

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

Jale
Camp: Bombay
June 11, 1976

4918
Emergency
Dear Indiraji,

I am writing about the ninety thousand rupees which you have so kindly contributed from your Relief Fund for the purchase of a Dialyser machine for my treatment. Some weeks back when Shri Radhakrishna, on Professor P.N. Dhar's advice, had sent a friend here to enquire if I would accept a contribution from you, I had given my consent without knowing that the money would be from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. I took it for granted that it would be from your personal account, though a little thought on my part should have shown that it was not possible for you to contribute personally such a large amount. Be that as it may, the position is that before the contribution from your Fund was received, more than three lakhs of rupees had already been collected from the public in response to the appeal made by Shri Ravishankar Maharaj, Swami Anand (since deceased), Shri Kedarnathji and Dada Dharmadhikari. Out of that money a dialysis machine and accessories and supplies for a year had already been purchased; and enough money is left to pay for monthly expenses for a year or two.

There are two other relevant points that I should mention here. One, the Committee had announced that only small contributions would be acceptable. Some friends had offered large donations, but they were not accepted and only small amounts were taken from them. Two, before the contribution from your Fund was received by Shri Radhakrishna, the Jayaprakash Health Fund Committee had closed the Fund through a public announcement on the ground that the Fund had already been oversubscribed.

In these circumstances it is not right that I should accept such a large donation from your Relief Fund. There is so much of relief to be rendered that every pice of a relief fund should be used where it is needed most. Therefore, I am advising Shri Radhakrishna to return the draft received by him. I do fervently hope that you will not misunderstand me and think me ungrateful and discourteous. There is no discourtesy meant at all and I am grateful for the concern shown by you for my health.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Smt. Indira Gandhi,
Prime Minister of India,
New Delhi.

(Jayaprakash Narayan)