

Commemorative Stamp in Memory of Nanaji Kalidas Mehta

1829. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SAGAR RAYKA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 280 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government have since placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee for reconsideration of its decision regarding a commemorative stamp in the memory of Nanaji Kalidas of Saurashtra on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary; and

(b) what are the norms for issuance of commemorative stamps for various famous individuals and leaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The meeting of the Philatelic Advisory Committee has not been held since. The proposal will however be placed before the Committee at the next meeting for reconsideration.

(b) A copy of the guidelines for the issue of commemorative special postage stamps is placed in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Guidelines for the issue of Commemorative/special postage stamp

1. Proposals may be taken up well in advance, say about a year before the proposed date of issue, to enable proper examination, designing, approval, announcement, printing and supply of stamps as part of planned programme.

2. A stamp commemorating a living personality may not ordinarily be issued.

3. Not more than one stamp on a personality may be issued save in exceptional cases. In such cases, the proposals may be considered by the Government on the recommendation of the Philatelic Advisory Committee.

4. The personalities on whom commemorative stamps are issued may be of regional, national or international importance and the occasion should be ordinarily birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary. Commemorative stamps may be issued on the first death anniversary of the personality, only in very exceptional cases.

5. No stamp may ordinarily be issued commemorating an institution unless the occasion is its centenary.

6. Events of very important national or international character may only be considered for issue of stamps, occasions of lesser importance may be commemorated by providing special cancellation.

7. Commemorative/special stamps issued in a year may be about 40 and of these stamps on eminent personalities may be about 10.

Aid to B.M. Institute of Mental Health, Ahmedabad

1830. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI SAGAR RAYKA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the aid given by the Central Government

to B. M. Institute of Mental Health, Ahmedabad is stopped;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any representation has been received against the stoppage of the aid;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take regarding resumption of the aid?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (e) No aid is given to this Institute by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. However, the requisite information has been called for from the State Government of Gujarat and the same will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as and when received

Blindness in the Country

183. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of blindness in the country has gone up during the last few years;

(b) what is the number of cases of blindness that has been reported due to glaucoma in the country during last 3 years, yearwise;

(c) what were the other diseases which lead to blindness;

(d) what are the drugs required for the treatment of these diseases;

(e) what is the number of eye institutions which have been set up by Government to check up and control

of eye diseases in each state of the country and what are the plans Government have undertaken to control blindness;

(f) whether it is a fact that malnutrition is one of the major cause of blindness;

(g) if so, whether there are medicines to cover up malnutrition; and

(h) if so, what are the names of those medicines?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir,

(b) No specific survey in this regard has been undertaken.

(c) Other diseases which lead to blindness are:—

—Cataract

—Trachoma and Associated Infection.

—Nutritional deficiencies

—Injuries and other conditions.

(d) Some of the commonly used medicines to control these diseases are indicated below:—

(i) Antibiotic Eye drops and Ointment.

(ii) Atropin Eye Drops.

(iii) Pilocarpin Eye Drops.

(iv) Vitamin 'A' drops and tablets

(v) Acetazolamide tablets.

(e) The requisite information regarding the number of eye institutions set up is given in the Statement enclosed at Annexure, [See Appendix CXLII, Annexure No. 90]. The strategy regarding control of blindness involves creation of infrastructure facilities for eye care at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, camp approach for out reach areas and health education.