

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3937
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
SAARC UNIVERSITY
Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of the SAARC University;
- (b) the details of programmes being run by this University and the mode of intake of students and faculty from various SAARC countries;
- (c) whether the University has started functioning from its own campus and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the proposals on the anvil to evolve this University to international standards?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

- (a) South Asian University (SAU), established under the auspices of SAARC is fully operational. SAU's first academic session commenced in August 2010.
- (b) In the 2013-14 academic session, SAU had 357 students and 58 faculty members on its rolls. Seven Masters and Doctoral academic programmes in Applied Mathematics, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Development Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies & Sociology are conducted. The admission to the above programmes is through a common entrance test, conducted simultaneously in all SAARC Member States. The faculty positions are widely advertised, including publication of the recruitment notices in major newspapers of SAARC Member States as well as internationally through web announcements. Candidates are selected by committees constituted under SAU Rules and Regulations.
- (c) SAU is currently functioning from its temporary campus at Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Approvals from the relevant authorities are being obtained for construction of its permanent campus in Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.
- (d) SAU aims to develop into a world class University. SAU is recruiting accomplished experts with wide international experience as faculty members. It is also developing academic programme as per international standards. World class research facilities and academic infrastructure is envisaged at its proposed site at Maidan Garhi, New Delhi.