

Title: Need to allow cultivation of coffee on forest land in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, as per the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the cultivation of coffee is defined as non-forestry activity and hence not permitted on forestland. Due to high summer temperature in Adnhra Pradesh coffee plantation required heavy shade. The agency areas of Visakahapatnam and East Godavari districts have good coffee plantations over 4000 hectares of forest land.

I request the Government of India to give exemption under 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.