



**FIRST REPORT  
OF  
THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**on the consideration of proposals for the Supplementation and  
Variation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2014**

**FIFTH SESSION OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT (2014/2015)**

**HOR PAPER NO: 1/2015**

**PARL NO: 4/3/13**

**Ordered To Be Printed By the House of Representatives**

## Standing Finance Committee

The Standing Finance Committee was established under House of Representatives Standing Order 82(1) to consider the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill. House of Representatives Standing Order 87(1) also states that, *"The Standing Finance Committee shall consider and report on all proposals for the expenditure from public revenue or other funds which are not included in the Annual Estimates, including proposals for supplementary and unforeseen expenditure."*

## Publication

An electronic copy of this report can be found on the Parliament website using the following link:

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**Date Laid in HOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# THE COMMITTEE

## Establishment of the Committee

1. The Standing Finance Committee was established within the revised House of Representatives Standing Orders which came into effect at the commencement of the Fifth Session, Tenth Parliament on August 04, 2014. This Committee was formerly known as the "Finance Committee."

## Membership

2. In accordance with the House of Representatives Standing Order 82(1), this Committee is a Committee of the whole House of Representatives and is chaired by the Speaker.

## Meeting

3. The Committee held a public meeting on January 07, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

4. The purpose of this meeting was to consider proposals for the supplementation and variation of the appropriation provided in the Appropriation (Financial Year 2014) Act, 2013. The approval of the proposals is required to seek authorization for the utilization of any sums accruing from a reduction of expenditure under certain Heads of Expenditure for the purpose of meeting any liability incurred through the increase in expenditure under other Heads.

5. The following agenda items were discussed at the meeting:

**Table 1**

**Matters Relating to the 2014 Accounts**

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>
01	Supplementation of Appropriation for fiscal year 2014
02	Variation of Appropriation for fiscal year 2014
03	Approval for write-off of losses for fiscal year 2014
04	Transfer of funds between Sub-Heads of the same Head of Expenditure for fiscal year 2013
05	Transfer of funds between Sub-Heads of the same Head of Expenditure for fiscal year 2014

**Supplementation**

6. In accordance with section 17(1)(b) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01, advances made from Treasury Deposits are recoverable within twelve (12) months after the close of the financial year in which the advances are made.

7. The Standing Finance Committee considered and approved a supplementation to the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of Four Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars (\$450,000,000) to retire advances from Treasury Deposits under Head 69 - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure.

**Variation**

8. The increases and decreases in the Appropriation for the 2014 financial year reflect:

- i) The re-assignment in ministerial responsibilities as assigned by His Excellency, the President, acting on the advice of the Prime Minister in accordance with the provision of Section 79(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; and
- ii) The re-allocation of funds to retire in part advances from the Treasury Deposits in the sum of Four Hundred and Fifty Million Dollars (\$450,000,000).

9. The Standing Finance Committee considered and approved a Variation to the 2014 Appropriation in the sum of Five Hundred and Five Million, Fifty Six Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy One Dollars (\$505,056,471). Table 2 provides details of this variation.

**Table 2**

**Variation of 2014 Appropriation**

<b>Head of Expenditure</b>	<b>Increase \$</b>	<b>Decrease \$</b>
48 Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications	41,741,693	-
61 Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	10,000,000	200,000,000
69 Ministry of Works and Infrastructure	450,000,000	-
76 Ministry of Land and Marine Resources	3,314,778	-
25 Ministry of Food Production	-	13,314,778
42 Ministry of Local Government	-	250,000,000
70 Ministry of Communications	-	41,741,693
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>505,056,471</b>	<b>505,056,471</b>

**Write Off of Losses**

10. The Standing Finance Committee considered and approved:

✓ The Write-off of an Overpayment in Salary for the fiscal year 2014 outlined in the sum of Thirty Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Four Dollars and Fifty Eight Cents (\$36,934.58) to Mr. Anthony Telemaque, former Messenger I, Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism during the period November 12, 2007 to October 31, 2008; and

✓ The Write-off of an Overpayment in Salary in the sum of Fifty Five Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighty Nine Dollars and Forty Five Cents (\$55,789.45) to Ms. Cecelia Roberts, former Clerk Typist II, (Range 19C) in the Judiciary in respect of acting allowances as Clerk/Stenographer III (Range 26C) and Judicial Secretary (Range

30E) for the period January 15, 1990 to June 05, 2007; and Increments for the years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002.

**Transfers**

11. The Standing Finance Committee noted that the Minister of Finance and the Economy approved the transfer of funds in the sum of One Billion, Two Hundred and Twenty Four Million, Three Hundred and Ninety Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty Eight Dollars (\$1,224,397,568) between Sub-Heads under the same Head of Expenditure for fiscal year 2013.

12. The Committee also noted that the Minister of Finance and the Economy approved the transfer of funds in the sum of Seven Hundred and Sixty-Seven Million, Four Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Seven Dollars (\$767,434,547) between Sub-Heads under the same Head of Expenditure for fiscal year 2014.

13. The transfers were approved based on Notes from the respective Ministries requesting transfers between Sub-Heads, and reflect changed circumstances in Ministries and Departments and a consequential re-ordering of priorities.

**Recommendations**

14. Based on its deliberations, the Committee approved proposals for expenditure and recommends the supplementation and variation of the 2014 appropriation. The details of the recommendations are provided in Table 3.

**Table 3**

**Recommendations**

<b>Head of Expenditure</b>	<b>Increase \$</b>	<b>Decrease \$</b>
48 Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications	41,741,693	-

69 Ministry of Works and Infrastructure	900,000,000	-
76 Ministry of Land and Marine Resources	3,314,778	-
25 Ministry of Food Production	-	13,314,778
42 Ministry of Local Government	-	250,000,000
61 Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	-	190,000,000
70 Ministry of Communications	-	41,741,693
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>945,056,471</b>	<b>495,056,471</b>

15. The Committee respectfully submits this Report for the consideration of the Parliament.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hon. Wade Mark, MP  
Chairman



# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX I

### Minutes of Meeting

**STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE  
FIFTH SESSION (2014/2015), TENTH PARLIAMENT**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 07, 2015 AT 1:30 PM IN THE PARLIAMENT  
CHAMBER, MEZZANINE FLOOR, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER  
D, INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, 1A WRIGHTSON ROAD,  
PORT OF SPAIN**

#### Present

#### **Members of the Standing Finance Committee**

- |                                                |                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Wade Mark, MP                          | Chairman                                                                           |
| 2. Hon. Dr. Roodal Moonilal, MP<br>Development | Minister of Housing and Urban<br>(Member for Oropouche East)                       |
| 3. Hon. Errol Mc Leod, MP<br>Enterprise        | Minister of Labour, Small and Micro<br>Development<br>(Member for Pointe-a-Pierre) |
| 4. Hon. Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP                 | Minister of Education<br>(Member for Caroni East)                                  |
| 5. Hon. Winston Peters, MP                     | Minister of Community Development<br>(Member for Mayaro)                           |
| 6. Hon. Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan, MP          | Minister of Works & Infrastructure<br>(Member for Tabaquite)                       |
| 7. Hon. Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, MP           | Minister of Public Administration<br>(Member for San Fernando West)                |
| 8. Hon. Jairam Seemungal, MP                   | Minister of Land and Marine Resources<br>(Member for La Horquetta/Talparo)         |
| 9. Mrs. Nela Khan, MP                          | Deputy Speaker                                                                     |

- (Member for Princes' Town)
10. Hon. Clifton De Coteau, MP  
Development  
Minister of Gender, Youth and Child  
(Member for Moruga/Tableland)
11. Hon. Stephen Cadiz, MP  
Minister of Transport  
(Member for Chaguanas East)
12. Hon. Nizam Baksh, MP  
Minister of Public Utilities  
(Member for Naparima)
13. Hon. Dr. Rupert Griffith, MP  
Minister of Science and Technology &  
Minister of Sport  
(Member for Toco/Sangre Grande)
14. Hon. Dr. Delmon Baker, MP  
Minister of Tobago Development  
(Member for Tobago West)
15. Hon. Dr. Fuad Khan, MP  
Minister of Health  
(Member for Barataria/San Juan)
16. Hon. Dr. Lincoln Douglas, MP  
Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism  
(Member for Lopinot/Bon Air West)
17. Hon. Rodger Samuel , MP  
Minister of National Diversity and Social  
Integration  
(Member for Arima)
18. Hon. Rudranath Indarsingh , MP  
and the  
Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance  
Economy  
(Member for Couva South)
19. Hon. Stacy Roopnarine, MP  
and  
Minister of State in the Ministry of Works  
Infrastructure  
(Member for Oropouche West)
20. Hon. Ramona Ramdial, MP  
Minister of State in the Ministry of the  
Environment and Water Resources  
(Member for Couva North)
21. Hon. Vernella Alleyne-Toppin, MP  
and  
Minister of State in the Ministry of the People  
Social Development  
(Member for Tobago East)

22. Mr. Collin Partap, MP	Member for Cumuto Manzanilla
23. Mr. Chandresh Sharma, MP	Member for Fyzabad
24. Dr. Glenn Ramadharsingh, MP	Member for Caroni Central
25. Ms. Marlene Mc Donald, MP	Member for Port of Spain South
26. Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley, MP	Leader of the Opposition (Member for Diego Martin West)
27. Ms. Donna Cox, MP	Member for Laventille East/Morvant
28. Mr. NiLeung Hypolite, MP	Member for Laventille West
29. Mrs. Patricia Mc Intosh, MP West	Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's
30. Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	Member for Diego Martin North/East
31. Mr. Fitzgerald Jeffrey, MP	Member for La Brea
32. Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	Member for St Joseph
33. Dr. Amery Browne, MP	Member for Diego Martin Central
34. Mrs. Joanne Thomas, MP	Member for St. Ann's East
35. Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon, MP	Member for Point Fortin
36. Mr. Jack Warner, MP	Member for Chaguanas West

**Excused**

1. Hon. Winston Dookeran, MP	Minister of Foreign Affairs (Member for Tunapuna)
2. Ms. Alicia Hospedales, MP	Member for Arouca/Maloney

**Absent**

1. Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar SC, MP	Prime Minister (Member for Siparia)
2. Hon. Prakash Ramadhar, MP	Minister of Legal Affairs (Member for St. Augustine)
3. Mr. Patrick Manning, MP	Member for San Fernando East

### **Also Present**

1. Sen. the Hon. Larry Howai                      Minister of Finance and the Economy
2. Sen. the Hon. Devant Maharaj                Minister of Food Production
3. Sen. the Hon. Vasant Bharath                Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and  
Communications
4. Sen. the Hon. Marlene Coudray              Minister of Local Government

### **COMMENCEMENT**

- 1.1     The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.
- 1.2     The Chairman indicated that the following Members asked to be excused:
  - Mr. Winston Dookeran, MP – Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Ms. Alicia Hospedales, MP
- 1.3     The Chairman indicated that in accordance with Standing Order 82 (5) and 87, a meeting of the Standing Finance Committee was summoned to consider proposals for the Supplementation and Variation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2014.
- 1.4     Members were advised that in accordance with Standing Order 45(1) the speaking time in Standing Finance Committee shall not exceed five (5) minutes on each intervention.
- 1.5     The procedure for the consideration of the Heads of Expenditure was outlined.

### **TRANSFERS**

- 2.1     The Committee noted that the Minister of Finance and the Economy approved the transfer of funds in the sum of \$1,224,397,568 between Sub-Heads under the same Head of Expenditure for fiscal year 2013 and the transfer in the sum of \$767,434,547 between Sub-Heads under the same Head of Expenditure for fiscal year 2014.

### **PROPOSALS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014**

- 3.1     The Chairman proposed the question that Head 69, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure be supplemented by the sum of \$450,000,000.

- 3.2 The Minister of Works and Infrastructure made a brief opening statement. Thereafter, the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for Diego Martin North/East, the Member for Point Fortin, the Member for St. Joseph and the Member for Diego Martin Central sought clarification from the Minister.
- 3.3 After much discussion, the question was put and agreed that Head 69, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure be supplemented by the sum of \$450,000,000.
- 3.4 There being no other Heads of Expenditure to be supplemented, the question was put and agreed by the Committee that the Appropriation for the fiscal year 2014 be supplemented by the sum of \$450,000,000.

### **PROPOSALS FOR THE VARIATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014**

#### **Head 25: Ministry of Food Production - Decrease**

- 4.1 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 25, Ministry of Food Production be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$13,314,778.
- 4.2 The Minister of Food Production made a brief opening statement. Thereafter, the Member for Diego Martin North/East and the Member for Port-of-Spain South sought clarification from the Minister.
- 4.3 After much discussion, the question was put and agreed that Head 25, Ministry of Food Production be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$13,314,778.

#### **Head 42: Ministry of Local Government - Decrease**

- 4.4 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 42, Ministry of Local Government be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$250,000,000.
- 4.5 The Minister of Local Government provided an explanation for the proposal. Thereafter, the Member for Laventille West, the Leader of the Opposition, the Member for St. Ann's East and the Member for Diego Martin Central sought clarification from the Minister.
- 4.6 After a detailed discussion, the question was put and agreed that Head 42, Ministry of Local Government be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$250,000,000.

#### **Head 61: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development - Decrease**

- 4.7 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 61, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$200,000,000.

- 4.8 The Minister of Housing and Urban Development provided an explanation for the proposal. Thereafter, the Member for Diego Martin North/East, Member for Laventille West and Member for Point Fortin sought clarification from the Minister.
- 4.9 After some discussion, the question was put and agreed that Head 61, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$200,000,000.

**Head 70: Ministry of Communications - Decrease**

- 4.10 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 70, Ministry of Communications be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$41,741,693.
- 4.11 The Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications provided an explanation for the proposal for a decrease.
- 4.12 The question was put and agreed that Head 70, Ministry of Communications be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$41,741,693.

**Head 48: Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications - Increase**

- 4.13 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 48, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications be varied by an increase in the sum of \$41,741,693.
- 4.13.1 The Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications provided an explanation for the increase. Thereafter, the Member for Diego Martin North/East sought clarification from the Minister.
- 4.14 After a brief discussion, the question was put and agreed that Head 48, Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications be varied by an increase in the sum of \$41,741,693.

**Head 61: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development - Increase**

- 4.15 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 61, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development be varied by an increase in the sum of \$10,000,000.
- 4.16 The Minister of Housing and Urban Development provided an explanation for the proposal.

4.17 The question was put and agreed that Head 61, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development be varied by an increase in the sum of \$10,000,000.

**Head 69: Ministry of Works and Infrastructure - Increase**

4.18 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 69, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure be varied by an increase in the sum of \$450,000,000.

4.18.1 The question was put and agreed that Head 69, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure be varied by an increase in the sum of \$450,000,000.

**Head 76: Ministry of Land and Marine Resources - Increase**

4.19 The Chairman proposed the question that Head 76, Ministry of Land and Marine Resources be varied by an increase in the sum of \$3,314,778.

4.19.1 The Minister of Land and Marine Resources made a brief opening statement.

4.19.2 The question was put and agreed that Head 76, Ministry of Land and Marine Resources be varied by an increase in the sum of \$3,314,778.

**PROPOSALS FOR THE WRITE OFF OF LOSSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014**

**Head 03: Judiciary**

5.1.1 The Chairman proposed the question that losses in the sum of \$55,789.45 for Head 03, Judiciary be written-off.

5.1.2 The Minister of Finance and the Economy provided an explanation for the write-off of losses. Thereafter, the Member for Port-of-Spain North/St. Ann's West and the Leader of the Opposition sought clarification from the Minister.

5.1.3 After a brief discussion, the question was put and agreed that losses in the sum of \$55,789.45 for Head 03, Judiciary be written-off.

**Head 63: Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism**

5.1.4 The Chairman proposed the question that losses in the sum of \$36,934.58 for Head 63, Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism be written-off.

5.1.5 The Minister of the Arts and Multiculturalism made a brief opening statement.

5.1.6 The question was put and agreed that losses in the sum of \$36,934.58 for Head 63, Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism be written-off.



**OTHER BUSINESS**

- 6.1 The Chairman informed Members that the debate for the adoption of the Committee's Report will take place on Friday January 9, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.
- 6.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:11 p.m.

**We certify that these Minutes are true and correct.**

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

*January 07, 2015*

## APPENDIX II

### Verbatim Notes

VERBATIM NOTES OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, LEVEL 2, TOWER D,  
THE PORT-OF-SPAIN INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE,  
1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF SPAIN,  
ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 07, 2015 AT 1.30 A.M.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I call the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee to order, and to welcome all Members. May I also advise Members that we have been advised that both Mr. Winston Dookeran, the Member of Parliament for Tunapuna and Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Miss Alicia Hospedales, Member of Parliament for Arouca/Maloney, have asked to be excused from today's Standing Finance Committee.

In accordance with Standing Orders 82(5) and 87, this meeting of the Standing Finance Committee was summoned to consider proposals for the supplementation and variation of appropriation for the fiscal year 2014.

Hon. Members, in accordance with Standing Order 45(1), the speaking time in the Standing Finance Committee shall not exceed five minutes on each intervention.

The proposals for supplementation will be considered prior to the proposals for variation. May I take the opportunity to explain the procedure to hon. Members. The Head and the amount to be supplemented or varied will be announced by the Chairman. The Chairman will then propose the question that the Head be supplemented or varied. The Minister of Finance and the Economy will then be invited to explain the purpose of the supplementation or variation, and Members may seek clarification from the Minister. Once this is concluded, the Chairman will then put the question that the sum to be supplemented or varied be approved by the Standing Finance Committee. The procedure will be repeated for each Head. A similar procedure will be followed for the approval of the write-off of losses.

The Committee is being asked to note that the Minister of Finance and the Economy has approved the transfer of funds in the sum of \$1,224,397,568 between Sub-Heads under the same Head of expenditure for fiscal year 2013 and another transfer in the sum of \$767,434,547, between Sub-Heads under the same Head of expenditure for fiscal year 2014. These transfers do not require the approval of the Standing Finance Committee. May I repeat: these transfers do not require the approval of the Standing Finance Committee.

**Miss Mc Donald:** Mr. Chair, could I ask a question? Why are we not allowed to ask questions on the transfers?

**Mr. Chairman:** Because the transfers have been approved already by the Minister of Finance and the Economy and, as such, while it is before us, it is not for the Parliament or the Standing Finance Committee to approve transfers. Under the law it is for the Minister of Finance and the Economy to do so. However, if Members require some degree of clarification, I will not stifle Members' intervention, but Members are not required, that is, the Standing Finance Committee is not required to approve transfers. That is already done by the Minister of Finance and the Economy.

**Dr. Rowley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, let me just get that quite clear. Members can seek clarification or explanations on these transfers from the Minister, but we are not seeking an approval of the House for what has been done. But we certainly would like, and we expect to be able, as we see these transfers, because some of them are quite interesting, and would like to talk to the Minister of Finance and the Economy about them.

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes, but what I am saying is that I would not want a matter that is not requiring, in the final analysis, the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, to absorb the Standing Finance Committee in lengthy discussions, when in truth and in fact these transfers are only before us for noting. Maybe when it comes to the actual debate on Friday, Members can take the opportunity to further enquire. But what I am saying, hon. Member, is that I would not want to stifle or handicap Members, but I would not want to open a floodgate at the same time.

What is properly before us would be the supplementation and the variation. As it relates to transfers, that matter has already been addressed by the hon. Minister.

**Dr. Rowley:** Understood — *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Chairman:** No, allow the Member to speak, please.

**Dr. Rowley:** We understand you quite clearly, just to make sure that in preparation for the debate where we expect openness and effective answers, and noting to the Minister as to where our areas of interest lie would facilitate the debate on Friday, taking into account your very important point of not wanting the Standing Finance Committee to become a debate on issues for which no approval is required.

**Mr. Chairman:** So we can, as I said, take some questions and the Minister can note those questions. Maybe in the debate on Friday he could bring some clarification on those questions.

**Dr. Moonilal:** Chairman, we are very clear on the procedure before us. The Members having concerns, questions or queries with the transfers, if they would like to, very briefly — because it is not before us for examination that way — we prefer that they can raise issues very briefly today, but a debate will take place, and during the debate the Minister of Finance and the Economy will be present, and all Members are free to raise as many questions for detail and clarification on the transfers on Friday. The Minister in his winding will seek to answer those

questions as best he could, but we also prefer that we do not have a long session today on transfers which are not properly before us for examination and approval of this Committee.

**1.40 p.m.**

**Mr. Chairman:** Yeah, but I think the principle has been accepted, and we should move forward. Okay?

Let us deal with the issue of supplementation which is the first matter that we would like to address, and then we go to variation of appropriation for fiscal 2014, and then we go to the last item which would be write-off of losses. That is the sequence I would like to suggest that we adopt for efficiency at this time.

Hon. Members, we shall now consider the proposals for supplementation for fiscal year 2014.

Head 69: Ministry of Works and Infrastructure

*Question proposed:* That Head 69 be supplemented by the sum of \$450,000,000.

I will now want to take the opportunity to invite the hon. Minister of Works and Infrastructure to give an explanation to the Standing Finance Committee on this particular matter before us, remembering that you have five minutes to do so. Having done so, the Standing Committee will now be opened, and Members can then query, seek clarification, and as Members are advised, five minutes per intervention. The hon. Minister of Works and Infrastructure.

**Dr. Rambachan:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, according to the information that is available to everyone around the room, Cabinet by Minute No. 333 of February 10 agreed to approving an overall project budget of \$7,502.80 million for the construction of the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway extension to Point Fortin. And of course this covered cost of construction, consultancy services, land acquisition and community outreach, contingency

escalation cost, customs duties and import taxes, and the management fees for NIDCO, National Infrastructure Development Company Limited.

Mr. Chairman, NIDCO—having also agreed that NIDCO be authorized to source funds in the said amount on the local international market for the project, and the loan, that loan, be guaranteed by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and that the Minister of Finance and the Economy issue a letter of guarantee, pending approval of the Government guarantee.

Mr. Chairman, what happened is that arrangement for financing of the project had not been, as yet, finalized, and as a result the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure requested that funding in the sum of \$900 million be made available to enable NIDCO to honour its financial obligations associated with the project during the year. To facilitate this request, advances from the Treasury deposits in the sum of \$900 million was issued in fiscal 2014. To deal with that \$900 million, there were savings identified under Head 42, Ministry of Local Government and Head 61, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, in the sums of \$250 million and \$200 million, respectively, to retire in part, the advances from the Treasury. So these two sums retired \$450 million, and therefore, the balance of \$450 million, which we are speaking about here, is to retire the same by way of supplementation.

**Mr. Chairman:** Please, continue. You are through?

**Dr. Rambachan:** Yes. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Okay. Hon. Members, you are now invited to seek clarification and make comments on this matter. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Chairman, this development is quite troubling, in that it goes to the root of what we believe and what we are told. Up until I saw this document and being guided by statements made the Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Economy, the previous Minister of Works— and as a Member of this House and of this committee—I, like the rest of the national community was led to believe that the funding of this project was properly in hand, and that NIDCO had, in fact, been cleared to raise this money, and had successfully done so. In fact, based on that kind of information which had come from the Government, in seeking to monitor the progress of this expenditure on this project, I filed a question which is on order somewhere there, only to be told now, after the budget which we dealt with quite extensively in September, that this development took place.

A simple question I want to ask the Minister of Works and Infrastructure and the Minister of Finance and the Economy, why was this information withheld from all of us in this country? And we are only now finding out that NIDCO was not successful in raising the money, and that in fact, in lieu of what we were told, this significant sum was floated from the Treasury in this way which we are now under law required to do. Okay. It happened because of the circumstances which we still have to get the details as to why was NIDCO unable to raise the money, even though a Government guarantee was already publicly offered? Why did that not happen? And since this happened, why did you not tell us that before? That is what I want to ask the Minister of Finance and the Economy and the Minister of Works and Infrastructure.

**Mr. Chairman:** Minister of Works and Infrastructure or the Minister of Finance and the Economy, whichever one would like to go first.

**Hon. Howai:** Yeah. Mr. Chairman, the funding for this particular Note had been approved in 2011. When the initial disbursements were required to be made, these were

actually made from Treasury deposits. There was no need at the time to go out to further increase Government's borrowings, given the fact that through our Treasury deposits we had funding that would have been sufficient to meet the required cost. We had decided therefore, not to proceed to raise additional loans, unless we absolutely need to do so. Where we can fund it out of our existing cash flows, we will seek to do so. And during the course of 2014, in fact we were able to fund it out of our existing cash flows because you do not need \$7.5 billion right away. You need \$7.5 billion over a period of time, and it did not make sense raising the money, putting it on a deposit and incurring interest costs while you are waiting for the draw-downs to take place.

So, even before my coming into Government, the funds were actually raised from Treasury deposits, and we simply continued that arrangement because we had sufficient cash flows that did not require us to go into the market and borrow any funds. I do not think—we certainly do not need \$7.5 billion now because we have already advanced funds from the Treasury deposit account to cover, not only last year, but in prior years we had also done so, and had disclosed same to this House, this honourable House. We would not need to borrow that entire amount. And as at now, we would not wish to go out and borrow unless we absolutely need to do so, and if we need to do so, I do not see that there would be any problem in raising the funds in the market.

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Chairman—

**Hon. Howai:** I do not know if that explains it.

**Dr. Rowley:**—[inaudible] the Minister of Finance and the Economy is not addressing the question that I had raised. And the question is: the Government made public that NIDCO was going out to borrow this money, and the taxpayers were led to believe that that action was taking place and had taken place. If the Government found itself in this situation, as the Minister is explaining now, the question is: why were we not all—including the banking sector—told NIDCO is no longer going to raise this money. Is the Minister saying to us now that there was absolutely no difficulty with respect to borrowing, and this simply happened because they came to a conclusion, in house, that there was no longer any need to proceed with what they had authorized, because NIDCO was authorized to go out and raise this money? And I presume that NIDCO would have been dealing with the banking community to do it. When and how did the Government stop that process?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Finance and the Economy.

**Hon. Howai:** Yeah. I do not think that there is any—there is certainly no intention to mislead anyone in respect of this matter. The thing is that, I mean, Cabinet can agree for a company to borrow funds, Mr. Chairman, and we could decide if the Ministry of Finance and the Economy decides, well listen, we do not need to borrow these funds. We simply advise Cabinet that look, we do not need to borrow these funds at this time. If we do need to borrow, we will do so. But the point about it is that we would not wish to borrow funds, unless it is that we were in such a cash flow position that we needed that supplementation of funds outside of what we are able to raise in order to fund this particular project. And I think the same would hold for any particular project.

So, I do not see it as, you know, anything other than that—okay—Cabinet agreed that we would do this. We said, yes, we would do it. But on the basis of our own cash flows, we just decided that, you know, we made the decision that it does not make sense

at this time to go into the market to increase your borrowing when you do not need to do so.

**1.50 p.m.**

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Chairman, is the Minister saying that when they publicly told the country that NIDCO was authorized to go out and borrow a billion dollars, the Government guaranteed that at that time—whenever that was—that the Government and the Cabinet saw cash-flow difficulties? Is that what he is saying? If on the basis of an improvement in cash flow you cancelled the borrowing arrangements, the corollary is that when you authorized NIDCO to borrow, at that time, you foresaw cash-flow difficulties. When was that?—and please answer the question—when was NIDCO stopped from proceeding along the instructions that they were given? And, why was the population, including the banking sector, not told that? Because borrowing a billion dollars is not a Cabinet whimsical action, it has serious considerations, the banks should have been approached, finance should have been approached and all kinds of effects on our economic movement. So, if it was to be stopped, I am simply asking the Minister, when was it stopped and how was it stopped? That is all I am asking.

**Hon. Howai:** In terms of when it was stopped, as I said, when I came in—this was done in 2011—so I will need to get that background information as to when it was stopped. What I do know is that advances had been made from Treasury deposits prior to my taking this position and since then we simply continued on that basis because of the fact that we had sufficient cash flows. Like during the course of 2014 we had sufficient cash flows that allowed us to be able to fund the project without going to the market to borrow.

Now, the thing is that during the course of this year, during the course of next year, as the project continues, there may be a need to go to the market to borrow. At that stage, if we do need to do so we will advise Cabinet and we will proceed to raise the funding as required.

**Mr. Imbert:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister explain in the context of the Government borrowing between \$6 billion and \$7 billion in 2014, what was so different about all the other—the multitude of projects for which you borrowed money and put aside in a bank account and pay interest on, as you say you do not want to do with this? What is so special about this project that you are not borrowing but you are using recurrent expenditure and starving other agencies of money, and you borrowed \$6 billion for other projects? What is so special about this project?

**Hon. Howai:** Okay, let me point out that there are no projects being starved for funding. Right now as far as I am aware there are no projects being starved for funding.

**Mr. Imbert:** What is so special about this project?

**Hon. Howai:** The loans which were raised during the course of last year, for example the Couva Hospital, these are government-to-government arrangements.

**Mr. Imbert:** I am talking about local borrowings. Are you saying you borrowed nothing on the local market?

**Hon. Howai:** There was one bond issue which we raised on the local market towards the end of last year, about \$2 billion.

**Mr. Imbert:** About \$2 billion?

**Hon. Howai:** About \$2 billion, yes—*[Interruption]*

**Mr. Imbert:** Why you did that?

**Hon. Howai:**—and that was a supplementation of our—*[Interruption]*

**Mr. Imbert:** So, what is so special about the project?

**Mr. Chairman:** Listen, you cannot interrupt.

**Mr. Imbert:** He is not answering me.

**Mr. Chairman:** No, no, no.

**Mr. Imbert:** Not answering me, Chairman. He is not answering me.

**Mr. Chairman:** Yeah, yeah, but he may not be answering you but –

**Mr. Imbert:** He is not answering me at all.

**Mr. Chairman:** – he has to respond, but you cannot be interrupting him when he has five minutes to respond and you have five minutes to intervene –

**Mr. Imbert:** Sure.

**Mr. Chairman:** – otherwise we are not going anywhere.

**Mr. Imbert:** Got you.

**Mr. Chairman:** So, allow the Minister to respond and then you take notes and then you come back again. Continue hon. Minister.

**Hon. Howai:** Yes. So, Mr. Chairman, the total amount we borrowed was not the \$7.5 billion that Cabinet had approved. Last year we borrowed \$2 billion, and the \$2 billion was simply to deal with ensuring that we had sufficient cash flows to continue our operations in a normal way. It was intended to meet with all our overall funding requirements, and that was the basis on which we had borrowed that additional funds. And we did not think – again, I repeat – certainly there was need to borrow \$7.5 billion even though it may have been approved by Cabinet at the time that if you wish to raise this funding you can do so by way of loans.

When I looked at our cash-flow position I did not see the need for us to so encumber our position in terms of additional borrowings, and therefore I did not seek to raise the funding there. I thought it best to raise the funding by way of the bond that we issued on the open market towards the end of September which was simply intended to enhance our overall cash-flow position.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Mr. Imbert:** Yes, Sir. The Minister did not answer my question. What is so special about this project that you have chosen to use recurrent expenditure thereby not having that money available for other recurrent expenditure and the other projects that you borrowed for? Why did you borrow for some and not for this? What is so special about this?

**Hon. Howai:** Yes, the thing is that, for example, the government-to-government projects have a substantial amount of foreign exchange impact. So, in terms of funding the foreign exchange component, it made sense to match the US dollar and the Chinese position with foreign currency borrowing. Therefore that was done in that particular kind of a way and those were matched.

In terms of local borrowings, the local borrowing was really, the \$2 billion that we raised towards the end of last year, and that \$2 billion was used to, as I said, supplement our overall funding. In terms of this particular project, there is no need for us to simply go into the market to raise additional funding for this particular project. If there is need to do so, we would do so.

**Mr. Chairman:** I think I recognize the Member for Point Fortin.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Thank you. The hon. Minister of Finance and the Economy just said that there is no need to go into the market to borrow to finance this project thus far, but I



do recall and it is on record that the hon. Minister of Works did say to us that a \$1.5 billion loan was being negotiated, and he said this in the last Standing Finance Committee, and I suppose that is based on questions which were raised about provision for repayment on this \$1.5 billion loan. Are you borrowing or are you not borrowing? – because he is on record as saying that the loan is being negotiated.

**Hon. Howai:** Yes, at that time that was being put in place as a possible back-up position.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** That was two months ago, you know?

**Hon. Howai:** Yes, that was put in place as a possible back-up position. Up to at the time when we did this particular transaction we did not need to go into the market – this \$900 million we did not need to go into the market. Given what is happening now, for example, Chairman, with oil prices, we may need now to consider going into the market to borrow the funds, and if we need to do so we would do so, but up to the time when we did this particular transaction we were able to fund it out of our existing cash flows and therefore we did not seek to go into the market.

*[Cell phone rings]*

**Mr. Chairman:** Could you control that system, that device? Put your devices on silent. I recognize the hon. Member for St. Joseph. Did the Member for Diego Martin Central raise?

**Dr. Browne:** Yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** After the Member for St. Joseph, the hon. Member for Diego Martin Central, and then right back to the Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Mr. Deyalsingh:** Thank you, Chair. Hon. Minister, in light of the conflicting information now, could I just ask a simple question? In 2011, was it the intention of the Government then to fund this highway – whether it is \$7 million, \$7 billion, \$700 billion – from Treasury deposits and at that time never to seek loan financing, and even though you were not there someone else can answer?

**Hon. Howai:** Yes, I do not think that – I mean, certainly Cabinet having approved it, the expectation or the intention I suppose at that time was to borrow. As I said I would have to find out why we did not borrow when the first tranche was drawn. I cannot give the answer to that now, but I can undertake to obtain the answer.

**Mr. Deyalsingh:** Just a follow-up, please. This is even more confusing. You are now saying that the intention in 2011 was to borrow, is that correct?

**2.00 p.m.**

**Hon. Howai:** Well I think if Cabinet approved a Note like this, I presume that was the intent at the time.

**Mr. Deyalsingh:** Thank you. You presume, thank you.

**Dr. Moonilal:** They want us to borrow more.

**Dr. Browne:** Thank you, Chairman. Minister, you indicated that there is no effort to mislead, but somebody has misled the country on this matter, and I have to ask about the planning of this project, and financing is a very important part of the planning. A lot of effort, Minister, was spent trying to persuade this country that the superior option was to borrow. Right here in the Parliament, debate after debate, and now you are coming – as the Leader of the Opposition is saying – revealing to the country that you have decided that that was an inferior option. My question has to do with the decision itself.

Who made that decision or what agency made the decision to change the arrangement? And is it that our cash flow situation or cash flow position is so much

superior now or in 2014 than it was in 2012? I am curious as to what triggered that decision because the assumption, from what you said thus far, is that somehow our cash flow situation was so superior and so welcoming that a decision was taken to avoid going into a loan arrangement. That does not really add up to me, and I am wondering if the Minister of Finance and the Economy or you as Minister has learned any lesson from this experience in terms of financing this, the flagship project of this Government.

**Hon. Howai:** Yeah. Well, Mr. Chairman, this project is perhaps somewhere around halfway through or more. Funding has been provided to this project since 2011 and all of the funding has really come from Treasury deposits. This is being made to sound as if, well, this is the first time it came from Treasury deposits. This is not so. In fact, it has been funded by treasury deposits from the start, since 2011, so it is nothing new and it is nothing that has been different. In fact, in prior years we have had to come to this House and say that we took funds from Treasury deposits and we needed therefore supplementation or appropriation in order to refund the moneys back to the Treasury depositor account. So that on this particular project – [*Crosstalk*] – well it will have to be in the records, right?

So, this is not the first time that we are using Treasury deposits to do this. Treasury deposits, in fact, had been used to fund this project going back to 2011, and in fact, I recall on two previous occasions, prior to this, when the funds were taken from the Treasury deposit account and that would be on record as having been done.

So I cannot say that, you know, certainly this is the first time this has happened. It has happened before, it has been used in this particular way, and for the time being we are comfortable that in terms of how we have funded it, we have funded it in the most appropriate way without increasing our overall debt position or guarantee position outside there in the market place, and given where we are now, perhaps we may now decide that we have to come to get supplementation because of the fact – supplementary funds from the market – because of what is happening overall now with respect to the price of oil and gas. But as it stood at the time, when we did this particular transaction, there was no need for us to do anything other than make the withdrawal from – [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Chairman:** I recognize the Member for Point Fortin and then the Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Yes, thank you. Now I know that this project is being done in phases: Golconda to Debe; Debe to Penal; Mon Desir to La Brea; La Brea to Point Fortin, et cetera, et cetera. Now, the 450 being transferred – can you provide details as to the percentage of works completed for each particular phase and the quantum of funds applied for works completed, and therefore, the quantum of funds required to complete for each particular phase left to be completed? A detail breakdown, because this has not been a transparent process and it is public funds that are being used and we need to have specific details as to where this project is heading and how much money will be spent to complete.

**Hon. Howai:** Chairman, I think perhaps that it may be best dealt with during the debate. It is quite an extensive question in terms of all of the different phases. Minister you can – [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Works and Infrastructure.

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, the work on the Point Fortin Highway is proceeding as

planned, and the goals that we have set for this project are being achieved. Mr. Chairman, thus far, approximately 43 per cent of the project has been completed. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** At what cost? How much money spent?

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes, he will answer. Continue, please.

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, it is unbelievable because some people just do not want to believe the performance of the Government, but it is happening. [*Desk thumping*] I can provide a total breakdown for you in the debate.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Could he put it in writing?

**Dr. Rambachan:** But the total payment to date, to the contractor, equates to \$2.8 billion, and the total expenditure on the project to date is about \$3.7 billion in total which is just about 50 per cent of the project. But that includes the advances that were paid to OAS, so that money and dollar for value, the percentage of work completed is in line with the payments that have been made. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Chairman, the project is proceeding from the Dunlop end of Point Fortin to Road No. 8, and that part of the highway will also be opened during this year. We are just about ready to open the section between St Mary's and Grant Trace which is quite a substantial section, and that will be opened by the end of April of this year. [*Desk thumping*] The section from St. Mary's to Mon Desir is completed. That could be opened, but we are awaiting to open this entire section to Grant Trace and there is a Connector Road from Grant Trace back on the highway.

We are also going to be opening by the end of February the Debe Interchange. We are upgrading also the M2 Ring Road which will also facilitate traffic and we are just about completing works on the Mosquito Creek area from Dumfries right up to St. Mary's. There we had some challenges because of the soil, but we have overcome those challenges and paving work will soon begin there including the completion of the new Godineau Bridge as well as the new bridge at Paria Suites. So that, if people were to drive down there, you will see, actually, base course paving work taking place — [*Interruption*]

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** That is not what I asked. I have not asked that.

**Mr. Chairman:** Please.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Keep it tight. I have not asked —

**Mr. Chairman:** The Minister has five minutes to respond. [*Crosstalk*] Yeah, he is responding.

**Dr. Rambachan:** —from Dumfries right on— [*Crosstalk*] So, Mr. Speaker, I will be very, very happy to take the hon. Member for Point Fortin on a tour of the highway.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** I would not want to go with you.

**Mr. Chairman:** I recognize the Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Dr. Rambachan:** But I assure you that the work that has been completed is in line with the payments that are being made.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** I want to know how you finance it.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Mr. Imbert:** Mr. Speaker, is he a Member of the committee here?

**Mr. Chairman:** Who is that?

**Mr. Imbert:** Minister of Food Production.

**Mr. Chairman:** No, he has a matter before us.

**Mr. Imbert:** But he is not a Member?

**Mr. Chairman:** No, he is not a Member, but he has a matter before us.

**Mr. Imbert:** Could you ask him not to intervene in the discussions?

**Mr. Chairman:** Well, we can advise Members and so on to be silent whilst the proceedings are taking place. Continue hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East, please.

**Mr. Imbert:** Mr. Minister of Finance and the Economy and Mr. Minister of Works and Infrastructure, I remember the Minister of Works and Infrastructure coming to the House to tell us that the cost of this project, inclusive of all the cost contingency, et cetera, et cetera, was in excess of \$8 billion.

**Dr. Rambachan:** I never said that.

**Mr. Imbert:** Yes, you did.

**Dr. Rambachan:** No.

**Mr. Imbert:** And, Mr. Chairman, in the context of that statement made by the Minister, could the Government – [*Crosstalk*] I am right – could the Government tell us how much more is required to be disbursed to complete this project consistent with the statement made by the Minister, which I will find for the debate, where the project is now costing in excess of \$8 billion? Could you tell us how much more money the next Government, which will be a PNM Government, will have to spend on this project? [*Desk thumping*]

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, the Member for Diego Martin North/East has some very great visions, but the PNM does not have the actions, so their dream of becoming Government remains a hallucination.

**Mr. Imbert:** How much money we have to spend? [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Chairman:** Please, please, please.

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, I do not recall saying in this House that this project is costing \$8 billion. [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Chairman:** Please, please, please.

**Dr. Rambachan:** I have maintained always that the cost of this project which was the amount approved by the Cabinet for the project and that was \$7,502.80 million.

**2.10 p.m.**

**Dr. Rambachan:** That is the figure I have always repeated to the best of my knowledge.

**Mr. Imbert:** You are wrong.

**Dr. Rambachan:** So, Mr. Chairman, we are working – [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Imbert:** Of course, “he wrong”. Give a detailed breakdown.

**Mr. Chairman:** Please, please.

**Mr. Imbert:** Eight point five billion.

**Dr. Rambachan:**—doing value engineering, as the hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East might be aware of—doing value engineering, and working in such a way that we are going to try to achieve this project within the budgeted amount of \$7.5 billion.

**Mr. Imbert:** How much more money?

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, if you have used a certain amount of money, the difference between that and what the project is supposed to cost will be the amount of money that you will need.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Well, tell us how much.

**Mr. Chairman:** Would you like to raise a question, Member for Point Fortin?

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Certainly.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member for Point Fortin is on the floor.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Could the Minister be specific as to how much funds are needed to

complete the next 57 per cent of the project? [*Crosstalk*]

**Mr. Imbert:** No, we want to know how much money.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Works and Infrastructure, would you want to respond to that?

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, I do not have that exact figure. What I have said I will repeat. The total payment to the contractor to date is \$2.819 billion and the total expenditure on the project to date is \$3.7 billion, and that includes everything. The figure is inclusive, the 3.7 of the consultancy to ACOM, land acquisition, management fees, outreach, design, construction and contingencies and construction. Mr. Chairman, the difference between that and the amount of money approved for the project is \$3.7 billion also.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** And that would be 57 per cent?

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, the Member for Point Fortin will also have heard me say that in that amount were the advances paid to the OAS, so that when you check those advances and you take it off, you will begin to see that the percentage is in line with the amount of money paid. [*Desk thumping*]

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** It does not make sense to me.

**Mr. Imbert:** I will deal with the bogus arithmetic on Friday.

**Dr. Gopeesingh:** Why you cannot check it now?

**Mr. Imbert:** I know the figure.

**Mr. Chairman:** Any further questions? Or do I put the question? Any other hon. Member would like to raise any question? If not, may I, with your leave, put the question?

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 69 now supplemented by the sum of \$450,000,000.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Appropriation for the fiscal year 2014 supplemented by \$450,000,000.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, we shall now proceed to Variation. Hon. Members we shall consider the proposals for Variation. The proposals for decreases will be considered first, followed by the proposals for increases.

*Head 25: Ministry of Food Production \$13,314,778.*

*Question proposed:* That Head 25 be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$13,314,778.

I now invite the hon. Minister of Food Production to give an explanation for this decrease to the Standing Finance Committee.

**Mr. Maharaj:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The decrease accounted in various areas of the Ministry, including personnel expenditure, goods and services, minor equipment and purchases, current transfers and subsidies and current transfer, statutory and similar bodies. In regards to the transfer, statutory board and similar bodies, Subhead 06, the funds were restricted in terms of the Cocoa and Coffee Board of Trinidad and Tobago, which was repealed by the budget, and the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago which is in litigation right now and their election has been questioned. The cheque-writer system engaged in some difficulties in the last week of the financial year resulting in a number of invoices being unable to be processed within the period, which included incentives and so on, which amounted to a few million out of \$13 million.

The personnel expenditure, the sum allocated for daily-rated workers' back pay was in excess of those requested by the Ministry to satisfy its requirements. The area of

goods and services, Subhead 02, funds released for the agricultural access road included projects which straddled the fiscal 2014 and 2015 accounting for the overall decrease of \$13 million.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, I shall now invite you to seek clarification from the hon. Minister. I recognize the Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Mr. Imbert:** Mr. Chairman, could the Minister tell us what the money that was allocated to the Cocoa and Coffee Board and the Agricultural Society would have been spent on, were it not for the two events: one, the repeal, and the other, the legal problems?

**Mr. Maharaj:** Well, in terms of the ASTT, they have a number of activities which they are engaged in, including training and so on, a lot of which is already being done by the Ministry itself. So, in a sense, they duplicate a lot of what the Ministry is doing, and the Cocoa and Coffee Board, some of their operational expenditure which was taken up by the Ministry with the repeal.

**Mr. Imbert:** Yeah, but hold on. You said that the Cocoa and Coffee Board was repealed.

**Mr. Maharaj:** The Act, yes.

**Mr. Imbert:** And the Agricultural Society is in litigation. There was an allocation.

**Mr. Maharaj:** Yes.

**Mr. Imbert:** What was the purpose of that allocation?

**Mr. Maharaj:** The purpose of the Cocoa and Coffee Board allocation was for their operational expenditure, primarily. With the repeal of the Act, the Ministry – because we could not have touched the money from this particular fund – this Subhead – for that point in time because of the repeal of the Act, we utilized other funding from other areas to supplement the operational costs.

**Mr. Imbert:** To do the work that the Cocoa and Coffee Board was doing?

**Mr. Maharaj:** Yeah, to pay the salaries of the officers assigned and so on. And the Agricultural Society, with the funds being stopped, no releases were made and that accounted for part of the 13.

**Mr. Imbert:** So they have not received any money?

**Mr. Maharaj:** Yeah, they have not received any money.

**Mr. Imbert:** So the society is therefore not functional?

**Mr. Maharaj:** Well, the society was in litigation – *[Interruption]*

**Mr. Imbert:** I know that, but having not received any funds, they are not functional.

**Mr. Maharaj:** It was not functional.

**Mr. Imbert:** All right. Okay.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member for Port of Spain South.

**Miss Mc Donald:** Minister, you said part of that decrease, that \$13.3 million, some of the moneys were personnel expenditure.

**Mr. Maharaj:** Yes.

**Miss Mc Donald:** Could you clarify “personnel expenditure” for me please?

**Mr. Maharaj:** I am informed by the Ministry staff that the sum allocated for the increase of daily-rated workers’ back pay was in excess of the sum actually needed, so that accounted for part of the \$13 million decrease.

**Miss Mc Donald:** So it is not as if the back pay was not paid?

**Mr. Maharaj:** No, all the back pay was paid out for the daily-rated workers – *[Interruption]*

**Miss Mc Donald:** And it was the excess.

**Mr. Maharaj:**— but the sum allocated was in excess of what we actually required.

**Miss Mc Donald:** Okay, good.

**Mr. Chairman:** Any other Members? If not, may I put the question?

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 25 varied by a decrease in the sum of \$13,314,778.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister of Food Production, may I thank you on behalf of the Standing Finance Committee.

We now go to the Ministry of Local Government.

*Head 42: Ministry of Local Government \$250,000,000.*

*Question proposed: That Head 42 be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$250,000,000.*

May I invite the hon. Minister of Local Government to explain to the Standing Finance Committee this development in terms of the decrease? You are now invited to take the floor.

**2.20 p.m.**

**Ms. Coudray:** Thank you, Chairman. During the fiscal year a new collective agreement was negotiated for the daily rated workers in local government bodies, and the processing of payment for the corporations did not take place. Only the cities and boroughs were able to complete their transactions. So based on the reduction, salaries and Cola, the sum of \$9,192,000 was given to supplement the funding to pay this arrears, and it could not have been utilized because the processing was not completed during fiscal 2014. One hundred and twenty seven million, one hundred and seventy eight hundred thousand, six hundred and seventy three dollars would have been allocated for the wages and Cola, and the previous sum \$9,192,000 was additional funding given to corporations for salaries and Cola that was not required.

Under the subhead 04, allowances monthly paid officers, there is a sum of \$15,556,000 supplemented to under Head Local Government that was not requested as well; overtime for daily rated workers, \$32,007,341; the allowances as well \$58,911,053; other contracted services, \$4,378,048; water trucking, \$5 million — additional funding was provided that was, again, not requested — and retirement benefits for daily rated workers, \$6,489,728. The entire allocation was not required to pay benefits because the processing, again, had not been completed. This is the composition of the \$250 million mainly under wages and Cola, salaries and Cola and issues dealing with arrears to daily rated employees in the 14 local government bodies.

**Mr. Chairman:** Are you through?

**Ms. Coudray:** Yes, this is the explanation for the \$250 million.

**Mr. Chairman:** All right. I will now invite hon. Members to address any points of clarification arising out of the Minister's explanation. I recognize the Member for Laventille West.

**Mr. Hypolite:** Mr. Chair, through you, to the Minister, can the Minister indicate when all of these negotiations are expected to be completed?

**Ms. Coudray:** The negotiations have been completed. This is why the funding was provided. The processing of the benefits have now—I think there are two or three corporations still having their arrears worked out and audited.

**Mr. Hypolite:** Do you have a date in mind as to when all of these will be completed?

**Ms. Coudray:** I cannot provide that at this time, but I am sure there is a schedule, yes.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member for Diego Martin West, Leader of the Opposition.

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister has quite clearly demonstrated the ability of the Ministry to have funded operations within local government based on moneys in hand by a way of admitting transfers. There is one particular activity in local government which had to the best of my knowledge – I am subject to correction here – not taken place in keeping with statute, and that is the preparation to operationalize the Dangerous Dogs Act. Whenever that matter comes up in the public domain as to why local government has not been active and why the authorities, mainly the Government, have not put things in place so that the Dangerous Dogs Act can be effective, spokespersons for the corporations indicate that the arrangements have not been made at local government so as to allow that particular law to be operated. Could the Minister tell us if against her background of \$250 million being now available to be transferred to the highway to Penal, if any consideration was given to using any of this money to make operational the Dangerous Dogs Act which depends on local government preparation?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Ms. Coudray:** Chairman, as the Member indicated, he is subject to correction. It has been a lot. A lot has been said, but we cannot spend money unless Cabinet gives approval. And the issue with the dangerous dog, that was the subject of a separate Cabinet Minute for which funding has been allocated in fiscal 2015. The timing of all this is really not – the Member is asking about fiscal 2014 at a time when Cabinet had not agreed to those provisions. So obviously, we were not free to spend any money. These moneys were allocated by Parliament for these purposes, and therefore, there was no authority to vary that at the particular point in time.

**Dr. Rowley:** Is the Minister telling us that when the Dangerous Dogs Act came into force that these moneys were not available to the Ministry? Is that what we are being told?

**Ms. Coudray:** Chairman, as I indicated, the moneys were available to the Ministry at the time. The Ministry had been engaged in processing through the corporations. The corporations were processing the arrears payable to its daily rated employees. It was anticipated at the time that the payments would have been made during fiscal 2014. Unfortunately they had not been, so the timing really did not work out to do anything else with those funds at that time.

**Dr. Rowley:** Okay, great, but that only applies to the – even if I accept that, that you anticipated using the moneys for salaries and wages, what about the other moneys that were not anticipated for salaries or wages that you outlined there a while ago?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Ms. Coudray:** Yes, Chairman, the other moneys as indicated, the Member can have those answers. I will have the Permanent Secretary and others provide the answers.

**Dr. Rowley:** No, no, that is not the point I am asking you. There were other moneys that could have been utilized for the dangerous dog implementation. The Minister told us that the moneys for salaries and wages were expected to be paid, so no effort was made to use them for anything else. That is reasonable. But I am saying the other moneys that make up the \$250 million, was any consideration given to using any of that money to comply with the law which is enforced? The Minister did mention that they required Cabinet approval. Well then, Mr. Chairman, did the Minister make any effort to go to Cabinet to get that approval so that the law could be operated? Because as far as I am aware, the Dangerous Dogs Act is not being enforced in Trinidad and Tobago and reason I am being told – she can query that as well – is that no provisions has been made at local



government as to have that law enforced.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Ms. Coudray:** Chairman, that is incorrect. The regulations with respect to give life to the Dangerous Dogs Act are with the Attorney General's office and there is a date for proclamation. It has been proclaimed in part and the issue of funding anything did not arise. It is a whole process involved to operationalize the dangerous dog and that is being dealt with the CEOs of the 14 corporations and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government.

**Dr. Rowley:** So, Mr. Chairman, based on what the Minister is now saying that I am wrong, that the Dangerous Dogs Act is not in abeyance, can I now take my dog to any local government body in this country; or can members of the public who have problems with the dogs so affected, can they now take their dogs as required by law to the local government bodies tomorrow and have them dealt with it as required by law?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Ms. Coudray:** Chairman, I did not come here to deal with dangerous dogs. First of all, I came to deal with the issue of the – but listen, we published –

**Dr. Rowley:** But the Minister now told me I was wrong.

**Ms. Coudray:** May I be allow to answer, Chairman?

**Mr. Chairman:** Yes.

**Ms. Coudray:** The Ministry of Local Government published in the newspapers the procedure for dealing – you do not take dogs to local government bodies. There are four facilities. There are regional facilities at which dogs are to be taken should they suspected to be dangerous, et cetera. It is a whole process.

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Chairman, I am talking about the funding of an operation which is the responsibility of local government.

**2.30 p.m.**

When I raised that those arrangements are not effected, the Minister told me I am wrong. I am now asking her and I want a simple answer. Since you are saying that I am wrong and that arrangements are in place to deal with the operations of the Dangerous Dogs Act, can the public now be told that those arrangements are in place and that those persons who, with respect to their dogs, if they want to have them dealt with in the context of the Dangerous Dogs Act, can they take them and/or be treated at the local government arrangements? Can I have an answer to that, please?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Mrs. Coudray:** Mr. Chairman, the Dangerous Dogs Act is not yet fully proclaimed but any member of the public wishing to have any matter dealt with can contact one of the 14 corporations or all of the 14 corporations, depending on where you live, to make arrangements – make appropriate arrangements to deal with dangerous dogs.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member for St. Ann's East and then Diego Martin Central.

**Mrs. Thomas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Results from the various committee meetings held with the regional corporations at the joint select would prove that all of the corporations identified that they were starved for funds. A lot of them did not have adequate staff, you know, contractual services, and they had to use the daily-rated workers to perform the duties of contracted positions. I see the Minister mentioned that a lot of the moneys were moneys allocated for salaries for contracted staff. I am a little concerned what is to become now of the regional corporations. Are they still to operate

in this way of shortage of staff and even amenities with this amount of money being transferred?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Local Government.

**Mrs. Coudray:** Mr. Chairman, I did not say that the salaries and COLA, as indicated here, would have been for contracted staff. It is for establishment—staff on the establishment of the Ministry of Local Government. The vacant positions that have not been filled, this money would have been more than likely been allocated for vacant positions that were projected to be filled that were not filled. These moneys are allocated for specific reasons and cannot be taken to use elsewhere without approval of the Minister of Finance and the Economy.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member for Diego Martin Central.

**Dr. Browne:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Minister. I was a bit puzzled when I saw a decrease—money being transferred that was allocated for the provision of water-trucking services. As you would know, and as many of us as MPs would know, there are still citizens who struggle to get water supply despite the work of various agencies. I am wondering if the Ministry has assessed that particular situation and may be able to share what are the factors that led to this underutilization of those funds from the regional corporations because we continue to get calls all hours of day and night from citizens. WASA has been doing some work; I know the corporations have as well, but if, as my colleague said, the cry has been lack of funds from local government for an essential service like this, why have not those funds been utilized by the corporation?

**Mrs. Coudray:** Mr. Chairman, when I saw the amount, I thought, well, Minister Ganga Singh did say water for all and the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, they are providing water for several other communities that have not had water before. This money is allocated to the Ministry of Local Government to be requested by corporations should they need water-trucking services. Corporations did not request the funding and this is why it is still available—it was still available at the end of fiscal 2014.

**Dr. Browne:** Chair, could I just ask a follow-up? Just the detail on what is the procedure required by the corporation for utilization of those funds. How are they expected to—

**Mrs. Thomas:** The CEOs make representations, Chairman, to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Local Government, with proper justification based on which a request is made for a release of funding from the Ministry of Finance and the Economy for allocation to their respective corporations.

**Dr. Browne:** And is it that there were no such requests or that there were some but not sufficient to utilize all of the allocated funds?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister.

**Mrs. Coudray:** This was additional funding provided and perhaps based on historic penchants and no funds were requested by the corporations.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 42 varied by a decrease in the sum of \$250,000,000.*

**Mr. Chairman:** May I thank you, Minister of Local Government, on behalf of the Standing Finance Committee?

*Head 61: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development \$200,000,000.*

*Question proposed:* That Head 61 be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$200,000,000.

May I invite the hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Development to give an explanation for this proposal?

**Dr. Moonilal:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. Members of the Committee are informed that the decrease of \$190 million from Head 61 pertained primarily to moneys that were made available by the Ministry of Finance and the Economy for loan repayments by the Ministry. Due to the fact that some of these loan arrangements were not finalized in the fiscal 2014 but actually fall due in fiscal 2015, the Ministry could not utilize the funds for that purpose, so that these were funds provided really to pay loans on outstanding arrangements, particularly loan arrangements dealing with the Government Campus plaza that did not fall due in 2014 as anticipated through UDeCOTT but fall in 2015, so that they were not moneys provided specifically for housing. So, those funds were suppressed and no drawdowns were made because those loan commitments, of course, will have to be dealt with in 2015.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, you are now invited to ask or seek clarification from the hon. Minister. I recognize the Member for Diego Martin North/East.

**Mr. Imbert:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I notice that there is this decrease of \$200 million and an increase of \$10 million in the same Head, how is that possible?

**Dr. Moonilal:** But the increase in the \$10 million, I would just explain that as well.

**Mr. Imbert:** Why did you not just decrease by \$190 million?

**Dr. Moonilal:** No, the \$10 million arose because the \$10 million was provided under Head 61, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. That \$10 million was allocated for the purpose of the Squatter Regularization project. However, during the course of fiscal 2014, it was transferred to Head 76, Ministry of Land and Marine Resources, where the Squatter Regularization Programme actually takes place under the Lands Settlement Agency which is under the purview of land and marine affairs.

However, the IDB, which is involved with the Squatter Regularization project, indicated that pursuant to the loan contract, the executing agency was the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. When that was drawn to the attention of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy, the Ministry of Finance and the Economy indicated that in closing the accounts for 2014, they would make the appropriate adjustments and the funds will be reflected as a Vote under 61. So in a way, the \$10 million really moved from 61 to 76 and to close the account now and close off the year, it returned as a \$10 million under Vote 61. So that accounts for an increase to 61, but it really was moved before to 76. But pursuant to our loan arrangements, the Ministry of Finance and the Economy felt that in closing the accounts, the sum of \$10 million should be reflected under Vote 61, housing and urban development.

**2.40 p.m.**

**Mr. Imbert:** I am afraid that makes no sense. Decreasing by 200 and increasing by 10? That makes no sense. You decrease by 190.

**Mr. Chairman:** I recognize the Member for Laventille West.

**Mr. Hypolite:** The thing about it is the Minister would have spoken about \$190 million loan repayment, but according to the document here, under Head 61, it is \$200 million. You did not make reference to that \$10 million at all; that \$10 million difference. Can you indicate if that is part of the increase/decrease, decrease/increase?

**Dr. Moonilal:** The decrease, according to our document part 2 here, is \$190 million.

**Mr. Hypolite:** One hundred and ninety million?

**Dr. Moonilal:** Yeah.

**Mr. Hypolite:** But we have \$200 million.

**Dr. Moonilal:** The \$10 million is an increase on to the back to Head 61, having gone to Head 76, but \$190 million is really the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development; the decrease that we have.

**Mr. Hypolite:** So it is a decrease of \$190 million?

**Dr. Moonilal:** But the \$10 million that was originally in Head 61 went to Head 76, and in closing the books returned as Head 61: the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

**Mr. Hypolite:** I only hope you are not telling me that it is a decrease on the increase.

**Dr. Moonilal:** No, it is not a decrease on an increase. It is not that at all.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Member for Point Fortin.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Thank you. Despite the explanations given by the Minister and also that provided in writing, I am still not able to tally the \$200 million. Yes, I understand that there was a 24.9 payment made and then something was remitted in May and then you go on and you spoke about the long-term bond and payment not being made in 2015. I just want the specifics as to how you arrived at \$200 million. That is not clear.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Development.

**Dr. Moonilal:** As I indicated, in terms of the loan arrangements, we are dealing only with \$190 million.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** How you arrived at that figure?

**Dr. Moonilal:** The sum of \$190 million arose through several loan arrangements we have with UDeCOTT in various areas. Probably the most significant is the loan arrangements that were due on the Government Campus Plaza. Colleagues would recall that in the Government Campus Plaza, Cabinet by Minute No. 787 of March 23, 2005, agreed that UDeCOTT undertake design/finance/construction/outfitting of the Government Campus Plaza.

By December 2005, Mr. Chairman, UDeCOTT entered into a bridge finance discussion with Republic Finance and Merchant Bank (FINCOR) for the first phase of the project, to the tune of \$1.2 billion. This is in 2005. Cabinet by Minute No. 1866—my colleague opposite might recall that, because I think she was in the Cabinet then—July 19, 2007, approved project funding in the sum of \$2.4 billion to be—it is very interesting that we were talking earlier about financial structure and getting the financial structure in place for mega projects. Cabinet, in 2007, approved a project funding in the sum of \$2.4 billion to be financed via long-term financing arrangements with FINCOR and another international financial institution. Mr. Chairman, the financial institution that the then government attempted to deal with was called Bear Stearns.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** You never heard of them?

**Dr. Moonilal:** You heard of them?

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** Of course.

**Dr. Moonilal:** They collapsed. Mr. Chairman, the structure—the former administration entered into arrangements with Bear Stearns to the tune of US \$400 million. That company—*[Interruption]* But I am answering the question. I did not want to say it.

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** I asked how and what.

**Dr. Moonilal:** I did not want to say it. You asked me. So Bear Stearns collapsed, having been sought after by the former PNM administration to finance US \$400 million.

In March 2008, as a result of the problems in the United States, that financial arrangement by the Ministry of Finance was aborted in 2008. Bear in mind in 2005, they

undertook a contract in 2005. In 2005, a contract was undertaken to construct a Government Campus Plaza. By 2008, the financial arrangements collapsed. Since the legal documents with FINCOR permitted advances in excess of \$1.2 billion, UDeCOTT drew down \$450 million in 2007 and \$750 million in 2009. Therefore UDeCOTT took a drawdown of \$2.4 billion between 2007/2009; \$2.4 billion in loan, not from the Treasury deposits or from the cashier. They went in loan and took \$2.4 billion between 2007/2009, attempting to deal with a financial institution that collapsed in the United States. The \$2.4 billion facility was to mature in June 2010.

However, since the long-term take-out was not able to be facilitated at the time, the facility was extended to March 2012 at an interest rate of 5.86 per cent. It was secured by a government guarantee.

By June 2013, Cabinet agreed to a take-out by UDeCOTT of \$2.4 billion via a long-term bond financing arrangement, this time, to the tune of \$3.4 billion. That sum included accrued and capitalized interest until 2013, which was the anticipated date for the take-out arrangement. It was based on that arrangement that funding in the sum of over \$200 million was allocated in 2014 budget to meet principal and interest payments.

Mr. Chairman, because of the collapse of that institution and the former administration's lack of proper financial structuring for the Government Campus Plaza, the taxpayer of Trinidad and Tobago has to fit a bill for TT \$1 billion in interest alone. The taxpayer has to pay an additional \$1 billion because of a failure to provide a proper financial structure for those mega projects.

Mr. Chairman, having said that, as I indicated before, it was not until November 01, 2013 that arrangements for the long-term bond facility was completed. We were informed by the financial institution that the first payment will be due in November 2014. Because November 2014 is outside of the last fiscal year – [*Crosstalk*] Mr. Chairman, I am not hearing – it will fall due in 2015 and we will pay it then.

**Mr. Chairman:** Okay. Any further questions?

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** I would deal with it in the debate.

**Dr. Moonilal:** You can ask now. You mean you do not want to deal with it now?

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** "Nah".

**Dr. Moonilal:** Dr. Khan wanted to ask a question.

**Dr. Khan:** Mr. Chairman, could I ask the hon. Minister if he could just repeat the quantum that was the interest payments for that year?

**Dr. Moonilal:** Mr. Chairman, because of the noise my colleague could not hear what I said before.

**Dr. Khan:** I was not hearing him, Mr. Chairman.

**Dr. Moonilal:** Let me indicate that by 2005, the PNM Government agreed that UDeCOTT undertake this project. They entered into arrangements in December 2005 for \$2.4 billion.

**Mr. Imbert:** Mr. Chairman, he is repeating himself.

**Dr. Moonilal:** Because of the collapse of the financial – [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Imbert:** Mr. Chairman, he said that already. He is repeating himself. Just because you did not hear?

**Mr. Chairman:** All right.

**Mr. Imbert:** No, no, no.

**Dr. Moonilal:** One billion dollars in interest rates because of poor financial planning.

**Mr. Chairman:** Members, I think that the – [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Imbert:** No, no. It is an abuse.

**Mr. Chairman:** The point has been made.

**Mr. Imbert:** "It is an abuse man!"

**Mrs. Gopee-Scoon:** And he has not answered the question. I need the *Hansard*.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 61 varied by a decrease in the sum of \$200 million.*

*Head 70:* Ministry of Communications \$41,741,693.

*Question proposed:* That Head 70 be varied by a decrease in the sum of \$41,741,693.

**Mr. Chairman:** I now invite the Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications to give this Standing Finance Committee an explanation for this proposal.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 70 varied by a decrease in the sum of \$41,741,693.*

**2.50 p.m.**

*Head 48:* Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications \$41,741,693.

*Question proposed:* That Head 48 be varied by an increase in the sum of \$41,741,693.

**Mr. Chairman:** I now invite the hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, to give the Standing Finance Committee an explanation for this proposal.

**Mr. Bharath:** Mr. Chairman, the increase as far as funding is concerned for the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, is as a result of the funding requirements due to the assignment of the communications portfolio to that specific Ministry.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, you have listened to the explanation given. Members are now invited to seek clarification. If not, I shall put the question. Oh, the hon. Member for Diego Martin North/East. I beg your pardon. I apologize for not seeing my colleague.

**Mr. Imbert:** Could the Minister tell us the major Sub-Heads of expenditure under this item? What did you spend this \$41 million on?

**Mr. Bharath:** Personnel expenditure, \$2.5 million; Goods and Services, \$17.1 million; Current Transfers and Subsidies, \$19.7 million, those were the substantial.

**Mr. Imbert:** What were the Goods and Services? Could you give us more details?

**Mr. Bharath:** I could. Do you wish to have them all?

**Mr. Imbert:** Go ahead.

**Mr. Bharath:** Travelling and Subsistence, \$194,845; Uniforms, \$4,000; Electricity, \$145,551; Telephone, \$210,229; Water and Sewerage rates, \$408; Rental of Accommodation, \$1,146,147; Rental of Vehicles and Equipment, \$88,906; Office Stationery and Supplies, \$214,355; Books and Periodicals, \$4,992; Materials and Supplies, \$114,793; Maintenance of Vehicles, \$19,993; Repairs and Maintenance of the Equipment, \$7,073; Contract Employment, \$435,774; Training, \$82,124; Official Entertainment, \$1,107; Repairs and Maintenance, \$27,100; Short-Term Employment, \$349,511. [*Interruption*]

**Mr. Imbert:** "He eh reach de good part yet."

**Mr. Bharath:** I am sorry?

**Mr. Imbert:** "Yuh eh reach de good part yet. Ah talking to yuh colleague."

**Mr. Bharath:** Other Contracted Services, \$12,660,000.

**Mr. Imbert:** Nice, "yuh could stop now." What was that spent on, the \$12 million?

**Mr. Bharath:** Other Contracted Services, yeah.

**Mr. Imbert:** What was that spent on? What are these other contracted services?

**Mr. Bharath:** They are predominantly a project related to disseminating information.

**Mr. Imbert:** Is that how a Government making – [Interruption]

**Mr. Bharath:** Part of it – [Interruption]

**Mr. Imbert:** – irritating you on television?

**Mr. Bharath:** Part of it is the Icon Project – [Interruption]

**Mr. Imbert:** That is what it is. Could we get a breakdown of the companies that received money under this \$12 million?

**Mr. Bharath:** I do not have that information with me, but of course – [Interruption]

**Mr. Imbert:** You will provide it?

**Mr. Bharath:** Of course, I will.

**Mr. Imbert:** Okay. You could continue now. “Yuh eh reach \$41 million yet.”

**Mr. Bharath:** Janitorial Services, \$143,416; Security, \$297,445; Postage, \$600; Promotions, Publicity and Printing, \$675,000; Hosting of Conferences and Seminars, \$70,377, a total of general expenses, \$16,904,000.

**Mr. Imbert:** Could you give me a detail of that \$16 million?

**Mr. Bharath:** I just did.

**Mr. Imbert:** The 16 is that list of everything?

**Mr. Bharath:** I just did, General Administration.

**Mr. Imbert:** Have you completed the \$41 million?

**Mr. Bharath:** Yes I have.

**Mr. Imbert:** Okay. Thank you.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 48 varied by an increase in the sum of \$41,741,693.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications, may I thank you and your team.

*Head 61: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development \$10 million.*

*Question put: That Head 61 be varied by an increase in the sum of \$10 million.*

**Mr. Chairman:** May I invite the hon. Minister of Housing and Urban Development to provide the Standing Finance Committee with an explanation for this proposal.

**Dr. Moonilal:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I already gave that. So I think I will stand by the statement made earlier. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, would any Member like to seek – okay. I shall now put the question to the Standing Finance Committee.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 61 varied by an increase in the sum of \$10 million.*

*Head 69: Ministry of Works and Infrastructure \$450 million.*

*Question proposed: That Head 69 be varied by an increase in the sum of \$450 million.*

**Mr. Chairman:** I will now call on the Minister of Works and Infrastructure to give an explanation for this proposal.

**Dr. Rambachan:** Mr. Chairman, we have exhausted, I believe, this discussion earlier on, where there was a need to have a variation of the appropriation of resources in that sum, to bring to account expenditure funded by advances from the Treasury Deposits, for payment in respect of the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway to Point Fortin.

**Mr. Chairman:** Okay. Hon. Members, we have listened to what the hon. Minister has to say. Is there any question or clarification? If not, may I put the question.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 69 varied by an increase in the sum of \$450 million.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Minister of Works and Infrastructure, may I thank you and your team.

**3.00 p.m.**

*Head 76: Ministry of Land and Marine Resources, \$3,314,778.*

*Question proposed:* That Head 76 be varied by an increase by the increase in the sum of \$3,314,778.

**Mr. Seemungal:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, this increase came about as a result of the realignment of the Ministry last year with respect to the Fisheries Division and the Land Administration Division. So it was really incurred to cover ancillary costs that occurred during the period July to September, 2014, due to the realignment—personnel expenditure.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Head 76 varied by an increase in the sum of \$3,314,778.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Appropriation for the fiscal year 2014 varied by \$505,056,471.*

**Mr. Chairman:** We shall now focus on losses. We shall now proceed to the consideration of the proposals on losses.

*Head 03: The Judiciary \$55,789.45.*

*Question proposed:* That the write-off of losses in the sum of \$55,789.45 for Head 03 be approved.

**Mr. Chairman:** I shall now invite the Minister of Finance and the Economy to give an explanation for this loss.

**Hon. Howai:** Mr. Chairman, this related to payment of acting allowances to a staff member at the Clerk/Stenographer III range in the Judiciary over the period January 1990 to June 2007, as well as increments which were paid over the period 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002.

The officer was erroneously paid first, second, third and fourth and first longevity increments for the years, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2002. In light of the length of time that has gone by and in light of the recommendation of the hon. Chief Justice, that the individual received the money in good faith and the overpayment was as a result of administrative error, it was felt that it was reasonable that she should not be held responsible for the repayment of the sum and the Attorney General recommended, on behalf of the Chief Justice, that the sum be written off and Cabinet accepted the recommendation.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, we have now listened to the explanation offered by the hon. Minister of Finance and the Economy. Members are now free to seek clarification from the hon. Minister. I recognize the hon. Member for Port of Spain North/St. Ann's West.

**Mrs. Mc Intosh:** Hon. Minister, was anyone held—person or persons—accountable for this administrative error? And my second question is: what measures have been put in place to ensure that such errors do not recur?

**Hon. Howai:** Given the length of time that had passed, in fact the persons who were the supervisors of this particular person were no longer in the public service at that time. As a result, there was no action that could be taken. With respect to changes that would have been made at the time when this was identified, I would have to bring that



additional information subsequently. I do not have the details of the exact changes that were made.

**Mrs. Mc Intosh:** From lessons learnt, have there been any strategies employed to ensure that such administrative errors do not recur?

**Hon. Howai:** That is something that is being dealt with by the Ministry of Public Administration as part of their overall review of the arrangements in place with respect to improving the efficiency of the public service.

**Dr. Rowley:** Mr. Chairman, while I agree with my colleague that strategies ought to be in place to ensure that these are not occurrences, I am assuming that the sum of \$92,000 is averaging just under \$5,000 a year over a 17-year period, in which case, Mr. Chairman, I think we could accept the reasonable conclusion of the Judiciary. On the other hand, if there is a large payment of recent vintage which makes up part of this, then that is another story. So is the Minister in agreement with me that this really averages just under \$5,000 a year over the 17-year period?

**Hon. Howai:** I did not work it out in that way.

**Dr. Rowley:** This is what would be important. If it is just that, that the error was just repeated over 17 years, then we should not be detained. On the other hand, if it includes a large lucky payment recently, then it requires a different treatment. So I trust the Judiciary would have guided us accurately.

**Hon. Howai:** I am sure.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*The write-off of losses in the sum of \$55,789.45 for Head 03, Judiciary, approved.*

*Head 63: Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism, \$36,934.58*

*Question proposed:* That the write-off of losses in the sum of \$36,934.58 for Head 63 be approved.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I invite the Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism to give an explanation for this loss to the Standing Finance Committee.

**Dr. Douglas:** Mr. Chairman, the matter for consideration of this Standing Finance Committee is the write-off and over-payment of salary in the sum of \$36,934.58 to Mr. Anthony Telemaque. He was a former Messenger I at the Ministry of the Arts and Multiculturalism during the period November 12, 2007 to October 31, 2008. His period of sick leave took effect from May 04, 2007 to May 17, 2009. He resumed duty on May 18, 2009. He was granted approvals for extensions of sick leave as follows –

Mr. Chairman, we have this document here, do I have to read the whole thing, or –

**Mr. Chairman:** You have five minutes.

**Dr. Douglas:** I will read it.

**Mr. Chairman:** No. You do not have to read it. Members are happy apparently.

**Dr. Douglas:** “Allyuh sure allyuh doh want to hear this?”

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members, the hon. Minister has provided us with an explanation. I now invite hon. Members to seek clarification. If there are no clarifications required –

*Question put and agreed to.*

*The write-off of losses in the sum of \$36,934.58 for Head 63 approved.*

**Mr. Chairman:** Other Business. Is there any other business? If not, may I move immediately?

Hon. Members, please note that the debate for the adoption of the Committee’s

report will take place on Friday, January 09, 2015 at 10.00 a.m. As such, this meeting of the Standing Finance Committee is now adjourned.

**3.11 p.m.:** *Standing Finance Committee adjourned.*

## APPENDIX III

### Schedule relating to the Supplementation and Variation of Estimates 2014

HEAD/SUB-HEAD/ITEM AND SUB-ITEM			Provision in Estimates 2014 including Supplementary Warrants, Direct Charges, Transfers & Virements	Revised Provision 2014	NET		Explanation
					Increase	Decrease	
HEAD	25	MINISTRY OF FOOD PRODUCTION	\$ 841,181,020	\$ 827,866,242	\$	\$ 13,314,778	
SUB-HEAD	01	PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE	340,079,340	336,798,537		3,280,803	
Item	003	Fisheries	9,373,126	6,092,323		3,280,803	003 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources
Sub-item	02	Wages and Cost of Living Allowance	5,125,000	2,556,192		2,568,808	
Sub-item	05	Government's Contribution to NIS	600,000	464,916		135,084	

Sub-item	20	Government's Contribution to Group Health Insurance - Daily-Rated Workers	63,626	39,949		23,677	
Sub-item	29	Overtime - Daily-Rated Workers	816,000	371,455		444,545	
Sub-item	30	Allowances - Daily-Rated Workers	221,000	112,311		108,689	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>197,537,370</b>	<b>193,366,827</b>		<b>4,170,543</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>003</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>10,879,380</b>	<b>7,441,877</b>		<b>3,437,503</b>	<b>003 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
Sub-item	03	Uniforms	93,200	46,308		46,892	
Sub-item	04	Electricity	722,800	378,236		344,564	
Sub-item	05	Telephones	364,600	231,370		133,230	
Sub-item	06	Water and Sewerage Rates	261,400	181,704		79,696	
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage	450,280	257,280		193,000	
Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment	7,180	2,580		4,600	
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies	279,700	206,556		73,144	
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals	13,200	10,854		2,346	
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies	279,600	185,923		93,677	
Sub-item	13	Maintenance of Vehicles	469,800	257,040		212,760	
Sub-item	15	Repairs and Maintenance - Equipment	74,560	51,969		22,591	

Sub-item	16	Contract Employment	824,000	600,320		223,680	
Sub-item	21	Repairs and Maintenance - Buildings	1,398,000	991,510		406,490	
Sub-item	22	Short-Term Employment	2,092,216	1,463,231		628,985	
Sub-item	23	Fees	23,240	5,624		17,616	
Sub-item	28	Other Contracted Services	1,214,800	746,095		468,705	
Sub-item	37	Janitorial Services	58,640	6,808		51,832	
Sub-item	43	Security Services	479,784	122,943		356,841	
Sub-item	61	Insurance	45,840	22,546		23,294	
Sub-item	62	Promotions, Publicity and Printing	93,200	42,890		50,310	
Sub-item	66	Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions	840,200	836,950		3,250	
<b>Item</b>	<b>012</b>	<b>Agricultural Land Administration Division</b>	<b>5,086,820</b>	<b>4,353,780</b>		<b>733,040</b>	<b>012 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
Sub-item	03	Uniforms	46,600	43,800		2,800	
Sub-item	04	Electricity	279,600	213,799		65,801	
Sub-item	05	Telephones	233,000	227,647		5,353	
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage	2,029,100	1,521,950		507,150	
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies	186,400	167,977		18,423	
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals	18,640	16,823		1,817	
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies	89,800	59,731		30,069	
Sub-item	13	Maintenance of Vehicles	55,920	48,048		7,872	

Sub-item	37	Janitorial Services	224,456	216,250		8,206	
Sub-item	43	Security Services	753,550	672,470		81,080	
Sub-item	66	Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions	36,600	32,131		4,469	
<b>SUB- HEAD</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>MINOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	<b>16,157,210</b>	<b>15,137,804</b>		<b>1,019,406</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>003</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>1,292,400</b>	<b>369,835</b>		<b>922,565</b>	<b>003 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
Sub-item	01	Vehicles	385,000	-		385,000	
Sub-item	02	Office Equipment	466,000	125,669		340,331	
Sub-item	03	Furniture and Furnishings	360,600	239,830		120,770	
Sub-item	04	Other Minor Equipment	80,800	4,336		76,464	
<b>Item</b>	<b>012</b>	<b>Agricultural Land Administration Division</b>	<b>100,760</b>	<b>3,919</b>		<b>96,841</b>	<b>012 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
Sub-item	04	Other Minor Equipment	100,760	3,919		96,841	
<b>SUB- HEAD</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>107,565,700</b>	<b>102,721,674</b>		<b>4,844,026</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Non-Profit Institutions</b>	<b>28,551,015</b>	<b>25,879,287</b>		<b>2,671,728</b>	

Sub-item	05	Caribbean Fisheries Training & Development Institute	8,015,200	5,343,472		2,671,728	<b>05 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
<b>Item</b>	<b>008</b>	<b>Subsidies</b>	<b>51,747,915</b>	<b>51,248,085</b>		<b>499,830</b>	
Sub-item	06	Agricultural Incentive Programme	41,383,550	40,883,720		499,830	<b>06 - Expenditure relates to Item 003 - Fisheries. Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
<b>Item</b>	<b>010</b>	<b>Other Transfers Abroad</b>	<b>3,344,157</b>	<b>1,671,689</b>		<b>1,672,468</b>	
Sub-item	39	International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (I.C.C.A.T)	950,640	802,268		148,372	<b>39 &amp; 46 - Transferred to Head Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
Sub-item	46	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism	1,561,200	37,104		1,524,096	
<b>HEAD</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>2,649,853,000</b>	<b>2,399,853,000</b>		<b>250,000,000</b>	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS TO STATUTORY BOARDS AND SIMILAR BODIES</b>	<b>2,075,051,048</b>	<b>1,825,051,048</b>		<b>250,000,000</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Local Government Bodies</b>	<b>2,075,051,048</b>	<b>1,825,051,048</b>		<b>250,000,000</b>	

Sub-item	37	Regional Corporation Services	267,223,115	17,223,115		250,000,000	<b>37 - The sum of \$250Mn transferred to Head - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure</b>
<b>HEAD</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>MINISTRY OF TRADE, INDUSTRY, INVESTMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>209,998,101</b>	<b>251,739,794</b>	<b>41,741,693</b>		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>27,844,660</b>	<b>30,356,513</b>	<b>2,511,853</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>006</b>	<b>Communications</b>		<b>2,511,853</b>	<b>2,511,853</b>		<b>006 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Salaries and Cost of Living Allowance		2,122,529	2,122,529		
Sub-item	02	Wages and Cost of Living Allowance		35,576	35,576		
Sub-item	04	Allowances-Monthly Paid Officers		23,547	23,547		
Sub-item	05	Government's Contribution to N.I.S.		143,687	143,687		
Sub-item	14	Remuneration - Members of Cabinet Appointed Committees		170,700	170,700		
Sub-item	20	Government's Contribution to Group Health Insurance - Daily-Rated Workers		525	525		



Sub-item	27	Government's Contribution to Group Health Insurance - Monthly Paid Officers		15,289	15,289		
<b>SUB-HEAD Item</b>	<b>02 006</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES Communications</b>	<b>50,931,499</b>	<b>68,109,979</b> <b>16,904,042</b>	<b>17,178,480</b> <b>16,904,042</b>		<b>006 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Travelling and Subsistence		194,845	194,845		
Sub-item	04	Electricity		145,551	145,551		
Sub-item	05	Telephones		210,229	210,229		
Sub-item	06	Water and Sewerage Rates		408	408		
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage		1,146,147	1,146,147		
Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment		88,906	88,906		
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies		214,355	214,355		
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals		4,992	4,992		
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies		114,793	114,793		
Sub-item	13	Maintenance of Vehicles		19,993	19,993		
Sub-item	15	Repairs and Maintenance - Equipment		7,073	7,073		
Sub-item	16	Contract Employment		435,774	435,774		
Sub-item	17	Training		82,124	82,124		
Sub-item	19	Official Entertainment		1,107	1,107		

Sub-item	21	Repairs and Maintenance - Buildings		27,100	27,100		
Sub-item	22	Short Term Employment		349,511	349,511		
Sub-item	27	Official Overseas Travel		10,995	10,995		
Sub-item	28	Other Contracted Services		12,660,193	12,660,193		
Sub-item	37	Janitorial Services		143,416	143,416		
Sub-item	43	Security Services		297,445	297,445		
Sub-item	57	Postage		600	600		
Sub-item	62	Promotions, Publicity and Printing		675,508	675,508		
Sub-item	65	Expenses of Cabinet Appointed Bodies		2,600	2,600		
Sub-item	66	Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions		70,377	70,377		
<b>Item</b>	<b>007</b>	<b>Freedom of Information Unit</b>		<b>274,438</b>	<b>274,438</b>		<b>007 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Communications</b>
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage		207,491	207,491		
Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment		17,423	17,423		
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies		3,210	3,210		
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals		6,256	6,256		
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies		2,059	2,059		
Sub-item	16	Contract Employment		35,940	35,940		

Sub-item	62	Promotions, Publicity and Printing		2,059	2,059		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>MINOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	<b>1,560,500</b>	<b>2,068,442</b>	<b>507,942</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>006</b>	<b>Communications</b>		<b>507,942</b>	<b>507,942</b>		<b>006 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Vehicles		430,980	430,980		
Sub-item	02	Office Equipment		31,107	31,107		
Sub-item	04	Other Minor Equipment		45,855	45,855		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>56,430,978</b>	<b>76,203,878</b>	<b>19,772,900</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>011</b>	<b>Transfer to State Enterprises</b>		<b>19,772,900</b>	<b>19,772,900</b>		<b>011 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Caribbean New Media Group		7,872,900	7,872,900		
Sub-item	02	Government Information Services Ltd.		11,900,000	11,900,000		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b>	<b>60,600,000</b>	<b>62,370,518</b>	<b>1,770,518</b>		
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>MULTI-SECTORAL AND OTHER SERVICES</b>		<b>1,770,518</b>	<b>1,770,518</b>		
<b>SUB-ITEM</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES</b>		<b>1,770,518</b>	<b>1,770,518</b>		
<b>Project Grp</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Administrative Services</b>		<b>1,770,518</b>	<b>1,770,518</b>		

Project No.	005	Establishment of Communications, Policy and Strategic Road Map		1,770,518	1,770,518		<b>005 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Communications</b>
<b>HEAD</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>1,889,010,520</b>	<b>1,699,010,520</b>		<b>190,000,000</b>	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>548,480,132</b>	<b>523,480,132</b>		<b>25,000,000</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Property and Real Estate Management</b>	<b>516,133,980</b>	<b>491,133,980</b>		<b>25,000,000</b>	
Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment	25,982,479	982,479		25,000,000	<b>09 - The sum of \$25Mn transferred to Head - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure</b>
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>1,234,709,588</b>	<b>1,059,709,588</b>		<b>175,000,000</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>011</b>	<b>Transfer to State Enterprises</b>	<b>320,353,859</b>	<b>145,353,859</b>		<b>175,000,000</b>	
Sub-item	09	UDECOTT - Principal payment on \$399Mn Fixed Rate Loan	50,874,923	25,874,923		25,000,000	<b>09 - The sum of \$25Mn transferred to Head - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure</b>
Sub-item	11	UDECOTT - Principal on \$3.4Bn Long Term Bond	75,035,367	35,367		75,000,000	<b>11- The sum of \$75Mn transferred to Head - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure</b>

Sub-item	12	UDECOTT - Interest payment on \$3.4Bn Long Term Bond	84,271,908	9,271,908	.	75,000,000	<b>12 - The sum of \$75Mn transferred to Head - Ministry of Works and Infrastructure</b>
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b>	<b>82,300,000</b>	<b>92,300,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>		
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>004</b>	<b>SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>78,950,000</b>	<b>88,950,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>		
<b>SUB-ITEM</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS</b>	<b>78,950,000</b>	<b>88,950,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>		
<b>Project Grp</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>HOUSING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMME</b>	<b>12,200,000</b>	<b>22,200,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>		
Project No.	002	Squatter Settlements Regularization		10,000,000	10,000,000		<b>002 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Land and Marine Resources</b>
<b>HEAD</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>MINISTRY OF WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>1,505,957,500</b>	<b>2,405,957,500</b>	<b>900,000,000</b>		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>474,330,479</b>	<b>1,374,330,479</b>	<b>900,000,000</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>011</b>	<b>Transfers to State Enterprises</b>	<b>454,794,372</b>	<b>1,354,794,372</b>	<b>900,000,000</b>		

Sub-item	12	NIDCO - Interim Funding for Extension of Solomon Hochoy Highway to Point Fortin		900,000,000	900,000,000		<b>12 - \$450Mn - Supplementary Appropriation; \$450Mn Variation of Appropriation</b>
<b>HEAD</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>108,743,400</b>	<b>67,001,707</b>		<b>41,741,693</b>	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8,416,700</b>	<b>5,904,847</b>		<b>2,511,853</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>001</b>	<b>General Administration</b>	<b>8,416,700</b>	<b>5,904,847</b>		<b>2,511,853</b>	<b>001 - Transferred to Head - Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Salaries and Cost of Living Allowance	4,500,000	2,377,471		2,122,529	
Sub-item	02	Wages and Cost of Living Allowance	115,800	80,224		35,576	
Sub-item	04	Allowances - Monthly Paid Officers	382,700	359,153		23,547	
Sub-item	05	Government's Contribution to N.I.S.	600,000	456,313		143,687	
Sub-item	14	Remuneration - Members of Cabinet Appointed Committees	403,200	232,500		170,700	
Sub-item	20	Government's Contribution to Group Health Insurance Daily-Rated Workers	1,900	1,375		525	

Sub-item	27	Government's Contribution to Group Health Insurance - Monthly Paid Officers	95,000	79,711		15,289	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>44,841,800</b>	<b>27,663,320</b>		<b>17,178,480</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>001</b>	<b>General Administration</b>	<b>35,430,800</b>	<b>18,526,758</b>		<b>16,904,042</b>	<b>001-Transferred to Head - Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Travelling and Subsistence	864,000	669,155		194,845	
Sub-item	04	Electricity	397,500	251,949		145,551	
Sub-item	05	Telephones	1,864,000	1,653,771		210,229	
Sub-item	06	Water and Sewerage Rates	1,800	1,392		408	
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage	2,314,000	1,167,853		1,146,147	
Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment	160,000	71,094		88,906	
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies	279,600	65,245		214,355	
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals	32,000	27,008		4,992	
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies	129,000	14,207		114,793	
Sub-item	13	Maintenance of Vehicles	31,000	11,007		19,993	
Sub-item	15	Repairs and Maintenance - Equipment	25,000	17,927		7,073	
Sub-item	16	Contract Employment	722,000	286,226		435,774	

Sub-item	17	Training	215,000	132,876		82,124	
Sub-item	19	Official Entertainment	50,000	48,893		1,107	
Sub-item	21	Repairs and Maintenance - Buildings	47,800	20,700		27,100	
Sub-item	22	Short-Term Employment	722,000	372,489		349,511	
Sub-item	27	Official Overseas Travel	584,000	573,005		10,995	
Sub-item	28	Other Contracted Services	13,096,000	435,807		12,660,193	
Sub-item	37	Janitorial Services	223,000	79,584		143,416	
Sub-item	43	Security Services	608,200	310,755		297,445	
Sub-item	57	Postage	7,100	6,500		600	
Sub-item	62	Promotions, Publicity and Printing	12,660,000	11,984,492		675,508	
Sub-item	65	Expenses of Cabinet Appointed Bodies	8,600	6,000		2,600	
Sub-item	66	Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions	359,200	288,823		70,377	
<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Freedom of Information Unit</b>	<b>9,411,000</b>	<b>9,136,562</b>		<b>274,438</b>	<b>005 Transferred to Head - Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications</b>
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage	958,000	750,509		207,491	



Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment	400,000	382,577		17,423	
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies	300,000	296,790		3,210	
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals	70,500	64,244		6,256	
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies	120,000	117,941		2,059	
Sub-item	16	Contract Employment	2,400,000	2,364,060		35,940	
Sub-item	62	Promotions, Publicity and Printing	900,000	897,941		2,059	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>MINOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	<b>2,997,000</b>	<b>2,489,058</b>		<b>507,942</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>001</b>	<b>General Administration</b>	<b>597,000</b>	<b>89,058</b>		<b>507,942</b>	<b>001-Transferred to Head - Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Vehicles	430,980	-		430,980	
Sub-item	02	Office Equipment	119,939	88,832		31,107	
Sub-item	04	Other Minor Equipment	45,856	1		45,855	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>40,287,900</b>	<b>20,515,000</b>		<b>19,772,900</b>	

<b>Item</b>	<b>011</b>	<b>Transfer to State Enterprises</b>	<b>40,036,300</b>	<b>20,263,400</b>		<b>19,772,900</b>	<b>011-Transferred to Head - Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications</b>
Sub-item	01	Caribbean New Media Group	13,847,100	5,974,200		7,872,900	
Sub-item	02	Government Information Services Ltd.	26,189,200	14,289,200		11,900,000	
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b>	<b>12,200,000</b>	<b>10,429,482</b>		<b>1,770,518</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>MULTI-SECTORAL AND OTHER SERVICES</b>	<b>12,200,000</b>	<b>10,429,482</b>		<b>1,770,518</b>	
<b>SUB-ITEM</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>GENERAL PUBLIC SERVICES</b>					
<b>Project Grp</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Administrative Services</b>	<b>3,772,518</b>	<b>2,002,000</b>		<b>1,770,518</b>	
Project No.	005	Establishment of Communications, Policy and Strategic Road Map	1,772,518	2,000		1,770,518	<b>005-Transferred to Head - Ministry of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications</b>
<b>HEAD</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>MINISTRY OF LAND AND MARINE RESOURCES</b>	<b>216,109,880</b>	<b>219,424,658</b>	<b>3,314,778</b>		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>PERSONNEL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>41,164,000</b>	<b>44,444,803</b>	<b>3,280,803</b>		

<b>Item</b>	<b>004</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>		<b>3,280,803</b>	<b>3,280,803</b>		<b>004 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Food Production</b>
Sub-item	02	Wages and Cost of Living Allowance		2,568,808	2,568,808		
Sub-item	05	Government's Contribution to N.I.S.		135,084	135,084		
Sub-item	20	Government's Contribution to Group Health Insurance - Daily Rated Workers		23,677	23,677		
Sub-item	29	Overtime - Daily-Rated Workers		444,545	444,545		
Sub-item	30	Allowances - Daily-Rated Workers		108,689	108,689		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>32,196,500</b>	<b>36,367,043</b>	<b>4,170,543</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>004</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>		<b>3,437,503</b>	<b>3,437,503</b>		<b>004 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Food Production</b>
Sub-item	03	Uniforms		46,892	46,892		
Sub-item	04	Electricity		344,564	344,564		
Sub-item	05	Telephones		133,230	133,230		
Sub-item	06	Water and Sewerage Rates		79,696	79,696		
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage		193,000	193,000		

Sub-item	09	Rent/Lease - Vehicles and Equipment		4,600	4,600		
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies		73,144	73,144		
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals		2,346	2,346		
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies		93,677	93,677		
Sub-item	13	Maintenance of Vehicles		212,760	212,760		
Sub-item	15	Repairs and Maintenance - Equipment		22,591	22,591		
Sub-item	16	Contract Employment		223,680	223,680		
Sub-item	21	Repairs and Maintenance - Buildings		406,490	406,490		
Sub-item	22	Short-Term Employment		628,985	628,985		
Sub-item	23	Fees		17,616	17,616		
Sub-item	28	Other Contracted Services		468,705	468,705		
Sub-item	37	Janitorial Services		51,832	51,832		
Sub-item	43	Security Services		356,841	356,841		
Sub-item	61	Insurance		23,294	23,294		
Sub-item	62	Promotions, Publicity and Printing		50,310	50,310		
Sub-item	66	Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions		3,250	3,250		

<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Agricultural Land Administration Division</b>		<b>733,040</b>	<b>733,040</b>		<b>005 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Food Production</b>
Sub-item	03	Uniforms		2,800	2,800		
Sub-item	04	Electricity		65,801	65,801		
Sub-item	05	Telephones		5,353	5,353		
Sub-item	08	Rent/Lease - Office Accommodation and Storage		507,150	507,150		
Sub-item	10	Office Stationery and Supplies		18,423	18,423		
Sub-item	11	Books and Periodicals		1,817	1,817		
Sub-item	12	Materials and Supplies		30,069	30,069		
Sub-item	13	Maintenance of Vehicles		7,872	7,872		
Sub-item	37	Janitorial Services		8,206	8,206		
Sub-item	43	Security Services		81,080	81,080		
Sub-item	66	Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions		4,469	4,469		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>03</b>	<b>MINOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASES</b>	<b>3,958,380</b>	<b>4,977,786</b>	<b>1,019,406</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>004</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>		<b>922,565</b>	<b>922,565</b>		<b>004 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Food Production</b>

Sub-item	01	Vehicles		385,000	385,000		
Sub-item	02	Office Equipment		340,331	340,331		
Sub-item	03	Furniture and Furnishings		120,770	120,770		
Sub-item	04	Other Minor Equipment		76,464	76,464		
<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Agricultural Land Administration Division</b>		<b>96,841</b>	<b>96,841</b>		<b>005 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Food Production</b>
Sub-item	04	Other Minor Equipment		96,841	96,841		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>CURRENT TRANSFERS AND SUBSIDIES</b>	<b>2,251,000</b>	<b>7,095,026</b>	<b>4,844,026</b>		
<b>Item</b>	<b>005</b>	<b>Non-profit Institutions</b>		<b>2,671,728</b>	<b>2,671,728</b>		<b>005-010 - Transferred from Head - Ministry of Food Production</b>
Sub-item	01	Caribbean Fisheries Training & Development Institute		2,671,728	2,671,728		
<b>Item</b>	<b>008</b>	<b>Subsidies</b>		<b>499,830</b>	<b>499,830</b>		
Sub-item	01	Agricultural Incentive Programme		499,830	499,830		
<b>Item</b>	<b>010</b>	<b>Other Transfers Abroad</b>	<b>89,000</b>	<b>1,761,468</b>	<b>1,672,468</b>		
Sub-item	02	International Commission for Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (I.C.C.A.T)		148,372	148,372		

Sub-item	03	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism		1,524,096	1,524,096		
<b>SUB-HEAD</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME</b>	<b>110,500,000</b>	<b>100,500,000</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>004</b>	<b>SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	<b>56,000,000</b>	<b>46,000,000</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>	
<b>SUB-ITEM</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS</b>	<b>56,000,000</b>	<b>46,000,000</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>	
<b>Project Grp</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>Housing Opportunity Programme</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>10,000,000</b>	
Project No.	002	Squatter Settlements Regularization	10,000,000	-		10,000,000	<b>002-Transferred to Head - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development</b>