

Home (1918) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 759.

DATED 11-6-1918

INDEX

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council

Recording notes connected with a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr.P.Siva Rao in the meeting of the ---- held on the 13th March 1918 regarding grant of scholarships to indigent pupils in secondary schools.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION REGARDING REVISED FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

[For the Meeting of the 13th March 1918.]

[SUBJECT.—*Grant of scholarships to indigent pupils in secondary schools.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—

XXXIV. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the allotment under the "22-G. EDUCATION—Grants-in-aid" may be increased by Rs. 40,000 to provide for the grant of scholarships to indigent pupils in secondary schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Educational Conference of 1916 and that the same be met by a corresponding reduction under the head of 45. CIVIL WORKS.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The recommendation of the Educational Conference of 1916 on the subject of provision of scholarships in secondary schools is extracted below :—

"For the purpose of granting fee concessions to indigent pupils of marked ability, expenditure by managing bodies on scholarships up to a limit of 10 per cent of the fee income reckoned at standard rates be considered as legitimate expenditure for the purpose of assessing the grants that might be paid to a school, provided that the scheme for the award of scholarships or fee concessions has received the approval of the Director of Public Instruction."

This and the other recommendations of the Conference are now under the consideration of Government. Financial have accepted the above recommendations but are unable to make provision for the extra expenditure which is estimated at Rs. 88,000 in the budget for 1918-19. In this connexion attention is solicited to paragraph 12 of the Proceedings of the Finance Committee in which with reference to the inquiry of the same additional member on this subject he was informed of the stage in which the matter stood. It is therefore for consideration whether the additional member's resolution immediately to increase the allotment under 22-G. EDUCATION—Grants-in-aid by Rs. 40,000 may be opposed especially in view of the fact that final orders have not yet been passed on the recommendations of the Conference. Orders are solicited as to who should be in charge of it and whether it should be discussed in Council.

T.K.—7-3-18.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—8-3-18.

His Excellency through the Director of Public Instruction.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—8-3-18.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

I think that a mere negative to this resolution would arouse very just indignation. Government have had two years to consider the recommendations of the 1916 conference and now that their financial effects are apparently known, there ought not to be another year of delay in giving effect to the recommendations. I am not able to say how the money can be found however.

J. H. STONE—9-3-18.

For discussion in Council.

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 18th day of May 1918.

RESOLUTION *RE* GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIGENT PUPILS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ The resolution that I propose to move runs thus :—

‘XIX. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the allotment under “22-G. EDUCATION—Grants-in-aid” may be increased by Rs. 40,000 to provide for the grant of scholarships to indigent pupils in secondary schools in accordance with the recommendations of the Educational Conference of 1916 and that the same be met by a corresponding reduction under the head of “45. CIVIL WORKS”.’

“ Your Excellency, before proceeding further, let us just examine the position ; and we shall just see where we stand under the Madras Educational Rules. There is no option left to the manager or the head of an institution to remit or exempt the fee except in some cases. Rule 98 says : ‘ Fees in all colleges and secondary schools under the management of Government, or of a municipal council, or of a local board, shall, subject to the exceptions hereinafter provided, be levied according to the following regulations.’ Rules provide for certain rates of fees in the case of institutions under private management. ‘ The rates and levy of fees will be left to a large extent to the discretion of the managers, but managers may be required to levy reasonable fees.’ I know that rules provide for certain exceptions and the exceptions are mentioned in rule 102. ‘ Fees in all institutions may be levied from Muhammadans and Uriyas and from girls and backward classes and castes at half the standard rates.’ So, beyond that exception, there is no provision made for the exemption or remission of fees in secondary schools, especially in the case of Government schools or schools managed by municipal councils or local boards. Exceptions are in the case of Muhammadans, Uriyas, girls and some backward classes. So, Your Excellency, there is no provision intended for the benefit of indigent pupils of deserving merit and for people of other than backward classes. Backward classes are held to mean Paraiyas and other lower classes ; and that does not include the higher classes of Hindus. This is a very necessary reform which should be carried out. In 1916 the Educational Conference met and they passed a resolution in the following terms :—

‘ That, for the purpose of granting fee concessions to indigent pupils of marked ability, expenditure by managing bodies on scholarships up to a limit of 10 per cent of the fee income reckoned at standard rates be considered as legitimate expenditure for the purpose of assessing the grant that might be paid to a school provided that the scheme for the award of scholarships or fee concessions has received the approval of the Director of Public Instruction.’

“ This was resolved upon in the year 1916 ; and in May last year I gave notice of a similar resolution though couched in different terms. I was assured by the Director of Public Instruction that the matter would be considered. Then I kept quiet for six months and seeing that nothing had been done I sent in November last year notice of a similar resolution in almost the same terms. I was then assured that the matter was still engaging the attention of the Government and I was advised not to hurry up. Though two years have nearly expired since the passing of the resolution, yet nothing seems to have been done. I am quite aware that the Government do provide for scholarships which are distributed among circles. The Inspector of each circle is given about ten or twelve scholarships to distribute them among the secondary schools in his circle. What I suggest to the Honourable Members of Council is that the present arrangements are quite inadequate for the purpose and an earnest effort should be made towards the expansion of secondary education in this direction by encouraging poor students to prosecute their studies from the elementary stage to the secondary stage.

“ Your Excellency, in this connexion I may be permitted to quote from the speech of Mr. Fisher in the House of Commons :—

‘ It has been suggested to me that secondary school education should be free and the establishment of a system of free secondary education is an ideal with which I have very great sympathy. It may be that the simplest way of attaining this object would be to abolish all fees in secondary schools.’

“ Then in another connexion, in dealing with secondary education, he observes :—‘ We do not want a caste system of education. We want social fusion, and the best way of securing social fusion in the secondary schools is to have a system under which well-to-do parents contribute their fees and help to support the school, while the children of poorer parents are assisted, and liberally assisted, by free places and maintenance allowances.’ What was said of

2

(Mr. Siva Rao; the President; Mr. Stone.) [13TH MARCH 1918.

the state of things in England, applies quite well to the state of things here. This resolution, if accepted, would go far to mitigate the present evil and to increase the number of secondary school-going children. With these remarks, Your Excellency, I beg to commend this resolution.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"The Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction would rather be glad if the Honourable Gentleman would state his case for the next resolution also, as it is very much akin to this resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"I do not propose to move it for the present."

The Hon'ble Mr. J. H. STONE:—"Your Excellency, the Honourable Member has referred to the resolution of the Educational Conference in 1916 and to the fact that orders have not yet been passed upon it. He may remember from a conversation that took place in the Finance Committee that the reason for the delay was then mentioned. However, he is right in saying that I did recommend to the Government that 10 per cent of the fee income calculated under standard rates should be disregarded in calculating grants in order to provide for scholarships for indigent pupils of ability. In making that proposal, I said that if it were allowed, it would not be necessary to increase the allotment for scholarships. The Government are not able to accept this resolution No. 19 for the simple reason that the matter is still under consideration and that nothing further can be said about it. If the Government should decide to accept this suggestion of the Educational Conference of 1916, I presume that the money will be forthcoming; but if they do not decide to accept it, there will be no need for it. In any case, the Government are not prepared to place a sum of Rs. 40,000 for this purpose in the budget and are not prepared to accept the course suggested by the Honourable Member, merely because the matter is still under consideration and nothing can be said about it."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"In the light of the statement made by the Hon'ble Mr. Stone I will not press the resolution. I hope that the Government will eventually provide the sum of Rs. 40,000."

With the permission of His Excellency the President, the resolution was withdrawn.

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

Home Secy Dep.

An extract of the discussion on the Resolution in the Council meeting has been added to the file. The resolution was after discussion withdrawn. No further action seems to be necessary. The papers may be submitted to Mr. 7598/11.6.18.
Recorded

ag
5/6/18
ms
7/11/18

CR
10/6/18
11/6/18

191

DATED

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER 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.