

**Definition of forest by FSI**

1241. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) the area under forest cover in India as per the latest forest survey by the Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the definition of Forest Survey of India (FSI) in calculating this number includes coffee plantations, orchards and even urban parks;

(c) whether it is a fact that a plantation, orchard or an urban park cannot perform all the functions of a forest which are crucial for the ecological security; and

(d) whether the forest cover of India reduces to almost half when such plantations, orchards and urban parks are excluded from the definition of a forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) As per the latest India State of Forest Report-2013, the total forest cover in the country is 6,97,898 square kilometers which is 21.23% of the total geographical area.

(b) The term forest cover used by Forest Survey of India includes all lands which have a tree canopy density of 10% and above and have a minimum area of 1 hectare. The forest cover reported in the India State of Forest Report-2013 does not make any distinction between the origins of forest stand (whether natural or manmade) or tree species and encompasses all types of lands irrespective of their ownership, land use and legal status. Thus all tree species along with Bamboos, fruit bearing trees, coconut, palm etc. and all area including forest, private community or institutional lands meeting the above defined criteria have been termed as forest cover.

(c) The ecological services that flow from plantation, orchard and an urban park are different from that which flow from natural forest.

(d) Total forest cover of India would definitely change if there is any change in the above definition of forest cover.

**Environment clearance to Narla Tata Rao Power Plant**

1242. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Narla Tata Rao Thermal Power Station with 800 MW capacity from Andhra Pradesh is pending for environmental clearance; and