Mr Speaker, I rise to speak to the Statement on the floor. Mr Speaker, all of us here would attest to the fact that traditional medicine was a very important way of treating our diseases before the advent of the orthodox medicine. Mr Speaker, but the main topic or the reason for the Statement is about the inclusion of the traditional medicine on the National Health Insurance Scheme. If that is the understanding, then I have a few issues to talk about.

First of all, the practice is such that it is difficult to manage and control and it is difficult to bring all of them under one body. For that matter, the administration of that proposal today, is something that must be considered. For instance, what should be paid for if somebody visits a traditional medicine practitioner? Is it the services that he is going to be provided by the practitioner or the drugs that would be administered on that patient?

So, it must be well regulated and monitored in order to ensure that – if we bring the traditional medicine under the National Health Insurance Scheme, then those factors must be looked at appropriately. This is because, currently, if one visits a hospital, the services provided by the Doctor as well as the drugs that are prescribed are charged and paid for by the National Health Insurance Scheme.

So, if you are bringing the traditional medicine under the National Health Insurance, then we should look at whether the practitioners are providing services and also, apart from the drugs that they give, consultation is something that should come under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

Mr Speaker, it is very important that before one should consider adding this to the National Health Insurance Scheme, proper administrative measures must be put in place to ensure that it is well accounted for before we consider bringing them under the National Health Insurance Scheme.

I thank you, Mr Speaker.