

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3355

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2008

SAARC FOOD BANK

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

(a) whether the Government has pledged to contribute 153,200 tonnes of foodgrains to set up a Food Bank with an initial capacity of about 243,000 tonnes to meet the emergency food demands of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the share of each SAARC country in the Food Bank; and

(d) the time by which the said bank is likely to become operational?

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)&(b): Yes, Sir.Government has pledged to contribute 1,53,200 tons of foodgrains (rice or wheat or in combination thereof) for the SAARC Food Bank, out of initial reserves of 2,43,000 tons to promote collective self-reliance of SAARC members with respect to food security.

(c): The share of each SAARC country in the Food Bank is given below:-

Name of the member States Assessed share of foodgrains (in tons)

Afghanistan 1420

Bangladesh 40,000

Bhutan 180

India 1,53,200

Maldives 200

Nepal 4,000

Pakistan 40,000

Sri Lanka 4,000

Total 2,43,000

(d): The SAARC Food Bank has become operational with the first meeting of SAARC Food Bank Board held on 15th-16th October, 2008.