

Law (Education) (1925) Department.

Ordy. SERIES.

G.O. No. 1732

DATED 8.10.1925

[Despatch Abstract.]

Books and Publications "Mattavilassu" by M.R.K.
P.V. Gadadiyapper - inclusion in the list of
books approved for use in schools - Declined.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

P. V. SAGADISA AYYAR.
(ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPT.)

EGMORE, [MADRAS, S.C.]



Honourable and

h. En 14/6/13
28/5/25

As desired in person, I sent an appli-

cation to the Text-Book Committee through you on 3-4-1925

for reconsidering my "Mattavilāsam" as book suitable for school-use and am at a loss to know if the same was for-

warded to them with your remarks thereon. In case this is

not done, there is every chance of all the labour thrown

by me in this direction being made to count for nothing!!

The main consideration that prompted me to come out with

an English edition is to expose the state of the Tamilian

Society in the 7th century and the evils of drunkenness as

recorded by the Author--the great Pallava King Mahendra-

varman I. I trust you will agree with me in this respect

and also opine that it must be brought home to the

student population. With a view that, at one time or other, it may be prescribed for the S.S.L.C. as text-book, I had to trouble both Mr. L.D. Swamikannu Pillai to revise the proofs and also you for foreward. Indeed I have the satisfaction that both of you complied with my humble request though the gentlemen in the Text-Book Committee who had to give their opinion on the book, decided otherwise, I shall be happy to know what disposal the application met with at your hands to enable me to hold some hopes still about the subject being reconsidered by the Committee and a fresh notification given effect to soon in this connection. Again it is long since the Reader Set--"Pupil's Reader" was submitted to you for the issue of an order recommending their use in all Elementary Schools. After consulting several of the leading educationalists and getting the matter revised ten times, this set of Readers was ~~from~~

P. V. JAGADISA AYYAR,
(ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPT.)

3

EDMORE, [MADRAS, S. C.]

23rd May 1925

brought out in consultation with Rev. A.F. Gardiner. Already you have thrown plenty of labour in studying the needs of our Elementary schools and no one has hitherto come out with readers to suit to the pupils of our Elementary School since the bifurcation of the elementary and the secondary schools. There only yet remains to be put in the translation in other languages of the presidency for the terms in the glossary in book II. This I propose to do only after getting some encouragement at your hands. I have been interesting myself in the cause of our elementary education ever since the scheme was put forth with the result that atleast after issuing a set of Readers to suit the purpose, there would be some encouragement at your hands.

4
Of course I am well aware that in cases like this, the formalities have to be passed and that I must wait till the routine is gone through. I hope I may be soon be favoured with your orders on this subject also.

Begging to be excused for this intrusion and awaiting an early compliance to the above two requests.

Yours very obediently,

Jagadisa Ayyar

P.S:-

No doubt I am confident that you would be pleased to remember me when occasions arise for giving encouragements in all possible directions.

"Matta vilasam" is a good book & ~~it~~ ^{has} been included in the list of books approved for the S.S. C.E. examination. I would have been not accepted the Committee may be asked to re-examine the case. 20/7/25.

Law (En) Dept

Memo 1416 B-1 D. 9.6.25

5
Matta vilasam inclusion in the list of approved text-books. Letter from M.R. P. V. Jagadisa Ayyar D. 23.5.25.

The D.P. I is requested to place before the text-book Committee for re-examination the question of including 'Matta vilasam' by M.R. P. V. Jagadisa Ayyar, in the list of books approved for the S.S. C.E. examination. [The book is a good one and deserves to be included in the list.]

The D.P. I is also requested to report to Govt the result of the re-examination. Committee in due course.

DESPATCHED

10 JUN 1925

(Reminder after 1 month)

Recd 15/7

13/8

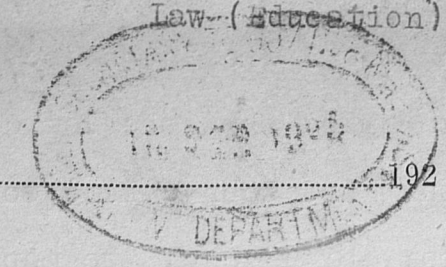
27.
5/6/25
KOW
5.6.25

6.6.25

V.T.F.
8/6

Law (Education)

DEPARTMENT.



Received

192

Registered

14/9/25-92

Subject.

Inclusion of 'Mattavilasam' in the list of books approved for the S.S.L.C. examination.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

R.O.C.

No. 678 E/25

Spare copies

Station Madras, Dated the 7th September 1925.

From (Name) R.G. Grieve, Esq., M.A., F.R.C.S.,

(Designation) Ag. Director of Public Instruction

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Law (Education) Department.

Sir,

With reference to Government Memorandum No. 1416 B-1 dated 9th June 1925 regarding the inclusion of the book 'Mattavilasam' in the list of books approved for the S.S.L.C. examination, I have the honour to state that in addition to reading the book myself, I referred it to the English sub Committee of the Text Book Committee and have to make the following report:-

'Mattavilasam' is no book to be prescribed for school use. It consists of 104 pages, of which pages 17 - 37 are occupied with a drinking bout, the details of which are far from edifying. Those engaged in this orgy are a man and a woman who are described throughout as 'paramours'. This drunken brawl ends in a legal action before the court of King Mahendra. The King is

Y

painted as little better than a fool who is subject to fits of violent ill-temper. It may be remarked that the lawyers in this case which relates to the 7th century had been called to the bar in England!! vide page 54. As for the life of the monks, the only things that one learns from the story are that they were given to excessive drinking and were disgustingly lecherous. The matter of the story is thus of the most unedifying kind and unsuitable for boys, and the humour is coarse and not infrequently in questionable taste. As for the language of the book, I would point out that it is inadvisable for high school pupils to be taught from text-books such English as "he had no other go but to engage the services of", "that is all what I wanted to tell you", "By and by the more I think of liquor, the drier becomes my mouth", "we have known each other from a very long time", "many a manuscript was burnt down". Examples of incorrect English could be multiplied. Finally, the historical introduction occupying pages 1 to 16 seems to have little or no relation to the story which follows.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

L. C. Chinnappa
for Director of Public Instruction

P.V.S. 11/9

11/9

Law (Eon) Dept
CNR 1416 B. from Mr. R. V. Jagadisa Ayyar.
D 23.5.25

Books and Pubs - inclusion of 'Mattavilasam'
in the list of books approved for use in Schools

'Mattavilasam' by Mr. R. V. Jagadisa Ayyar was not included by the Text-book Committee in the list of books approved for use in schools. The author requests that this decision may be reconsidered. The Honble M2's orders on the current is extracted below:-

"'Mattavilasam' is a good book and deserves to be included in the list of text-books for S.S.C.E. I wonder how this was not accepted. The Committee may be asked to re-examine the case."

A draft Memo to the S. P. D. calling for a report is submitted for approval.

27/5/25
K. V. S.

A. V. S.

VTK
8/6

(Issued Memo 1416 B-12 9.6.25 to the S. P. D.)

P.T.O

Issued Memo No 1416 B-1 D 9.6.25 to the D.P.I. - p.5 CF.
CM 2457 B. From the D.P.I. Rec. No 678 E/25 pp 6-7 CF.
Dated 7.9.25.

After having perused the book, 'Mattavilasam' himself and obtained the views of the English Sub. Committee of the Text Book Committee on the merits, the D.P.I. considers that the book is not one to be prescribed for school use. He reports that the ~~chief defect~~ book is primarily defective in tone and language. In order as to the reply to be given to Mr P.V. Jagadisa Ayyar, the author of the book. We may decline

16.9.25
15.9.25
VTX
16.9.25
18.9

M2

that is the rule in this matter - has got power to decline its inclusion in the list. The records show it is always unsatisfactory

18/9

Completed by
for call for
Turo recd
on 28/9
Ved TM
blaw

~~the reference to the book in the~~
~~Mississipi report on page 2 of the~~
~~the following rule is submitted.~~

The later rules on the subject of the Text Book Committee are contained in GO 1484-85 H (Son) 8.11.12.1920.

(K)

Under rule 8 the function of the Text Book Committee is only to advise the Director as to the suitability of books referred to it by the Director for use in schools. Rule 33 also strengthens this view. The general grounds on which books are considered unsuitable are laid down in rule 34 eg. faulty treatment, defect in composition, unsuitability of language etc. When this recommendation is accepted by the Director he publishes the list of such books in the Fort St George Gazette vide rule 4. This rule indicates ~~considered~~ that the right of prescribing text books is held by the Director under the power delegated by Government. In the concluding portion of the same rule

It is stated that the list of text books approved by the Committee may be authorized by himself or by Government. It will be seen therefrom that the power of prescribing text books is not entirely vested in the Director and the Committee but the power is reserved for Govt also.

Attention is here invited to paragraph 13 of the letter of the Govt of India No. 175 of 12.2.19 on the subject at page 3 of No 572 (H.E.O.) of 9.5.19. The Govt of India were therein prepared to see that "the ultimate decision as to the text books which are to be prescribed or approved" ^(vested in the local Govt) was delegated to the Director of Public Instruction "save in special cases eg when there is a disagreement between the Director and the Committee". This point was considered by Govt when the above rules were framed - vide page 3-4

(J)

(K)

up to G.O. 1484-85 of 11.12.20. but was not fully accepted. ^{under rule 4} The intention therefore appears to be not to delegate the power of prescribing text books, ~~entirely~~ ^{entirely} to the Director.

It is submitted ^(X) therefore that though the Director agrees with the views of the Text Book Committee in regarding the 'Maitavilasam' from the list, the Govt ^{can decide if they choose} ~~can decide if they choose~~ ^{direct that the book may be included} ~~as a~~ ^{as a} text book. There seems however to have been no precedent till now for such a course.

ST
26.9.25

CA
20/9/25

Get a copy of the book
V.T.F.
28.9

Submitted with book.

ST
2.10.25.

CA
21.10.25

M2

V.T.F.
3.10

On view of the strong criticism of the book indicated in D.P.'s report, I do not feel justified to declare it as a suitable ^{text} text book. The historical introduction is really the important portion of the little book & this has attracted my attention to the book.

D
5/10/25



Draft submitted.

ST
7.10.25.

CA
7.10

When received for Fair-copying.

When copied

When examined

When signed

When despatched

Date.

Initials.

Books and Publications: 'Mattavilasaṁ'

by K. R. V. Jagadisayyar. inclusion in the list of books approved for use in schools - declined.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. , dated 192 .

" " " " " " 192 .

READ ALSO:-

C. No. 14/6 B. From K. R. V. Jagadisayyar aol. , dated 23-5-1925.

" 24/5 B. " " D. P. D. Roe No. 678 E/25 " 7-9-1925.

need not be entered in the copy to the petitioner.

" " " " " " 192 .

ORDER.

Two.

No. 1732, dated 8-10-1925.

The Government are unable to interfere on behalf of the petitioner.

DESPATCHED

9 OCT 1925

To,

K. R. V. Jagadisayyar aol. (with ref. to his letter addressed to the Honble the Minister for Edu. dt. 22.5.25)

Copy to the D. P. D. (with book returned)

By.

7.10.25.

8A

7.10.25

7.10.25

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

192

House Encl 1484-5
11-12-20
READ AGAIN G.O. No. 192 - do 572 DATED
9-5-1919

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES to G. No.

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

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED OF, 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.