

Home (1917) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 142

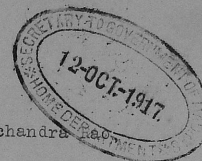
DATED 14. 11. 17

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Tour.

Recording papers connected with the deputation of the Naluri
Mahajana Sangham to His Excellency the Governor during his tour
to Madure.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

Ootacamund,

12th October 1917.

My dear Ramachandra Rao,

During his stay at Madura His Excellency will receive a deputation from the Nadars Mahasana Sangam, who will plead the cause of education of the Nadars. Would you kindly arrange to send me a note on the subject which need not be printed. It would do if the note reaches me on the 19th October: for this purpose it may be posted to me 'Madras Governor's Camp.'

Yours sincerely,

E. C. M. M.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur K. Ramachandra Rao Ayl.,

Secretary to Government, Home Dept.,

Stonehouse Hill.

Try to get this note passed
by the U.S. for me

WJ 12/10/17

Edw. Rpt.

18

I suppose the records are
packed up now. I must
have a note giving what
information is available by the
16th. We don't know what
the Warden is going to say
but you must make the
best of it. WJ (12/10/17)

Better send to Karlson
some in London & see if
tell him to get a note
prepared. If necessary, the
Director's office may be
consulted.

WJ, 12/10/17

Home (Education) Dept.

Deputation to His Excellency
the Governor from the Nadars Maha-
Jana Sangham, Madura.

NOTE.

Nadar is a title affixed to their names by the members of the - Shanar community. The following description of the community given in the Tinnevely District Gazetteer applies also to ~~the~~ Shanars resident in - Madura district:-

".....It must in fairness to the caste be said that as persevering and resourceful cultivators, as ~~traders~~ trades both at home and ~~and~~ abroad, as unwearied tappers of the palmyra and as capable clerks and officials in the service of Government, the Shanar community by their own ~~merit~~ merits are steadily earning for themselves a position and reputation infinitely more valuable than any social pre-eminence attainable by violence or pamphleteering. One of the most noticeable features of the resettlement recently concluded was the enormous increase of Shanar pattas (both in wet and dry lands) in almost every quarter of the district. Cultivation with the aid of wells is perhaps their speciality; if water exists under the ground a Shanar will find it and ~~ex~~ will quickly convert into a luxuriant garden a patch of poor soil which in the time of its

Pages 125-29 of the Tinnevely
 District Gazetteer.

"previous owner had been a ~~rankly~~
"dreary waste. Should pressure on the
"land some day reach the point of
"danger, the Shanans who has already
"shown signs of ~~leaving~~ his fellows
"at intensive methods will be the
"last to feel ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~strained~~. In some
"villages, Shanans have long been
"well-to-do land owners; in the
"centres of trade, rich Shanans mer-
"chants are numerous; in many villages
"the labourer is steadily converting
"himself into a peasant-owner and the
"tapper is often known to invest his
"savings in lands. If land cannot be
"had, he buys, transports and sells
"jaggery or breeds sheep, goats and
"fowls which he exports to Colombo.
"Some go abroad with a little capi-
"tal and make a living in the towns
"of Ceylon as writers or shop-keepers
"or as maistries in the Tea & Rubber
"Estates. Large numbers (mostly Chris-
"tians) obtain a cheap and serviceable
"education in the Mission schools and
"find employment in Government service,
"in the Railways and in commercial
"houses. Among members of the caste
"are graduates in Law, Theology, Medi-
"cine and the Arts, and from the
"Christian community, Missionaries have
"been sent to Madagascar, Natal
"Mauritius and the Straits".

2. The following table shows
the standard of literacy obtained

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Form 715 Ch. 8
5-8-13 (L)

by the Shanana community and a few other
select communities of the Madura
district:-

Name of community.	Total male population.	Total number of male literates,	Proportion of literates per 1,000.
Shanan.	314,733	56,993	181
Maravan.	177,785	24,469	138
Kallan.	258,756	40,689	157
Pattunulkaran or Sourashtra, -----	45,444	15,050	331

The last three classes are included
in the list of backward classes or
communities mentioned in rule 15 of
the Grant-in-aid Code. The concessions
admissible in the case of pupils of
the backward classes are:-

- (a) Increased capitation grant and
~~Capitation~~ ^{allowance} on behalf of such
pupils. (Rule 15 of the Grant-in-
aid Code and Rule 83 of the Madras
Educational Rules).
- (b) Free admission ^{into} ~~in~~ elementary
schools under public management.
(Rule 84 of the Madras Educational Rules)
- (2) Levy of half fees ^{into} ~~in~~ secondary
schools and colleges under public
management; (Rule 102 of the Madras
Educational Rules)

Under rule 32 of the Grant-in-
aid Code, the Government also pay ^{as}
grant half the fee income foregone by
managers of private institutions in
the case of backward pupils admitted
into their institutions.

3. In 1913 the Director ~~recommended~~
recommended the inclusion of Shanana

in the list of backward classes. But the recommendation was not accepted for the reason that "the average Tiyan or Shanani would resent being called backward and both have made great advances in recent years".

4. As stated in Mr. Francis' note on page 3 of notes to G.O., No. 715 Educational dated the 5th August 1913, very little method has been followed in the preparation of existing list of backward classes. The Educational Conference which met in March 1916 has recommended the adoption of certain principles in the preparation of a revised list and these are under consideration. The following are some of the principal recommendations made by the Conference:-

"9. It shall be competent for the Director to revise the list from time to time in consultation with the local committees constituted by him in the various districts.

"10. A class shall be considered backward when the great majority of its members are poor and its standard of literacy is below the average of the Presidency.

"11. A class which is not poor may for a time be considered backward when its standard of literacy is considerably below the average of the Presidency but, whenever possible, the members of such a class shall be

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(L)

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"encouraged to pay fees.

"15. That the standard of lite-

"racy for elementary and secondary

"schools shall be based on the verna-

"cular in the case of the former and

"on English in the case of the latter".

Presumably the Nabas Mahajana
Sangam is a "Hindu" organization
or mostly so. Christian

Nabas are for more advanced
in point of education than
Hindu Nabas: but figures in
respect of this point are not
available.

CR
11-10-17
ms.

P. 84

WSP
16-10-17

Returned with an extract from the
proceedings of the deputation.

Arguments of the deputation: "In spite
of our unquestioned and important place
among the progressive communities of
S. India, we labour under the following
disabilities.

Firstly. Our community is educationally
backward. Though most of our men can
read and write their mother tongue, few
have taken to higher education. The
community maintains at present two High
Schools, one at Virudupati and the other
at Sivakasi. The High School at Viru-
dupati is open to all communities and
education is wholly free. This school

we have maintained at great cost from our own caste funds for the last twenty years. We need more - not only high schools but commercial and industrial schools.

X X X

We therefore pray (1) that the Nadars may be recognised as educationally backward in the Grant-in-Aid Code and that our scheme to open a central High School and Hostel at Madura may receive Government's sympathetic encouragement and financial support."

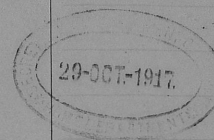
X X X

As regards their request in respect of educational matters, His Excellency said that it seemed clear from what they said and from what he knew of the community that they had of recent years made great strides and advanced in many ways not only as regards material prosperity but also in such matters as education and status. That being so it seemed to him that it was doubtful whether in asking that special treatment should be accorded to them in educational matters as a backward class they were really adopting the course which was most likely

to benefit their community. In fact there were so many different communities claiming to rank as backward that if all were admitted almost the whole population would come under the same category, in which case the term as recognised in the Educational Codes would cease to have any meaning. Originally it was introduced with a view to offering inducements to those sections of the community which were indifferent to education or too poor to be expected to meet even the moderate fees which were charged under the rules. In communities such as that of the Nadars which were anxious that the benefits of education should be extended to as many of their members as possible and not only so but able and willing to contribute financially to bring about that result, it seemed to His Excellency that while it might benefit a few of the poorer members if the community were so classed it would be essentially a stigma upon the community as a whole and detract from the position which they had already secured by their own efforts. On further discussion among the members of the deputation of the point of view thus expressed by His Excellency

they stated that they were so impressed by the considerations which His Excellency had suggested that they were ready to withdraw their request that the community should be recognised as backward for educational purposes. His Excellency said that he had no doubt that they would like to have a further and fuller opportunity of considering among themselves the suggestions which he had made."

K. M. A. I.
27.10.17



*Encl
3229
12/10/17*

Home (Sec) Dept

As no further action is necessary, it is submitted that the papers may be *Recorded*

2. 12/10/17 5.11.17 may see newspaper (Cao)

*Encl 3229A-2
5.11.17*

4.11.17

Tour

Recording paper connected with the deputations of the Naxos Malakappa Saiphan to Madras

12.10.17 5.11.17



*17
no. 1428 of 1411
5.11.17
Recorded
10.11.17*

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