

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 815.

DATED 18-6-1917

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording notes relating to question No.78 asked by the Hon'ble Mr. Suryanarayana Rao Pantulu at the meeting of the ----- held on the 22nd May 1917 recommending an enquiry into the allegations contained in a letter in the Madras Mail of the 30th April 1917 entitled "Government control of private schools".

✓
C.No 211B 80

8-5-17

13
QUESTION.—No.

76

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the 22nd May 1917.

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the
Home (Educative) Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the
rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these Questions in the
Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due
course.

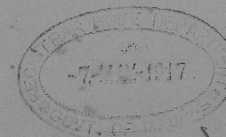
U.O. No. 1156-(dated 7-5-17)

V.T.L.

7-5-17

To

The *Home (Educative)* Department. With Ref. No. 76.



6-7-5-17]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

Home (Education) Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. Suryanarayana Rao Pantulu.

76 Q.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter entitled "Government control for private schools" signed "T and J," and published in the *Madras Mail*, page 4, dated 30th April 1917?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to direct enquiries as to the truth of the allegations therein contained, and take such steps as may be necessary to remedy the said evils?

[Meeting of the 22nd May 1917]

1917.

House (Gm)

DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper--

THE MADRAS MAIL,

2. Published at--

3. Dated--

APRIL 27, 1917.

Government Control for Private Schools.

SIR,—Though a great amount of light has been thrown upon the management of schools by private bodies, it is a sad fact to note that the Government still follows its policy of the eighties. Recent events in a great many of these private schools have disclosed facts quite detrimental to the teachers and pupils, which could not easily be ignored. Setting aside those institutions which have a firm basis and long prestige like the Madras Christian College, high schools in the mofussil, which are controlled by missionary and other private bodies, adopt a line of policy by which the manager becomes an autocrat in the extreme sense of the word. Instances of such autocratic power are too many to be catalogued. Here are a few of the most glaring ones. It is very rarely that a teacher remains in the same school for half-a-dozen years together. He comes to the school on the minimum salary offered, and perhaps, in five years' time he attains his maximum salary, when the management's finding to be too expensive hits upon a plan of economy by serving him with a notice of dismissal and bringing in a new man on lower pay. Thus by the time the teacher begins to understand his pupils and be an effective teacher, he is sent out without any provision disallows—perhaps on a lower salary and as it were to begin life afresh. This causes inconvenience not only to the teacher, but to the pupils as well who are some time in accommodating themselves to the new man's methods. To quote another instance, in cases where a teacher is influential and is fortunate enough—or probably unfortunate—to become a municipal councillor or an elder in the Church Council, any assertion of his opinions either public or private tends to make him unpopular with his superiors, and sooner or later he pays the price of his independence. He is either unceremoniously done for, or the place is made too hot for him, and he is indirectly driven to resign.

In not a few cases, the manager is a new arrival from Middlesex, Aberdeen or Kansas, who is not acquainted with the educated Indian, his attainments or his character. And his opinions in almost all cases are borrowed from the head-master or the head-clerk who virtually becomes his confidential adviser. These lesser luminaries behave with so much obsequiousness that the foreigner forms an entirely erroneous conception of the Indians' sense of self-respect, and considers any deviation from this standard an affront to his dignity, and the possessor has no right of appeal against this modern Spanish Inquisition. He may be fined, or made to work on Saturday, and in not a few cases dismissed. But neither the public which entrusts their children's education to the teacher, nor the Government, which proves his work in the School, take any steps to make the teacher's life a bit more pleasant or easy. An annual change of staff is the *sine qua non* of nearly all mission schools, and this creates an unhealthy competition among teachers, and explains the purely commercial attitude taken by teachers in utter disregard of the great and noble work they are called upon to perform. Another pernicious custom which is not so prevalent is that of interfering with the teacher in the matter of awarding marks. In a certain case the manager even went to the extent of sending a circular to teachers asking them to award marks above a certain percentage to all the boys in a class, thereby securing wholesale promotion, which wonderful miracle brought a great addition to the strength of the school almost doubling it in two years. It is a self-evident fact that methods such as these could not but be detrimental to the real education of the boys, and defeat all the efforts of the Government to improve and raise the standard of education. In conclusion, it behooves the Government as well as the public who are interested in this matter, to investigate and remedy the evils that are so rampant in these private schools.

T. & J.

Home (En) Department.

The letter in the Madras Mail referred to in the question is placed below - slip (T).

2. If the grievances stated therein were real the proper course for the persons affected would have been to take the matter to the notice of their official superiors through the proper channels. Instead of doing so the correspondent has run up to the columns of the newspaper with vague and indefinite statements. Apparently the Asst. Member has not taken the trouble himself to find out the truth of the allegations so as to acquaint the Govt. with particular instances and to ask them to move in the matter. In the circumstances, it is for consideration whether it is worth while for Government to carry out the enquiries suggested by the Asst. Member.

3. Perhaps the remarks of the D.P. may be invited w.o.

PP
9.5.17

The complaints are in general terms and the institutions concerned are not named. Enquiry into the truth of the allegations cannot therefore be easy. ^{Proper} The allegations themselves do not seem to be of the nature in which the Dep't. can ordinarily interfere. Eg. turning out a teacher as soon as he reaches the maximum grade or becomes

influential in the town. Interference with the teacher's markings at examinations may be found out at inspections if unqualified boys are promoted thereby. Perhaps inspection may investigate some of the cases of frequent ~~transfers~~ changes in the personnel of teachers and advise the management against the practice. He D.D. may be requested to suggest a draft answer.

Home (Hon) no. 211 B-1
9.5.17

H.O. No. C. 23/1917
9.5.1917.

Adm in CR
10.5.17



CD
9.5.17

D.P. I (u.o.)
9.5.17

I suggest -

- * the Government have received the letter.
- * which is in force since it contains names
- * no school does not of any basis for an
- * inquiry.
- * Practice of the kind desired, if brought
- * to the notice of the D.P. can be
- * dealt with under the rules.
- * "The Government are not prepared to take any
- * action on an anonymous letter to
- * "The press comes in general terms."

9.5.17.

Name (In) Dept.

Please see the alternative answers suggested by the S.P.D. on the previous page. They may be submitted to H. E. the Governor for orders as to which of them will be approved. The former seems to be preferable.

CA
10/5/17

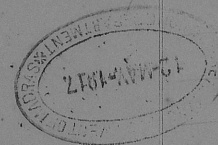
H. E.

my 10/5/17 the second alternative approved.

P
10.5.17.

Box 3
enc 10.5.17
retd 11.5.17

Home (In) no. 211B-2



The question and answer as finally approved were as follows:—

78 Q.—(a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter entitled "Government control for private schools" signed "T and J," and published in the Madras Mail, page 4, dated 30th April 1917?
(b) Will the Government be pleased to direct enquiries as to the truth of the allegations therein contained and take such steps as may be necessary to remedy the said evils?

78 A.—The Government are not prepared to take any action on an anonymous letter to the press couched in general terms.

2. the papers may be
only 8.15.17 18.6.17.
Mis. Recorded.

12.6.17
10.6.17

16.6.17

me
To ascertain from
leg. whether there is any
supplementary
question.

Page 2 (4) read

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191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DISPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

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Q = Copy heading only.