

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1506

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2015

SUB REGIONAL AGREEMENT OF VEHICULAR MOVEMENT

Charitra Shri Ram;Kumar Shri Ashwini;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to sign a sub-regional agreement on vehicular movement with the neighbouring countries to remove restrictions on vehicular movement in the sub-continent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the SAARC countries have resolved to build an economic federation and if so, the details and benefits likely to be accrued to member countries as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to connect Imphal and Mandalay, New Delhi and Kathmandu, Mizoram and Mynamar, etc. by road and if so, the details and time by when these proposals are likely to be implemented;
- (e) whether the Agartala-Dhaka bus service has been cancelled for an indefinite period and if so, the details and reasons therefor;and
- (f) the time by which it is likely to be restored?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan are exploring the possibility of signing a Sub-Regional Agreement on Movement of Motor Vehicles. Two rounds of negotiations have taken place. The proposed Agreement will enhance connectivity, facilitate easy movement of passenger and goods vehicles and enhance cross-border transportation.

(c) The leaders of SAARC, in the Declarations issued at the conclusion of Summit Meetings, called for realization of the ideal of the South Asian Economic Union. The first step in this direction has been taken with the signing of the South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) in 2004 which is in varying stages of implementation by SAARC Member States. A study has been commissioned by SAARC and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to suggest ways and means for the achievement of the South Asian Economic Union.

The establishment of a South Asian Economic Union will broaden and deepen regional integration, enhance trade and economic cooperation, and develop regional synergies in various spheres.

(d) Government of India is in discussion with Government of Myanmar for starting cross border bus service between Imphal in Manipur, India and Mandalay in Myanmar. A Joint Technical Survey was carried out in January, 2015 for finalizing the route alignment for the bus service.

The Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project aims at connecting the Port Town of Sitwe in Myanmar to Zorinpui in Mizoram. Similarly a road linking Rhi and Tedim in Myanmar is being upgraded to connect to Zokhawthar in Mizoram. These two projects are in various stages of planning and execution.

The New Delhi-Kathmandu passenger bus service commenced in November, 2014, and is operating regularly.

(e) & (f) Agartala-Dhaka bus service has not been cancelled. It is operating six times a week.