

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 07, 2016

The House met at 1.30 p.m.

PRAYERS

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, Dr. Lackram Bodoë, MP, Member for Fyzabad, Mr. Anthony Garcia, MP, Member for Arima, Mr. Rushton Paray, MP, Member for Mayaro and Mr. Prakash Ramadhar, MP, Member for St. Augustine, have requested leave of absence from today's sitting of the House. Also, Mrs. Christine Newallo-Hosein, MP, Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla, has requested leave of absence from the sittings of the House during the period December 07 to 09, 2016. The leave which Members seek is granted.

PAPERS LAID

1. Audited Financial Statements of Taurus Services Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2015. [*The Minister of Finance (Hon. Colm Imbert)*]
To be referred to the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee.
2. Ministerial Response to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the

Challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities with Specific Focus on Access to Services and Employment. [*The Minister of Planning and Development (Hon. Camille Robinson-Regis)*]

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE REPORTS

(Presentation)

**Local Authorities, Statutory Authorities and Service Commissions
(including the THA)**

Miss Ramona Ramdial (*Couva North*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to present the following report:

Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Statutory Authorities and Service Commissions (including the THA) on an inquiry into certain aspects of the administration of the Tobago House of Assembly.

Social Services and Public Administration

Hon. Brig. Gen. Ancil Antoine (*D'Abadie/O'Meara*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish to present the following report:

First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an inquiry into the current level of violence among students in schools with particular focus on physical and cyberbullying.

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS**Missing Persons****(Specific Policy to Address)**

Mr. Rodney Charles (*Naparima*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Is the Prime Minister aware that in 2016 several persons have been reported missing in Trinidad and Tobago and can the Prime Minister advise what specific national security policy has been established by his Government to ensure that the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service adequately addresses this phenomenon?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter of the disappearance of our citizens, particularly females, has been with us for quite some time and we are still hurting from missing persons who we have not accounted for from two, three, four, five, six years ago and it is a matter of national concern. Only, I think, yesterday or the day before, a young lady has disappeared off the pavement in Port of Spain and that is exercising the attention of the family and the police service at this time.

What I could say to the Member is that the police service has specific agencies within it that take these reports, and take them very seriously, and seek to pursue the location of such missing persons. And against the background that any aspect of this troubling

development might have international connections, there does exist within the police service a counter-trafficking unit and this unit has been liaising with agencies of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to investigate missing persons with a view to exploring all possibilities to find such persons.

The counter-trafficking unit has begun to collaborate with key Trinidad and Tobago Police Service agencies in joint sensitization sessions in communities to raise awareness and educate citizens about the warning signs and red flags for human trafficking. These joint community sessions aid in developing a community's trust in law enforcement and the Trinidad and Tobago agencies are putting some effort into training some specific members of the police service to react to this very unsavoury development. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Khan: Supplemental, Prime Minister. Prime Minister, could you look into the fact whether the security services throughout Trinidad and Tobago are utilizing an analogue or a digital system to connect themselves for these kinds of missing persons and these investigations for the security services?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Well, I could not speak to that specifically but I would like to believe that if there is any help to come from technology, where analogue is required or digital, that the service will

be making use of that. The Minister of National Security is behind me and I am sure he heard you.

Dr. Rambachan: Prime Minister, is it still the policy of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service that when a report of a missing person takes place that they are telling the family members that they must wait 24 hours before they conduct an investigation or begin a search?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: There are certain protocols within the police service where that might still be in force and some persons in police stations stick to that. But given the nature of the information taken at hand, the senior officers in the stations can, and do, initiate action before, depending on the nature of the complaint.

**Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
(Manpower Audit)**

Mr. Rodney Charles (*Naparima*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the Prime Minister: Could the Prime Minister confirm whether his Government has embarked on or intends to embark on a manpower audit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service with the assistance of the British government as has been reported, and if so, can the Prime Minister give an estimate of the cost of this exercise?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker,

it must have been about three years ago, as Leader of the Opposition, I did lead a team to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago at the time, pointing out some things that could be done to improve the police service's ability to respond to the criminal element, and one of the things that we outlined then was the requirement for a management audit, meaning, determining exactly what manpower we have deployed, the nature, size, scope and training of that manpower and whether, in fact, the manpower is deployed in the most effective way. We have been told that that manpower audit was on the way or had been done, but on coming into Government in September 2015, we had discovered that not much progress has been made.

However, in the intervening period since we have come into office, we have sought the assistance of the British government, who have been very willing to provide us with experts in this area to go and do an audit of the type that we had anticipated. That process is now under way and there is no cost attached to it at this time. But insofar as there might be reasonable costs attached, when that is become known to us we would be quite prepared to pay those reasonable costs, because we do know that such an audit is the foundation before one could make any proper adjustment to the police service and its effectiveness.

Mr. Charles: Mr. Prime Minister, in choosing to rely on external British resources, are you, in fact, saying that in 2016 such expertise does not reside locally and should be our first port of call in getting advice?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: I am not saying that at all. Usually, in matters of this nature, you get the best out of it when you use the local and combined with external. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Gopeesingh: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Hon. Prime Minister, in your request with the British government to assist with this manpower audit, would you consider asking them as well to assist in improving all areas related to detection of criminal activity? Because that seems to be an area which needs a lot of attention.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very happy to hear that, coming from my colleague on the other side, because when we speak, as we do frequently, about our cooperation and collaboration with our external partners, meaning mainly the British, the Canadians, the Americans, that is exactly what we are talking about. And we do not just confine that to manpower work. We are engaged in a series of cooperative actions with these external bodies where we combine our resources with respect to improving our ability to gather information, to train personnel and to respond to the external

threats that challenge all our countries.

Mr. Charles: Mr. Prime Minister, given our past experience with the British assistance in terms of the Scotland Yard who came to Trinidad some decades ago and the fact that the objectives were not achieved, and given the fact that I am aware that they also assisted the St. Lucian government and the objectives were also not achieved, could he give the basis for selecting the British government for assistance?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: I am not in a position to imply that the British are not in a position to provide us with the kind of help we need, and the fact that failure attended certain efforts before is no indication that a proper approach and a proper response and a proper exercise will not succeed. [*Cell phone rings*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, we are just 12 minutes into the session and it is the third time a mobile device went off. On the first occasion I gave way because I realized it was the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, being his first time to the House today, but on the other two occasions, please—it is the third time. Please ensure that all mobile devices are switched off. I will now call upon the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre.

National Gas Company/Shell/PDVSA**(No Signed Agreement)**

Mr. David Lee (*Pointe-a-Pierre*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the hon. Prime Minister: Could the Prime Minister state the reason or reasons why an agreement between the National Gas Company, Shell and PDVSA was not signed on December 05, 2016 in Caracas?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am prepared to confine myself to what has been signed, and there are a number of agreements going forward that are to be signed as we execute this historic development. So I am not sure what specificity applied to an agreement of December 5th. So if the Member wants to speak about what has been signed, I can assist him. [*Desk thumping*]

Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela**(National Assembly Approval)**

Mr. David Lee (*Pointe-a-Pierre*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the hon. Prime Minister: Is the recent agreement signed between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela for the supply of natural gas to Trinidad and Tobago from the Dragon Field subject to approval from the Venezuelan National Assembly?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Speaker, I am the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago and I can only speak to, and for, Trinidad and Tobago's involvement in this matter. What goes on in Venezuela is a matter for the Venezuelans and I cannot speak to what the assembly is required to do. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Indarsingh: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Supplemental to the hon. Prime Minister: This agreement that was signed between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Venezuela, you indicated that what was signed is the business of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, but going forward, the people of Trinidad and Tobago would like to know that if there is a change in the administration in the Government of Venezuela, will the agreement that was signed between both governments—will it still hold? [*Desk thumping*]

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as far as I am aware, a contract that binds the sovereign State of Venezuela and the sovereign State of Trinidad and Tobago is just that, a contract that binds the sovereigns, and it has nothing to do with which person is in office. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Tewarie: Prime Minister, there are two matters that are pertinent in this particular case—

Hon. Members: What is the question? Question!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Members, the Member has a preamble. I will determine when that opportunity arises. Go ahead.

Dr. Tewarie: One is the fact that the congress in Venezuela is controlled by the opposing parties, and the second is decree powers taken under the Constitution by the President does not extend to agreements between countries.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question, please, Member.

Dr. Tewarie: As a result, the pertinent question is: are the agreements signed between yourself and the President of Venezuela subject to approval by any entity within Venezuela?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to repeat, the agreement that we have signed—signed by the President of Venezuela who is the highest executive officer—if there is any breach of Venezuelan authorities or any requirement for Venezuela to have legislative input, that is a matter for the President of Venezuela who signed on behalf of the Government of Venezuela. So I do not know why I am being quizzed about what Venezuelans are required to do. And may I ask you a question? Is that the reason why your Government never made the progress you made with NGC—[*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Tewarie: Mr. Deputy Speaker, you would understand, I cannot respond.

**Recent Signing of Gas Supply Agreement
(Delivery of First Tranche)**

Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan (*Tabaquite*): Hon. Prime Minister, in view of the recent signing of this gas supply agreement between the Governments of Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, could you kindly inform this House when the first tranche of gas will be delivered through the proposed pipeline to Trinidad and Tobago?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very happy that Members on the other side are so excited and exercised by this development, because we just signed the foundation agreement at the government-to-government level. It is now for the operational agreements to be concluded and for work to begin on the developmental works of the field and the pipeline and so on. So, clearly, I cannot now tell you a date as to when first gas will be here, with any certainty. And I certainly will propose no date to you, because I know you will come back after and tell me I did not keep my promise. And I am in no position now to promise you a particular date.

All I can say to you is that with respect to Trinidad and Tobago

and Venezuela, you would have heard that it is the intention of both countries to have this done at the earliest opportunity—we in Trinidad and Tobago having great interest in an early arrival of first gas. And you also would have seen the President of Venezuela saying in a statement in Caracas that if initially we thought of doing it in 10 months, do it in five months. In other words, speed up the arrival of the product to market, and that is the basis on which we are proceeding.

But if I may say, the laying of the pipeline, the upgrade of the platform and the production from the fields into the gas into Point Lisas, we anticipate—we would be satisfied, let me put it this way—that we have done very well if within 30 months we do have first gas appearing in Trinidad. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Gopeesingh: In the context of the operational aspect of that Venezuela to Trinidad gas supply, would the hon. Prime Minister indicate which country will be undertaking the expense for that infrastructural work? And what is the estimated cost—if Trinidad is undertaking it, what is the operational cost for that?—if he is prepared to answer.

1.50 p.m.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this arrangement is an

arrangement between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago represented by the National Gas Company, the Government of Venezuela represented by the PDVSA, the Venezuelan National Oil Company and Shell, a well-known multinational. All costs related to this project between these three parties would be normal commercial costs, and where we are at this in development I am not in a position now to give you any numbers, but as I pointed out at the press conference on Monday evening that these are expenses that normally will run in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars. We are now getting to the table to determine the exact cost now that we have a foundation to build on.

Dr. Tewarie: Prime Minister, are those the only three entities involved in this particular operation; and if they are, what is the proportionate level of investment, proportionate return?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Member, I would not entertain that question, please.

Dragon Field Gas Project with Venezuela

(Details of)

Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan (*Tabaquite*): Could the Prime Minister provide specific details relating to the funding of the

construction of the 19-mile long gas pipeline for the signed Dragon Field gas project with Venezuela—any specific details?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think that was answered in the supplemental.

Foreign Exchange

(Temporary Restructuring)

Mr. David Lee (*Pointe-a-Pierre*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Given the huge demand for Forex during the Christmas period by businesses both small and large to purchase goods, coupled with the prolonged shortage of available foreign exchange, will the hon. Prime Minister consider a temporary restructuring of the distribution of Forex to allow small firms in need to access same during this period to ensure economic activity as well as consumer demand and price stability?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, whether we are talking about small or large users of foreign exchange, this conversation has to be rooted in the fact that there ought to be an understanding that foreign exchange in Trinidad and Tobago is not as available as it used to be since we have suffered a significant decline in our foreign exchange earning capacity in recent times. That being so, I also want to remind my colleague, the Member

for Pointe-a-Pierre, that it was a tinkering with the distribution of foreign exchange which at first put us on a road to the creation of a black market here, when in April 2014—I think it was—[*Interruption*]

Hon. Member: Correct.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley:—and once you create a black market, you automatically are living in the shadow of shortages and vice versa. However, it is very strange that now in the second week of December we are talking about foreign exchange for Christmas because the bulk of the foreign exchange required for the Christmas trade would have been occurring before and spent as far back as October. But insofar as there are requirements going forward towards the end of the year, we will still expect that the arrangements in place would permit small, medium and large businesses to continue to survive within the context of our straightened circumstances. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Rambachan: From the Prime Minister's response he is indicating that he believes that there is a black market for foreign exchange. Then Mr. Prime Minister, why are business organizations allowed to openly put up signs in their business places to buy foreign exchange, when in fact they are not allowed to do so and there are certain regulations regarding the legal trading of foreign exchange?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, as far as I am aware

handling of foreign exchange in Trinidad and Tobago is viewed as a right as against the law which says that foreign exchange needs to be traded within particular regulatory arrangements. I am not aware who has signs up, but if there are any breaches of the law then it is for the law enforcement agencies to intervene, but it would be burying one's head in the sand if one does not accept that foreign exchange is being bought and sold outside of the banks in Trinidad and Tobago.

Dr. Khan: Prime Minister, I just want to ask you if you could—the Minister of Finance is on record of saying that he is going to use the Central Bank to create a fund and an account to satisfy foreign exchange merchants—you said that—how far has that reached? And the other thing, could you ask the Minister of Finance to look into the aspects what the banks are doing in order to create loans for interest payment—*[Interruption]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Member! Member!

Dr. Khan: This is a serious problem.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Member, we are totally—it is not a supplemental directly related to the question.

Dr. Khan: I just want to ask the Prime Minister to look into it.

OPEC's Invitation**(Position of)**

Mr. David Lee (*Pointe-a-Pierre*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. In light of Trinidad and Tobago's invitation by OPEC to discuss cutting back oil production in line with the policy adopted by OPEC members recently, can the Prime Minister inform this House of the Government's position as it relates to this invitation?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, in the context of any conversation of Trinidad and Tobago and OPEC, let us start at the beginning where Trinidad and Tobago's application to OPEC was declined on the grounds that we are insignificant, and that was when we were producing 140,000 barrels a day. Now that we are producing 60,000 barrels a day, I find it quite hilarious that a Member is raising here with me how our presence at an OPEC meeting and talking about cut back.

In fact, all of our citizens in Trinidad and Tobago, especially those in the oil sector, are under instructions to increase our production because we need an increased production. [*Desk thumping*] However, we are a non-OPEC producer, and so is Russia. So when the invitations go out to non-OPEC producers we get one, but it is not that anybody is listening to what we have to do because even if we cut

back by 10 per cent it is 6, 000 barrels a day, and if the instructions is to cut back by half of 1 per cent that is 300 barrels a day. So let us not get too excited about that. We are not in a position to influence what goes on out there, however, from a diplomatic standpoint if we are invited to an OPEC meeting, we will consider attending even with a washing brief.

Dr. Gopeesingh: Hon. Prime Minister, in the context of the production of approximately 160,000 barrels per day and your intention to increase the production, can you give—60,000 barrels per day—to the national community, an idea of the steps the Government is taking to increase this supply of oil?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Member! A totally different question there, Member.

**Establishment of a National Building Code
(Government Intention)**

Mr. David Lee (*Pointe-a-Pierre*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Given the fact that Trinidad and Tobago has been warned that a massive earthquake has long been overdue, could the Prime Minister indicate whether his Government intends to establish a national building code to ensure the protection, safety and health of the citizens in the event of a massive earthquake?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter of a national building code has been around for decades. What really should concern us is whether we are complying and whether there is adequate enforcement of the building codes. But even against the background of the poor enforcement on the relatively low level of compliance at certain levels, because of the high quality of building materials which are used in Trinidad and Tobago, the overall finished product usually meets above the minimum standards and where we are doing constructions like larger buildings, multi-storey buildings and so on, we usually build to the California code which is about the highest standard in the world bearing in mind that we are in fact in a seismically active zone.

So from that standpoint, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not think that we are at any—but one of the things that I need to point out—I am happy that Members on the other side are now interested, maybe of the shake yesterday—because one of the things we found is when we attempted to move the Agriculture Ministry from St. Clair into the new building built by the last Government, we discovered that it had certain deficiencies with respect to the seismic code and we had to take steps to retrofit. And, of course, when we were going to build the hospital, the famous Couva Hospital, the last Government was warned

not to build the hospital on the Springvale fault, they did just that. So I am very happy that they have now come to the point where the building code is important. However, some significant work has been done—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Prime Minister, your two minutes have expired.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Do I have two seconds just to—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Two seconds only.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: We have completed work on the Port of Spain microzonation. San Fernando is being processed and Scarborough. These are sites on microzonation works that would put us in a better position to respond to these. [*Desk thumping*]

Aluminium Smelter

(Consultation of)

Mr. Barry Padarath (*Princes Town*): In light of the Prime Minister's recent statements regarding the aluminium smelter could the Prime Minister indicate to this House when will public consultations commence on this project?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish my colleague, the Member for Princes Town, would

pay more attention to what is happening in the House because the only comment I made recently about an aluminium smelter is to make it crystal clear to every citizen that this Government is not pursuing an aluminium smelter. Aluminium smelting involves the use of bauxite or alumina in machinery to generate aluminium ingots. All the recent statements I have made were very clear, made in English in and out of this House, that what the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is pursuing is an aluminium industry if found to be economically sound based on the importation of aluminium ingots. You only get aluminium ingots after you smelted bauxite or aluminium. So this question has no place being associated with any statement of mine. We are not pursuing an aluminium smelter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Member for Caroni Central.

**Finance and General Purposes Committee of Cabinet
(Details of Chairman)**

Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie (*Caroni Central*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Would the Prime Minister please indicate the name and designation of the Minister who currently chairs the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Cabinet?

Hon. Member: That is No. 11?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Let him go ahead.

Dr. Tewarie: No. 11?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: You continue with your question, Member. Question No. 12 to you.

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I think I am being tricked. I am programmed to answer the questions in sequence. So when you skip I am not—[*Interruption*] [*Laughter*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Which one are you on?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Twelve.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: No. 12. The name and designation of the Minister? Oh, with pleasure. The Minister who chairs the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago is hon. Minister Stuart Young, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Tewarie: Prime Minister, would you say it is normal for the Minister of Finance not to chair the Finance and General Purposes Committee?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: All depends on what is normal for you. What is normal for you might not be normal for me. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Singh: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Prime Minister, is it not the accepted protocol in governance that the Minister of Finance chairs the Finance and General Purposes Committee?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not know what experience they are referring to, but I have been in a Cabinet where Dr. Saith was never the Minister of Finance but he chaired F&GP for five years. Speak for yourselves and your mis-governance. The PNM does not follow your approach. [*Desk thumping*]

Matelot and Grand Riviere

(Natural Disaster)

Mr. Barry Padarath (*Princes Town*): Could the Prime Minister indicate whether he has visited the residents of Matelot and Grand Riviere in light of the natural disaster that occurred in those communities last week?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I have not personally visited the community of Brasso Seco, Matelot or Grand Riviere, but, however, I am pleased to announce that given the problems faced as natural disaster on Wednesday 30 November, by the following morning of Thursday the Minister of Works and Transport was in the area [*Desk thumping*] and the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, and since then

both Ministers have made, along with the Member of Parliament, two visits.

As I speak to you now, I could report that on the very same day of Thursday, following the night's event, the defence force was mobilized along with the Sangre Grande Corporation and ODPM, and by Friday 2nd a Motion was dealt with in this House where the Minister of Works and Transport comprehensively outlined the Government's response.

As I speak to you now, the Member of Parliament for Arima is in Brasso Seco and there has been a number of other developments where Trinidad and Tobago has responded fairly adequately but always there is room for all kinds of improvements, but we have responded and we are bringing continuous relief to our citizens on the north coast. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Padarath: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Hon. Prime Minister, in light of the concerns raised by residents in those areas together with the Member of Parliament herself about the timing in terms of the response from the essential services, are you satisfied with the level of response provided in terms of the time as expressed by residents and also the Member for Toco/Sangre Grande in terms of not being as forthcoming as it should be?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the State's response to our colleagues, our fellow citizens on the north coast, has been the subject of public information on a continuous basis. Given the nature of the emergency, I want to congratulate all the agencies that responded [*Desk thumping*] and while there is always room for improvement because the only perfect situation is to be there at the moment when it happens, the bottom line is that we gave a response of which the country can be proud, and if there is room for improvement we will seek to make those improvements as we go along. [*Desk thumping*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Members, the Prime Minister's question time has expired, but I will entertain the Member for Princes Town on his supplemental.

Mr. Padarath: Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Hon. Prime Minister, in light of your announcement with respect to the Member for Arima visiting Brasso Seco, can you indicate whether or not it is your position and you are satisfied that a Member of your Government, a Member of Parliament who has a natural disaster in his constituency did not make the sufficient time to visit or to provide what is needed for his constituents and instead saw it more important to attend a ministerial meeting in Barbados and not even visit his

constituency?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Question now please now, Member.

Mr. Padarath: Whether or not the Prime Minister is satisfied with that response from a Member of Parliament that belongs to his Government?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, satisfaction by response to our citizens, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is a unit as a whole and insofar as the Member of Parliament per se has not been there, he gave a reason and in fact he is on his way there. And secondly, the rest of the Government, that I just outlined, responded at great time limits. [*Desk thumping*]

EXTENSION OF PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Hon. Members, the Leader of Government Business has extended the time for Prime Minister's questions. So I will now call on Member for Caroni Central, question No. 13.

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

Government of Trinidad and Tobago and JBIC Negotiations

(Details of)

Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie (*Caroni Central*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Would the Prime Minister indicate who was the chief negotiator for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with

Mitsubishi and the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) and where these negotiations took place?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, let it be known for the parliamentary records, let us just make sure that we put it on record that the House approved the extension and not the Leader of Government Business.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Members, all in agreement?

Assent indicated

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Kindly proceed.

Dr. Tewarie: Sorry, I will repeat.

Dr. Tewarie: Would the Prime Minister indicate who was the chief negotiator for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with Mitsubishi and Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) and where these negotiations took place with regard to the renegotiation of the Mitsubishi arrangement?

Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, this matter came to the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago in 2015 at the location of the Office of the Attorney General and it involves state company National Gas Company along with the private sector in Trinidad and Tobago and Japan, and the Government of Japan. In responding to the development of the requirement to intervene to protect the project and

our national interest, the Cabinet sub-committee chaired by the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, along with Prof. Ken Julien, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Prof. Andrew Jupiter, Chairman of Petrotrin and member of the Board of NGC, and Mr. Gerry Brooks, Chairman of NGC. That sub-committee was authorized by the Cabinet to address this matter. The discussions, if they may be called negotiations, took place in Trinidad and Tobago and in Tokyo, and as was said to this House by way of statement of the Minister, it was indicated that we did in fact have success at the end of those negotiations.

Dr. Tewarie: Could I ask Prime Minister who was the lead negotiator?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: I just indicated—*[Interruption]*

Dr. Tewarie: You said the committee, Sir.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am going to answer questions but I am not going to take challenges that I am not accurate. I started off by saying that the matter came to the Office of the Attorney General and a team led by the Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Prime Minister, the hon. Stuart Young, he led a team Prof. Julien, Prof. Jupiter, Mr. Gerry Brooks. That was the team of a Cabinet sub-committee to respond, and on that

basis discussions took place in Trinidad and Tobago and in Japan and out of that came a satisfactory agreement.

Dr. Tewarie: Follow-up supplemental. I appreciate Prime Minister that Minister Young was the lead of that team. Are you satisfied, hon. Prime Minister, that based on the negotiations that NGC as a corporation has not been put under greater commercial and financial risk?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Member, I am not going to entertain that question. Your next question.

**National Gas Company and Mitsubishi/Massy
(Renegotiation of Arrangements)**

Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie (*Caroni Central*): Would the Prime Minister indicate whether the renegotiation of arrangements between National Gas Company and Mitsubishi/Massy—that is the two corporations involved in the private sector side—have altered the original business model on which the first agreement was premised?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this particular question is addressing a statement which has already been made in this Parliament. Had I not been satisfied as Head of the Government and had this Government not been satisfied, we would not have come here and told the Parliament that we have

changed what was there to something that is acceptable to all parties and is now signed and work is proceeding apace without let or hindrance. And insofar as there is any alterations of any model, it is altered to the benefit of the people of Trinidad and Tobago [*Desk thumping*] because in a statement to this House we told the House why we changed it.

We changed the exposure of NGC in a debt buy-down arrangement for no benefit and we told the House that there were objections by the public service to what was there. What is there now is that NGC has no liability to pay without benefit and also worse, the Government has rescinded a national gas policy which says that in the event of a shortage of gas only the new companies will get and the older contracts will not get, and we pointed out had that been allowed to stand, NGC as the supplier of gas would have been exposed to billions of dollars in claims from those older existing contracts which would not have been satisfied because the Government would have entered into this mad policy of saying that if gas is available it only goes to companies prior to 2014. We have changed that, and if that is the business model that we have altered, we have altered it with sanity in mind. [*Desk thumping*]

OAS Construtora
(Monetary Claims)

Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan (*Tabaquite*): Hon. Prime Minister, could you please state whether any monetary claims for work done have been received by the Government from OAS Construtora on the Point Fortin Highway following the termination of the contract?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very happy for this question because I was trying to figure out where the answer would come from because it is as strange to us in the Government that we have terminated OAS Construtora after no claim was made to us leading up to the closure. And in fact, when this claim as described by the Member for Tabaquite came to us, we were in shock because had we by mistake or any other happenstance paid that claim which had no basis, what that claim was meant to do was to undermine the Government's attempt to cash in the letter of credit. Fortunately for us, we picked up the attempt to dupe the Government into paying a claim that was not payable, and had we made that payment we would have lost our legal standing in claiming the billion dollars that we have claimed in the courts of London. Thank God we were on the ball and that we were sufficiently alert, and I would simply like to ask my colleague, the Member for

Tabaquite, who generated that claim? [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Rambachan: Hon. Prime Minister, you just refer to the billion dollars you said you got back in claims and so on, does that include retention moneys?

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: [*Crosstalk*] Mr. Deputy Speaker, out of deference to you, I am going to put this on the record so that my colleagues will not continue to mislead the public. It was said by statement in this House that these were bonds, standby letter of credit bonds, had nothing to do with claims and with retention, and the Minister is asking that question and is causing me great concern.

Hon. Member: The Member.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: The Member for Tabaquite. We came to this House, we told the public outside these were letters of credit standby bonds which in the event of a failure of the contract this was the recourse. And, Mr. Deputy Speaker, these questions are to be viewed in the context of the Member's oversight of the removal from that contract of the clause that allowed the State to fire the contractor for bankruptcy. I am drawing it to the national population's attention that these questions are linked to that withdrawal of that clause in that contract. [*Desk thumping*]

Dr. Rambachan: The Prime Minister refers to Addendum II, has

the Prime Minister read Addendum II to see how it also protected the interest of Trinidad and Tobago? [*Desk thumping*]

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there can be no protection for the people of Trinidad and Tobago if we are giving up the opportunity to get rid of a contractor, to terminate a contract because the contractor has become bankrupt. If it was the last Government's policy to be comfortable in bed with a contractor that is bankrupt, it is not this Government's policy and it is not in the interest of Trinidad and Tobago at any time. [*Desk thumping*]

Award of Contractors to Local Contractors

(Details of)

Dr. Surujrattan Rambachan (*Tabaquite*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Hon. Prime Minister, could you inform the House whether your Government has awarded any contracts to local contractors for the completion of the highway to Point Fortin; and if so, who are the contractors and for which segments have contracts been awarded?

The Prime Minister (Hon. Dr. Keith Rowley): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Government has made it quite clear that having terminated the contract with OAS, we are under the guidance of legal counsel to determine what the state of play is on the ground. We are

assessing the work on the ground, we are assessing the legal requirements for us to enter in and as soon as we have been given clearance by the legal advisors the Government's intention is to return to the project and to award contracts in a number of subunits. It is our intention to hire more than one contractor to do various segments of the highway giving local contractors the opportunity to get involved in the project and so on. To date, we have not awarded any contract but we are working towards that situation.

Dr. Rambachan: In view of what the hon. Prime Minister said, are those contracts to be awarded going to include contracts for the segment between Debe and Mon Desir?

2.20 p.m.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: I want to repeat. We are assessing the situation on the ground, and based on the completion of that assessment we would determine what segments and what contracts are awarded.

Mr. Charles: Is the Prime Minister satisfied that the continuous response about assessing the situation? When will you get down to specifics and action? [*Desk thumping*]

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley: Unlike the previous Government that awarded the contract without proper assessment, this Government will

get down when the assessment makes sense and we know exactly what we are doing—[*Interruption*]

Mr. Charles: Value for money.

Hon. Dr. K. Rowley:—to protect the public interest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Last supplemental, Member for Naparima.

Mr. Charles: So Mr. Prime Minister, are you guaranteeing the people of Point Fortin a highway and a hospital in the immediate future?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Member, I would not entertain that question.

URGENT QUESTIONS

Increased Police Patrols

(Christmas Period)

Mrs. Vidia Gayadeen-Gopeesingh (*Oropouche West*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the Minister of National Security: given that business groups have recently expressed dissatisfaction with the police patrols in commercial shopping areas and city centres during the Christmas period, does the Minister intend to request that the Commissioner of Police increase police patrols to prevent criminal acts committed against consumers and business owners?

The Minister of National Security (Hon. Maj. Gen. Edmund

Dillon): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I wish to inform this House and I wish to inform the public at large and in particular the business community that there has been in fact an increase in police presence, not only police presence but joint army/police presence, throughout the length and breadth of Trinidad and Tobago, in particular the business sector, the shopping malls.

The Police Commissioner had in fact held discussions with some of the business owners, so that together, in the full interest of community spirit, there is a presence with respect to visibility and deterrence to deter any criminal activities throughout our business centres, to give them a sense of comfort, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mrs. Gayadeen-Gopeesingh: Hon. Minister, are there any areas that would be given priority?

Hon. Maj. Gen. E. Dillon: That would depend on information or intelligence gathering by the Police Commissioner who would determine where the troops will be concentrated. But I can say categorically that the presence would be throughout the business sector, especially the shopping malls throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Assistance for Poor and Vulnerable Constituents**(Details of)**

Mr. Barry Padarath (*Princes Town*): Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon. Minister of Social Development and Family Services: in light of the impending Christmas holiday, can the Minister indicate when will Members of Parliament receive assistance for the most poor and vulnerable constituents and indicate the form of assistance?

The Minister of Social Development and Family Services (Hon. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn): Mr Deputy Speaker, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services provides support and assistance to the poor and vulnerable in our society directly. There are, therefore, no plans to provide assistance to the Members of Parliament for onward transmission to our poor and vulnerable.

Assistance for Natural Disaster**(Details of)**

Mr. Rodney Charles (*Member for Naparima*): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. To the Minister of National Security, based on reports in the press today, could the Minister please state when would the residents of Brasso Seco, Paria receive assistance in the wake of the natural disaster that affected the north-eastern coast last week?

The Minister of National Security (Hon. Maj. Gen. Edmund Dillon): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I wish inform this House and the public of Trinidad and Tobago that the residents of Brasso Seco, Paria have in fact received some relief from the ODPM and in fact are receiving relief as we speak right now, with respect to food, water, tarpaulins, blankets, mattresses, et cetera.

In addition, the First Engineer Battalion is in fact on the ground right now doing clearance of landslides and so on, throughout the Brasso Seco area, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Port of Spain Prison

(Mitigation Measures)

9. Dr. Roodal Moonilal (*Oropouche East*) asked the hon. Minister of National Security:

Given that the keys to the Port of Spain Prison were misplaced in June 2016, could the Minister indicate the measures taken to mitigate a reoccurrence of this incident?

The Minister of National Security (Hon. Maj. Gen. Edmund Dillon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, hon. Members, Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service has indicated that the incident which took place in June 2016, warranted re-evaluation of the established security framework

of the Port of Spain Prison. The following strategic measures were put in place to effectively negate all contraventions of the prisons guidelines that govern the handling of keys.

- All keys and locks are being replaced at the Port of Spain Prison.
- A Prison Service Committee has been established with the responsibility of revisiting and drafting policies governing all administrative and operational areas of the Prison Division.
- The Superintendent of the Port of Spain Prison has in fact installed visual aids such as signage at strategic points of the prison to ensure that officers are continually reminded of the duty and care that must be implemented, with regard to the use of keys in the prison.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service has installed closed-circuit television cameras at the Port of Spain Prison. The initiative will enable better monitoring of both inmates and officers and thus strengthen security within the prison system.
- Additionally, a system of spot checks has been implemented, to ensure that officers who are recorded as having been issued keys are truly in possession of them.
- Further, the prison officer posted at the main gate of the facility

has been instructed to ensure that all officers do not report off duty with keys on their person and to make the necessary entries in their diaries before they leave the station.

As such, more thoroughly daily checks are conducted to ensure that officers return all keys issued to them, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Dr. Moonilal: Thank you very much. I have heard the Minister of National Security. Minister, could you indicate specifically whether the locks were changed as mandated by the Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General, Minister in the Ministry of the Office of the Prime Minister and Chairman of the F&GP at that time? Were the locks changed, specifically?

Hon. Maj. Gen. E. Dillon: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I wish not to state at this time whether the locks are changed or not, for security reasons, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Paving in Debe

(Details of)

10. Dr. Roodal Moonilal (*Oropouche East*) asked the hon. Minister of Works and Transport:

Could the Minister provide the commencement date for the paving of the section of the Cuchawan River, Debe from Debe Hindu School to Gandhi Village Road?

The Minister of Works and Transport (Sen. The Hon. Rohan Sinanan): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, the section of the Cuchawan River that has been identified—
[*Interruption*]

Mr. Indarsingh: Cuchaawan.

Sen. The Hon. R. Sinanan: No, no, spell it properly—from the Debe Hindu School to the Gandhi Village Road is approximately 418 metres in length. Subject to the availability of funds, walling and paving works for this section of the river are scheduled to commence in 2017/2018 fiscal year. Thank you.

[*Continuous interruption and crosstalk*]

MOTIONS

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Members, any of you all heard what the Procedural Clerk said? The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government.

ELECTIONS AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY) (TOBAGO) ORDER, 2016

The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government (Sen. The Hon. Kazim Hosein): Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I would like to say a pleasant good afternoon to everyone. I

might be new in the House but the faces are not new to me.

I want to take this opportunity to let you all know that the baton has been passed over to me as the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government [*Desk thumping*] and I intend to build on all the previous Local Government Ministers and to ensure that local government reform comes out and comes very successfully [*Desk thumping*] to the benefit of all the people of Trinidad.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for giving me the opportunity to humbly serve in this position and I will do my very best.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, under Standing Order 44(10), I seek your permission to read.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Proceed.

Sen. The Hon. K. Hosein: Thank you, you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move the following Motion standing in my name:

Whereas it is provided by subsection (3) of section 4 of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), that as soon as may be after the Elections and Boundaries Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) has

submitted a report under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the said Act, the Minister shall lay before the House of Representatives for its approval the draft of an Order by the President for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report:

And whereas the Commission has submitted a report to the Minister in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Act:

And whereas the draft of an Order entitled the “Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) (Tobago) Order, 2016” giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission was laid before the House of Representatives on the 2nd day of December, 2016:

Be it Resolved that the draft of the “Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) (Tobago) Order, 2016” be approved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, this Motion seeks the approval of the House of Representatives to the Draft of an Order of the President, in accordance with section 4 of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act, in respect of the Eleventh Report of the Elections and Boundaries

Commission.

Whereas under section 71 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, there is established an Elections and Boundaries Commission hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”.

And whereas under subsection (1) of section 4 of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act, herein referred to as the “Act”, the Commission is charged, inter alia, with responsibility for defining and renewing the boundaries of the electoral districts into which an electoral area is or is to be divided.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, section 4(1) states that:

“The Commission shall define and review the boundaries of the electoral districts into which an electoral area is, or is to be, divided and shall submit to the Minister reports either—

- (a) showing the constituencies into which it recommends that an electoral area should be divided in order to give effect to the Rules set out in the Second Schedule; or
- (b) stating that, in the opinion of the Commission, no alteration is required to the existing number of boundaries of electoral districts in order to give effect to the said Rules.”

In accordance with paragraph (a) of the said subsection (1) of

section 4 of the Act, the Commission, on the 29th day of September, 2016, submitted to the Minister the Eleventh Report in which it is recommended that for the purpose of elections to the Tobago House of Assembly no adjustment is necessary to the boundaries of any of the 12 electoral districts in the electoral area of Tobago.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the report was submitted within the stipulated time period for submission as required by section 2(c) of section 4, which states that:

- “(2) Reports under subsection (1) shall be submitted by the Commission—
- (c) in the case of a report in reference to Tobago, not less than two nor more than four years from the date of submission of the last report.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Second Schedule of the Elections and Boundaries Commission Act prescribes the rules to be followed by the Commission, in its review of the number and boundaries of the electoral districts into which an electoral area is, or is to be, divided.

For Tobago, rules 1, 2(2) and 3 of the same Schedule provides the following directions:

- “1. The number of electors in each electoral district of a region electoral area shall, so far as practicable, be the number

obtained by the application of rule 2, but the Commission may, in consideration of rule 3 vary such number provided that in no case shall the number of electors in any one electoral district of an electoral area exceed or be less than the number of electors in any other electoral district of that electoral area by more than twenty-five per cent.”

2(2).“There shall be twelve electoral districts in the electoral area of Tobago.

3. In the division of electoral districts in regional...areas natural boundaries such as major highways and rivers shall be used wherever possible.”

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Eleventh Report of the Commission, on its review of the electoral boundaries in the electoral area of Tobago, was based on an electorate of 48,677 as at August 22, 2016.

This represented an increase of 2,582 over the 2012 electorate of 46,095. On the basis of this increased electorate in 2016, and after applying the relevant rules, the Commission concluded that:

(a) there should be no change in the boundaries of the 12 electoral districts in the electoral area of Tobago.

The basis for the Commission’s recommendation in the Eleventh Report was based on its analysis of data provided in

the table of Appendix A of the Eleventh Report. This analysis revealed that in relation to the electoral area of Tobago:

- (a) the highest electorate is equal to 4,462 and is represented by the electoral district of Black Rock/Whim/Spring Garden;
- (b) the lowest electorate is equal to 3,625 and is represented by the electoral district of Parlatuvier/L'Anse Fourmi/Speyside;
- (c) the highest electorate is 23.0 per cent above the lowest electorate;
- (d) the lowest electoral is 18.75 per cent below the highest electorate;
- (e) 25 per cent below the highest electorate is 3,346. This figure, therefore, represents the minimum amount for the lowest electorate given the highest electorate of 4,462; and
- (f) 25 per cent above the lowest electorate is 4,531, this figure being the maximum limit for the highest electorate, given the lowest electorate of 3,625.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Commission by its analysis of the revised electorate, concluded that the electorate in each of the 12 electoral

districts in the electoral area of Tobago fell within the maximum and minimum levels permitted, as the electorate neither exceeds, nor is less than, the number of electors in any other district of the electoral area by 25 per cent.

Further, particulars on the Commission's recommendations, the boundaries of the proposed electoral districts and the map marking the 12 electoral districts on the electoral area of Tobago are contained in the appendices to the Draft Order.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, a review of the Eleventh Report would show that it did not vary any of the boundaries in the electoral districts in the electoral area of Tobago, nor did it make any changes to the recommendations previously made in the Tenth Report.

In fact, the Eleventh Report, other than recording on approximately 5 per cent increase in the electoral area of Tobago by 2,582, included no additional changes to the recommendations made in the Tenth Report.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Eleventh Report of the Elections and Boundaries Commission on the boundaries of the electoral district in the electoral area of Tobago, dated September 29, 2016, is now before this honourable House and is submitted for your approval, without modification.

In this regard, the Government seeks the agreement of the Members of this honourable House to approve the Draft Order entitled the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) (Tobago) Order, 2016.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move.

Question proposed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Any speaker to be recognized?

The Minister of Rural Development and Local Government (Sen. The Hon. Kazim Hosein): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the draft of the “Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) (Tobago) Order, 2016” be approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Planning and Development (Hon. Camille Robinson-Regis): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now adjourn to Friday, the 9th day of December, 2016, at 1.30 p.m.

Mr. Singh: What will we be doing on that day?

Hon. C. Robinson-Regis: You are the Chief Whip?

Mr. Singh: I am a Member.

Hon. C. Robinson-Regis: Mr. Deputy Speaker—[*Interruption*]
You need to know what we will be doing? The real Chief Whip needs to know? Okay. Mr. Deputy Speaker, on that day we will be resuming debate on the FATCA legislation.

Question put and agreed to.

House adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 2.43 p.m.