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SAARC to set up 5 institutions

BANGALORE, Nov. 12:—The Programming Committee preparatory to SAARC summit today arrived at a "broad consensus" on a number of issues including the modalities for sharing finances for setting up SAARC institutions implementing projects and organising conferences and events conference sources indicated reports BSS.

A number of suggestions had come from the member states including Bangladesh sources said and indicated that at least five institutions would be set up soon besides the Agricultural Information Centre in Bangladesh and the Meteorological Centre in India which had already been approved by the SAARC Council of Ministers' meeting in Dhaka last August.

The Bangladesh proposals included the formation of a SAARC Postal Union, a project on administrative decentralisation for rural development and using rural development programmes for alleviating poverty.

A draft recommendation to be finalised later today by the Programming Committee will subsequently be considered by the Foreign Secretary level Standing Committee meeting here tomorrow and later by the Council of Ministers which will meet on November 14 and 15.

Meanwhile a Bangladesh proposal concerning the adoption of a "more selective and realistic approach" in recommending projects for regional cooperation was highly appreciated by delegates at the Programming Committee meeting a conference spokesman said.

Mr Gopalasamy Parthasarathy of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs who is the official

spokesman for the conference told reporters during a briefing that delegates at the Programming Committee meeting welcomed Bangladesh's suggestion that different technical committees for Integrated Programme of Action (IPA) should be selective in making project recommendations.

This was essential as the spokesman underlined to ensure proper implementation of the projects. In certain sectors, for example the Technical Committees had recommended too many projects within the limited re-

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sources and absorptive capacities of the member states, he said.

Meanwhile conference sources said that 1987 could be a very significant year for SAARC co-operation with a large number of conferences and programmes being chalked out by the Programming Committee which has also the mandate for finalising a draft calendar of activities of the organisation for the next year.