MINUTES
OF THE
HONOURABLE JAMAICA HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

At a meeting of the Members of the House of Representatives held pursuant to adjournment at Gordon House in the City and Parish of Kingston on Tuesday, the 22ND DAY OF JANUARY, 2013

The House met at 2:24 p.m. o’clock.

Prayer was offered by Mr. Richard Parchment.

Call of the Roll.

PRESENT WERE:

The Honourable Michael Anthony Peart, MP, Speaker

The Honourable Phillip Feanny Paulwell, MP, Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House

Dr. the Honourable Peter David Phillips, MP, Minister of Finance and Planning

The Honourable Robert Dixon Pickersgill, MP, Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change

The Honourable Peter Murcott Bunting, MP, Minister of National Security

The Honourable Derrick Flavius Kellier, CD, MP, Minister of Labour and Social Security

The Honourable Roger Harold Clifford Clarke, CD, MP, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

The Honourable George Anthony Hylton, MP, Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce

Rev. the Honourable Ronald George Thwaites, MP, Minister of Education
The Honourable Lisa Rene Shanti Hanna, MP, Minister of Youth and Culture

The Honourable Dr. Morais Valentine Guy, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works & Housing, with responsibility for Housing

The Honourable Natalie Gaye Neita-Headley, MP, Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister, with responsibility for Sports and Deputy Leader of the House

The Honourable Evon St. Patrick Culliton Atkinson, QC, MP, Attorney-General

The Honourable Luther Bartley Monteith Buchanan, MP, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister

The Honourable Julian Jay Robinson, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining

The Honourable Ian Dave Hayles, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change

The Honourable Colin Alfred Alexander Fagan, MP, Minister of State in the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development

Dr. Kenneth Leigh O'Neill Baugh, MP, St. Catherine, West Central

Dr. Lynvale George Bloomfield, MP, Portland, Eastern

Mr. Hugh Carl Buchanan, MP, St. Elizabeth, South Western

Mr. Delroy Hawmin Chuck, MP, St. Andrew, North Eastern

Miss Joyce Denise Daley, MP, St. Catherine, Eastern

Dr. Donald Keith Duncan, MP, Hanover, Eastern

Miss Olivia Atavia Grange, MP, St. Catherine, Central

Dr. Winston Lloyd Green, MP, St. Mary, South Eastern

Mr. Lester Michael Henry, CD, MP, Clarendon, Central

Mr. William James Charles Hutchinson, CD, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Western

Mr. Desmond Anthony Augustus McKenzie, CD, MP, Kingston, Western
Mr. Richard Antonio Parchment, MP, St. Elizabeth, South Eastern

Mr. Mikael Asher Phillips, MP, Manchester, North Western

Mr. Jolyan Craig Ian Silvera, MP, St. Mary, Western

Mr. Derrick Charles Smith, CD, MP, St. Andrew, North Western

Mr. Rudyard Conrad Spencer, MP, Clarendon, South Eastern

Mr. Daryl Wesley Phillip Vaz, MP, Portland, Western

Mr. Clifford Everald Errol Warmington, MP, St. Catherine, South Western

Dr. Andrew O’Brien Wheatley, MP, St. Catherine, South Central

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

The Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Robert Pickersgill, made the following Statement on the Meteorological Drought being experienced in a number of Parishes:

Mr. Speaker, I begin my presentation by mentioning a chemical formula ... two parts hydrogen, and one part oxygen. This formula touches every single aspect of life on this planet and is one that many of us take for granted, that is, until our supply is depleted. Of course, I am referring to water, Mr. Speaker.

As I address this Honourable House, we are now experiencing a meteorological drought in a number of parishes, which is currently impacting on our access to this precious resource and will continue to do so in the very near future.

Although we have had some rain over the past two days, “A shower doth not a drought break”, and as such, we cannot fail to carry out the drought mitigation measures being put in place, on which I will enlighten this Honourable House shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is prudent to define the term ‘drought’ as opposed to the term ‘dry period’ and to make a distinction between the various types of droughts that we may experience.

(The Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, with responsibility for the Public Service, the Honourable Horace Dalley, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Keith Walford, MP, St. Ann, South Western, entered and took his seat).
Drought

Drought is a slow creeping natural hazard that occurs as a consequence of natural climate change. There has been growing concern worldwide, that the incidence of drought experienced by several countries may be increasing in frequency and severity due to Climate Change.

Droughts are known to have significant economic, social and environmental impacts, and persistent droughts have the most detrimental consequences.

Definition and Types of Drought

A Drought may be simply defined as a long period without rain. More precise definitions for specific areas of concern most commonly used are:

- Agricultural Drought - which refers to a period when soil moisture is inadequate to meet the demands for crops to initiate and sustain plant growth.

- Hydrological Drought - which is a period of below normal stream flow and/or depleted reservoir storage and;

- Meteorological Drought - which refers to a period of well below average precipitation (rainfall) that spans from a few months to a few years.

As I said before, we are now experiencing a Meteorological Drought in some parishes.

Rainfall Pattern

Mr. Speaker, Jamaica has a bimodal rainfall pattern which simply means that there are two peak periods with higher values of rainfall broken by periods of lower rainfall amounts. The primary peak occurs in October and the secondary in May.

The lowest amounts of rainfall occur during the period February to March and in July. This pattern has been established based on a long term 30 year analysis of rainfall over the island.

A comparison of the two 30 year periods for which the analysis has been done, first between 1951 and 1980 and then 1971 and 2000, indicates that there have been some changes with wetter dry periods and drier wet periods all due to Climate Change.
Mr. Speaker, I will now report on the findings of a drought assessment conducted in some of the affected parishes.

For the two month period October to November 2012, the parish of Hanover experienced normal drought with 51% of normal rainfall but this worsened for the November to December period to 41% of normal rainfall.

Clarendon experienced no drought in the October to November period but in the November to December period, normal drought was experienced with 54% of normal rainfall.

Westmoreland experienced no drought in the period October to November but experienced normal drought for the November to December period with 54% of the normal rainfall.

St. Catherine experienced severe drought in the October to November period with 39% of the normal rainfall but normal drought in the November to December period with 46% of normal rainfall.

St. Mary experienced no drought in the October to November period but experienced normal drought in the November to December period with 55% of normal rainfall.

St. Thomas experienced normal drought in the October to November period with 58% of normal rainfall but this worsened in the November to December with 48% of normal rainfall.

Mr. Speaker, when I say normal rainfall, I am referring to the parish averages.

So for example, if St. Mary is used to receiving 100 millimeters of rainfall and receives 55% of this amount, then the parish would be considered to be experiencing normal drought conditions.

The Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) calculated monthly for selected stations across the island gives more details about the drought conditions on a community level.

There is currently only one station per parish and the SPI derived from the measurements from these stations give a more precise indication than that derived from the parish drought index which I just described.

The SPI recognizes conditions of increasing severity from moderately dry, severely dry, extremely dry and the most severe, exceptionally dry.

Based on the SPI indices, most of the weather stations have been indicating more severe drought conditions in January.
These weather stations are situated in Savanna-la-mar in Westmoreland (extremely dry), Mount Peto in Hanover (moderately dry), Orange Valley in Trelawny (severely dry), Tulloch in St. Catherine (extremely dry) and Serge Island in St. Thomas (extremely dry).

Mr. Speaker, please note that extremely dry is one level before exceptionally dry which is the worst case for the SPI.

The parish drought index corresponds well with the SPI confirming that drought conditions now exist in the parishes indicated.

However, while the parish index may be showing normal drought, the SPI has indicated that conditions are much worse in sections of these parishes.

(Mr. James Robertson, MP, St. Thomas, Western, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Raymond Pryce, MP, St. Elizabeth, North Western, entered and took his seat).

(Mrs. Shahine Robinson, MP, St. Ann, North Eastern, entered and took her seat).

(Mr. Fitz Jackson, MP, St. Catherine, Southern, entered and took his seat).

Precipitation Outlook

Mr. Speaker, regarding the Precipitation Outlook, a total of five stations across the island were examined and four of these stations indicated below normal rainfall while one station returned above normal rainfall.

The forecast continues to show strong signals across most stations for below normal rainfall. The overall average for Jamaica therefore, reflects a near normal to below normal rainfall pattern for the period January through to March 2013 with strong signals and high forecast confidence.

The general conclusion is that while several stations are now experiencing extremely dry conditions the outlook for January through to March is for a worsening situation with normal to below normal activity with a greater likelihood for below normal rainfall. Realization of this prediction will only exacerbate the existing drought conditions.

Drought Impacts and Mitigative Measures

Mr. Speaker, I now turn to drought impacts and mitigative measures. The drought has affected the water supplies of both the Parish Councils and the National Water Commission (NWC). The areas most affected are in Western Jamaica (Lucea-Negril water supply) and the small systems in rural Jamaica.

The systems most affected are those that originate on the impermeable volcanic formations that depend entirely on rainfall to support flow. Systems that tap the limestone
formations have not been affected and have a more reliable yield due to base flow support from the limestone aquifers.

The impact in some areas on the public water supply is due not just to a decline in the sources but also as a result of an increased demand, both legal and illegal, as well as irrigation usage as other sources dry up.

The National Water Commission has therefore moved to implement a number of drought mitigation initiatives. However, some customers served by systems that are currently being impacted by drought conditions are already being affected by no water conditions, intermittent water supply, and/or low water pressures.

The measures include:

- Accessing additional sources of water for treatment and distribution;
- Maximizing the use of existing sources of supply;
- Modifying the distribution systems to reduce losses from the systems and to optimize flows to customers;
- Improving the capacity to share water from the least-affected systems with the worst-affected systems;
- Accelerating the water supply improvement projects that could assist in drought mitigation;
- Reducing, alternating, diverting or transferring water within and among impacted water supply systems and areas;
- Increasing the trucking of water with priority to be given to hospitals, health centres, schools, public institutions and communities which are severely affected for prolonged periods;
- Installing, restoring and/or utilizing community/Rapid Response and other tanks as well as other water harnessing and storage facilities;
- Increasing activities to reduce Non Revenue Water (NRW) and particularly leaks and overflows;
- Maximizing the use of existing storage tanks of which there are 445 across the island after an assessment of the condition and status of each.

(The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment, the Honourable Damion Crawford, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of Local Government and Community Development, the Honourable Noel Arscott, entered and took his seat).
Distribution of Water Storage Tanks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SURREY</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Andrew</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLESEX</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Catherine</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Mary</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Ann</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORNWALL</td>
<td>Trelawny</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. James</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hanover</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Westmoreland</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Elizabeth</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>445</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. The NWC is embarking on a major programme to replace or rehabilitate several of these tanks to restore them to full functionality. A provision is $3.0B is being made for this purpose under the K-Factor Programme.

B. Over the next three months, approximately $100M will be spent on bushing, inspection, assessment and performance of minor repairs on these facilities. In addition, for tanks in areas affected by drought, more significant emergency work totaling an additional $100M will also be carried out over the three-month period.

C. The remaining funds are expected to be used for engineering, major rehabilitation or replacement of other tanks requiring such intervention.

In addition the Ministry, through the Rapid Response Unit, has 70 wayside tanks throughout the island, many of which have fallen into disrepair following the winding up of the Rapid Response Unit by the former Administration. It will cost a total of approximately J$7million to repair these tanks.

Mr. Speaker we realize that given the current drought conditions, these tanks need to be rehabilitated and to be put back into service, and so my Ministry will be moving expeditiously to undertake the necessary repairs.

Whereas the major storage facilities serving the capital city of Kingston (Mona Reservoir and Hermitage Dam) are presently at near 100% capacity, it is expected that these storage levels will decline during a prolonged dry season.

It is therefore imperative that the public conserve on its use of water over the next 3-4 months until the other expected period of precipitation in May.
On that note Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the Yallahs Pipeline has been restored at a cost of J$75 million.

Mr. Speaker it goes without saying that the mitigating activities to be carried out by the NWC in the various affected parishes will result in an increase in its expenditure.

Among the areas that will contribute to increased costs are:

- the increase in the need for trucking;
- the increase in night time valve regulations that result in increased Operation & Maintenance costs,
- the need to rehabilitate water facilities or establish new ones to increase available quantities of water and improve the capacity to deliver to consumers.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has approved the financing of J$30 million to support the overall drought remedial programme.

My Ministry is partnering with the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development (MLGCD) to allocate funds for the trucking of water to the drought-affected areas across Jamaica, especially those areas not served by the National Water Commission.

The funds will be allocated to the respective Parish Councils for the trucking of water to those areas, districts and communities identified by the Members of Parliament, as being in need. This process is underway as a matter of urgency. However, let me state categorically, that the Councils which now have balances from last year's allocation will not receive any new allocation until the balances have been cleared. Our records indicate that the three Parish Councils that have depleted their allotments are Portland, St. Thomas and Clarendon.

Mr. Speaker, as it stands, there are 21 Rapid Response Units operating islandwide as follows:

- 2 units in the metro region which comprises Kingston and St Andrew. These are based at the NWC’s compound on Marescaux Road.
- 9 units in the central region comprising Manchester, St. Elizabeth and Clarendon. Four of these units are based at the NWC’s compound at May Pen; four are housed the National Irrigation Commission in Houslow, St. Elizabeth and one is housed at the St. Elizabeth Parish Council.
- Four units in the northern region comprising St. Mary, Portland and St. Ann. These are located at the NWC’s base in Port Maria.
• And 6 units in the western region which comprises Trelawny, St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland. These are based at the NWC’s compound at Bevin Avenue in Montego Bay.

Mr. Speaker, there are 26 additional units which we will be repairing in the short term. J$10million has been allocated so far for the repairs. Once the repairs are completed these will be put into service as follows.

• 6 in Kingston
• 7 in St. Catherine
• 8 in St. James, and
• 5 in Manchester

(The Deputy Speaker, Mr. Lloyd B. Smith, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Pearnel Charles, MP, Clarendon, North Central, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Andre Hylton, MP, St. Andrew, Eastern, entered and took his seat).

(Dr. Dayton Campbell, MP, St. Ann, North Western, entered and took his seat).

Forest Fires in the Dry Season

The projected/protracted dry season is expected to impact our forest reserves and forest estates islandwide with increased chances of forest fires. Forests, particularly those located in St. Thomas, St. Andrew, Clarendon and Manchester, are especially prone to forest fires, and the Forestry Department, which falls within my Ministry, will be stepping up compliance and enforcement activities to ensure the integrity of our forests during the period. There will be increased presence of Forest Officers to ensure that forest fires related to breaches of the Forest Act 1996 and Regulations 2001 are minimized.

Any breach in the Forest Act or Regulation can attract fines of up to $200,000 and $50,000 respectively. In default of payment of the fine the convicted person can be imprisoned for up to 2 years under the Act or one (1) year under the Regulations. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that persons living near forests adhere to the rules and regulations governing the use of our forests and forest management areas both in the short and long-term.

In addition to increased presence by Forest Officers, the Forestry Department will also be maintaining fire breaks or fire lines in the forests to prevent fires from moving from one area to another.
In very short order Jamaica will have its own Forest Fire Management Plan. The Agency, with funding under the EU Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project is currently working with the US Forest Service to develop a comprehensive Fire Management Plan for the island with emphasis being placed on the Yallahs and Hope Watersheds. The Plan will outline how, and the mechanisms by which, forest fires are handled to minimize their effects on the country.

Even as the Agency seeks to complete this document in the short term, community members are encouraged to get involved in protecting the forests. Should community members witness any breaches in the forests, they are advised to call the Forestry Department and in the case of fires, the Fire Department.

Future Drought Planning

Mr. Speaker, while the Ministry and the Government deal with the immediate situation there has to be planning for future droughts which, as stated in my introduction, are increasing in frequency and severity due to Climate Change.

The decision has been taken to resuscitate the National Drought Management Committee. This committee will play a proactive role in mitigating the impacts of drought on the economy. The Committee will assess the current situation, and formulate short and medium term measures to mitigate the drought situation facing the country and to minimize the impact on the vulnerable in the society in particular schools, hospitals and the elderly.

The drought committee consists of representatives from the following agencies:

- The Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change (MWLECC)
- The Water Resources Authority (WRA)
- The National Water Commission (NWC)
- The National Meteorological Service
- The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
- The Forestry Department
- The National Irrigation Commission (NIC)
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)
- The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)
- The Ministry of Local Government
- The Jamaica Fire Brigade
- Chairman of the Climate Change Advisory Committee
Mr. Speaker I will Chair this Committee and I tend to convene the first meeting shortly.

Mr. Speaker, the Government is cognizant of the magnitude of the drought situation. We are therefore developing strategies and taking these actions to ensure minimal impacts on the socio-economic situation of the country.

“It’s not that drought effects the amount of water in the ground. Drought affects the amount of water that we use.”
-Marlon Cook

Thank you.

(Mr. Paul Buchanan, MP, St. Andrew, West Rural, entered and took his seat).

(The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Andrew Holness, entered and took his seat).

(The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the Honourable Sharon Ffolkes Abrahams, entered and took her seat).

(The Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr. Fenton Ferguson, entered and took his seat).

(Mr. Audley Shaw, MP, Manchester, North Eastern, entered and took his seat).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Clerk laid on the Table of the House a copy of the following:

**Ministry Paper No 4/13**
And
*(Ministry of Finance & Planning)*

**Ministry Paper No 5/13**
And
Annual Report of the Western Regional Health Authority for the financial year July 2008 to June 2009
*(Ministry of Health)*

The Toll Roads (Tyre Deflation Device) Regulations, 2013
Under
The Toll Roads Act  
*(Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing)*

BILLs BROUGHT FROM THE HONOURABLE SENATE

The Clerk presented the following message from the President of the Senate:

**TO THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

I have to honour to advise the Honourable House of Representatives that on the 18th day of January, 2013, a Bill entitled: “AN ACT to Provide for the protection of Jamaica’s plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and for connected matters”, was passed in the Senate without amendment.

*Stanley St. J. Redwood*

President of the Senate

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(Dr. Horace Chang, MP, St. James, North Western, entered and took his seat).

Mr. Clifford Warmington enquired when debate would begin on the Report of the Human Resource and Social Development Committee, regarding the Office of the Political Ombudsman, standing at item 14 on the Order of Business. The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, the Honourable Phillip Paulwell, stated that the matter would be scheduled for the next meeting of the House.

Mr. Warmington also queried the status of the submission made to the Cabinet, under Standing Order 26A, regarding the Report of the Infrastructure and Physical Development Committee on its deliberations on Private Members’ Motions number 1 and 2 of 2012.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

Mr. Warmington enquired when Private Members’ Motions standing at items 1, 2 and 7 on the Order of Business would be debated. The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House stated that the intention was to have all Private Members’ Motions debated before the end of the legislative year, and that he would be meeting with the Leader of Opposition Business in the coming week so that consensus could be reached on a schedule for the motions.
The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Works and Housing, gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

THE TOLL ROADS ACT

________________________________

The Toll Roads (Tyre Deflation Device) Regulations, Resolution, 2013

________________________________

WHEREAS by virtue of section 32(1) of the Toll Roads Act (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations for giving effect to the provisions and purposes of this Act;

AND WHEREAS by virtue of section 32(2) of the Act, the Regulations made under subsection (1) shall be subject to affirmative resolution;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that the Toll Roads (Tyre Deflation Device) Regulations, 2013, be affirmed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House of Representatives as follows:

1. This Resolution may be cited as the Toll Roads (Tyre Deflation Device) Regulations, Resolution, 2013.

2. The Toll Roads (Tyre Deflation Device) Regulations, 2013, which were laid on the Table of the House on the 22nd day of January, 2013, are hereby affirmed.

Mr. Raymond Pryce gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS many of our trading partners once held very strict and rigid views regarding the uses of Cannabis Sativa;

AND WHEREAS the body of knowledge as to the efficacy of its use for social, religious and medicinal purposes has expanded significantly;

AND WHEREAS each year hundreds upon hundreds of Jamaican youth are arrested and criminally prosecuted for possession of small quantities for their personal use;

AND WHEREAS such criminal records haunt thousands of Jamaicans and their families, preventing many from achieving career goals at the personal and family levels;
AND WHEREAS within the past decade many other jurisdictions have, by way of the ballot, legislation and or regulations, relaxed their positions to the possession and use of small quantities of the substance to include decriminalization and legalization:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Parliament debate the practicality, as a human rights issue, of the determination of a prescribed amount of Cannabis Sativa at or below which there will be no criminal prosecution for possession for personal use.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The time being 4:26 p.m., the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, moved for the suspension of the Standing Orders to take Questions and Answers to Questions beyond 3:15 p.m.

Seconded by: Mr. Hugh Buchanan.
Agreed to.

Mr. William J. C. Hutchinson asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries the following Question:

Part 1:
Will the Minister state what is the total acreage that is planned for corn production in Jamaica?

Part 2:
Will the Minister state if the water content in the corn makes it efficient to be ground for animal feed?

Part 3:
Will the Minister state what are the yields that have been obtained from the trial at Jamaica Broilers and the cost of production from the trial?

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honourable Roger Clarke, responded as follows:

Answer to Part 1:
In 2013, one hundred and forty-two (142) hectares is planned for production of corn. Any further decision as to the quantum of the crop to be produced will be guided by the results from the test trial currently being conducted.

Answer to Part 2:
Moisture content of corn from first trial was 12%, corn was field dried. The range of acceptable moisture for milling is 12-14%.
Answer to Part 3:
It must be noted that the just concluded crop run was a private venture and as such the data gathered can only be shared by the investors - Jamaica Broilers.

Mr. Hutchinson further asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries the following Question:

Part 1:
Will the Minister state how much money has already been spent on the Sandy Hurricane Relief Programme through the Ministry of Agriculture?

Part 2:
Will the Minister state what is the structure, or through which organisations has the distribution been done?

Part 3:
Will the Minister state how many farmers have obtained some relief from this programme, and in which parishes they are located?

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries responded as follows:

Answer to Part 1:
The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF) through the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) has provided assistance to approximately 6,000 farmers in the aftermath of hurricane Sandy. The allocation to parishes is shown in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Fertilizer (bags)</th>
<th>Land Preparation</th>
<th>Seeds</th>
<th>Broiler Chicks and Feed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas</td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>J$1,750,000.00</td>
<td>Vegetables, corn and onion seeds to be distributed to parishes next week.</td>
<td>J$650,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>2650</td>
<td>J$1,750,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>J$500,000.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>J$700,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrew</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>J$750,000.00</td>
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<td>J$500,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Catherine</td>
<td>1200</td>
<td>J$500,000.00</td>
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<td>J$500,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarendon</td>
<td>1400</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Trelawny</td>
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<td>J$100,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hanover</td>
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<td>J$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Elizabeth</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value ($)</td>
<td>J$27,000,000.00</td>
<td>J$7,500,000.00</td>
<td>J$12,800,000.00</td>
<td>J$3,950,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- An additional $3M is to be spent on fertilizer purchase.
- **Total farm recovery budget - $55M.**

**Banana**

An assistance package of J$139M for banana farmers is being provided to the sub-sector, with details as follows:

i. The Banana Board has assessed the damage and calculated the compensation for paid-up members of the Banana Industry Catastrophe Fund and issued notices to eligible farmers to collect their materials, which amounts to $7M.

ii. The Banana Resuscitation (Loan) Programme is an agricultural production and productivity project valued at J$55M and subsequently increased to J$120M. J$100M is being provided by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ), an increase from J$50M.

iii. In addition, the MOAF has injected J$13.5M into the National PC Bank to reduce the interest rate from 8.5% to 5% for loans disbursed to banana and plantain farmers.

iv. The balance of J$5M is being contributed by the Agricultural Credit (AC) Board to enable supervision of the loans and provision of technical advice.

v. The European Union (EU) has agreed to contribute euro 100,000 equivalent to J$13.5M in fertilizer and insecticide to the farmers. Distribution of the materials will take place from the RADA parish offices.

Approximately 1,000 farmers will benefit from this facility. This grant will be given only to legitimate registered banana and plantain farmers, who must present documentation to verify registration. The RADA European Union Banana Support Programme (EUBSP) will procure and distribute materials to farmers. Utilization of material grant will be supervised by the Banana Board.

**Coffee**

The Coffee Industry Board has received J$39.9M from the MOAF and has engaged the Jamaica Coffee Exporters Association and the Jamaica Coffee Growers Association in the logistics for the distribution of inputs. It is expected that approximately 4000 farmers will benefit.
**Fisheries Sub-Sector**

The fisheries sub-sector has received J$15M to assist with recovery efforts for damages arising from Hurricane Sandy. Approximately 1500 fish farmers and fisherfolks are expected to share this benefit.

**Cocoa**

Distribution of the J$15M benefit for the cocoa sub-sector began in December 2012. The number of farmers to benefit is approximately 500 and is being conducted in the parishes of St. Ann, Portland, St. Mary, St. Catherine and Clarendon.

Answer to Part 2:
The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) is the agency focusing on the distribution of benefits for the domestic agriculture sector.

The Banana Board, the Development Bank of Jamaica through the National PC Bank, the Agricultural Credit Board and the European Union Banana Support Programme are the main channels for distribution of benefits for banana farmers.

The Coffee Industry Board will be distributing inputs to coffee farmers through the Jamaica Coffee Exporters Association and the Jamaica Coffee Growers Association.

The Cocoa Industry Board will oversee the distribution of benefits to affected cocoa farmers in the five (5) parishes.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Division will oversee the distribution of benefits to fish farmers and fisherfolks.

Answer to Part 3:
It is expected that the aid being distributed to the domestic sector will benefit approximately 6000 farmers in most parishes. It is also expected that 1000 banana farmers will benefit from this aid. For the coffee industry and fisheries sub-sector, approximately 4000 and 1500 farmers and fisherfolk respectively, will benefit from this assistance.

Approximately 500 cocoa farmers in five (5) parishes, namely, St Ann, Portland, St. Mary. St. Catherine and Clarendon will also benefit from this assistance.

Mr. Hutchinson further asked the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries the following Question:

**Part 1:**
Will the Minister state if Wallenford coffee lands were leased to coffee farmers, and, if so, for what period?
Part 2:
Will the Minister state if lands presently leased to coffee farmers are being occupied by the Forestry Department?

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries responded as follows:

Answer to Part 1:
Yes, Wallenford lands have been leased to 133 coffee farmers. The amount of land leased to farmers is 2,316 acres.

The term of the lease varies from a minimum of 15 years to a maximum of 25 years.

Answer to Part 2:
No. Coffee lands are not being occupied by the Forestry Department (except for one or two minor incidents which WCC is dealing with).

The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House moved for the recommittal of the item “Notices of Motions Given Orally”.

Seconded by: Mr. Desmond McKenzie.
Agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS GIVEN ORALLY

The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House gave notice that at the next meeting of the House he would move:

WHEREAS on the 24th day of April, 2012, this Honourable House of Representatives gave approval for the Sessional and Special Select Committees of Parliament to continue in this Session with unchanged composition of membership except, where necessary, by further notice taken and approved by this Honourable House:

BE IT RESOLVED, with reference to the Public Accounts Committee, that the name Horace Chang be deleted and the name Karl Samuda be substituted therefor.

He further gave notice that at a later stage that day he would move for the suspension of the Standing Orders to enable him to take the motion.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

The Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:
WHEREAS on the 24th day of April, 2012, this Honourable House of Representatives gave approval for the Sessional and Special Select Committees of Parliament to continue in this Session with unchanged composition of membership except, where necessary, by further notice taken and approved by this Honourable House:

BE IT RESOLVED, with reference to the Public Accounts Committee, that the name Horace Chang be deleted and the name Karl Samuda be substituted therefor.

Seconded by: Mr. Delroy Chuck.
Agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ MOTIONS

Mr. Delroy Chuck, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Report of the Standing Orders Committee of the House of Representatives, on its deliberations on the Dress Code for Parliament, which was laid on the Table of the House on the 30th day of October, 2012, be approved.

Further debate on the substantive motion was, by leave, deferred.

Mr. Raymond Pryce, having obtained suspension of the Standing Orders, moved:

WHEREAS our current Prime Minister has publicly indicated the intention of the Government to finalise our sovereignty arrangements and move towards a Republican Democracy;

AND WHEREAS there are steps along the way to that great achievement that will serve as tangible milestones along that august journey;

AND WHEREAS it is the custom that each year, prior to our political independence and since that time, as it is in Britain, the Government’s framework for the year is outlined by a speech delivered by the sovereign Her Majesty Elizabeth II of Britain or her representatives under law as is the Governor-General of Jamaica;

AND WHEREAS that framework presentation is presently entitled the Throne Speech:

BE IT RESOLVED that, as we approach the date of the 50th anniversary of our political independence from Britain, this Honourable House take the necessary steps to rename the Throne Speech to the “People’s Speech” as a timely and lasting acknowledgement that the priorities, projects, policies and programmes contained therein are designed – in good faith – by the Government elected by the very people of Jamaica and is intended to honour and give thorough meaning to the primary responsibility of all governments, which is to work unswervingly and tirelessly to ensure the happiness and well-being of the people who elected the Government in the first place;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this simple, yet important reassignment of the name, that this most important of presentations be understood as a deliberate move towards the full attainment of our sovereignty and in keeping with the purpose of this Parliament and the Government of Jamaica first and foremost;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a tangible development in our jubilee year that this resolution be immediately considered so that this amendment may be approved prior to and in time for the opening of the 2012/2013 legislative year.

Further debate on the substantive motion was, by leave, deferred.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:49 p.m., the Minister of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and Leader of the House, moved that the House do now adjourn to Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., o’clock.

Seconded by: Miss Joyce Denise Daley.
Agreed to.

The House adjourned accordingly.

Michael A. Peart, MP
Speaker