

Government of Madras

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1184, 20th August 1921

Religious instruction in schools—Press Communiqué issued.

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Further Papers

G.O. M. No. 86 Edn., dt. 17-1-42.
G.O. M. No. 1444 Edn. dt. 1.7.42

ORIGINAL

Government of Madras

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1184, 20th August 1921

Religious instruction in schools—Press Communiqué issued.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from H. SHARP, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Education (Education),
To—the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—Delhi, the 19th March 1921.
No.—437.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 454, dated the 12th April 1920, I am directed to forward for information a copy of a question asked and answer given in the Legislative Assembly on the 10th March 1921 on the subject of the introduction of religious instruction into Government schools in India.

2. In consonance with the reply given to part (e) of the question, I am to place before local Governments the views of the Government of India in the matter of religious and moral instruction in schools in India. This announcement is made, because it has now been decided not to issue a resolution on the subject and also in order that the Ministers who are charged with the administration of Education may be in possession of the conclusions to which, after the maturest consideration, the Central Government have arrived.

3. The Government of India, so far as they are concerned, have no intention whatever, of receding from their attitude of strict religious neutrality or from the principle that Government schools ought not to be used as a means of fostering any one religion at the expense of others. But they are of opinion that the embargo which hitherto has been placed on the introduction of religious instruction in publicly-managed schools may be removed. Accordingly, there would be no objection to the withdrawal of the objections which now exist, or are supposed to exist, in publicly-managed schools and colleges to

- (a) the utilization of school premises for religious teaching or simple prayers;
- (b) the utilization of teachers of the institutions for such instruction, etc., where they voluntarily undertake the work;
- (c) making religious teaching or observance compulsory for the boys whose parents or guardians have expressed a wish that this should be done;
- (d) deducting the time spent by any boy on religious teaching or observance from the prescribed curriculum period, preferably at the beginning or the end of the school day.

4. It will be observed that the policy of the Government of India is a cautious one. It is calculated to remove the minor restrictions which at present hamper or are supposed to hamper the introduction of religious instruction in publicly-managed schools and thus to obliterate the impression, which is understood to exist, that Government is hostile to the encouragement of this form of instruction.

5. In conclusion, I am to emphasise that the present announcement is not of a mandatory nature; nor do the Government of India desire to bind the Ministries of Education to a definite line of action. They seek rather to remove restrictions which possibly are regarded as hampering the freedom of local Governments in this respect. The matter is one in which the local Governments can now adopt such line of action as they think fit.

ENCLOSURE

Question asked by Mr. Mahmood Schannad Sahib Bahadur
on the 10th March 1921.

(a) Is the Government aware that the present system of education in Government schools is now largely condemned as quite undesirable, being devoid of religious training?

(b) Do the Government still hold that it is against their policy of religious neutrality to impart religious instructions in Government schools?

(c) If not, do the Government propose to have religious instructions imparted in all the Government schools?

(d) If the Government do not interfere in this, (education) being a transferred subject, do the Government propose to sanction a special imperial grant-in-aid for this purpose?

(e) If not, do they at least propose to inform the Provincial Governments about their policy regarding religious instructions?

Reply.

(a) The Government of India have observed certain complaints owing to the absence of religious training in certain classes of schools, but Government is certainly not aware that the present system of education in Government schools is largely condemned as quite undesirable.

(b) Religious instruction has already been allowed in Government or other publicly-managed schools in certain parts of India under certain conditions. The Government of India are willing to see further relaxations in this direction but they think that certain conditions will still be necessary and, in special, that such instruction should not be made compulsory upon pupils other than those whose parents desire it.

(c) The matter is entirely one for consideration and action by local Governments in their Ministries of Education.

(d) The Government of India are not in a position to sanction a special Imperial grant-in-aid for this purpose.

(e) The Government of India will address the local Governments in the matter.

Order—No. 1184, Law (Education), dated 20th August 1921.

The following Press Communiqué is issued :—

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The subject of religious instruction in schools has been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. It has sometimes been represented by individuals and associations competent to form an opinion on the subject that the purely secular character of the instruction imparted in institutions under public management has stimulated tendencies unfavourable to discipline and encourages a spirit of irreverence in the pupils. The policy hitherto adopted by Government is that laid down by the Court of Directors in their Despatch No. 49, dated 19th July 1854, viz., abstention from interference with teaching in privately-managed schools and abstention from teaching in publicly-managed schools (i.e., schools maintained by Government and local bodies). While not receding from this attitude of strict religious neutrality or from the principle that these schools ought not to be used as a means of fostering any one religion at the expense of others, the Government have been willing to afford as far as practicable reasonable facilities for the arrangement of religious instruction by communities when applications were made by them for this purpose. On the representation of the Muhammadan Educational Association Southern India the Government in 1905 accorded permission to the Association to impart religious instruction in the Government Madrasa-i-Azam subject to certain conditions. Again in 1912, the Government granted permission to the staff of Muhammadan schools under public management to teach the Koran and give religious instruction in the school premises, subject to the conditions that the instruction was given out of school hours without interfering in any way with the school curriculum and that no pupil was admitted to the religious classes without the written consent of the parent or guardian.

2. The Government are of opinion that the time has now arrived for the partial removal of the embargo which hitherto has been placed on the introduction of religious instruction in publicly-managed schools and also for the complete removal of

the minor restrictions which at present hamper or are supposed to hamper such instruction so as at least to remove the impression which is understood to exist that the Government are hostile to the encouragement of this form of instruction. They are accordingly disposed to consider the grant of the following general concessions in respect of publicly-managed schools and colleges :—

(a) the utilization of school premises for religious teaching or simple prayers;

(b) the utilization of the services of the teachers of the institutions for such instruction where they voluntarily undertake the work;

(c) making religious teaching or observance compulsory for the boys whose parents or guardians have expressed a wish that this should be done, and

(d) deducting the time spent by any boy on religious teaching or observance from the prescribed curriculum period, preferably at the beginning or the end of the school day.

3. Presidents of District Boards, Chairmen of Municipal Councils, Presidents of District Educational Councils, the Missionary Educational Council of Southern India, the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Madras, the Secretary, Madras Teachers Guild, the Secretary, South Indian Teachers' Union, the President, Ramakrishna Mission, Madras, and the Secretary, Headmasters' Association, Madras, are requested to favour Government with their views on the proposals contained in paragraph 2 supra by the 1st October next.

4. Government will be pleased to receive suggestions and criticisms from other public bodies or persons who are qualified by their experience in religious or educational work to express an opinion.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education)

P. C. DUTT,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

- „ Presidents of District Boards.
- „ Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
- „ Presidents of District Educational Councils.
- „ Secretary, Missionary Educational Association of Southern India.
- „ Most Rev. the Archbishop of Madras.
- „ Secretary, Madras Teachers Guild.
- „ Secretary, South Indian Teachers' Union.
- „ President, Ramakrishna Mission, Mylapore, Madras.
- „ Secretary, Headmasters' Association, Madras.
- „ Publicity Officer.

Editors' Table (order only).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1134, LAW (EDUCATION),
DATED 20TH AUGUST 1921.

[SUBJECT.—*Religious and moral education in schools under public management.*]

*From the Government of India, Law (Education) Department, No. 437,
dated 19th March 1921.]*

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The principles contained in the letter have been mainly agreed to by this Government—cf. paragraph 3 of Letter to India, No. 454, Education, dated 13th April 1920. A draft order communicating the letter to the Director of Public Instruction is submitted.

2. Attention is solicited to paragraph 13 on page 8 of G.O. No. 454, dated 13th April 1920. It is for orders whether an Advisory Committee may not be appointed to draw up schemes for the introduction as an experimental measure of religious instruction in select schools under Government or local boards.

3. The Director of Public Instruction's remarks may be invited u.o.

E.A.V.—25-3-21. N.K.—2-4-21.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—6-4-21.

Paragraph 13 referred to has no bearing. The present applies only to *public* institutions. But the file had better go to the Director of Public Instruction for remarks in the first instance.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-4-21.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

If the Local Government and the Minister accept the principles contained in the letter of the Government of India, it might be well to issue an official communique stating the position which the Local Government proposes in the future to take and asking for suggestions and criticisms of that position from local bodies and persons qualified by their experience in religious or educational work to give an opinion.

2. After the lapse of a month or two and on receipt of suggestions and criticisms, it might be well to appoint a Committee to consider the subject further so far as public institutions in this presidency are concerned. It might even be wise to offer an opportunity for public debate on the question in the Legislative Council. After which a Committee might well be appointed to go into the details of a scheme.

3. Government is probably aware that moral instruction has been introduced into the majority of upper forms of secondary schools in the Presidency. The reports on the working of the scheme in secondary schools are only now being received in my office (cf. G.O. No. 931, Education, dated 29th July 1919).

R. LITTLEHAILES—18-5-21.

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be circulated.

E.A.V.—23-5-21.

S.A.—25-5-21.

C.R.—27-5-21.

We may accept the cautious concessions of the Government of India and act as proposed by the Director of Public Instruction.

R.R.—2-6-21.

$$\frac{90.453-54}{13.4.20}$$

interference with teaching in -
privately managed schools and
abstention from teaching in publicly
managed schools (i.e., schools main-
tained by Govt and local bodies).
While not receding from this attitude
of strict religious neutrality or
from the principle that these schools
ought not to be used as a means of
fostering any one religion at the
expense of others, the Govt have been
willing to afford as far as practica-
ble reasonable facilities for the
arrangement of religious instruction
Comm. in this
when applications were
made by them for this purpose. On
the representation of the Muhammadan
Educational Association of Southern
India the Government in 1905 accorded
permission to the Association to
impart religious instruction in the
Govt. Madrasa-i-Azam subject to certain
conditions. Again in 1912, the Govt
granted permission to the staff of
Muhammadan schools under public manage-
ment to teach the Koran and give
religious instruction in the school
premises, subject to the conditions
that the instruction was given out
of school hours without interfering in
any way with the school curriculum
and that no pupil was admitted to the
religious classes without the written
consent of the parent or guardian.

The Govt are of opinion that

Part 2, c. f.

PP 1+2 & notes to Es. 453-4 (A)
13.4.20

the time has now arrived for the
embargo which hitherto has been
placed on the introduction of reli-
gious instruction in publicly managed
schools ~~to be further relaxed and for the minor~~
restrictions which at present hamper
or are supposed to hamper such instru-
tion to be removed so as at least

to obliterate the impression which
understood to exist that the Govt. are
hostile to the encouragement of this
form of instruction. They are accord-
ingly disposed to grant the following
general concessions in respect of
publicly managed schools and colleges

(a) the utilisation of school
premises for religious instruction
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(b) the utilisation of teachers of
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where they voluntarily undertake
the work;

(c) making religious teaching or
observance compulsory for the boys
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consider the

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Presidents of Dt. Boards, Chairmen
Municipal Councils, Presidents of
Dt. Edl. Councils, the Missionary Edl.
Council of Southern India, the Most Revd
the Archbishop of Madras, the Secretary,
South Indian Teachers' Union and the
President, Ramakrishna Mission, Madras
are requested to favour Govt. with their
views on the proposals contained in para 2
by the 15th September next.

*Chief. Headmasters
Association, Madras*

4. Govt. will be pleased to
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- To
- The Director of Public Instrn.
 - The Presidents of Dt. Boards.
 - The Chairmen of Municipal Councils
 - The Presidents of Dt. Edl. Councils
 - The Secretary, Missionary Edl. Assn.
of Southern India.
 - The Most Revd. the Archbishop of
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 - The Secretary, Madras Teachers Guild
 - The Secretary, South Indian Teachers
Union.
 - The President, Ramakrishna Mission,
Mylapore, Madras.
 - The Publicity Officer.

E.T. (order only)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
G.O. No. 1184, 20th August 1921
Religious Instruction in schools — Press Communiqué issued.

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To—the Secretary to Government of Madras, Home (Education) Department.
Dated—Delhi, the 19th March 1921.
No.—487.

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 454, dated the
12th April 1920, I am directed to forward for information a copy of a question
asked and answer given in the Legislative Assembly on the 10th March 1921 on
the subject of the introduction of religious instruction into Government schools in
India.

2. In consonance with the reply given to part (e) of the question, I am to place
before local Governments the views of the Government of India in the matter of
religious and moral instruction in schools in India. This announcement is made,
because it has now been decided not to issue a resolution on the subject and also in
order that the Ministers who are charged with the administration of Education may
be in possession of the conclusions to which, after the maturest consideration, the
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3. The Government of India, so far as they are concerned, have no intention
whatever, of receding from their attitude of strict religious neutrality or from the
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one religion at the expense of others. But they are of opinion that the embargo
which hitherto has been placed on the introduction of religious instruction
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parents or guardians have expressed a wish that this should be done;
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from the prescribed curriculum period, preferably at the beginning or the end of the
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on the 10th March 1921.

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2. The Government are of opinion that the time has now arrived for the partial removal of the embargo which hitherto has been placed on the introduction of religious instruction in publicly-managed schools and also for the complete removal of the minor restrictions which at present hamper or are supposed to hamper such instruction so as at least to remove the impression which is understood to exist that the Government are hostile to the encouragement of this form of instruction. They accordingly disposed to consider the grant of the following general concessions in respect of publicly-managed schools and colleges :—

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25 10 Please strike 319/21

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(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education.)

P. C. Dutt,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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President, Ramakrishna Mission, Mylapore, Madras.
Secretary, Headmasters' Association, Madras.
Publicity Officer.
(For Table only.)

2 SEP 1921
NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 1184, LAW (EDUCATION),
DATED 20TH AUGUST 1921.

[SUBJECT.—*Religious and moral education in schools under public management.*]

*From the Government of India, Law (Education) Department, No. 437,
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R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—7-4-21.

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G. LITTLEHAILES—18-5-21.

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

May be circulated.

E.A.V.—23-5-21.

S.A.—25-5-21.

C.R.—27-5-21.

We may accept the cautious concessions of the Government of India and act as proposed by the Director of Public Instruction.

R.R.—2-6-21.

The principles contained in the Government of India's letter are generally agreed. The Director of Public Instruction's proposals are very good and a communique should issue.

A. P. PATRO—13-7-21.

Draft submitted.

N.K.—27-7-21.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—27-7-21.

[It may perhaps be better to send the draft communique to the Director of Public Instruction u.o. for opinion as to whether he accepts it.]

P. C. DUTT—29-7-21.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

U.O. Reply, No. 444, dated 9th August 1921.

I suggest the following alterations in the draft:—

(1) In paragraph 1 *delete* 'Government' and *insert* 'under public management';

(2) In paragraph 2 *substitute* 'remove' for 'obliterate';

(3) In the same paragraph *for* 'They are accordingly disposed to grant the following general concessions, etc.,' *substitute* 'They are accordingly disposed to consider the grant of the following general concessions, etc.';

(4) In (b) *delete*, 'etc.'.

The utilization of the services of the teachers of the institutions for such instruction has given rise to a great deal of controversy in other countries and if my memory serves me right the Government of Bombay do not propose to utilize the services of the teachers of the institutions for religious instruction. I should therefore prefer the wording which I have suggested, viz., that Government *are disposed to consider the grant* of the following general concessions, rather than the wording of the draft that Government *are disposed to grant* the following general concessions.

2. I consider that the opinion of the headmasters' association might also be obtained on this matter.

3. I might also suggest further that Government insert as paragraph 4 that Government will be pleased to receive suggestions and criticisms from other public bodies or persons who are qualified by their experience in religious or educational work to express an opinion.

4. If this paragraph is inserted we will not have other persons or societies, for example, the Theosophical Society, Madras, complaining to Government that their views have not been asked for.

G. LITTLEHAILES—9-8-21.

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

The amendments suggested by the Director of Public Instruction may be approved.

2. With reference to the suggestions in paragraphs 2 and 3 supra, necessary additions have been made to the draft.

E.A.V.—16-8-21. N.K.—16-8-21.

The draft is now for approval.

C.R.—17-8-21.

P.C.D.—17-8-21.

The draft as amended is all right. It may issue as a press communique.

A. P. P[ATRO]—17-8-21.

[G.O. No. 1184, Law (Education), dated 20th August 1921.]

PRESS SLIP.

ORDINARY.

PREFERENCE.

URGENT (a).

DEPARTMENT.

Current No., dated 191 ..

G.O. No. 1182, dated 20.8.21 191 ..

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Chief subject

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SECRETARIAT.

(a) If a paper is marked to be printed urgently, the Superintendent of the section concerned should sign the Press slip. The Superintendent should exercise a careful discretion in the matter.

(b) Each letter, memorandum, or order, or set of orders, in the file of correspondence should be headed in succession with the Roman numeral I, II, III, etc., the number being written in red ink or blue chalk above the item. The particular papers to be printed in the special issue-copies should be indicated by the Roman numeral (I, II, etc.) by which that item has been headed in the correspondence file. All matter, including marginal remarks or references, to be printed should be written in ink and matter which should not be printed should be encircled. Initials and signatures that are not quite legible should be re-written distinctly.

(b¹) For rules regarding printing of notes, see rule 315 of the office Manual.

(c) The number of copies and the details of distribution should be filled in by the Superintendent or Referencer concerned.

(d) In the absence of special instructions to the Press to keep matter standing for a specified period, ordinary papers of 8 pages and under will be kept standing for one week, and larger papers for two weeks only. The type of notes and of all confidential papers is distributed immediately after striking.

(e) This slip, properly and completely filled in, should accompany every paper sent to Press; it will be returned by the Press when proofs are furnished; it should be sent to the Press when a call is made for revised proofs or when a corrected proof is sent for striking. When finally returned by Press it should be filed with the original order or letter.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESS.

(a) If, in the opinion of the Superintendent of the Press, a paper has been marked urgent unnecessarily, he should send the Press slip to the Registrar with a remark to that effect.

(b) Unless a note to the contrary is made against the matter, pencil entries should not be printed. The Superintendent of the Press may bring to the notice of the Registrar any instance of incomplete or careless editing.

(c) Signature copies of letters to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India should be printed on hand-made paper.

(d) This slip should be returned by the Press to the Secretariat when proofs are furnished; it will be sent back to the Press when proofs are returned corrected and should be finally returned to the Secretariat when struck-off copies are supplied.

(e) The names of the Secretary and Members should be printed in full when they occur on the right hand side, only the first time when they appear on the left side, the initials alone being printed later.

* Copies distributed on †(Press Clerk.)
† Copies distributed on †(Press Despatcher.)

† To be initialed and dated.

TO PRESS, MADRAS OOTY.

A

Please send proof in duplicate. The papers have been carefully edited.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Supdt.

B

Proof returned corrected. Please strike off and send it at r of copies as indicated.

Type may be released after usual interval at once.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Supdt.

C

As the matter is clear manuscript has been carefully edited, (b) proof not be sent. Please print number of copies as indicated. Type may be released after usual interval.

Referencer.
Clerk.

Supdt.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

TO BE FILLED IN BY THE PRESS.

Diary.	Initials of Press official.
Received in Press on.....	20/8/24
First proof furnished on.....	
Call for revised proof received on.....	
Revised proof furnished on.....	
Corrected proof received for striking on.....	
Final copies supplied on.....	

Account of copies.	Complete copies.	Notes.	Issue copies.	Special E.T. edition.
Supplied to Secretariat for Record.....				
" " " Issue.....				
" " " for Extra E.T. copies to supply requisitions for sale to the public.				4
For Volumes.....				
For supply to newspapers and institutions admitted to the privileges of the E.T.				
Total ...				

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