

(Thunder, 27 August 1960)

MINISTER OF HEALTH TOURS UPPER MAZARUNI

Report by Maurice Julian Andrews

Saturday August 13 was a unique occasion, when the Hon. Mrs. Janet Jagan landed at Tumering, which is a terminus for the BG Airways in the upper Mazaruni. It was the first time that a Minister in Government paid an official visit to this region,

When Mrs. Jagan landed at Tumering she was welcomed to the district by the District Commissioner and other well-wishers. Her calm majesty abashed the curious onlookers and throughout the tour she commanded admiration from even the most callous and uninterested. Many gathered to see the little woman, whose name is like incense in the air. Some even whispered, "Is this the woman we are hearing so much about?"

Mrs. Jagan passed the night at the rest house at Enachu and proceeded to Kurupung the following day. When she landed there she was escorted to the various shops and other places of interest by Mr. Pilgrim, a businessman who is the Justice of the Peace of the district, and Mr. Henry Lawrence who is a miner of that area.

In the evening she called a meeting which was largely attended and everyone listened with rapt attention. She asked the people what proposals they could make for the improvement of the area. They asked for a permanent dispenser, and logies to be built by Government.

The Minister also agreed that though the population is high in that area, sanitation is not so bad.

On Monday Mrs Jagan proceeded to the Kurupung Mountain. When the boat reached the landing she came out and inspected the two shops and started to climb the dreadful height. Reaching the top of the look-out she looked behind and saw Kurupung as a thin line, as when in the plane viewing the Mazaruni from the air before landing.

After one and a half hours walking the Minister sighted the mighty Kamarou which she admitted was more beautiful than Kaieteur.

The Minister returned to Enachu Tuesday, and the following day she inspected Tumering. Later in the afternoon she talked to a large gathering at Enachu, and the District Commissioner sent his boat to convey all who were interested.

At Enachu a certain pork-knocker spoke against the cargo service, He advocated that Government should run the service.

On Thursday the Minister left by boat and stopped at Oranapai where she had discussions with some pork-knockers.