

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS NO. B/746 & B/747

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B/746

The Honourable Second Member for Grand Baie and Poudre d'Or
(Mr. Rughoobur)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security: -

Whether, in regard to trees of over five years, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Forestry Division, information as to the procedure applicable for the felling thereof?

B/747 The Honourable Second Member for Grand Baie and Poudre D'Or

(Mr Rughoobur)

To ask the Honourable Minister of Agro-Industry and Food Security

Whether, in regard to trees, he will, for the benefit of the House, obtain from the Forestry Division, information as to the number thereof of over 50 years having been fell with the approval of the said Division over the past 48 months, indicating the reasons thereof?

REPLY

(Sitting of Tuesday 06 August 2019)

Madam Speaker,

With your permission, I am going to answer both PQs B/746 and B/747 together as they are related.

The Forestry Service of my Ministry, operates under the legal framework of the Forests and Reserves Act

41 of 1983.

Any person wishing to fell a tree standing within river, mountain and road reserves, has to obtain the prior authorization from the Conservator of Forests, irrespective of the age of the tree.

As regards to trees outside river, mountain and road reserves, the Forestry Service has no jurisdiction thereon unless it is a State Land.

Madam Speaker,

As per the procedure laid out, an application in writing is made to the Conservator of Forests for the felling of a tree or trees within the above defined reserves. Forest Officers thereafter effect a site visit to assess the health, species and size of the tree, obtain a statement from the applicant and verification of status of ownership.

After the site visit and verification of title deeds, the Conservator of Forests then informs the applicant of its decision whether authorization is granted or not to fell the trees.

Madam Speaker,

I wish to inform the House that the Forestry Service cannot ascertain the age of a tree with certitude. Forest Officers instead make a visual assessment of the tree based on its size, species and the locality it is found.

I am informed that as per records available at the Forestry Service, authorization to fell 6522 trees, irrespective of age, have been granted during the last 48 months in connection with infrastructural developments being carried out and due to security hazards in public places