

Regarding issuing a commemorative postage stamp and a commemorative coin marking Mahatma Gandhi-Sree Narayana Guru meeting

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I wish to invite the attention of this august House to one of the important meetings which had happened 100 years ago. Two great souls of our country, Mahatma Gandhi ji and Sree Narayana Gurudev, met in Sivagiri on 12th March, 1925. That was a great meeting. The meeting of Mahatma Gandhi ji with Sree Narayana Gurudev at Sivagiri created a big impact not only on the entire Kerala society but on the South Indian society.

Sir, Gandhi ji travelled to Sivagiri during the Vaikom Satyagraha, a struggle against caste discrimination. There, he met Sree Narayana Guru, who had already shaken the foundations of caste inequality with his message: One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man.

One caste one religion one god for humans this is what Sree Narayana Guru told us.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, this meeting was simple, but it was powerful. Two great minds sat together and spoke about the biggest questions of their time untouchability, equality, education, dignity, and non-violence. Their conversation became a turning point in Indias fight for social justice. When Gandhi ji asked whether the scriptures justified untouchability, Guru clearly said: No. When Gandhi ji spoke of different castes, Guru replied with a beautiful truth:

Leaves may be of different sizes, but they all taste the same.

It is a simple line but a complete rejection of caste superiority. It touched Gandhi ji deeply and changed the way India looked at equality.

Sir, Gandhi ji spent the night at Sivagiri. He saw children of all castes studying together, praying together, and growing together. He said it was one of the greatest privileges of his life to meet and learn from him.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly conclude. What is your demand?

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL : Sir, I have only one or two points to make.

Sir, this meeting was not just a moment in history; it was India's moral compass. It told us that freedom means nothing without equality and that social reform is as important as political independence.

Sir, my request to the Government is, they should honour this historic centenary by issuing a commemorative postage stamp and a commemorative coin marking the Gandhi-Sree Narayana Guru meeting.

Sir, as Gurudevan has said:

This is an ideal country where the people live in brotherhood without the discrimination of caste and religion.

In reality the philosophy of Gurudeva which influenced Kerala as well as South India is still prevalent in Kerala. Sir, so what I want to convey is that a coin and a stamp should be issued by the government to commemorate the meeting between Sree Narayana Guru, the hero of renaissance in Kerala and Mahatma Gandhi who led Indian Independence movement.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Your point is already very well taken.

Now, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur ji

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL : Sir, through you, I request the Central Government to take decision regarding the same.

13.00 hrs