



SENATE

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-FOURTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
WEDNESDAY JULY 09, 2003 AT 1:30 P.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW SENATOR
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Oral Answer

*Question No. 62 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister state whether the Government has any intention to further increase the level of the national minimum wage?
- B. Could the Minister indicate what steps are being taken to deal with the terms and conditions of employment of specialized groups of workers (such as private security guards as well as non-unionised workers) employed in the energy and energy-related industries?

*Question No. 62 was deferred for one day on July 08, 2003

*Questions for Written Answers are at Appendix 1

Question No. 66 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister state whether it is the intention of this Government to increase the level of water rates to residential, commercial and or industrial users in the immediate future?
- B. If the answer is in the affirmative, could he inform this Senate what measures/steps have been taken to reduce the level of water wastage due to underground leaks and illegal connections?
- C. Could the Minister give details about the total sum of money outstanding in the arrears of water rates for both residential and commercial/industrial users?
- D. Could the Minister state what steps are being taken by the authorities to collect such outstanding sums?

Question No. 67 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state what steps are being taken to repair an underground leak opposite Smart Place on the Belmont Circular Road which has been in existence for in excess of one year thereby wasting if not hundreds but thousands of gallons of water on a daily basis?

***Question No. 80 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Sadiq Baksh)

- A. Could the Minister inform this Senate of the number of kidnappings reported in Trinidad and Tobago on an annual basis from 1990 to 2001?
- B. Could the Minister further inform this Senate of the number of kidnappings, which occurred on a monthly basis from January, 2002 to March, 2003?

***Question No. 85 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

(By Senator Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan)

- A. Could the Minister indicate if there are any ex-employees of the National Petroleum Marketing Company (NPMC) or any of its subsidiaries who have been engaged as consultants with the company from January 2002 to present?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister indicate which of the said ex-employees/consultants (if any) were ever terminated by NPMC or its subsidiaries and the reasons for such terminations?

* Question Nos. 80 and 85 were not answered the question during time on July 08, 2003

- C. If the answer to (A) above is in the affirmative would the Minister provide details of the contract between NPMC or any of its subsidiaries with the said consultants inclusive of the scope, cost and duration?

***Question No. 113 to the Minister of Housing**

(By Senator Sadiq Baksh)

- A. Could the Minister inform this House of the salary, perquisite and the various allowances currently being paid to the new Executive Director/Chairman of the National Housing Authority (NHA)?
- B. Could the Minister also inform the Senate of the salary paid to and the number of years of employment of the former Executive/Director with the National Housing Authority (NHA)?

***Question No. 114 to the Minister of Housing**

(By Senator Sadiq Baksh)

- A. Could the Minister inform this House about the date on which the Government signed the Housing Loan Agreement with the Intern-American Development Bank (I.A.D.B.)?
- B. Could the Minister state the amount of money received through the loan agreement?
- C. Could the Minister provide a record of the draw down of I.A.D.B. funds to date?
- D. Could the Minister inform this Senate as to how much standby fees and/or interest have been incurred so far?

***Question No. 115 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources**

(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) Whether there is a state land policy for Trinidad and Tobago?
- (ii) If the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state what is the current status of the state land policy?
- (iii) Could the Minister further state whether, if at all, this policy will be brought to the Senate for debate?

***Question No. 116 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources**

(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)

Could the Minister explain the basis on which Government envisages the development of state owned agricultural land?

* Question Nos. 113, 114, 115 and 116 were not answered during the question time on July 08, 2003

***Question No. 117 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources**

(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)

Could the Minister indicate the status of agricultural producers and production with respect to the sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for agricultural exports from Trinidad and Tobago?

***Question No. 123 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

(By Senator Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan)

- A. What is the current proven natural gas reserve in of Trinidad and Tobago?
- B. What has been the increase in the current proven natural gas reserve since January 2001 to present?
- C. What is the projected daily consumption for natural gas for Atlantic LNG Train IV?
- D. What is the current R/P ration for natural gas?
- E. What will be the projected R/P ratio assuming Atlantic LNG Train IV comes on stream?
- F. What is the minimum R/P which financing institutions will consider for projects?

9. QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMEN OF SESSIONAL AND SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEES

10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

* Questions Nos. 117 and 123 were not answered during the question time on July 08, 2003

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** Section 6(5) of the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985 provides that the Attorney General may by Order, subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament, amend the First Schedule of the said Act;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General for the purpose of amending the said First Schedule has on the 23rd day of June, 2003 made an Order entitled “The Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extradition Offences) Order, 2003”;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Order be now affirmed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) (Extraditable Offences) Order, 2003 be now affirmed.

(By the Attorney General)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Medical Board Act to provide for the establishment of a panel to issue special temporary licences in cases of a shortage of persons available to practise medicine in the public health sector, for the recognition of diplomas granted by certain institutions and for matters related thereto.

(By the Minister of Health)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01”.

(The Attorney General)

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, Chap. 75:01”.

(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Summary Courts Act, Chap.4:20”.

(By the Attorney General)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01”.

(By the Attorney General)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate was adjourned on Tuesday July 08, 2003 will resume:

1. **WHEREAS** a healthy democracy depends on a well informed citizenry

WHEREAS citizens are entitled to know how Members of Parliament represent them in Parliament

WHEREAS there is a need for citizens to have at first hand and, as far as practical, information regarding what transpires in the country's Parliament, and,

WHEREAS the information gap between the proceedings in Parliament and citizens' awareness needs to be closed as far as practical

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government arrange, with appropriate permission, for full debates and the business of both Houses to be transmitted to the public through the electronic media (television and radio) in an equitable and discreetly edited form on fixed days of the week and with such transmission to begin before the end of the year 2003.

(By Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran)

2. **WHEREAS** Section 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago provides for all citizens the right to equality of treatment from any public authority in the exercise of any function and the right to equality before the law and the protection of the law;

AND WHEREAS both Houses of Parliament have already passed into law the Equal Opportunities Act;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government takes immediate steps to have the Equal Opportunity Legislation proclaimed and fully effected in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

(By Senator Wade Mark)

3. **WHEREAS** there is a growing need for skills training and training in science and technology in developing societies like Trinidad and Tobago; and

WHEREAS many unmonitored and unregulated tertiary institutions have sprung up to cater to the desire to acquire such training and skills among students of differing levels, ages and abilities who have not gained entry to the University of the West Indies; and

WHEREAS there are other institutions and initiatives old and new in post secondary and tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago whose programmes are associated with different sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS there is a need to create a body with the intellectual authority and material and human resources to assess, regulate, and direct the development of this confusing array of so-called tertiary offerings and integrate them into coherent and authentic tertiary education programmes contributing to the social and economic development of the country; and

WHEREAS there is a need, further, for an institution founded on the recognition that skills training and training in science and technology depend upon scientific research and technological innovation of the kind associated with those places of higher learning called Universities; and

WHEREAS graduates of such a technical institution should be recognized as recipients of a University degree and a University education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago reorganize and integrate this side of the tertiary education provision, ensure efficiency and high standards and contribute to solving developmental problems and human needs, by giving modern Trinidad and Tobago what it needs and deserves – a Technical University of Trinidad and Tobago which can stand proudly beside, and share the national work with, the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies.

(By Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand)

4. **WHEREAS** the events of terrorism and terrorists' actions of *September 11, 2001* have caused grave pain and hurt and resulted in the death of thousands of innocent lives.

WHEREAS the United States of America has embarked upon "*an all out war*" against terrorism and terrorists' groups and is seeking the support of all Member States worldwide in the fight against terrorism and terrorists.

AND WHEREAS many citizens of this country are concerned about terrorism and terrorists and the negative and disastrous impact that they can cause on the lives and welfare of the people of this nation.

BE IT RESOLVED that this House urges the Government to declare before this House how it proposes to deal with any form of terrorism or terrorists' group in this country particularly those with a proven track record in subversive and criminal activities.

(By Senator Robin Montano)

5. **WHEREAS** serious concerns have arisen in the national community over the operations of the banking industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

AND WHEREAS it is in the best interest of Trinidad and Tobago that there be vibrant and strong banking institutions that operate not only in the best interest of the banks themselves but also in the best interest of the citizens.

AND WHEREAS the UNC Administration supported the Financial Sector Ombudsman and promoted Truth In Lending Legislation in order to establish more effective monitoring and vigilance of market conduct in the Financial Services Sector.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take all required steps and implement all necessary measures which could include but not be limited to the immediate establishment of the Office Banking Ombudsman and the expeditious enactment of the Truth In Lending Legislation in order to protect both citizens and Government from inappropriate banking practices and thus maintain the confidence and integrity of the Banking Sector.

(By Senator Robin Montano)

6. **WHEREAS** the Government during the period 1995 to 2001 instituted several measures to combat corruption in public office and to empower the population.

AND WHEREAS the object of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2001, was to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act No. 11 of 1987 to implement further and more effective measures for the prevention of corruption by (inter alia) increasing the number of corruption and corruption related offences, providing protection for informers and whistleblowers and establishing an *Anti-Corruption Commission* equipped with the expertise required to monitor and investigate allegations of corruption, with integrity and without political interference, and to initiate prosecutions in both the public and private sectors.

AND WHEREAS this said bill was laid in Parliament in July 2001 but lapsed upon the dissolution of Parliament in August 2001 before it had been able to be debated and passed.

AND WHEREAS there still is an urgent need to address objectively the issues of corruption, transparency and probity in public affairs.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take all the required steps to expedite the enactment of legislation similar (if not identical with) the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2001 in order to implement further and more effective measures for the prevention of corruption.

(By Senator Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan)

DAWN DOLLY
Clerk of the Senate

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN

July 09, 2003

APPENDIX I

SENATE

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-FOURTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
WEDNESDAY JULY 09, 2003 AT 1:30 P.M.

8. **QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**

Question for Written Answer

Question No. 6 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources

(By Senator Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie)

- (a) Could the Minister provide a list of all the names of land owners in Tobago whose lands have been used or entered upon or acquired by the State and have not been paid?
- (b) Could the Minister state:
 - (i) the purpose for which the lands were taken?
 - (ii) the reasons for the delay in payment to the landowner?
- (c) (i) Could the Minister give the description and location of all lands used or entered upon or acquired by the State where ownership has not been established?
 - (ii) Could he state the purpose for which the lands was used, entered upon or acquired?

(Answer due by 20.05.2003)

Question No. 10 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (a) Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment state:
 - (i) The names of all the contractors engaged by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) for the period December 2001 to the present time?
 - (ii) The exact nature of work these contractors have been engaged to perform?
 - (iii) The duration of these contracts and the financial value of each contract?

- (b) Could the Minister also state:
 - (i) How many contractors have been paid to date?
 - (ii) How many contractors have not been paid and exactly when would they be paid?
- (c) Would the Minister indicate whether the taxpayer is getting value for money on each contract?

(Answer due by 10.07.2003)

Question No. 11 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment provide details on the following matters:-

- (i) The names and qualifications of the Members of the Board of Directors of the Green Fund Agency?
- (ii) The remuneration paid to the Chairman and Directors of the Green Fund Agency from its inception to the present time?
- (iii) The number of projects and programmes undertaken by the Agency since its inception?
- (iv) The total amount of monies accumulated in the Green Fund Agency to date?
- (v) The total amount of monies utilised from the Green Fund Agency for community projects and programmes?

(Answer due by 10.07.2003)

Question No. 12 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources

(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)

Could the Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources provide the following -:

- (i) The number of persons who have applied to the Ministry of Agriculture for agricultural lands from January, 1995 to May 23, 2003;
- (ii) Their names and addresses and;
- (iii) The dates of each application?

(Answer due by 10.07.2003)

Question No. 13 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources

(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of -:

- (i) The number of agricultural leases granted to applicants from January, 1995 to May, 2003;
- (ii) The names and addresses of applicants;
- (iii) The date(s) of issue, and;
- (iv) The location and size of plots of land leased?

(Answer due by 10.07.2003)

Question No. 14 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources

By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of:-

- (i) The status of the Accelerated Land Distribution Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources;
- (ii) The number of leases delivered to recipients from December, 2001 to May, 2003;
- (iii) The names and addresses of recipients, and;
- (iv) The location and size of plots of each recipient under this programme?

(Answer due by 10.07.2003)

Question No. 15 to the Honourable Minister of Housing

(By Senator Sadiq Baksh)

- (a) Could the Minister of Housing indicate whether the Government has carried out a promise made to citizens prior to 2002 General Elections that they will have access to low cost houses by making a down payment of one dollar?
- (b) Could the Minister state how many citizens have made the one dollar down payment?

- (c) Of those who have made the down payment, could the Minister state how many have received low cost houses?

(Answer due by 10.07.2003)

**DAWN DOLLY
Clerk of the Senate**

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July 09, 2003