

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4017  
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009  
OPERATION OF BANK BRANCHES ABROAD  
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of branches Public Sector Banks (PSBs) functioning in SAARC and Gulf countries at present;
- (b) whether the Government has received proposal from certain PSBs to open their branches in the said countries;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Public sector banks are having 13 branches in SAARC countries and 16 branches in Gulf countries at present.
- (b) to (d): Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has received applications from State Bank of India and Union Bank of India for opening sub offices and representative offices in Bahrain. As and when Indian banks approach RBI for opening of branches abroad, their applications are considered by RBI and the Government under the applicable laws, regulations and procedures and the developments in the global financial markets.