## National Council of Higher Education

140. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have worked out details regarding setting up of National Council of higher education;
- (b) the functions to be carried out by the National Council of Higher Education;
- (c) the date from which it is likely to start functioning; and
- (d) the details of the composition of the council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DE-PARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CUL-TURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RE-SOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) to (d). The National Policy on Education, 1986, envisages that, in the interest of greater co-ordination and consistency in policy, sharing of facilities and developing inter-disciplinary research, a national body covering higher education in general, agricultural, medical, technical, legal and other professional fields will be set up. In pursuance of this, the establishment of a mechanism for coordination among the various Central agencies involved in the development of higher education in different fields is under discussion. The details including the composition of the Council, its functions, etc., have not yet been finalised.

## Meeting of Standing Committee of - SAARC

- 141. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the meeting of Standing Committee of SAARC countries was held in Kathmandu in August, 1988;
- (b) if so, the outcome of the issues discussed; and
- (c) the reaction of India on the issues discussed in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) A statement is given below.
- (c) The issues discussed in the meeting were put on the agenda with India's agreement and India is a party to all the decisions taken.

## **STATEMENT**

At its 10th session at Kathmandu in August 1988, the Standing Committee:

- Approved the Calender of activities for 1988/1989,
- Approved the revised proposal on the SAARC Agricultural Information Centre and requested Bangladesh to make necessary arrangements for its establishment,