

Law (192 1) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1632

DATED 15 - 11 - 1921

[Despatch Abstract.]

T O U R.

His Excellency the Governor's —note on the address
presented by the Municipal Council, Negapatam—free and
compulsory education—recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Copy of C. P. (Off. with candidate)
in note on No. 11
His Excellency The Right Honourable Lord Willingdon,

G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.,

Government of Madras.

May it please Your Excellency,

We the Municipal Council of Negapatam, respectfully offer a most cordial welcome to Your Excellency and Lady Willingdon on your visit to this historic town.

2. We take this opportunity of assuring Your Excellency of the devoted loyalty of the residents of this Municipality to His Imperial Majesty, the King Emperor.

3. We thank your Excellency's Government for the liberal grants which have enabled us to effect great improvements in our medical institutions, to give facilities for the spread of Elementary Education and to improve the general sanitary condition of the town. With the growth of civilization the needs of the town have increased in all directions. The question of making elementary education free and compulsory in this town is now under the ~~anxious~~ consideration of the Council. This means an additional annual recurring expenditure of no

less than Rs. 30,000, not to mention the additional non-recurring expenditure for buildings and equipment which may amount to a very large sum. We are unable to find funds to meet this expenditure from our current revenue, nor can ^{we} proceed to increase taxation at present. With the

liberal medical grants from Government recommended by the Financial Relations Committee, we hope that our expenditure from municipal funds on medical institutions will be substantially reduced. A portion of

the rates now levied for expenditure in connection with the general municipal purposes may then ^{be} earmarked for educational expenditure which

with the grant from Government under Section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act may enable us to carry out our educational programme successfully. The Surgeon-General has recommended that several urgent

improvements should be effected to the hospital and dispensaries as detailed in Government Endorsement No. 15,884 - 1 P.H. dated 20th August 1921. We pray that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to give us grants required for this purpose, as we are unable to find funds for them.

Para 9, p. 2
780. 933
26.5.21

Please see
note by D.S. G.
on this point

(2)

4. We beg to acknowledge our indebtedness to Your Excellency's Government for the liberal grants which have enabled us to provide this town with a protected water supply which even in its present limited operation has already proved a great boon to the residents of this Municipality. Extension of water supply is urgently required in several parts of this Municipality. We pray that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to continue to give further grants for extending water supply to those parts of the Municipality which are still in need of good drinking water.

5. There is one other very urgent need of this town viz., a proper drainage scheme. With the advent of a protected water supply, the volume of sewage to be removed has considerably increased and the primitive mode of removing sewage in carts which is in vogue here and which was unsatisfactory even before the introduction of water supply, is quite unsuitable to the present requirements of the town. We understand from the latest report of the Sanitary Engineer that plans and estimates amounting to Rs. 7.80 lakhs sanctioned for a sewage scheme for this town are kept in abeyance ^{as} on account of financial considerations. Of course we cannot afford to incur this heavy expenditure as our resources are inadequate even for our current needs. Further we beg to repeat that any increase in taxation will be far too heavy a burden ^a on the residents of this Municipality which cannot be said to be growing in prosperity. We pray therefore, that Your Excellency's Government may be pleased to give us a grant of the total cost of the scheme so that it may be taken up for execution at an early date.

In conclusion, we pray for the long life and prosperity of Your Excellency and Lady Willingdon.

Negapatam
20-10-21.

On behalf of the Municipal Council

Sd. A.T. Maricar,

Chairman.

Collector's Note.

Free and Compulsory education.

This is a matter of general policy and I presume is largely connected with the amount of funds available for expenditure on elementary education. The question of free education is under the consideration of the Government. Vide para 5 of G.O. No. 418 L & M, dated 5-3-21.

Law (Education) Dept.

Provincial grants to the Municipal Council towards the cost of education.

The Government distribute every year ~~large~~ grants to local bodies for the expansion of education. ^(So far as funds permit) The Municipal Council, Negapatam, received the following amounts in the last two years:-

1919-1920. Rs. 5,458

1920-1921. 8,182

2. Free and compulsory education.

In his Inspection note on the Negapatam Municipality, the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local boards has stated that ^{the} time is ripe for the Municipal Council to consider whether compulsory elementary education may not be introduced at once. The Council has been asked for its views on this matter. The Hon'ble the Minister has also asked the Inspector to investigate the question further.

3. No proposal has yet been received from the Council for sanction to the levy of the education tax under section 34 of the Madras Elementary Education Act. If the Council raises funds by the imposition of the tax, the Govt. will, under section 37 of the Act, contribute a sum equal to the proceeds of the tax and this will enable the Council to open more

Para 7, p. 2 of G.O. 233 (F)
26.5.21

Para 5 of G.O. ibid.

Capas in L.P. 4.

Schools. Before compulsion is introduced, the Municipal Council will have to satisfy the Govt. that adequate arrangements have been made for the provision of trained teachers and that the number of elementary school-places is or will, within a reasonable period, be made sufficient for all children of school age.

4. The ^{annual} fee income of the municipality is nearly Rs500. When the introduction of compulsion is notified in any area, no fees can be charged at any elementary school in that area (Vide section 47 of the Act).

7/10
26/11
Vice Section 45 of the Act.

Page of 80. 307. 1-3-20 (A)

(Perhaps necessary to complete)

8/10-21
6-10-21
PSS
M₃

The present finances of the Municipality when properly adjusted as suggested by the subjects of the municipalities and go very far to meet cost of free & compulsory education - I am glad to state, on the basis of the conditions of the Municipality, that this would probably be the first Municipality where free & compulsory system could be introduced at an early date.

2. The Municipal Councils have not got definite ideas relating to 1. School places

2. teachers. The rules give very great

discretion to D.C. to put up check & suitable building, pandals - 2. That the compulsory system will be begun with untrained teachers who will be gradually trained

Returned with a copy of His Excellency's

reply.

PS
P.S.G.
8-11-21.



The notes may be

Recorded

8/10
9-11-21
MS
when

8/10
13/11-21
MS
when

M₃

1632 0/15-11-21

X

Gentlemen of the Negapatam Municipal Council.

Let me thank you most sincerely in the name of both my wife and myself for the kind welcome which you have accorded us, and for the loyal address to which we have just listened. It has been a great pleasure to Lady Willington and myself to have this opportunity of visiting Negapatam and brief as our visit is, I feel confident that we shall enjoy every minute of it under the guidance of my old friend, the Chairman of your Council.

Before I pass on to deal with the various points raised in your address in connection with your Municipality, I want to say a word or two of general application dealing with future tours of His Excellency the Governor under the new régime. What I wish to say is this. I want you in future to regard the Minister or Member on tour as the person to whom you should go with a detailed list of your needs and requirements. Don't think for a moment that the Governor of the future when on tour will not want to know

2. 7
just how you are getting on, what difficulties you have to face and generally whether you are contented or the reverse with your lot. Indeed he will want more than ever to be put in full possession of all the facts, and to obtain that intimate knowledge of the condition of the district which is necessary for the Head of the Administration if he is to govern successfully. He will still regard his tours as the best opportunity which he has of getting to know the people of the Presidency. But I want all you local bodies to realise that you now have your own Ministers frequently on tour and it is to them that you should carry the detailed catalogue of your wants in the future, and I need not tell you that you will always be sure of a sympathetic listener.

Now, gentlemen, to deal briefly with some of the conundrums which beset your Council as a body responsible for the welfare of the municipality. You tell me first that your

Council is considering the advisability of making elementary education free and compulsory in this town, and in this I see you are in agreement with the advice of the Inspector of Municipal Councils. Let me tell you first in this connection that I have discussed the matter with the Minister for Education and he tells me that in his opinion your Municipality will probably be the first in which the great experiment may be made at an early date. But before this can be done, there are various conditions to be fulfilled, conditions necessary to safeguard the public interest. You are, I am sure, familiar with the provisions of the Elementary Education Act but I would remind you that to obtain a contribution from Government for the purpose in mind you have to apply for sanction for the levy of the Education Tax - though I note that you say you cannot increase taxation at present. You have, as I think you realise, to satisfy Government that adequate arrangements have been made for the provision of trained teachers, and of a sufficient number

of elementary school-houses, and this - as you say - will mean a heavy expenditure. I believe however as regards the financial aspect of the case that the Inspector of Municipalities has made some very useful suggestions for the adjustment of your finances which if adopted would go some way to meet the cost of free education. And finally I would point out that the Act gives very wide discretion to District Educational Councils in the matter of putting up cheap and suitable buildings.

You ask Government for grants to effect the additions and improvements in your medical institutions recommended by the Surgeon-General. Gentlemen, I wish on these occasions I could play the part of the fairy godmother and call into existence sufficient assets to meet all these very urgent requests. Unfortunately, as you know, the resources of Government are strictly limited, and Government have to cut their coat according to their cloth. As a result of the recommendations of the Financial Relations Committee Government

have decided that their contribution to medical institutions ~~must be~~ limited to half the cost thereof. Any applications therefore from your Council for half grants will receive our most sympathetic consideration. I know that your Council's expenditure on medical relief has increased enormously in recent years. I believe too that ☐ third of the patients treated in the municipal hospital come from outside municipal limits. In view of this fact I would suggest to you the advisability of constituting a joint committee in consultation with the District and Taluk Boards with a view to a fair adjustment of medical charges. But I would also point out that it is just in connection with such matters as these that a District Health Board would function most usefully in this district.

As regards the extension of your water supply, I note that you have recently received a grant of Rs.4050 towards the cost of extension of pipe lines to certain parts of the town, and it is open to you to apply for further grants for

this purpose after your plans and estimates are ready. Such applications when received will be duly considered on their merits to the extent of the funds available.

There are I know serious financial difficulties to face in the matter of your drainage scheme. But Government have only recently decided definitely to adhere to the existing half-loan-half-grant principle in the matter of such schemes and I fear exceptions cannot be made to this rule. You are naturally averse from increasing taxation but there is scope in your town for the development of revenue from non-tax sources, and I am not sure that in the past you have made the fullest use you could of these sources. I think I am right in saying that having previously received a Government grant for acquisition of sites you sold the sites acquired and spent the receipts to meet ordinary current charges. I would suggest to you gentlemen that you adopted an erroneous principle in this matter and that you might have handled your land development with a little more forethought.

Don't think because I say this that I have come here to criticise. Believe me, gentlemen, I only want to help you with ~~some good~~ advice ^{so} that you may avoid in the future any mistakes which may have occurred in the past.

Before I conclude I would like to thank you for your expression of devotion and loyalty to the person of His Majesty the King Emperor. Indeed I am sure that the citizens of Negapatam are second to none in this respect, and that I can always look to your town for that loyal co-operation and earnest endeavour which now more than ever are needed for the future progress of this great country.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 192
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____ DATED _____
192

SECRET No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO G. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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

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

13