

Government of Madras.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1913.

Enclosures

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G.O. No. 769, 19th August 1913.

RECEIVED

Malayalam Dictionary.

Regretting inability to make a grant-in-aid towards the compilation of a — by M.R.Ry.
M. Krishnan.

2

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Further
note } go to 366 Education
12/1/14

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from M.R.Ey. M. KRISHNAN Avargal, Malayalam Translator to Government.

To—the Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated—Madras, N.C., the 31st October 1912.

I beg to bring to your notice that students of Malayalam, both Native and European, suffer alike from want of a good and up-to-date dictionary in Malayalam. Mr. Brown's dictionary in Telugu was a few years ago improved and enlarged. A Tamil dictionary recently brought out with considerable improvements and additions has supplied this need in that language. Rev. Kittel's dictionary in Canarese more or less adequately supplies a want long felt by Canarese students. In Malayalam alone, among the highly-cultivated Dravidian languages, a dictionary adequate to meet present needs is still a desideratum. There are only two Malayalam dictionaries in existence so to speak, at present—one brought out by Rev. Bailey of Kottayam in the early part of the last century under the patronage of the Honourable East India Company, while the other was published by Dr. Gundert in 1872. Neither of these can be said even to approach in point of completeness and correctness the dictionaries in other languages. Literary activity in Malayalam during the last two or three decades has been so great that very great additions have been made to the literature by the translation of many important Sanskrit and English works, no less than by the constant publication of original works. The Malayalam periodicals and newspapers, it is well known, are a special feature of activity of the Malayalam-speaking people and they exceed sixty in number.

2. To supply the need of a dictionary answering to the vast output of new Malayalam literature I have for the last few years been engaged in collecting materials and I have also secured co-operation of about a dozen friends for the purpose.

3. Such gigantic task cannot be brought to a successful issue without adequate pecuniary help from Government and if Government will kindly render such help I shall be glad to place my services at their disposal.

4. I need not say much about my qualification for the work. I spent more than thirty-two years as a teacher of Malayalam to the students of the B.A. class in the Presidency College and have been Malayalam Translator to Government for the last 19 years; an examiner in connection with the various Government examinations for about 25 years; a chairman of the Board of Examiners in Malayalam in connection with the University examination for upwards of 12 years; a member of the Government Text-Book Committee for the last several years; a member of Dravidian Board of Studies for more than a dozen years; a member of the Madras School-book and Literature Society for many years and editor of the Matriulation text-book in Malayalam for more than a dozen years.

5. Some of the books brought out by me for the improvement of Malayalam are given in the list hereto appended.

6. In compiling the dictionary I intend to follow the plan of the Oxford English dictionary, to give the pronunciation of the words in Roman characters and the meaning in English and Malayalam. But I shall be glad to adopt any suggestion which the Government may think fit to make.

7. Merely to collect materials for the compilation of such a dictionary will require a large sum of money inasmuch as books will have to be purchased representing every class of Malayalam literature and several amanuenses will have to be engaged to copy and classify extracts and quotations. I therefore request that Government may be pleased to consider the importance of the publication proposed by me and sanction a liberal grant-in-aid.

ENCLOSURE.

List of books brought out by M.R.Ey. M. Krishnan Avargal for the improvement of Malayalam.

1. A Crown edition of Anglo-Malayalam Dictionary.
2. Elements of Civics—translated into Malayalam.
3. Sanitary Primer by Cunningham.
4. Agricultural Primer by Robertson.
5. Duncan's Geography of Asia.
6. Duncan's Geography of Europe.
7. Sinclair's History of India.
8. Government Third Malayalam Reader.
9. Government Fourth Malayalam Reader.
10. Natural History of Animals, Part I } Travancore Maharaja's Prize Book.
11. Natural History of Animals, Part II }
12. Domestic Economy by Mrs. Brander
13. Indian Kindergarten for Infant Standard.
14. Balavyakaranam—A Malayalam Grammar.
15. Tales from Indian History for Primary schools.
16. Malayalam Reader for Form I.
17. Malayalam Reader for Form II.
18. Malayalam Reader for Form III.
19. History for Form I.
20. History for Form II.
21. History for Form III.
22. First Standard Reader: Malayalam } Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co.
23. Second Standard Reader: Malayalam }
24. Macmillan's Indian History for Primary schools.
25. Marsden's Readers: The first four numbers completely revised and mostly re-written.
26. Macmillan's 8th, 9th and 10th Readers completely revised and mostly re-written.
27. All the Basel Mission Readers revised and edited.
28. Nalakatha.
29. Chandrasahsa charitram } Matriulation Prose.
30. Savitri.
31. Swasahayam.
32. Katyayini.
33. A Coronation ode, etc., adopted by Government and sung by the school children of Malabar in all important centres.

II

Memorandum No. 3183-3, Educational, dated 12th February 1913.

The attention of the Syndicate of the Madras University is invited to the accompanying letter from M.R.Ey. M. Krishnan Avargal, Malayalam Translator to Government, dated 31st October 1912, requesting a grant-in-aid of the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary which he has on hand. As at present advised, the Government believe that no undertaking of the description contemplated could be accomplished so as to command and deserve public confidence except through the agency of a representative committee with a definite and well-considered plan before it and under competent supervision. With the venture under such guidance the Native States of Cochin and Travancore would probably be willing to co-operate. The Syndicate is requested to consider the question and to state whether it would be prepared to undertake the task of forming and supervising a committee for the purpose. If so, the Government would desire also to be furnished with as accurate as possible an estimate of the cost of the compilation and with information as to the financial arrangements recommended. This reference must not, however, be construed as implying the admission of any claim to assistance from Provincial funds in the event of the scheme being taken up by the University.

L. DAVIDSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Registrar, Madras University.

III

Letter—from J. J. HENSMAN, Esq., B.A., Manager-in-charge, office of the Registrar, University of Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—Senate House, the 22nd May 1913.

No.—2380.

In reply to your reminder, dated the 19th instant, requesting an early reply to Government memorandum No. 3183-3, Educational, dated the 12th February last, regarding the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary, I have the honour to inform you that the subject is still under the consideration of a committee of the Syndicate to which it has been referred for report and that, as no meeting of the Syndicate will be held until the 5th August next, it will not be possible to send you a reply to the memorandum until after that date.

IV

Letter—from J. J. HENSMAN, Esq., B.A., Manager-in-charge, office of the Registrar, University of Madras.

To—the Secretary to Government, Educational Department.

Dated—Senate House, the 8th August 1913.

No.—3699.

With reference to memorandum No. 3183-3, Educational, dated 12th February 1913, and in continuation of my letter No. 2380, dated 22nd May 1913, I have the honour by direction to inform you that, while the Syndicate is of opinion that there is an undoubted need for the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary of the description contemplated in the papers referred by Government, it is not prepared at present to undertake any responsibility in the matter. The Syndicate feels that the matter can safely wait until the completion of the Tamil lexicon now in hand, as the experience gained in connection therewith will be of great service in the preparation of the proposed Malayalam dictionary.

Order—No. 769, Educational, dated 19th August 1913.

With reference to his application for a grant-in-aid towards the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary, M.R.Ry. M. Krishnan will be informed that, before considering the question of subsidizing such a work, the Government desire to profit by the experience which will be afforded by the compilation of the Tamil lexicon which is now in progress. They therefore regret that they are unable to take any further action at present in respect of Mr. Krishnan's request.

(True Extract.)

W. FRANCIS,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To M.R.Ry. M. Krishnan Avargal, Malayalam Translator to Government.
„ the Registrar, University of Madras.
„ the Public Department.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 769, EDUCATIONAL, DATED 19TH AUGUST 1913.

[SUBJECT.—A Malayalam Dictionary.]

From Mr. M. Krishnan, dated 31st October 1912.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Mr. M. Krishnan, Malayalam Translator to Government, applies for a grant-in-aid from Government towards the publication of a new Malayalam dictionary. He states that in Malayalam alone, among the highly cultivated Dravidian languages, there is not yet a good and up-to-date dictionary adequate to meet the present day needs, and that students of Malayalam, both European and Indian, alike feel the want. To supply the need, he has for the last few years been engaged in collecting materials, and has also secured the co-operation of about a dozen friends for the purpose.

2. A few years ago, when a new edition of Browne's Telugu-English dictionary was published Government gave a subsidy of Rs. 5,000 from Provincial funds to the S.P.C.K. for the purpose, the first moiety being paid when it was reported that the work was "more than half completed." Government only got six copies of the dictionary free in return, but afterwards purchased thirty copies at cost price less proportionate Government contribution on each copy.

3. There is at present under the consideration of the Government the publication of a Tamil lexicon out of the materials collected by the late Dr. Pope to be undertaken by a representative committee formed for the purpose, under the supervision and control of the University of Madras. The Government of India have been recently furnished with a detailed estimate of the scheme, amounting to a lakh of rupees to be given to the University in the form of annual grants spread over such a period as may be found necessary. A portion of the total cost is expected to be recouped from the sale of the book.

4. In his despatch No. 6 Public (Record), dated 30th November 1906, the Secretary of State stated in connection with the proposed publication of the Tamil lexicon that undertakings of this nature, involving the expenditure of large sums of public money, require careful scrutiny, and that it is inexpedient that any pledge of Government assistance should be given until the whole scheme was before him.

5. In the present case, the scheme is not yet matured, and there is no information as to what the total cost of publishing the proposed dictionary will be, and how long it will take. It is submitted that, until a complete and detailed scheme is before the Government it is, not perhaps desirable to promise any financial assistance. The question appears to be one for consideration in the Educational department, and it is submitted that the current may be transferred to that department for disposal.

O.T.G.—21-11-12.

N. KAILASA SARMA—22-11-12.

The publication of a Malayalam dictionary stands on a different footing from that of a Tamil or Telugu or Canarese dictionary. The two Native States of Cochin and Travancore are keenly interested in the work, and I believe some attempt was being made by the Text Book Committee in Travancore to take up the work. It will be well therefore if the co-operation of the two States can be secured.

2. It is not desirable to entrust the work to an individual.* If Government is to contribute, we must have the assurance that the work will be done by a representative committee under competent supervision, and the result will be recognised as authoritative by the Malayalam scholars.

3. If Mr. Krishnan can with the advice and assistance of the two States form a representative committee, and get the University to undertake the work of supervision, and if the undertaking is planned on definite lines—so as more or less to conform to the Tamil dictionary that the University has undertaken to bring out—and an approximate statement of costs is also furnished, then it will be time enough for the Government to consider what assistance should be given.

C. S. ANANTARAM AYYAR—23-11-12.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the file may in the first instance be forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—27-11-12.

Yes, please

L. DAVIDSON—28-11-12.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Perhaps the University might be asked whether they are prepared to form and supervise a committee and if so to make as accurate an estimate as possible of the money required. The Governments of Travancore and Cochin might then be asked to contribute, either by Government or by University.

J. H. STONE—17-12-12.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

Presumably Mr. Stone considers that the undertaking is worthy of encouragement and deals with the further course to be taken in the matter. Submitted that before the University is asked whether it would form and supervise a committee for the purpose, Mr. Krishnan may be asked whether he would be willing to make the materials he has gathered available to the committee if one is formed and if so under what conditions. A rough estimate of the cost of the production of the dictionary may also be called for from Mr. Krishnan.

Mr. Krishnan has done revising and editing work in connection with an English-Malayalam dictionary published by the Basel Mission Press. Please see papers with G.O. No. 655, Educational, dated 2nd October 1907.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—25-12-12.

Educational may concur in the Under Secretary's note at page 2 except as to the form of the dictionary. We do not ourselves know what form the Tamil dictionary will assume; it may be very elaborate. I remember that 25 years ago Dr. Pope was contemplating the insertion of quotations from classic works to illustrate the meanings given; and he had actually made a large collection to that end.

2. The next step should, I think, be a reference, preferably informal, to the Syndicate.

3. But before even this preliminary step is taken, Financial should see the papers, as any such action, no matter how guarded the reference may be, will by some persons be construed as warranting an expectation of help from Government. That Government should help any well considered attempt to compile a good Malayalam dictionary I have no doubt.

L. DAVIDSON—23-1-13.

To the Financial Department.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

For precedents where financial help has been rendered from Provincial funds in connection with the compilation of Vernacular dictionaries, attention is solicited to—

(i) G.O. No. 402, Financial, dated 2nd July 1896, where the grant of a sum of Rs. 5,000 to the society for promoting Christian knowledge, Madras, was approved with the sanction of the Secretary of State towards the cost of bringing out a new edition of Brown's Telugu-English Dictionary;

(ii) G.O. No. 991, Educational, dated 11th November 1912, where an aggregate sum of one lakh has been promised to the Madras University in connection with the compilation of a new lexicon of the Tamil language.

In the present case, the Educational Department apparently consider that the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary is immediately necessary, and they propose to make a reference to the Syndicate of the Madras University in regard to the arrangements to be made in connection therewith.

2. It is submitted that very recently large grants have been made to the University both from Imperial and Provincial funds as shown below:—

G.O. No. 741, Financial, dated 28th November 1912, Paragraph 132 of Draft Financial Statement for 1913-14.	(A) 4.00 lakhs	.. from Imperial funds.	Non-recurring.
	(B) .65 lakh	.. Do.	Recurring.
	(C) 1.50 lakhs	.. from Provincial funds.	Non-recurring.

One of the conditions subject to which the above grants have been made is that all money the appropriation of which has not been specifically sanctioned shall be funded until a scheme of expenditure on suitable objects has been duly approved by this Government in regard to (C) and His Excellency the Chancellor and the Government of India, in regard to (A) and (B).

Perhaps Educational may be asked whether this scheme might not be considered along with other proposals for the utilization of the large grants to the University, which have been funded pending approval to detailed proposals.

C. REILLY.

Proposals for the utilization of these funds are now under consideration in Educational, and it is submitted that if it is thought essential that help from Provincial funds is necessary in the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary, the item may be taken into account by Educational in connection with the utilization of the above grants. If this is approved, a special separate allotment from Provincial funds will not be necessary in the compilation of a Malayalam dictionary now proposed.

3. The case may, it is submitted, be returned to Educational.

C.P.K.—31-1-13.

S. D. SUNDARAM PILLAI—1-2-13.

C. REILLY—3-2-13.

We need not object to the proposed reference to the Syndicate, on the understanding that if the scheme is taken up by the University no claim to extra assistance from Provincial funds will be necessarily admitted.

A. G. CARDEW—4-2-13.

To the Educational Department.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

A draft memorandum to the Syndicate of the University is submitted for approval.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—9-2-13.

Re-type as amended please and submit to His Excellency the Governor.

L. DAVIDSON—10-2-13.

P[ENTLAND]—11-2-13.

[Memorandum No. 3183-3, Educational, dated 12th February 1913.]

From the University of Madras, No. 2380, dated 22nd May 1913.

The papers may lie over till the University's reply to Memorandum No. 3183-3, dated 12th February 1913, is received. A reminder may issue about the 20th August next if the reply is not received earlier.

P.R.—29-5-13.

The Public Department may see the file in the meanwhile for information.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—1-6-13.

Not necessary. Lie over till 20th August.

C. S. ANANTARAM AYYAR—4-6-13.

From the University of Madras, No. 3699, dated 8th August 1913.

Please see the Registrar's letter dated 8th August 1913. The Syndicate is not disposed to undertake any responsibility in the preparation of the Malayalam dictionary at least until experience has been gained in respect of the Tamil lexicon. It is for consideration whether the Government should agree to defer consideration of the request. Mr. Krishnan may perhaps be informed that, as the Syndicate of the Madras University which was consulted in the matter are not prepared to undertake any responsibility, the Government do not propose to take any further action in respect of his request. A draft order is submitted for approval.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARI—14-8-13.

The dictionary would be too big an undertaking for a gentleman of Mr. Krishnan's age to see through single-handed and a dictionary done by a committee would command more respect than any one man's work.

But the Syndicate, which alone could run such a committee, is not disposed to move until the Tamil lexicon is off its hands.

The matter may therefore be deferred.

The draft is for approval.

W. FRANCIS—15-8-13.

P[ENTLAND]—18-8-13.

Issue.

W. FRANCIS—19-8-13.

[G.O. No. 769, Educational, dated 19th August 1913.]

C.No. 3183 Edl.

C.No. 1678, from the University of Madras, No. 2380, d/22-5-1913.

C.No. 2468,

-do.-

No. 3699, d/ 8-8-1913.

ORDER:

No 769 Edl dated 19-8-13

With reference to his application for a grant in aid ^{towards} the compilation of Malayalam Dictionary, M.R.Ry. M. Krishnan will be informed that ~~as at present advised the Government~~ believe that no undertaking of the description contemplated could be accomplished so as to command and deserve public confidence except through the agency of a representative committee with a definite and well-considered plan before it and under competent supervision. The Syndicate of the Madras University which, being in the opinion of Government the most competent for the task, was requested to state whether it would undertake the work of forming and supervising a committee for the purpose, is not at present prepared to undertake any responsibility in the matter, but desires to wait until sufficient experience has been gained in connection with the compilation of the Tamil lexicon which it has now ~~on hand~~. In the circumstances, the Government

4. memo to 3183-3 on 12-2-13

page 4 of 6

before considering the motion of subsidizing such a work, the Government desire to ~~wait~~ ^{wait until} the scheme which will be afforded by the compilation of the Tamil lexicon which is now in progress. May

67. 1 98
Wherefor
Government regret that they are unable
to take ^{any further} action at present in respect
of Mr. Krishnan's request.

CR
14-8-33. 11/5/8

To M.R. Ry. M. Krishnan Ayl.,
Malayalam Translator to Government
To the Registrar, University of Madras.

.. .. Public Dept.

15/5/34
for department
on 14/5/34
H.P.

ORDINARY.

PRESS SLIP.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

DEPARTMENT.

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(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

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