

Home (1919) Department.
Education
Circular SERIES.

G.O. No. 623

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Resolution.

Recording papers relating to a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. B. Venkatapati Raja at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th February 1919 recommending the reduction of school and college fees.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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L. & M. (iv) 8-1,000-1-2-18.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Resolutions Regarding Financial Statements

Resolution

QUESTION - No. *LXIII*

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the *5th February* 191*9*

Resolution

SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the *Encl. Home (Edu) & P. W. D.* Department with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the *Resolution* rules regulating Secretariat procedure in dealing with these Questions in the Legislative Council. Orders regarding admission will be communicated in due course.

L.A.C.
28.1.19

U.O. No. , dated

To

The *Home (Edu)*

Department with Re. *LXIII*



XVII 2/3

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NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION REGARDING ANNUAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

[For the meeting of the 5th February 1919.]

[SUBJECT.—*Reduction of school and college fees.*]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—

XVII ~~LXIII.~~ This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a sum of Rs. 1,35,150, i.e., 25 per cent of the present school and college fees revenue, shown in XIX (a), (b), (c), (d) be deducted and that the provision under 45-B. CIVIL WORKS be reduced by the same amount.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The Additional Member virtually recommends that fees levied in colleges and schools, both general and professional, should be reduced. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held in November 1917, the same Additional Member moved the following resolution :—

“This Council recommends to the Governor in Council that the Government be pleased to take necessary steps for securing the reduction of fees of the students both of schools and colleges to facilitate the wider spread of education.”

The resolution was after discussion put to the vote and lost. The present resolution reverts to the proposal in another way.

2. The question of reducing the amount entered in the budget estimate under the “Receipts” head can be considered only after Government have approved proposals for the reduction of fees. As no such proposal has been made or accepted by Government, the Additional Member's suggestion cannot obviously be accepted.

3. Besides it is not clear how, if the fees are reduced, the incessant demands made by the Additional Members for more equipment and better pay for the teachers can be met. The efficiency of the institutions is bound to suffer and this cannot be prevented by merely deleting certain items of non-recurring expenditure in the Public Works Department budget in the current year. Any reduction in fees will also affect the fee income of aided institutions and it is doubtful whether the managers of such institutions will agree to such a step. The Government have now under consideration large schemes for the expansion of elementary education and this appears hardly the time for surrendering legitimate income and violating the long-established policy that higher education should as far as possible be made self-supporting.

4. Orders are solicited as to whether further information should be called for, whether the resolution should be discussed in the Executive Council and who will be in charge of it.

5. The file may be sent u.o. to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks.

S.K.—29-1-19.

N.K.—29-1-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-1-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—30-1-19

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

The resolution should obviously be opposed.

H. S. DUNCAN—30-1-19.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The file may be circulated to His Excellency for orders with reference to paragraph 4 ante.

T.K.K.—30-1-19.

C. RAMANUJA AOHARIYAR—30-1-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—30-1-19.

The Director of Public Instruction will take charge.

P[ENTLAND]—31-1-19.

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 5th day of February 1919.

RESOLUTION RE REDUCTION OF SCHOOL AND COLLEGE FEES.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. VENKATAPATI RAJU moved the following resolution:—

'XVII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that a sum of Rs. 1,35,150, i.e., 25 per cent of the present school and college fees revenue shown in XIX a, b, c, d, be deducted and that the provision under 45-B. CIVIL WORKS be reduced by the same amount.'

In doing so he said:—"Your Excellency, my proposal in this resolution is to reduce the existing scale of fees in Government colleges and other institutions, technical and professional, by 25 per cent. I need not dilate once more in this Council upon the necessity of reducing the fees. That question I have raised and discussed threadbare. I know perfectly well the attitude of Government; they say that the institutions should be made self-supporting and therefore no encouragement should be given by reducing school fees. Then it was pointed out that the spread of education stopped on account of the high scale of fees levied in the institutions. We are not considering what steps we have to take with reference to the deduction of fees in other than Government institutions, because if we once agree to reduce the fees in Government institutions, it is very easy to secure a reduction in other institutions belonging to private bodies. But the question is whether it is desirable to maintain the fees at this high rate or whether it is desirable to reduce it. I have calculated that by the reduction the Government might lose Rs. 1.35 lakhs which is a small sum as compared with the amount which is provided for being spent on education. This will afford additional facilities for a large number of students. The high rate of fees is counterbalanced in other institutions by providing scholarships to a great number of poor students whose means are limited and who are unable to continue their study, but for some scholarships. But in these institutions we have not got even that advantage of having scholarships to keep pace with the demand of poor students who are men of ability but have not got the means of obtaining collegiate education. If the Government think it is necessary to raise the standard of fees to prevent boys who are otherwise unable to cope with the study for higher education because higher education is a luxury which could be secured only by those who can afford, who have the means to secure that education—if that is the policy, then we differ from that policy. We cannot discuss now that question. If you want to keep the fees at a high figure in order to see that persons who are unable to cope with it do not bother themselves with higher education and such of those poor people as have got the ability and as come to prominence in the lower classes are not to be given encouragement—if that is the policy I respectfully submit that is not the correct policy, because we must secure the wider spread of education to the largest number of people; it is not for us to say whether the students should go and take advantage of higher education. It is a fact known to everyone of the councillors that most of the people are unable to continue higher grades of study on account of the high fees and also on account of the cost of going to a different place because they have no institutions in the locality where they have their parents. As definite recommendations are wanted, I have made this important definite recommendation that one-fourth of the existing fees may be reduced to give help to the poor students."

The Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES:—"This resolution is, I submit, extremely vague in its application. The Council is asked to recommend that a sum of Rs. 1.35 lakhs, that is, 25 per cent of the present school and college fee revenue, be deducted. The vagueness is evident to any one who endeavours to ascertain how we are to reduce the fees by Rs. 1.35 lakhs. Is the reduction to take place on a uniform scale throughout or is the reduction to take place partly in one direction and partly in another, 50 per cent in one direction and 10 per cent decrease in another?"

The Hon'ble Mr. B. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"I said an all-round reduction."

The Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES:—"I do not think the resolution can be discussed. The policy of reduction of fees has been thoroughly threshed out in this Council and on the present occasion we are only concerned with the disposition of the available funds and we cannot discuss with any value or with any fruitful result the reduction of fees when the policy of reduction of fees has not been accepted."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. NARASIMHA AYYAR:—"May I know what is meant by the reference to the fact that the policy of reduction of fees has been rejected?"

(Mr. Littlehailes ; Mr. Narasimha Ayyar ;
Mr. Venkatapati Raju ; the President.) [5TH FEBRUARY 1919.]

The Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES:—"May I explain? I merely meant to say that the Honourable Mover of the resolution had already spoken on a previous occasion and made his suggestion at a previous meeting at which it was not accepted."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. NARASIMHA AYYAR:—"I do not know if I was exactly present at that meeting and, I believe, it would not be ultra vires at this meeting to come to the conclusion that a reduction of fees is desirable, taking the present circumstances into consideration. The whole question is whether we should have a reduction of fees. The Hon'ble Mr. Littlehailes thinks that the discussion was so recent that it is unnecessary to raise it again. I will, however, say this, that the matter is one which is worthy of consideration by the Honourable Members of this Council, because we have repeatedly heard complaints that education is made increasingly costly and if any little effort can be made, by the reduction of 25 per cent or by some other method, it is worth while making it. Therefore there is something to be said in favour of the resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"Your Excellency, the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction says he does not agree, and the Government do not propose, to deviate from the policy once adopted. Still I press for a division on this resolution, because on principle we wish that there should be a wider spread of education at less cost to the students. I have suggested there should be a 25 per cent reduction in the school fees; where the present fee is Rs. 100, it must be reduced to Rs. 75. Because one definite mode has to be suggested I have suggested this, not that I am enamoured of this percentage. I still pray Your Excellency that a division may be taken."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"If I might say so, though I have admitted this resolution, the Honourable Gentleman would be better advised to bring it forward on another occasion. As regards the general principle of the reduction of fees, the difficulty which the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction has mentioned is a real one. We are now dealing with the figures in this particular budget, and unless we have a plan according to which we could reduce the fees, no reduction of fees can be made in this budget. It is a practical difficulty to which the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction is quite correct in drawing attention. The resolution is general in its terms. I am not quite sure whether I have not gone too far in admitting it in the order paper. In this matter of the financial discussion we must have definite proposals. Apparently the Honourable Member brought this forward on a previous occasion, and we have discussed it on the present occasion, but at a later period he will have a chance of bringing it forward when the general principle of the reduction of fees to be carried out may be brought forward and then the Government can set to work on a plan or decide to work out a reduction. That is all that can be said on the present occasion."

The Hon'ble Mr. B. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"I do not press it, Your Excellency, though I am not satisfied."

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

H. G. STOKES,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

Home (Edn) Dept.

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