

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION NO B/154

B/154
(17.04.07)

**The Honourable Fifth Member for La Caverne and Phoenix
(Mr Soodhun)**

To ask Dr the Honourable Minister of Agro Industry and Fisheries:-

Whether, in the light of the Multi-Annual Adaptation Strategy Action Plan submitted to the European Union and in view of the increasing conversion of agricultural land for industrial, Integrated Resort Scheme (IRS) and hotel projects, he will state if a national plan has been prepared for land use for agricultural and non-sugar farming activities and, if so, will he state if a copy thereof will be tabled?

REPLY

Mr Speaker Sir,

I am tabling the reply.

2. In respect of land use for agricultural and non-sugar farming activities, there is a revised outline scheme in the context of national development strategy and national socio-economic priorities.

3. The need to optimize agricultural productivity within available land resources and necessary urbanization has become important.

4. Land suitability maps prepared by MSIRI and the Ministry of Agro-Industry & Fisheries provide for release of significant land classified as marginal.

5. Five maps identifying the sites of cane land in respect of ownership by different categories of planters and suitability are being tabled.

6. With regard to industrial, Integrated Resort Scheme and hotel projects, I am informed by the Ministry of Housing and Lands that provision has been made in the Four District Council Outline Planning Schemes for a flexible and responsive development management approach, instead of the prescriptive and rigid approach. A clustering and sequential approach to development planning is adopted where proposals are likely to be acceptable if they meet all performance criteria spelt out in the various policies on industrial development and tourism. The relevant policy documents (Policies ID1 – ID4 for industrial development) and (Policies CDT1 – CDT3 for tourism) are also being tabled.