

New role in Parliament

The Government yesterday announced details of the new role designated to Workers' Party chief Pritam Singh, ahead of the 14th term of Parliament.

DUTIES

- Lead the opposition in presenting alternative views in parliamentary debates.
- Lead and organise scrutiny of Government's positions and actions.
- Consulted on appointment of opposition members to parliamentary Select Committees.
- May be called upon to attend official state functions, take part in government visits and meetings.

PRIVILEGES/RESOURCES

- Generally given the right of first response among MPs and the right to ask the lead question to ministers on policies, Bills and motions.
- More time for speeches, equivalent to that given to political office-holders.
- Confidential government briefings on select matters of national security and external relations, and in a national crisis or emergency.

- Receive

\$385,000

a year, double the allowance of an elected MP.

- An office and the use of a meeting room in Parliament House.
- Extra allowances to hire up to three additional legislative assistants.
- A secretary to support him administratively with parliamentary business.

