

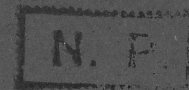
Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 498, 23rd April 1917

Boy Scout movement

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction for information and guidance letter from the Government of India regarding the attitude to be observed by Government towards the — in India.



INDEXED

ORIGINAL

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 498, 23rd April 1917

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READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Sir E. D. MACLAGAN, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Education).
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—Delhi, the 22nd March 1917.
No.—260.

I am desired to address you as follows regarding the attitude to be observed by Government towards the Boy Scout movement in India.

2. The movement was in its origin a British movement and was intended primarily for British boys. It was introduced in India in 1909 and it has in subsequent years advanced among European and Anglo-Indian boys under the auspices of the Boy Scouts Association—a private body which was founded by Sir Robert Baden-Powell and which has its headquarters in England. Many Government officers have in their personal capacity assisted this private association, but the Government as such have hitherto refrained alike from encouraging and from interfering in its activities. The association is admitted to have done admirable work, and the Government desire in the future as in the past to leave it to carry on that work on its own lines as a voluntary and private body.

3. Efforts, however, have of recent years been made in several parts of India to organize units of Indian boys on the lines of the Boy Scouts and in some cases—as in the case of certain Government high schools in the Bombay Presidency where good personal influence was secured—these efforts have been attended with a gratifying degree of success. As membership of the Boy Scouts Association is confined practically to European and Anglo-Indian boys, these Indian units are necessarily outside that association and lack the benefits of supervision and corporate control which membership of the association confers. Enquiries have accordingly from time to time been made both by Government officers and by private persons interested in the movement as to the attitude taken by Government towards the organization of Boy Scouts or similar bodies among Indian boys.

4. I am therefore desired to explain that wherever Boy Scouts can be organized on sound principles and on proper lines the Government look upon the introduction of the system as educationally of the greatest value. They are, however, much impressed with the absolute necessity of ensuring that the organization, if it is not to be worse than useless, is a real living movement imbued with true principles similar to those set forth in the Code of the Boy Scouts Association and affected by the highest personal influences. It is more particularly essential that the scout masters should not only be in a position to devote a large amount of time and trouble to their duties but should also be men of energy and principle, properly trained, possessing the confidence of the boys and qualified to impart a sense of honour and discipline. It is with the greatest difficulty that suitable men can be found for the “troops” attached to the Boy Scouts Association in India, and it will only be on rare occasions that such men will be available for any new troops that may henceforward be organized.

5. The initiation of a troop of boy scouts, whether inside or outside a school, does not require any permission from Government; and as long as the scouts are not used for unlawful purposes, the maintenance of a body of scouts calls for no interference from the authorities. Officers of Government are, however, often consulted as to the advisability of starting a troop of scouts, and in such cases they should not fail to advise that the organization and principles adopted should be in general conformity with those of the Boy Scouts Association and that no commencement should be made until the necessary funds are assured and more particularly until scout masters of the best possible type are available. In high schools under the immediate control of Government, a more direct form of action may be taken, and the Government of India would gladly see an effort made in selected high schools, where conditions are favourable for the experiment, to initiate as opportunity occurs a system of boy scouts on lines generally similar to, though not necessarily in every way the same as, those adopted by the Boy Scouts Association. In Government schools where good scout masters can be found whom the local Governments approve, the policy should be to encourage the establishment of troops of scouts on these lines and to give them such assistance as may be necessary to make the experiment educationally a success.

Where, however, the conditions above described are not satisfied the movement should be discouraged. The harm that may be done by the organization of troops without adequate trained leadership is so serious that the Government of India have no hesitation in asking that local Governments should see that all legitimate means for the discouragement of such troops should be utilized. Should troops, for instance, be formed under indifferent management and faulty organization in a privately managed educational institution or should the boys from such an institution join such a troop, the natural action of Government would be to call upon the managers of the institution to dissolve the troop or to withdraw these boys from it, and if the efforts of Government in this direction did not meet with success, it should utilize the powers which it has for dealing with grants-in-aid or with scholarship rights or with the acceptance of students from the institution for Government service.

6. In the case of troops in Government educational institutions under approved scout masters it will be open to local Governments to invite the assistance of the Boy Scouts association, and the Government of India have ascertained that in such cases the association, though unable at present to incorporate the troops in its own organization, will be ready so far as it lies to give such advice as may be necessary for the formation of the troops and to allow its officers to inspect and report upon them when formed. Should the constitution of troops in Government high schools on these lines prove successful, it is possible that, if the association so desired, a closer connection might at some future date be established between the Indian troops thus constituted and the existing association, but this is a matter which must naturally rest in the hands of the association itself.

7. It is hoped that the above instructions will enable local Governments to deal appropriately with any efforts that may be made within their respective jurisdictions to establish units of Indian boy scouts. The Government of India believe that in India, as in England, there is much to be gained from the establishment of the system, but the movement, if it is to have its true educational value, must be conducted under sound and practical conditions; and it will be for the local Governments by watchful attention to its needs and developments to ensure for it an increasingly useful part in the moral and educational progress of the country.

Order—No. 498, Home (Education), dated 23rd April 1917.

Communicated to the Director of Public Instruction for information and guidance.

(True Extract)

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction,
Local and Municipal Department.
Editors' Table.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 498, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED 23RD APRIL, 1917

[SUBJECT.—*Boy Scout movement in India.*]

From the Government of India, No. 260, dated 22nd March 1917.

(1)

Demi-official—from the Hon'ble Sir E. D. MACLAGAN, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education.

To—M.R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. RAMACHANDRA RAO, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department.

Dated—Delhi, the 24th March 1917.

No.—113.

In continuation of this department's circular letter No. 260, dated the 22nd March 1917, on the subject of Boy Scouts, I am desired to invite attention to the remarks made in paragraph 6 of that letter where it is said that in the case of troops in Government educational institutions under approved scout-masters it would be open to local Governments to invite the assistance of the Boy Scouts Association. I am to explain that as things stand the Boy Scouts Association in India is only prepared to give assistance in the case of Government schools under scout-masters who are Europeans or Anglo-Indians, and this should be borne in mind in any arrangements which are made for starting Boy Scouts in Government educational institutions.

I am to add that the association would probably be willing to give similar assistance in the case of troops formed under European or Anglo-Indian scout-masters by reliable bodies such as the Young Men's Christian Association.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

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2. In a separate demi-official received today India have also said that, as things stand, the Boy Scouts Association in India is only prepared to give assistance in the case of Government schools under scout-masters who are Europeans or Anglo-Indians and that this should be borne in mind in any arrangements which are made for starting Boy Scouts in Government educational institutions. They have also stated that the association would probably be willing to give similar assistance in the case of troops formed under European or Anglo-Indian scout-masters by reliable bodies such as the Young Men's Christian Association.

E.A.V.—30-3-17.

T.K.—30-3-17.

C. RAMANUJA AGHARIYAR—30-3-17.

His Excellency for perusal.

E. A. HARVEY—30-3-17.

P[RENTLND]—31-3-17.

R.R.—22-4-17.

S.A.—10-4-17.

N.K.—19-4-17.

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R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—22-4-17.

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to Government, Home (Education) Department.
To—the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE, C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction.
Dated—Ootacamund, 23rd April 1917.
No.—1667 A-1.

A circular letter from the Government of India regarding the attitude to be observed by Government towards the Boy Scout movement in India is being communicated to you separately. With reference to paragraph 2 of that letter, the Government of India have intimated that as things stand, the Boy Scouts Association in India is only prepared to give assistance in the case of Government schools under scout-masters who are Europeans or Anglo-Indians. They also state that the association would probably be willing to give similar assistance in the case of troops formed under European or Anglo-Indian scout-masters by reliable bodies such as the Young Men's Christian Association.

[G.O. No. 498, Home (Education), dated 23rd April 1917.]

Boy Scout movement.

Communicating to the D.P.I. for information and guidance
letter from the Govt. of India regarding the attitude to be observed
by Govt. towards the _____ in India

READ AGAIN G.O. No., dated 191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 165984, From the East of India, No. 260, dated 22. 3. 1917

ORDER.

P.S.

No. 498, dated 23.4.1917

Communicated to the
D.P. I. for information and guidance

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To the D.P. J. (Ad 6) in mss
" Lt M Capt. (Ad 6) in mss



G.O. No. 498, 23rd April 1917

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(True Extract)

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Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction,
Local and Municipal (Legislative) Department.
Editors' Table.

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His Excellency for perusal.

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Communicated to the Director of Public Instruction for information and guidance.
(True Copy)
R. RAMACHANDRA RAO
Secretary to Government

To the Director of Public Instruction
(Local and Municipal Education) Department
Madras, P. M.

Note 498 Edn.

2

The resolution referred to in paragraph 1 of the office-note above was withdrawn on the Government pointing out that the movement together with an association therefor had already been introduced in the City of Madras.

2. No special action is necessary at present in regard to India's circular letter. It may be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction. A draft order is submitted for approval.

Approved. Perhaps it would be advisable to ascertain progress a year hence.

R.R.—22-4-17.

3. The substance of India's demi-official on page 1 supra may also be communicated to the Director. The following draft demi-official is for approval.

S.S.—10-4-17.

N.K.—19-4-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—20-4-17.

G. RAMACHANDRA RAO—22-4-17. R/

(2)

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To—the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE, C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction.

Dated—Ootacamund, 23rd April 1917.

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[G.O. No. 498, Home (Education), dated 23rd April 1917.]

PRESS SLIP.

ORDINARY.

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DEPARTMENT.

Current No. dated 1911

G.O. No. 4984 dated 2.3.4. 1911

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECRETARIAT.

(b) Number of MS. pages sent { Correspondence 3
(b¹) Notes 4

Brief subject My Seat movement

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(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order, or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b¹) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencer concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for one week, and larger papers for two weeks only. The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.

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(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

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Revised proof furnished on.....				
Corrected proof received for striking on.....				
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