

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1095
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2013
INTERNATIONAL STATUS TO NALANDA UNIVERSITY
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed agreements with seven countries to award international status to the Nalanda University;
- (b) if so, the names of these countries alongwith the details of the terms and conditions laid down in this regard;
- (c) the time by which the university is scheduled to be functional;
- (d) the number of foreign students likely to be enrolled therein; and
- (e) the total foreign exchange likely to be earned therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR)

(a) & (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Establishment of Nalanda University has been signed by India, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, New Zealand and Singapore.

The MoU specifies that the funding for the University will be voluntary; that the Governing Board will include 5 representatives from East Asia Summit (EAS) countries; that the University, its assets, income and property will be exempt from taxes, customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports for official use; that the Vice-Chancellor and other academic staff will have privileges and immunities determined by a Headquarters Agreement; that the host country will issue appropriate visas to faculty and staff for work and travel; that it will come into effect upon signature by 4 EAS countries; and that any EAS participating country or any other state subscribing to its object and purpose will be a signatory.

(c) A University Project Office has been established. Academic activity will commence in a phased manner beginning academic year 2014-15 and the University will be fully functional in 2021-22.

(d) University will be open to Indian and foreign students. It is not possible, at this stage, to predict the number of international students who will enrol.

(e) The total foreign exchange earned by the University will depend on the number of international students and on the fee structure.