

53. Introduction and First Reading of Government Bills

- (1) Except as provided in paragraph three (3) of this Standing Order any Member may move for leave to introduce a Bill of which he or she has given notice but a Bill may be presented to the Assembly on behalf of the Government after notice without an order of the Assembly for its introduction.
- (2) A notice of the presentation of a Bill on behalf of the Government may be entered on the Order Paper for the day of the Sitting on which the Bill is to be presented.
- (3) Except on the recommendation or with the consent of the Cabinet signified by a Minister, the Assembly shall not proceed upon any Bill (including any amendment to a Bill) which, in the opinion of the person presiding, makes provision for any of the following purposes :-
 - (a) for imposing or increasing any tax;
 - (b) for imposing any charge upon the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Guyana or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it;
 - (c) for the payment, issue or withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Guyana or any moneys not charged thereon or any increase in the amount of such a payment, issue or withdrawal; or
 - (d) for compounding or remitting any debt due to Guyana.

54. Appointment of Days for Stages of Bills

- (1) After a Bill has been introduced and read a first time, the Member in charge may either:
 - [a] name a day to be appointed for the next stage of the Bill, provided an interval of not less than six (6) days must elapse between the first and second reading of a Bill, unless the Assembly, on motion made and question put, agree to proceed with the Bill at an earlier date; or
 - [b] move that the Bill be referred to a Sectoral Committee for consideration and report; or
 - [c] move that the Bill be referred to a Special Select Committee for consideration and report.
- (2) No Bill shall be read a second time before the expiration of six (6) days from the date of its publication in the Gazette and until it has been printed and circulated to Members.

55. Printing and Circulation of Bills

- (1) The Clerk shall be responsible for the printing of Bills from the draft handed to him or her by the Member in charge of the Bill and before any Bill is printed, he or she shall satisfy himself or herself that: -
 - (a) the Bill is divided into successive clauses numbered consecutively;
 - (b) the Bill has in the margin a short summary of each clause; and
 - (c) the provisions of the Bill do not go beyond its title.
- (2) As soon as possible after the printing of a Bill the Clerk shall circulate a copy to every Member. The Bill may be accompanied by a short explanatory memorandum of the contents and objects of the Bill.

The Clerk shall as soon as possible cause every Bill to be published in the Gazette.

56. Procedure after Presentation of Report of Sectoral/ Special Select Committee

- (1) When a Bill has been referred to a Sectoral or Special Select Committee in accordance with Standing Order No. 54, the Committee may circulate the Bill for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.
- (2) After presentation of the final report by the Committee the Member in charge may move that the Bill, as reported by the Sectoral or Special Select Committee as the case may be, be read a second time, provided that copies of the report of the Sectoral or Special Select Committee, as the case may be, have been made available to Members for at least six (6) days before the day on which the motion is made.
- (3) When a Committee's Report on a Bill is so tabled, the Bill will be placed on the Order Paper for a second reading at which time the Bill and the proposed amendments, if any, in the report form part of the debate. The Bill goes through the second and third readings.

57. Second Reading of Bills

- (1) On the second reading of a Bill a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.
- (2) To the question "That the Bill be now read a second time" an amendment may be proposed to leave out the word "now" and add at the end of the question "upon this day six months", or an amendment may be moved to leave out all the words after the word "That" in order to add words stating the object and motive on which the opposition to the Bill is based, but such words must be strictly relevant to the Bill and not deal with its details.

75. Procedure in Committee of Supply

- (1) On consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure in Committee of Supply, each Head of Expenditure shall be considered with the appropriate details, and any reference in these Standing Orders to a Sub-Head or an item means a Sub-Head or an item in the Estimates for the Head then under discussion.
- (2) On the consideration of the Estimates the Chairperson shall call the title of each Head of Expenditure in turn, and shall propose the question "That the sum of \$..... for Head stand part of the Estimates" and unless an amendment is proposed under the provisions of the next Standing Order, a debate may take place on that question. Any such debate shall be confined to the policy of the service for which the money is to be provided and shall not deal with the details of any item or Sub-Head but may refer to the details of revenues or funds for which that service is responsible.
- (3) When the question upon every Head of the Estimates has been decided, the Chairperson shall put the question to the Committee that the Estimates (or the Estimates as amended) be reported to the Assembly, which question shall be decided without amendment or debate. Upon such question being agreed to, the Assembly shall resume, and the Minister in charge of the Estimates shall report it to the Assembly.

76. Amendments to Heads of Estimates of Committee of Supply

- (1) No amendment shall be moved in the Committee of Supply under this Standing Order until one day after that on which it was published in the Notice Paper.
- (2) An amendment to any Head of Expenditure to increase the sum allotted thereto whether in respect of any item or Sub-Head or of the Head itself may only be moved by a Minister who shall signify to the Committee the recommendation or the consent of the Cabinet to the increase. Every such amendment shall take the form of a motion "That Head be increased by \$..... in respect of Sub-Head Item".
- (3) An amendment to increase a Head whether in respect of any item or Sub-Head or of the Head itself shall take precedence over an amendment to reduce the Head in the same respect, and if it is carried no amendment to reduce the Head in that respect, shall be called.
- (4) An amendment to any Head of Expenditure to reduce the sum allotted thereto in respect of any item therein may be moved by any Member, and shall take the form of a motion "That Head be reduced by \$..... in respect of (or by leaving out) Sub-Head, Item".
- (5) Any amendment to reduce a head in respect of any Sub-Head or by leaving a Sub-Head shall only be in order if the Sub-Head is not itemized.