
 * THE 1983 50p POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE SURCHARGE *
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by DEREK LANG.

In Vol.17/2 (No.76) of "India Post", Dr. S. Chowdhury mentioned the 5 paise surcharge which was raised on the 50P Postal Stationery envelopes as from March 1983. He advised us that many types and variations could be expected as the method of indicating the surcharge was left to local postmasters. How right he was!

Since Dr. Chowdhury's report, an interesting correspondence has been sent to us by Mr. R.C.Batia B.E., in which he makes some justifiable complaints against the P & T Dept. Briefly these are: (1) There were cases of confusion and the P.Os sold envelopes without a surcharge handstamp or other form of indication that the surcharge had been paid. A "Postage Due" fine was applied, thereby doubling the cost of the envelope which was received, if not trebling it in cases where the charge had in fact been paid. (2) Some envelopes purchased prior to the introduction of the surcharge also became liable to such a fine when they were posted, although they had in fact been purchased at the correct price of the time!

Following on the heels of the two foregoing reports, we have also received a letter and account, with illustrations, which runs to some 18 or more typed pages, from an 18-year-old Indian student (not yet a member of the I.S.C.). This is quite an amazing compilation on the subject and highlights the distinct possibility that many of these envelopes may pass unnoticed, or be destroyed, without an interesting piece of Indian Postal History being recorded properly. Well, that could have been the case if young Rajesh Pammani had not applied himself diligently to the task! Our Editor confirms that this work is far too detailed and lengthy to record in "India Post", but it is a part of Postal History worthy of recording, unless we try to ignore it, like those elusive "Mastung" overprints of Pakistan!

From the information which Mr. Pammani has sent us, and upon which he is still working, it is evident that there are many variations of the application of this surcharge which could mystify or confuse present day collectors or future collectors of modern India, or even be totally overlooked.

Referenced in Mr. Pammani's draft are manuscript surcharges, single line, double line, triple line, boxed and circular handstamps or markings in an assortment of colours, sizes and languages. It would not be out of place to compare the extent of this exercise with that of our late and lamented colleague, Col. Denys Martin on the provisional overprints of Pakistan.

I have tried to simplify approaches to the subject, but even they would result in lengthy and fairly complicated tables and lists. However, if this article appears in "India Post", you may assume that our Editor's view is roughly in line with mine, and that support to such enterprise, whether it be for the present or the future, should be readily given by our members.

TABLE I

FORMAT VARIATIONS

TYPE N°	FORMAT DESCRIPTION
F1	Single straight line
F2	In two lines
F3	In three lines
F4	In rectangular box
F5	In dotted rectangular box
F6	Within single ring
F7	Within double ring
F8	In parenthesis - "..."

TYPE N°	FORMAT DESCRIPTION
F9	Preceded by the word 'Plus'
F10	" " " sign '+'
F11	In Hindi only
F12	In English only
F13	In Gujerati only
F14	In Hindi & English
F15	In Hindi, English & Gujerati

TABLE II
WORDING VARIATIONS

(NOTE: The following Sub-Classifications may apply
to the entries in this listing
(a) Upper Case only (b) Combined Upper & Lower Case
(c) Wording before cost (d) Cost before wording

CODE	WORDING	SUB-CLASSIFICATIONS
W01	Stationery Charges	(a), (b), (c) & (d) Type (b) also noted with small c.
W02	Stationery Charges	(a), (b), (c) & (d)
W03	Stationery Charge	(a), (b), (c) & (d)
W04	Stationery Charge	(a), (b), (c) & (d)
W05	Stationery Charges Paid	(b)
W06	Stnry, CH.	(b) & (c)
W07	Stnry. Ch.	(b) & (c)
W08	Stny. Charges	(b) & (c)
W09	Sty. Charges	(b) & (c)
W10	Sty. Charge	(a), (b) & (c)
W11	S.C.	(a)
W12	S/C	(a)
W13	S:C	(a)
W14	Sts. Charges	(b) & (c)
W15	STC	(a)
W16	Stationery	(b), (c) & (d)
W17	Stationery	(b) & (c)
W18	Stationery Charges Collected	(b) & (c)
W19	Stationery Charges of	(b) & (c)
W20	Stationery Surcharge	(b) & (c)
W21	Stationery Fee	(a), (b) & (c)
W22	Stationery Fee	(b) & (c)
W23	Stationery charges	(b) & (c)
W24	stationery charges	all lower case (c)
W25	Stationery Cost of/Envelope	(b) & (c)
W26	Cost of Envelope	(a), (b) & (c)
W27	Cost of Envelop_	(b) & (c)
W28	Envelope Costs	(b) & (c)
W29	Envelope Cost	(a) & (c)
W30	Cost of Cover	(a) & (c)
W31	Cost of Mfg.	(b) & (c)
W32	Manufacturing Charge	(b) & (c)
W33	Making Charge	(b) & (d)
W34	Selling Price	(a) & (c)
W35	Price	(b) & (c)
W36	Levy	(a) & (c)
W37	New Levy	(a), (b) & (c)
W38	Levy of	(b) & (c)
W39	New Levy of	(a) & (c)
W40	S/C Levy	(b) & (c)
W41	Surcharge	(b) & (c)
W42	Envelope Costs (value) excluding face value	(b)

TABLE III

VARIATIONS OF "CHARGE" REPRESENTATION

REF. N°	CHARGE EXPRESSED AS	REF. N°	CHARGE EXPRESSED AS
C01	Five (5)	C15	-0-05
C02	Five	C16	Rs0-05
C03	5	C17	Rs0.05
C04	05	C18	/5
C05	0-5	C19	/0-05
C06	05-	C20	00 05/Five
C07	0-05	C21	Rs:0-05
C08	0.05	C22	Rs00=05
C09	00.5	C23	Five only
C10	0=05	C24	.05
C11	00.05	C25	0-55 (Fifty Five)
C12	5 (Five)	C26	00-55
C13	5-	C27	Rs 00005
C14	00.05		

TABLE IV

EXPRESSION OF MONETARY DENOMINATION

REF. N°	EXPRESSED AS	REF. N°	EXPRESSED AS
D01	Paise	D13	ps.
D02	PAISE	D14	Ps (No stop)
D03	Paise Paid	D15	PS " "
D04	Paise Extra	D16	(None)
D05	Paisa	D17	P.
D06	paise	D18	P.S.
D07	Ps.	D19	Paisa: (colon)
D08	P	D20	Ps. Extra
D09	N.P.	D21	Ps Extra (No stop)
D10	n.p.	D22	PS PAID
D11	Np	D23	P:
D12	Nps	D24	NPSC

LISTING BY LOCATION

TOWN/CITY/P.O. etc.	PIN Code	FORMAT Table I	WORDING Table II	CHARGE Table III	DENOMINATION Table IV	NOTES
ARMOOR		F1	W03b	C07	D14	
ASHOHARMANDI	152 116	F1	W01b	C03	D09	
ADILABAD		F1	W02b	C19	D01	
AMADAALAVATSA	532 185	F1	W03a	C19	D02	
AKOLA		F10	W10b	C03	D07	
AJANTA	431 117	F1	W10b	C03	D13	
ADONI	518 301	F1	W11a	C07	D07	