

SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

(Constituted under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Orders in Council, 1953 and 1956).

Monday, 22nd December, 1958

The Council met at 2 p.m.

PRESENT :

Speaker, His Honour Sir Donald Jackson

Chief Secretary, Hon. M. S. Porcher (acting)

ex officio

Financial Secretary, Hon. F. W. Essex.

The Honourable **Dr. C. B. Jagan**—*Member for Eastern Berbice*

(Minister of Trade and Industry)

„ **B. H. Benn** —*Member for Essequibo River*

(Minister of Community Development and Education)

„ „ **E. B. Beharry** —*Member for Eastern Demerara*

(Minister of Natural Resources)

„ „ **Janet Jagan** —*Member for Western Essequibo*

(Minister of Labour, Health and Housing)

„ „ **Ram Karran** —*Member for Demerara-Essequibo*

(Minister of Communications and Works).

Mr. R. B. Gajraj —*Nominated Member*

„ **R. C. Tello** —*Nominated Member*

„ **S. Campbell** —*Member for North Western District*

„ **A. L. Jackson** —*Member for Georgetown North*

„ **B. S. Rai** —*Member for Central Demerara*

„ **S. M. Saffee** —*Member for Western Berbice*

„ **Ajodha Singh** —*Member for Berbice River*

„ **R. E. Davis** —*Nominated Member*

„ **A. M. Fredericks** —*Nominated Member*

„ **H. J. M. Hubbard** —*Nominated Member*

„ **A. G. Tasker, O.B.E.** —*Nominated Member.*

Mr. E. V. Viapree—Clerk of the Legislature (acting)

Mr. F. A. Narain—Assistant Clerk of the Legislature (acting).

ABSENT :

The Attorney-General, Hon. A. M. I. Austin, Q.C.—indisposed.

Mr. F. Bowman

Mr. B. S. Rai — on leave

Mr. W. O. R. Kendall

Mr. L. F. S. Burnham

Mr. Jai Narine Singh.

The Clerk read prayers.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday, 9th December, 1958, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEAVE TO MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker : I have two announcements to make. One is that the hon. the Attorney-General is recovering from indisposition and has asked to be excused from today's meeting. The other is that the hon. Member for Central Demerara (Mr. Rai) is unavoidably absent through a pressing prior engagement.

PAPERS LAID

The Chief Secretary (Mr. Porcher, acting) : I beg to lay on the Table:

Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Lethem Trade Store for the period 1st January, 1957, to the 6th January, 1958.

Report of the Director of Audit on the Accounts of the Imbaimadai Trade Store for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

The Financial Secretary (Mr. Essex) : I beg to lay on the Table:

Order in Council No. 71 of 1958 made under Section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 24th day of November, 1958, and published in the Gazette on the 6th of December, 1958.

Report of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 12th September, 1958, covering the Supplementary Schedules of Expenditure for August, 1958 (Recurrent and Development).

Mr. Speaker: The Question is, that the Report of the Finance Committee laid by the Financial Secretary be adopted.

Agreed to.

The Minister of Trade and Industry (Dr. Jagan): I beg to lay on the Table:

Report of the Rice Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor on 2nd November, 1957.

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran) : I beg to lay on the Table:

Report of the Transport and Harbours Department for the year 1957.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES
MOTIONS

The Financial Secretary: I beg to give notice of the following Motions:

Be it resolved. That this Council in terms of Section 9 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, confirms Order in Council No. 71 of 1958, which was made on the 24th day of November, 1958, and published in the Gazette on the 6th of December, 1958.

RECURRENT AND DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE, 1959

Be it resolved: That pending the passing of the 1959 Estimates, this Council approves of such expenditure for Recurrent and Development Expenditure in 1959 as may be required for the maintenance of existing services and the continuance of works in progress on the basis approved by this Council in the Annual and Supplementary Estimates for the year 1958.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS (TEMPORARY
REGISTRATION) ORDINANCE

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I beg to give notice of the following Motions:

"Whereas the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, Chapter 135, came into operation on the 26th July, 1947; and

Whereas Section 5 of the said Ordinance provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st December, 1951, but that the Legislative Council may, prior to the expiration of the Ordinance, by resolution (which resolution shall be published in the Gazette) declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the date of that expiration, and may from time to time, prior to the expiration of that or any further continued operation, similarly declare that it shall continue for a further period of one year; and

Whereas by the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) (Extension) Ordinance, 1954 (No. 6), the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, Chapter 135, has been continued in force by resolution of the Legislative Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 thereof for the period commencing on the 1st January, 1956, and ending on 31st December, 1956; and

Whereas the Legislative Council have thereafter from time to time in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 aforesaid by resolution declared that the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance shall continue in force; and

Whereas the said Ordinance is due to expire on the 31st December, 1958; and Whereas it is desirable that the said Ordinance should continue in operation for a further period;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Medical Practitioners (Temporary Registration) Ordinance, Chapter 135, shall continue in force for a further period of one year from the 1st January, 1959."

CONTINUANCE OF RENT RESTRICTION ORDINANCE

"Whereas the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, came into operation on the 8th day of November, 1941; and

Whereas section 33 of the said Ordinance, provides that the Ordinance shall continue in force up to and including the 31st day of December, 1951, but that prior to the expiration thereof, the Legislative Council may, by Resolution published in the Gazette, declare that the said Ordinance shall continue in operation for a further period of one year; and

Whereas the said Ordinance has been continued in operation until the 31st December, 1958, and

Whereas it is considered expedient that the said Ordinance shall be continued in operation for a further period of one year;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Rent Restriction Ordinance, Chapter 186, shall continue in force for a further period of one year up to and including the 31st day of December, 1959."

PETITION

PRAKASH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY BILL

The Clerk read the following petition:—

"To His Honour the Speaker and the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council.

The humble petition of Lalpat Kawall, of 110 Duke Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Merchant, Somwaru Muneshwar, of 56 Main Street, Georgetown, Merchant, Jairam Bissessar, of Kitty, East Coast, Demerara, Medical Practitioner, Prabhu Mahase Boodhoo, of 48 Anira Street,

Queenstown, Georgetown, Merchant, Alfred Seetaram Chiekrie, of 91, Middle Street, Georgetown, Medical Practitioner, Thakur Persaud, of 48 High Street, Kingston, Georgetown, Merchant, and Amar Nauth Muneshwer, of Main Street, Georgetown, Merchant.

Respectfully sheweth:—

1. That Your Petitioners are desirous of establishing a company to be called the Prakash Life Assurance Company, Limited.

2. That Your Petitioners propose that the said company shall have an authorised capital of five hundred thousand dollars.

3. That the object of the company shall be to carry on the business of life assurance in all forms, including life assurance with sickness, accident and disability benefits.

Wherefore Your Petitioners humbly pray that the Honourable Legislative Council may be pleased to grant permission for a Bill to be introduced by Mr. H. J. M. Hubbard intitled "The Prakash Life Assurance Company Ordinance" to make provisions for establishing the said company.

And Your Petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

(Sgd.) L. Kawall, S. Muneshwer, J. Bissessar, P. M. Boodhoo, A. S. Chiekrie, Thakur Persaud, A. N. Muneshwer.

Demerara,
16th December, 1958."

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, the Question is, that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

Agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

The Minister of Community Development and Education (Mr. Benn): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the following Bill:

Indian Labour (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

The Minister of Labour, Health and Housing (Mrs. Jagan): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the following Bill:

Antibiotics (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

The Minister of Communications and Works (Mr. Ram Karran): I beg to give notice of the introduction and First Reading of the following Bill:

New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order (Extension) (Amendment) Bill, 1958.

MOTION — DECEMBER 27 A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Mr. Tello: I would like to inform the Council that I propose at a later stage to invoke the provision of Standing Order No. 24 to permit me to move the Motion of which I gave notice on the 18th inst.

Mr. Speaker: I shall have to ascertain the wishes of the Council on the matter, and that will be done after the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

BILLS — FIRST READING

The following Bills were read the First time:

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Indian Labour Ordinance".

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Antibiotics Ordinance to provide for certain exemptions".

A Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order (Extension) Ordinance, 1957."

MOTION — DECEMBER 27 A PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Mr. Tello: Under the provisions of Standing Order No. 24, I am seeking permission to dispense with notice in order to move the Motion to which I referred a few moments ago.

Mr. Speaker: You have first to get the consent of Members. Hon. Members, the hon. Nominated Member is seeking the consent of this Council to proceed by Motion without notice. I take it that hon. Members have copies of the Motion. I shall read it—

"Whereas Section 6 of the Public Holidays Ordinance, Chapter 61, provides that the Governor in Council may by

notification in the Gazette appoint any day to be observed as a public holiday in addition to or in substitution for any day mentioned in Section 3 of the Ordinance:

Be it resolved: That this Council recommends to the Governor in Council that Saturday, the 27th of December, 1958, be declared a Public Holiday."

Before the Motion can be proceeded with the hon. Member must obtain the consent of the Speaker and the Members of this Council. He is now seeking that consent. I personally will abide by what the Council decides. The decision must be unanimous. I will put the Question: Those in favour will say "Aye"; those against will say "No."

The decision is not unanimous, therefore the Motion cannot be taken. I think that is all the business.

The Chief Secretary: I move that Council adjourn to Monday, 29th December, when it is hoped to dispose of the Bills of which notice was given today.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Mr. Gairaj: I am sure hon. Members will wish to join me in extending to Your Honour, Lady Jackson and family our best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Mr. Speaker: I thank you very much. I wish to take this opportunity of wishing all Members of this Council and their families a very happy time during the Christmas Season. I do sincerely hope, and I have every confidence, that nothing will occur in order to mar their enjoyment of the holidays in proper fashion.

We shall meet again before the New Year. When we meet we shall be, I hope, in even a far better position to wish one another the best wishes for the New Year, for we shall have survived the Christmas Season.

This meeting is adjourned to next Monday, 29th December, 1958, at 2 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2.30 p.m.