



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT

ORDER PAPER

FIFTEENTH SITTING

FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2008 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW MEMBER

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN APPENDIX 1

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 70 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By the Member for Tabaquite)

- A. Could the Minister state whether the University of the West Indies or any local organization was invited by the government since it took office in 2001 as advisor and /or consultant to conduct training of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and /or in the fight against crime; and
- B. If the answer is in the affirmative, could the Minister give particulars in respect of each consultant and /or advisor?

***Question No. 77 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Could the Minister state:

* Questions Nos. 70 and 77 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 04.04.2008.

- (a) how many citizens of Trinidad and Tobago are in possession of the 'old' (non machine readable) passports;
- (b) the deadline for changing all these passports to the machine readable passports; and
- (c) how many passports applications are processed and new passport delivered at present on a weekly basis?

***Question No. 79 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Could the Minister state:

- (a) when the National Health Insurance scheme will become operational; and
- (b) how much money has already been expended on the National Health Insurance Scheme by way of staff salaries, accommodation, advertisement, equipment, etc?

***Question No. 86 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities**

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

With regard to the Government's street lighting programme, could the Minister state how many street lights are non-functional as at February 29, 2008 and are they to be replaced by the contractor/contractors?

***Question No. 87 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

Could the Minister state the process by which Housing Development Corporation (HDC) houses are allotted to applicants?

***Question No. 88 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

Could the Minister state:

- a) when would the St. Marie Emmanuel Road in Cumuto, Sangre Grande be rehabilitated and re-paved by the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation; and
- b) why was this road not previously paved?

***Question No. 95 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

(By the Member for Caroni East)

With respect to the care of patients transferred from public hospitals to private nursing homes/medical institutions in Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister state:

- (a) what was the sum paid to each institution for 2006 and 2007;
- (b) who authorized the transfer of patients; and
- (c) what were the criteria used in the selection of the particular private nursing home/institution?

* Questions Nos. 79, 86, 87, 88 and 95 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 04.04.2008.

Question No. 96 to the Honourable Minister of Health*(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state what sums were paid to individual doctors working in private nursing homes for professional services rendered to public patients in 2006 and 2007 on behalf of the Ministry of Health?

Question No. 97 to the Honourable Minister of Health*(By the Member for Caroni East)**

With regard to the award of a contract to the HR firm, Eastman and Associates, by the North West Regional Health Authority, while Mr. Hugh Eastman was Chairman of the Board, could the Minister state whether a request was sent to the Integrity Commission and Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the award?

Question No. 101 to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

With regard to the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) campuses throughout Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister state:

- (a) the cost of construction of each; and
- (b) the annual expenditure for 2006 and 2007 on (i) staff, (ii) scholarships to lecturers/professors and (iii) administration?

Question No. 102 to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state the salaries and allowances paid by the University of Trinidad and Tobago to the following categories of staff :

- (a) Pro Vice Chancellor/ Principal;
- (b) Professor;
- (c) Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer;
- (d) Assistant Professor/Lecturer; and
- (e) Tutor?

Question No. 103 to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) whether any internal audit has ever been done at the University of the West Indies since its inception;

* Questions Nos. 96 and 97 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 04.04.2008.

- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the negative, why not;
- (c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, for what years, and have they been reviewed by the Auditor General; and
- (d) has the Auditor General ever conducted an audit of the University of Trinidad and Tobago?

Question No. 108 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With respect to the purchase of a Bombardier Executive Private Jet for use by the Government, could the Minister state:

- (a) what is the financial commitment to Caribbean Airlines Limited for the annual upkeep of the jet beyond the guaranteed 600 hours; and
- (b) what is the cost of the 600 hours to the Government?

Question No. 109 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With regard to Caribbean Airlines Limited, could the Minister state:

- (a) what was the revenue in its first year of operation;
- (b) what was the expenditure for the same period;
- (c) how did this match the projections for the airline; and
- (d) what was the income earned by Government during the first years of operation of the airline?

Question No. 110 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With regard to Caribbean Airlines Limited, could the Minister state how many foreign companies and foreign individuals are now employed the airline and at what contracted costs?

Question No. 114 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By the Member for Princes Town North)

With regard to the blimps/sky ships, could the Minister state:

- (a) whether they were pre-tested in local atmospheric conditions prior to the purchase and/or lease;
- (b) if the answer to (a) is negative, why were they not pre-tested;
- (c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the results; and
- (d) what aspects of the local atmospheric conditions made the Aerus 40B sky ship Dragon unsuitable?

Question No. 115 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

With respect to the Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited (PSAEL), could the Minister state:

- (a) the names of those constituencies, which are approved for infrastructure project to be undertaken by that company;
- (b) the criteria used to identify constituencies for approval for PSAEL projects; and
- (c) the quantum of monies spent in 2007 on projects undertaken by the company?

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Wednesday January 30, 2008 will be resumed:**

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House take note of the Government's efforts to combat crime.

(By the Minister of National Security)

2. **WHEREAS** the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has made tremendous progress in the tertiary education sector over the last six years by expanding its capacity and ensuring accessibility, affordability, relevance and excellence in the sector;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House commend the Government for its far reaching and visionary initiatives in the field of tertiary education.

(By the Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, "An Act to provide for the implementation by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago of the Agreement Establishing the Seat of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Offices of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission".

(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

2. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Pensions Act, Chap. 23:52".
(By the Minister of Public Administration)

Committee Stage

1. **The Committee Stage of the following Bill which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Friday April 04, 2008, will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Copyright Act, 1997".

(By the Minister of Legal Affairs)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Friday February 22, 2008 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the price of food continues to rise and the poor and low-income earners now find it difficult to feed themselves and their families;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to take adequate measures to keep food prices at an affordable level to all citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House condemn the Government for its failure in containing food prices at affordable levels for the entire population.

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

2. **WHEREAS** there exists no comprehensive, logical, fair, humane and equitable pension plan to ensure that persons who have worked for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and retired are able to live a life of dignity without experiencing hardships during their retirement, a period when they are least equipped to cope with these hardships;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take immediate steps to establish a comprehensive pension plan for all categories of persons who have worked for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and who have retired; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a pension plan be linked to the cost of living and the wage and salary increases for government workers to ensure that government retirees are able to live out their retirement years with dignity and without being subjected to financial hardships.

(By the Member for Naparima)

*Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the House (Ag.)*

*House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN*

April 14, 2008

ORDER PAPER/FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2008

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 1 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

With regards to the Caroni (1975) Ltd, could the Minister state:

- a) the assets held immediately before it was closed;
- b) whether the said assets referred to in (a) were disposed of by lease, rental, sale or other methods;
- c) the names of the individuals or companies which acquired same or acquired any interest in same or were in possession of or were permitted to have occupation of any of the assets including land of the said Caroni (1975) Ltd.; and
- d) the particulars of any such acquisition or the acquisition of any such interest of delivery of possession or giving occupation of any such assets by each individual or company; giving the dates of such acquisitions and/or delivery of possession and/or occupation of any such asset, the price paid and the terms of the acquisition or delivery of occupation and/or possession?

(Answer due on 18.01.2008)

Question No. 56 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

(By the Member for Mayaro)

With respect to Carnival 2008, could the Minister state:

- a) the total allocation for Carnival 2008 by her Ministry; and
- b) the total disbursement of grants to all cultural and social organizations, (especially Calypso Tents) for Carnival related activities?

(Answer due on 20.02.2008)

Question No. 59 to the Honourable Minister of Information

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Could the Minister inform this Honourable House as to how much money was spent by each Ministry on advertisement, promotion and publication to each of the media houses in 2007?

(Answer due on 29.02.2008)

Question No. 80 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of the persons who obtained government houses/ apartments;

- (b) the cost of the same;
- (c) the downpayments made on the same; and
- (d) a list of the persons who obtained same without downpayments?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 81 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister state:

- (a) whether additional works were done on houses/apartments distributed between 2006 to 2007; and
- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what was the cost of works done ?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 82 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of all applicants for government houses/ apartments;
- (b) the dates of the applications; and
- (c) a list of persons who did not obtain same?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 83 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of the persons who obtained financial support for house construction;
- (b) the amount of monies obtained for same; and
- (c) a list of applicants who did not obtained financial support, and the reasons for refusal?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 84 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of citizens whose homes were destroyed by the Land Settlement Agency;
- (b) the dollar value of the same;
- (c) the number of persons affected by same; and
- (d) the dollar value of compensation awarded to those persons who were affected?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 85 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**(By the Member for Fyzabad)**

Could the Minister provide a list of citizens who obtained security of tenure for land via the Land Settlement Agency between 2006 and 2007?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)**Question No. 90 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government****(By the Member for Oropouche East)**

With respect to the Rural Development Company, could the Minister state:

- (a) the number and type of projects undertaken in the Penal/Debe area between January 01, 2006 and December 31, 2007;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of these projects;
- (c) the names of all contractors employed to undertake these said projects in the Penal/Debe area;
- (d) the status of these projects; and
- (e) what new projects are being proposed in the Penal/Debe area and when are they scheduled to commence?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)**Question No. 91 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities****(By the Member for Oropouche East)**

With respect to the National Social Development Programme, could the Minister state:

- (a) the number and type of projects undertaken in the Penal/Debe area between January 01, 2006 and December 31, 2007;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of these projects;
- (c) the names of all contractors employed to undertake these said projects in the Penal/Debe area;
- (d) the status of these projects; and
- (e) what new projects are being proposed in the Penal/Debe area and when are they scheduled to commence?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)**Question No. 93 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment****(By the Member for Princes Town North)**

Could the Minister give a detailed list, including names, addresses, date of the application, type of unit and/or plot of all the persons (excluding the tenants and/or occupiers) who have applied to the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and the National Housing Authority (NHA) for housing units or building plots in Fairfield Estate, Princes Town?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)

Question No. 94 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**(By the Member for Princes Town North)**

With respect to the Buen Intento Housing Development, Princes Town, could the Minister give:

- (a) a detailed list of all the applications made for housing units or building plots, including the names, addresses, the type of unit and/or plot applied for;
- (b) the names and addresses of the applicants who have been successful in obtaining housing units and/or building plots of land; and
- (c) the dates on which these applicants were awarded their housing units and/or plots of land?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)**Question No. 116 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government*****(By the Member for Oropouche East)***

With respect to the Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited (PSAEL), could the Minister state:

- (a) the number and types of projects undertaken by the company between January 01, 2007 and December 31, 2007;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of these projects;
- (c) the names of all the contractors employed to undertake these said projects ; and
- (d) what new projects are being proposed specifically for the Penal/Debe area and when they are scheduled to commence?

(Answer due on 25.04.2008)***April 14, 2008***