

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:336
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
FORMATION OF SOUTH ASIAN PARLIAMENT
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a gathering of 120 odd MPs from South Asia who attended the recently held South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) meet has supported the idea for the formation of a South Asian Parliament;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in this regard;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to pursue the said proposal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) &(b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the fact that Members of Parliament, editors and experts from South Asia attended South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA)'s meeting on Evolving South Asian Fraternity at Islamabad & Bhurban, Pakistan from May 15-20th, 2005. From India, 31 MPs participated in the meeting. The Bhurban Declaration adopted by the meeting speaks of concrete steps for achieving South Asian Free Trade Area, South Asian Tariff / Customs / Monetary Union, South Asian Parliament, South Asian Energy Grid, cooperative security and conflict resolution mechanism, South Asian Union, etc.

(c),(d)&(e) The Bhurban Declaration and its recommendations would receive due consideration by SAARC and its member states.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (a) TO (e) TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.336 TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.08.2005 REGARDING FORMATION OF SOUTH ASIAN PARLIAMENT.

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