

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:58  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2003  
SOUTH ASIAN CONFERENCE ON SANITATION  
AMBATI BRAHMANIAH

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government propose to hold the South Asian Conference on Sanitation shortly ;
- (b) if so, the objectives of such a Conference
- (c) the manner in which this Conference will help in achieving 100% sanitation in the country; and
- (d) the funds likely to be spent on this Asian Conference.

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (c) A working conference on sanitation (SACOSAN) was hosted by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Government of Bangladesh in Dhaka from 21st to 23rd October 2003. The overall objective of the conference was to accelerate the progress of sanitation and hygiene work in South Asia so as to enhance peoples` quality of life, in fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and the commitments made in the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002. . The conference was co-hosted by United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), Water and Sanitation Program-South Asia (WSP-SA, World Bank), World Health Organization (WHO), Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), Department for International Development (DFID, UK), Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WaterAid and Plan Bangladesh. The heads of delegations from the nine Asian countries, who participated in the South Asia conference in Dhaka, decided to organize a SACOSAN meeting to be held every two years with Ministers, heads of agencies, development partners and other actors with the potential to introduce and sustain a viable regional cooperation for sanitation, with the first of these events hosted by Pakistan in 2005, and the second by India in 2007.

(d) Estimation of funds likely to be spent for organizing the South Asian Conference on Sanitation in India in 2007 is pre-mature at this stage and would depend, inter-alia, on the financial assistance available from external support agencies.