

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 121

Question No. (Q93 Opp 92)

Member asking: Mr. David A. Patterson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Robert M. Persaud, MBA, MP

QUESTIONS

DEPLORABLE STATE OF FOREST ROADS AND BRIDGES IN REGION NO. 10

I would like to state that the Guyana Forestry Commission neither builds nor maintains roads and bridges. The construction and maintenance of this infrastructure is that of the respective concessionaire. In the case of Region Ten, this is the responsibility of the private company UNAMCO. When the concessionaire's forestry activities come to an end, these roads and bridges then become of the responsibility of the relevant State body.

- (i) *\*Could the Honourable Minister acknowledge that the forest roads and bridges within Region No. 10 are in a deplorable state?*

**No. But the bridges along the UNAMCO road are in need of repairs.**

- (ii) *\*Could the Honourable Minister acknowledge that the above situation has been brought on by poor road alignment, sub-standard road and bridge construction and a lack of maintenance?*

**I am advised that this has been caused by the lack of adequate maintenance.**

- (iii) *\*Could the Honourable Minister accept that the prevailing situation is a potential disaster in waiting especially to the environment through soil erosion and water/stream contamination?*

**No. Forest roads and bridges are constructed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Forest operations. This takes into consideration, minimizing any soil erosion, and contamination of waterways.**

*\*What action is being taken to prevent the potential for loss of life and limb and to ensure the safety of members of the public who traverse these roads daily?*

**The company UNAMCO has been advised on the need to repair the bridges, as the safety of their employees and other road users cannot be ignored.**

*\*What mitigation measures are being taken to stem the current state of environmental degradation along the roads and water ways?*

**The Code of Practice for Forestry operation stipulates the conditions under which forest roads and bridges must be built and maintained. The GFC is monitoring these more closely to ensure compliance.**