

Hon (1918) Department.
Education

Primary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1208

DATED 11-9-18.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording papers relating to a question asked
by the Honourable Mr. P. Venkatapati Raju at the meeting of the
----- held on the 13th August 1918 regarding the scarcity
and high price of text books.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1918.

Home (Edl) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper-- *The new India*
 2. Published at-- *Madras.*
 3. Dated-- *1st June 1918. See wing 24-6-18*
- For perusal*
A
24-6-18

EXPLOITING THE STUDENTS

MOST OF THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE Presidency have already opened, and in a fortnight, the Colleges will follow suit. Accordingly, the annual rush for school and college books has begun, and during the next few days, publishers will be reaping a wealthy harvest. In India, specially in this Province, most of the books prescribed by the authorities are the property of non-Indian firms, and though the students obtain them from retail book-sellers, the foreign companies are enjoying a virtual monopoly, and, as might be expected, they do not hesitate in exploiting it to the best of their power. In some instances, these publishers have fortified their position by a very ingenious device. A clever member of the Educational Service undertakes to "abridge" some masterpieces of well-known writers, so that though the original work is available at all book-sellers and publishers, the abridged volume, which alone is prescribed as the text-book, forms the copyrights of a single company, which utilises this monopoly to shake the pagoda tree. The members of the I.E.S. have their own share of the gold, having been the authors, and since the power of fixing the text-books is vested in them, the game of exploitation goes on merrily. The scandal has been brought to public notice on several occasions, and the Government of Bombay even sustained a crushing defeat in the Legislative Council, because of their refusal to attempt a solution. But it goes on, nevertheless, perhaps on a scale not known or even dreamed of previously.

The hardships pressing on the students have grown more acute by reason of the War, at any rate by the pretext it has given the exploiters to play their game with greater zeal. The prices of books have been increased, and are being increased almost daily. There seems to be no limit to the rise, and no regular standard to go by. One can understand the prices being increased by 12½ or 20 or even 25 per cent, because of the rise in the cost of paper. No such limit seems to have been fixed, and we shall give here a few instances to show the real nature of the rise. A book of Greek History, sold previously for five rupees, is now priced eight—and even to-day the cost of production will not be more than two rupees; and thus

the increase in price exceeds the total cost of production. Another book, said to have been abridged by a non-Indian member of the I.E.S., was being sold to students at twelve annas, and to book-sellers at nine or even eight annas. The present selling price varies from fifteen annas to one rupee two annas, and the margin of profit allowed to book-sellers has been actually reduced. The publishers are now demanding a net increase of five annas over the pre War price, and the cost of production even to-day is not likely to be four annas—so thoroughly has it been "abridged". Thus, as a result of the War, the net profit of the publisher on each copy has been tangibly increased, and the students have no alternative but to submit to the extortion. Any book-seller can supply to-day a complete and better got up copy of the same book as written originally by its author for eight or nine annas, while the "abridged" copy, very poorly got up, is sold for double the price. And the scandal does not end here. Though the publishers are given previous intimation of a certain book having been prescribed as a text, they stock only a very limited number of copies, the bulk of which is bought outright by some wealthy book-seller who, in his turn, exploits the monopoly. The average student is thus victimised not merely by the educationist who "abridges" the book and gets it prescribed as the text, but also by the publisher and the middleman, with the result that he is called upon to pay a price three or four times as large as he would have had to pay if no monopoly had been unfairly and artificially brought into play.

See vol. 2

As admitted by H.E.

10-10-7-18]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.
Home (Education) Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. Venkatapati Raju.

94 Q.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the abnormal prices fixed by the firms and scarcity in some instances of text-books prescribed by the Educational authorities in schools and colleges, causing immense trouble to the students? Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take any action to ~~remedy the evil~~ in the matter?

[Meeting of the 12th August 1918]

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Q 94

QUESTION—No.

94

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the

13-8-1918

1918

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the *re (Education)* 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.

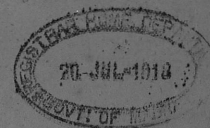
V.T.K.

20-7-18

Leg U.O. No. 1621-1, dated 20-7-18

To

The *Horn* (Cow) Department. *Letter No. 94.*



10-19-7-18]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.
Home (Education) Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. Venkatapati Raju.

24 Q.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the abnormal prices fixed by the firms and scarcity in some instances of text-books prescribed by the Educational authorities in schools and colleges, ~~causing inconvenience to the students~~? Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take any action ~~to remedy the evil~~ in the matter?

[Meeting of the 13th August 1918]

Home (Edn) Deptt.

Please see the extract from the "New India" of the 18th June 1918 at slip 9 in which it is pointed out that the cost of text-books is abnormally increased by the monopoly of their publication by particular firms. It is not, however, suggested how this can be remedied by the Govt. Perhaps the D.P.D. may be requested to state u.o. whether the grievance complained of is real and if it is, whether the Govt. can interfere in any way to remedy the evil. India free there seems to be no help.

22.7.18

22/7/18

for favour of suggesting an answer.

22/7/18

D.P.D.

Home (Edn) Deptt.

No. 1526 B-1

22.7.18

D.O. from the Honourable Mr. J. H. Stone, C.I.E.,
To the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao Avargal,
Dated the 4th August 1918,
No. C.124/1918.

[] His separately
subd.

I have seen questions or resolutions on the control of promotions by Inspectors of Schools and the rise of prices of school text books. I now have information on both these points and am in position to write notes if they are required.

Home (En) Sep 4.

The answer to the question has been approved by H.C. and despatched to Secy. Orders are solicited whether the D.P. may be asked to note further, so as to enable the Govt. to be prepared for any supplementary question.

PPD
5.8.18

The answer already approved does not commit us to anything. As a result of the D.P.'s consideration of the question, he may note further on the point.

A
5/8/18

mm 5/8/18

DP of no.

Home (En) no
AP 1526 B-3
5-8-18

Like first place & no one has complained either to the Registrar or to me about scarcity of text books or profiteering by publishers.

There has been considerable rise of prices of school books, as shown by the following instances.

NOTES.

Page 5

	from	to
Barnes Junior Book	0.8.0	0.12.0
Woods from the Poles	0.11.0	1.0.0
Woolen Men	1.2.6	2.0.6
Kings, deamie	1.0.0	2.7.0
Power, the Lybth People	0.14.0	2.0.6
Peters Men More	0.4.0	0.5.6
Lule People - Jan Offhand	0.2.0	0.3.0
Kennan's History	0.12.0	1.0.0
" Geography	0.6.0	0.8.0

These are market prices. It is likely that small booksellers up country have put their prices up even more, but I have not yet enquired. Some are prescribed text books.

I have no evidence that there is any ring of speculators. School masters seem to accept the rise of prices as inevitable, and there has been delay in provision of the numerous prescribed texts, due to the delay in the issue of a new syllabus to the ^{S.P.C.K.} Press having been short handed owing to the influenza epidemic, but this is not considered by masters headmasters, either as hardship or suffering or handicap ^{to the masters.} on this is not relevant.

Does not the above answer imply that I shall be able to discuss any finance that may be found to print? This I cannot do since whatever I might be able to arrange with publishers about their prices for prescribed texts I cannot control retail booksellers.



not necessary

It is for orders whether in view of the D.P.D. further note overleaf, the original answer should be replaced. If the following is suggested for consideration:-

"Yes. The matter has been examined by the D.P.D. and it does not appear that any action is called for. The rise of prices ^(of books) seems inevitable under existing conditions."

CA
 6.8.18

11/18/18

H.L.

8 AUG 1918



The final form of the question and answer was as follows.

98 Q.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the abnormal prices fixed by the firms and scarcity in some instances of text-books prescribed by the Educational authorities in schools and colleges? Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to take any action in the matter?

Scarcity of text-books prescribed in schools, etc.

98 A.—Yes. The matter has been examined by the Director of Public Instruction and it does not appear that any action is called for. The rise of prices of books seems inevitable under existing conditions.

No further action seems called for. The note may it is submitted be

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