

Home (1918) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 739

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording notes connected with the resolution on the subject of making additional provision for opening night schools moved by the Honourable Mr. T. Ranga Achariyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 13th March 1918, and requesting the Director of Public Instruction to expedite his proposals for the utilization of the allotment for night schools.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION REGARDING REVISED
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

[For the Meeting of the 18th March 1918.]

[SUBJECT.—Additional provision for opening night schools.]

is The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—

XVII ~~THE~~ This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the provision in the budget estimate under the head 22. EDUCATION of a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the opening of night schools be increased by Rs. 6,000 and a corresponding amount be reduced from the item of Rs. 15,000 "Petty grants and charitable donations by His Excellency the Governor" under the head 32-B. MISCELLANEOUS.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

In November 1913, His Excellency the Governor suggested that the subject of night schools might be examined in consultation with the Director of Public Instruction. The Director (Sir Alfred Bourne) thereupon reported as follows :—

"Night schools work fairly well here and there when the conditions are favourable; but generally they are not a success. Grants are given to night schools, but we do not encourage a teacher to take up night work as well as day work" [pages 10 to 12 of G.O. No. 173, Educational, dated 12th February 1914].

No further action was taken in the matter then.

2. At the instance of the Finance Committee of 1915 a recurring allotment of Rs. 10,000 for night schools for poor boys in rural tracts was included in the Civil Budget Estimate for 1915-16, paragraph 57 of the proceedings of the Finance Committee, 1915. In October 1915, the Director submitted proposals for the opening of 44 schools from the above allotment. When this question was under the consideration of Government, the Director of Public Instruction (the Hon'ble Mr. Stone) in a un-official note expressed the following opinion on the question of night schools generally (page 4 of Notes to G.O. No. 1353, Educational, dated 8th December 1915):—

(a) As I understand it, night schools are intended not so much for the children of labourers as for grown-up boys and young men who have had no schooling and are desirous of making up their deficiencies by getting some after their working hours. I doubt if any period of the day could be found before dark which would at all generally meet their needs. The question of working schools in shifts for caste and non-caste children seems to me a separate one and is being examined separately.

Out of the forty-four schools suggested to be established, only eighteen are in places where there are already board schools; and I do not think we anticipate much success in trying to attach night school classes to ordinary aided schools. In the case of the eighteen schools, we might arrange with the boards concerned to use their school-rooms, etc.

(b) I don't suppose the men we should get as 'whole time' night school teachers would remain idle during the day but there would be more chance of their coming with some freshness to their work than if they had been engaged in teaching all day. Again, however, we might try the experiment of using board school teachers in the case of the eighteen schools above mentioned.

(c) I may remark that the idea of increasing the number of night schools is not mine. I believe the money spent on them will be as nearly wasted as may be, and I should think the Rs. 10,000 might very well be resumed by Government as expenditure not urgently necessary. I shall in fact include it in the statement I have to make.

In that connexion His Excellency observed :—

For the present the "night schools" expenditure proposed may stand over. I hope that Financial may be able to agree to the girls' schools proposals on the Director of Public Instruction's lines proceeding. It is very desirable to encourage these beginnings—page 7 of Notes to G.O. No. 1353, Educational, dated 8th December 1915.

Accordingly the provision for night schools was diverted for other objects in 1915-16—G.O. No. 1353, Educational, dated 8th December 1915.

3. At the meeting of the Finance Committee in 1916, the Hon'ble Mr. Kesava Pillai inquired why the provision of Rs. 10,000 made in 1915-16 for opening night schools was proposed to be omitted in the budget for the subsequent year. The Hon'ble Mr. Stone replied that he had to find a saving somewhere and thought that it would be most usefully secured in regard to this item. He also expressed his opinion that the opening of night schools should be left mainly to philanthropic effort and that private schools if started would receive aid from Government. The committee finally recommended that aid be given to the fullest extent allowed by the Grant-in-Aid Code to night schools and local authorities be assisted in taking over such schools (paragraph 6 of Proceedings of the Finance Committee, 1916). The necessary instructions were accordingly issued in G.O. No. 145, Educational, dated 11th February 1916.

4. Again at the similar meeting held in January 1917 the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar mentioned the desirability of expenditure on night schools and inquired what progress had been made in giving effect to the previous year's recommendation referred to in paragraph 3 above. He was told that a special circular on the subject had been issued by the Director of Public Instruction to inspecting officers. In this connexion the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur P. Rajagopala Achariyar cited his experience in Travancore as showing that expenditure on night schools is only too likely to be thrown away for the reason that the pupils attending them lack the vitality to take up school studies after day's work—paragraph 10 of the Proceedings of the Finance Committee, 1917.

5. The question of making special provision for night schools or continuation schools was mooted by the Hon'ble Mr. Narasimha Ayyar and other members in the Finance Committee in the current year and a provision of Rs. 5,000 has been made for the purpose in the budget for 1918-19. The Additional Member now suggests that an addition of Rs. 6,000 may be made to this provision.

6. The notes above show that the scheme of night schools is not an unqualified success. Nevertheless the number of night schools is growing up gradually. From 485 in 1911-12 it has gone up to 707 in 1916-17. Most of these are apparently under private management and the aid in respect of them is presumably being paid from the general provision for grant in aid. The allotment under this head for next year is ample and there is no need for increased provision in addition to the special lump allotment of Rs. 5,000 made on this account.

7. It is therefore for consideration whether the resolution may be opposed. If so, orders are solicited as to who should be in charge of the resolution and whether it should be discussed in Council.

S.A.—8-3-18.

T.K.—8-3-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—8-3-18.

His Excellency through the Director of Public Instruction.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—8-3-18.

I agree with the above note.

J. H. STONE—9-3-18.

P[ENTLAND]—9-3-18.

Extract from the Proceedings of a Meeting of the Council of the Governor of Fort St. George assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Act of Parliament, 5 & 6 Geo. V, Ch. 61.

The Council assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 13th day of March 1918.

RESOLUTION RE ADDITIONAL PROVISION FOR OPENING NIGHT SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—“The resolution that I have the honour to move is as follows :—

‘XVII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the provision in the budget estimate under the head “22. Education” of a sum of Rs. 5,000 for the opening of night schools be increased by Rs. 6,000 and a corresponding amount be reduced from the item of Rs. 15,100 “Petty grants and charitable donations by His Excellency the Governor,” under the head “32-B. Miscellaneous.”’

“These night schools are becoming more and more useful and more highly appreciated, so far as I am able to judge from the nature of voluntary work done in the city. There are several schools working like that in Egmore, Nungambakam, Fursewalkam, Triplicane and Georgetown. The sort of people who attend these schools—I have got figures for one school—are boys employed in the press as compositors, type founders, readers and engravers. The strength of one school is 120 and 20 of them come from that class, five filters, six tailors and six masons and three peons, two washermen, one tinker, five weavers, six petty traders, one barber, six binders, three carpenters, four electric mechanics and 12 unemployed, altogether a large number of people. These schools are becoming very popular. These are the figures for the Egmore school which is run by a number of people who are interested in carrying on this work and I am glad to say that Diwan Bahadur Ramanujam Chetti is taking a very great interest in these schools, and is helping them financially.

“There are also other elementary schools which are carrying on this work. I may mention that in Madura town and in several other places there are philanthropists running these schools. The Government consider that it is their duty to help such institutions by providing a sum of Rs. 5,000. I hardly consider that Rs. 5,000 is sufficient. I therefore propose that we should go on increasing the expenditure, so that if we have more money, the Director of Public Instruction will find a useful way of spending it. The system must spread throughout the Presidency. I do not think the principle will be questioned. I find that according to the rules we have to specify where this sum is to be found. I would find that under 32-B. Miscellaneous on page 206 of the Civil Budget estimate. For the last two or three years a sum of Rs. 9,000 was placed at the disposal of Your Excellency's Government for petty grants and charitable donations. This year it is proposed to increase it to Rs. 15,000. I find from the budget statement, that this head of expenditure began in the year 1913-14, for I did not find in the previous years' budgets any such head. I think it is hardly necessary to increase the expenditure under that head ‘Petty grants and charitable donations’. I think that this sum may be found out of that item.”

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR :—“Your Excellency, in connexion with this matter I may say that the Social Service League at Madura has organized a number of night schools for boys and girls who attend mills and offices there. They have been doing good work and have been trying to collect subscriptions for maintaining the schools. If grants are given to them, it would turn out to be a very good source of encouragement. I would, therefore, request Your Excellency to view the proposition with favour.”

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE :—“I should like to know whether these schools have been refused a grant-in-aid or have not asked for it.”

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—“I think that they have not asked for it.”

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE :—“The Honourable Member in charge of Finance has said that he will provide this extra sum of Rs. 6,000 and therefore the Government are prepared to accept the resolution, provided that the last portion of it is omitted. I am not myself very sanguine about the night schools and my power to utilize this extra Rs. 6,000. It is very difficult to supervise night schools; but at the same time I am perfectly willing to do my best and to see that the grant under this head, i.e., Rs. 5,000, is increased by Rs. 6,000.”

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—“If the Financial Member finds it elsewhere, I do not mind it. I should like to know why there has been an increase under allotment ‘Petty grants and charitable donations’ by His Excellency the Governor.”

(Sir Alexander Cardew ; Mr. Ranga Achariyar.) [15TH MARCH 1918.]

The Hon'ble Sir ALEXANDER CARDEW :—"That item is fixed with reference to the orders of the Government of India. It is placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Governor ; and it has been decided by the Secretary of State and the Government of India that a similar sum should be given to the head of each province to meet miscellaneous charitable payments. As regards your resolution, it is better to add, as suggested by the Hon'ble Mr. Ramachandra Rao, that a corresponding reduction be made under 32. MISCELLANEOUS."

The Hon'ble Mr. T. RANGA ACHARIYAR :—"Very well."

The resolution as amended was accepted.

N. E. MARJORIBANKS,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

Hamel Education Dept.

The additional provision of Rs. 6,000 suggested by the Additional Member has been included in the budget, and the D.D. I. has been separately asked to submit proposals for the utilization of these and other lump allotments. No further action is therefore necessary, the papers may be

no 739 & 8.6.18.

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To 11.6.18
The S.P.
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Recording not connected
with the resolution in the
subject of additional provision
in the Dept. for opening
night schools moved
by the Hon. Mr. T. Ranga
Acharya, at the meeting
of the — held on 13.3.18
+ requesting the S.P.
to expedite his proposals
for the utilization of the
allotment for night schools.

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ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

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