

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:369
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
CONTRIBUTION TO SAARC FOOD BANK
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has agreed to contribute foodgrains to the SAARC Food Bank;
- (b) if so, the details and the terms and conditions thereof including the contribution made by the Government alongwith the current corpus of the said Food Bank;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider its commitment to the said Food Bank in view of the drought and shortage of foodgrains in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO.369 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2009 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a)&(b): Recognizing the importance of regional collective self-reliance with respect to food security during calamities, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Food Bank has been established as per the SAARC Food Bank Agreement among SAARC Members countries. India's committed share in the SAARC Food Bank reserves is 1,53,200 tons out of total reserves of 2,43,000 tons.

Respective shares of SAARC Food Bank reserves are maintained by all member countries themselves. During food shortage/emergency, a member country is entitled to use its own share of these reserves of foodgrains and recoup them later. Similarly, a member country in need may also procure foodgrains from the reserves of other members at mutually agreed prices.

(c)&(d): There is no such proposal.