

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2292
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
SAARC SUMMIT
Botcha Lakshmi Smt. Jhansi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit was held at Thimphu recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the decisions taken at the Summit;
- (c) whether all SAARC countries have ratified the SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) signed in the previous Summit; and
- (d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to urge the remaining countries to do so?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SMT. PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) No. An Inter-Summit Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers (at the level of SAARC Foreign Ministers) was held in Thimphu, Bhutan from February 8-9, 2011. This was preceded by the 38th session of the Standing Committee (at the level of Foreign Secretaries) on 6-7 February, 2011. These meetings are held between two Summits, take stock of the progress made since the previous Summit and prepare the ground for the next Summit.

(c) & (d) The SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) has till now been ratified only by Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The 38th session of the Standing Committee Meeting held on February 6-7, 2011 in Thimphu urged the remaining Member States to complete their respective ratification processes for the Agreement at the earliest.