

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5355  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010  
DEFINITION OF FOREST  
Sudhakaran Shri K.

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is a standardized definition of forests in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is working to finalize such a definition which has been mandated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court; and
- (d) If so, the time by which ``Forests`` will be defined in a way which would be legally-ecologically-socially acceptable in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to part (a), question does not arise.

(c)& (d) Ministry of Environment and Forests had entered into a Consultancy Contract with Ashok Trust for Research in Ecology & Environment (ATREE), New Delhi for providing Technical services for Defining Forests in an Indian Context. ATREE has submitted its Report and a definition of forests has been proposed that is under consultation and process for finalisation.