

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4892  
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009  
SOUTH ASIA HOUSING FORUM  
Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

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

- (a) whether National Housing Bank (NHB) will host an electronic site for the South Asia housing Forum;
- (b) if so, the details worked out so far;
- (c) the role of Indian States including Orissa in this regard; and
- (d) the countries likely to participate in this proposal?

**Answer**

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

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): National Housing Bank (NHB) has developed an electronic site to host the South Asia Housing Finance (SAHF) Forum, in consultation with other countries in the South Asia region and the World Bank. The portal was soft launched by the Governor, Central Bank of Afghanistan on 9.7.2009. The portal has been initially created on NHB's website [www.nhb.org.in](http://www.nhb.org.in) and will in due course migrate to a separate independent domain. The objective of this electronic forum is to provide a platform for exchange of ideas, and experiences of different countries of South Asia so as to facilitate a coordinated approach on housing strategy in this region.

(c): No specific role has been assigned to State Governments in this Forum.

(d): The forum consists of various countries of south asia region including India, Afghanistan. Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia & Thailand.