

ISSUE OF STAMPS ON WORLD TAMIL
CONFERENCE

+
*480. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH :
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the special stamps issued on the occasion of the World Tamil Conference have been sold out:

(b) if so, the money realised therefrom;

(c) whether it is a fact that the sale of these stamps was withdrawn from Post Offices in Tamilnad; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The sales still continue.

(b) Rs. 2,11,000-80 have been realised upto 4th February, 1968.

(c) and (d). The stamp was sold in the post offices in Tamilnad on the first day of issue viz., 3rd January, 1968. On the advice of the local authorities, the stamp was withdrawn from sale from post offices in Madras State from 4th January, 1968.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : सरकार ने अपने उस निश्चय को कर्मचारियों के कहने से क्यों बदल दिया ? क्या इस के पीछे कोई कम्युनलिज्म या कोई कम्युनल माइंडेड लोग थे या इस के पीछे वह लोग थे जोकि किसी तरीके से फ़िक्शन चाहते थे और सरकार ने अपना निर्णय क्यों बदल दिया ?

श्री इ० कु० गुजराल : सरकार ने कोई निर्णय नहीं बदला। स्टाम्पम जैसा मैं ने अर्ज किया बेचे जा रहे हैं। मद्रास राज्य में लोकल एथारिटीज ने यह कहा था कि वहाँ पर यह स्टाम्प न बेचे जाएँ और हमने उस को मान लिया।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतला सकते हैं कि वह टिकट जो वापिस लिये गये हैं उन से सरकार को इस मामले में कितना घाटा हुआ है ?

श्री इ० कु० गुजराल : सरकार को इस में कोई घाटा नहीं रहा क्योंकि टिकट बिक रहे हैं और अच्छी तरह बिक रहे हैं। वह सारे स्टाम्प बिक जायेंगे। उस में कभी घाटा नहीं पड़ा करता।

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: Sir, the attitude of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is very regrettable in meeting the demands of the various regional aspirations with regard to the language which the people speak in a particular region.

Even recently, it has been reported in the Press that they have refused the demand of my State Government to permit telegrams in Tamil. After Dr. Ram Subhag Singh assumed office, I learnt that he issued instructions to stop the printing of telegraph and other forms in English and Tamil; that has been the practice before. In the issue of this stamp, there are many reasons and Dr. Ram Subhag Singh is making the State Government appear as the culprit saying that they have not sent the Tamil version of the legend. I do not want to enter into any controversy; it is between the State Government and the Centre; the State Government has already denied it. Tamil is a language recognised in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and it is a national language.... (An Hon. Member: There are others)... along with many other languages. The stamp was issued in commemoration of the Second world Tamil Conference. Is it not the responsibility and the duty of the Government at the Centre to print the facsimile with Tamil legend in it when an international conference is held in connection with a classical language of this sacred soil, whether it is Hindi or Tamil?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): The earlier part of the question is totally baseless and unfounded and tendentious. About the latter part of the question, I should like to place it on the Table of the House. This is what the Chief Minister sent to us and this is the facsimile of the stamp which the Chief Minister himself sent to us. Nowhere is it in Tamil except for the word Thirukural which appears in Tamil

script in that stamp which has been published by the P & T Department. He talks of the responsibility of the Government of India. The Secretary General of the Tamil Conference has himself signed it; Kindly see; this is his original signature. This is from the Chief Minister. Does Mr. Kandappan want to throw his own mistake on the Government of India and more particularly on the P & T Department to hide his own sins there?

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : My question was pointed and it was not at all answered. Even taking for granted that they had not demanded, is the Centre not responsible for all the fourteen languages enumerated in the English Schedule or is the Centre responsible only for Hindi? Let him answer this direct question.... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

SHRI SEZHIYAN : He has made some sort of an allegation and refers to the signature of the Secretary General and the letter in English. We talk in English because he can understand only English; he cannot understand Tamil. I shall now put a question in Tamil and let him understand it and reply to it in his own language.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अनुवाद का इंतजाम किया जाय ।

SHRI SEZHIYAN spoke in Tamil.

श्री मधु लिमये : अनुवाद का इंतजाम किया जाये ।

MR. SPEAKER : Unfortunately, today we have been caught up with the Bharat Sevak Samaj and now the language issue. I do not think we will be able to go further. (*Interruption*) I am not blaming anybody here. The question is like that.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : He takes protection under the pretext that the signature was not in Tamil. (*Interruption*)

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : Those people are not loyal to the Constitution.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : We cannot be humiliated like this. This is not the way of solving the language problem.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. There has been enough trouble. Next Question.

SHRI SEZHIYAN : Sir, just one point. The hon. Minister takes refuge behind the plea that just because it was sent in English he has done that. Now, under article 120 of the Constitution, a Member can speak in English or in Hindi, he has no right to talk in Tamil and that is why we speak in English. That should not be taken as a ground to mitigate our linguistic rights. I want to assure the House that we have nothing against Hindi. We are pleading for our own language. We only want to impress on the Minister one thing. I want to know whether the facsimile sent by the Government contained any Hindi legend there, or whether the Hindi legend was introduced by the Government here.

There is also another thing that I want to know from the Minister. In the past, so many stamps have been issued in respect of the State of Madras. For example, Subramania Bharathi stamp was issued in 1960; Saint Tyagaraja stamp was issued in 1961; Thiruvalluvar stamp was issued in 1960; Srinivasa Ramanujam stamp was issued in 1962; High Court, Madras, stamp was issued in 1962. None of these stamps contained any Hindi legend. For the first time, on the occasion of this conference, which was a world conference for Tamil studies, the stamp contained only a Hindi legend. It was not recommended nor approved by the State of Madras.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : I want to make it emphatically clear that the Government of India and the Communications Ministry respect the constitutional provisions more than one can expect and more particularly the hon. questioner (*Interruption*). The policy of the Government of India is this: before 1954, everything was printed in English only. After 1963—a decision was taken in 1963—English and Hindi became the languages for stamps etc. All the stamps that were published prior to 1963 were published in that form. There, I agree.

Regarding the question of the changing of script English to Hindi—or about the question as to why Tamil was not used, I might invite your attention to the conference emblem. Does any hon. Member expect

that we are competent to change the emblem of the conference?

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: You did change it.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: No; how can it be changed?

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: You put the Hindi version there. It was not there first. Why not the Tamil version be put?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Because it is the policy of the Government of India to bring stamps in English and Hindi. *(Interruption)*

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: Why?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : It is the policy of the Government of India. We are not going to change it, and no amount of pressure can make us change our policy. *(Interruption)* Because he talks about the regional language—

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN : Not regional language; it is a national language.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: There are many languages spoken by a large number of people which are not even recognized.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN: It is in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. *(Interruption)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We are not going to be cowed down by you.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Next Question, Shri Ganesh Ghosh.

M/s. BURN & Co., HOWRAH

†

*481. **SHRI GANESH GHOSH:**
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :
SHRI BHAGABAN DAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Burn & Co., Howrah have declared lock-out since October, 1967;

(b) if so, the total number of employees affected by the lock-out; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to lift the lock-out?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, from the 22nd September, 1967.

(b) About 8,500.

(c) The lockout was declared by the Management following a strike by the workers on the 21st September on a dispute regarding bonus. The dispute now relates to a number of other points also, including the maintenance of discipline and production standards and lay-off and retrenchment on account of reduced orders. The Chief Minister and the Labour Minister of West Bengal Government tried to conciliate in the matter and to bring about a settlement but without success. The Governor is now trying to secure a basis on which the factory could be reopened and work resumed pending final settlement of the issues.

SHRI GANESH GHOSH: Is it a fact that on the 26th January last, a conference was organised between the employers and the employees at the Labour Minister's Office in Calcutta and, if so, what are the conditions that the management placed for withdrawing the lock-out.

SHRI HATHI: This matter has been pending since September 22. The then Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and Labour Minister had a series of discussions with the unions and the employers. The employers stated that as they have no orders, it is not possible for them to work the industry and that it will be necessary for them to retrench about 3,000 employees. They also wanted financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2 crores. That is what I find from the records, because I was not dealing with this matter in September, 1967. They said it will not be possible to employ all the 8500 but 3000 will have to be retrenched, to which naturally the workers did not agree. Negotiations went on, but that Government could not solve the issue nor could