

Home (191 B) Department.

Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 642

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council resolution

Resolving papers relating to the resolutions moved by the Hon'ble Mr. P. Siva Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 5th February 1954 regarding budget provision for the 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.

L. & M. (iv) 8-1.000-1-2-18.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Resolutions Regarding Financial Statement

Resolution

QUESTION—No. XLVIII

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the

5th February 1919.

Resolution
SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the
File, Home (Edu) P.W. Department, with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the
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

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U.O. No. , dated

To

The

Home (Edu)

Department

with Re XLVIII



XIX 2

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION REGARDING ANNUAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

[For the meeting of 5th February 1919.]

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

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—

XIX XLVIII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the allotment under 22-G. Education—Grant-in-aid may be increased by Rs. 40,000 to provide for the grant of scholarships to indigent pupils in secondary schools up to 10 per cent on the rolls in accordance with the recommendations of the Educational Conference of 1916 and that the same may be met by a corresponding reduction under the head of 45. CIVIL WORKS.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Under article 32 of the Grant-in-Aid Code teaching grant to a secondary school is fixed with reference to the expenditure incurred by the management from its own funds over and above the fee receipts of the school and for the purpose of the calculation of the fee receipts the standard rate laid down in rule 99 of the Educational rules is taken as the basis. Prior to 1906 the Code allowed a reduction of 10 per cent of the standard rate when fee receipts were taken into account for fixing the grant. When the Grant-in-Aid Code was revised in 1906 this concession of reduction of 10 per cent was abolished as the Director of Public Instruction then stated that sufficient provision had otherwise been made for the award of scholarships from public funds to brilliant but impecunious pupils and that it was better that the department should control the selection and not individual managers.

page 10
7 notes ②
Hof, 852
20-7-14

2. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 21st May 1914 the Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri proposed to move a resolution urging the restoration of the old rule regarding ten per cent reduction in fee income for the purpose of calculating the grant (G.O. No. 582, dated 20th July 1914, page 15). He was informed that the question would be referred to a committee of officials and non-officials which it was proposed to appoint to consider certain matters relating to the revision of the Grant-in-Aid Code and the Educational Rules. This committee met in the beginning of 1916. One of its recommendations was as follows :—

“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 ten 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 recommendation has not been accepted by Government on the grounds explained in the extract below :—

“The resolution is intended to benefit indigent pupils of marked ability. The Government observe that under the existing rules, about 85.5 per cent of the possible pupils are already eligible for half fee concessions. They apprehend that, if effect were given to the resolution, this proportion would be enhanced. Pressure would be exercised on each school to utilize to the full the suggested maximum limit of 10 per cent and regardless of the original intention the concessions would tend to be granted irrespective of the poverty of the parents or the capacity of the pupils. While fee

concessions are a legitimate form of inducement in the case of elementary education until compulsion is introduced in the case of secondary schools much greater regard must be had to the selection principle. Effect can most suitably be given to it by a system of scholarships which will attract the best material into secondary schools. But the Government are unable to accept the view that a uniform ratio applied to each school irrespective of varying conditions and requirements is the most appropriate method. They are inclined to think that an increase in the number of Government scholarships now awarded, combined with a system of distribution with reference to the needs of particular schools and areas and communities, would be more suitable. The Director is requested to re-examine the question in the light of these remarks and to submit further proposals"—(Paragraph 7 (1) of G.O. No. 112, dated 25th January 1919).

As the proposal has not been accepted there is no necessity to make any provision in the budget for this purpose. The resolution of the Additional Member may therefore be opposed.

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

S.K.—29-1-19.

N.K.—29-1-19.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-1-19.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—30-1-19.

Yes.

The Director of Public Instruction.

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* GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIGENT PUPILS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Your Excellency, this resolution stands thus :—

'XIX. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the allotment under 22-G. EDUCATION—Grant-in-aid—may be increased by Rs. 40,000 to provide for the grant of scholarships to indigent pupils in secondary schools up to 10 per cent on the rolls in accordance with the recommendations of the Educational Conference of 1916 and that the same may be met by a corresponding reduction under the head of 45. CIVIL WORKS.'

" Your Excellency, this is a very old question. In 1916 the Director of Public Instruction was instructed to summon a conference of officials and non-officials for the purpose of discussing certain questions bearing on the Grant-in-Aid Code and the recommendation that was unanimously arrived at in that conference was : ' For the purpose of granting fee concessions to indigent pupils of marked ability, expenditure by managing bodies on scholarships up to a limit of ten per cent of the fee income, reckoned at the 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.' That was the recommendation made in February 1916. It was pending consideration before the Government since then. In May 1917 I brought up the resolution. On the assurance of sympathetic consideration by the then Director of Public Instruction I made up my mind to withdraw it. Then I brought it up again; I waited for some time, nearly a year, and I brought it forward in March 1918. Then the Hon'ble Mr. Stone was pleased to say that he had recommended to the Government that in calculating the standard rates and the grants admissible 10 per cent should be disregarded in order to provide scholarships to indigent pupils. I had very high hopes that on the strength of the recommendation of the then Director of Public Instruction the scheme would be carried into effect. Again it was pressed from time to time, and on the 25th January 1919 a Government Order seems to have been issued by the Government vetoing that recommendation of the Educational Conference. The reasons given by them are these. The first reason given is : ' The Government observe that under the existing rules about 85.5 per cent of the possible pupils are already eligible for half-fee concessions.' I do not know how these figures are arrived at. In paragraph 8 they say : ' the original list of backward classes according to the Grant-in-Aid Code of 1880 contained only twelve classes. By repeated augmentations the list in the present Code now contains 132 classes, forming nearly 55 per cent of the population.' There they state 85 per cent, here they state 55 per cent. I do not know which is correct. But whatever it may be, under the present system there are concessions shown to Muhammadans, Uriyas and backward classes. They provide for half rates being levied from these people. There is absolutely no concession shown in the case of indigent pupils of marked ability unless they belong to the backward classes. I need not detain the Council with a definition of backward classes, but it is highly necessary that indigent pupils, deserving pupils whose needs are scanty, should be helped in a matter like this. In the same Government Order it is stated : ' Effect can most suitably be given to it by a system of scholarships which will attract the best material into secondary schools. But the Government are unable to accept the view that a uniform ratio applied to each school

(Mr. Siva Rao; Mr. Ranga Achariyar; Mr. Littlehailes; [5TH FEBRUARY 1919.
the President; Mr. Rama Ayyangar.)

irrespective of varying conditions and requirements is the most appropriate method.' They also say that if they fix a maximum 10 per cent all at once, probably the local bodies would abuse the discretion that has been vested in them; they will go on making reckless concessions. So far as that fear is concerned, it seems to me unfounded. There is no reason to be afraid that local bodies would make an indiscriminate use of this discretion. Local bodies will have power to sanction scholarships up to ten per cent, and the Government may take it for granted that the local bodies will use the power properly. The Government put forward an alternative suggestion that effect can most suitably be given to it by a system of scholarships which will attract the best material into secondary schools. Whether the controlling power is in their own hands or whether they give it to local bodies is not a matter of very great concern. I am anxious to see that at least the scholarships should be enlarged instead of being limited by making a provision in the Grant-in-Aid Code. If the allotment under scholarships is raised by Rs. 40,000 in order to provide for all these schools, I shall be satisfied. Now there are scholarships also under the present scheme. The Inspector of each circle is given ten or twelve scholarships to be distributed among all the secondary schools. This goes very little way towards palliating the evil. I should be thankful if the Government are pleased to raise the allotment. Let them retain the control in their own hands. Let the Inspector distribute the scholarships. If an assurance is given in that direction, that the scholarships would be raised, I shall be quite content. I do not want the local bodies to be given power or private bodies to be given the power to sanction these scholarships. But if the need is kept in mind, and if the Inspector of Schools is to allot the scholarships liberally, that is all that I ask for. Then it is also stated that 'The Director of Public Instruction is requested to re-examine the whole question in the light of these facts and to submit further proposals for the consideration of the Government.' This discussion will be a sort of guide to the Director."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur T. RANGA ACHARIYAR:—"Before the Director of Public Instruction replies to this resolution, I want to have some information with reference to paragraph 7 of this Government Order. There it is stated: 'The Government observe that, under the existing rules, about 85.5 per cent of the possible pupils are already eligible for half-fee concession.' I do not know if the Hon'ble the Director of Public Instruction is in possession of information to give to the House to-day as to the real percentage actually receiving half-fee concession. No doubt they may be allottable up to that limit, 85 per cent, but what is the actual percentage of pupils now receiving half-fee aid?"

The Hon'ble Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES:—"In the first place with regard to the question of the Hon'ble Mr. Ranga Achariyar the figures could not be collected within any reasonable time. Secondly with regard to the general question I do not know whether the Honourable Mover wishes to press it. The question has been referred back to the Director in a specific manner and I do not know if any useful purpose will be achieved by a discussion of the subject on its merits now."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"I think the discussion will have its own value though I do not want to press the resolution."

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—"What the Honourable Member has said will certainly be noted."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. RAMA AYYANGAR:—"Your Excellency, I only wish to point out that the way in which the question has been viewed in paragraph 7 of the Government Order is not the view that was taken by the conference. No doubt the Government have passed an order and sent it up for further consideration by the Director of Public Instruction. I only submit that the Government had already fixed certain standard fees which were found to be fairly very high. All that the conference recommended was that concession may be allowed on the principles to be laid down by the Director of Public Instruction to help indigent boys of real merit. Apparently the Government in the latter part say: 'They apprehend that, if the effect were given to the resolution, this proportion would be enhanced. Pressure would be exercised on each school to utilize to the full the suggested maximum limit of ten per cent, and regardless of the original intention the concessions would then be granted irrespective of the poverty of the parents or the capacity of the pupil. While fee concessions are a legitimate form of inducement in the case of elementary education until compulsion is introduced, in the case of secondary schools much greater regard must be had to the selection principle.' It is these observations which deserve to be modified. The real point is the inspecting officer or some other officer may be also allowed to pass the cases in which the management or the Principal may allow this reduction, but the general help that is needed is that in calculating the scale of fees, the full standard rate, this ten per cent may be allotted for this purpose. That would give a wide range for the boys in a particular area. It would be well to select areas at least and allow the principle as a whole. If it is to be decided on application in each individual case, I submit it will be impossible to arrive at a correct conclusion. In fact it will depend upon the various recommendations made. On the other hand, it is much better exercised by the Principal and the Inspector of the place who may be asked finally to pass the cases in which that recommendation is made or something like that. But, however, the principle that has been recommended by the conference, I submit, requires to be completely supported even at this stage by the Director of Public Instruction and the Government."

5TH FEBRUARY 1919.]

(Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao; Mr. Krishna Rao;
Mr. Siva Rao.)

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur M. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"My Lord, it is only this morning that I have been able to look into this Government Order which finally disposes of the recommendations of the Educational Conference which was called by the Government about three years ago. I think the Hon'ble Mr. Littlehailes was the secretary of the conference. I was a member and I believe the Hon'ble Mr. Pittendrigh and the Hon'ble Mr. Rama Ayyangar were also members. It was the unanimous opinion of all the managers of aided secondary schools who were present at the conference that they should have a certain amount of discretion in awarding scholarships to those who resort to their institutions. That was a very old privilege which was taken away and they wanted that this should be restored and that due allowance should be made in the calculation of the fee income for the purpose of grants to secondary institutions. Now, my Lord, I must express my great disappointment at the conclusion to which the Government have come to in paragraph 7 with reference to that important question, because that was a question debated for a great deal of time, and, I recollect, with a great deal of warmth by the managers of secondary schools who were present at that conference. Therefore if the Hon'ble Mr. Siva Rao is willing to accept the alternative that is suggested here, namely, of raising the number of the scholarships, I must express my dissent. If this is going to influence the Hon'ble Mr. Littlehailes in re-examining the question, I must say clearly that the view expressed at the conference is the only view that would be acceptable to the managers of secondary schools. The awarding of scholarships is entirely on a different footing. I do not think that was what the conference intended to recommend. This portion of the order is not relevant to the present inquiry, and it is not at all in consonance with the discussion which took place at the time. On the general question of awarding scholarships as suggested here, there would be no difference of opinion. Perhaps a suitable scheme would have to be evolved and the number of scholarships increased. That is on a different footing. The question of increasing the number of scholarships also formed the subject of discussion here, but that is on an entirely different principle. Therefore, my Lord, I must express my dissent if the Hon'ble Mr. Siva Rao is willing to convert his request into a request for more scholarships."

The Hon'ble Mr. A. S. KRISHNA RAO:—"I have a few remarks to make with reference to this resolution. Though this resolution deserves to be supported, a new point has been introduced in the course of the discussion which it is better to keep out of our minds for the present. The resolution suggests that the recommendations of the Educational Conference of 1916 should be given effect to, in so far as it suggested the grant of scholarships up to a limit of ten per cent; in other words to have it declared that expenditure can be legitimately incurred up to ten per cent for the purpose of encouraging indigent pupils. So far as that question is concerned, it is a matter in which the Government must enable the managing bodies to exercise their discretion in the best manner possible and to do it properly. The other question which has been introduced is not, I believe, quite relevant to the matter under discussion. It has been suggested that, though local bodies are not given discretion, still if scholarships are more liberally given by the Inspectors the purpose would be served. I myself have some objection to that course; but I do not think it is necessary to enter into any elaborate discussion of this principle because the whole question is going to be reconsidered by the Director of Public Instruction. If this disagreement is not given expression to, it may be taken that others are also willing that Inspectors may be given a free hand and that the local bodies need not be given any discretion. I only wish that the recommendations of the Educational Conference are given effect to in the best manner possible. If, as pointed out in the Government Order, any safeguards are necessary to see that that power is not abused, let them be provided. It is urged that once this rule is passed, pressure may be brought to bear on the management to work up to ten per cent. If it is necessary to impose checks or safeguards, you may take precautionary measures to avoid such abuses; but do not take away the discretion from the managing authority."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"If the whole matter is to be reconsidered by the Government, I withdraw the resolution."

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

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

NOTES.

Page 7

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17.5.19

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