

Home(1919) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1290

DATED 24-10-19

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Media of instruction in secondary schools.

Replying to the letter from the Government of India
on the subject of the-----.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No.

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (= O) or spare copy (= S.C.).	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department
Report on the conference held at Simla on 20th Aug 1917. <i>See list of papers in file.</i>	16-1-18	0		
598	7-5-18	0		
412	1-2-18	0		
1032	10-8-17	0		
215-16	16-4-18	0		
<i>Report of the Conference Directors J. Park. Ind. Ind.</i>				

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number.	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.C.).	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

No. 892.



FROM

THE HON'BLE MR. H. SHARP, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 20th August 1919.

Department of Education.
Education.

SIR,

I am directed to address you regarding the discussion which took place in the Imperial Legislative Council on the 17th March 1915 on a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Rama Rayanagar to the effect that steps should be taken for making the Indian vernaculars the media of instruction and the study of English as a second language compulsory for Indian pupils in all secondary schools. The Hon'ble Sir Harcourt Butler suggested the reference of the matter as an open question to the local Governments, whose attention should be drawn to the debate and who should be asked to consider whether the time had come to appoint provincial committees to inquire into the subject. He proposed that this reference should not be made until after the war. The Hon'ble Mr. Rama Rayanagar withdrew his resolution on receiving this assurance of a reference.

2. In August 1917 the Government of India convened a conference to consider the question of the teaching of English in secondary schools. The proceedings of that conference were forwarded to you with this Department's letter no. 1049, dated the 30th December 1917. As stated by His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the proceedings, the conference was intended to clear the ground and to enable the Government of India to arrive at a better idea of the points which should later on be referred to local Governments for consideration. The questions propounded at that conference will be found in paragraphs 3 and 19 of the proceedings. The Government of India will be glad to have the opinion of the Government of Madras on those questions. Attention is also invited to the resolutions which were put to the vote (see paragraphs 8, 13, 25 and 28 of the proceedings). It is suggested that these resolutions be considered in connection with the relevant questions.

3. The documents transmitted with your letter no. 598, dated the 7th May 1918 are being sent with a copy of your letter to the other Governments.

A copy of a letter from the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad Mandir together with a copy of a letter from the Government of Bengal, no. 1636-Edn., dated the 21st December 1918, is forwarded for consideration.

4. Attention is also invited to the Resolution of the Government of India, nos. 199-211, dated the 11th March 1904, on educational policy (paragraph 26).

5. The favour of an early reply is requested.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Secretary to the Government of India.

G. M. Press, Simla. — No. 179 E. D. — 26-8-19. — 817 — K.C.M.

No. 1636-Edn., dated Calcutta, the 21st December 1918.

From—The Hon'ble Mr. L. S. S. O'MALLEY, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education.

I am directed to forward herewith, in original, a letter dated the 18th November 1918, from the Honorary Secretary, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad Mandir and its enclosure containing proposals for making Bengali the medium for imparting high education in this country.

No. 528—25, dated Calcutta, the 18th November 1918.

From—RAYA YATINDRA NATH CHOWDHURY, Honorary Secretary, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad Mandir,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education.

(Through the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, Calcutta).

For some time past the question of making Bengali language the medium for imparting high education in our University has been under the consideration of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad. To discuss the question in all its bearings, the executive committee of the Parishad sent a circular letter to all its members and distinguished educationists and educational experts of our province, inviting their opinion on the subject. When it had received their opinions it appointed a sub-committee to thoroughly consider the opinions thus received and to formulate a scheme for making Bengali language the vehicle for imparting high education in this province. The sub-committee submitted their report which was duly considered by the executive committee of the Parishad and was accepted by them.

I am now directed by the executive committee of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad to forward the proposals unanimously adopted by the committee in connection with the question of making Bengali language the medium of high education in this country for the consideration of the Government of India and for taking such actions on our proposals as the Government may deem fit.

Proposals for making Bengali language the medium of high education in the province.

1. While discussing the question it must be considered first of all that in any attempt to improve the Bengali language and literature no harm is done to the cause of high education of the Bengalis. For it may be apprehended that the greater use of the Bengali language in the matter of imparting education may prove an obstruction to the mastering of English language and may also throw some hindrance in the way of high education specially in those branches which are now being taught, and must for few years be taught in English. But such fear is unfounded, because it is not the object of these proposals to minimise the importance of teaching the English language. The learning of the English language and literature is not only necessary for our every-day work in life but it is the best means for our access to the great storehouse of the world's knowledge. The present proposals only demand that high education in the different branches of learning should be imparted in the Bengali language. This might lead some to think that the standard of proficiency in English, which is attainable when all subjects of learning are taught through the medium of English language, cannot be expected to be attained if we teach them through the medium of Bengali language and English is taught as literature only. But this also does not stand to reason, inasmuch as, if the different subjects are taught to the Bengali students in Bengali, they would learn them with less labour and in shorter time, and the labour and time thus saved might be utilised by them in learning the English language.

2. Next it should be considered how far it is possible at the present moment to impart high education in Bengali and how and in what way the scope of imparting high education can be enlarged in the near future. It is a truism to say that

all kinds of education primary or higher should be imparted so far as practicable through the medium of the vernacular of the student. If this is done, the difficulty in learning a subject is not enhanced by the additional difficulty of learning the language in which it is taught and the subjects of study are also clearly mastered. It should, however, be considered, whether or not suitable text-books in the different branches of learning are at present available. So far as can be seen it may be said without any doubt that up to the Matriculation examination of our University there is no want of suitable Bengali text-books in History, Geography, Mathematics and Mechanics or in others words, in all subjects except English literature; and since the foundation of the Patna University the apprehension of any difficulty on account of different vernaculars has altogether vanished, because Bengali is practically the only vernacular of the examinees of the Calcutta University. For the Intermediate Examination also there is no dearth of suitable text-books in Bengali in most of the subjects. Text-books in subjects for which no suitable books are available now may be supplied very easily. At the same time it is highly desirable that one day Bengali students should be able (and there is no obstacle in the way of our attaining that end) to learn the different subjects in Bengali even up to the B.A. and the M.A. Examination Standard. If the authorities only announce that after five years all subjects of high education would be taught in Bengali, then within a short time suitable text-books on various subjects will be written by eminent authors.

3. It may be here mentioned that at present the Bengali language only is required to be learnt for University examination. It is necessary that instead of this the Bengali language and literature should form separate subjects of study and also of examination.

4. It is desirable that old Bengali literature, philology of the Bengali language and the history of its gradual evolution should be subjects in the M.A. Examination.

5. We finally suggest that for the purpose of improving the Bengali language and literature arrangements should be made for University extension lectures to be delivered in Bengali on various higher subjects by eminent scholars. This arrangement will be a useful machinery for spreading higher thoughts in the country. We may note here with pleasure that some arrangement with the above view was attempted by our late worthy Vice-Chancellor who is a devoted lover of his mother tongue. What we desire now is that this arrangement should be made permanent and expanded.

Book 15
12-9-19
Sect. A 8 (c). - 12-1-15.

NOTES.

Page 3

Home (Edn) Dept

[C. No 2020A]

From the Secy to the G. S. I
No 892 B 20. 8. 19.

Entd. 2020A-1/17.9.9.

Referred to the D.P.I.

for early remarks.

SK
12-8-19

He is requested to report whether, in his opinion, it is necessary

to appoint a committee to consider and report on, the various aspects of the question raised and if so, to submit the names of suitable gentlemen for His approval.

WKS
13/9/19

12.9.09
13/9/19

Reminder 4 weeks after issue

OK

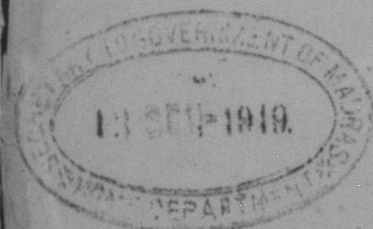
Hm

13/9/19

The proceedings of the Conference of August 17
of the letter No 1029 of 30.12.17 do not seem to be in the file. I did like to see them then. Has the D.P.I. got them?

To the D.P.I. (with the Current)

Reign



HOME / EDUCATION / DEPARTMENT. Home (Edn)

ct. no. 2264-A

Received 191 . Registered 1919.

Subject.

Replying to Government Endorsement
No. 2020 A-1, Home (Education) dated 17th
September 1919.

ENCLOSURES

No.

Spare copies

R. C. No. 8725 of 1919.

Station Madras, Dated the 9th October 1919

From (Name) The Hon'ble Mr. R. Littlehales, M.A.,

(Designation) Director of Public Instruction.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

HOME / EDUCATION / Department.

Sir,

With reference to your endorse-

ment No. 2020 A-1 Home (Education) dated 17th Sep-

tember 1919, I have the honour to state that the

question raised in the communication of the Govern-

ment of India received with the endorsement is one

of the main questions dealt with in the Report of

the Calcutta University Commission. At the next

next

P. T. O.

p 226-311 of
Vol II report
and p 26-48 of
Vol V.

Box 18
18-9 18

Home (Ed.) Dept.

With reference to H.M.'s remarks on the draft endorsement below, it is submitted that the Govt of India's letter which is dated 13th December 1917 (and not 30th Dec^r 1917 as stated in the current) ~~is submitted~~ ~~has been submitted~~

~~document~~ (page 1 of 80, N^o 48, dated the 16th January 1918). A copy of the report of the conference held in August 1917 is also submitted.

2. The D.P.I. has been supplied with copies of the report.

3. It is for orders whether the draft endorsement may now issue & the file may be circulated to H.H. hereafter.

SK
16.9.19
114
169114

CR
16.7.19
S

Certainly. It ought to have been done
at once. Hm has imitated separately
as for pseudonym.

limbale des inneren

1979/48

the [Issued as Ent No 2020A-1817-919]

28.



Box 17
23.10.19

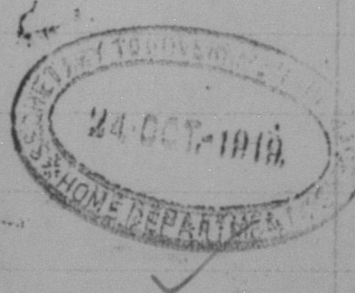
(CNo 2264A) From the D.P.D. Re No 8725 D 9-10-19

The Govt of India want an early
reply to their reference. The D.P.D.
however states that no action ~~should~~ ^{need} be
taken on India's letter until the University
Committee presents its report to the Senate.
It is submitted that this ~~will~~ ^{may} take a
considerably long time. For order whether
the D.P.D. may be requested ~~to~~ to
offer his remarks on the questions
raised by India in Consultation with
selected headmasters and Principals
and inspecting officers.

JK
17.10.19
NK
17.10.19

May we not explain the
position to the Govt. of
India (as in the D.P.D.
letter) and tell them that
we ~~will~~ ^{will} be glad to
defer action until the Committee's
report is received?

CA
18.10.19



Draft to India as Rep's note above
embodys condense of 100% of what
is 20/10/19

LD
23.10.19

with two replies

Draft Subs.

NK
20.10.19

CA
21.10.19

22.10.19

HM

Home (Gen) Dept.

Letter No 1290 of 24-10-19

To
The Secy. to the Govt. of India
Dept. of Education

Sir,

With reference to your letter no. 892 of the 20th August 1919, I am directed to state that the question of making Indian vernaculars the media of instruction and the study of English as a secondary language compulsory for Indian pupils in secondary schools, is one of the main ^{topics} questions dealt with in the report of the Calcutta University Commission.

The Senate of the University of Madras will, ~~it is understood~~, be ~~shortly~~ moved to appoint a Committee to consider the application of the report of the Comm. to the Madras University and the Governor in

[Ct No. 2020 A]

Media of instruction in
secy. schools.

Reply to the letter from the
Govt. of India on the subject
of the —

p. 1 of

203
forwarded

hp 296-311 of
vol II of the Report.

At a meeting convened for
the 24th inst

hp 4-5 of

representation

if this motion is
adopted

18

1. DATED

ENCLOSURE to C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

PAGES NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

H.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.