

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2177
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2003
DHAKA-AGARTALA BUS SERVICE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service is running into heavy losses;
- (b) if so, the main reasons for the same;
- (c) whether Tripura Government has requested for Central intervention in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue with Bangladesh Authorities?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA)

(a)& (b) The popularity of the Agartala-Dhaka bus service has been affected by the imposition by the Government of Bangladesh of a tax on foreign travel by land and by the restricted issue of double entry visas at Agartala to those wishing to use this bus service to travel onward to Kolkata and back.

(a) Yes.

(b) The Government has requested the Government of Bangladesh at the highest levels to withdraw the tax and to freely issue double entry visas at Agartala.