



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2009), NINTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2009 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
 - (i) The Annual Audited Financial Statement of Community Improvement Services Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2007.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance)
 - (ii) The Administrative Report of the Betting Levy Board for the Financial Year July 01, 2007 to June 30, 2008.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance)
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS
 - NEW QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**
Question No. 60 to the Honourable Minister of Finance
(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to local and foreign consultants employed in each Government Department, Ministry or Agency controlled by the State or any State Enterprise, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

 - (a) the total number of consultants employed;
 - (b) the name of each consultant and the specific areas/projects that each consultant is advising the government on;
 - (c) the exact duration of each of these contracts;
 - (d) the cost of the services of each consultant?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 62 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Honourable Minister state what are the annual interest rates used in determining the country's debt service projections?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 63 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the amount of money borrowed directly by the State from both foreign and local sources during the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009;
- (ii) the specific purposes for which the money was borrowed;
- (iii) the specific rate of interest charged on each of these loans; and
- (iv) the levels of borrowing planned for the next four years and their precise allocation in respect of development programmes and projects?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 64 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (A) Could the Minister outline in detail the various assets being held in her capacity as Corporation Sole on behalf of the People of Trinidad and Tobago?
- (B) Could the Minister also state the estimated value of these assets?
- (C) Could the Minister further give a breakdown of any changes on the portfolio of assets on a year-to-year basis over the period January 2007 – March 31, 2009?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 65 to the Honourable Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Prime Minister provide the Senate with the following information:-

- (a) the number of official overseas trips each Minister of government, including the Prime Minister, has taken since January 2007 to March 31, 2009;
- (b) the exact reason/nature and duration of each Minister's visit abroad; and
- (c) the cost of each trip including airfares, advanced allowances, and hotel accommodation?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 66 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister advise the Senate of:-

- (a) the total volume and value of gasoline and diesel oil sold by the National Petroleum Company on the domestic market for the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009; and.
- (b) the volume and value of the same products that were exported?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 67 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the production of crude oil under the Farm and Lease Operatorship, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (a) the quantum and value of crude produced for the years 2004 to 2008;
- (b) the number of leases and oil wells formed out during the same period;
- (c) the average production per well; and
- (d) the names of the companies to whom the crude produced under this agreement is sold?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 69 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with an up-to-date account of the total revenue received and actual royalty paid by BPTT to the government of Trinidad and Tobago for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 70 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the amount of royalties and other petroleum taxes inclusive of corporation taxes paid by British Gas, BHP Billiton, EOS Resources (Trinidad Limited), Repsol, Petro-Canada, Canada Superior among others for the period January 01, 2007 – March 31, 2009?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 72 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to explorations and/or drilling of new wells by various Oil companies, both local and foreign, during the period January 01, 2004 to December 31, 2008, could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (a) how many wells have been drilled annually;
- (b) the depths of these drillings;
- (c) the estimated cost of explorations or well drilled;
- (d) the result of the efforts of these explorations or wells drilled; and
- (e) what are the various incentives provided by the Government to the oil companies for the drilling of exploratory wells?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 79 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (a) Could the Minister provide the Senate with:
 - (i) the names of all the contractors engaged by WASA for the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009;
 - (ii) the exact nature of works these contractors have been engaged to perform; and
 - (iii) the duration of these contracts and the financial value of each contract?
- (b) Could the Minister further 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?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 82 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (a) Could the Minister state whether the Public Service is over-staffed or under-staffed, and if so, by how many and in which categories?
- (b) Could the Minister further state in precise and definite terms the current size of trained professional personnel in the Public Service and their respective categories?
- (c) Could the Minister also advise the Senate of the precise size in terms of numbers on the establishment of the Public Service in respect of the following categories:-
 - (i) Civil Servants
 - (ii) Fire Officers,
 - (iii) Prison Officers,
 - (iv) Police Officers,
 - (v) Teachers,Defence Force Personnel both in the Regiment and the Coast Guard inclusive of the Air Guard.

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 85 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister inform the Senate what is:

- (a) the total number of registered private security firms in Trinidad and Tobago as at the end of March 31, 2009;
- (b) the total number of unregistered private security firms operating in Trinidad and Tobago as at the end of March 31, 2009;
- (c) the total number of security guards (both precepted and non-precepted) employed by each firm, as at the end of March 31, 2009?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 86 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (A) Could the Minister advise the Senate if the Government intends to introduce legislation or to amend existing legislation governing the operations of private Security Firms in Trinidad and Tobago?
- (B) If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister inform the Senate of the exact timeframe for the introduction of such legislation?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 98 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)

- A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate, the value of the Green Fund at the end of the first quarter of the 2009 financial year?
- B. Would the Minister also state if there has been any drawdown from the fund as at March 31, 2009?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

Question No. 101 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)

Would the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed list of all the projects undertaken by the Government that are utilizing renewable energy sources for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009?

(Answer due by 13.05.09)

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 2 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

Would the Minister inform this Senate of the steps if any, which are being taken to regulate Maxi Taxis who work parts of the route along the East/West Corridor?

***Question No. 5 to the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister inform this Senate of:

- (a) the current status of the Brian Lara Cricketing Academy in Tarouba;
- (b) the total sum expended on the project as at December 31, 2008;
- (c) the estimated sum required for the completion of the project; and
- (d) the completion date of the project?

* Question No. 2 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 05.02.09, for two weeks on 03.03.09, for one (1) week on 17.03.09, for one (1) week on 24.03.09 and for two (2) weeks on 07.04.09.

* Question No. 5 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 05.02.09, for two (2) weeks on 03.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 17.03.09 and for two (2) weeks on 07.04.09.

***Question No. 13 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the judgment in the matter involving the challenge by the Prime Minister, Honourable Patrick Manning of the Crossing of the Floor Act relating to Dr. Rupert Griffith and Dr. Vincent Lasse, could the Attorney General inform this Senate of the status of the debt incurred by him?

***Question No. 15 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister inform this Senate of the date for the full enforcement of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act with specific reference to the introduction of the Breathalyzer?

***Question No. 16 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the proposed refurbishment and upgrade of the old Piarco Airport facility, could the Minister state:

- (a) the estimated cost of the proposed refurbishment and upgrade of the facility?
- (b) the names of the companies contracted to undertake the works and the values of the contracts?

Question No. 27 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

In light of the CL Financial bailout, could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) whether there are plans to increase the coverage of Deposit Insurance to ensure that citizens' deposits are adequately secured?
- (ii) whether there are any procedures/ regulations in place or proposed, to increase the capacity of Deposit Insurance Corporation to deal with any failing, weakened or troubled financial institution in Trinidad and Tobago, in order to balance the risk to investors and depositors funds?

Question No. 28 to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the current number of Spanish Nationals residing in Trinidad and Tobago who are presently eligible to vote in any election to be held in this country in 2009 or 2010?

Question No. 30 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister inform this Senate of:

- (i) the number of Cocoa cultivators/farmers at present in this country;

* Question No. 13 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 17.02.09, for two weeks on 03.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 17.03.09 and for two (2) weeks on 07.04.09.

* Questions Nos. 15 and 16 were deferred for 2 weeks on 03.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 17.03.09 and for two (2) weeks on 07.04.09

- (ii) the size of land under cocoa cultivation of each farmer; and
the number of years each cultivator/farmer has been involved in cocoa cultivation?

Question No. 36 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General outline to the Senate the system of monitoring that is in place in respect of assessing and evaluating the performance of the nation's judges?

Question No. 38 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister of Finance inform the Senate:

- (a) whether public funds are being used by the Executive Chairman of UDeCOTT to engage lawyers directly for himself in the ongoing Commission of Enquiry into UDeCOTT and the construction sector;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed breakdown of the costs involved for the provision of these legal services?

Question No. 39 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

For the purpose of appearing before the Uff Commission of Enquiry into UDeCOTT and the Construction Sector, could the Attorney General state whether the Attorney-at-law for UDeCOTT, Mr. Goddard QC.:

- (a) breached the Legal Profession Act by not being certified to practice at the Bar;
- (b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what sanctions or penalties, if any, are to be applied by the relevant authorities to bring Mr. Goddard, QC to book; and
- (c) could the Attorney General further state whether Mr. Goddard, QC would still be paid by the government for any period of time during which the alleged breach was committed?

Question No. 41 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Could the Minister state whether there has been any modification to Government's plans to invest in Aluminum and Steel Plants in the light of worsening global economic and financial structures?

Question No. 42 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Could the Minister state whether the Government will be considering the establishment of an Emergency Unemployment Grant as a stop gap social benefit measure to facilitate workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the global financial crisis?

Question No. 43 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Would the Government consider establishing a regular unemployment benefit for workers willing to work but unable to find jobs?

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 OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
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

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 24, 2009 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the operations of the Water and Sewerage Authority are vital and indispensable to the good health and welfare of the people of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the Water and Sewerage Authority and its functions are provided for by Parliament;

BE IT RESOLVED that government take all the necessary steps to ensure that the sewerage function of the Authority remain entirely and solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority as provided for in law.

(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago take immediate steps to give effect to proposals of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) through appropriate legislation and administrative action in respect of statistical reporting of oil, gas and mining revenue payments made to the government of Trinidad and Tobago by the various companies involved in the exploitation of our natural resources in order to promote energy revenue transparency which has been deemed a non-partisan issue by EITI.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate call on the government of Trinidad and Tobago to root out all corrupt practices in the management of the public purse;
- AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that individuals found engaging in such activities be subjected to swift and compelling justice;
- AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Senate call on the government to take immediate steps to effect legislation dealing with public procurement practices and standards in Trinidad and Tobago.
- (By Senator Wade Mark)**
- (iv) **WHEREAS** it is the role of the Parliament to oversee and scrutinize the actions of the Executive arm of the State;
- AND WHEREAS** Parliament has established a number of mechanisms to give effect to its role;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate call on the government to promote standards of good governance by permitting the Parliament and its Committees to function efficiently and effectively.
- (By Senator Wade Mark)**
- (v) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minister of Finance be afforded the financial, technical and human resources by the government to join in the fight against drug trafficking and other crimes involving large financial transactions being conducted in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago?
- (By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)**
- (vi) **WHEREAS** Trinidad and Tobago has been a signatory of the ILO and its conventions, recommendations and standards for a number of years;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that the government take immediate actions to respond to all request by the ILO to give effect to all the Conventions, Recommendations and Standards to which Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory.
- (By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)**

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, “An Act to establish the Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Symphony Orchestra Corporation and for matters incidental thereto.”
- (By the Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs)**

- (ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission Act, Chap. 54:70.”

(By the Minister of Public Utilities)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate

**Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
April 20, 2009**

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2009

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 29 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the Ministry's programmes, in the different geographical regions of Trinidad and Tobago specifically geared to the planting, harvesting, processing and marketing of cocoa to regional and international markets?

(Answer due by 17.04.09)

Question No. 32 to the Honourable Minister of Tourism

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

With respect to the Ministry's budgetary allocation for the years 2003 to 2008, could the Minister inform the Senate what sums of money were used directly or indirectly to promote the following non-carnival festivals:

- (i) Eid-ul-Fitr
- (ii) Divali,
- (iii) Shouter Baptist Liberation Day,
- (iv) Santa Rosa Festival,
- (v) Shiv Ratri,
- (vi) Eid-ul Adha; and
- (vii) other festivals of a similar religious/cultural base?

(Answer due by 17.04.09)

Question No. 33 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate what sums of money were provided by the Ministry to assist with activities of each of the following religious/cultural festivals - Divali, Shouter Baptist Liberation Day, Eid-ul-Fitr, Hosay, Santa Rosa Festival and Phagwa for the years 2003-2008?

(Answer due by 17.04.09)

Question No. 34 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the number of beds purchased and allocated to each hospital in Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2003-2008?
- (ii) the number of beds occupied in hospitals throughout Trinidad and Tobago;
- (iii) the existing hospital bed capacity per population ratio;

- (iv) the formula /criteria used in determining the bed per population ratio for the years 2003-2008;
- (v) any proposed increase in the number of hospital beds in 2009; and
- (vi) the proposed allocation of these beds to hospitals throughout Trinidad and Tobago?

(Answer due by 17.04.09)

Question No. 35 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Attorney General inform the Senate of the number of outstanding judgments pending in the High Court and Court of Appeal since the date of trial or hearing of the Appeal?
- B. Could the Attorney General also state what steps, if any, are being taken by the Chief Justice to deal with the backlog of outstanding cases?

(Answer due by 17.04.09)

Question No. 37 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General state the number of decisions of the Court of Appeal during the past five (5) years which have been upheld and the number which were over-turned by Judicial Committee of the Privy Council?

(Answer due by 17.04.09)

**Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
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