

RELEASE OF SPECIAL STAMP ON THE
OCCASION OF TAMIL CONFERENCE

*92. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:†
SHRI A. D. MANI:
SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a special stamp was to be released at Madras in December, 1967 on the occasion of the Tamil Conference;

(b) whether it is a fact that the function organised to release the stamp had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour;

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the total number of stamps released and how many of them were sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. But the date of release was 3rd January, 1968.

(b) Yes, Sir. The function organised by the sponsors of the conference was cancelled by the Chief Minister of Madras on the very day.

(c) The reasons for the cancellation were that the stamp did not bear the Tamil text of a quotation but only its English version. The Chief Minister also appeared to apprehend commotion at the function if the stamp were released at it.

(d) 20,66,239 stamps were issued and 12,71,476 have so far been sold.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the normal machinery for developing a particular design of a stamp to be issued on memorable occasions, whe-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava.

ther the State Governments are consulted normally and whether in this particular case the State Government was consulted?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The normal procedure for commemoration stamps is that there is a Philatelic Advisory Committee which generally examines and vets all suggestions and requests which are made from various sponsors. In this particular case the Chief Minister of Madras had written to the Minister of Communications requesting for a special stamp to be issued. Along with that he had suggested the design as well. The hon. Minister had agreed to that suggestion, and therefore only as a special case the stamp was issued without going to the Philatelic Committee.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is also a fact that the hon. Minister of Communications held a press conference on the 24th November wherein he stated what the design of the stamp would be, what it would have as writing on the stamp, and whether wide publicity was given to this press conference of the Communications Minister?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: There is a slight confusion. The press conference was held by the Chief Minister of Madras on the 24th November, and there the Chief Minister had announced that he had heard from the Minister of Communications that the stamp was being issued. While talking in the press conference the hon. Chief Minister of Madras had given details of the design and also had mentioned that the English translation of the Tamil Slogan, "Every country is my country and every man is my kinsman", would be printed on the stamp itself.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The hon. Minister said just now that the Chief Minister of Madras submitted his design to the Minister of Communications. May I ask him what changes were made from the design submitted by the Chief Minister in

the stamp that was issued subsequently, and may I ask him, further arising from this question, whether in future at least as far as the regional languages are concerned the Ministry of Communications would leave the matter of design to the State concerned so that there may not be irritation caused for the non-issue of such a stamp?

AN HON. MEMBER: It is absolutely wrong.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: No Change in design was effected by us. We got the emblem printed as a stamp as we had received from the Chief Minister, and I am sorry I am not going to accept the suggestion which the hon. Member has made.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN: The hon. Minister has said that he is not going to accept the suggestion for the future, but we are a democracy and the majority will always prevail. Leaving it aside, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Chief Minister of Madras has written a letter of protest to the Prime Minister days in advance of the date of issue of the commemoration stamp? If so, what action has the Government of India taken to prevent this criticism from the people of Madras against the policy of the Central Government?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually I am talking on behalf of the majority of this House as well as the other House, and on that stand I said I am not going to accept it, and I mean to adhere to what I said. As regards the other matter that he has written to the Prime Minister, my colleague just now disclosed that what was written does not bear exact relationship with the emblem because we got it publicised as it was submitted to us.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: What is the criterion for the issue of commemorative stamps, whether a plan is made out every year as to the number of commemorative stamps which are to be issued in that particular year?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: As I have already stated, we have a Philatelic Advisory Committee consisting of leading persons from various walks of life. They decide which stamp should be published in the coming year. The decisions are taken about a year in advance on the basis of the applications received. Our general approach to the problem is that we are able to print only about 12 stamps in a year, not more than that, because Nasik has only limited capacity. Not only that, we have also laid down certain principles. For instance, for commemoration, generally the Committee tries to adhere to the principle that only on those occasions stamps should be issued where the tenth, twentieth or the hundredth anniversary is being commemorated and also the person whose commemoration is sought to be achieved through the stamp has achieved national eminence and rendered service to the nation.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I would like to know from the Minister of Communications whether the Chief Minister of Madras made a charge that the Communications Ministry has not printed the Tamil version which he wanted should be printed on the stamp, and if what the Chief Minister of Madras says is not correct according to the Minister, why did the Madras Chief Minister cancel the release of the stamp?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The emblem as I received is this. There was only "Tirukkural" word mentioned in Tamil script. We got it published as we had received it. All other words were in English. Therefore, we could not be charged for any lapse which might have occurred there.

श्रीमती तराबाई साठे : मैं यही पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जो चीज भेजी जाती है किसी के ऊपर लिखने के लिये वह क्या हर एक भाषा में लिखी जाती है या सिर्फ़ इंग्रेजी में और संस्कृत में लिखी जाती है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : श्रीमान् जो कायदा है भारत सरकार का कि अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी में लिखा जाय, उस कायदे का हम अक्षरशः पालन कर रहे हैं, लेकिन शकुतला के बारे में जो पहले स्टाम्प निकला था उसमें अगर 'सत्यमव जयते' जैसे कुछ शब्द आते हैं जो राष्ट्रीय महत्व के हैं तो उन्हें जैसे आते हैं कर देते हैं। ठीक उसी नीति का परिपालन करते हुए 'तिरुक्कुरल' को भी जो इसमें था कर दिया, लेकिन यह एम्ब्लेम अगर तमिल भाषा में ही आता तो हम कोई एतराज नहीं होता उसमें प्रिंट करने में।

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: The main objection was that it carried some Hindi version of that famous saying printed there. The Madras Government had sent it only in English as well as in Tamil. It did not send any Hindi version. In that case why should the Postal Department print the Hindi version on that fully knowing the feeling prevailing in Madras against Hindi?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: As I said, we are adhering to the policy as finalised by this House as well as the other House. Therefore, we are going to adhere to that. But as I said earlier in replying to a Hindi supplementary, had we received this emblem in Tamil at least I would not have hesitated in getting that published in that script. But the Government of Madras did not send that in Tamil script. Therefore, to say that they do not want to have it in Hindi because it contained Hindi as well as English versions is something which goes against the declared policy of Parliament, and I am not going to be a party to it that this policy should be flouted.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: On a point of order...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more.

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the following commemoration stamps issued on the dates mentioned against

each did not bear any legend in Hindi:—

1. India Postage—Subramanya Bharathi released on 11-9-60
2. India Postage—Thyagaraja released on 16-11-61.
3. Thiruvalluvar Stamp released on 15-2-60.
4. Srinivasa Ramanujam—released on 22-12-62.
5. High Court Madras—released on 6-8-62.

On these stamps no Hindi legend was printed. But only in this case Hindi was deliberately inserted. What was the reason for this?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: It was not deliberate. We have pursued a policy. When I shall go through these stamps then I shall be able to say anything definite. Here we have not done anything for which we should be held responsible.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION AT BANGALORE

*93. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether there has been any correspondence with the Government of Mysore regarding the holding of a Parliamentary Session as a routine feature every year at Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): Yes; the matter is still under consideration. Necessary information is being collected from the concerned authorities.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister whether he has tried to work out the details in his own Ministry to find out what the cost of holding a session in Bangalore would be, and whether this session cannot be held with equal facility if the Ministry of Communications provides a teleprinter link for the Government in Bangalore so that in any matter they can always ask for any information on the teleprinter about