Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to support the Statement ably made by my Hon Colleague from the Builsa South Constituency. Mr Speaker, the issue of the logging of rosewood is, indeed, a huge problem that confronts the Builsa people, both north and south. I need to stress that as the Member of Parliament for Builsa North, the vegetation cover there is not as much as it is in Builsa South. Due to this, a lot of the logging happens in the Builsa South Constituency. Even in the Builsa North Constituency, we have had occasion to deal with the people who usually come there and collude, sometimes with traditional authorities and even elements within our security agencies.

On one occasion when I had to deal with the issue, I had very serious challenges even with elements from the security agencies. So, this is an issue that requires a concerted effort on the part of the various stakeholders if we want to achieve success. Mr Speaker, I have looked at the forestry law and it appears it needs to be amended. There are provisions in the law which make it possible for the Forestry Commission to auction confiscated logs. What invariably happens is that those engaged in the illegality collude and connive with officials of the Forestry Commission and benefit from their crime by participating in the auctioned sale of those very logs they were responsible for felling.

That is where the problem arises. So, in discussing Rosewood and its logging in our country, we need to look at the law and see whether it is not wrong for confiscated logs to be auctioned. If the activity is illegal, it should be treated as such. However, where logs are confiscated and auctioned to the people responsible for the logging, it does not augur well for the fight against Rosewood logging in our country.

With these words, I would like to once again, congratulate the Hon Member who made the Statement, for drawing our attention to the subject.