

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4438  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2016**

**TRANSPORTATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**

**4438. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:**

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of inter-country bus, trains and shipping services maintained by India with neighbouring countries;**
- (b) the details of pending proposals with the Ministry for increasing frequency of existing services or to start services on new routes;**
- (c) whether introduction/revival of shipping services from India to Sri Lanka would be undertaken in future; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) & (b) Details are at Annexure.**

**(c) & (d) A MoU was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 07 January 2011 for operationalization of ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo and between Rameswaram and Talaimannar. The ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo was started on 13 June 2011 and was discontinued from 22 November 2011 as it was found to be commercially non-viable. The start of ferry service between Rameswaram to Talaimannar is dependent upon the reconstruction of the Talaimannar Pier on the Sri Lankan side.**

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## ANNEXURE

### TRANSPORTATION WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

S. No.	Name of the country	the details of inter-country bus, trains and shipping services maintained by India with neighbouring countries  (a)	the details of pending proposals with the Ministry for increasing frequency of existing services or to start services on new routes:  (b)
1	Bhutan	Nil	Nil
2	Nepal	<p>Bus: Regular bus services are in operation on the following routes :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Kathmandu-Delhi</li> <li>b) Kathmandu-Varanasi</li> <li>c) Mahendranagar – Delhi and</li> <li>d) Pokhara-Delhi</li> </ul> <p>Trains: Train services between Kolkata / Haldia ports (in India) and Birgunj (in Nepal) for transit traffic and between stations of Indian Railways and Birgunj (in Nepal) for bilateral traffic are in operation.</p> <p>Shipping: Nil</p>	<p>Proposals for following new routes have been sent to Government of Nepal:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Dehradun-Mahendranagar</li> <li>(ii) Kathmandu-Patna-Bodhgaya</li> <li>(iii) Janakpur-Patna</li> </ul> <p>The modalities for operationalizing the above mentioned bus services are being discussed with Government of Nepal.</p>
3	Bangladesh	<p>Bus - There are following direct bus services between India and Bangladesh:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Dhaka-Kolkata</li> <li>(ii) Dhaka-Agartala</li> <li>(iii) Guwahati – Shillong - Dhaka</li> <li>(iv) Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala</li> </ul> <p>Trains - At present there are 3 operational inter-country rail links (broad gauge):-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)</li> <li>(ii) Gede (India) – Darsana (Bangladesh)</li> <li>(iii) Singhabad (India) – Rohanpur (Bangladesh)</li> </ul>	<p>Bus – A new bus service is under consideration between Khulna (Bangladesh) - Kolkata (India)</p> <p>Trains – Three more rail links are proposed to be reopened between India and Bangladesh:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Radhikapur (India) – Birol (Bangladesh)</li> <li>(ii) Karimganj/Mahisanan (India) – Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)</li> <li>(iii) Haldibari (India) – Chilahati (Bangladesh)</li> </ul>

		Shipping – The Protocol on Inland Water, Trade and Transit (PIWTT) between India and Bangladesh permits movement of goods over barges/vessels through the river system of Bangladesh on eight specific routes between India and Bangladesh.	New rail link is to be opened between Akhaura (Bangladesh) – Agartala (India)
4	Myanmar	Bus: Nil  Trains: Nil  Shipping: Shipping Corporation of India started India-Myanmar Shipping Service on October 02, 2014	Bus: Launch of a new bus service between Imphal and Mandlay has been discussed with the Government of Myanmar
5	China	Nil	Nil
6	Pakistan	Bus: i) Delhi – Lahore via Attari – Wagah border in Punjab ii) Amritsar – Lahore via Attari – Wagah border in Punjab iii) Poonch – Rawalakot travel and trade points across Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir iv) Uri – Muzaffarabad travel and trade points across Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir  Trains: i) Samjhauta Express train service between Delhi – Lahore via Attari – Wagah border ii) Passenger train between Jodhpur and Karachi via Munabao and Khokhrapar crossing  Shipping: Mumbai – Karachi	Bus: India has proposed following additional bus routes under cross LoC Confidence Building Measure (CBM) to Pakistan: i) Jammu – Sialkote ii) Gurez-Astoor-Gilgit iii) Kargil – Skardu Pakistan’s response is awaited.
7	Maldives	Nil	Nil
8	Sri Lanka	Nil	Nil

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