

नेहरू जी की छाप का सिक्का

*७५३. श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सरकार द्वारा हाल में जारी किये गये स्मारक सिक्कों पर जवाहरलाल नेहरू का नाम हिन्दी में अंकित न करने के क्या कारण हैं ?

†[NEHRU COINS

*753. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the reasons for not inscribing the name of Jawaharlal Nehru in Hindi in the commemorative coins issued by Government recently?

योजना मंत्री (श्री बी० आर० भगत):

टकसाल ने "जवाहरलाल नेहरू" स्मारक सिक्कों का जो डिजाइन स्वीकृति के लिए सरकार के पास भेजा था, उसमें स्वर्गीय श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू का नाम अंग्रेजी में अंकित था। चूंकि उस समय यह बात नहीं उठाई गई थी कि यदि उनका नाम हिन्दी में दिया जाय तो ज्यादा अच्छा हो, इसलिए डिजाइन जैसा आया था वैसा ही स्वीकार कर लिया गया। जब इस आशय का सुझाव प्राप्त हुआ, तब तक टकसालों ने सिक्के बनाने शुरू कर दिये थे और तब डिजाइन को बदल कर 14 नवम्बर, 1964 को जारी करने के लिए समय पर नये सिक्के ढालने के लिए काफी समय नहीं था।

†[THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): In the design of the "Jawaharlal Nehru" Commemorative Coins submitted by the Mint to Government for approval, Shri Nehru's name was inscribed in English. The design was approved as such, as at that time the point that the name should preferably be in Hindi had not been raised. By the time a suggestion to this effect was

†[] English translation.

received, the Mints had already started production of the coins and there was not sufficient time to change the design and mint new coins in time to be issued on 14th November, 1964.]

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि इस डिजाइन को बनाने के पहले ही सरकार को यह क्यों नहीं सूझा ? क्या सुझाव देने की आवश्यकता ऐसे मामले में थी, गवर्नमेंट खुद नहीं सोच सकती थी कि देश की जनता में केवल चार या पांच परसेंट अंग्रेजी जानते हैं ? फिर भी गवर्नमेंट ने ऐसा डिजाइन नहीं बनाया जिसको कि जनता चाहती। और जवाहरलाल नेहरू खुद कहते थे कि मैं जनता का आदमी हूँ, तो जनता की भाषा में उसको नहीं रखा गया ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Well, Sir, the position, as was mentioned, is that it did not occur to us. Well, if we are going to do it again, naturally this matter will be kept in mind.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Is it a fact that the Hindi-speaking population consists of 42 per cent in a part of the country, not all over the country, and that there are parts of the country where Hindi is not understood and where Hindi is not even liked?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That is a matter of expression of opinion.

KUMARI SHANTA VASISHT: Why did the Government not take care to see that the picture of Pandit Nehru really resembled him? The picture does not resemble him, rather it resembles somebody else. I wish the Government had taken care to see that the picture resembled Pandit Nehru.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: That is again a question of what a particular person likes. Technical

people then preferred this particular picture and it was approved by people who knew about it. As I said, it is a question of liking—which way it should be. But as I have said, if we are reconsidering the position, this matter will be taken into consideration. So far as the rupee coins are concerned, they will not be minted any more. I think they are ending up in a very short time. But half-rupee coins will go on. When we change the dies, both the question of changing the language and also, perhaps changing the pattern might be considered.

श्री वेवकोनंदन नारायण : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि अब जो डिजाइन है उसमें पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू के सिर पर टोपी नहीं हैं जब कि जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी शुरू से आखिर तक गांधी टोपी लगाते रहे, तो क्या कारण है कि खाली सिर उनको उसमें रखा गया है ? और दूसरा मेरा यह पूछना है कि क्या पार्लियामेंट के दो सौ या ढाई सौ सदस्यों ने आपके पास कोई रिप्रेजेंटेशन इस सम्बन्ध में भेजा है और आपका उसके लिए क्या जवाब है ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: One hundred and thirty-eight people had signed a letter in which they had expressed that they did not like the design. As I said, so far as the rupee coin is concerned, it is not going to be cast any more; it is coming to an end. If we are doing anything else—half-rupee coins will probably go on—it is a matter which should be examined. But so far as why it is so, I have said that it is a matter of judgment. It was suggested and many people who knew him said "It is all right." Well, it is a question on which there could be a difference of opinion.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Is he aware that the design of Jawaharlalji on the rupee coins has outraged the feelings of many people and still he says it is a matter of opinion?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am neither aware of it nor can I appreciate that feelings can be outraged merely because there is no cap in a particular design. If feelings are going to be so easily outraged, I think some of us here have been very near Jawaharlalji and I can say that our feelings have not been outraged.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: I would like to know whether these coins have been minted in small quantities only as commemorative coins or they are intended to go to the public at large for large circulation?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Sir, so far as the rupee coins are concerned, they are minted in small quantities always, because the cost of the rupee coins happens to be high and, as you know, the legal tender is the rupee note. So far as the half-rupee coins are concerned, they are being minted. The question has to be discussed whether they should be minted in this form or the form should be changed. That is a matter which I shall certainly take into consideration.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Is the hon. Minister aware that the effigy of Jawaharlalji on the rupee coin resembles King Edward VII more than Jawaharlalji and I have got a feeling that probably he is not aware that there are people here who were nearer to Jawaharlalji than himself, whose feelings have been outraged?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: So far as the Edward VII coins are concerned, I am not aware of having seen that in the recent past. I suppose when those coins were in circulation, I had no need for those coins. As to who is nearer, it is subjective. He might have been nearer than any of us; I do not dispute the fact at all.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: In view of the great demand for these coins, will the Government consider to have more of it so that people may have it? My feelings are not outraged

with cap or without cap, with English or with Hindi, but it should be a good photo.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Minister has said that the entire design was processed by some people who are knowledgeable. May I ask the hon. Minister if there is a Committee which processed it and if so, who are the members of such a Committee and also whether he is aware that demand for this coin has been increasing so much that in the black market it is now being sold at a premium of eight annas? Would he therefore consider offering more of these coins to the public?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: As I said this coin is being done by the mint authorities; they are the people who do the job. I do not think there is any Committee appointed for the purpose. Secondly, so far as the demand is concerned, I am not aware of it but if it is demonstrated that the demand is there perhaps we can think of minting some more coins and certainly we can think of any alternatives consulting the various people who are concerned about it.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :
क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे कि यह सिक्का बनाने के पहले कितने प्रकार के डिजाइन्स अप्रूवल के लिए किन-किन के समक्ष आये और क्या मंत्री पद के व्यक्तियों ने उन डिजाइन्स को देख करके उनमें से सेलेक्ट किया अथवा नहीं ?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: There were a number of designs but I cannot say how many there were and who were the people who approved it.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Sir, would the hon. Minister . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a question on air crash.

SHRI BIREN ROY: It is not a crash. Would the hon. Minister be pleased to enquire into this? About two years ago—and it is still in circulation—the Karlsruhe Mint in West Germany produced a coin in gold of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as one of the leaders of the world. Would he kindly see that design because that design has got cap and everything on it and there is a whole series of coins from very small to very big.

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am not at all aware of this, Sir.

(Many hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Seems to be endless interest.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: In view of the unfavourable reaction of the public, does the Government propose to mint any new coins of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think a reply has been given to this.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: He has replied that he has no feelings in the matter.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I know, since he took the decision to have the coins minted, whether he had an opportunity of seeing the designs?

SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Before it was minted?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION

*754. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently at the Congress Parliamentary Party's meeting he said that he is not happy with foreign exchange position of India;