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Home (1916) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 562

DATED 22-5-16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording papers relating to the resolution moved by the Honourable Rao Bahadur Narasimheswara Sarma at the meeting of the ----- Council held on the 13th March 1916 regarding the establishment of two civil and mechanical engineering schools in the Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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ER Department.

MIS.
ROUTINE.

G.O. No. 562

DATED 22.5.16.

[original not available]

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording papers relating to the resolution moved by the Hon. Rao Bahadur Narasimham Sarmma at the meeting of the Leg. Council held on the 13th March 1916 regarding the establishment of two Civil and mechanical engineering schools in the Presidency.

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22.5.16.

Extract from the Proceedings of an Adjourned Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 5 & 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61.

The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11a.m. on Tuesday, the 14th day of March 1916.

INCREASED PROVISION FOR CIVIL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—"Your Excellency, I hope a better fate will await the next resolution which asks the sanction of the Government for the inclusion in the current budget of a provision for the establishment of civil and mechanical engineering schools in the Presidency. The resolution is in these terms,—

'XII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the budget provision for expenditure under 22. EDUCATION be increased by a lakh of rupees towards the establishment of two civil and mechanical engineering schools in the Presidency and that the additional cost may be met by a corresponding reduction under 45-B. CIVIL WORKS.'

"The Council might very well ask me as to why this subject has been brought up now seeing that, when a similar resolution was moved last year by my

(Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma.)

[14TH MARCH 1916.]

Honourable friend Mr. Ramachandra Rao, Government had clearly shown their sympathy with the attitude of the non-official members but pleaded inability to see eye to eye with the practical proposals that were then put forward. It was that very sympathy, my Lord, which was evidenced in every word of your Excellency's closing remarks that has induced me to ask this Government to review their former policy in regard to this matter. In speaking of this subject which is a plain business-like subject and does not admit of any emotion, I cannot help however expressing a feeling of utter helplessness, a feeling of inexpressible discontent or I would say inexpressible despair creeping over us when we approach these practical solutions for the amelioration of the lot of our countrymen. Government have said and your Excellency has been so kind as to say that there is not the slightest difference between the views of the non-official members and the Government as to the need for the establishment of more schools for training students in civil and mechanical engineering for the purpose of helping the rising industries of this country and for the purpose of aiding the administrative machinery which, at present is somewhat inefficient for want of trained officers. But the point of view on which there was a difference was as to whether the best interests of the country could be served and would be served only by starting an engineering college and doing nothing until there were funds available for the starting of an engineering college or as to whether we could make a humble beginning by starting a civil and mechanical engineering school and gradually building up from the bottom so that in the fullness of time and not in the distant future, an engineering college may be an actual reality, not in one place, but in more than one place in the north, south and west. That was the point of difference.

"In 1913, when I moved this resolution, Government were so sympathetic as to practically sanction it and I recollect the Director of Public Instruction sent me a note that provision was made for Rs. 9,000 for a school at Dowlaiswaram. Then strangely enough, a different policy prevailed in the views of the Local Government and some passages in a committee's report attracted their attention and then they thought that the policy must be changed and that training must be given only at a college and nowhere else; and the school which was practically sanctioned was given up and no mechanical engineering school was intended to be started. Now, my Lord, facts are clearly in our favour and your Excellency's Government have recognized that; at present, only four hundred pupils are being trained in the Engineering College: the number of applicants in 1914-15 was as many as 454 and only 125 could be admitted so that it cannot be said that if schools be started, boys would not be forthcoming or that there would be any difficulty in the way of the boys contributing their quota to the cost. The boys are forthcoming and that is a point which had escaped attention and my submission is that more than three-fourths of the boys were boys who sought not the higher classes in the college but the probationary training school which trains men only in the overseer grade. That, my Lord, is a point which I would respectfully urge upon the attention of the Government. I have not got full details for all the years but in 1913-14 of the 385 students who applied for permission into the Upper Subordinate class only 111 were admitted, so that the number of applicants for the school department is quite sufficient to man more than one school, because if 111 only could be admitted in one school, when there are 385, it stands to common sense that there must be two or three schools at least to take the remaining boys. It was also pointed out to your Excellency's Government that even if the Engineering College become an accomplished fact in five or six years, there will be provision made only for five hundred boys and that only a few students more will find admission into the college and that consequently the new college would not be able to meet the difficulty.

"The answer of your Excellency's Government was that the times were financially bad and that there was no possibility of having another Engineering College and that consequently the matter should be dropped for the present. My respectful appeal to your Excellency's Government is that we should abandon the policy which seems to have been arrived at after consulting some experts, that we should abandon the policy of waiting until four or five lakhs are available every year for starting a fully-equipped college and fifteen lakhs for building the college. Our past traditions, my Lord, are somewhat different. Your Lordship may consider that our

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tastes are simple and frugal and are inartistic; but somehow we look to the essentials, it does not matter to us whether a school is started in a forest or in some small place where there is protection or in a large building of artistic beauty worth lakhs and lakhs of rupees. The other day, I had been to Masulipatam where a few public-spirited and philanthropic gentlemen had at considerable self-sacrifice started a mechanical engineering school with humble beginnings with a tin-roof over the building: and a number of students are flocking to that institution. They have not waited for an excellent building. What I ask your Excellency's Government is to follow our past traditions and make a humble beginning. That is what we are asked to accept in all other matters. But unfortunately in the matter of engineering education Government want to start an engineering college, a first-grade college before anything can be done to impart sound engineering education and training.

"My Lord, the reason why we press it so much on the attention of the Government is—it would be a repetition of what has been stated on former occasions—the number of factories in this Presidency is to a certain extent happily increasing and they want trained men and a number of local boards and municipalities are keenly feeling the want of efficient overseers. Six years ago, I had to get on as a chairman of a municipality with an overseer for municipal work who had no training, except practical training: and several district boards in this Presidency have had to employ European and Indian gentlemen who had no theoretical training but had only practical training, which they picked up in the course of their work. That is the position of things in municipalities. So, it is the Government departments, that are feeling the want—I am sure another school will be started tomorrow if the Public Works Department were to feel the want—but it is the local boards and the municipalities that feel the want. Delta tracts afford a rich field for the employment of trained men. I think it is unnecessary and it will be a sheer waste of time to multiply instances to strengthen the argument that the want is keenly felt and that it must be met. How is it to be met? Are we to wait until an Engineering College is an accomplished fact? It will be five years before it is completed and another five years before we see the result, that is ten years will elapse before we can see an elementary school established for engineering.

"I have asked for a modest sum of one lakh and I do not think it would be difficult for Government to find funds if only they are agreed upon the policy. Therefore, it is a question of policy that is at the bottom of the difficulty and if the Government see their way to change their policy in this matter, funds would be forthcoming and surely a responsible Government like ours would not tell me that they cannot find men clever enough, intelligent enough, and sagacious enough to draw plans and estimates which would satisfy the people to start schools. This Government have had practical experience of schools and I do not think it requires very considerable ability to draw a scheme to run schools and if puccah buildings are not available, buildings can be improvised for the purpose. I do not think, therefore, that budget requirements, that the requirements of the Finance Department would seriously be jeopardised by the fulfilment of any scheme upon which the Government may set their heart. That is the real crux of the question.

"The question is, have we the practical sympathy of Government? We are assured that we have the practical sympathy of Government and I do believe it from the bottom of my heart but I cannot answer the criticism from outside that, notwithstanding the sincere sympathy of Government, in practice there is very little that has come out of it. I have studied the blue books of this country for the last forty years; resolutions after resolutions are passed, committees after committees have reported and it is not difficult to find a stray sentence or a paragraph in the committees' reports throwing obstacles in the way of this scheme or another and finding authority or ground for any position that any person may take up. The question is would it be wise to stop the growth of lower engineering education, until the engineering college to be built, which we know cannot meet the requirements of the Presidency, shews that it cannot meet them? I therefore ask your Lordship not cold words of sympathy or caution—those we have had for years—but we want practical sympathy, sympathy translated into action, so that the people may well be able to say, 'this is what the Government have done and we are satisfied with their practical sympathy in

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this matter.' The reason why I have brought this up is that your Lordship has spoken in such a sympathetic strain that I am afraid we would be foolish in allowing this opportunity to escape if we wait till the end of the war. Your Excellency, said, 'I do suggest to the Honourable Member, because I am warmly interested in the subject—the Government are warmly interested in it that it is not wise at this moment to place on record a decision against the establishment of another engineering college of the first class.' I follow your Lordship's advice, I do not ask for the establishment of another engineering college of the first class. But the reason urged against the engineering school is of doubtful and problematical value and does not apply to the conditions of this Presidency. The reason is—

'Engineering education of every grade should be concentrated when possible in large colleges where the lower classes can obtain the advantage of the traditions, ideals, moral training, and above all the supervision of a high grade competent staff.' If we cannot obtain that we are asked to go with nothing. Again 'the manner in which civil engineering work is controlled in India differs largely from that which obtains in the west. In the west we have the consulting engineer, or architect who is responsible for the engineering or architectural features of a work which is carried out by a clerk of works. Overseers and sub-overseers do not exist. In India generally the engineer has to combine all these functions, the scattered nature of his work and the distances rendering necessary the overseer and sub-overseer to supervise labour and work. These men while not requiring any high theoretical knowledge, require a very sound training. This training requires expert supervision.'

'Your Excellency, the Government have got large manufactories in Dowlaishwaram and there are large railway workshops in Trichinopoly and in the West Coast, and I do not think there will be any difficulty in finding expert supervision in these centres. What is wanted is the will to be translated into action; that I am sure we have, and we appeal to that.'

'My Lord, I might be pardoned if I make a personal appeal. In 1914 when we went to England we were assured by Sir William Wedderburn whom we love as we love no other Englishman that the Liberal Party had sent the best liberal they could, to sway the fortunes of this Presidency. Your Excellency's sympathetic words on this resolution last year emboldened me to hope, specially Scotchman as you are, knowing what it is that built up Glasgow to be the second city of the Empire with its expensive mills and ship-building yards—I am sure your Lordship will sympathise with our degraded position in this matter. Any one who went to that show in Madras organised by your Excellency would have seen what a rudimentary stage we are in. Then I am sure the Honourable Finance Member will always find funds if he sympathetically views the question. I shall not be wrong, but I think it is my duty, to repeat what I have said on a former occasion that the Hon'ble Mr. Cardew's attitude at the Ootacamund Conference impressed upon all Indians his sympathy for industrial education. As for the Hon'ble Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar, although we may quarrel with him as to his ideas of the expansion of the electorate and such kindred subjects, there will be no quarrel with him on points like these. If we have such a sympathetic Government, are we to wait till the Greek calends for the establishment of engineering schools? I hope, my lord, that this Government will show the people that their fears are unfounded. They naturally ask 'when Japan is taking the trade of this country into its hands what have the Government of India done to step into the place?' Many people are so cynical as to say that it is all mere lip-sympathy and that it will never be translated into action, and men like ourselves who have to defend the action of the Government find themselves inconveniently placed to give a practical and satisfactory answer. I hope your Excellency's Government will enable us to give a satisfactory answer by the attitude you may assume on this specific matter.'

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR :—'Your Excellency, the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma has referred to the debate on this subject about this time last year. That debate covered exactly the same ground as this, with only one small difference, namely, that last year the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao asked for Rs. 15,000 for one additional engineering school. Then it was explained to him

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that the recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Government of India would not warrant the establishment of schools of that inferior type, and your Excellency, if you will please excuse me, pointed out in a very forcible speech to the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao the inadvisability of forcing at that time an adverse verdict in regard to a matter about which there was really no difference of opinion between him and the Government. Now at the end of one year the proposal assumes a different form and we are asked for one lakh of rupees for two engineering schools. The first question is, have the finances of this province so far changed for the better during the last one year that what was considered impracticable a year ago has become quite practicable now? If a year ago it was not considered a practicable thing to start one engineering school, I submit it is much less practicable to start two schools just now.

'I understand from what the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma has said that he controverts the policy adopted by the Government in regard to this matter of engineering education. I, therefore, feel bound to trouble the Council with a statement again of that policy and what the grounds were upon which we proceeded. The Council may remember that this Government did change their views in this matter since 1913 and the change took place in consequence of the report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India which said that 'Engineering education of every grade should be concentrated when possible in large colleges where the lower classes can obtain the advantage of the traditions, ideals, moral training, and above all the supervision of a high grade competent staff which can only be met with in large institutions in India.' The Hon'ble Mr. Sarma says 'we do not want such a high grade college, let us have a small beginning.' I do not see how an engineering school can be started with a small beginning as the Honourable gentleman calls it, if at all it should be efficient. Is it his idea that we should have another class of engineering subordinates of inferior qualifications or that we should have people of the same type which the Engineering College is now turning out? The Council is aware that continued attention is being paid to the development of the Engineering College in Madras and we have not yet succeeded in completing the buildings at Guindy and moving the college into them; and it was pointed out last year, when it was said that we might have a similar college at Cocanada, that it would be well to finish what we have got on hand before we start another institution. Your Excellency also observed that it was quite recognised that there were 45 millions of people in this Presidency and that it was 150 thousand square miles in area and your Excellency said that in such a Presidency 'there should be more than one first-class institution in more than one branch of education. But the question of finance is of prime importance.' I have really nothing to add to what was then said by your Excellency, namely, that in the present financial conditions the proposal is utterly impracticable. There is no chance of our being able to find buildings in two places to start a couple of engineering schools such as the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma proposes. There is no chance of our being able to get the staff necessary for the purpose and above all there can be no justification in a time like this to increase our commitments in the matter of recurring expenditure in such a large way. I say, therefore, that the thing is just now beyond the domain of practical politics. But the Honourable gentleman says 'if this thing is not done what becomes of your sympathy? There is the danger of the sympathy being construed to be lip sympathy. People like myself would find it difficult to stand up for Government and say that the sympathy is not lip sympathy.' My idea is that in our present financial condition we must accept the risk. There is really nothing further to be done. It is very unlikely that the Honourable the Finance Member could spare one lakh of rupees. There is not the money, and, therefore, I have to oppose the proposal of the Hon'ble Mr. Sarma and to express regret that he should have found it necessary to bring up this question at this time. I cannot help feeling that it would have been better if this matter had been allowed to lie over till happier conditions prevailed. As he has proposed it, I have no other alternative but to oppose it.'

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO :—'My Lord, I should like to add a word to what has been stated in support of the resolution. We quite

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recognise the difficulties of Government just at this time, but we request only that a scheme be drawn up and sent to the Secretary of State for sanction. The staff is to be found, the buildings to be constructed—these are all matters which would not be done in a day. I am sure that if this matter is to be carried out and a first-class institution to serve this Presidency is to be established and if other institutions are also to be brought into existence it is certainly not a matter of a year or two. We have to start with financial proposals and other proposals for the construction of buildings. It seems to me that there is absolutely nothing in the Hon'ble Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar's speech to indicate that the matter will be set in motion or that Government will consider the ways and means to give effect to the proposals, to mature them and carry them out. All this is a work of years. My Lord, there is absolutely no good in merely conceding that this is a matter of urgent necessity and that there is no difference between the Government and ourselves in this matter. If that is so, I think the best course is to really consider the cost, to mature a scheme and send it up for necessary sanction and to do everything to further the scheme and to bring it into operation as early as possible. Not a word has been said on that matter and I can only say that though it is not a matter of practical politics for the coming financial year it is certainly a matter for early solution. The Hon'ble Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar has said nothing about it.

"I may also inform the Council that the Local and Municipal Department have recently laid down certain engineering qualifications for subordinates to be employed by municipalities. I was one of those that applied for the services of an officer, because I could not get any by advertising in the *Port St. George Gazette*; and the Hon'ble Mr. Murray informed me that none could be spared. I am sure that several requests of that kind were made and were rejected by Government. While there is plenty of material and plenty of scope for the expansion in the direction of engineering education that the Hon'ble Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar should say that he would take the risk of the sympathy of Government not being translated into action, I must urge, notwithstanding that stand which he made for the Government that it is far better to carry out that sympathy by making practical proposals for carrying out the resolution which is considered necessary. Unless some statement is made that steps would be taken to formulate such proposals, I think, my Lord, that there is no good in bringing forward such a resolution and there is no good in saying that we cannot budget for it in the financial year. Something must be done to mature the proposals. That is clear to my mind and to the minds of my honourable friends who have been supporting this proposal year after year."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—"My Lord, the Hon'ble Mr. Rajagopala Achariyar said that there was absolutely no justification for the Government undertaking this expenditure at the present moment when the times are extremely unpropitious. May I be permitted to say that the time amply justifies the bringing forward of such a proposal and has shown the people of this country and the people of England as well as our allies that something practical must be done to improve the trade relations and the trade facilities and the productive resources of this country? During this time of war, why are the Government of England financing the formation of companies for the production of articles which Germany has produced? Are they in a financial condition to finance this and to vote millions of money for the war and yet is not money forthcoming for that purpose? Now that the attention of Government has been sympathetically drawn to this matter and the Governments are realising the folly of their past policy in allowing opportunities to escape, I say that this is the psychological moment when I can appeal with considerable force to the sagacity and statesmanship of Government to undertake a task of this description. We yesterday sanctioned ten lakhs on what I chose to call unproductive works and I am told that one lakh cannot be spared for engineering education upon which the future of the commercial development and the factory development of this country depends. I am told that one lakh cannot be spared by this Government and that it is foolish of me to ask for it in this year of financial stress. It is just now that your Lordship will be able to approach the Government of India and the Secretary of State with considerable force and cogency of argument to sanction a scheme likely to improve the commerce of the country.

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What has been done, I would respectfully ask even now? We were told that a mechanical school would be started in Cocanada, but the correspondence for its establishment is still going on. Has anything been done practically? The glass industry and some other similar industries have been placed in the hands of non-experts and nothing has come out of them. Why? Because there is no commercial talent, there is no engineering talent in the country. It is to fulfil that want that I am asking for small facilities to be granted, so that in course of time these facilities may be improved. I, therefore, submit with all humility that this is the best and most proper time to justify me in bringing forward this resolution.

"As to the question of efficiency, whatever may be the efficiency, the best men trained in these schools are only for the subordinate staff, not for higher offices except perhaps after years of training. Therefore to talk of the efficiency of this college as compared with the efficiency of colleges in England is not correct. The question of efficiency is always a relative quantity. The question is, do we want the same efficiency for constructing roads in municipalities and local boards that is wanted in building huge engineering works for the Government? The same efficiency is not wanted for our purposes. Are we to be told that such an efficiency cannot be imparted in an engineering school and that we must wait for an engineering college of the first class? There is efficiency and efficiency and let us not sacrifice everything at the door of this efficiency which after all means nothing.

"Then, it was said that when it was considered impracticable a year ago when one school was asked for, I am asking for two. I have deliberately asked for two. We do not want to quarrel with ourselves. When there are vast areas in this Presidency, it would be childish of me to say that my part of the Presidency should be favoured with an institution; and therefore in all fairness to the whole Presidency where the want is felt, not in one part only but all over the Presidency, I have asked for two schools. Two would be too small a number, there must be three or four; but I thought two was all I could ask for at present. When we have the sympathy of the Government it is time to strike at the most favourable opportunity presenting itself. Even if we fail—we have failed so often and we shall fail in this also—we will bring it up again and I am sure will win in the long run, not in the distant future, but in the very near future. I hope still that the Government will be able to give us a sympathetic assurance as to what the Government intend to do this year as regards the improvement and development of scientific education."

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR :—"I have only to say one word, your Excellency. The Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao says he recognises that in the present position of our finances it would not be possible to make provision for this in the budget, but asks 'why not we take this opportunity to draw up an elaborate scheme that will be introduced later on.' I would ask 'how could we do it?' We are dealing with the budget of 1916-17 and we say that provision could not be made in the budget and that disposes of the matter so far as the resolution goes. In regard to the general question there is no particular reason why we should deal with it just now. The Hon'ble Mr. Sarma has referred to the school at Cocanada; as a matter of fact it has not been lost sight of, but action is being taken in regard to it, and arrangements have been made for acquiring the local fund workshop in the place and it is expected that compensation for it will be paid before the end of the month. The honourable gentleman no doubt knows that mechanical engineering is to be taught in the Madura Technical Institute and if a school is started in Madras it is proposed to teach that there. So the situation is not so bad as he probably thinks; but the point that I would press is this: in the face of the Government of India Committee's decision and the advice which we have deliberately accepted, there can be no justification for starting an inferior type of engineering school; but if we go in for another institution, it must be on the lines of the Madras College, and in view of the large expenditure we have to incur for the development of the Madras College, let us finish it before we start anything else."

The resolution was then put and lost.

The Hon'ble Mr. Sarma called for a division which was taken with the following result.

[14TH MARCH 1916.]

For	Against
The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur V. K. Ramanuja Achariyar.	The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone.
" Rao Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao.	" Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swami-kannu Pillai.
" Rao Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai.	" Mr. S. B. Murray.
" Mr. K. Rama Ayyangar.	" Col. W. M. Ellis.
" Mr. V. S. Srinivasa Sastri.	" Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
" Mr. C. V. S. Narasimha Raju.	" Mr. C. G. Todhunter.
" Mr. K. P. Raman Menon.	" Sir Harold Stuart.
" Rao Bahadur P. C. Somasundara Chettiyar.	" Sir P. S. Sivaswami Ayyar.
" Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao.	" Mr. A. Muirhead.
" Diwan Bahadur V. Ramabhadra Nayudu.	" Mr. J. O. Robinson.
" Rao Bahadur A. Subbarayalu Reddiyar.	" Sir Francis Spring.
" Mr. K. K. R. Kavalappara Muppil Nayar.	" Mr. Haji Ismail Sait Sahib Bahadur.
" Mr. A. T. G. M. Ahmad Tambi Marakkayar.	" Mr. C. R. M. Schmidt.
" Mr. K. Chidamberanatha Mudaliyar.	" Mr. N. S. Brodie.
" Rao Bahadur B. Narasimheswara Sarma.	" Mr. H. F. W. Gillman.
" Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao.	" Mr. L. E. Buckley.
" Mr. B. V. Narasimha Ayyar.	" Mr. R. B. Clegg.
	" Surgeon-General W. B. Bannerman.
	" Diwan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Achariyar.
	" Mr. J. P. Bedford.
	" Mr. A. Butterworth.
	" Mr. A. G. Cardew.

The resolution was thus lost, 17 voting *for* and 22 *against*.

C. G. TODHUNTER,
Acting Secretary to Government, Legislative Dept.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION REGARDING REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

[SUBJECT.—Increased provision for Civil and Mechanical Engineering schools]

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—

XVI. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the budget provision for expenditure under 22. Education be increased by a lakh of rupees towards the establishment of two Civil and Mechanical Engineering schools in the Presidency and that the additional cost may be met by a corresponding reduction under 45-B. Civil Works.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

The additional member desires that provision of a lakh should be made for the establishment of two civil and mechanical engineering schools in the Presidency. The intention of the additional member is not quite clear, i.e., whether he wishes to open two institutions—one for Civil Engineering and another for mechanical engineering, or two institutions for training in both civil and mechanical engineering. So far as civil engineering is concerned the resolution, in either case, traverses almost the same ground covered by a similar resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th March 1915 in connection with the discussion of the Financial Statement for 1915-16. The notes and proceedings connected with this resolution explain the position fully and clearly and a perusal of them is solicited. It will be sufficient to note here that the proposal to open another civil engineering school was opposed mainly on the following grounds :—

(1) that it was against the recommendations of the committee appointed by the Government of India to inquire into technical institutions and accepted also by this Government on the advice of the local experts ;

(2) that the new Engineering College under construction at Guindy provided for the training of a larger number of civil engineers and engineering subordinates ; and

(3) that in the present financial stringency the Government could not undertake the opening of an additional institution for the Presidency.

In view of these arguments the additional member then withdrew the resolution. The position remains the same now and the above objections apply with equal force to the present resolution so far as civil engineering is concerned.

It may be noted in this connection that the Government are independently recognising the imperative need for making provision for the training of additional engineer subordinates. Recently the demands on account of the minor irrigation department were pressed on the attention of the Chief Engineer and he has, with the approval of the Government, asked the Principal of the College of Engineering, Madras, to formulate proposals for the establishment of a school in the north for turning out engineer subordinates. The file on the subject is being dealt with in Public Works Department. When these proposals are matured and funds become available, the matter will be further considered.

2. *Mechanical engineering.*—The desirability of establishing mechanical engineering schools has already been admitted by the Government. In connection with the reorganisation of the Madura Technical Institute the Government have decided that instruction in mechanical engineering of an elementary grade should be imparted in the institute.

G.O. 725, Educational, 8th August 1913.

* On the 31st March 1915, there were in the Institute—

35 boys for fitters' work.

17 boys for blacksmiths' work.

18 boys in other branches of mechanical engineering.

Mechanical engineering is now one of the subjects taught in that institute * and when the new buildings for it, which are now under construction, are completed, greater facilities will be provided for the training of students in this direction.

For the northern districts of the Presidency the Government have decided to establish a mechanical engineering school at Cocanada similar to that at Madura. G.O. 185, Educational, 19th February 1915. The Director of Industries, who was asked in February 1915 to submit specific proposals to acquire the local fund workshop at Cocanada and to start a school in connection with it, has submitted his scheme recently and it is now under consideration. It is hoped that the acquisition of the workshop will be completed before the end of this month as there are funds available for it in the current year's budget. The school will be opened in the course of the next official year.

It will thus be seen that the Government have already arranged for the establishment of two mechanical engineering schools one in the north and one in the south of the Presidency. In the present financial conditions it is not possible for Government to do more. Besides the Government technical institutes, there are also aided industrial schools where mechanical engineering is taught, such as, the St. Aloysius Industrial school, Vizagapatam, and the St. Joseph's Industrial school, Coimbatore. These proposals are lying over pending settlement of general principles embodied in the draft Technical Education Code. There are proposals separately under consideration for the development of these two institutions with special State aid.

Mention should also be made of the six scholarships of Rs. 30 each awarded annually by the Government to enable graduates and intermediates to study mechanical and electrical engineering and other technical subjects in the Victoria Technical Institute at Bombay. Advertisements of these scholarships during the past two years have not proved altogether successful in inducing young men of higher educational qualifications to avail themselves of the scholarships.

3. In these circumstances it is for consideration whether the resolution to provide one lakh for new institutions may be opposed.

4. For orders as to who should be in charge of the resolution and whether the subject should be discussed in Council.

S.K.—7-3-16.

V.S.—7-3-16.

The proposal of the additional member is to reduce the allotment under 45 B.—Civil Works—already much attenuated by a lakh of rupees and start the establishment of two civil and mechanical engineering schools—presumably in addition to the engineering college we have in Madras. I take it that it is the additional member's idea that in each of the two institutions proposed by him there should be training given in civil and mechanical engineering. This subject came up before the Legislative Council in March 1915 and I would invite a reference to what I then said and particularly to the point put forward by His Excellency at pages 5 and 6 of slip (A). That point is that, if subordinates are to be properly trained, they should be trained in a first-class institution and that nothing should be done which would militate against that ideal. We have no money just now for a second institution of the type of the Madras engineering college as it is and as we want it to be. I do not at all agree in the additional member's estimate that a lakh of rupees would suffice to start two more institutions. The additional member really wants two institutions of an inferior type and this is just what the Government of India committee have condemned. The previous discussion may be referred to and the Council may also be told how matters stand in regard to the Madras engineering college. I do not think that we need go back upon the policy already adopted in this matter.

With regard to A at page 1 *ante* I would rather not say anything just now.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—7-3-16.

So. I agree

P. 8.3.16.

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