

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:196
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
SAARC SOCIAL CHARTER
Senthil Dr. Raman

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a National Coordination Committee has been constituted for implementing the provisions of the SAARC Social Charter 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the broad features of the national plan required to be prepared for implementing the provisions of the SAARC Social Charter 2004;and
- (d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (b) Yes. the Government of India has constituted a National Coordination Committee (NCC) headed by Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation in September 2005 to implement the provisions of the SAARC Social Charter,2004.The NCC has coordinated the organization of a number of capacity development programmes in India for SAARC Member Countries to address thematic areas of immediate concern in the SAARC region.

(c) to (d) The NCC has identified the monitorable socio-economic targets of the 11th Five Year Plan of India as the broad framework of the national plan of action for implementing the provisions of the SAARC Social Charter.Education, poverty, health, women and children, infrastructure and environment are some of the areas where the Government is committed to implement the provisions of the SAARC Social Charter, to ensure that the targets adequately align with the SAARC Development Goals (SDGs). The Government has also laid emphasis on increasing awareness, sensitization and proper policy formulation to effectively implement the recommendations of the NCC.