

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 30th April, 1964/the 10th
Vaisakha, 1886 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri N. Venkateswara Rao (Andhra Pradesh).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STAMPS OF PHILATELIC INTEREST

*171. SHRI BIREN ROY: Will the Minister of POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS be pleased to state:

(a) the authority which is responsible for the issue of special stamps and/or stamps of philatelic interests;

(b) how much yearly foreign exchange has been earned during the last three years on philatelic issues;

(c) what steps have been taken for the publicity of Indian philatelic issues in Western countries for earning foreign exchange; and

(d) whether arrangements for the registration of philatelists at big post offices and for taking advance deposit from them for regular supply of new issues have been completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI): (a) The Central Government under Section 16 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(b) Since bulk sales of all new stamps accrue through stamp dealers, no precise information is available. The available figures in respect of the direct orders received and handled by the Indian Philatelic bureau (IPO Bombay, shows the following foreign exchange earnings in terms of rupees during the last three years:—

1961	..	Rs. 24071.36
1962	..	Rs. 13869.56
1963	..	Rs. 24784.48

(c) Normal publicity to all new issues of stamps is arranged by the Press Information Bureau Government of India through its accredited agencies and the Information Services abroad. In view of the potential foreign exchange earnings through stamps, Govt. have also engaged the services of a specialized agency in New York for publicising and marketing Indian stamps in the U.S.A.

(d) This is still under examination.

SHRI BIREN ROY: In view of the fact that the Government has now realised that it is possible to earn quite a lot of foreign exchange from these stamps, would it consider the advisability of having an Advisory Board on the preparation of stamps which can be of international interest and also of special types of stamps. for example, on the flora and fauna of India, the Indian atomic reactors or supersonic planes or rocket launchings, etc.? These are things which in the philatelic world are of international interest.

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Sir, the hon. Member is correct and he has correctly stated that special stamps on birds and animals, etc. are more popular outside the country, in the international field. There is an Advisory Committee to look into all these matters.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Would the Minister state who a very easy stamp on Shakespeare was not issued on the 21st of April but it is going to be issued in September? What is the reason therefor?

SHRI B. BHAGAVATI: Sir, the matter came up for discussion very late. Now it is not possible for the security press to print the stamp in April and moreover for Shakespeare commemoration this whole year will be observed. So, we have proposed to issue the stamp some time later.