

Home (1917) Department.
(Education)

1

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 535

Edm

12 Dec 1917

DATED 26.4-1917

INDEXED

10

[Despatch Abstract.]

Vernacular printers on scientific subjects.

Recording notes relating to the suggestion of the Hon'ble
Mr. Ranga Acharyar at the meeting of the Finance Committee for 1917
to make a provision of Rs 5,000 for the publication of ————

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Please see paragraph 8 of the Chairman's report and paragraph 45 of the proceedings of the Finance Committee for 1917. The Honourable Mr. Ranga Achariyar asked for a grant towards the publication of scientific primers in vernacular languages and suggested a provision of at least Rs.5,000 for the purpose. It was agreed that no budget provision need be made for this purpose as the sum would be inconsiderable but that the suggestion would be further investigated.

It may be noted that this formed the subject of interpellation and discussion at the meetings of the Legislative Council in 1913, 1914 and 1916. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 16th May 1913, the Honourable Mr. Ramachandra Rao asked whether any and if so what steps were being taken for the encouragement of scientific literature in the vernaculars. The Government then replied as follows:--

"The action taken has hitherto, for the most part, been confined to the selection of approved works for use in schools but occasionally direct aid has been given in the shape of an honorarium to the author or translator or the purchase of copies of his work" --

(R) vide page 5 of G.O. No. 532 Edl., dated the 9th June 1913.

2. Again at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th April 1914, the Honourable Mr. Narasimheswara Sarna brought forward a resolution recommending that non-language subjects be taught through the medium of the vernaculars throughout the school final course in all Government and aided schools. In the course of the discussion

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the Honourable Mr. Grinivasa Sastri said--

"I am also aware that there are at present
"no text-books that might be used as media of
"instruction in non-language subjects. Such
"books as we have are very elementary and
"cannot be said to have established a vocabulary
"sufficient to express scientific, administra-
"tive, historical, and other ideas. Such a voca-
"bulary takes a long time to establish. It
"takes a good deal of time to acquire power to
"express these thoughts effectually and at the
"same time gracefully. My fear is that it will
"be perhaps fifteen or twenty years before the
"vernaculars could become proper vehicles for
"modern scientific thought."

The Honourable Mr. Pittendrigh also observed--

"This resolution is entirely inoperative
"for in the first place, we have not the staff
"of teachers fitted to give practical teaching
"in the second place we have no scientific
"literature to impart instruction in physics
"and chemistry to the higher classes in the
"vernaculars; in the third place, we have no
"scientific terminology yet created; and in
"fourth place, many schools of this Presidency
"have an extraordinary admixture of pupils
"speaking different languages. All these
"difficulties stand in the way of any practical
"effect being given to the resolution."

The Honourable Mr. Stone concurring in the above
opinion said that the Government were quite un-
willing to accept the resolution, if for no other reason
because it would be entirely inoperative.
The resolution was then withdrawn (vide pages 13
of G.O.No.593, Educational, dated the 11th
1914.

3. The Honourable Mr. Narasimheswara S
again brought forward at the meeting of the
Legislative Council held on the 7th April
a resolution recommending that Government should
undertake the preparation and an early issue
of suitable text books in the principal
of the Presidency for use in elementary
and secondary schools in all non-language
taught therein. In opposing the resolution

the Honourable Mr. Stone pointed out as follows:

"The Honourable Member is asking the Government to take the initiative in this matter of the provision of text books in schools. There was a time, I believe, when the Government did try to provide text books themselves. That was many years ago. It is many years now since the Government adopted the procedure of relying upon what we may call private effort for the production of text books. I may say that at any rate at present, the Government would not be prepared to embark upon the text book production business if only because the present state of things forbids the launching out into expenditure which cannot be proved to be urgently necessary.

"Apart from that reason it is extremely doubtful whether the Government would ever launch out into this business of providing text books. There are obvious advantages in relying upon private efforts. x x x I do not think it is desirable that we should prescribe text books for the majority of schools. x x x I am far from saying that we are satisfied with the supply of text books at present. I think we want to improve it we should do it by the department seeking to assist the publishers more than we have done in the past as for instance by letting them know the kind of books we want. The department should seek more than it has done to co-operate with the publishers in the matter of the supply of text books.

"There are not a good many text books in existence in subjects as distinct from reading books and since they have been approved by the text book committee we cannot imagine they are altogether bad. x x x There are a dozen books in Tamil, eighteen books in Telugu, nine in Hindustani and eight in Canarese, two in Urdu; there are five in Urdu Urdu and Hindustani and two in Persian. That suggests that the supply of text books is very fair numerically speaking. x x x

A "I am quite prepared to give consideration to the whole question of the provision and supply of text books and to see what co-operation can be given by the department to the publishers."

The resolution was put to the vote and lost.

4. But with reference to the observations of Mr. Stone at A in paragraph 3 above, the Director of Public Instruction has been requested to consider the question of the provision and supply of text books in the principal vernaculars of the Province for imparting instruction in the same.

in elementary and secondary schools and to see what co-operation may be given by the department to the publishers of such books.—vide G.O. No. 881 Edl., dated the 23rd June 1916.

Apparently the subject is still under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction. As the Director ^{did} ~~may~~ not propose any provision for the purpose in the budget estimate for 1917-18 it may be presumed that the matter has not reached the stage as to necessitate provision in the budget. If any funds are required for the purpose during the course of the year, the Director will be able to meet them by re-appropriation from the funds at his disposal. No further action appears therefore to be necessary at present. The Financial Department may be informed u.c. accordingly.

A. After the return of the file from Financial the Director of Public Instruction may perhaps be requested u.c. to state in what stage the matter now is.



(G)

1786
Financial
Recd 8.3.17

JL
8.3.17

Ch
8/3/17
Sec.

CN 1181 Ex
10.3.17

Ch
8.3.17
Fin. Sec.

Financial dept

* removed in Feb

Final h.o. 1786-1
9.3.17

After approval it will be incorporated in the draft of the proposed already approved by A.C. Prof. is being sent to A.C.

Draft summary is submitted for approval. After approval, the case may be returned to Home (Educ.).

Ch
9.3.17.

Home (Educ.) info

For Rep.

Home (Ed.) Dept.

These papers may now be sent to the Div. of Pub. Instr. U.O. for perusal and for report with ref. to 'A' on p 4 ante.

8117
12.3.17JL
12.3.17A
12-3-17

D. P. Jones

Ed. no 1181-1

13.3.17

No 91 & 23/3/17

Nothing new has been done so far because I have been engaged upon curricula. The old curriculum for syllabuses. These are now ready for most of the subjects of the Secondary School leaving certificate course and the revised course will soon be submitted to Government. A complete curriculum with syllabuses for the first lower form (I - III) is also in a forward state of preparation. But for the most part these syllabuses will be suitable for the higher elementary school classes also. It is clear that until these courses and syllabuses are settled text books cannot be written for them.

This does not directly touch the question of vernacular text books for the subjects now taught in English in the three

higher forms, but it does indirectly because if we can let English have our more systematically taught in the three first forms the difficulty that boys experience in the fourth will be lessened.

I do not consider that the want of text books is the main difficulty or even a very important one in the way of using the vernacular in these forms. If the other difficulties could be overcome text books would be forthcoming. I do not attach much weight to the want of scientific terminology. It would be very hard to teach boys science without teaching them the ^{scientific} names for things.

I am quite sure that unless boys do their work in English in the higher forms they will not be ready for the university courses or at any rate only a very small proportion of them will be able to convince the university that they are. I never had it in view to subsidize or otherwise encourage publishers to produce vernacular books for this purpose, but for use for vernacular teaching in the classes and for the interests in and for which it is now compulsory.

I have had in mind subsidizing at all but rather letting publishers know what is

wanted and encouraging them to seek departmental advice before publishing.

As regards books for elementary schools this also depends on. Madras to a considerable extent and, though much has been kept on hand in terms of syllabus in rural science or history and so on, quite ready.

In the subject I do not think that elementary schools suffer much for want of text books.



For Regr.

Home (Educ.) Dept.

The D.P.'s reply may, it is subd, be sent to the Finl. Dept. for perusal before circulation to H.E.

SM
29.3.17

LL
29.8.17

CL
31.3.17

CL
1.4.17

For us



Notes in A
Colno 1181-2749

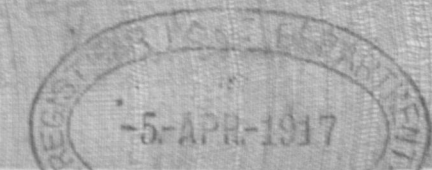
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Regd. 2/4/17.

File no. 2812-1

Subd that the case may be returned to Home (Educ.) after perusal.

b.s.s.
4.4.17.



Wm

B. 35
6.16.17
K. 17.4

NOTES.

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For orders as to circulation to H.E.
for perusal of the B.P.O's notes on page 5
7 ante.

T
10.4.17

Q
11.4.17

H.E.

du 11/4/17
12/4/17

P
15.4.17



Submitted that the papers may now be
recorded and brought on the index for future
reference. A draft order is submitted below

PD
10.4.17

T
20.4.17

Q
25/4/17

du 26/4/17

Vernacular ~~primary~~ or Scientific subject.

Recording notes relating to the suggestion of the
Mr. Rangas Achariyar at the meeting of the Finance Committee for
1917 to make a provision of Rs. 5000 for the publication of

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

191

191

READ ALSO:—

C. No. 1101, From the _____, No. _____, dated _____ 191

191

191

ORDER.

No. 538, dated 26-4-1917

Miss

Recorded

19
18-4-1

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CR ^{my}
2574117 ^{Vote}

