

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6172

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015

AFRICAN-ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION CONFERENCE

Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has also participated in the 18th African-Asian Rural Development Organisation Conference recently concluded in Mauritius;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of issues raised by the Indian delegates during the said Conference; and
- (c) the details of decision taken at the above Conference?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The delegation from India to the 18th AARDO Conference, held w.e.f 06-09, April, 2015 at Mauritius, was led by the Hon'ble Minister (RD). Joint Secretary (IC) and Director (IC) were the other members in the delegation.

The Agenda points which were circulated before the commencement of Conference were discussed in the Conference. These were regarding (i) Election of the President of AARDO and the two Vice-Presidents of AARDO (ii) Adoption of Reports of Executive Committee: 61st to 64th Sessions (iii) Follow-up Action on Decisions/Recommendations of AARDO Conference : 17th General Session & Executive Committee: 61st to 64th Sessions (iv) Member Relations (October 2011 – June 2014) viz Admission of New Member(s), Review of Member Relations, Membership of Ethiopia and Collaboration with International and Regional Organizations (v) Membership Contribution - Review for the years 2011, 2012, 2013 & Position as on 31st August 2014, Scale of Membership Contribution for the years 2015, 2016 and 2017 and Proposed Settlement for Outstanding Membership Contribution of Iraq (vi) Review of Activities (October 2011-June 2014) (viii) Income and Expenditure- Review (ix) Service and Administrative Matters (x) Approval of Work Programme for the Triennium, 2015-2017 (xi) Approval of Budget Estimates for the Triennium 2015-2017. During the Conference, the Minister (RD) reiterated the commitment of India to support AARDO and in this regard assured an additional contribution of USD 600,000 for the triennium 2015-17. However, in the 65th Session of the Executive Committee held with effect from 02-04, April, 2015, India had raised the issue of the declining financial health of AARDO.

(c) All the Agenda points were accepted by the Conference except the agenda related to amendments to the Constitution and rules of AARDO due to lack of quorum.