PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS


   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Written Answer will appear in Appendix I

Question for Oral Answer

Question No. 68 to the Minister of Finance:

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

Could the Minister state what measures would be instituted to ensure citizens can access forex in 2021 to import goods and raw materials as well as meet other personal needs such as foreign tuition expenses?

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. WHEREAS it is provided by section 38(1) of the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing requirements and standards for tobacco product constituents, including emissions of smoked products, additives and product design and specifying methods for testing and measuring compliance with the performance prescribed and generally for carrying out the purpose of this Act;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 38(1) of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has on the 29th day of May, 2019 made the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”);

AND WHEREAS the Regulations were laid in the House of Representatives on the 14th day of October, 2020;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Regulations now be approved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 be approved.

(By the Minister of Health)

2. WHEREAS it is provided by section 4 of the Quarantine Act, Chap. 28:05 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Minister of Health may make Regulations, with respect to the whole or any part of Trinidad and Tobago, including the ports and coastal waters thereof, for preventing;

(a) danger to public health from ships or aircraft or persons or things therein, arriving at any place; and

(b) the spread of infection by means of any ship or aircraft about to leave any place, or by means of any person or thing;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by the said section 4 of the Act, that Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has on the 4th day of February, 2021 made the Quarantine (Maritime) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”);
AND WHEREAS the Regulations were laid in the House of Representatives on the 5th day of February, 2021;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Regulations:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Quarantine (Maritime) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 be approved.

(By the Minister of Health)

Bills Second Reading:

1. The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 5, 2021 will be resumed:

A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02”.

(by the Attorney General)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Special Reserve Police Act, Chap. 15:03 and the Police Complaints Authority Act, Chap. 15:05 to strengthen the operations of the Police Complaints Authority and its relationship with the Special Reserve Police Act and matters related thereto”.

(by the Attorney General)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Government to provide equal and equitable opportunities for all citizens to access quality education;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the existing inequities in accessing education exacerbated by the shift to virtual learning;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to effectively manage resources to facilitate adequate funding to the GATE program, government sponsored scholarships, school feeding programme, and other school related services:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House takes note of the increasing and unacceptable levels of disparity in inequitable access to education;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls on the Government to take all immediate and necessary steps to provide equitable access to all students.

(By the Member for Tabaquite)

2. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday November 27, 2020 will be resumed:

WHEREAS it is the Government’s responsibility to ensure the public safety and security of the citizenry;
AND WHEREAS the Government has failed in its management of the organs responsible for intelligence, under-resourced the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution and cut the budget of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service which led to low detection and conviction rates;

AND WHEREAS thousands of citizens and businesses have been negatively affected by the high level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, there has been an increase in the number of cases of domestic violence:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn the Government for its failure to effectively address the unacceptable and serious crime level affecting law-abiding citizens.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat
Red House
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PORT OF SPAIN

February 8, 2021
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 70 to the Minister of Health:
(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Could the Minister provide:

a) the categories and estimated number of citizens who will receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available;
b) the process to identify and notify citizens that they have been selected to receive the vaccine; and
c) the process for the storage, distribution and administration of the vaccine?

(Answer due by 10.02.2021)

Question No. 71 to the Minister of Health:
(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to each COVID-19 positive patient who died and without compromising patient confidentiality, could the Minister provide:

a) the age;
b) the gender;
c) the hospital and duration of hospital stay;
d) the duration of ICU stay; and
e) any comorbidity of condition(s)?

(Answer due by 10.02.2021)
The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 26 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Prime Minister.

1. In light of the public pronouncement by the Minister of National Security to deploy the use of electronic bracelets in the fight against crime especially in the sphere of domestic violence, can the Prime Minister advise the House of the current status of this said initiative?  
   (By the Member for Chaguanas East)

2. Given the recent pronouncements by the Minister of Finance that the Government cannot afford to pay any wage increases without affecting the levels of employment, could the Prime Minister inform this House if the Government has instituted a formal wage/salary freeze in the public sector?  
   (By the Member for Couva South)

3. Could the Prime Minister explain to the House why Trinidad and Tobago is only able to vaccinate a mere 5% of its population in the first phase of its COVID-19 vaccination programme?  
   (By the Member for Naparima)

4. In light of the deteriorating economic conditions and the worsening situation surrounding the availability of foreign exchange, could the Prime Minister provide this House with an update on the bid by Patriotic Energies and Technologies Company to acquire the assets of both the Pointe-a-Pierre Refinery and the Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited?  
   (By the Member For Pointe-a- Pierre)

5. Could the Prime Minister inform this House when will the Buccoo Reef fast ferry, which cost the taxpayers approximately TT$500,000,000 and returned to Hobart, Australia during its maiden voyage, set sail for Trinidad and Tobago?  
   (By the Member for Couva South)

6. Has the government considered approaching any foreign government for donations of COVID-19 vaccines?  
   (Member for Oropouche East)
7. Could the Prime Minister inform this House of the status of the Cabinet Sub Committee's Report to review the operations of the Water and Sewerage Authority; which was supposed to have been completed by November 30, 2020?  
   (By the Member for Couva South)

8. In light of recent deaths of citizens in purported shootouts with the police which has increased by 86% in 2020 as well as the reports that two (2) persons died this week while in police custody, could the Prime Minister provide an update on the policy for the use of body cameras by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service?  
   (By the Member for Naparima)

9. In light of the exponential increase in debt-to-GDP ratio which stands at 80 per cent, could the Prime Minister inform the House what immediate steps will be taken to reduce this mounting and unsustainable level of debt?  
   (By the Member for Naparima)

10. In light of the Government's recent decision to approve the use of pepper spray as well as tasers for our women and girls, could the Prime Minister inform this House when will this measure take effect and what mechanisms will be deployed for their distribution?  
    (By the Member for St. Augustine)

11. Could the Prime Minister provide this House with the reasons for the sudden replacement of the entire Board of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, given that the board had one more year to serve?  
    (By the Member for St. Augustine)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat  
The Red House  
Abercromby Street  
PORT OF SPAIN  

February 12, 2021
The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. To the Minister of Works and Transport:
   Could the Minister update the country on measures to regulate the operations of the “PH taxis”?
   (By the Member for Oropouche East)

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February 12, 2021