

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:217  
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005  
RELEASE OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) the norms prescribed for releasing the commemorative postal stamps;
- (b) the number of saints in whose memory commemorative postal stamps have been released during the last three years and till date;
- (c) whether a recommendation has been made to release the commemorative postal stamps in the memory of the Saint Santaji Jagnade Maharaj of the `Teli` community of Maharashtra;
- (d) if so, whether the Government is taking any steps in this regard;
- (e) if so, whether any time schedule has been fixed in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a) Norms prescribed by the Department of Posts for releasing the commemorative postage stamps are given in Annexure-I
- (b) The stamps released on Saints during the last three years viz 2002, 2003 and 2004 are given in Annexure-II.
- (c) A proposal has been received in the Department for release of commemorative postage stamp on `Saint Santaji Jagnade Maharaj` of Maharashtra. The proposal has been examined in accordance with the guidelines. The proposals for issue of commemorative postage stamps are examined by the Philately Advisory Committee (PAC) in the light of certain guidelines meant to ensure that postage stamps, when issued, have adequate philatelic value. The guidelines inter-alia, stipulate that the personalities on whom a commemorative stamp may be issued should be of national/international importance, and that the occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/25th/50th/100th death anniversary etc. The proposal was found to be not in conformity with the existing guidelines.
- (d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

**Annexure-I  
Guidelines for issue of special / commemorative stamps**

1. The subject of issue of stamp must be a theme of relevance to the nation, its policies and issues of concern.
2. Proposals should be taken up well in advance about two years before the proposed date of issue along with full details to enable proper examination and obtaining recommendations of the Philatelic Advisory Committee.
3. A stamp on living personality may not be issued.
4. The personalities on whom commemorative stamp may be issued should be of national or international importance. The occasion to be commemorated must be the birth centenary or 10th/ 25th/ 50th / 100th death anniversary. To ensure objective assessment of the proposal no stamp will be issued sooner than ten years after the individual's death; only exceptions made will be in the case of deceased Heads of state.
5. Not more than one stamp may be issued on the same personality/monument/building/institution or organization.
6. A stamp on an institution, building, monument etc. may be issued on its centenary/125th anniversary/ 150th anniversary etc. The building, institution to be so honored must be Heritage Preservation

site of national/international importance. Buildings of regional importance may be commemorated with issue of special cover with special cancellation.

7 Events of very important national or international character only may be considered for issue of the stamp. Events of regional significance may be commemorated through issue of a special cover with special cancellation.

8. Stamps may not be issued to honors commercial, political or sectarian organizations.

9. Stamps may not be issued to honour institutions or individuals whose main achievements are confined to the field of religion.

10. Stamps may not be issued to honour schools, college, libraries, hospitals, municipalities, cities of similar institution due to the limitations placed in the annual stamp issue programme and the vast number of such institutions. It would be difficult to single out one for cmmemoration.

11. Out of the commemorative/special stamps issued every year those on personalities should not normally exceed 25%. Further, at least 25% stamps every year should be on popular themes like flora and fauna, arts and culture etc. These stamps will be issued under the series `Heritage India` and `Nature India`.

#### Annexure-II

The following stamps on saints have been released during the last three years viz.2002, 2003 and 2004.

2002

- (i) Swami Ramanand
- (ii) Thakur Satyananda
- (iii) Anand Rishiji Maharaj
- (iv) Saint Tukaram
- (v) Bhagwan Baba
- (vi) Swami Pranavananda

2003

- (i) Saint Eknath
- (ii) Kakaji Maharaj
- (iii) Muktabai
- (iv) Janardan Swami
- (v) Swami Swaroopanand

2004

- (i) Annamacharya
- (ii) Siddhar Swamigal
- (iii) Acharya Bhikshu
- (iv) Bhagat Puran Singh

