

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2103
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
SAARC MEET ON CLIMATE CHANGE
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a summit of Environment Ministers of SAARC countries was held recently;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the summit;
- (c) whether a joint statement was issued at the summit;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by SAARC countries to jointly present their case regarding climate change in Copenhagen Convention?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAI RAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d): Yes Sir, the 8th Meeting of the Environment Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was held in New Delhi on 19-21 October 2009. The SAARC Environment Ministers noted the grant of one million dollar each by Government of India to SAARC Forestry Centre, Thimphu and SAARC Coastal Management Centre, Male. The SAARC Environment Ministers also noted the proposal of the Government of Bhutan to consider Climate Change as the theme of the 16th SAARC Summit in April 2010. Other important decisions inter alia were: issuing of a Delhi Statement on Cooperation in Environment agreeing on specific joint actions to further strengthen environmental governance, biodiversity conservation and climate change cooperation; direction to identify a few regional projects based on the concept papers circulated by India on biodiversity, solid waste management, training/capacity building programme for zoos of SAARC countries; establishment of 50 weather stations for advance storm warning systems in SAARC Member States with the help of Government of India starting with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh; and direction to finalize a Regional Environment Treaty for signing at the 16th SAARC Summit.

(e): SAARC Countries regularly coordinate their position on climate change as members of the Group of 77 and China. In the 15th Conference of Parties of United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held at Copenhagen in December 2009, Sri Lanka, as current chair of SAARC countries is scheduled to make a statement reflecting the views of SAARC countries in the opening plenary session.