

Law (192 /) Department.
(*Education*)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1832 A

DATED 19-12-1921

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council meeting-November 1921.

Resolution--special financial assistance to local
bodies for ~~instruction~~ introduction of compulsory elementary
education.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Resolution introduced
M. M. M.

147

NOTES CONNECTED WITH A RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting of the 12th October 1921.]

[SUBJECT.—*Special financial assistance to local bodies towards the introduction of compulsory elementary education.*]

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO :—

147. That this Council recommends to the Government to afford special financial assistance to the local bodies which resolve to make elementary education compulsory besides making the statutory contribution provided by section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920.

LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

Section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, runs as follows :—

“Where an elementary education fund is constituted under section 32, the Governor in Council shall contribute thereto a sum *not less than* the proceeds of the taxation levied under section 34 on behalf of the fund :—

“Provided that such contribution shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, the amount of recurring expenditure incurred from Provincial funds during the financial year before the coming into force of this Act on education in elementary schools under public management situated within the area for which such elementary education fund has been constituted.”

2. It may be observed that in the course of the discussions on the Bill, there was a definite amendment proposed for raising the Provincial contribution in the proportion of two to one of the amount realized from the Education cess levied by the local authority.

The Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson in opposing the amendment replied as follows :—

“According to the provisions of the present Bill, there will be plenty of scope, as in the past, for differentiation between poorer bodies and richer bodies. There will be some room for elasticity, so as to allow for greater help to the poorer local authorities than to the richer, but we cannot accept a statutory obligation to contribute twice the amount of the Educational cess to the elementary education fund as constituted under clause 32. We are bound to contribute an equivalent sum in all cases and in particular cases we shall be ready to contribute more if the funds at our disposal permit.”

3. From the above it is clear that there is nothing at present to prevent the Government from giving more than the equivalent contribution to particular local bodies if the circumstances of the case warrant such a course and if there are funds sufficient for the purpose. The Act came into force from 1st April last and so far no local body has come up with proposals for the introduction of compulsory education. The scope of the section may be explained to the Member and his attention drawn to the previous statement that deserving cases for extra help will receive due consideration.

E.A.V.—24-8-21. N.K.—25-8-21.

There is yet a lot to be done before we come to the stage of asking the Government to contribute more than their statutory obligation requires them to do. Local bodies have to exploit their resources in full before putting forth a valid claim for special treatment by Government. Only some of them have proposed increase of taxation. The scheme of providing sufficient number of school places for all the children of school-going age should be worked out and its financial feasibility

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examined. Towards the latter end, the Hon'ble the Minister has recently instructed the Inspector of Municipalities and Local Boards to help municipalities in working out the schemes.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—26-8-21.

There is nothing to prevent Government with the law as it stands "to afford special financial assistance". Whether this will be done in any particular instance will depend on a number of circumstances, e.g., financial resources of Government, of the local bodies, etc. Government cannot afford to promise that in every case where compulsory education is introduced it will afford special financial assistance. The elasticity given by the Act is desirable to maintain.

P. C. DUTT—26-8-21.

I agree entirely. Government will take an exceptional case into consideration for special financial assistance. But why all this fuss without first beginning anything practical in local bodies or by District Educational Councils.

A. P. P[ATRO]—29-8-21.

The resolution was withdrawn.

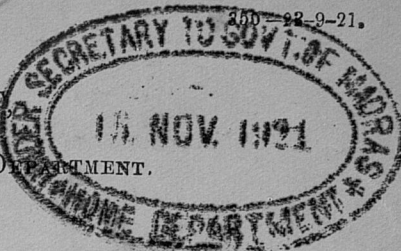
8/2/22

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

Law (Edn)

DEPARTMENT.



The following resolution was—

~~carried~~
~~carried as amended.~~
~~lost.~~
~~not moved and was therefore deemed to have been withdrawn.~~
~~in the absence of the mover, deemed to have been withdrawn.~~

By leave, withdrawn.
Resolution No. 147 (215) *Leds*

1 Ail to local bodies towards making elementary education compulsory.

the Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—

147 [215] That this Council recommends to the Government to afford special financial assistance to the local bodies which resolve to make elementary education compulsory besides making the statutory contribution provided by section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920.

Amendment.

By leave withdrawn

Ld Swamikanni

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OFFICE,

15-11

1921.

Secretary to the Legislative Council.

15th November 1921] [The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Reddi Nayudu]

on account of the illiteracy and ignorance of the people in the development of industries and unless the district boards, the taluk boards and the municipalities are prepared to furnish to the industrialists better material than they are at present able to furnish, it will not be possible for any technical or industrial education being imparted with any degree of success. The first requisite, therefore, seems to be that elementary education should precede industrial and technical education.

"Now, Sir, so far as these two portions are concerned I may at once tell the honourable mover of this resolution that the Government are as anxious to systematize and impart technical and industrial education and for that purpose they have not at present any trodden path by which they could proceed. It has accordingly been agreed by the Government that they should appoint a committee to go into the whole question of industrial and technical education as distinct from not merely general education, but also as distinct from vocational education and manual training.

"I may assure the Council that a committee will shortly be appointed to go into the whole question of industrial and technical education and to devise means by which such education could be imparted; whether such education should form part of the existing schools or whether there should be separate schools for these, and how far industrial and technical education could be imparted in existing factories and schools and how far higher education will have to be taught in the different schools separately established for that purpose; all these questions can only be considered by a committee. I hope the honourable mover will be satisfied with that assurance. From a perusal of the resolution, it will be noticed, that the problem involves very many complexities, the question of the period of instruction, the question of curricula the question of methods and so forth; all these cannot be accepted or settled in a resolution like the one before the House. They require further investigation and as such the only course which I think, under the present circumstances, we can adopt is to appoint a committee to go into the whole question."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, as regards the second part of the resolution, it is included in the scope of reference to the committee—the educational reorganization committee, of which the honourable mover is a member. This resolution requires no further explanation. The honourable mover being on the committee, can press the matter of the resolution on the attention of the committee and if he succeeds can obtain all that he wants in this resolution."

The resolution was by leave of the Council withdrawn.

Aid to local bodies towards making elementary education compulsory.

12-30 p.m. Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—"Mr. President, Sir, I move:—

147 'That this Council recommends to the Government to afford special financial assistance to the local bodies which resolve to make elementary education compulsory besides making the statutory contribution provided by section 37 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920.'

"It will be within the recollection of this Council that during the last ten years vigorous attempts have been made throughout the country for the expansion of elementary education, and it is agreed that the best method by which we can make education universal is by making elementary education free and compulsory as early as possible. The whole question has been before the public for a sufficiently long time, and it does not need any elaborate argument from me. But at the

[Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu]

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same time it is necessary to take stock of the existing conditions and circumstances, to see what possibility there is at present for achieving the object in view. The Elementary Education Act was passed last year, and what are known as District Educational Councils have been brought into existence. If these District Educational Councils have been brought into existence for the purpose of merely preparing statistical returns and abstracts, or for the purpose of grants-in-aid, or even for the purpose of the recognition of elementary schools, I think no useful purpose would be served by the formation of these bodies. At the time when the question of the formation of District Educational Councils was under consideration, there were—and even now there are—grave doubts expressed as to the utility of separate bodies for the purpose of dealing with some of the functions properly belonging to local bodies. It was found after considerable discussion that it would be better to bring into existence bodies to control one branch of the various functions that originally devolved upon the local bodies with the object that in the near future we might have compulsory elementary education.

“The provisions of the Elementary Education Act place considerable difficulties in the way of making education free and compulsory, however anxious a local body may be to bring it into operation. It will be found that sections 44 and 45 of the Act provide various limitations and conditions to be carried out before education can be made compulsory. It is stated in section 45 that even after a local body resolves by the vote of the two-thirds of the members present that education shall be compulsory it rests with the Governor in Council to accept or reject the resolution. The Governor in Council has also to see that certain conditions are carried out. The first condition is that the local authority concerned must levy the taxes leviable under section 34. Secondly there must be provision for trained teachers and for elementary schools in that area sufficient for all the children of school-going age. If education is to be made compulsory for girls there must be adequate provision for giving the benefit of education to all girls of school-going age. Section 47 lays down that no fees shall be charged at any school in the area. The local authority will have also to pay compensation to all managers of private schools for any loss of income. With these limitations before us we may well pause before taking such steps.

“It must be conceded that the local authorities, and especially the municipalities, have been slowly, but steadily discharging their responsibility in the matter of the development of elementary education. At the end of the year 1920, the latest year for which figures are available, municipalities had spent 15·8 per cent of their normal income from taxation upon education, and it has been recognized that this is a fair percentage of income from taxation for a local body to spend on education. The local boards spent 12·3 per cent in 1917–18, 13·2 per cent in 1918–19 and 15·01 per cent in 1919–20 which shows that they utilize a reasonable portion of their income from taxation for education. The number of schools under their control has also increased. In 1917–18 it was 6,884. In 1918–19 it increased by 505 to 7,389. In 1919–20 it was 8,253, i.e., 864 more than the previous year. It will be clear, therefore, that the local boards have been doing their very best with the resources at their disposal. If the demands upon their income and the various services they are called upon to render are considered, it will be clear that the 15 per cent they have been utilizing for elementary education is a fairly reasonable proportion.

“The local bodies upon whom rests the responsibility of passing the resolution to make elementary education compulsory have, according to the means at their disposal, been utilizing a reasonable proportion of their taxable income for

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the purpose and have been trying to increase the number of schools and the number of trained teachers, and have also made education available to a larger number of pupils. Before they take the next step they must have an education cess. I quite agree that the municipalities have expressed themselves in favour of an education cess. But my difficulty is that unless the Government lays down a policy to liberally work out the provisions of section 37 of the Act, and help those local bodies which resolve to levy an education cess it will not be possible to have any substantial expansion of elementary education. This section provides that the minimum of the statutory obligations of the Government is to provide as much as the local board gets by the levy of the education cess. What the rate of the cess is to be is referred to in section 34. I would ask, Sir, if it is fair to suggest that a municipality or local board which has to increase taxation according to the provisions of the District Municipalities Act or the Local Boards Act but which consented to levy an education cess with the object of making education free and compulsory, does not deserve to be helped to the full extent possible, even to the extent of the net cost. I know that the Hon'ble the Minister for Education may say: 'each case will be considered on its merits. Let us see what the local board or municipality is going to do. Let us examine the conditions and then come to the conclusion whether that municipality or local board can be helped.' But I may assure him that he will help the local boards and municipalities to a considerable extent if he lets them know what the policy of the Government is. There are several municipalities and local boards that have recently taxed themselves under the new provisions of the District Municipalities Act and the Local Boards Act. They are anxious to help all persons concerned to have the benefit of education. It is not possible for some of them to be induced to take the full advantages of the Elementary Education Act. I am quite certain that the Government have the same object in view. I am certain that the Hon'ble the Minister for Education is as anxious as any one else can possibly be to introduce compulsory education. If this object is to be carried out, he can do so only by enunciating a policy that, wherever a local board has utilized its resources to a reasonable extent, the Government will be prepared to provide the net cost required for the purpose of carrying out the aim. Unless some such assurance is given the idea of carrying out the policy of universal compulsory education cannot be carried out. If the District Educational Council is only to collect statistical returns and prepare special references to offices of Government it is not going to serve any useful purpose. The Government have taken upon themselves the responsibility of providing a contribution not less than that collected by the local bodies. But I think they must come forward and state it as their policy that wherever the minimum requirements have been satisfied by a local board, they will come to its relief to the fullest possible extent and make elementary education compulsory. It is for this purpose that I have brought forward this resolution."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"I second the resolution."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO :—"Sir, with regard to the first part of the argument of the mover of this resolution, I am in entire sympathy. It is the desire of everyone here and every member of the Government that free and compulsory education should be introduced in all municipalities and local boards as soon as possible. It is with a view to extend elementary education that Elementary Education Act was passed. Therefore it is unnecessary for me to enter into a discussion of the first part of the speech of the honourable mover. In the second part the mover wants to ascertain the policy of the Government in

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the case of those local bodies who raise a cess under the Education Act. With reference to that general statement made by the honourable mover it is impossible to give a definite reply. I wish the Hon'ble the Finance Member were here in order to show the honourable mover what the financial condition of the province is at present. I can only say that there is ample scope in the Elementary Education Act itself for rendering special aid. Section 37 says wherever a municipality or a local board has raised a local cess and that local cess is not found adequate then a special aid may be given to such a local body. Section 37 reads thus:—

'When an elementary education fund is constituted under section 32, the Governor in Council shall contribute thereto a sum not less than the proceeds of the taxation levied under section 34 on behalf of that fund.'

"The more power is reserved to Government to examine each case that is referred for the consideration of the Government whether the education cess is not adequate for the introduction of free and compulsory education.

12-45 p.m. "There are also provisions in the Elementary Education Act that it is open to a local body not to introduce free and compulsory education entirely and wholesale. It may be extended to a particular part of a municipality or a particular ward of a municipality and gradually, as finances improve, it may be extended generally to the whole municipality and the local board. It may be introduced in a particular area and it may be gradually extended to other areas. Therefore the general proposition which the honourable mover suggested was that in cases where education cess was levied and that cess was found to be inadequate the Government might give assistance specially in such cases, but I would submit to the House that the Government is willing to afford facilities for the development of free and compulsory education in local board and municipal areas. So, when such gradual steps are taken for the introduction of free and compulsory education and even after that, the local body finds it difficult from its ordinary resources to maintain in that area, that is, from the cess that it has levied, then it is a case for the Government to examine and consider the matter specially. It is only recently that the Education Act has come into operation in April last. And as the honourable mover is aware not a single municipality in his district nor a single local board there has resolved to levy the education cess, or to introduce free and compulsory education. Therefore, if we take instances that have come before the Government where intimation has been given of the intention of any municipality that it is going to introduce free and compulsory education, the matter is being carefully examined. The inspector of local and municipal institutions is also in charge of examining such cases and the financial condition of the municipalities and his reports are being published in the press, as is now within the knowledge of every member of this House. Therefore, whenever we find that there are facilities for the introduction of free and compulsory education, the Government is examining the scheme and advising such local bodies to introduce it at once. Whenever we find that the financial condition of certain areas is not promising, we would render all possible assistance. For instance, we know that mostly in the Ceded districts it is a difficult matter to introduce free and compulsory education at once, and we have been assisting the Ceded districts in the matter of secondary education. So, when we find that the local bodies find themselves unable to maintain the free and compulsory education system out of their normal resources and the education cess, then the Government consider them as special cases and specially examine such cases. But

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Government cannot commit themselves to any policy beyond what is stated in section 37 of the Elementary Education Act. If, therefore, my honourable friend suggests that if in his view any local body finds itself difficult to maintain free and compulsory education, then we must necessarily help the local body with special aid, I am unable to accept the position. The scope of the general wording of section 37 is itself clear. The same question as this was raised at the time of the discussion of the Bill. Then the Hon'ble Sir Lionel Davidson in reply to such an objection made a similar statement and said that there was much scope in the section itself. As I said already, if any special case is brought to the notice of the Government, it will be carefully considered. There is nothing at present to prevent the Government from giving more contributions to particular local bodies if the circumstances warrant such a course and if there are funds sufficient for the purpose. The Act came into force only recently and we have received intimation only from a limited number of municipalities and local boards, and these local institutions and their finances are being examined by the inspector of local bodies. I submit, therefore, if any special cases come in or if there is any special instance where the funds available would not adequately meet with the necessities, then such cases will be carefully examined by the Government and, as far as funds would permit, special aid would be given. Beyond that, as I said, the policy of the Government in this matter would not extend beyond what is stated in section 37."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the honourable mover and the Hon'ble the Minister have emphasised the financial aspect of the question and the Hon'ble the Minister has replied to those sections which were read out by the mover. I think there is another difficulty far more serious than the difficulty arising from financial considerations, and that is the difficulty of persuading the people, especially those in the villages, the working classes, to send their children to primary schools. A good deal of coaxing should precede, I think, our being prepared to spend large sums of money or applying for larger grants than are at present allowed for the encouragement of primary education. I believe that the powers which the Government reserve to themselves are the direct result of the policy to watch and see whether there is a real demand and how far this demand is being actually met. So, if there is a real demand and if the necessity is felt for having more schools by the municipalities and local boards, Government, I think, will have no objection whatever to place funds at the disposal of these bodies for encouraging primary education."

Mr. R. LITTLEHAILES:—"Mr. President, I may be misinterpreting this resolution and the words of the honourable members who have spoken up to the present, but it appears to me that the resolution states one thing and the speeches have been directed to a large extent to a rather different matter than what is contained in the resolution. The resolution desires financial assistance to the local bodies which resolve to make elementary education compulsory besides the statutory contribution provided by section 37 of the Act. Section 37 of the Act deals with the contribution that Government gives to local bodies which are themselves willing to levy an educational cess. According to that section of the Act, the contribution of Government is not limited in any way whatsoever. Government are quite entitled under the Act to pay one thousand rupees for every rupee which the local body contributes. The resolution, however, that is now before this Council, as I interpret it, is that Government should make contributions outside the provisions of the Elementary Education Act, which of necessity

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would involve a contribution to a local body which is not prepared to levy the educational cess. That is the resolution, as I see it. But the speeches up to the present, if I understand them rightly, have been made on the assumption that the Act provided only an equal contribution from Government to that which is levied or raised by the local body. As a matter of fact, if what I understand the mover of the resolution wants (from his speech but not from the tabled resolution) is correct, the whole thing is granted in the Act. It is contained in the Act that if a body does levy an educational cess, it is open to the Government to pay one thousand times as much as it levies, indeed any amount which is necessary for the introduction of compulsory education. But as I interpret the resolution, Sir, it is that when a body is not willing to levy the educational cess, even then the Government should come to the assistance of that body. That is a case, Sir, on which I doubt whether the Government will be prepared to help. In my view, I should certainly be quite unwilling to recommend the payment of money to a local body which is not itself prepared to levy the cess."

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHARAJU:—"Mr. President, in the course of the debate the Director of Public Instruction said that the debate is beyond the scope of the resolution. I may humbly point out to him the main distinction between the provisions contained in section 37 of the Act and the recommendation contained in this resolution. Section 37 says that wherever a local body levies education cess, the Government should contribute at least as much as is levied as education cess. Here in this case, the resolution attempts to induce the Government to declare a policy that in all cases where compulsory education is resolved upon, they should come in with a substantial and some more assistance to that body. In the course of his argument, he said that it might be a case of a local body resolving upon compulsory education without levying education cess. I think that the Director of Public Instruction has not correctly read the Act. It is a condition precedent that any local body should first determine upon the levy of the cess and then go in for compulsory education. So in all cases where compulsory education is resolved upon, the condition precedent is satisfied, namely, that the education cess is also levied. And until that is done, I do not think that the Act enables any local body to resolve upon the introduction of compulsory education.

"Sir, in this connexion, I want to point out that there are special difficulties in the matter of introducing compulsory education. Take for instance the case of paying compensation to aided schools for the loss which they sustain on account of education being made free. Of course, education being made free is another condition precedent to the introduction of compulsory education. I was told in one or two cases the compensation payable becomes very large according to the draft rules now published. Of course, it may be said that it is only temporary and will remain only for four or five years. But is it not a good case to come before the Government and say, 'What is your policy? How are you going to assist municipalities that are willing to introduce compulsory education? The municipal funds are not enough to pay compensation. Will not the Government treat it as a special case for the temporary period of five years to pay a portion of the compensation besides the amount which the Government may pay on account of the education cess?' No doubt, they may increase the contribution towards the education cess. I hope this Government or any future Government will see their way to do such things. But the pertinent question now at issue is that in

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all cases of compensation it is necessary that this Government should declare its policy as to how they are going to assist the municipalities or local boards that determine upon compulsory education. Unless this is done, I do not think any local body can fairly calculate what its own liabilities are and how it can finance them. With some expectation of getting some help, I do not think any wise local body will determine upon the introduction of compulsory education unless the Government commits itself to a steady policy regarding the payment of contributions in such cases as may be deserving."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI :—"Sir, there is much in the resolution and the arguments in support of it put forward by my honourable friend Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao with which I am inclined to agree; I am speaking with reference to the ex. Once I have had with regard to the endeavours that are being made in the ceded districts especially in Kurnool for the extension of primary education. Time was when Government undertook to bear the cost of many a school, but now ever since these new conditions came into existence and the Financial Relations Committee have put in some suggestions with regard to the apportionment of expenditure, we have not got that help which we expected, so much so that we are now driven to the necessity of closing some of the schools. The Hon'ble the Minister for Education said that so far up till now no local body seemed to have consented to levy an education cess."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur A. P. PATRO (*interrupting*) :—"I did not say that, Sir. I said that only some of the municipalities and local boards had resolved to levy the education cess."

Mr. T. SIVASANKARAM PILLAI (*continuing*) :—"Thanks for the correction, Sir. The Penukonda Taluk Board has resolved to levy a cess of three pies in every rupee under the Elementary Education Act, and it has approached the Government for sanction under the Act itself. This was adopted on the suggestion of the Inspector of Municipalities when he found that there was a minus balance in the budget and the levy of the education cess was due entirely to our efforts in the direction of expanding primary education. This tax which we have levied through our endeavours could not wipe away the minus balance, but still there is very little that could be done in the way of starting a system of compulsory education. That is the point which I want to urge upon this Council. Then even the resources that we could get from the Elementary Education Act are not enough to wipe off the minus balance which is mainly incurred on account of our expenditure under education. We will have very little left in order to start the system of compulsory education. So from this point of view, I say that there is a good deal of need for help from the Government, I mean further help, and in this view of things, I support the resolution of Mr. Krishna Rao."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—"Sir, after the very satisfactory reply that the Hon'ble the Minister for Education has given, I see no object whatever in pressing this resolution to a division. As one who took part in passing the Elementary Education Act, I remember very well that some of us proposed that the Government should shoulder the responsibility to at least two-thirds of the extent of the funds required. Then it was pointed out by the then Member in charge, Sir Lionel Davidson, that the rule that is laid down in section 37 of the Elementary Education Act only fixes a minimum. They may resolve in any case to increase the minimum statutory contribution under section 37."

1 p.m.

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"Now, Sir, the Hon'ble the Minister for Education has been telling us, 'if there is any backward area, let us know that the educational cess they have been raising or intend to raise will not suffice for the purpose; each case will be considered on its merits.' Say, for instance, for any backward district, like the Anantapur district, for which my friend Mr. Sivasankaram Pillai was pleading so hard, the Hon'ble the Minister was pleased to observe that such considerations, if there are any, would justify special treatment when the proposals come up before the Government. I am aware, Sir, that the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities makes it a point to examine the financial condition of the local bodies with a view to extend free and compulsory education in those tracts. He goes deeply into the matter before he comes to a conclusion. He calculates what the schooling population is, how much instruction is provided in the schools and what the money is that could be raised or how much the local body can possibly raise, and when all these matters come before the Government they will certainly be glad to grant an increase of the statutory minimum that has been prescribed.

"I have one word more, Sir. The honourable mover did not intend—for that was the construction put by the Director of Public Instruction—that the Government help should be given to those who do not take the trouble and responsibility of raising any educational cess at all. But whatever may be meant by this resolution, some of us feel that with the slender resources at their disposal some tracts in the Presidency at any rate cannot hope to make elementary education compulsory in their areas. We have the assurance of the Hon'ble the Minister for Education that he will examine every case and if it is a fit case to deserve special preferential treatment at the hands of the Government he will extend that help, and so long as he says that there is no use in pressing the resolution."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU:—"Sir, I may at the very outset state that the Director of Public Instruction need not be under any misapprehension that I wish to ask for any special assistance in the case of local bodies which do not intend to levy an educational cess. Because the resolution makes it quite clear that it is only those local bodies that resolve to make education compulsory that are to be given the financial assistance that I ask for. Section 45 of the Act is quite clear that unless they resolve to levy an educational cess, they cannot make education compulsory, and therefore there need be no difficulty so far as that part of the resolution is concerned."

"The only point for consideration is as to why the Hon'ble the Minister for Education should have any hesitation in accepting this resolution. If the Council will bear with me for a few minutes I will satisfy it that what he said practically supports the resolution. The honourable member for Bellary no doubt stated that the assurance was enough and that each case would be examined on its merits, and that if special reasons were found to exist the Hon'ble the Minister would have no difficulty in giving such assistance. Nobody doubts that. Will it satisfy the Hon'ble the Minister for Education if, in this resolution which asks for special financial assistance to local bodies which resolve to make elementary education compulsory, I say 'to local bodies which deserve financial assistance' or words to the same effect? In replying on behalf of the Government he told us that they were also prepared to render financial assistance to those local bodies which deserve help and that he would welcome such local bodies coming for financial assistance. He referred to the Ceded districts as deserving such treatment and I am not surprised that my honourable friend from Bellary is satisfied with the assurance

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of the Minister. I want that local bodies which want to make elementary education compulsory should be given the assistance. I know some municipalities have been spending more than 15 per cent of the income and so on. We must have an idea as to what their incomes are and what demands there are on the limited incomes at their disposal and how they are maintaining the various institutions which are already on their hands. The resolution gives the Government and the Hon'ble the Minister for Education sufficient scope for an examination of all the factors and then give assistance only to those local bodies that deserve help. The Minister wants to restrict the help only to local bodies in backward areas and I want it for all local bodies wishing to make primary education compulsory. That is the difference between his statement and my resolution. But I don't see any difference whatever between the principle I suggested and what was stated by the Hon'ble the Minister. It may be that he does not want the Government now to commit itself to a statement of policy. I really appreciate that position. If we are agreed about the object that at the earliest possible opportunity financial assistance should be given to local bodies for making elementary education compulsory, then there can be no difficulty in the acceptance of this resolution. If he is not in a position to commit the Government to a general statement of policy so as to affect all local bodies, I do not wish to press the matter further. As he will examine each case on its merits, I will take the assurance in a liberal spirit. I hope he will give effect to it with the same liberal and enthusiastic spirit. I do not wish to exasperate his position and divide the Council, because the Hon'ble the Minister has some difficulty in accepting the resolution as it is."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The paper may be

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