



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

FOURTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2009), NINTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MAY 05, 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 Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended September 30, 2008 (Volumes 1 and 2).
(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

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 31 to the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate the amount of monetary assistance which was provided individually to female boxers Wendy Alleyne, Ria Ramnarine and the late Jizelle Salandy, either directly or indirectly, through the Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Boxing Association for the period 2003-2008?

Question No. 40 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the construction of the National Academies of Performing Arts in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, could the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment provide the Senate with:

- (a) a detailed status report on the Construction of the National Academies of Performing Arts;
- (b) the original estimated cost of construction of the National Academies;
- (c) the initial projected completion dates for both Academies;
- (d) the current estimated cost and new projected cost of the construction of the Academies; and
- (e) the new projected completion dates for the National Academies?

***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. 44 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Could the Minister also state what measures the Government proposes to take to insulate the economy from the effects of the global financial meltdown?

Question No. 45 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

In light of current developments, could the Minister state whether there are any plans to delink the TT Dollar from the US Dollar?

Question No. 46 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

- A. Could the Minister state whether the Government is taking any steps to provide tax and other incentives for small business entrepreneurs?
- B. Could the Minister also advise whether the Government intends to remove some of the burdensome legal requirements that inhibit small business?

Question No. 56 to the Honourable Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Prime Minister provide the Senate with a detailed account of the cost of the Commission of Enquiry into UDeCOTT and the construction sector including the engagement of legal counsels both local and foreign as at February 28, 2009?

- 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

* Question No. 42 was deferred for one (1) week on 28.04.09.

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

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

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 28, 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)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate

**Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
April 29, 2009**

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY MAY 05, 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)

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)

Question No. 122 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to Registered Judgments which the Board of Inland Revenue, including the VAT Administration Office have obtained during the period January 01, 2006 to March 31, 2009, could the Minister advise the Senate:

- (a) the number of Judgments obtained;
- (b) the year of each Judgment;
- (c) whether the relevant Government Departments have taken the necessary steps to execute these judgments and if not, why not??

(Answer due by 19.05.09)

Question No. 123 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to Registered Judgment which the Board of Inland Revenue including the VAT Administration office have obtained during the period January 01, 2006 to March 31, 2009, could the Minister advise:

- (a) what is the total quantum of monies owed;

- (b) the number of businesses from whom judgments have been obtained; and
- (c) the sum owed by each such business?

(Answer due by 19.05.09)

**Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
April 29, 2009**