

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4199
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
USED STAMP RACKET
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a used stamp racket has been unearthed recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of postal staff involved in the said racket;
- (d) the action taken by the Government against them; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidents in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) Recently an inter-state racket involving illegal circulation of used stamps has been unearthed at Allahabad, Ghaziabad and Ahmedabad. Police conducted raids at these places and recovered used postage stamps worth Rs. 1,36,27,039/- (Rs. One crore thirty six lakhs twenty seven thousands and thirty nine only).
- (c) Two postal officials have been arrested by the Police.
- (d) The said officials have been placed under suspension.
- (e) The following precautions/preventive steps have been taken by the Department:
 - (i) Instructions have been issued to all the Heads of Postal Circles for conducting surprise checks/visits for checking the Stamp Vendors/Post Office Treasuries/Circle Stamp Depots (CSDs).
 - (ii) Instructions to Heads of Circles for activating Circle/Regional Checking Squads and checking of licensed Stamp Vendors/Licenses Postal Agents/Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) have been issued.
 - (iii) Heads of Circles have been instructed to give publicity requesting the public to purchase stamps only from Post Offices or authorized agents and not from any other source.
 - (iv) Field units have been instructed to book articles through Multi Purpose Counter Machines (MPCMs), wherever such machines are available, in order to reduce the need to use postage stamps.
 - (v) Use of franking machines by institutional customers is being encouraged.