

**Title:** Need to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with a view to allow coffee plantations in forest area in Andhra Pradesh- Laid.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM) : As per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the cultivation of coffee is defined as non-forestry activity and hence not permitted on forest land. Due to high temperatures during summer in Andhra Pradesh, coffee plantation requires heavy shade. Due to this, a good forest cover is maintained in coffee plantations in Andhra Pradesh. The areas of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts have good coffee plantations, over 4000 hectares of forest land.

I, request the Union Government to give exemption under the Forest Conservation Act to grow coffee in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This will help to prevent shifting cultivation in forest areas, growth of tree cover on degraded forest land and will provide gainful employment to the local population.