

## Press Release

September 16, 2015

### Statement issued by Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, Incharge, Communication Department, AICC

After having carried out the blatantly partisan and petty exercise of discontinuing postal stamps issued in the names of Nation Builders, former Prime Ministers Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Government and its Telecom Minister undertook an exercise in brazening it out through white lies and deliberate misleading. The entire argument given by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad about all stamps being about just one family is nothing but an Oxymoron.

Successive Congress as well as non-Congress Governments before the present one, suitably and sufficiently commemorated and revered national leaders and icons, by amongst other things. issuing postal stamps in their names.

The Telecom Minister seems to have gotten blinded by his hatred for the Congress and his party's inadequate contribution to Nation Building. He seems to have become a victim of his own rhetoric. He has misled the nation and lied on record from the platform of Press Information Bureau. Contrary to the misleading claims made by Shri Prasad, records easily available in public domain show that stamps were issued in the name of not only Congress leaders, leave apart leaders from a particular family, but leaders and nation builders belonging to different political parties and ideological hues.

#### Some Stamps issued by Congress Governments

1948 – Commemorative Stamp issued on Mahatma Gandhi

1956 – Commemorative Stamp issued on Balgangadhar Tilak

1961- Commemorative Stamp issued on Madan Mohan Malviya

1961 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Motilal Nehru

1964 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

1964 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Ashutosh Mookerjee (Educationist & father of Shyama Prasad Mookerjee)

1965 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

1966 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

1967 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Dr B R Ambedkar

1967 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Maharana Pratap

1967 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Gurugobind Singh

1970 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Veer Savarkar

1970 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Vladimir Illyich Lenin.

1976- Definitive Stamp issued on Mahatma Gandhi  
1976- Definitive Stamp issued on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru  
1979 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Jayaprakash Narayan  
1985- Commemorative Stamp issued on Sikh leader Baba Jassa Singh Ahluwalia  
1985- Commemorative Stamp issued on and SAD leader Master Tara Singh  
1988- Commemorative Stamp issued on Sheikh Abdullah  
2005- Commemorative Stamp issued on Raj Narain  
2008- Definitive Stamp issued on Satyajit Ray  
2008- Definitive Stamp issued on Mother Teresa  
2008- Definitive Stamp issued on JRD Tata  
2008- Definitive Stamp issued on HomiJehangirBhabha  
2008- Definitive Stamp issued on Indira Gandhi  
2008- Definitive Stamp issued on Rajiv Gandhi  
2009- Definitive Stamp issued on EV Ramasamy 'Periyar'  
2009- Definitive Stamp issued on Dr C V Raman

#### **Some Stamps issued by Non Congress Governments**

1977 – Commemorative Stamp issued on RammanoharLohia  
1978 - Commemorative Stamp issued on Periyar  
1978- Commemorative Stamp issued on Shyama Prasad Mukherjee  
1978- Commemorative Stamp issued on DeenDayalUpadhyay  
1990- Commemorative Stamp issued on A K Gopalan  
1990- Commemorative Stamp issued on ChaudharyCharan Singh  
1990- Commemorative Stamp issued on M G Ramchandran  
1990- Commemorative Stamp issued on BabuJagjivan Ram  
1990- Commemorative Stamp issued on Karpoori Thakur  
1998- Commemorative Stamp issued on Socialist NathPai  
1998- Commemorative Stamp issued on NG Goray  
1998- Commemorative Stamp issued on MadhuLimaye  
1998- Commemorative Stamp issued on Morarji Desai  
1999- Commemorative Stamp issued on K B Hedgewar  
1999 - Commemorative Stamp issued on EMS Namboodiripad

**The Congress party when in government released stamps in the name of many people who were either political adversaries or held contrarian ideology like, Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, Raj Narain & Veer Savarkar among others.**

**Even though the Vajpayee Government issued stamps on Sangh founder, K B Hedgewar and EMS Namboodiripad the subsequent Congress led UPA Government never withdrew such stamps, though it was bitterly opposed to their ideology.**

Countries like Bulgaria, USSR, Laos, Germany, Sri Lanka, Djibouti, Burundi have issued stamps in the name of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Will a desperate and vindictive Prime Minister, the BJP and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad ask Governments of these countries to withdraw postal stamps released by them?

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Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi were not merely Prime Ministers, they were nation builders who did far reaching work in shaping India as it stands today.

### **Some of the Major Achievements of Smt. Indira Gandhi**

- 1) Green Revolution – Making India Self Sufficient in Food Grains**
- 2) Milk Revolution**
- 3) Nationalization of Banks**
- 4) Winning the War with Pakistan, 1971**
- 5) Creation of Bangladesh**
- 6) Making India a Nuclear Power- Pokhran –I**
- 7) Abolishing Privy Purses of Princely States**
- 8) 20 Point Programme to Fight Poverty**

### **Some of the Major Achievements of Shri Rajiv Gandhi**

- 1) Pathbreaking Peace Accords to close festering wounds in the geographical entity of India for all times to come – Punjab Accord, Assam Accord & Mizo Accord**
- 2) Reducing Licence Raj**
- 3) Right to Vote for people at the age of 18 years**

**4) IT Revolution and Introduction of Computers**

**5) Telecommunication Revolution**

**6) Establishing the 3 Tier System of Local Self Governance – Major Thrust to Panchayati Raj**

**7) Nurturing India's Entry into 21<sup>st</sup> Century**