

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2195
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
INCLUSION OF CHINA IN SAARC
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal are lobbying for immediate inclusion of China in SAARC;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India has objected to the same;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether this issue was raised during the recently concluded SAARC meeting;
- (f) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (g) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (g) The decisions in the SAARC Summit are taken by consensus. The recently held SAARC Summit in Dhaka welcomed and agreed in principle with the desire of the People's Republic of China to be included as 'Observer'. The Summit further decided that the SAARC Council of Ministers will decide modalities in this regard in their Twenty Seventh Meeting in July 2006.