

Law (Education) (1925) Department.

Ord. SERIES.

G.O. No. 1987

DATED 18. 11. 1925

[Despatch Abstract.]

Examinations

Govt. Technical - Agriculture -
Examination in lower grade -
Approved.

BACK PAPERS.

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

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The Missionary Educational Council of S. India.

SECRETARY
A. S. WOODBURN, M.A., Ph.D.

CLAYCROFT, HARRINGTON ROAD,
MADRAS,
May 18th 1925.

To

THE COMMISSIONER
FOR GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL EXAMINATIONS, MADRAS.

SIR,

I have the honour to state that I have been instructed by the Council to draw the attention of Government to the fact that under the new scheme for the conducting of Government Technical Examinations, Notification (page 85 of Fort St. George Gazette—Part 1-B Educational, dated 29th January 1924) adequate provision has not in the opinion of the Council been made for the subject of Agriculture. Under the scheme previously in force provision was made for examinations of the Elementary and Intermediate grades in Agriculture as well as provision for examinations in the Intermediate grade in the allied subjects of Horticulture, Economic Entomology and Tobacco. Under the new scheme provision is only made for the examination in Agriculture in the higher grade and this is restricted to candidates who have qualified for a Secondary School Leaving Certificate or have passed the Matriculation examination or have been presented from a recognised Technical School. As we know of no Technical School in the Presidency which comes up to the required literary standard and as provision is already made in the S.S.L.C. Scheme for Agriculture as an Optional subject under Group C, the examination prescribed seems to meet no useful purpose. On the other hand the abolition of the old examination suited to the pupils of vocational Agricultural schools of the higher elementary standard, and taken if desired in the vernaculars, appears at the present time to be a retrograde step. We would therefore urge that examinations on the general lines laid down in the old scheme be introduced under the new scheme for the following among other reasons:—

(1) Agriculture is second to none of the other industries recognised in the scheme inasmuch as it is a subject in which the great mass of the population of this country are more or less directly interested as some 70 per cent. are directly dependent on Agriculture. If Technical examinations of the grade recognised, are deemed necessary in such subjects as the various branches of Engineering, Textile industries, Tailoring, Jewellery and Commerce, which concern only a small percentage of the population, it should not be deemed inadvisable or unnecessary to have similar examinations in a subject such as Agriculture with its much wider interests.

(2) The progress and development of the country depends more perhaps than on anything else, on the intelligent application by village ryots of the results of agricultural scientific study and experiments. The application of valuable results worked out by the Agricultural Department is admittedly handicapped in their practical application by the fact that even the more educated among the village communities fail to appreciate their value. The possibilities of progress by demonstration farms, bulletins and touring agricultural demonstrators are very limited if the information given through these agencies does not find a receptive interest. To develop such an interest is becoming increasingly the aim of those interested in village education at the present time, and with that in view we beg to submit that the matter ought to receive the attention it deserves from those responsible for the conducting of the Government Technical Examinations.

(3) Agricultural science with practical training in field work, is being recognised more to-day than ever before in Western countries, as a most important and valuable means of giving an urge and motive for general education in village communities. The practice of teaching the several sciences—Arithmetic, Mathematics, etc.,—in an abstract way is tending more and more to be replaced by the "Project" method of education. No field offers a wider scope for the application of this method of general education than that of Agriculture. In a practical way which appeals to the growing intelligence of the child and through the facts and experiences of the field and lands with which he is familiar from infancy the elements of knowledge involved in Mathematics, Geography, Book-keeping, and the several sciences of Physics, Biology, Chemistry, etc., can be taught in a more effective way than by the old methods. With this in view we need teachers in the villages who have been trained in at least an elementary knowledge of agricultural science. In an agricultural community the influence of a teacher thus trained will go beyond the walls of the school and inspire confidence in the community in the work done within the schools. We would therefore emphasise the importance of agriculture as a subject in all Training Schools which aim at providing teachers for village education, and the providing of a suitable scheme of studies with examinations will do much towards this end.

(4) The value of such a training is already recognised in some Missions by the payment of enhanced salaries to teachers who hold certificates under the old scheme. If the examinations in the past were not taken advantage of to the extent that might have been expected, it was largely due to the fact the general educational requirements for the villages were not fully recognised. In the future with the increased emphasis that is now being laid on vocational training, these examinations, if continued, will play a much more important part and therefore it seems to us that the discontinuance of these at such a time is unwise and contrary to the whole trend and spirit of present day ideas on educational methods in this land as well as in other parts of the world.

The Council therefore respectfully submit that the question of arranging for suitable Technical examinations be taken into your considerations.

We have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

The Missionary Educational Council of South India.

M. Meethu

President.

A. S. Mooburne

Secretary.

DEPARTMENT.

3

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Subject.

Edn 2854 B
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Government Technical Examinations - Place of
Agriculture - Representation of the Missionary Educational
Council of S. India.

ENCLOSURES.

No. *Two*

Spare copies *Nil*

No. *4466/Tech.*

Station *M A D R A S*, Dated the *27th* October 1925.

From (Name) *R. G. GRIEVE, Esq., M.A., F.R.G.S.,*
(Designation) *Acting Commissioner for Government Examinations.*

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

LAW (EDUCATION) Department.

Sir.

In submitting herewith the representation received
from the Missionary Educational Council of S. India on the
position occupied by Agriculture in the revised scheme of the
Government Technical Examinations with the opinion of the
Director of Agriculture thereon, I have the honour to state
that there is force in the objections raised by the Director
of Agriculture against the proposal to institute further
Technical Examinations in Agriculture. It is, however, true
that the introduction of the revised scheme has, by abolishing
the examinations of the old Elementary and Intermediate grades
in Agriculture, resulted in a considerable decline in the
number of candidates appearing in that subject in the

Government

Government Technical Examinations held every year. The following statement gives the figures for each of the years 1921 to 1925:-

Year.	Grade.	Number examined.
1921.	Elementary.	35
	Intermediate.	16
1922.	Elementary.	31
	Intermediate.	9
1923.	Elementary.	54
	Intermediate.	13
1924.	Higher.	1
1925.	Do.	Nil.

Thus, in the first year of the introduction of the revised scheme, viz., 1924, the number fell suddenly from 67 to 1 and in the subsequent year there was no candidate at all.

2. Under the old scheme, there were two grades of examination in Agriculture, elementary and intermediate. The examination in the former grade was open to candidates who had not completed the Secondary School-Leaving Certificate course and hence a large number of the pupil-teachers undergoing training in elementary training schools appeared for the examinations in Agriculture and other subjects like Botany in order to fit themselves better for teaching Nature Study in schools. The examination in Agriculture is now closed to such candidates, as they are not qualified to appear for the higher grade for which alone an examination is now held, and hence the numbers have considerably dwindled. I, therefore, consider that either the existing higher grade examination which seems to serve little purpose should be abolished or a lower grade examination should also be instituted. In this connection, I may invite the attention of Government to para 36 of the report of the Committee on Rural Education and the remarks of Mr. Littlehales thereon and the orders of Government contained in para 14 of G.O.No. 1302, Home (Education), dated the 6th November 1920.

3. As the institution of a public examination of the lower grade in Agriculture may serve as an incentive to teachers in elementary schools and the lower classes of secondary schools to study that subject and to endeavour to use the knowledge thus gained in teaching, I recommend that provision be made for such examination in the scheme of the Government Technical Examinations. I, consider, however, that the syllabus for this grade should be so framed as to lay emphasis on rural science and horticulture. If Government approve of the proposal, I shall, in consultation with the Director of Agriculture and some of the officers of the Educational department who have specialised in Rural Science, prepare a suitable syllabus for the grade and submit it for the approval of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. Krishna Rao Blusk
for Acting Commissioner.

RCW

Mr. 6, 12+16
Wm. G. D

Office of the Director of Agriculture,

Madras, 21st September 1925.

D.Dis. B-995/25.

From

G. R. Hilson, Esq., B.Sc.,

Offg. Director of Agriculture,

Madras.

To

The Commissioner

for Government Technical Examinations, Madras.

Sir,

I have the honour to reply to your letter No. 2227 Tech. dated the 22nd July 1925.

2. The sub-committee which discussed the question of technical examinations in agriculture in 1922 recommended that they be discontinued. I am of the same opinion. I, therefore, do not agree with the findings of the Missionary Educational Council of South India.

3. They have given four alleged reasons for the revival of the old system.

p. 1 ante (1) This is no reason. Because there is a technical examination in say tailoring, what argument is that for having a similar examination in agriculture. It is conceivable that the examination in tailoring is unnecessary.

p. 2 ante (2) The connection between technical examinations in agriculture and the propaganda work of the Agricultural department is not clear.

p. 3 ante (3) Here also the connection between the technical examinations in agriculture and the training of teachers is not apparent. I am of opinion that agriculture has to be taught in a separate institute specially equipped for the purpose and that it cannot be taught as a subject like Chemistry or Botany or Entomology or Mechanics or Book-keeping. It, therefore, cannot be taught to teachers undergoing training in teaching methods.

p. 4 ante (4) Please see (3). If agriculture is to be taught as a ~~vocation~~ vocation, it must be taught in a school equipped for the purpose and

not

Note the draft may be sent to Devt Dept for acceptance. $\frac{SA}{2-11-25}$ $\frac{Q}{7/11}$ $\sqrt{TF} 3-11$ DWU-8

Dev. Dept.

The D. A. does not recommend the proposal - vide pp. 6-7 cf. However, since the C. S. E. wants it and the Law (Edu.) Dept. recommend it, Dev. need not object. The draft may be ~~accepted~~ ~~revised~~ and the file returned to Law (Edu.).

5.11.25

The order has been sent to Development for acceptance which I presume would be taken to signify approval. The Director of Agriculture is definitely opposed to the scheme, and hence his cooperation in drawing up a suitable Law Book is not likely to be easily obtained.

Should like to see the order abolishing the Secondary & Intermediate grades. vide page 3 cf.

Yph
6.11.25

Submitted - vide P.O. 547 to Law (Edu.).

D 11.4.23. It will be seen from

pp. 13-14 of P.O. 547 that in place of exam. in Agriculture and Intermediate grades, a higher grade was substituted. The proposal now is to introduce a lower grade.

6.11.25

Yph
9.11.25

Dev. no 3806 11/25-1
10-11-25

The fact that the Director of Agriculture is opposed to the proposal is not, in my opinion, an insuperable objection. His views on Agricultural Education are contradicted by the experience of other countries, & I, for one, feel myself unable to accept them. The draft now is accepted subject to circulation to H.M. (M₃).

Law (Edu.) Department

Law (Edu.) Department

For orders as to circulation.

8th
11.11.25

Yph
13.11

M₂

M₃

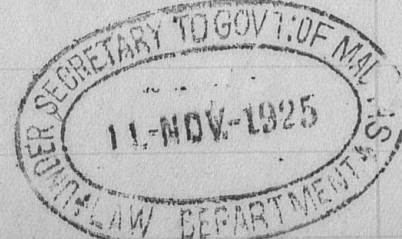
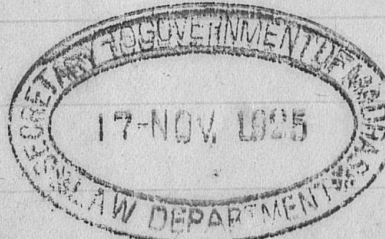
The draft is accepted -

I hope my hon. Col. M₃ will mind see the need of introducing such a course which we talked over the other day. The views of the Director are at variance with the demand of the public & accordingly -

Yph
16.11.25

The draft is accepted

Yph
17.11.25



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192

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
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DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT ..

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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