

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3387
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
QUOTA FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS
Devi Aswamedh

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quota for foreign students for admission in various courses in the country is decided by the Government;
- (b) if so, the procedure and criteria adopted for nominating students;
- (c) the details of such quota for Nepalese students in various courses in the country;
- (d) whether there is need for expansion of South Asian University by introducing all courses of major disciplines to provide single platform for study for students from SAARC countries; and
- (e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Dr. D. PURANDESWARI)

- (a) & (b) : 15 per cent supernumerary seats have been permitted for foreign students in all Universities in under-graduate and post-graduate courses. Preference is given to person of Indian origin holding foreign passport. To attract foreign nationals including NRIs and PIOs to take up technical education at under-graduate and post-graduate level in centrally funded technical institutions (other than IITs/IISERs), the central Government has a scheme of Direct Admission of Students Abroad (DASA).
- (c) : No quota is allocated for Nepalese students in the 15 per cent supernumerary seats in various Indian Universities. However, Government has been providing scholarships for Nepalese students under Nepal Aid Funds administered by the Ministry of External Affairs. Under this scheme, admission of Nepali students in Indian universities/colleges is done on merit basis.
- (d) & (e) : South Asian University (SAU) is not expected to provide one single platform for study for the students of the SAARC countries in all courses of major disciplines. Instead, it is intended to be an international institution of excellence based in South Asia with a limited number of disciplines. As per the plan of expansion under Phase-I, the South Asian University will have eleven faculties by the end of 2014 as against five at present. Government is closely working with the University and relevant stakeholders in other member countries to secure recognition of the University degrees by all countries in the SAARC region and continued financial and political support of the project.