SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-THIRD SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2020/2021)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

1. PRAYERS

2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

5. PETITIONS

6. PAPERS

       (By the Minister of Works and Transport)

        (By the Minister of Finance)

        (By the Minister of Finance)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer
Question No. 98 to the Minister of Health  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
As regard COVID-19 vaccines from the Serum Institute of India, can the Minister indicate:  
(i) when will the Government be approaching the Government of India for a donation of 460,000 vaccines; and  
(ii) when will an order be placed with the institute for the supply of additional vaccines to meet the needs of the population?

Question No. 99 to the Minister of Health  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Can the Minister advise whether Smith Robertson is the agent of the Government for the importation of the COVID-19 vaccines?

Question No. 100 to the Minister of Finance  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
In light of a recent survey conducted by the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce which highlighted a deepening shortage of foreign exchange in the market, can the Minister indicate what specific measures are being employed by the Government to address this situation?

*Question No. 127 to the Minister of Finance  
(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)  
Given a 2021 report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) which highlights significant financial losses to this country as a result of transfer pricing in the energy industry, can the Minister indicate:  
(i) what measures, if any, are being taken to recover said losses;  
(ii) whether the Government is considering the introduction of legislation to guard against transfer pricing; and  
(iii) if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, when will said legislation be brought to Parliament?

10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS
13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS  
       (By the Attorney General)
14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

* Question No. 127 was deferred for two weeks on 13.04.2021
Bills Second Reading:

(i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28’.  
(By the Attorney General)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Special Reserve Police Act, Chap. 15:03 and the Police Complaints Authority Act, Chap. 15:05’.  
(By the Attorney General)

(iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, Chap. 11:24’.  
(By the Attorney General)

(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

(By the Minister of Labour)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 27, 2021 will be resumed:

WHEREAS the statistics on violent crimes against women and girls have been widely reported by the TTPS from late 2020 to present;

AND WHEREAS said reports have garnered nationwide focus and given rise to several accounts of similar experiences by women, whose cases have not been followed-up and solved by Police;

AND WHEREAS the public has consistently called for the passage of legislation and improvements to the service delivery of public agencies in relation to, inter alia, non-lethal weapons, transportation and judicial process, to support the protection of women and girls against violent crimes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to critically assess the deficiencies in the current systems to deal with the incidence of violent crimes against women and girls;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government present to the Parliament, within three (3) months, a legislative agenda and policy implementation plan to more effectively address the rising incidence of violence against women and girls.  
(By Senator Paul Richards)

(ii) WHEREAS the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 provides for the establishment of commissions to manage the conduct of enquiries into public officers, departments and matters of public welfare;

AND WHEREAS Commissions of Enquiry are recognized as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delivering truth, justice and social or organizational reform, and a device for inquiring into and ameliorating matters of public concern;

AND WHEREAS successive Government administrations have failed to adequately address public concerns which have arisen from time to time on whether the Commissions of Enquiry in Trinidad and Tobago have been effectively and efficiently carrying out their mandate;
BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Commissions of
Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 and the public inquiry process in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

(iii) WHEREAS availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the
private sector and a shortage of foreign exchange can hamper prospects for diversification and
economic recovery aspired to in the fiscal strategy outlined in Budget 2020/2021;
AND WHEREAS the revenue received from foreign energy companies has been on the decline
since 2015 and is now exacerbated by the negative socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19
pandemic;
AND WHEREAS it is recognised that micro, small and medium-sized businesses and the wider
population continue to experience the negative effects of decreasing levels of foreign exchange in
Trinidad and Tobago;
BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, within three (3) months, a
comprehensive strategy to address the negative socio-economic impacts being experienced by
micro, small and medium sized businesses and the wider public owing to ongoing shortages in
foreign exchange in this country.
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

(iv) WHEREAS the Senate, as a House of Parliament, ought to afford Members such freedom of
debate so as to allow full, frank and meaningful discussion within the constraints of the Standing
Orders and well established parliamentary practice;
AND WHEREAS the position and authority of the President of the Senate ought not to be used
in a partisan manner to prevent and or stymie criticism of the Government;
AND WHEREAS the Senate President is the servant of the Senate and not of the Government
and as such ought to be impartial and unbiased at all times;
AND WHEREAS the President of the Senate by her rulings has demonstrated her bias in favor of
the PNM Government and her lack of understanding of the nature and role of the Office of
President of the Senate;
AND WHEREAS by her actions the Senate President has stifled the freedom of debate guaranteed
by the Constitution and thus brought this Senate into disrepute;
BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate declare that it has lost confidence in the President of the
Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo.
(By Senator Wade Mark)

(v) WHEREAS on April 24, 2018 the Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on the
Government “to introduce legislation on parliamentary autonomy during the Fourth Session of the Eleventh
Parliament and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report before the
end of the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament”;
AND WHEREAS on February 12, 2019, in the Senate, the Attorney General committed to making
best efforts to have legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy introduced in the Fourth Session of the
Eleventh Parliament;
AND WHEREAS to date the Government has not presented to Parliament a legislative framework
on Parliamentary Autonomy;
BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to re-establish its commitment to
introduce a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to table, within three (3) months, an implementation road map geared towards introducing legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report.
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

May 06, 2021
APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 146 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Having regard to the thirteen (13) month disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to traditional schooling of students at the Early Childhood Care, Primary and Secondary School levels, can the Minister advise as to the following:
(i) the breakdown of the number of students, who have not been able to access online classes because they do not have the appropriate device or internet connectivity;
(ii) the total breakdown of said students who are still without access to electronic devices; and
(iii) the immediate, short, medium and long-term impacts on the psychological well-being of these students?
(Answer due by 27.05.2021)

Question No. 154 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Can the Minister provide the following information, per year, for the financial years 2016 – 2020:
(i) the names of each of the financial intuitions employed in paying contractors through the factoring services method;
(ii) the respective debt incurred by each financial institution; and
(iii) a detailed breakdown of the amount of outstanding Government debt owed to the various contractors, consequent to payment by the factoring services method?
(Answer due by 01.06.2021)

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