

Educational (1913) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 190

DATED 28.2. 1913 .

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative question Communicating to the D. P. G. a copy of question
regarding the Registrar of Banks his library ~~the Registrar of Banks~~
No 11 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the
18th February 1913 and the answer given thereto.

[15-10-1-12]

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Kesava Pillai.

Educational Department.

Question 12. (a) Is it a fact that the library attached to the office of the Registrar of Books, Madras, contains all vernacular publications—registered and unregistered —of Southern India? Registrar of Books—his library.

(b) Is it a fact that the library which was once open to the public has been closed for some years?

(c) In view of the fact that all such publications are not available in other libraries, will the Government be pleased to order that the library may be thrown open to the public; and if such an order is issued, will they also be pleased to locate it in a central place so as to be easily accessible?

[Meeting of the 18th February 1912]

Does the Registrar's
library contain all
publications?

Question 12 clause (a). - Under section 9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, a copy of every book printed or lithographed in the Madras Presidency is delivered to the Registrar of Books and all books so delivered are deposited by him in a library which is constituted a "reference library" under rule 4 of the rules framed under section 20 of the Act, printed on page 7 of G.O.No.491 Judicial, dated 1st April 1910. The Registrar's library thus contains not only all vernacular publications but all books published in this Presidency in whatever language written.

2. The question refers to "registered" and "un-registered" publications. This is apparently due to some misapprehension and perhaps has reference to the registration of copyright. All books delivered under section 9 are registered under section 18, and no publication should escape registration under this Act.

Previous history.

3. Before the other ^(clauses of the) questions are considered it seems necessary to recapitulate in brief the previous history of the question. Under section 11 of the Printing presses and Newspapers Act of 1867, as it stood before amendment, one of the copies received by the Registrar was to be "deposited in such public library or by otherwise disposed of as the Local Government shall from time to time determine". With reference to this section, the Government of India in their letter No.845, dated 28th December 1889 inquired whether the books received had been actually deposited in a public library and if not whether the Government had any suggestion to

pages 7 of 173. 29
25.2.70 (T)

4

offer in regard to the best manner in which such books could be made available to the public at large. After consulting the Registrar of Books and the Director, the Government reported that the books were not then deposited in a public library but that they had resolved to constitute ^{the} library of the Registrar of Books into a ~~ref~~ reference library open to the public. Simultaneously orders were issued to the Director to take necessary steps to give effect to the resolution. In G.O.No.498 Educational, dated 14th July 1890 rules to be observed at the public reference library were approved and other arrangements were also sanctioned to carry out the object. The Director was at the same time informed that it was not advisable to open a library to the public before ^{the} compilation of a catalogue of the books and he was requested to report when it ~~could~~ ^{would} be ready. In October 1890 the Director reported that the catalogue would be ready by the beginning of January 1891. No definite information as to whether the library was actually thrown open to the public was furnished to Government.

(The question was raised again in 1906 when the Registrar in some correspondence [which had only an indirect bearing on the subject in issue] casually referred to the library being open to the public. A report was thereupon called for from the Director which will be found printed on page 3 of G.O.No.520 Educational, dated 4th August 1906. It is not plain even from this whether the library was actually open to the public and used by them. In paragraph 4 thereof he ~~says~~ ^{states} that the matter

page of fo. 173, 174
25.2.90 (T)

(Z)

para. 3 of the fo.

in fo 714-23
6.11.90 (K)

Was the library
once open to the
public?

in fo 520-23
4.8.06 (W)

(W)

5

matter had lain over ^{without} ~~any~~ action since 1890. This has been taken to mean that the library had not been thrown open to the public at all. Please see paragraph 2 of the office note dated 7th July 1906 on page 3 of the notes with the above G.O. To give a definite reply to the question it may perhaps ^{be} necessary to confirm this statement by reference to the D.P.I.

(W)

Has the library been since closed?

(W)

5. In G.O.No.520 Educational, dated 4th August 1906 it has been definitely decided that the library should not be opened to the public, but should be maintained only for reference by the Registrar and his office. This view was made admissible by the fact that section 11 of the Act since underwent revision by the compulsory provision of requiring a copy of the publication to be deposited in a public library ^{being} ~~was~~ removed, and power ^{being} ~~generally~~ given to local Government to determine in what manner the books should be ~~xxx~~ disposed off.

Will the library be now thrown open to the public?

(W)

6. Clause (c).-- The main objections to constitute the registrar's library as a public library are given in the Director's official letter No.4398, dated 4th April 1906 on page 3 of G.O.No.520, dated 4th August 1906 on pages 1 and 2 of the notes therewith. Briefly stated they are -

- (1) There is no staff to ~~xxx~~ attend to visitors;
- (2) There is no accommodation in the building for readers;
- (3) The Connemara Public Library is close by;
- (4) The number of visitors would be comparatively very small;

All these objections apparently still hold good ^{now}. The only argument now put forward for throwing open the library to the public is ^{that} the publications received by the Registrar are not available in other libraries. It is not unlikely that this statement is correct. Not every book that is printed will find a place in a library, but the question is whether all these books should be made available in a library. As an alternative to opening the registrar's library to the public, the Director suggested in 1906 that the books deposited in the Registrar's office might ~~qitaxx~~ after sometime be transferred to the Connemara Library. To this the Principal Librarian (Dr. Thurston) strongly objected as that would entail the burden of the library ^{with masses} ~~of~~ of trivial literature ^{which} ~~also~~ would be perfectly useless for the class of readers who came to that institution.

In this view it seems doubtful whether it will serve any useful purpose to throw open the ^{ser} Registrar's library to the public. The additional member seems ^{however} to be more concerned about vernacular publications. Comparatively such publications will probably be fewer in the Connemara Public Library, and there seems to be no other public library of repute containing vernacular publications. It is for consideration whether the Government should undertake to reopen the question which will involve the construction of a ~~new~~ new building with adequate equipment and the maintenance of a staff to run the institution.

7. The file be forwarded to the D.P.I. for remarks

Ca
F.2.13
D.P.I. No.

Release L.D.
B.2.13

para 4 - pg 39
fo. 520-8
4.8.06 (W)

Vide his note 3267-06
on page 47 notes with the f.p.

V.E.

no 235-1 Lf
3/2/13
K.2.4 2B

3/2/13

No. 11.39 of 8.2.13



I think it is clear that the library has never been in any effective sense open to the public. There is no ^{trace} instance of any notification of its being so having been published. At the same time I can be sure that in Kishinuchari time it was not closed to the public and that people who happened to know of it occasionally consulted Government publications there.

It is highly improbable that it would have worth while to so house and staff, and catalogue the books as to constitute them a public library in the full meaning of the term. At the same time they ought to be accessible to scholars. All that seems really necessary is that the Registrar's library should be a kind of store from which readers in the Commerce, Commerce, Commerce and Oriental and libraries might get books. The matter is one to be considered in consultation with the authorities of these libraries.

J. S. 17

A draft answer is submitted for approval.

At 11.2.13 I have revised the draft somewhat. Please type in duplicate and send me advance copy to keep as. It is to be sent with these pp to H. E. the Governor.

10/1/13

Done

Ch. S. 11.2.13

Signed C. B. (14.)

Question No 12

Draft answer.

(a) The library attached to the office of the Registrar of Books should contain all publications in the Madras Presidency delivered for registration under section 9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

(b) Though the Government were at one time in favour of ~~throwing~~ ^{converting} the collection ~~open~~ ^{into a} ~~to the public~~ ^{library} and it was for some years intermittently made use of by a limited number of persons, this intention was never really carried into effect, and in 1906 it was decided formally to close ^{(and in future} the library to the public ~~in order~~ ^{to} maintain it solely for reference by the Registrar and his office.

(c) The Government will consider the question whether some arrangements cannot be made to ^{render} ~~make~~ the collection accessible to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~scholar~~ ^{scholars}.



Say "Students"
\$ 12.2.13

Read by day
13-2-13
14.

? omit

? Students

instead of

Scholars

all
13-2-13
14.

LD
11-2-13

8

9

The question and answer as finally
approved are as follows:—

The Hon'ble Mr. P. Kesava Pillai.

Question 11. (a) Is it a fact that the library attached to the office of the Registrar of Books, Madras, contains all vernacular publications—registered and unregistered —of Southern India? Library of Registrar of Books.

(b) Is it a fact that this library which was once open to the public has been closed for some years?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to order that the library may be thrown open to the public; and if such an order is issued, will they also be pleased to locate it in a central place so as to be easily accessible?

Answer 11—

(a) The library attached to the office of the Registrar of Books should contain all publications in the Madras Presidency delivered for registration under section 9 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.

(b) Though the Government were at one time in favour of converting the collection into a public library and it was for some years intermittently made use of by a limited number of persons, this intention was never really carried into effect, and in 1906 it was decided formally to close the library to the public and in future to maintain it solely for reference by the Registrar and his office.

(c) The Government will consider the question whether some arrangements cannot be made to render the collection accessible to students.

2. A copy of the question and answer may be communicated to the S.P.I. and he may be requested to submit proposals to render the books in the Registrar's library accessible to students.

The draft below is for approval.

R. C.
27.2.13 27.2.13

Vf
28.2.13

See Supplement
Question
C.R.
D.P.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, dated _____ 191

" " " "; " 191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 235, From the Leg. Sepl., No. 21-1, dated 25-1-1913

[illegible]

" " , " " : / " 191

ORDER.

and

No. 190 his, dated 28 . 2 . 1913.

A copy of question no-11 asked at the meeting of the Leg. cl. held on the 18th Feb. 1913 and the answer thereto will be communicated to the D.P.D. and he will report whether any requested to ~~submit to the Librarian~~ ^{report whether any} ~~arrangements~~ ^{arrangements} ~~could be made by~~ ^{could be made by} ~~to send~~ the books in the library attached to the office of the Registrar of Books ^{(could be made} ~~accessible~~ ^{accessible} to students.

7.11.13

Call Clark
note watch
miscellaneous
all
7/2/4

[Noted and 7.3.13]

for report with reference to
the consideration promised in
clause (c) of the answer.

28213

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The D.P.I. with copy of
question no 11 & answer

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

191

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
 191

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETAIL.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DETACHMENT
 IF NECESSARY.

V.P.—

A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied.
 F = Copy abstract only.
 Q = Copy Heading only.