

- (iii) **Microwave Backhaul Connectivity:** Purchase order for adding 800 Microwave Hops in Delhi and 470 in Mumbai has been placed to augment and improve the mobile network.

Proposals for release of commemorative stamps

219. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is in receipt of a large number of proposals in connection with release of commemorative stamps recently, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of decisions taken on the proposals received so far; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to prune the guidelines for releasing of commemorative stamps, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Posts receives large number of proposals for issue of Commemorative Postage Stamps. Proposals, once received, are placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC) for consideration. Hence, proposals received upto November 2016 for issue of Commemorative Postage Stamps were placed before the PAC in its meeting held on 28.11.2016. Proposals approved by the competent authority on the recommendations of PAC for release in the year 2017 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

- (c) No Sir.

Statement

*Proposals approved in Philatelic Advisory Committee (PAC)
meeting held on 28.11.2016*

1. Jhala Manna
2. India's Participation in First World War
3. Mangalyan — 2014
4. Caves of Meghalaya
5. ICAR — Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI)
6. Acharya Bodhidharma and Efflorescence of Zen Culture in East Asia
7. Lala Thunthee Mull (Thantimal) — an Indian Behind “Evolution of Dak”
8. Raja Todarmal
9. Dajisahe @ Dr. Shivajirao Ganesh Patwardhan

10. Goan Tiatr "Drama-Form"
11. Centenary Celebrations of University of Mysore
12. Deeksha Bhoomi of Dr. B R Ambedkar
13. 145th Birth Anniversary of Kavi Muddana and Nannayya Bhatta and Draksharamam Temple
14. Birth Centenary of Krishan Chander and Birth Centenary of Shri Bhisham Sahni and Pandit Shrilal Shukla and Prof. Balwant Gargi and K. V. Puttappa
15. Dr. Mehr Chand Mahajan
16. Acharya Konda Laxman Bapuji
17. M. Balamuralikrishna
18. Four Dhamas
19. Shaktipeeth
20. 1942 Freedom Movement

Thematic issue approved for 2017

1. Bridal Costumes of India
2. Indian Cuisine
3. Puppets
4. Palace on Wheels
5. Holiday Destinations
6. Boats of India
7. Traditional Embroideries of India (Innovative)
8. Step Wells of India
9. Head gears
10. Traditional Hand Fans
11. Wild Life Flora and Fauna
12. Historical Gates of Indian Forts
13. Means of Transports through the Ages (Series)
14. Minerals of India (innovative)
15. Mehendi-Lawsona Inermis
16. Beetles
17. Indian Fashion Industry

18. Solar System
19. Musical Instruments of the wandering Minstrels (Tumbi, Ektara, Dotara, Khartal, Chimta)
20. Jataka Tales
21. Indian Perfume
22. Aqua Culture
23. Terracotta Temples of India
24. UNESCO heritage sites

Defence Proposals approved for 2017

1. The Poona Horse
2. Pilatus Induction

Changing the name of postman as postmaster

†220. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has changed the designation of Postman distributing letters in villages to Postmaster;

(b) whether this change in designation has been done only in the State of Rajasthan or it has been done at national level;

(c) whether it is a fact that the pay scale of Postmaster ranges from ₹ 4500 to ₹ 13,000;

(d) whether this pay scale remains even lower than that a Central fourth class employee; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide proper pay scale to Postmaster distributing mails from one village to another?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) No, Sir. Gramin Dak Sevak Branch Postmaster (GDS BPM) or Gramin Dak Sevak Mail Deliverer distribute letters in villages.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.