mr. Trotman:** Project 1203900 – Buildings – Education: Could the Minister state the individual cost of the works to be done under this project?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are Number 48 Primary School - \$6 million, construction of Albion Nursery School, front - \$9 million, construction of Glasgow Nursery School - \$9 million, extension of New Amsterdam Secondary - \$ 9 million, extension of Black Bush Polder Secondary School - \$1.5 million, extension of Skeldon Primary School - \$5 million.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, I am going to make a ruling now. Where ever information sought is contained in a list, in a document as that, I am going to ask you to hand it over, rather than having us spend five, or so, minutes going through it. Even at the rate at which you are going, it is difficult for a Member, who has asked, to write. I think it would be the Member's benefit, specifically, and to all of ours, generally, if it were to be shared.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Chairman, I support that with just one little reservation. Some of the documents, which we have here, have notes on them and we prefer to give clean copies.

**Mr. Chairman:** I was not going to say, or demand or expect, that you do so instantly, to the extent possible, and, of course, reasonableness has to apply.

**Ms. Teixeira:** I do not want to counteract your ruling, but I want us to remember in this House that people are watching these debates too and so people will want to hear that their schools or their roads are listed or not. We have to be careful, too, that, in some cases, we are not so brief that the public is not educated on what is going on either.

**Mr. Chairman:** The point is taken.

**Mr. Trotman:** Project 2504100 – Furniture and Equipment - Education: I wonder if the Minister can, for the benefit of this House, indicate the schools that will benefit from the purchase of furniture and other items here.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The schools are Line Path Nursery School, Ainess Nursery School, Williamsburg Nursery School, Adelphi Nursery School, Ankerville Nursery School, Canje Secondary School, Tutorial Academy, Manchester Secondary School, Winifred Gaskin Memorial Secondary School, Mibikuri Primary School, Yakusari Primary School, Number 56 Primary School, Edinburgh Primary School, Kildonan Primary School, Tain Primary School, Port Mourant Primary School, Albion Primary, Fryrish Primary School, Port Mourant Secondary School, Skeldon High School, Berbice Educational Institute, Low Corentyne Secondary School, New Market Primary School, Number 59 Primary School, Leeds Primary School, Gibraltar/Courtland Primary School, Sheet Anchor Nursery School, Bloomfield Nursery School, St. Mary's Nursery School, Sisters Nursery School, Skeldon Line Path Secondary School, Tagore Secondary School, J.C Chandisingh Secondary School, Tutorial Academy, Lesbeholden



Primary School, Bohemia Primary School, Springlands Primary School, Rose Hall Primary School, Cumberland Primary School, Number 72 Primary School, Kiltaria Nursery School, Manchester Nursery School, Viola Nursery School, Tain Nursery School, St. Mary's Nursery School, Fryrish Road Nursery School, Corriverton Primary School and Eversham Primary School.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think that is a good sample of the list. Please share that list, particularly with the Member who is asking.

*Programme: 764 – Education Delivery – \$53,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 765 - Health Services – \$946,181,000**

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, as you proceed bear in mind my ruling and the sound caveat put on it by the Hon. Member Ms. Teixeira. So we will do some and we will share some.

**Mr. Ramjattan:** Line item 6292 – Dietary - \$92 million: Could the Minister please share, in summary form, what that is all about for this region?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** This is to cater for in-patients at the Skeldon Hospital, Mibikuri Hospital, Fort Canje Hospital and the ophthalmology centre in the region.

*Programme: 765 – Health Services – \$946,181,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 765- Health Services - \$59, 500, 000**

*Programme: 765 – Health Services – \$59,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

#### **Agency: 77 Region 7: Cuyuni/ Mazaruni**

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 771 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$91,116,000**

**Dr. Norton:** These three line items, 6113 – Other Technical and Craft, 6114 – Clerical and Office Support and 6115 – Semi-Skilled Operatives and Unskilled, there is actually a reduction in the amount of employees there, according to the staffing details. Is it coincidental that the amount of money allocated remains the same to the exact figure? Could the Hon. Minister explain that?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There were three resignations under line item, 6113, Other Technical and Craft skilled, but those officers resigned early in the year 2011, so that the employment cost, reflected there, will meet the same cost in 2012. For line item 6114, Clerical and Office Support, there were the resignations for one Accounts Clerk and one Security Checker and that, in itself, because the resignations were early in the year, the sum, will cover cost for 2012. For line item 6115, Semi- Skilled Operatives and Unskilled, the same applies here - two Driver/Mechanics retired and one Store Attendant resigned.

**Ms. Hastings:** Line item 6116 - Contacted Employees: I see there is an increase of twelve. Could the Hon. Minister be kind enough to give up the designation of the first top seniors and their emolument?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They are two Driver/ Mechanic, two Captain/ Engineers, one Clerk II, General, one Stores Attendant, three Accounts Clerk, one Stores Clerk, one Office Assistant and one Typist/Clerk.

The monthly salaries for the top four persons are \$52,000, \$53,000, \$51,000 and \$43,000.

*Programme: 771- Regional Administration and Finance - \$91,116,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

**Capital Expenditure**

**Programme: 771 - Regional Administration and Finance - \$6,000, 000**

**Ms. Hastings:** Project – 2801300 - Other Equipment: I see here the “The project entails purchase and installation of solar lighting systems for Kamarang regional sub-office.” My information

tells me that there is already a solar system installed at this Kamarang sub-office. Could the Hon. Minister please explain?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes. The Hon. Member is correct. There are solar panels there, at the centre. This one is intended to complement what there is because of the additional equipment. A computer would be put there.

**Dr. Norton:** Project - 1204300 – Buildings - Administration: Could the Hon. Ministers say the details of the rehabilitation that will be undertaken at the regional administrative building at Kamarang?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The rehabilitation will be twenty-five feet by eighteen at the RDC building and it is intended to affect rehabilitation works on the following offices - the Ministry of Agriculture, the post office, General Registrar's Office, office of the Regional Vice Chairman, office of the Assistant Regional Executive Officer (AREO) and the support staff.

**Dr. Norton:** Project 2601900 - Furniture and Equipment - Administration: There is \$1.5 million which would be used for this, furniture and equipment, which includes the air conditioning unit. Of this amount, could the Hon. Minister say what will be the cost of that unit and where would it be installed?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will cost \$325,000 and it will be installed at the Regional Accounting Unit.

**Dr. Norton:** Where?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be at the Regional Accounting Unit, Bartica.

*Programme: 771- Regional Administration and Finance - \$6,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

**Programme: 772 - Public Works - \$155,282,000**

*10.14 p.m.*

**Dr. Norton:** Hon. Minister, from the answer you gave me, in the first current expenditure, I think, it might be safe to say that those contracted employees, the two, which the Ministry has been reduced by, would have lost their jobs or resigned at a very early time in the year, so that the amount would remain the same, as it was from, last year to this year. Is that the answer?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** I am sorry Hon. Member. That is not the answer. The answer is that a Civil Engineer has replaced an Overseer. So while the number, in itself, would be the same, the category would be more, in terms of remuneration.

**Dr. Norton:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister say what other infrastructure will be there for this increase in allocation?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Power generation facility Kamarang, power generation facility Waramadong, RDC's ramp, Bartica, water supply system, Kamarang, water supply system, Paruima, clearing of shrubs, bushes and compounds at Bartica, Kamarang, Kurupung, water supply system at Kaikan - those would be the projects.

**Dr. Norton:** Could the Hon. Minister say particularly why in the years gone by, 2010, 2011 there was no training, while here, in 2012, there is? Who specifically will be going to be trained?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The training under, the Public Works Department, is intended to expose the staff in the department to AutoCAD training and also the use of the computers.

**Mr. T. Williams:** Line item 6264 –Vehicles Spares and Service: Could the Hon. Minister say what vehicles are listed to benefit from this allocation for spares?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There are two double cab pickup trucks, three outboard engines, one front-end loader and one bobcat.

**Mr. T. Williams:** Just a follow-up. Could the Hon. Minister say if the tractor that takes garbage around the Bartica community, which we understand is kept on the road daily due to the genius of the driver, if there is any allocation in this budget for the repairs?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That tractor is not part of the RDC's asset. But, in fairness to the Hon. Member, the tractor belongs to the Neighbourhood Democratic Council.

*Programme: 772 – Public Work - \$155,282,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 772 – Public Works - \$41,000,000**

**Dr. Norton:** Project 1401100 – Roads: The “...rehabilitation of road and drains at Mongrippa Hill, Bartica”. Could the Hon. Minister say the type of surface that this road will entail and the distance of it?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be two thousand feet and it will be done with DBST.

**Mr. Chairman:** Spell it out for the benefit of persons, as myself, what that means.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It is Double Bituminous Surface Treatment.

**Mr. Chairman:** It sounds exciting.

**Dr. Norton:** Could the Hon. Minister say how many bridges are earmarked to be constructed as well as the material of the bridges, whether it is going to be cement or whatever, and where in Bartica?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There will be two bridges. One at Bartica, it will be a heavy-duty bridge; it will be concrete. The other is at the Bidrabu/Agatash and this will be also a concrete bridge.

**Dr. Norton:** Project 1500900 – Sea and River Defence: There is the revetment at Bidrabu waterfront. Could the Hon. Minister say what material will be used for this revetment and the dimension?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be seven hundred feet and the materials to be used will be sand and concrete.

**Mr. T. Williams:** This could be my last question for the evening. I took note that under the programmes 772, Public Works and 774, Health Services, I do not see anything that seeks to address the issue of garbage crisis in Bartica, under any sort of developmental heading. Could the Hon. Minister shed some light on this issue please?

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister, it would not properly fall under your remit, but if you could be gracious enough to just edify Members tonight where would the garbage situation locate itself.

**Mr. G. Persaud:** That is under the Neighbourhood Democratic Council. I want to assure the Hon. Member that the Ministry is addressing the garbage situation in Bartica.

*Programme: 772 – Public Works - \$41,000,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 773 – Education Delivery - \$753,835,000**

**Dr. Norton:** I am drawing the Minister's attention to line items 6111 – Administrative and 6112 – Senior Technical. Here, again, there is a reduction in the staff details of three and there is an increase of \$4 million in the line item 6111 and \$11 million in line item 6112. Could the Minister kindly explain this?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** The Ministry of Finance provided warrants during the year 2011 to meet administration cost. It is for that reason that the cost reflected under 2011 must be added to the warranted amount given by the Ministry of Finance. That is the reason why there is an increase in allocation although there is a decrease in staff.

**Dr. Norton:** Line item 6292 –Dietary: There is an increase of \$20 million. Could the Hon. Minister explain this increase?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is an increase enrolment at both dormitory facilities, at Bartica as well as at Waramadong Secondary School.

**Dr. Norton:** Could the Hon. Minister say, under line item 6281, why there is Security Services, the increase in the allocation to security services?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Additional security was provided at education facilities in the region.

**Ms. Hastings:** Line item 6255 – Maintenance of Other Infrastructure: Could the Hon. Minister name some of the buildings?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be the fence at Hill View Nursery School, St. Anthony's Primary School, Bartica, St. Anthony's Primary School (annexe), water supply system, Waramadong Secondary School, Bartica Secondary School, fencing, Waramadong Secondary School, fencing.

**Dr. Norton:** Could the Hon. Minister bear with me with this question, bearing in mind of what took place, not so long ago, with a school in the interior location where the sanitary block is concerned? Could the Hon. Minister say what kind of sanitary block is earmarked for construction?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be water closet (WC), six-compartment, twenty-two feet by ten feet.

*Programme: 773 – Education Delivery - \$753,835,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 773 – Education Delivery - \$53,500,000**

**Dr. Norton:** Project 2402100 – Land and Water Transport: Could the Hon. Minister say the power of the outboard engine and for which location?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be for a 40-horsepower (h.p.) engine.

**Dr. Norton:** For where?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be for the Upper Mazaruni.

**Ms. Hastings:** Project 1204100 – Buildings – Education: Could the Hon. Minister give us a breakdown for the allocations for the four projects?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be for primary school (annexe) at Philippi - \$9 million, dormitory facilities at Bartica - \$14 million, primary school, Upper Mazaruni - \$7 million. That is to accommodate the nursery classes.

**Mr. Chairman:** We have one more minute on this programme.

**Dr. Norton:** Could the Hon. Minister say, in the upgrading of the water supply system at the Waramadong Secondary School, if it entails the construction of overhead tanks and where would the source of water be from?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Yes. The project entails the construction of water trestles and installation of water tanks. Source of water would be from the river, there is a pipe in the community as well as from rainfall.

*Programme: 773 – Education Delivery - \$53,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Current Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 774 – Health Services – \$285,500,000**

**Dr. Norton:** Could the Hon. Minister say, under line item 6255, Maintenance of Other Infrastructure, what other infrastructure is there earmarked for that \$5 million increase?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be the fencing the following places: Bartica Hospital, Enachu Health compound, Issano Health Post, Batavia Health Post, Four Miles Health Post, water supply system at Kamarang Hospital, *mortuary* at Bartica Hospital, solar installation at Bartica Hospital and power supply at Bartica Hospital.

**Ms. Hastings:** Line item 6116 – Contracted Employees: There is an increase. Could the Hon. Minister give us the designations and the amounts?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** There is an increase by fourteen - four Health Centre Attendants, five Field Assistants, three Porters, two Medex.

*Programme: 774 – Health Services – \$285,500,000 agreed to and ordered to stand part of the Estimates.*

### **Capital Expenditure**

#### **Programme: 774 – Health Services - \$25,500,000**



**Dr. Norton:** Projects 2402100 – Land and Water Transport, “Purchase of boats and engines.”  
Could the Hon. Minister say the material of the boats and the power of the engines?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They will be aluminium boats with 40-horsepower (h.p.) engines.

**Ms. Hastings:** A follow-up on that. Could the Hon. Minister inform this House where those boats and engines will be assigned?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** They will be assigned at Philippi and Issano.

**Dr. Norton:** Project 2601800 – Furniture and Equipment – Health - particularly the electrocardiogram (ECG) machines, the hydrocollator machines and the patient monitors: For which hospitals are these equipment earmarked?

**Mr. G. Persaud:** It will be Kamarang and Bartica Hospitals, for all three pieces of equipment.

*Programme: 774 – Health Services - \$25,500,000 agreed and order to stand part of the Estimates.*

*Assembly resumed*

**Mr. G. Persaud:** Mr. Speaker, if I may. I wish to thank you very much, and also the Deputy Speaker, and Members from both sides of the House, as well as the Regional Executive Officers and their technical staff for helping us during this budget. Thank you very much.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you very much. It was a long session. Hon. Members, this now concludes our business for today. Before I invite the Hon. Prime Minister to move the adjournment motion, I am asking that the Clerk arranges the meeting of the Business Subcommittee for 1.30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon so that we could have a second look at the completion of these Estimates in a proper form.

**Mr. Hinds:** Mr. Speaker, I move that the House be adjourned to tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members, the House is adjourned until tomorrow at 2.00 p.m. Thank you and have a good night.

*Adjourned accordingly at 10.33 p.m.*