

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5428
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
SETTING UP OF SAARC UNIVERSITY
Reddy Shri Anantha Venkatarami

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has agreed to set up a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) University in Delhi on international standards to cater the needs of the students from eight SAARC countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether land has been acquired in Delhi for the said purpose;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the likely date by which the above SAARC University would start functioning?

Answer

MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI)

- (a): The Member States of SAARC signed an Inter-governmental Agreement for the establishment of the South Asian University (SAU) at the 14th SAARC Summit in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2007.
- (b): At the Thirteenth SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, in November 2005, Hon`ble Prime Minister had proposed the establishment of a South Asian University in New Delhi to provide world class facilities and professional faculty for students and researchers from SAARC Member States. SAARC Member States established an Inter-governmental Steering Committee to fast track the process of setting up the SAU. It was also decided that a Project Office for the University would be set up and funded by India for two years, inter alia, to oversee the construction of the University and draw up its Charter, Statutes, Bye-Laws, Business Plan, Governance Structure, Course Curricula etc. It was also decided that India would fund 100% of the capital cost of establishing the University.
- (c) & (d): Land (85.65 acres) has been acquired for the SAU by the Ministry of External Affairs from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.
- (e): Member States agreed that the first session of the University should commence from August 2010.