

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2967
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2014
BUS SERVICE BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDIA
Pradhan Shri Nagendra Kumar

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Nepal have agreed for operation of a bus service between the two countries;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard along with the terms and conditions signed between the two countries thereof;
- (c) whether SAARC countries have also proposed movement of passengers and cargo vehicles among member countries;
- (d) if so, whether any agreement has been finalised so far in this regard; and
- (e) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalised and made operational?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The India Nepal Bilateral Motor Vehicle Agreement for the "Regulation of Passenger Traffic" was signed on 25th November 2014. It envisages regular bus services between the two countries as per agreed routes, trips and time-table. It simplifies the procedure for movement of private and non- regular vehicles across the India-Nepal border and provides for the bus services on three routes: Kathmandu- New Delhi; Kathmandu- Varanasi; and Pokhara-New Delhi. The first Kathmandu-Delhi Passenger Bus Service was flagged off during Prime Minister's visit to Nepal on 25th November 2014.

(c) to (e) The texts of the SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement and the SAARC Railways Agreement were agreed at Transport/ Railway Secretaries' level at the Inter-Governmental Group on Transport (IGGT) meeting held in New Delhi on 30 September 2014. However, these agreements could not be signed at the 18th SAARC Summit held recently in Kathmandu. It was agreed that SAARC Transport Ministers would meet within three months in order to finalise the Agreements for approval.