

Law (1921) Department.
Education

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1830

DATED 19. 12. 21.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council meeting - November 15th - Question -

Admission to Connemara Public Library.

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310 2nd. 27 19-5-1856.

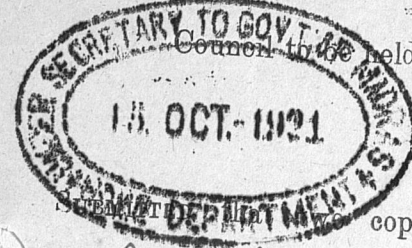
585/1917

3 ✓

1,000-22-7-21.

QUESTION.—No. 1076

for the meeting of the Legislative



held on the 15th November

1921. Sum 3090 B
15.10.21

copies of this Question may be forwarded to the

Law (Education)

Department.

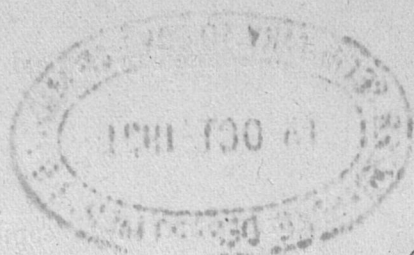
The Question has been admitted.

U.O. No. 2807-1 dated 15-10-21
L.C.

To

The Law (Education) Department.

1/2
1



Council Office.

Question.

4--10--21.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.

The Law (Education) Department.

1976. To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Education to state--

(a) whether, and if so, what dress has been prescribed for those who have wish to go into, and use the books ^{of} the Connemara Library;

(b) whether ^{the} wearing of a turban and ^{are} use of a coat ^{is} insisted on for admission to the library; and

(c) whether, if so, the Government ^{cannot} relax these ~~unreasonably~~ rules.

S.S.

Jab

Law (Education) Dept

Rule 4 of the Rules for the Connemara Public Library approved in G.O. No.310 Educational dated 19-5-96 runs as follows:-

"Readers will be admitted to the Library on condition that they are cleanly in person and properly dressed". There is nothing in the notes to the G.O. to show what exactly was meant by the term "properly dressed". Nor has any dress been particularly prescribed. But it appears to have been the practice in the library to insist on a coat and some kind of head dress as essentials of "proper dress". Though the interpretation of the rule has been frequently challenged, the practice appears to have been maintained unaltered - Vide para 3 of Mr. Henderson's letter on p.4 of G.O. No.585 Education dated 4-5-17.

2. In this connection attention is solicited to the Hon'ble the Minister's remarks on the Newspaper cutting headed "National dress & Connemara Library" that appeared in the "Hindu" dated 28-9-21. Submitted that no reference is now pending with the Principal Librarian, nor has he made any reference to Government on the subject referred to. ~~XXXXXX~~ Presumably the M.L.C. is asking the question with reference to the report in the "Hindu" of the 28th September 1921.

3. If the Principal Librarian wishes to relax the existing practice regarding dress, no reference to Govt. would seem to be necessary since it is open to him to interpret the term "properly dressed" in a generous spirit and to work the rule with the greatest possible latitude by admitting into the library visitors who are cleanly dressed, though they may not wear a coat and a turban.

Removed

D

1-80, 280, 400, 600

15-03-45

Rep. Connemara

removed

K

We observed "If a person is dressed, clean and tidy why should he be prohibited?"
"Is there any reference pending?"
"Wait for reference notes in the letter."

4. In view of the incident reported in the cutting from "Hindu" dated 28-9-21, the Principal Librarian may be requested U.O. to report on the facts of the case, what the existing practice is in regard to the dress to be worn by visitors to the Library and whether any alteration has now been made therein. *Hence also he*

asked to submit his remarks with ref. to the interpellation -
20.10.21
21.10.21

Principal Librarian Sec

Edon No. 3090 B-1
21.10.21

Connemara Public Library.

Reg. Current
No. 500 Acl
22.10.21

When the rules of the Library were originally framed by Mr. Thurston, the rule in question was drafted as follows:-

Rule 4. "Readers will be admitted to the Library on condition that they are cleanly in person and apparel"

When approving the rules, the Government in G.O. No. 310 Educational dated 19-5-96 ordered that the words "properly dressed" should be substituted for the word "apparel". Since then, as mentioned in Dr. Henderson's letter to Government referred to above, it has been the practice to insist on a coat and a head dress as requisites of "proper dress". As, however, no definition of what constitutes "proper dress" has been embodied in the rules, the working of the rule has been ~~undoubtedly~~ rendered particularly difficult, and has caused not a little inconvenience to the public, as evidenced by the numerous representations that have been received from time to time for the modification of the practice of--

insisting on a coat and a head dress. The matter was first brought to my notice shortly after I took charge in February 1920; but as I found that the above interpretation of the rule had been ^{uniformly} maintained up to that time I felt that no change should be hastily made. At first the chief complaints were directed against the vagueness of the rule; and in June 1920 the words "with a coat and a head dress, when the hair is kept in Indian style" were added after the words "properly dressed" as authority to the Sub-Librarian and Attendants for the current interpretation of the rule. While this made the rule more explicit, it did not of course remove the real cause of dissatisfaction. Representations continued to be received, as a result of which the question was again examined at length towards the close of last year. The rule was thereupon relaxed, in practice, to a certain extent especially in the case of Sanyasis and others with whose dress the wearing of a coat would be out of keeping, and it was decided in April last that a head dress need not ^{be} insisted on when an angavastram was worn. This was intended as the first step towards the gradual relaxation of the current interpretation to the fullest extent found compatible with decency and cleanliness. The rule has thus continued until the incident reported in the 'Hindu' in its issue of the 28th September '21. The facts of the case as reported in it are substantially correct. In the course of the interview with the visitor, Mr. M. Narasimhaswami, I consulted the Sub-Librarian and decided that the time had come to -

relax the rule so as to permit persons dressed as Mr. Narasimhaswami was to use the Library. But as I was uncertain whether Government Sanction was necessary I told him that I would write to him as soon as a decision was arrived at, and that until the alteration was made he clearly could not be allowed to come without a coat. Unfortunately my Personal Assistant, who has charge of all office papers, was unwell, and as the illness proved to be dengue fever, an unexpected delay of about a week occurred before I ascertained definitely that it was only the interpretation of the rule that was in question and that there was consequently no need to refer the matter to Government. In the meantime the letter signed by "A sufferer" appeared in the Hindu. The revised interpretation of the rule prescribes that when a dhoti is worn, a shirt or full sleeved jubba must be worn also, and that the decision of the chief officer present in the Library at the time as to what is cleanly or decent is final. I think that this interpretation is broad enough to cover all cases of reasonable complaint. An intimation of the change was sent to Mr. Narasimhaswami, on the 6th instant.

With these remarks the file may be returned to the Law (Education) Department U.O.

F. B. Gravely
Principal Librarian.

U. O. No. 500A-126/21
Dt. 25-10-21.

Law (Edn.) U. O.

Law (Edn) Dept

The following answer is suggested -
Draft answer

(a) The rule for admission to the Commemorative Public Library requires that readers will be

In practical working the Principal Librarian has been till recently requiring the wearing of a coat and ~~head dress~~ in certain cases a head dress.

he admitted to the Library on condition that they are cleanly in person and properly dressed. ~~No particular dress has been prescribed.~~

(b) ~~Not in all cases.~~

(c) The Govt understand that the rule has ~~since~~ been relaxed and that the wearing of a coat and a turban is not necessary.

Td.
25.10.21

A
25.10.21

Suggest the following answer

(a) The rule required that the readers "are cleanly in person & properly dressed". The words "properly dressed" were at one time interpreted to mean wearing of coat & ~~head dress~~ turban when the hair was kept in Suleim type. The rule was subsequently relaxed in his case of Sarganis & others with a view to dress in wearing of coat and the only keeping oil was decided in April last that a head dress need not be insisted on when an angarakam was worn.

(b) No, not in all cases.

1921.

Law (Edw) DEPARTMENT.

CUTTINGS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

1. Name of Paper—The Hindu
2. Published at—Madras
3. Dated—28th Sept. 1921.

NATIONAL DRESS & CONNEMARA LIBRARY.

SIR,—I went to the Connemara Library this morning to consult some books there. I had a Swadeshi full-armed 'Lalchi' and a turban on. I was refused admission on the ground that I had no "coat." I was taken to the Assistant Librarian who, having satisfied himself with the decency of my dress regretted that he could not admit me as there is an explicit rule and directed me to the Chief Librarian Mr. Gravely. I represented to him that the dress I was wearing is the national dress in vogue among students who are allowed in all colleges and also pointed out instances of gentlemen attending Council meetings. He was also thoroughly satisfied with the decency of my dress, but after consulting the Assistant Librarian he said that until they received an order from the Government to whom they would address for relaxing the rule no one would be admitted into the Library without a coat and that they could not admit me. The Assistant Librarian informed Mr. Gravely, that owing to the rigidity of the rule he had to refuse admission in two hundred similar cases. I was asked by the Chief Librarian to leave my address with the Assistant Librarian, who, he said, would communicate with me on receipt of a reply from the Government. Mr. Gravely, moreover, asked me if I was a Non-Co-operator and I replied that I was not in the strict sense but informed him that I advocate a system of Swadeshi and national dress. While he was not observing the rule, as he said, regarding head-dress and giving admission to those who came without it, I wonder why a reference should be made regarding the "coat." Is it because I mentioned that mine was the national dress everything handspun and handwoven?

Are we to suffer and lose the privileges merely because we do not put on a coat of western fashion but put on national dress which suits our climate? Though I informed the librarian that I cannot put on a coat even to-morrow and change my national dress, he said he could not relax the rule. Am I to suffer until the Government is moved and until they get a reply? I hope the Government would take a cosmopolitan view and relax the rigidity of the rule in prescribing a particular form of dress which is inconvenient and out of taste to an Indian.

A SUFFERER.

MADRAS, September 26.



Is there any reference pending?

Wait—in the reference noted in the letter—

It is with it were easy to say what is "national dress". phrases like "national education" & "national dress" are shibboleths. If a person is dressed clean & tidy why should he be prohibited?

(c) As explained above his rule has been relaxed.

M₃

The above reply of the Hon'ble the Minister

26/10/21

27/10/21

Deep answer to Council

27/10/21

Ans. sent to office

27/10/21

The final form of the question and answer as aforesaid is as follows:—

Admission to the Connemara Library.

987 Q.—MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether, and if so, what dress has been prescribed for those who wish to go into, and use the books of, the Connemara Library;
- (b) whether the wearing of a turban and the use of a coat are insisted on for admission to the library; and
- (c) whether, if so, the Government cannot relax these rules?

A.—(a) The rule required that the readers 'are cleanly in person and properly dressed'. The words 'properly dressed' were at one time interpreted to mean wearing of coat and head-dress when the hair was kept in Indian style. The rule was subsequently relaxed in the case of sanyasis and others with whose dress the wearing of coat would be out of keeping and it was decided in April last that a head-dress need not be insisted on when an angavastram was worn.

- (b) No, not in all cases.
- (c) As explained above, the rule has been relaxed.

There is no supplementary question. The paper may now be

Order 1830 of 19-12-21

Mis

Recorded

17.12.21

Legislative Council Meeting
— November 15th — Question
No 907 — Admission
to Connemara Public
Library

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