

Home (1917) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1385

DATED 5-11-17

[Despatch Abstract.]

Address.

Recording notes connected with the deputation from the
Plyas of Calicut and North Malabar to His Excellency the Governor
at Calicut on the 18th October 1917.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S TOUR—OCTOBER 1917.

DEPUTATION FROM THE TIYAS OF CALICUT AND NORTH MALABAR.

Arguments.

We, the members of this deputation, representing the interests of the Tiyas and Ezhuvas of Malabar, are thankful to your Excellency for having given us an opportunity of waiting on you to refer to some of the grievances and disabilities which press on us at present. Our loyalty and attachment to the British Raj, under which we enjoy the blessings of peace and order, could not be exaggerated. The Tiyas and Ezhuvas number a little over seven lakhs and sixty thousand, forming a fourth of the population of Malabar and more than a third of its Hindu population. We were a community greatly handicapped in the race for progress on account of the social position which the so-called higher caste Hindus assigned to us. But, under the benign British Government, we enjoy peace and liberty, which enable us to make headway against the disabilities heaped on us. Educationally we are, by the force of circumstances, backward, but we use our best endeavour to emerge from this state of things. The Zamorin's College, Calicut, does not open its doors to our boys. But this exclusiveness has now ceased to operate against us, as we are enabled to avail ourselves of the Basel Mission College at Calicut.

A General literacy in the Tiya community is 17.5 per cent and English literacy is only 0.9 per cent for males. The corresponding figures for Mussalmans in the Presidency are 16.6 and 0.9 per cent, respectively, showing but little variation in point of general literacy and no difference at all in respect of English education. We would therefore place before your Excellency for kind consideration our claims to be classed as "backward" in the Grant-in-Aid Code for purposes of concession rates in schools and colleges for our children. This humble claim is emphasized by the fact that as a community we are generally poor. We are mainly agriculturists; 19.1 per cent of our population are, according to the last census, classed as labourers, wood-cutters, etc., while only 306 are shown as deriving income from rent of lands.

Secretariat Note.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The "Izhuvans" or the "Iluvs" have already been recognized as a backward class and included in the list in article 15 of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

2. As regards the "Tiyas" the question whether they should be regarded as a backward class was considered in 1913 and decided in the negative on the ground that the community was quite well-to-do as a class and fairly literate, that the average Tiyas would resent being called backward and that the community had made great advances in recent years. The following statement compares the "literate" and "literate in English" among the Tiyas with those among other castes:—

		Males.	
		Literate.	Literate in English.
<i>Malayalam castes—</i>			
Tiyas	...	17.5	0.9
Chakkas	...	17.8	0.09
Maunus	...	25.2	0.04
<i>Mussalman castes—</i>			
Sheik	...	17.0	1.5
Saiyad	...	22.6	2.7
Mussalman	...	27.7	1.7

Though the percentage of literates in English among some of the Mussalman castes is higher than that of the Tiyas, there are other Malayalam castes much worse than the Tiyas and yet not recognized as backward classes.

3. Submitted that since then the Director of Public Instruction has been empowered to add to the list of backward classes and it is for the deputation to satisfy the Director of Public Instruction about the reasonableness of its argument and get the community recognized as a backward class for the purposes of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

4. The Educational Conference which met in March 1916 has laid down certain principles to be observed in the preparation of the list of backward classes. The subject is still under consideration.

P.R.—3-10-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—3-10-17.

It scarcely seems to me that the Tiyas can be called backward. However, the matter is within the province of the Director of Public Instruction.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—3-10-17.

Page 14 of Notes to G.O. 715, Educational, 5th August 1913.

Page 3 *ibid.*

Cf. table IX on pages 81 and 82 of the Census Report, 1911.

Page 6 of G.O. 715, Educational, 5th August 1913.

The North Malabar Tiyyan can hardly be regarded as a
ward in any ~~exact~~ sense.

The following figures may be of some use:

In Revenue Department in Malabar
Out of 31 Tahsildars and Magistrates

12 are Brahmins.

9 Nayars.

8 Tiyyans.

2 others.

In clerical ranks including Revenue Inspectors.

35 % are Brahmins.

32 Nayars.

22 Tiyyans.

10 Others.

As to Municipal Councils

In Calicut there are 3 Tiyyans out of 24

Cannanore	4	17
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Tellicherry	4	18
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Palghat	} none.
Cochin	

On the District Board there is only one at present.

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A few leading gentlemen of the Tiyya community headed by Mr. Shankunni, Principal of the Palghat College, waited upon His Excellency at Calicut on the 18th October 1917 and presented the following memorial:

"We respectfully beg to offer our humble but hearty welcome to Your Excellency to our district during this part of the year when it looks at its best. The rains on ~~which~~ which the prosperity of our district depends, have been rather capricious, with the result that our harvest is not expected to be as satisfactory as one could wish. This added to the high prices that prevail at present makes the prospect rather gloomy.

2. We, the members of this deputation, representing the interests of the Tiyyas and Eshuvas of Malabar, are thankful to Your Excellency for having given us an opportunity of waiting on you to refer to some of the grievances and disabilities which press on us at present. Our loyalty and attachment to the British Raj under which we enjoy the blessings of peace and order, could not be exaggerated. The Tiyyas and Eshuvas number a little over seven lakhs and sixty thousand, forming a fourth of the population of Malabar and more than a third of its Hindu population. We were a community greatly handicapped in the race for progress on account of the social position which the so-called Higher caste Hindus assigned to us. But under the benign British Government we enjoy peace and liberty, which enable us to make headway against the disabilities heaped on us. Educationally we are by the force of circumstances backward, but we use our best endeavour to emerge from this state of things. The Zamorin's College, Calicut, does not open its doors to our boys. But this exclusiveness has now ceased to operate against us as we are enabled to avail ourselves of the Basel Mission College at Calicut.

3. General literacy in the Tiyya community is 17.5 per cent and English literacy is only 0.9 per cent for males. The corresponding figures for Mussalmans in the Presidency are ^{16.6}~~16.8~~ and 0.9 per cent respectively, showing but little variation in point of general literacy and no difference at all in respect of

the Grant-in-Aid Code for purposes of
and colleges for our children. This humble class
the fact that as a community we are generally
agriculturists; 19.1 per cent of our population
the last census, classed as labourers, wood-
only 306 are shown as deriving income from
4. Yet another grievance we draw
attention is the fact that we are scanty
in the higher grades of public service and
not at all in the Salt and Abkari, Educa-
tration. It is an irony of fate that if we go
towards the Abkari revenue, we form an integral
service of the department. In the Judicial depart-
isolated instance of a member of our community
Sub Judge and as regards the Munsifs, there is
recently appointed to a temporary vacancy. The
state of things will be evident when it is con-
more than a dozen B.A., B.L.'s belonging to our
pray for preferential treatment in the matter of
the public service until we get adequately re-
mention for Your Excellency's information the
very long ago out of nine Tahsildars in the district
were manned by members of our community who
selves by honest and zealous work. The remark
Mr. C. Kanaran of our community who was the first
Collector and on whom the Secretary of State
to bestow a pension equal to his full pay as
Collector, still serves as a beacon-light not
but to the district as a whole. The late Sir
Senior Member of the Executive Council, who
of the Presidency, wrote about him that "he was
such as we have passed
Board of Revenue

... have been hail
order supersedes the nece
from the prescribed educational g
part. We must however draw Your Excellency's
anomaly in the Special Tests Rules which require a
and Law to pass the Precis Writing Test, which is an
extraneous. It is we submit undignified and unnecessary
has passed the B.L. Degree Examination and practises suc
before the High Court and District Courts should be cal
pass the Precis Writing Test. His practice at the bar
to separate the grain from the chaff and it is most an
he should be required to pass the Precis Writing Test i
enter the public service. There was a similar anomaly
Graduates in Arts being required to pass the Translati
Grade which is necessary for entertainment in the publ
when it was represented that Arts Graduates had to pass
tion in the Arts Examination, the Government were ple
to abrogate the anomalous rule. Similarly the anomaly of th
ing Test in the case of gentlemen possessing double
is prayed, be removed.

In any future reconstruction of the local Le
Council and mofussil local bodies, we crave for separa
mentation. With the existing electorates it is impossi
ble for a member of our community to get elected even though we
are the majority of the population of Malabar and South Kanara pr

Our interests have hardly received any attention from successive representatives returned to the Council from the West Coast Electorate. It will not serve our purpose, if communal representation is given to non-Brahmins as one community. That would only have the effect of drawing in one predominant class without ensuring real representation to the other classes. Out of two million Hindus in Malabar, about a million and a half would be practically deprived of representation. In the local bodies as now constituted in the mofassil we were not at all sufficiently represented.

7. As matters stand at present we also pray that under the existing constitution of Madras Legislative Council our claims for a nominated seat may be favourably considered by Your Excellency.

8. In conclusion we respectfully thank Your Excellency for having patiently listened to our representation. We sincerely hope that our reasonable and moderate claims herein advanced may have fruition in the near future.

9. We pray that His Majesty the King Emperor and the Allies soon come out victorious in the titanic war now going on."

After informal discussion of the points raised, His Excellency in his reply expressed his hearty sympathy with their anxiety for the continued social, material and intellectual advancement of the Tigran community and stated that the Government welcomed the efforts which it was making to qualify itself to take a more prominent position in the public life and services of the Presidency. It was essential that all the best material available should be utilized in developing the resources and in manning the public services of the Presidency.

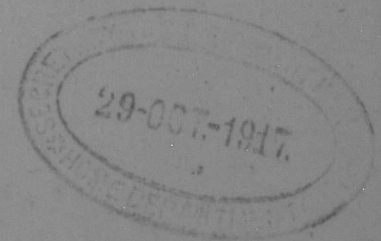
Referring to their particular requests His Excellency observed that the question whether the community should be regarded as a backward class was examined in 1913 and decided in the negative on the ground that the community as a whole was fairly well-to-do and literate and had made great advances in recent years. It seemed to him somewhat derogatory to its position and the achievements already to its credit that the community should ask to be included among the backward classes. There were other communities which were far more backward and devoid of

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5. aspirations. His Excellency doubted whether it would be in the true interests of the Tipyas community or help its future progress to be classed among them.

As regards employment in the public services, His Excellency stated that he understood that in the Revenue Department at least a large number of appointments carrying a salary of over Rs.50 were held by Tipyas, and referred to the fact that out of 31 Tahsildars and Magistrates in the District 8 were Tipyas and that in the clerical ranks of the Revenue Department they held 22 of the appointments. The community has also secured representation on local bodies as there were 3 Tipyas out of 24 members in the Calicut Municipal Council, 4 out of 17 in Cannanore and 4 out of 18 in Zam Tellicherry. It was true that they had no representatives in the Palghat and Cochin Municipal Councils, but viewing the matter as a whole the community was ^{not in-}adequately represented and there was no reason why they should not contribute yet more largely to the personnel of these bodies. His Excellency could make no pronouncement on the question of separate electorates or guarantee nomination to the Madras Legislative Council. It was impossible in view of the limited number of nominated seats to give separate representation to all the various communities and interests which desired it. The Legislative Council however was not the only channel through which ^{one} their representatives could be made and it was open to them to make them to the Collector or direct to the Government who would give them full considerations.

His Excellency concluded by thanking the deputation for their expressions of loyalty and stating that all their representations would be borne in mind.



Home (En) Department

pop 1-2 ante

x Subject - Recognition of Tijas as a backward class for purposes of the Grant-in-aid Code.

Three copies of the printed notes relating to the deputation of the Tijas of Malabar are placed before you. They may be forwarded to the P.S.G. no.

100
6.10.17

CR
6.10.17

Attached
p 3 ante

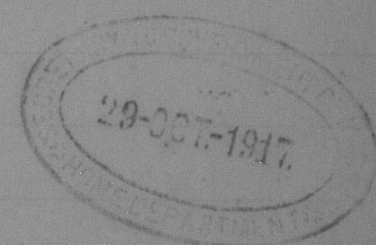
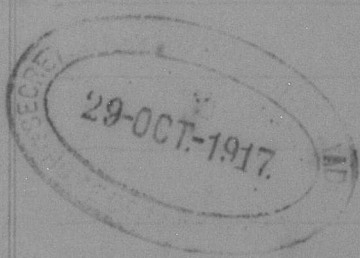
Please attach the holder's note to this & send to P.S.G.

MM
6/10/17

pop 4-8 ante

Returned with a copy of the proceedings of the deputation.

KeMm
26.10.17



Regr.

A draft order recording the papers is subd. for approval.



SM
29.11.17

CR
30.11.17

En 3257 A-1

3 ex
Re 2m
1-11-17

I think the D.P. would like to see

this

MM
31/10/17

D.P. (no)

10/18/1
1.11.17

f. + i.

NOTES.

~~Regr.~~

11

Home (809) Dept

For order whether the draft
order already approved by Secretary
may now be numbered.

SM
2-11-17.

Yes please
A
4/11/17

~~MS~~
~~2/11/17~~

Address.

Home (E81) DEPARTMENT.

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

191

C. No. _____, From the _____, No. _____, dated _____ 191

” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191

” ” ” ” ” ” ” ” 191

ORDER.

No. 1385, dated 5th November 1917

mis.

Records

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31/10/17

164
29/12

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191

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191

DATED

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

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