

Home (1917) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 514

DATED 23-4-17

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Question.-

Recording papers relating to question No. 34 asked
by the Hon'ble Mr. K.R.V. Krishna Rao ^{Pantulu} at the meeting of the
Legislative Council ~~held at the meeting of the Legislative~~
~~Council~~ held on the 2nd April 1917 regarding the work done
by the Dyeing Expert.

C No. 1448 Es
19.3.17
L.M. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.



QUESTION.—No. 20 for the meeting of the Legislative
Council to be held on the 2nd April 1917.

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the
Home (Edn) 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.

V.T.K.
19.3.17

By U.O. No. 70-1 dated 19.3.17

To
The Home (Edn) Department. with Q. 20.



203 8441 012
9.3 PM



1917

(1917) 200/1

1917. 2

Time (5:30)

Local & Municipal department.
(Legislative)

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS
The Hon'ble Mr. K.R.V. Krishna Rao Pantulu.

1. Name of Paper: The Hindu
2. Published at: Home (Education) department.
3. Date: Nov 26 - 1917

20. In the light of the evidence before the Industrial Commission published in the newspapers will the Government be pleased to state the particular branch of work on which Dr. Marsden, the dyeing expert is engaged at present and will be engaged in the future?

The Hon'ble Mr. K.R.V. Krishna Rao Pantulu: The Industrial Commission has been constituted to inquire into the conditions of the textile industry in India. It has been asked to report on the various branches of the industry, including spinning, weaving, and dyeing. The Commission has been working for some time, and its report is expected to be published soon. The Government is interested in the findings of the Commission, particularly in the dyeing industry, which is one of the most important branches of the textile industry in India. The Government is also interested in the work of Dr. Marsden, who is an expert in the dyeing industry. The Government is pleased to state that Dr. Marsden is engaged at present in the dyeing industry, and will be engaged in the future.

1917.

Home (Govt.) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS

1. Name of Paper - *The Madras Times*
 2. Published at -
 3. Dated - *The 26-1-17*

DR. F. MARSDEN.

The Dyeing Expert to the Government of Madras was the next witness examined. In the course of his written evidence witness said :-

A Government expert, with proper facilities for dealing with this class of work, is required, I think, as there are no other channels, except the dyestuff agents, through which the dyer can get expert advice. But in this Presidency the loan of Government experts to private concerns is not a question which I think will arise. The Mills have their own chemists and staffs, and in country dye-houses there is neither accommodation nor apparatus for experimental work to be done other than as a practical trial to illustrate some special point, and all the preliminary investigation for this would be done in the experts' own laboratory. In my opinion a demonstration factory in dyeing could not be worked satisfactorily except in direct competition with existing business. There are two types to be considered, either a fully equipped machine dyeing factory, which would be in competition with the Mills and would necessitate an equivalent organisation to ensure success, or a country dye house competing in the markets of the country dyer. This to be effective would have to work at lower rates than the country dyer, otherwise it would not appeal to him as worth imitating but to work at his rates would require his methods of business being followed and this I think could not be done successfully. Technical and scientific aid of value to the Indian dyer cannot be given except by a specialist with a very wide experience, for whether it be on cotton, or silk (there is practically no wool dyeing in the Presidency) with alizarin, indigo, ordinary colours or mineral colours, when the dyer seeks advice it is as a practical man and the advice tendered must be practical and not based upon theoretical knowledge only. The expert must get into direct touch with the workers, but this is a matter of difficulty, and the simplest plan would be for him to have trained assistants, with a regular tour programme, reporting to him and, accompanied by them, his visits to dyers in need of his advice would keep him in touch with requirements. But until the general education of the dyers is vastly improved, and the demands made upon them rise above the level at which they can be most efficiently and economically met by hand labour, the sphere of usefulness of expert assistance in dyeing is limited, and assistance can best be given, I think, by directing the attention of workers to developments elsewhere and spreading a knowledge of the principles upon which such developments are based.

Questioned by Sir Thomas Holland witness stated that since 1911 he did not follow in any research work after he had submitted his report to the Government on the condition of the dyeing industry in the presidency. He believed that the primitive methods of vegetable dyeing might be slightly improved by a knowledge of science. The colours obtained by vegetable dyes were not satisfactory. There was a taste for bright colours, and this could not be approached by vegetable dyes. For this reason natural indigo had to disappear before synthetic indigo. He did not think that any research work would improve the situation. He believed, however, that natural indigo might be improved by better agriculture, giving a better and less impure product. He had practically given up

research in dyeing work, and he was in charge of the school at Madura. The pencil making business also formed one of his activities. He did not think that that affected his own business. There was room to extend the knowledge of dyeing among that class of people, and he was waiting for the completion of the building in Madura. There was a great demand for instruction in dyeing, but very often by people who would not take advantage of the training in their after-life. There were now available a few Indians who knew well the art of dyeing and who could be sent out to instruct people in villages.

In reply to Mr. A. Chatterton witness stated that he came out on a fixed pay with a right to take up private practice. He did not think that it made any difference whether an expert—at any rate in the dyeing department—was allowed to take up private practice or not.

Questioned by Sir Fazulbhoy, Dr. Marsden said that without some general education the weavers could not be improved by his technical teaching. The general education need not necessarily be in English. Unless some big dyeing houses were established the condition of dyeing could not be improved. It was difficult to say the exact quantity of natural indigo used by the dyers, but the demand for synthetic indigo was increasing. At the start he would only recommend the admission into the school at Madura boys of the dyeing class. The training of educated men in the school for purposes of teaching would come in time.

In reply to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya witness said that prior to the war German agents in the presidency had affected the taste of the people as regards dyeing, and for the present he did not know if instructors going about and lecturing would restore a taste among the people for indigenous dyes. He did not know if natural dyes were better than Synthetic dyes. He was aware that there were a few educated Indians who understood the art of dyeing well.

1917.

Home (S.) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—*The Madras Mail*
 2. Published at—
 3. Dated—*The 26-1-17-*

THE INDUSTRIES
COMMISSION.

YESTERDAY'S SITTING.

When the Commission met in the afternoon yesterday, the first witness examined was Dr. Marsden, Technical Expert to the Government of Madras. The following are extracts from his written evidence:—

In my opinion a demonstration factory in dyeing could not be worked satisfactorily except in direct competition with existing businesses. There are two types to be considered, either a fully equipped machine dyeing factory, which would be in competition with the mills and would necessitate an equivalent organisation to ensure success, or a country dye house competing in the markets of the country dyer. This to be effective would have to work at lower rates than the country dyer, otherwise it would not appeal to him as worth imitating but to work at his rates would require his methods of business being followed and this, I think, could not be done successfully.

I think it preferable in my case to fit up a small building (scheduled for erection with the Weaving Section of the Madras Technical Institute) with country vat water connections, and use this for demonstration purposes to dyers when there are points worth demonstrating on a larger scale than is possible in the laboratory.

The demands made upon me by dyers have chiefly been for "recipes" with which to dye certain special colors in which the dyer in question was unable to compete with what was already on the market. The value of technical aid in dyeing and weaving here is much restricted by the lack of variety in demand. There is a sameness in costume and the materials used for clothing which is in distinct contrast with what one experiences in other countries where fancy in dress and demands have free play, and fashion changes rapidly, bringing with it changes fresh requirements which are an incentive to the inventive faculties and give a rich reward to those who can first meet the demands.

Practically the bulk of the requirements of India for colored cloth could be met by using yarn dyed in the hank and as this is the easiest form in which yarn can be worked by hand, hank dyeing is the general dyeing process followed here. It is, however, by no means the most economical and in Europe dyeing at almost any other stage of manufacture is preferred for in hank dyeing no machine has yet been invented which adequately replaces hand working whilst for all other stages mechanical aids have been perfected and permit of a production with which hand labour could not compete. There is not the same necessity therefore of the wide technical knowledge of processes and machinery which is required elsewhere.

Regarding the variety of cloths here in demand, turbans and body cloths, I suppose, are the main ones and comparatively recently there are shirting and cotton coatings coming into use. There is no variation in the market for the first two beyond that of texture, but with shirtings especially there is a wide variation in the finish demanded by the market. I would indicate by this example the wide difference in the requirements which have to be met in India and in Europe. Here they are simple, there they are complicated and the dyeing industry there is not concerned with color alone, and this on one class of material, but has to deal with questions of style and finish upon many varieties of cloth.

The difference between demands in India and Europe is undoubtedly due to climatic causes which are unalterable and, as I have tried to indicate, there is a gulf between the modern machine dyeing industry which requires technical supervision at every stage and the hand dyeing industry which only values technical knowledge when its application results in a lowering of the costs of production.

My experience here has been that the advice upon real technical matters requested of me by dyers was often with regard to points which were of common general knowledge to western dyers and such as are dealt with in the literature of the subject. The lack of contact with any literature must have a stultifying effect but this has been minimised by the filtering through of western knowledge following the introduction of the synthetic dyes and the contact with the sellers of these dyes. Technical and scientific aid of value to the Indian dyer cannot be given except by a specialist with a very wide experience, for whether it be on cotton or silk (there is practically no wool dyeing in the Presidency) with alizarin, indigo, ordinary colours or mineral colours, when the dyer seeks advice it is as a practical man and the advice tendered must be practical and not based upon theoretical knowledge only. The expert must get into direct touch with the workers, but this is a matter of difficulty and the simplest plan would be for him to have trained assistants, with a regular tour programme, reporting to him and accompanied by them, his visits to dyers in need of his advice would keep him in touch with requirements. But until the general education of the dyers is vastly improved, and the demands made upon them rise above the level at which they can be most efficiently and economically met by hand labour the sphere of usefulness of expert assistance in dyeing is limited and assistances best be given, I think, by directing the attention of workers to developments elsewhere and spreading a knowledge of the principles upon which such developments are based.

In reply to the President:—When natural dyes were concerned the indigenous methods of colouring employed were perfect. The introduction of synthetic dyes, however, revolutionised matters. The tastes of people where colour were concerned underwent profound change. Indigo had been completely ousted by foreign dyes. Improved methods of cultivating indigo might restore it to some extent to the place it formerly occupied. Witness was not doing any work in promoting a knowledge of the principles of dyeing. Until some time ago he was connected with a paper mill and at present was looking after a pencil factory. It was no fault of his if he had been set to do work in which he was not a specialist. It was quite true that if a geologist was asked to become a surgeon he would be quite unfit for the work. Witness, however, was not personally responsible for his various transformations.

In reply to Sir Fazalbhoy Carrimbhoy:—Elementary education among weavers would be of great help to them. Elementary and general education would much improve their work.

Home (Edn) Dept.

Submitted that there is no information as to the particular work on which Dr. Marsden is engaged at present. Mr. Dunes may be requested to ~~obtain~~ furnish information on this point.

2. As regards his work in the future it is submitted that when the new buildings for the tinctorial laboratory at Madras are completed Dr. Marsden will open dyeing classes there. [Attention is solicited to the answer given to question No. 68 asked by the same additional member at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in November last. In the meanwhile there is a proposal in the Revenue Dept. to ~~depute~~ ^{depute} Dr. Marsden ~~on~~ ^{to} make investigations in indigo manufacture.

3. The file may be sent to Mr. Dunes to be framed a draft answer.

When Mr. Dunes returns

Telephone sent.
Mr. Dunes is expected back on the 29th inst.

Letter No. 1165 A (N)
26.10.15

(It is understood that the file on the subject is in care)

8K
22.2.17

NOTES.

Rev. any definite information to
 as to the proposal to employ
 Dr. Marsden in the Rev. dept for a time

Edd no 1448-1
 23.3.17

Edd
 23.3.17

Rev. no



Revenue F
 662

to Dy Secy

Rev. Dept

In a letter which was received through
 Home (Edd), the Dir. of Ind. stated with reference to
 the proposal to employ Dr. Marsden as 'indigo' duty
 that he was at present working in glass and pencil
 factories and that he had practically no work connec-
 ted with dyeing. The file connected with this is now
 in circulation.

2 The question of employing Dr
 Marsden in the ag. dept as "Indigo Expert"
 is yet sub judice and cannot, it is submitted,
 be made public until final orders are passed.

Rev. The file may be returned to Home (Edd)
 23.3.17 with this information

ESR
 23.3.17 Home (Edd) VO

23.3.17

Submitted

Home (Edd) Dy Secy

2 The following draft answer is submitted for

th(F) today
 23/3

Rev. no. 662 F/17.1

24.3.17

for approval.

Pending the completion of the new buildings for the Madura Technical Institute and the opening of dyeing classes in that Institute, Dr. Marsden's services are being utilized in the supervision of some of the important experiments undertaken by the Dept of Industries, and he is assisting the Director generally.

Box C.10
date 24.3
Refd. 243

24/3/17

24.3.17

V. M.

26/3/17

24.3.17

25.3.17

Programme of work for the Dyeing Expert.

24 Q.—In the light of the evidence before the Industrial Commission published in the newspapers, will the Government be pleased to state the particular branch of work on which Dr. Marsden, the Dyeing Expert, is engaged at present and will be engaged in the future?

24 A.—Pending the completion of new buildings for the Madura Technical Institute and the opening of dyeing classes in that institute, Dr. Marsden's services are being utilised in the supervision of some of the important experiments undertaken by the Department of Industries, and he is assisting the Director generally.

A draft order recording the papers is submitted for approval.

27/4/17

27.4.17

Legislative Council question

Recording papers relating to question No. 24 asked by the Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. Krishna Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd April 1917 regarding the work done by the Dyeing Expert.

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

" " " " _____, " _____ 191.

READ ALSO:-

C. No. 1648, From the _____, No. _____, dated _____ 191.

" " " " _____, " _____, " _____ 191.

" " " " _____, " _____, " _____ 191.

ORDER.

Misc

No. 514, dated 23. 4. 1917.

Recorded.

84

25/4/17

22/4/17

(Initialed by Mr. _____ in the office)

Howe (B. 17)

Signatures

The accompanying paper contains a list of names of persons who have been asked by the Hon. the Sec. R. V. to contribute to the cause of the colored people of the South. The names of the persons who have contributed are given in the accompanying paper.

844

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

191

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A	A	A	A	A	A	A
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INTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.

B = Not to be copied.

P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.