

Home (1918) Department.
(Education)

Boonay SERIES.

G.O. No. 824.

DATED 24-6-1918.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Open air school for tuberculous children.

Recording letter from the Director of Public Instruction on the subject of the establishment of ----- and requesting him to bring up the question for consideration after the results of the further medical inspection that is to be instituted are known.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

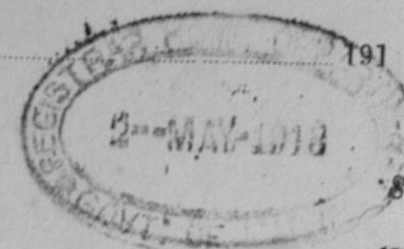
C. No. 1152A

Received

191

Registered

191



Subject.

Submitting correspondence in regard to
the establishment of open air schools for tubercular
children.

ENCLOSURES.	
No.	
Spare copies	

R.C.

No.

6660/14

Station

Madras

Dated the

30th

April

191

From (Name) the Hon'ble Mr. J. H. Stone, M.A., F.R.H.S.
C.I.E.,
(Designation) Director of Public Instruction,
MADRAS.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
HOME (EDUCATION) Department.

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 3 of G.O. No. 177 Home
(Education) dated 13th February 1918 enquiring whether
the Director and the Corporation of Madras consider
the establishment of open ^{air} schools for tubercular
children in the City of Madras practicable, I have the
honour to submit herewith copies of the marginally-
noted correspondence between myself and the President
of the Corporation containing our views on the subject.

- 1) D.P.I.'s letter to the President,
Corporation of Madras, R.C. No. 6660/14
dated 22nd March 1918
- (2) Reply to the Director of the President,
Corporation of Madras, R.O.G.D.C. No. 671
Sup/18 dated 9th April 1918
- 3) A note written by the Health Officer, Corporation of Madras.

2

I may also add to the points raised in the correspondence that an open air school would almost inevitably have to be a boarding school in which free board and tuition would have to be provided, firstly because children cannot go an indefinite distance to school and secondly because to secure fresh air it would be necessary to have the school away from the crowded parts of the town.

I would suggest that a decision on this question of open air schools may wait till the results of the further medical inspection now being arranged for are taken into consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

N. A. Ariv.

for Director of Public Instruction.

30.4.18

Y.V./29/4

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Letter R. C. No.6660/14 dated 22nd March 1918 from the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, to the President, Corporation of Madras, Madras.

4

With reference to para 3 of G.O.No.177 Home (Education) dated 13th February 1918 calling for a report on the practicability or otherwise of the establishment of open air schools for tubercular children in the City of Madras, I have the honour to state that I consider that difficulties are likely to arise in the actual working of the scheme. One difficulty that suggests itself to me would be the separation of the sound children from the unsound. Moreover I do not see how compulsion could be brought to bear upon the latter to attend a special school. This cannot be done unless legal powers are given to the health authorities. I also consider that such schools would be expensive and difficult to man. Such questions will inevitably arise after the medical inspection of schools has passed the present stage of enquiry when it will be necessary to decide what to do on the results of enquiry. I request, however, that you will meanwhile inform me whether you agree with my views and whether you can suggest any means of overcoming the legal and other difficulties pointed out above.

4

2. A copy of the G.O. referred to above is herein enclosed for your reference.

Letter R.O.G.D.C.No.671 Sup of 18 dated 9th April 1918 from the President, Corporation of Madras.

In reply to your letter Ref. on C. No.6660 of 1914, dated 22nd March 1918, I have the honour to enclose for your perusal a note written on the subject by the Health Officer. I have discussed this school question with him on

various occasions, and I agree with his views so far as administration is concerned. On the medical aspect of the question I cannot speak.

I agree with the Health Officer that it should not be impossible to exclude tuberculous children from our (Corporation) schools by means of a preliminary medical examination. But I fear that it will be for sometime a very difficult matter to induce parents to send their children to a special school for the tubercular. Obviously attendance at such school means a certain stigma on the child, and parents will try to avoid this stigma. It may be worth while to try such a school, but I think that the trial should be a long one, and that we should be prepared to see the school a practical failure for some considerable time. In other words the school may be provided, but I do not think that public opinion is ripe for enforcing compulsory attendance.

I also agree with the Health Officer in thinking that the fitness of a child in this respect should be decided by a medical man appointed for this special purpose and that private certificates should not be accepted. Tuberculosis, I understand, is an affection with many degrees and there should be an unvarying standard.

To the last paragraph of the Health Officer's note I would invite special attention. After all the time that a child spends in school is undoubtedly very short. The real trouble is the child's life outside school: and unfortunately housing conditions in Madras are very bad so far as the poorer classes are concerned.

Your point that such a school would be difficult to man seems to me to be worthy of special attention. Presumably there would be some danger of infection attached to the schoolmaster's post, and with the present scale of schoolmasters' fees I doubt if any man worth

3.

having could be procured for the post. I think that if such a school is started we should recognise that a specially good class of teacher is required, and that consideration of expense, within reasonable limits, should not be of paramount importance.

Note of the Health Officer.

A preliminary examination before admission is by far the best course to adopt. This, of course, entails the appointment of one or more "School Doctors" the number depending upon the number of schools and the school-going children. To obviate the difficulty raised by the Hon'ble Mr. Stone, I would say that pupils can be taken into the school on any day they are brought in, but regular admission on to the register may take place after the Doctor certifies to their health. Towards such a procedure the school doctor should be required to visit every school at least twice a week for this purpose, and as there are a large number of schools now, and more are likely to spring up, there ought to be no difficulty in arranging for their programme of work. On these visiting days, the school Physicians may also examine and give medical advice to such of those children who may be ill and who may be presented by the Headmaster.

One thing suggests to me that the pupils should be examined and certified fit or unfit only by a duly appointed School Doctor. This should not be left to the parents who will somehow manage to produce certificates of fitness as a rule.

To avoid rejecting children suffering from Tuberculosis wholly from schools and practically shutting education for them, open air schools should be started where they should attend. Tuberculosis of the lungs, in most cases, is an incipient disease and often difficult to detect in its early stages. Further, under suitable environments many of the early cases recover; and such cases should be timely separated from children suffering from more advanced types of the disease and towards this end it is incumbent that all school-going pupils especially of the open-air school, should be examined at regular intervals of 3 or 4 months. Active open cases of lung tubercle should on no account be admitted even into the open air school. They ought to go to a Hospital or Sanatorium.

In the case of very mild incipient cases, to refuse admission into the ordinary Corporation Schools and to make them attend the open air school, would be difficult for some years to start with until the lay citizen is able to discern the benefits of the system. People will suspect something wrong in the methods adopted and it would be hard to insist on the tubercular children attending the open air school without sufficient legal powers.

The first thing that occurs to me is to make "Tuberculosis" a notifiable disease, which under the existing or proposed Municipal Act, it is not. It is possible that in the beginning some foolhardy people would rather not educate their children than send them to a school - an open air one - different from the existing ones. But in course of time these doubts and difficulties disappear and in view of the acknowledged benefits of education and of the greater demand for free education, children are bound to come in larger numbers, and with the legal enactments in force, the school or Health authorities can only make the open-air school a great success.

Considering the climatic conditions prevailing here, and the general insanitariness in which these children have their living for the greater part of the day and night these elementary schools in their design should be made as open and airy as possible. It ought to be enough if the children could be well protected from the sun and the rain. Granted this, the question of really 'open air schools' for Tuberculosis children could be easily solved.

For, after all, except for the few hours, i.e., 4 to 5 hours at school during the day time, these children usually live in squalid, over-crowded slums; and school authorities should aim towards making these few hours the brightest part of their daily life with the hope that the evil influences of insanitary environments may be at least partly counter-balanced by life at school. Further, life at school should be such as will make the children learn cleaner habits which they, in their own time, would not only practise, but would teach their successors.

/TRUE COPIES/.

N. A. A. A.

for Director of Public Instruction.

30.4.18
Y.V./29/4

NOTES.

Page

Home (Education) Dept.

No. 1152A from the D.P.I., no. 6604 30.4.18
Subject. Establishment of open air schools
 for tubercular children.

For orders whether in the circumstances explained in the current letter, the Director's proposal that a decision on the question of open air schools may wait till the results of the further medical inspection now being arranged for are taken into consideration may be approved.

3.5.18

2 It appears that the necessary initiative in the matter should be taken by the Corporation itself.

4.15.18

The medical inspection of the schools under the Corporation is now over as an experimental measure. The further experiment is with reference to the ^{special} ~~Colleges~~ ^{Colleges} & secondary schools & with regard to these the Corporation has apparently no concern directly, not having such institutions under its management. The open schools are ~~a~~ evidently suggested, & will obviously be possible, with reference to elementary schools. The President seems prepared to open a school for tuberculous children on trial. Perhaps the experiment may be started at once and proposals worked out in detail without waiting. The experience gained in regard to this school will be a valuable

p. 4 of 4

NOTES.

Page 2

Lesson upon which useful further steps may be based.

At
7.5.18

(H)

The C.O. speaks of an open air school for pupils suffering from tuberculosis. It is clear that unless such pupils are excluded from the ordinary schools the special school will not be successful. But before taking steps - legal or otherwise - to exclude such children, I think we must have before us the results of the medical inspections before us. The means of exclusion can be ascertained only then.

2 But I am not sure if H.M.'s notes page 5 of 90 177 of 18 Feb 1918 refers to such special schools alone; or whether he refers to open air schools for elementary classes for all pupils. Perhaps, if ~~such~~ desired that such schools should be tried, the D.P.I. may be asked if an experiment can be tried.

H.E.

H.M.

On this point before us in these papers, I would follow the D.P.I.'s advice for the present.

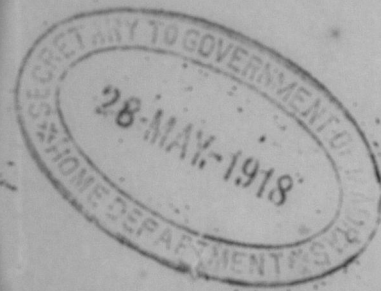
24.3.18.

We have had them before us for the last 2 years
H.H.

(H)

This file suggests two allied questions viz the type of buildings to be usually followed for elementary schools and the provision of "School Doctors". I should like to see the papers on these two subjects before noting on this file. I had a talk with the D.P.I. about type designs for Elementary School buildings about 1½ years ago, but I do not know whether there was any result, & as regards "School Doctors", the last thing that I saw was that W Stone was advocating his usual "wait & see" policy, which he also puts forward here. As the further medical inspection contemplated is, I think, to deal with High Schools & Colleges, I am not sure that it will throw much light on the position of elementary schools but perhaps I have forgotten the position the files may be put up.

AHJ
28.5.18



The Govt. have called for proposals for the inspection of two high schools and two colleges in Madras - City

The file relating to the medical inspection of schools is linked. From the Director's do. of 28.4.18 on page 7 of the notes ^{therein} ^{from the Surgeon General} it is observed that he is awaiting instructions to be followed in the carrying out of medical inspections ~~with reference to~~ ^{with reference to} para. 4 of fr. no 177 & 13.2.18. If ~~any~~ ^{high} proposals for further experiments in schools and colleges

The Director has intimated that he has addressed Heads of private Colleges in regard to the employment of School Doctors.

are ^{not} received by the 1st June it is proposed to ^{re-mend} ~~re-mend~~ ^{the Director} ~~then~~

2. The papers about type designs for elementary school buildings are in P.W.D. The file containing Dr. Lankester's suggestion in regard to open air schools for tuberculous children was linked with the general file ~~the~~ the designs for elementary school buildings and sent to P.W.D. co. on 4.8.17. Submitted that the P.W.D. maybe requested co. to put up these papers.

28.5.18
AK
29/5/18

29.5.18
P.W.D.
30/5/18

P.W.D.

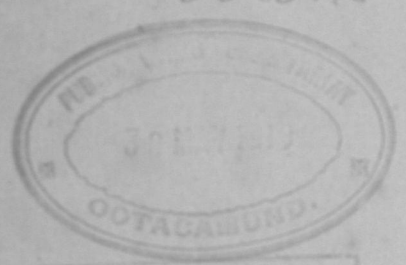
DS

The file regarding the Dr Lankester's report on Tuberculosis was returned to Home (Educational) on P.W. no no 228 ^{W.D.} / 17.1.18. The files relating to type designs for Elementary School buildings are linked together. This with the linked files may be sent to (Edu)

Home (Edu) co.

no. 3748-4.

Home (Edu) co.
K.O. 1152 A-1
20.5.18



485 0/18
31.5.18



P.W.D. No. 485/18
11.6.18

11/6/18
2.6.18

Home Education Dept.

The following files are linked herewith:-

- (1) The file relating to the medical inspection of schools and the employment of "School Doctors"
- (2) The file relating to the adoption of a type design for elementary schools for boys or girls.
- (3) The file relating to Dr. Lankford's ~~report~~ ~~on tuberculosis~~ suggestion in regard to open air schools for tuberculous children.

(4) The file relating to the adoption of a type design for middle schools for boys or girls.

2. In regard to the first mentioned file attention is solicited to para. 1 of the office note on p. 3 ~~of~~ ante. The Director who was reminded on 1.6.18 in connection with another file reports that he has not yet received the instructions for carrying out medical inspections from the Surgeon General.

La
12.6.18

AK
13.6.18

MM
13/6/18

HM 1.

The provision of open air schools is - I think - more an educational than a medical question & if H.E. the Governor would prefer that nothing should at present be done in that direction, the question is one for H.E. though, as I pointed out in my note dated 25th May the D.P.I.'s reasons for postponing progress do not seem to me very convincing.

Al
14.6.18



Box 72
enc 22.6.18
sent 24.6.18
Scott 11-8 (a) -160,001-18-1-17.

NOTES.

Submitted for orders. of an experimental school is to be opened in Madras City, it ~~will be~~ ^{should presumably} under the management of the Corporation.

Sg
15.6.18

MS
20/6/18

CA
18/6/18

H.E. has already passed orders.
Draft
my 19/6/18

Draft order is submitted.

MS
20/6/18

CA
21.6.18

For perusal of HM's remarks.
2. Draft for approval
my 22/6/18

H.E.

p
23.6.18



Done
my
24/6/18

Hamel Edw DEPARTMENT.

Open air schools for tubercular children
Recording letter from the D.P.J. on the subject of the establishment of —
and requesting him to bring up the question for consideration after the results
of the further medical inspections ~~which have been made~~ ^{that will be instituted} for are known.
READ AGAIN G.O. No. 177 (Horned Edge) dated 13 - 2 - 1918. (H)

77 77 77 77

READ ALSO:—
C. No. 1152A From the D.P.I. R.C., No. 6660, dated 30.4 1918.

No. 824, dated 24. 6. 1918.

Recorded.

2. The Director is requested to bring up for consideration the question of the establishment of open air schools for tuberculous children after the results of the further medical inspection of schools and colleges that ^{to be instituted.} ~~are now being arranged for~~ are known.

known.

19.6.18

25/6/18

22/6/18

For
reducing callbook
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with
CO
28612

To The D.P. I (206)
 .. President, Corporation of mass (206)
 " Supt. (2 Encls 206)
 " Lt. n. Dept

When given for copying *27*
 When copied *27* 191
 When examined *28*
 When signed *28* 6

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 191 DATED

5
 CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT ... A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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