

Educational (1916) Department.

Mis SERIES.

G.O. No. 681-Ed

DATED 22-6-16

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legis Council Communicating to the
L.P. I a copy of the resolution No XXI
moved by the Hon Mr B.M. Sarma at
the — held on 7th April 1916 with a
copy of the Proceedings thereon & requesting
him to consider the question of provision and
supply of text books in the Provincial Vernacular
of the Pres? for imparting instruction in non-
English subjects.

NOTES.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF
GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[SUBJECT.—Publication by Government of suitable text-books in the principal vernaculars of the Presidency for use in elementary and secondary schools.]

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

~~XXVII~~ This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the Government should undertake wherever it may be necessary the preparation and an early publication of suitable text-books in the principal vernaculars of the Presidency for use in elementary and secondary schools in all non-language subjects taught therein.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th May 1913, the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao asked whether any and if so what steps were being taken for the encouragement of scientific literature in the vernaculars. The Government then replied as follows :—

“The action taken has hitherto, for the most part, been confined to the selection of approved works for use in schools but occasionally direct aid has been given in the shape of an honorarium to the author or translator or the purchase of copies of his work . . .”—(vide page 5 of G.O. No. 532, Educational, dated the 9th June 1913).

2. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th April 1914 the Hon'ble Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma brought forward a resolution recommending that non-language subjects be taught through the medium of the vernaculars throughout the school final course in all Government and aided schools. In the course of the discussion the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri said “I am also aware that there are at present no text-books that might be used as media of instruction in non-language subjects. Such books as we have are very elementary and cannot be said to have established a vocabulary sufficient to express scientific, administrative, historical, and other ideas. Such a vocabulary takes a long time to establish. It takes a good deal of time to acquire power to express those thoughts effectually and at the same time gracefully. My fear is that it will be perhaps fifteen or twenty years before the vernaculars could become proper vehicles for modern scientific thought.” The Hon'ble Mr. Pittendrigh also observed “this resolution is entirely impracticable for in the first place, we have not the staff of teachers fitted to give practical teaching; in the second place we have no scientific literature to impart instruction in physics and chemistry to the higher classes in the vernaculars; in the third place, we have no scientific terminology yet created; and in the fourth place, many schools of this Presidency have an extraordinary admixture of pupils speaking different languages. All these difficulties stand in the way of any practical effect being given to the resolution.” The Hon'ble Mr. Stone concurring in the above opinion said that the Government were quite unable to accept the resolution, if for no other reason, because it would be entirely inoperative. The resolution was then withdrawn (vide pages 13 to 15 of G.O. No. 693, Educational, dated the 11th June 1914).

3. The same Additional Member now brings forward a resolution recommending that Government should undertake the preparation and an early publication of suitable text-books in the principal vernaculars of the Presidency for use in elementary

and secondary schools in all non-language subjects taught therein. Under rule 68 of the Madras Educational rules, managers of schools should, unless they have obtained the previous permission of the Inspector to do otherwise, adopt the vernaculars of the pupils as the medium of instruction up to and including the third form; and under rule 19, instruction must be given in all elementary schools through the medium of the vernacular of the pupils wherever this is possible, the exceptions being Muhammadans and pupils with a vernacular different from the bulk of the pupils. The text-book committee issues from time to time lists of text-books for use in elementary and secondary schools, from which managers of schools select such books as they deem most suitable for use in their schools. From the lists of such books published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* it will be observed that there are already books written in the vernaculars suitable for use in schools in some of the non-language subjects. The initiative in the matter of publications of these books is generally taken by private individuals or committees. If there is an effective demand for such books naturally people who are competent to write them will produce them. The Government generally encourage the production of such books by extending their patronage, the manner and extent of it depending upon the merits of each individual case. In exceptional cases the Government have undertaken to publish vernacular translations of certain useful books and pamphlets for free supply to all elementary and secondary schools under public management. (Compare G.Os. No. 226, Educational, dated the 12th March 1912, and No. 302, Educational, dated the 19th March 1914.) Beyond this the Government have never undertaken the preparation and publication of text-books in vernaculars for use in elementary and secondary schools. Nor does it appear that there is at present any necessity for the Government launching into such an undertaking. As observed above if there is any demand for such books, competent teachers and others will naturally come forward with such publications and they would be patronized by the Government and also prescribed for use in schools. There seems no necessity for the Government to create such a demand and to take any active step towards the production of books of this nature.

4. Further it is doubtful whether instructions through the vernaculars in some of the non-language subjects is practicable. Even supposing that suitable text-books have been prepared and published there will be the difficulty of employing different sets of teachers for one and the same subjects to teach in several vernacular languages and this difficulty will be enhanced in places like Madras where each class contains students with various vernaculars. There does not appear also that any complaints have been made hitherto by managers of schools and others for want of such text-books. Moreover the present time is not propitious for the Government to undertake publication of books of the kind which would probably involve large expenditure at present. In these circumstances the resolution may, it is submitted, be opposed.

5. Orders are solicited as to who should take charge of the resolution and whether it should be brought for discussion at the Executive Council meeting.

A.S.—23-3-16.

T.K.—23-3-16.

Director of Public Instruction for very early remarks.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—23-3-16.

The Inspectors' Conference in 1914 were in favour of some departmental action being taken in the matter of supply of text-books especially for training schools and elementary schools. I have not got now time to take up the matter but hope to do so at Ootacamund. I am not at present in favour of direct Government publication but rather of getting publishing-firms to publish in consultation with the department.

I am also discussing with the Board for the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate the possibility of extending the teaching of subjects in the vernacular in the higher forms.

Perhaps if the Honourable Member knew these facts he would not think it necessary to move his resolution at this time.

J. H. STONE—25-3-16.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

For orders whether the Hon'ble Mr. Stone may be requested to tell the Additional Member informally the facts mentioned above some time during the council meeting so that the additional member may, if he so desire, withdraw his resolution, or whether a demi-official may be sent to the Additional Member telling him the above facts and requesting him to let us know whether in the light of these facts he would withdraw his resolution. In the latter case the draft demi-official below is for approval.

T.K.—28-3-16.

I do not think that we need address the Additional Member so now. It may be left to Mr. Stone to explain the matter to the Additional Member either in advance of the meeting in which case he may not move the resolution or in answer to the motion in which case the Additional Member will probably withdraw the resolution.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—28-3-16.

But please ask the Director of Public Instruction to speak to me upon this subject.

P[ENTLAND]—29-3-16.

Director of Public Instruction for perusal and return.

P.R.—30-3-16.

J.H.S.

31-4-16.

Settled in Council to-day that Mr. Stone will be in

charge of this Resolution.

P.R.

1-4-16.

4

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 11 a.m. on Friday, the 7th day of April 1916.

**RESOLUTION RE PREPARATION OF VERNACULAR TEXT-BOOKS
FOR USE IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—"Your Excellency, I have the honour to move the following resolution :—

'XXI. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the Government should undertake wherever it may be necessary the preparation and an early publication of suitable text-books in the principal vernaculars of the Presidency for use in elementary and secondary schools in all non-language subjects taught therein.'

"I think, if the discussion on the previous subject has done any good, it has done this, that it has shown the Council as well as the outside public the imperative necessity for the adoption of a resolution on the lines I suggest, for here as well as on previous occasions one insuperable difficulty has been presented to the expansion of education through the medium of the vernaculars and that is the want of suitable

*Resolution No. 22
(a copy of the proposed text-books
put up for display)
D

(Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma.)

[7TH APRIL 1916.]

text-books. My Lord, it is within the common knowledge of all that in 1854 when that famous despatch dealing with the educational policy of the Government of India was sent here, it was recognized that the object of education in this country was to raise the men and women here to the same level of intellectual and moral excellence as in more favoured countries in the West, and the Government looked to that process being solved not merely through education imparted in English but through the medium of the vernaculars of the country. They also emphasized the need for the production of text-books dealing with the various subjects and they looked forward to the men trained in the Western science in English as well as to the Government for the solution of the problem of imparting knowledge through the medium of the vernaculars. The Government of India also on more than one occasion accepted the principle as being vitally sound and this Government also resolved that all education should be imparted until the third form through the medium of the vernaculars. When I raised the question as to whether education in all non-language subjects should not be imparted through the medium of vernaculars in the higher classes, also a number of objections were taken and one objection which was held to be insuperable by many who sympathized with my views was the absence of suitable text-books. I take the liberty of reading a few lines from the discussion which took place in 1914 over the resolution which I referred to a little while ago. The Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri in seconding that resolution alluded to the paucity of text-books; he said: 'I am also aware that there are at present no text-books that might be used as media of instruction in non-language subjects. Such books as we have are very elementary and cannot be said to have established a vocabulary sufficient to express scientific, administrative, historical and other ideas.'

Then the Hon'ble the Rev. Pittendrig who spoke on the resolution also said:—'We have no scientific literature to impart instruction in physics and chemistry to the higher classes in the vernaculars; in the third place we have no scientific terminology yet created.' And then he alluded to other difficulties also in the way of the spread of education through the medium of the vernaculars with which we are not concerned at present. The Hon'ble Mr. Stone, the Director of Public Instruction, felt also the same difficulty because he adopted the same line of argument to which I have referred, and while sympathizing generally with the object he felt that it was impracticable at that moment to impart education in the higher classes through the medium of vernacular text-books. Now it is felt that, if education is to be imparted in medical science or in any other subject through the vernacular, there are no vernacular text-books whatsoever. The question now before the Council and the Government is, are we to sit with folded hands dumb, silent, inactive as before; or are we to do anything at all if we accept the principle that at least until the fourth form education should be imparted in the vernacular? I think the duty of everyone of us is plain and simple and can no longer be neglected. We have waited sufficiently long to see whether the necessary impetus would come from outside. The necessary impetus did come to the extent there was encouragement from the department, the public did step in and produce a class of books for the lower classes for which there was a demand, but the people, though willing to impart education in the higher forms through the vernaculars,—I am not asking the department to make it compulsory—found it difficult to do so because they did not find it easy to produce text-books to impart instruction without the aid of Government funds. I am not asking the Government to make it compulsory to enforce education through the medium of the vernaculars in all or any of these schools. All that I ask for is that the Government should feel it to be their duty to assist people by encouraging them to produce the necessary text-books.

"I need not repeat, my Lord, that this experiment is being tried in other Provinces in India. I know that the time of the Council is pressing and I do not think I need read any quotations from the quinquennial reports. It is being tried in the other Provinces; it is tried in all countries, such as Japan you have only to give the necessary impetus and the expenditure will not be enormous or of such a character as to deter any State from taking that step. The expenditure would not be heavy and the good to be obtained is incalculable and it is a necessity to the State. It was felt to be necessary so far back as 1854 and we have neglected it and we reap the fruits, I therefore ask that the Government should wake up to the situation and do something to further the advancement of education on these lines."

[7TH APRIL 1916.]

(Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao ; Mr. Stone.)

The Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"I beg to second this resolution and will make a few observations. With regard to the statement that it is necessary that all non-language subjects should be taught in the vernaculars in all elementary and secondary schools, I do not think there are any satisfactory text-books. There are a number of books at present published by literary adventurers, and these books are not suitable for the standards for which they are now usually prescribed and taught. In G.O. 246, Educational, dated the 6th March 1916, placed on the table at this meeting, the number of secondary schools in which vernacular is the medium of instruction up to and including the first form is given as 12, and the number of elementary schools in which vernacular is the medium of instruction up to and including the second form is given as 57 and the number of secondary schools in which the vernacular is the medium of instruction up to and including the third form is given as 267. The total is about 336. This is the case with regard to secondary schools. With regard to elementary schools, a large number of schools adopt vernacular as the medium of instruction and the want of suitable text-books in non-language subjects such as history, geography, mathematics and so on, is being felt by the students and it is therefore necessary, my Lord, that the Government should undertake to provide suitable text-books, and speedy arrangements should be made in order that good text-books might be published in all the vernaculars for use in all elementary and secondary schools, and the boys in the secondary and the elementary schools may be given facilities for having suitable and good text-books instead of being left to take to books published by enterprisers who would take to their own method of writing books, many of which are not suitable at all. With these words I strongly support the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE :—"Your Excellency, in the first place, I may say that I have been instructed to oppose this resolution. The Honourable mover is asking the Government to take the initiative in this matter of the provision of text-books in schools. There was a time, I believe, when the Government did try to provide text-books themselves. That was many years ago. It is many years now since the Government adopted the procedure of relying upon what we may call private effort for the production of text-books. I may say that, at any rate at present, the Government would not be prepared to embark upon the text-book producing business if only because the present state of things forbids the launching out into expenditure which cannot be proved to be urgently necessary.

"Apart from that reason, it is extremely doubtful whether the Government would ever launch out into this business of providing text-books. There are obvious advantages in relying upon private efforts. A text-book, once written and published by Government, is not to be very easily displaced. It means that the Government cannot drop it without embarking upon fresh expenditure to write and publish another one to replace it. I think it must be clear that, if the Government take the trouble and expense, they will have to impose that text-book on the schools and prescribe it in the schools. I do not know whether Honourable Members are conscious of the fact that we do not prescribe text-books in schools to any great extent. We only prescribe text-books in schools under public management; mostly elementary schools and schools under public management of one kind or another are in a minority and therefore for the majority of schools we do not prescribe text-books. I do not think it is desirable that we should prescribe text-books for the majority of schools. At any rate, for my part I should certainly prefer not to do it. So that, on general grounds it seems to be that if possible we should leave this question of text-books to private effort. I am far from saying that we are satisfied with the supply of text-books at present. I think if we want to improve it we should do it by the department seeking to assist the publishers more than we have done in the past, as for instance by letting them know the kind of books we want. The department should seek more than it has done to co-operate with the publishers in the matter of the supply of text-books.

"As I have said, I am not altogether satisfied with the present supply of text-books. At the same time I do not want at some future time, to be told that I stood up in this Council and said that I was entirely dissatisfied with it.

642 RESOLUTION RE PREPARATION OF VERNACULAR TEXT-BOOKS FOR USE IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

(Mr. Stone; Mr. Narasimheswara Sarma.)

[7TH APRIL 1916.]

There are now a good many text-books in existence in subjects as distinct from reading books and since they have been approved by the text-book committee we cannot imagine they are altogether bad. The Honourable Member who just spoke seems to think that all these text-books are bad or unsatisfactory. I do not see what ground he could have for such a supposition. I have had a list made of the number of text-books actually available for use in elementary schools. I find that there are about a dozen books in each subject such as, history, mathematics and science. There are a dozen books in Tamil, eighteen books in Telugu, nine in Malayalam and eight in Canarese, two in Uriya; there are five in Urdu and Hindustani and two in Persian. That suggests that the supply of text-books is very fair numerically speaking. Since these text-books have been carefully scrutinised by the text-book committee I do not think it is fair to suggest they are bad ones. I should like to remark from my knowledge of the work of the text-book committee that they are no less careful in the scrutiny of vernacular text-books than English books and therefore that a book which the Vernacular text-book committee have passed has passed a severe test.

"I think, sir, that I need not detain the Council further. The attitude of the Government on the matter is quite clear, and I think I have already indicated my own attitude which is not one of mere *laissez faire*. I am quite prepared to give consideration to the whole question of the provision and supply of text-books and to see what co-operation can be given by the department to the publishers."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur B. NARASIMHESWARA SARMA :—Here again, I think the Government seem to be under the impression that I ask them to embark on expenditure in the production of text-books where such suitable text-books exist at present. I assume the department has suitable text-books for use in the primary and secondary departments and I do not ask that Government should embark upon any expenditure under that head. That is the reason why I took the trouble of reading from the speeches of Honourable Members including the Hon'ble Mr. Stone that in certain non-language subjects which should be taught in secondary schools there are no suitable text-books and the number of people who would use them in the beginning being extremely limited it would not pay the publisher to produce them. Consequently, I ask the Government to step in so that the advance of education may not be hindered or delayed. That is the request that I make, and I hope the Government will see their way—it does not matter whether they accept the resolution now or not—to satisfy the need. If a suitable publisher comes forward, no public money need be spent. In various branches, suitable text-books are not forthcoming. There is one ray of hope, and that is that the Director of Public Instruction has said that he would examine the question and see whether there could be any further co-operation between the Government and the publishers. It may be by way of subsidy, but it does not matter, as it is a detail. So long as the article is produced, the public will be satisfied. I may state that the Government of other countries do take trouble in producing text-books. The Government of Japan produced text-books for moral education from the very first standard to the highest standard. The thing need not be brushed aside and it needs to be examined. I hope the Government will do so. As they have said that they cannot accept it, I want to have it put to the vote."

The resolution was put and lost.

C. G. TODHUNTER,

Acting Secretary to Government, Legislative Dept.

Resolution no XXI moved at the ^{meeting of the} Legislative Council held on the 7th April 1916, was put to vote and lost. But in the course of the discussion in the Council the D.P.I. observed—~~that he was quite~~ "I am quite prepared to give consideration to the whole ~~text~~ ^{question} of the provision and supply of text-books and to see what co-operation can be given by the Department to the publishers." It is therefore for consideration whether the D.P.I. may be requested to consider the question and ^{to see} ~~report to the Council~~ that co-operation may be given by the Deptⁿ to the ~~publishers~~ publishers. Also, the draft order below is for approval.

ad 19.6.16
S.L.
19.6.16

Ra
21.6.16

C. No. 1060 *Est* From the *Resolution*, No. *XXI*, dated 191

invited by the Hon'ble Das Bahadur B. Narasimheswara Saama
at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 7th April 1968

ORDER.

No. 6872, dated 191

Me

A copy of resolution No. XXI
moved by the Hon. Das Bahadur B.
Narasimheowara Sarma at the meeting of
the Legislative Council held on the 7th April
1916, together with a copy of the proceedings
thereon, will be communicated to the
D.P.I., who will be requested to consider
the question of the provision and supply of
text-books in the principal vernaculars
of the Deccan for imparting instruction in
~~the~~ non-language subjects in elementary
and secondary schools, and to see what
cooperation may be given by the department
to the publishers of such books.

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