



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.9

26

THURSDAY 13th August, 2020

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

- a. How will the demise of LIAT affect us in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- b. What is the solution to the problem of inadequate air transportation service to and from SVG resulting from the demise of LIAT; and
- c. How soon will the new service or services be available and able to meet our needs.

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

On several occasions, I have asked about and urged completion of the EU funded Maritime and Hospitality Institute in SVG as it is important to enabling our people to seek and find jobs in the hospitality sector and as seafarers on ships all over the world. Will the Minister please state:

- a. Why is this critically important institute not yet completed and fully functional; and
- b. Will it be available soon to train our people for jobs in the hospitality sector and to train and certify our seafarers so that they can get jobs on local and international ships.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

The Paget Farm main road is in a deplorable condition and has deteriorated to the extent that it is dangerous for all users of the road. This has caused serious damage to vans and other vehicles that use the road.

Will the Minister please state when this vital road will be repaired, especially the section at Bluff Point, and those near Stonnie Hazell shop and in front of Uncle Duff's shop.

4. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education, National Reconciliation and Information:

Have all dates and schedules been set and confirmed for the new school year 2020 - 2021, if so what are these dates and schedules?

- a. Under what conditions are teachers and students to return to the classrooms for the new school year;
- b. What measures are implemented to adequately prepare and place all educational institutions in a state of readiness to meet the conditions as set out above for the new school year; and
- c. Include how are teachers being prepared to deal with these conditions.

5. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Could the Honourable Prime Minister indicate the prison population at Her Majesty Prisons for the years 2001-2005; 2006-2010; 2011-2015 and 2016 to June 30th, 2020.

- a. Provide the number of males and females prisoners over the same time period under age 30, and between ages 30 and 40;

- b. Of the age and gender of groups identified in (b) how many had completed Secondary School education; and
- c. The current prison population.

6. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Consequent upon the declaration of LIAT's failure and proposal for liquidation; would the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate:

- a. The exposure of St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- b. The total investment of SVG in (i) LIAT between 2001 and 2020 (ii) A breakdown of the investments;
- c. LIAT's current total assets and current total liabilities;
- d. The total amounts outstanding for Salaries & Wages; Vacation Pay and Severance Settlement; and
- e. While Barbados and SVG of the current shareholders have indicated they have no further interest or ability to invest in LIAT; does the Prime minister have objection in principle to other Caricom Members doing same and trading under the name LIAT.

7. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

- a) What is the current total average annual income for LIAT over the last five years;
- b) What are the deficit for the operations of the AIA; and
- c) What are LIATS loss for 2017, 2018 and 2019.

8. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

The main road leading to the Majorca water supply intake has been in a state of disrepair for quite a while. A contract has been awarded for concrete works to effect repairs to portions of the road. This work has stopped and started over almost a year now. In the meantime, the condition of the road is barely passable to four-wheel drive vehicles. Would the Minister please state:

- a. What are the reasons for the delays in the execution of this project;
- b. What is the total expenditure to date on this project in absolute terms and as a percentage of the cost; and
- c. When can we reasonably expect the completion of the works if that is still the goal of the Ministry.

9. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour:

You have indicated to this honorable house that the Medical Cannabis Industry has suffered serious setbacks because of the pandemic caused by the corona virus.

Will the Minister please state:

- a. How many licensed farmers inclusive of non-traditional farmers who suffered tremendous loss due to the pandemic;
- b. How many licensed farmers have legitimate contracts signed by potential investors for cultivating medical marijuana; and
- c. Is there any intention by the government to give financial support to cannabis cultivators as a result of the setbacks caused by the pandemic.

10. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

The Petit Bordel Playing Field is no longer the premier sporting arena in North leeward as a result of new playing fields in Cumberland and Golden Grove. In light of this; Will the Minister please state:

- a. If there are any plans to rehabilitate the playing field at Petit Bordel;
- b. What plans are in place to complete the washrooms and change rooms facility that was started by the Social Investment Funds many moons ago;
- c. If the answer to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, how soon will the work commence, and if Not please give reason(s); and
- d. If there is a paid maintenance personnel assigned to the playing field.

11. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology:

People who live or routinely work around radars have expressed grave concern about long term adverse effects of these systems on Health, including cancer, malfunction of reproductive organs, cataracts, and changes in development and behaviour of children. There is a huge powerful radar circulating constantly right near to the Dorsetshire Hill Primary School and a huge Cell tower adjacent to that school.

On behalf of the residents and parents, teachers and students of the Dorsetshire Hill Primary ask of the Honourable Minister:

- a. Have you considered the harmful effects of these systems so close to the said school?
- b. What plans if any you have to redress this threat?
- c. Have there been any studies done to examine the cogency of this threat?

12. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Will the Honourable Minister please say if there are plans to fix:

- (i) The road to Content;
- (ii) The Conner Hill Road; and
- (iii) Guinny Hill road in Dorsetshire Hill/Queen's Drive.

13. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

The bypass road opened at the old Arnos Vale airport is in a deplorable condition.

Will the Honourable Minister please say when will this road be repaired.

14. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth:

The Honourable Israel R. Bruce to ask of the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Youth, Community Development. Youth voices are an important part in a country development,

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state whether or not there is in place a Youth Charter to guide development of the country's youths;
 - b. If yes, will he provide guidance as to how this document can be accessed; and
 - c. If no, can you please state why at this time there is not a Youth Charter and if his Ministry will give due consideration to the creation and implementation of a Youth Charter.
15. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth:

Non-Governmental Organisation through volunteerism played a vital role in Community Development across St Vincent & the Grenadines. This spirit of volunteerism has dwindled significantly.

- a. Will the Honourable Minister give this honourable house an update on the number of active Non-Governmental Organisation throughout the country, with a brief analysis as to the nature of these NGO's and their geographic areas of functioning; and
 - b. What if anything is being done to rekindle the spirit of volunteerism in St Vincent and the Grenadines.
16. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology:

Parliament recently approves finances for the PRYME Program. Will the Honourable Minister state, to date:

- a. How many youths have benefitted from the PRYME program;
- b. What is the current amount of money disbursed individually on PRYME and PRYME PLUS; and
- c. What mechanisms are currently in place to monitor beneficiaries, to ensure that proposed new business do get off the ground and to guarantee a satisfactory measure of success.

MOTIONS

1*. 2020 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance.

WHEREAS Section 70(3) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides for the laying of Supplementary Estimates before the House of Assembly if in respect of any financial year it is found that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Law to any purpose is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose to which no amount has been appropriated by that Law; or that any moneys have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated to that purpose by the Appropriation Law or for a purpose to which no amount has been appropriated by that Law;

AND WHEREAS Supplementary Estimates (No. 2) 2020 have been prepared and laid in the House of Assembly.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House do approve the Supplementary Estimates (No.2) 2020.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(GOVERNMENT ORDERS ARE MARKED THUS*)

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| 1* Supplementary Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2* Cassandra Snagg Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Public Sector) | 1 st Reading |
| 3.* Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean
(Agreement) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 4.* Friendly Societies Bill, 2020
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | Select Committee |
| 5.* Consumer Protection Bill, 2020.
(Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs) | Report from Select
Committee |
| 6* COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Amendment) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |
| 7* Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Legal Affairs) | 1 st Reading |
| 8* Public Health (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Minister of Health) | 1 st Reading |
| 9*. Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Airports) | 1 st Reading |
| 10*. Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Agreement
(Date of Commencement and Validation) Bill, 2020
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Airports) | 1 st Reading |

RESOLUTIONS

1. COVID-19 (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) ORDER, 2020 No. 20 of 2020

*To be moved by the Honourable Prime Minister, Dr the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves

WHEREAS, Section 2(2) of the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, No. 5 of 2020, provided that the Minister may by Order amend the Schedule to the Act, to provide for the modification of any existing law and such law shall be deemed to be amended from the date of the publication of the Order of the Gazette; and

WHEREAS, by Section 2(3) of the Act an Order made by the Minister pursuant to subsection 2(2) shall cease to have effect if a Resolution confirming the Order is not passed in the House of Assembly within two months of the commencement of the Order; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2020, No.20 of 2020, was made on the 10th day of June 2020 and published in the Gazette in accordance with Section 2(2) of the Act:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House approve the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2020, No. 20 of 2020.

2. EXCISE TAX (AMENDMENTS OF FIRST SCHEDULE) ORDER 2020 (NO. 27 OF 2020)

*To be moved by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Camillo Gonsalves.

WHEREAS, the First Schedule of the Excise Tax Act, Chapter 430 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines prescribes the excise tax rates imposed on excisable goods; and

WHEREAS, by Section 37(4) of the Act the Minister may, by Order published in the Gazette and approved by Affirmative Resolution of the Parliament, amend the First Schedule to the Act; and

WHEREAS, the Excise Tax (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, 2020 which amended the excise tax rates prescribed in the First Schedule to the Act, was made and published in the Gazette on the 11th day of August 2020.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House approve the Excise Tax (Amendment of First Schedule) Order, No. 27 of 2020.

ADJOURNMENT