

Council of India. Formal inter-Ministerial consultations would be held with other Ministries of the Government; including the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, after the 'draft' of the proposed Bill is made available by the Task Force.

SAARC University

1411. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the SAARC University has started functioning;
- (b) whether the admission process has started; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The South Asian University has started the admission process in May, 2010 for the academic year 2010-11. The University will start functioning with the commencement of its first academic session in the last week of August 2010. The University has invited applications for admissions to the initial two courses that were offered for 2010-11, namely, Master of Arts in Development Economics and Master of Computer Applications. The deadline for receiving applications for admission to the academic year 2010-11 is over.

NUEPA estimates for requirement of teachers

1412. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the estimates prepared by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), 5.1 lakh additional teachers are required to maintain pupil-teacher ratio as prescribed under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is an urban-rural imbalance in teacher availability; and
- (c) if so, the plan Government has to maintain pupil-teacher ratio so as to achieve the objectives of free education to children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.