

डाक के टिकट

*१२६८. श्री बलबन्त सिन्हा सेहता : क्या संघर्ष मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) डाक व तार विभाग ने समय समय पर टिकटों की जो सीरीज निकाली है उनमें सब से अधिक लोक प्रिय कौन सी रही ;

(ख) वर्तमान सीरीज में अब तक कितने टिकट छप चुके हैं और वे कब तक चालू रहेंगे ;

(ग) इनका देशों और विदेशों में कितना स्वागत किया गया ;

(घ) क्या सरकार इस सीरीज में रामकृष्ण परमहंस, गौरांग महाप्रभु, रमण ऋषि महात्मा गांधी, और अरविन्द घोष के टिकट निकालने का विचार करती है ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Out of the postage stamps issued by the P. & T. Department since Independence, the Mahatma Gandhi stamps, the current archaeological series and the latest Saints & Saint-poets series seem to have been best received.

(b) The quantity printed in the current archaeological series is 3021 million stamps from the date of their introduction viz., August 15, 1949 upto March 31, 1953. The series will remain in circulation until replaced and/or withdrawn.

(c) Stamps worth about Rs. 62 crores have been sold in India and abroad during the course of the last three and a half years. These stamps have thus been very well received.

(d) The proposal is under consideration.

श्री बलबन्त सिन्हा सेहता : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इन स्टाम्प को निकालने की सरकार की अगली योजना क्या होगी ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अगली योजना विचाराधीन है, किन्तु माननीय सदस्य को यह ज्ञात होगा कि १६ अप्रैल को हम रेलवे शताब्दी के उपलक्ष में एक नया स्टाम्प निकाल रहे हैं जिसका रूप माननीय सदस्य ने देखा भी होगा ।

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री कृपा करके बतलायेंगे कि किन किन सज्जनों ने ऐसे टिकट निकाले हैं और उनको उनके उपलक्ष में कितने कितने रुपये बतौर इनाम के दिये गये हैं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : यह व्यक्तिशः नहीं कहा जा सकता कि किन किन लोगों ने ऐसे टिकट निकाले हैं क्योंकि रूप की अन्तिम स्वीकृति तो विभाग द्वारा विचार विनिमय करके दी जाती है और इसलिये उस टिकट के निकालने का एक व्यक्ति को श्रेय या दायित्व नहीं मिल सकता ।

श्री बलबन्त सिन्हा सेहता : क्या रेलवे शताब्दी प्रदर्शनी की भांति पोस्टल शताब्दी मनाने की भी कोई ऐसी योजना है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अवश्य है ।

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether Government propose to print stamps bearing the picture of the Gujerati poet saint Shri Narasi Mehta, the famous poet who sang the 'Vaishnava Janato.....' song, which was so dear to Gandhiji?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may inform the hon. Member that we have received a number of representations and suggestions regarding various high personages and leaders from Bengal, Orissa, Gujerat, South India, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, and Narasi Mehta is one of the personages mentioned from Gujerat.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether Shri Narayana Guruswamy is included in this list?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I do not quite follow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has just now said that a number of suggestions have been made about various personages and they are with the Ministry. Certainly they will consider all of them and we cannot go into the details whether individual names have been included or not.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, whether any special stamp is used for the President which is not available to the public?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is not under consideration at all for the present Sir.

Shri G. P. Singh: May I know whether there is any permanent body which looks after these stamps?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There is no special body but the staff look after these things.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know whether these stamps which have had a good response are printed in Switzerland and what are the reasons why Gandhiji's stamps have been consigned to the archaeological series as the hon. Minister said?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think my hon. friend is entirely mistaken. Gandhiji's stamps are not consigned to the archaeological series, but they are a different set. The archaeological series constitutes what is known as definitive series and these are in vogue. Gandhiji's stamps were by way of commemorative stamps and they are not of the archaeological series.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Why are they printed in Switzerland?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already mentioned that in reply to a previous Question that we have now got a photogravure press at Poona and the stamps are being printed by that press.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know how the selection is made; is it by the Minister or by a Committee?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The selection is made by the department and last time it confirmed after consulting by the Prime Minister himself.

Shri L. J. Singh: May I know whether government contemplate to introduce birds, animals and flowers which are unique in the world?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are trying to find suitable subjects for a definitive series which will bear relevant and appropriate pictures of agricultural and other aspects of national life.

SURVEY OF POST OFFICES IN DELHI

*1268. **Shri Punnoose:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, has issued instructions to the Director of Postal Services to conduct a survey of all post offices regarding lack of amenities to staff in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the survey has since been completed;

(c) whether Government propose to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the same; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government on the Report?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Not yet.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether representations have been received by Government from the Union of Posts and Telegraph workers regarding the lack of amenities in many post offices?

Shri Raj Bahadur: From this and other Unions we have received representations about the provision of necessary amenities etc.

Shri Punnoose: Can the hon. Minister say in how many post offices in Delhi they have got the minimum amenities at the present time?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That depends upon the particular standard of amenities. We are trying to find out what are the amenities required.

Shri Punnoose: Are Government aware of the fact that in many post offices there is this lack of facilities?

Shri Raj Bahadur: They depend upon the availability of necessary accommodation and we cannot have them unless we are able to find better accommodation for the offices.

Shri G. P. Sinha: Is that confined to Delhi or other parts also?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Our attempt is not restricted to Delhi alone but to all other areas also.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Deputy Minister has visited the post offices in Delhi and considered what are the amenities required?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In all humility, I can say I have visited more post offices than my hon. friend has.

Shri Punnoose: May I know what has been the result of such visits?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already stated that they are looking into that.

FREIGHT CHARGES OF AIR MAIL

*1270. **Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the freight charges for the conveyance of air mails are more than those charged on personal effects and other luggage carried by air-passengers?