

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:755
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2007
REGIONAL FOOD BANK SET UP BY SAARC
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries in their meeting held in December 2006 have agreed to set up a regional food bank;
- (b) whether the modalities of operating the food bank have since been finalized;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time by which the food bank and its branches will start functioning;
- (e) whether the SAARC Development Fund is likely to be utilized for the operations of the food bank; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): As per information received from Ministry of External Affairs, during the 13th SAARC Summit held at Dhaka in November, 2005, the Prime Minister of India proposed the establishment of Regional Food Bank. The matter regarding establishment of SAARC Regional Food Bank was discussed in the meeting of the SAARC Agriculture/Food Ministers held on 14th December 2006 at Islamabad. In this meeting, the Concept Paper regarding establishment of the SAARC Food Bank was finalized.

(b): No, Sir.

(c) & (d): Does not arise.

(e) & (f): As per information received from Ministry of External Affairs, the SAARC Development Fund is yet to be operationalised.