

*100. [The questioner (Shri V. C. Kesava Rao) was absent. For answer vide col. 919 infra.]

*101. [The questioner (Shri P. N. Rajabhoj) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 919-920 infra.]

LEAKAGE OF UNIVERSITY CENTENARY STAMPS

*102. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some University Centenary Stamps had leaked out to philatelists before the official date of their issue; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made into this leakage and responsibility fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) Yes Sir. Some stamps were apparently inadvertently sold from a post office before the prescribed date.

(b) The matter is still under investigation and on completion of this investigation, responsibility will be fixed.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether any information is available as to the origin of the leakage? At which post office the leakage took place?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Well, it appears that the letter which was received in Calcutta before the prescribed date was posted from Salem post office.

DR. A. R. MUDALIAR: May I know, Sir, in what language these stamps are published—Bombay, Madras and Calcutta Universities?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I ask for notice of this question.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether such leakages have any financial implications whatsoever to the philatelic world?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It might have and that is the reason why steps are taken to ensure that they are not prematurely released. In this case also, certain instructions were given but it has been reported that in one particular case the parcel did not show these very clearly. But since the whole matter is under investigation I would not like to state anything more at this stage and the particulars will be given to the House when the enquiry is completed.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether there was a press report that the P.M.G., Calcutta Circle, has already conducted an enquiry and shelved the matter?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: No, the matter has not been shelved. The enquiry of the P.M.G. was with regard to finding out from where the letter had been posted and who had received it. The dealer who showed this could produce only a portion of the cover bearing the stamp and he did not disclose the source from which he came into possession of it. Therefore, further enquiries are proceeding.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether this is the first time that the leakage has occurred or whether it is the second or third time?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: To my knowledge, it is the first time.

SHRI B. M. GUPTE: Has the matter been reported to the police?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Enquiries are in hand and whatever is necessary in conducting enquiries of this type is being done.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know, Sir, whether the Minister is aware that leakage occurred at the time the Tilak Centenary stamps were issued?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Which stamps?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Tilak Centenary stamps.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I have said according to the knowledge which I have, and the hon. Member probably knows that my connection with this department is not very old.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There was some kind of leakage when the Tilak Centenary stamps were published and were sold, and this incident has very recently taken place. As the Minister informed you an enquiry is being made and we have already issued instructions to see that this does not recur again. But there are many Ministries concerned with it and, therefore, it is taking a little more time to finalise all these.

*103. [The questioner (Shri P. C. Bhanj Deo) was absent. For answer vide col. 920 infra.]

TANKERS OWNED BY INDIA

*104. **SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tankers owned and run by India; and

(b) whether any new tanker has been acquired or is likely to be acquired in the Second Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) There are at present two tankers owned by Indian shipping companies, one in the public sector and the other in the private sector. Both are on charter to oil companies.

(b) The tanker owned by the Public Sector company was acquired after the commencement of the Second Plan. There is a proposal to acquire at least one more tanker in the public sector during the Second Plan period.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know what is the actual need of India in respect of tankers?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: It has been estimated that there is scope for the employment of only three Indian tankers on the coast for the present.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know what is the usual average price of a tanker?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The price varies according to the size of the tanker.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know whether the refineries are importing oil in oil tankers owned by them or by other companies?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The oil companies have been permitted to utilise tankers regardless of the flag for the importation of crude oil, and especially since some of the commitments have been made earlier, those commitments cannot be disturbed.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: May I know from the hon. Minister how many tankers are being utilised by these refineries for import of oil?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The information will have to be collected because they come from time to time as the requirements arise. The estimate is, having regard to the commitments of those refineries at present, that three Indian oil tankers can be used.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: In view of the need of tankers, would it not be desirable to negotiate for second-hand tankers which may work well?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: As my hon. colleague has said, we require three tankers for our coastal needs. Two are already there, one in the public sector and the other in the private sector. Regarding the third, we are negotiating at the present moment and