

Law (1921) Department. Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 89

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INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council meeting, August 17, 1920.

Notice regarding resolution at - recorded - Siva Rao,
Hon'ble Mr. P. - opening of an institution for the education
of the blind and the deaf and dumb.

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C.P. 72

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NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF
GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting of the 17th August 1920.]

[SUBJECT.—*A Government institution for the blind, the deaf and the dumb.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—

XXIII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that an institution for the education and advancement of the blind and the deaf and the dumb may be opened by the Government in some suitable place in this Presidency.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

p-2 infra
The above resolution is practically the same as that which the Additional Member proposed to move at the last meeting but was not actually moved. The attitude to be taken by Government in regard to the resolution has already been indicated by the Honourable Member. It does not appear to be necessary to send the file to the Director of Public Instruction (u.o.) now for remarks. It may be submitted to the Honourable Member.

S.K.—29-7-20. N.K.—29-7-20.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—29-7-20.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—30-7-20.

(4)
I presume this resolution is one of the large number which Mr. Siva Rao jettisoned at the July meeting. The change in wording is immaterial and the orders regarding charge of resolution and attitude to be taken up remain the same, except that the Director of Public Instruction may think it advisable also to refer in his reply to the recent G. O. No. 832, dated 20th July 1920, regarding certificates for competency in the case of teachers in schools for defective children, and to any communiqué based on that Government order which the Publicity Officer may issue.

L. D[AVIDSON]—31-7-20.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF
GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting of the 13th July 1920]

[SUBJECT.—Opening of an institution for the education of the blind and the deaf and dumb.]

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—

XLVIII ~~XII~~ This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that an institution for the education and advancement of the blind and the deaf and the dumb may be opened in some suitable place in this Presidency.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The Additional Member apparently desires that a Government institution for the education of the blind and the deaf and dumb should be established in this Presidency. There are already well-conducted schools for defective children which are under mission management and are aided by Government. The strength of these schools on the 31st March 1919 is noted below :—

	Boys.	Girls.
O.M.S. Blind Boys' school, Palamcottah	...	...
Girls' ...	...	...
Deaf and Dumb school, Palamcottah	127	103
" " Mylapore	...	...
Blind school, Rentachintala	18	17
	8	10
Total	153	130
	283	

The total amounts of grant paid by Government in respect of these schools during the four years ending 1918-19 were as follows :—

	Rs.
1915-16	7,915
1916-17	7,335
1917-18	12,909
1918-19	20,992

According to the census of 1911 the total population of the blind and the deaf mutes in this Presidency was 33,982 and 32,490 (total 66,472). The number at school (283) is comparatively small.

2. The question of taking special measures for the spread of education among defective children formed the subject of a reference from the Government of India in 1916. While not precluding the institution of Government schools where this is thought advisable, that Government stated "that schools for defectives are a form of effort peculiarly suitable for charitable agencies of a private character and that the support of Government should ordinarily take the form of assistance to private or board schools" (paragraph 2, page 2 of G.O. No. 201, dated 17th February 1917).

The Director of Public Instruction was thereupon asked to report on the several suggestions made by the Government of India. His reply showed that the main difficulties in the way of the expansion of education of defective children were (1) the reluctance of parents to send such children to schools and (2) the absence of the necessary staff of teachers qualified to teach them (paragraphs 3 and 7 of the Director of Public Instruction's letter on page 3 of G.O. No. 201, dated 17th February 1917).

3. This Government agreed with the Government of India in the view that support from Provincial funds should ordinarily take the form of assistance to private or board schools in preference to the establishment of Government schools. They

also approved the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for providing additional facilities for defective children joining the schools at Palamcottah and for the training of teachers for schools intended for such children. They agreed to incur an additional expenditure of Rs. 10,000 per annum on the following items (G.O. No. 1494, dated 26th November 1917) :—

I. C.M.S. Schools for the Blind, Palamcottah—

- (1) Grant of travelling allowance to forty poor children joining the schools.
- (2) Boarding charges for twenty boys and twenty girls at Rs. 8 for each boy and Rs. 7 for each girl.
- (3) Remuneration to the school authorities towards the training of two male teachers at Rs. 12 per mensem for each teacher and one female teacher at Rs. 8 per mensem.
- (4) Stipends for three teachers under training at Rs. 15 per mensem for each.

II. Deaf and Dumb School, Palamcottah—

- (1) Salary of an English teacher at Rs. 130 per mensem.
- (2) Six scholarships for teachers undergoing training, three at Rs. 20 per mensem each and three at Rs. 15 each.
- (3) Grant of travelling allowance to forty poor children joining the school.
- (4) Boarding charges for twenty boys and twenty girls at Rs. 8 per mensem for each boy and Rs. 7 for each girl.

Thus, the Government have sanctioned a liberal scheme of aid for the schools at Palamcottah. To what extent exactly this scheme has been given effect to we have no information. But from figures in paragraph 1 supra it will be seen that there has been a large increase in the expenditure in 1918-19 and this is probably accounted by the scheme having been brought into operation. The Public Instruction report for 1918-19 shows that a class for training teachers has been opened in Palamcottah. If more schools of the type at Palamcottah are established by private bodies, their applications for aid from Provincial funds will no doubt be sympathetically considered.

4. In December last an article was published in the *Madras Mail* urging the establishment of a Government model school for the blind staffed by English experts. It was also stated that an English expert had been appointed to come out and organize a large technical school for the blind at Rangoon. The Director of Public Instruction was then asked whether the expert should be asked to visit this Presidency and offer suggestions for the improvement of the education of the blind. The Director is still in correspondence with the Principal of the School for the Blind at Palamcottah regarding the visit of the expert and has promised to send a reply next month.

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

S.K.—29-6-20. N.K.—30-6-20. C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—30-6-20.

I believe that there are other schools also, but probably not aided. The American Baptist Mission is maintaining a school for the blind at Nellore. See also a letter on the subject on page 3 of the *Madras Mail*, June 29 copy.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—1-7-20.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Under the scheme sanctioned in G.O. No. 1494, dated the 26th November 1917, the teachers who were admitted to training completed their course in March 1920. They were examined by a board consisting of an Inspector of Schools, an Inspectress of Schools and Miss Hooper, the correspondent of the Deaf and Dumb school, Palamcottah. The Board is of opinion that nine teachers—4 women and 5 men—have completed satisfactorily the course and are competent to give instruction to the deaf and dumb. (Government is being addressed separately with regard to the issue of certificates to these persons.) The scheme continues and one of the main difficulties in the way of the expansion of the education of the deaf and dumb, viz., the absence of the necessary staff of teachers qualified to teach them, is being gradually removed.

The expert in the education of the blind referred to supra is Mr. B. D. Lloyd who was trained at Henshaw's Blind Asylum, Manchester. He is now in Rangoon having been brought there by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. I have written to Mr. Jackson, who is in charge of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Rangoon, asking him whether Mr. Lloyd would be willing to come to Madras to advise the department on the education of the blind and I am still awaiting a reply from him. If his services can be procured, expert advice will be available as to the lines upon which we should proceed, in the education and industrial training of the blind in this presidency.

Turning to the resolution itself it may be pointed out to the Honourable Member that special schools, i.e., schools for blind, deaf, defective and epileptic children are most successful when maintained by private agencies supported liberally by Government aid, that whenever any private agency sets out to maintain special schools for the blind, deaf, defective or epileptic children every assistance will be rendered to the agency by means of liberal grants-in-aid, that the development to any large extent of schools of this type is consequent on the development of an effective school medical service and that the Government is endeavouring at the present moment to obtain expert advice as to the best lines upon which education of the blind may be conducted. He may also be informed, in outline, of the work done in connexion with the education of children and the training of teachers in the Deaf and Dumb school at Palamcottah.

R. LITTLEHAILES—7-7-20.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders as to who should take charge of the resolution and as to whether the reply may be as suggested by the Director of Public Instruction above.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—7-7-20.

Orders passed in Council yesterday. The note may go to the Honourable Member for perusal. Print up urgently.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-7-20.

D.P.1 advised to follow lines
indicated by the penae

Lt.
D.P.1

Madras Mail of 26.6.20 with Son
Rao on the Mysore Blind School required
(see May 9)

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Extract from the Proceedings of an Adjourned 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 re-assembled at the Victoria Buildings, Egmore, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 18th day of August 1920.

RESOLUTION *RE* A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, THE DEAF AND THE DUMB.

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Your Excellency, I have the honour to move the resolution which stands as follows :—

" XIII. This Council recommends to His Excellency the Governor in Council that an institution for the education and advancement of the blind and the deaf and the dumb may be opened by the Government in some suitable place in this Presidency."

" Your Excellency, I need not dilate further upon this resolution. The object is bound to command the sympathy of Government. The Government have been doing their utmost for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes, but if I may say so, the blind and the deaf and the dumb are Nature's 'depressed classes.' It is, I think, the imperative duty of the State to educate them and advance them in life and make them useful citizens. If the Government do not take steps to ameliorate their condition, improve their life and make them useful citizens, able to earn their own livelihood, there will be so much loss to the community. If they are trained well, they will all be such an useful asset to the State. The only objection that can be brought forward to this resolution is this. Already they have some voluntary associations or societies who have been doing this work. It is a fact that the State has not been maintaining any such institutions in this Presidency. Some philanthropic associations and some missionary societies have been doing this work. Why should not the State undertake this work direct? The State will render all the help it can towards giving grants for those who have already been working in the field.

" And to this my best reply would be by quoting an extract from the Report of the Royal Commission on the Blind, deaf and dumb, appointed in 1885 in England—

' Fear has been expressed that if education of these afflicted classes be undertaken by the State, the effect might be to diminish that generous benevolence which has already done so much for them in this country. When it is remembered how much remains to be done for them it is obvious that, even were such aid given, there will still be room for the action of private benevolence which experience shows to be often stimulated rather than discouraged by State aid, when judiciously given.'

" In pursuance of the recommendation of the Report of the Royal Commission the State undertook a direct responsibility in the matter and I may also draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that the Government of India in their circular letter No. 219, dated Simla, the 26th July 1916, stated that they 'desired to commend the suggestions (for the improvement of these imbeciles) for the consideration of the Local Governments and for such support from local resources as may be possible when normal financial conditions are restored.' I also ascertained that the Government of Madras considered the matter, but I do not know what their decision was.

" In short, Your Excellency, what I want to be done to this class of people as stated in the Bible is :

" I will bring the blind by a way that they know not. I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them and crooked things straight."

The Hon'ble Mr. K. VENKATAPPAYYA PANTULU :—" Your Excellency, I second this resolution and wish to add that, so far as I know, there is only one institution in Palamcottah where the deaf and dumb are given some instruction. I do not know if there are other institutions, but so far as I know in the part of the country from which I come, there are no such institutions. It is the duty of the Government not only to give grants to these institutions but also to start them themselves. With these few remarks I second this resolution."

The Hon'ble Mr. M. D. DEVADOSS :—" I have no idea of opposing this resolution. But when I heard the Hon'ble Mr. Venkatappayya say that he was aware of only one institution in the whole of this Presidency, I thought I might inform him as well as the Council of the facts. In Palamcottah there are two institutions, one for the deaf and dumb and the other for the blind. There is also another institution in St. Thomé under very efficient management for the

RESOLUTION RE A GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,
THE DEAF AND THE DUMB.

(Mr. Devadoss; Mr. Subba Rao; Mr. Davidson.) [18th August 1920.]

deaf and dumb. These institutions have been carrying on very good work for years past and Government are giving them an annual grant. So far as St. Thomé institution is concerned, it is run on caste lines. Caste boys and girls are given separate food and they are given all facilities for observing their caste rules strictly. As regards the institutions at Palamcottah they were started 25 years ago, but I have not got the figure at present. People from all over the Presidency go there. There is no doubt these two institutions are really doing very excellent work and have fully justified their existence. If Government could have one or more institutions it would really be helpful. But I would suggest that the existing institutions may be better patronized than they are now. People from all parts of the Presidency are welcome there if they will only take the trouble to send afflicted persons to be taken care of."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur N. SUBBA RAO:—"This resolution involves a question of policy whether the Government will allow only private enterprise and missionary bodies to run these institutions by giving them grants or whether it will be the policy of Government to run a few model institutions of this kind. I submit, Your Excellency, that I should think that the policy of the Government ought to be not only to have some institutions of their own as model ones but also by providing grants and other facilities foster private and missionary enterprise. I know for myself, being one of the subscribers to the Palamcottah institution that it is certainly doing very good work. But there is one drawback which I point out to Your Excellency and that is, that there is rightly or wrongly among the Hindu and Muhammadan population a fear that if they send their children and relations afflicted with these troubles to these schools the next step would be proselytising them. As a matter of fact I can say without fear of contradiction that more than 75 per cent of the non-Christian pupils of these institutions have turned out Christians. Of course the object of such institutions is not only to give them bodily relief but also spiritual relief and they are perfectly right in making them to join their fold. I will only say that such institutions should be encouraged and given grants but my reason for supporting this resolution is that the State also should consider it their bounden duty to help in such matters and one way of helping is by establishing such an institution."

The Hon'ble Mr. L. DAVIDSON:—"I am afraid I cannot follow the Honourable Member back so far as the year 1885, for my study of this question has been confined to more modern times. You will find a description of the existing arrangements for the education of deaf, dumb and blind in India in Chapter XVIII of the Quinquennial Review on Education in India during the period 1907-1912. That section of the review formed the basis of the circular sent out by the Government of India in July 1913, to which Mr. Siva Rao has referred. I wish, Sir, that he had followed up his quotation by reading the next sentence. If he had done so, a great deal of the discussion on the question of policy would have become unnecessary. His quotation ran as follows:—"The Government of India desire to commend these suggestions for the consideration of the Local Governments and for such support from local resources as may be possible when normal financial conditions are restored." Now the next sentence continues:—"While not precluding the institution of Government schools, where this is thought advisable, they consider that schools for defectives are a form of effort peculiarly suitable for charitable agencies of a private character and that the support of Government should ordinarily take the form of assistance to private or board schools." That is the policy which the Government of India generally commended to Local Governments in 1916, and which the Madras Government of the day accepted. I will now, Sir, proceed to state what action has been taken in pursuance of this policy."

"The Hon'ble Mr. P. Siva Rao said that he did not know what the Government of Madras had done. I presume that the circular letter of the Government of India came to his notice through G.O. No. 201, Education, dated 17th February 1917, because that order was placed on the Editors' Table and must in the ordinary course have been supplied to him. That order shows what the intentions of the Government in the matter were. The chief difficulties in regard to expansion of education of this unfortunate class of defective children were, it was stated, the reluctance of parents to send such children to school and still more the absence of an adequate staff of competent teachers. Proposals were called for from the Director of Public Instruction on the subject and when they were received a few months later in a detailed form the Government of Madras sanctioned a sum of slightly over Rs. 10,000 in order to improve the facilities then existing. Most of this was in connexion with the C.M.S. schools for the blind and the deaf and dumb at Palamcottah, which according to our latest figures provide for between 200 and 300 children. They represent probably the largest schools of the kind in the Presidency and I can personally testify from my experience of a decade or more ago to the admirable management of Miss Askwith. Now, before this order sanctioning additional expenditure was passed, the total subvention in the shape of grants in aid from Provincial funds was only between seven and eight thousand rupees. This sum was increased by the year 1918-19 to Rs. 21,000 and in that year with the aid of the additional subvention a special class for the training of teachers was opened at Palamcottah. This was an important development because the great difficulty in establishing schools for the deaf and dumb and the blind, is the want of teachers trained to impart education to them and

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THE DEAF AND THE DUMB.

[18th August 1920.] (Mr. Davidson; Mr. Siva Rao.)

in this country there are very few persons competent, to furnish that training. The Director of Public Instruction tells us that the first batch of teachers began their training in 1918 and completed it this year, having spent nearly two years over the process. They came up for examination in April or May last. On the Director's suggestion, a special board including persons who occupy the position of specialists in the matter was appointed to examine and test these teachers and I am glad to say that in the first examination 9 out of 10 candidates succeeded in passing. The Madras Government having just approved this method of arranging for the grant of certificates of competency to teach the deaf and dumb and the blind have constituted it on a regular basis in an order dated so recently as 20th July 1920, which has been communicated to the Publicity Officer. Possibly owing to the difficulties in the Government Press, copies of that order have not yet gone wider afield, for I have not so far seen any reference to it in the press. The Board of Examiners who dealt with the case of the first batch of candidates included one lady who is a specialist of high rank in this form of education and herself a member of the College of Teachers of the Deaf and Dumb in London. In regard to special instruction for the blind, the Director of Public Instruction has been for some time past hoping to receive assistance from an expert, Mr. Lloyd, who was trained in Henshaw's Blind Asylum at Manchester, and has recently been brought out to Burma in order to carry on the work of the Burma Mission to the Blind. We hoped that Mr. Lloyd would be able to come to Madras and advise us personally as to methods of work, but unfortunately as we have heard last week his hands are more than full with his work in Burma. So there is no likelihood of his visiting Madras. Mr. Lloyd is however willing to render every possible assistance by post, and it is the intention of the Director of Public Instruction to take advantage of that offer."

Now it is the difficulty of securing qualified teachers which stands most in the way of the establishment of a model school. As a matter of fact we should find it exceedingly difficult to equip and staff any such school and so far from furnishing a model for other institutions, I think, we should probably find Miss Askwith's school at Palamcottah a model for ours. It is not a case of Government setting an example."

"I do not propose to follow the Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao into the question of the hesitation of parents to send their children to schools because of fear that proselytising efforts may cause them to stray from their ancestral religion. I recognize that such a fear may exist but the answer of the Government must be this, that as they give liberal grants in aid to schools established by the Church Missionary Society, so they are equally ready to give ample subventions to schools for these defectives started by any other religious community. The Church Missionary Society established these particular schools at Palamcottah many years ago. They were in full swing when I was Collector of Tinnevely in 1909 and set an admirable example. The position of Government therefore is that as at present advised they do not contemplate the establishment of any school of their own but will be quite ready to give assistance in the most liberal fashion to any private agency which follows the example of the schools at Palamcottah. I may say, Sir, just one word in conclusion. The arrangements that we are now making for the institution of a medical service of inspection in schools should in the natural course of events be followed by increased attention to the case of defective children. I believe I am right in saying that past history in this matter in England shows that the attention given to special schools for defectives was vastly stimulated by the introduction and expansion of the system of medical inspection in schools of all classes."

The Hon'ble Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Your Excellency, I may also say that the philanthropic institutions are all doing excellent work. That does not mean that there is no need for a State school. So early as 1885 they recognized the need for such institutions. Merely because philanthropic institutions exist, it is no reason for dispensing with State schools. The Honourable Member in charge was mentioning the difficulties of getting teachers. I quite agree with it. So far as I understood, there is a first-class training school in Calcutta and the Mysore State also trains teachers for this purpose. I quite realize the difficulty of getting trained men, which is somewhat a special one. It is because of that difficulty I recommend to the Government that they should start some institution of their own to supply this need. If it is difficult even for the Government to secure qualified teachers, how much more difficult it should be for private institutions to secure trained teachers. Anyhow a case is made out for a model school. The Honourable Member in charge accepts this and if with all their resources the Government cannot undertake to get trained teachers, it is impossible to get them anywhere else. As regards the philanthropic societies they are only missionary institutions. The Hon'ble Mr. Subba Rao has referred to the reluctance of parents to send their children to such institutions for fear of proselytization. Whether the fear is well-founded or ill-founded, it is a fact. The Honourable Member in Charge also has referred to the reluctance of parents to send their children. Reluctance is due to the reason that no other philanthropic societies have come forward. No doubt the Government say, 'let other bodies start it. We are willing to help them.' We should take things as they are. Are there any other philanthropic societies ready or willing to come forward to take up this work? Why should not the State start a model school and man it with efficient teachers and give most up-to-date training as is done in England to these classes. The

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policy laid down in England may be followed in this country as well. It was never the intention of the Government of India to restrict the hands of the Local Government but they referred the suggestions for the consideration of the Local Government and they said "We do not preclude them from starting institutions of their own and wherever it is possible it must be largely entrusted to private institutions." The Local Governments were allowed a wide latitude in the matter to pursue their own policy as local conditions warranted. In any view, Your Excellency, I desire to press the resolution as there is need for at least one State model school in this Presidency."

The Hon'ble Mr. L. DAVIDSON :—"Your Excellency, I have only one or two words to say. I recognise fully that the Local Government has discretion to start State schools, but it agrees with the Government of India in considering that the support of Government should ordinarily take the form of assistance to private or board schools and as at present advised it is not prepared to embark on the establishment of even one State school. The difficulty of securing trained teachers is already in some degree being met by the arrangement under which the Government have subsidised the training of teachers in the two principal schools in the Presidency, but this is a slow process. As regards the establishment of a model school for the blind I should in any case certainly wish our Director of Public Instruction first to receive the advice of Mr. Lloyd who is now engaged in work connected with the education of such children in Burma. At present, we have really not got the material to establish State schools."

The resolution was put to the vote and lost.

F. J. RICHARDS,
Acting Secretary to Govt., L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

DESPATCHED
24 JAN 1921
L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.

To the D. P. (for the
copy of
L. & M. (Legislative) Dept.)

The resolution was lost.
The papers may be

Order 89 Recorded
ms 7/1/21

13/1/21

17/1/21

When given for copying — }
 When copied — }
 When examined — } 192
 When signed — } *[Signature]*

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____
 192 .

. DATED

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

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

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DETTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING KEPT FOR DISPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
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[Handwritten: 19/11]