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IN INDIA

By Dipa Ken in Las Palmas, Canary Islands



(L-r): Mrs. Gopi Bulchand, Dada Jashan, Dr. Ramchand Bulchand and BR's Mrs. Dipa Ken.

Happy Birthday by Kristal Gaiza to Aquarius in Bharat Ratna of February 1989 could not have been more applicable to our friend Dr. Ramchand Bulchand, one of the most popular people on the Islands.

Born in Kobe, Japan on January 28th, 1928, he is very much an Aquarian and has all the characteristics mentioned by Kristal Gaiza.

No matter what the time, people who have problems call him at any hour of the day or night, with health, financial or emotional problems and he goes out of his way to find a solution.

Known as one of the richest Indians on the Island, which he categorically denies, he says a rich person is one who makes 10 and spends 7 and pays his liabilities, if any, on due dates: in any case, he says he has more money than he needs and has been using and continues to use his time and money for the benefit of others.

His pet plan of late has been opening wells in India. The Spanish missionaries in India are opening deep tube wells in Mehsana at a cost of Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 200,000 per well, and whilst the farmers get 80-90% loans, they do not have even the 10% to make a start. Dr. Bulchand, through his Trust, Bulchand Charitable Trust in India provides this 10% to 20%, and once the well is opened such

a well can help irrigate 100 acres, and nearly 40 farming families can have two to three guaranteed crops a year.

When Dada Jashan was in Las Palmas in July, 1988, Dada was approached to open more wells in India under the auspices of Sadhu Vaswani Mission. The idea appealed to the trustees, who immediately wrote back that the most need was in Saurashtra, where there were dedicated workers willing to carry out the mission.

Dr. Ramchand Bulchand and his charming wife, Mrs. Gopi, left all their real estate and domestic work and flew out to India in October 1988, first to Pune to get Dada's blessings and then to Rajkot. The volunteers were good but they did not know much about opening wells.

Anyone else would have been disappointed, but he did not lose heart and sent them to Mehsana to see the work which the Spanish missionaries were doing. They came back with good knowledge and have been able to plan more individual wells, which cost only Rs. 20,000, but bank loans are limited.

The work will be started almost immediately on 32 wells, some deep tube wells, some individual, which will benefit over 250 families, and more than 650 acres will be irrigated.

Dr. Ramchand had requested Dada Jashan during his visit to open 100 wells, but after seeing the local conditions and the benefit which will be obtained by the needy farmers, he has planned to open 100 wells every year with the help of God. When some wells have been opened and the actual benefit can be seen, he says he will take a round the world trip and meet his friends and ask each of them to sponsor a few wells in their name, so that thousands and thousands of wells can be opened, which will be a continuous benefit to the farmers and the country.

When asked if it was true that people have started calling him Dr. Well, true to his Aquarius character, he replied that not only did this work keep him well, but he also feels better and better all the time.

