

Law (Education) (1925) Department.

Ord. SERIES.

G.O. No. 2068

DATED 5. 12. 1925

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lower.

H. E. the Governor's - Deputation

of Dakshina Kamma Sangam -

Zimnedly - Paper recorded.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.
Ootacamund,

5th October 1925.

My dear Mr. Krishnamachariar,

While touring in the Tinnevely district this month His Excellency will receive a deputation from the Dakshina Kamma Sangam who will discuss the subjects set forth in the enclosed memorandum. Will you kindly arrange to let me have notes on these subjects not later than the 20th October, also pass on to the Departments concerned such of the subjects as relate to them?

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Lieut.-Col.
for Private Secretary

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur V.T. Krishnamachariar Avl.,

Secretary to Government.

Law Department

*Copy to all
the 4 depts
concerned*

*Early
V.T.K.
7.10.*

THE KAMMA DEPUTATION
TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR. (2)

The Kamma Naicks are settlers from the Andra country. They migrated here about three centuries ago on account of the strife between Mohammadan rulers and the Kings of Vizianagar and chose this arid and uninviting region for their abode for the reason that the inaccessible and inhospitable nature of the country would afford them security from molestation. They live in 660 villages which lie scattered in the District of Tinnevelly, Madura and Rammad; very few of them are dwellers in towns; their occupation is exclusively agriculture dry cultivation being their forte. Cotton is their staple industry.

EDUCATION.

They are lamentably backward in point of education which will be apparent from the fact that not a single member of the community is in Government service. The facilities even for an elementary education are extremely meagre and utterly out of proportion to the tax-paying capacity and the extent of the area they inhabit.

STATE AID FOR GINS

Some idea of the prominent part they occupy in the production of cotton may be gathered from the fact that out of a total output of 3½ lakhs of bales for the whole province, 1½ lakhs are grown in the three Districts of Tinnevelly, Madura and Rammad and 1/3 of this i.e. 50,000 bales are raised by the Kammass. One would naturally expect them to derive a good revenue from this but it is not so. Owing to the absence of ginning facilities the cotton growers are obliged to sell their produce at a price below par to the broker. He improves the shining hour by mixing with the pure stuff, inferior qualities of cotton - the refuse of other markets - which he imports from other areas and by artificially increasing its weight by adding water and selling it as good cotton to the Mills. Result - adulteration and deterioration in quality. If the Kammass had their own gin and Government came to their rescue by placing a restriction on their import low grade cotton from other areas the quality of Tinnevelly cotton will maintain its high reputation and the position of cotton ryots will be greatly improved. A remedy for this state of things is liberal aid by Government towards starting ginning

14 3
factories. They cordially support the bill prohibiting the introduction of bad cotton from other countries.

COMMUNICATION

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Nearly 800 square miles of the black cotton soil which is the home of the Kammas are without roads or communication of any kind. They have been paying road cess for the past 50 years and yet they have not got a single mile of road. They have been suffering in silence and are like dumb driven cattle. Mr. S.V. Ramamurthi, I.C.S., the cultured and sympathetic Collector of Ramnad in a recent speech said "The very large majority of the people live in villages. Their needs have to be met. Let this be recognised as soon as revenue is collected and a suitable amount provided. The centre of political and administrative gravity lies in the neighbourhood of the village in India. I would give to a Village Panchayat control of all the work which affects it primarily. With an assured income and local conditions a village can keep itself clean, maintain a school, employ an Ayurvedic doctor and generally make the life of the villager better and more organised than it is now."

FORESTS

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Waste land and grazing grounds are essential to the cultivator. Without these there can be no agriculture. These they have none. They pray for the allocation of grazing grounds and reserve forest lands in proportion to their wants. They pray for the grant of reserve forest near Vipar in Koilpatti Taluk.

MINOR IRRIGATION

199
Up to this time for Minor Irrigation works a contribution from ryots of 1/10 was asked for. Now they are asked to pay 1/3. They pray that a certain sum may be earmarked annually for tank repairs from the Irrigation Cess.

REPRESENTATION IN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

199
The Kammas live mostly in the Taluks of Srivaikuntam, Koilpatti Sankarankoil, Srivilliputtur, Satur and Aruppukottai. Owing to the bifurcation of the Madurai and Tinnevely Districts three taluks have been added to the newly formed Ramnad District and the other three to Tinnevely. Their voters have thereby become scattered in both these Districts. On account of this they are unable to select their representative in either of the Districts. They pray that their Mahajana Sangam be given the privilege of electing a member to the Legislative Council as the Nagarathar Sangam of Chettinad. Should this be found infeasible they pray that the Districts of Tinnevely and Ramnad may be grouped into 4 convenient blocks for purposes of election. This may enable them to get into the Council.

The total population of the Tinnevely district is 1,901,396. The number of persons belonging to the Kamma community in the district is 56,868. A description of the community will be found on pages 142 and 143 of the Tinnevely District Gazetteer.

2. For the purposes of ^{the Madras} educational rules, Kammass are classed among the backward classes. Pupils belonging to ~~the~~ ^{it} class, ~~is~~ ^{are} certified to be poor, are admitted into ~~the~~ secondary schools and colleges on payment of half the standard rates of fees. They are also admitted into elementary schools under public management without payment of fees. In the distribution of ^{young} scholarships, preference is given to pupils of the backward classes, ~~and~~ other things being equal.

Tinnevely is a ^{fairly} ~~very~~ advanced district in respect of education. The percentage of boys under instruction to boys ^{of} school age is 40. The similar percentage in respect of girls is ¹³ ~~20~~. None of the taluk boards in the district have availed themselves of the provisions of the Elementary Education Act empowering them to levy the education tax. If the taluk boards levy ^{the} education tax, they will be eligible for ~~the~~ Government contribution equal to the proceeds realised from the tax. The additional income ~~will be~~ ^{thus} derived will enable the taluk boards to open schools in centres now unprovided with schools.

The number of centres ^{in the district} with a population of 500 and over to be provided with schools is 83 according to the results of the education survey. In G.O. No. 1550, dated 4-9-25, the Government sanctioned the payment of a special grant ^{of Rs. 2,784} for the opening of 72 aided elementary schools in the district. Thus, it will be seen that the claim of the district

for a ~~share~~ share in the distribution of funds
available for expansion of elementary education
~~have not~~ been overlooked.

12.10.25
V.T.K.
13:10

ci 17/00
C.S. 16

The Elementary Education Survey
is intended to ascertain the
village centres yet unprovided
with any school and attention
is directed to such places &
villages for opening new schools.

2. Some of the taluqs have not
sufficient educational centres to be able
to draw into it - promote
Education

3. The Kamma area is generally
well-bds - being cotton producing
area - they come here for the
cultivation of cotton and
development of cattle than
for the education of their boys who
can be spared only in dry seasons
when their cattle need to be kept in
open air.



Returned with an extract from the repre-
sentations made by the Kamma Sangham.

P.S.C.
10-11-25

EDUCATION.

present state of village communities The bulk of the villagers
and especially the Kamma community is lamentably wanting in educa-
tion. Their present state of ignorance is not only a standing
disgrace to them but also an actual menace to their well-being.
Honest and wealthy but ignorant villagers are oftentimes made to
pay heavy penalty for their illiteracy. Valuable securities are
got up against them and substantiated by well-trained witnesses
and enforced in courts of law. In many cases of mahazars and
petitions scheming people get the signatures of people who do not
know to read and write and cause a good deal of havoc. The only
way of eradicating the evil that besets ignorant agriculturists
is to give them tolerable education as to enable them to read and
write and understand papers that they sign.

The cause of the evil In spite of the strenuous efforts taken
and advocated by Government to educate the masses, the existence
of illiteracy amongst the masses shows something wrong in the
present system of elementary education. At present the taluk
boards are entrusted with the spreading of Elementary Education
in their areas. The area comprised in a taluk board is very large
and the population also is very great. The Taluk Board carries on
its education through Board Schools which are far and few when
compared with the area and population under its administration.
Much depends upon the teacher posted to a particular place for
the spread of education. He must be one that is capable of adapt-
ing himself to the circumstances of the place and the conditions
of the people of the particular locality and this cannot be
achieved under the present system. The teacher owes no responsi-
bility to the parents of the children that resort to his school
and generally the complaints to the Taluk Board are not very
fruitful. The portion of the money set apart for education are
swallowed in travelling allowances paid to teachers consequent
on their transfers necessitated in the management of many
schools. Often the school-buildings are in a state of disrepair
owing to the want of funds in some cases and the delay caused by
the official routine that has to be gone through in the execution
even of the slight repairs. The dual management of the schools



by taluk board and the Educational Department is more often a cause of mismanagement.

Remedy for the evils Schools started in the villages under private management aided with financial help by Government and local boards will be of great value and efficiency. Every school will be under the management of persons on the spot that are interested in the education of children that resort to the school. The teaching staff will be under their constant supervision which will ensure better teaching and proper work in schools. It will also give ample opportunities for the establishment of the large number of schools near the homes of the villagers which is a great advantage to young school-going children. The funds set apart by local boards for education from their general income, the amount now granted to them by Government and the amount now spent by Government through the Educational Department on elementary education when blended together amply meet the requirements of granting aids for the schools started under private management.

Law (Es.), Sep 11

The D.P.D. reported that private agencies were prepared to open 72 schools in the diivuvell district. The Govt accordingly sanctioned grants for the opening of these 72 schools - vide

(G) G.O. 1555 L.E.G. 4.9.25. ^{The deputation practically urged the} ~~development of Panchayat schools. The Registrar-General has submitted~~ ~~open 72 schools in the district will be considered for the opening of~~ ~~proposals for the opening of 300 Panchayat schools in 1926-27. There are~~ ~~for these schools the action is now necessary. The papers~~ ~~under consideration. The papers may be recorded after perusal~~ ~~by the D.P.D. and the Registrar-General of Panchayats.~~

11/11/25
NK
14/11/25

Law & Co. by
No. 3806 A-2
17.11.25.

17.11.25

V.K.
17.11

D.P. 1
Reg. Gen. of panchayats

U.O. Reply No. 25303/25, 19.11.25
C. Edu 4446A
20-XI-25

I do not know whether the Secretariat has any information which is contained in this file but I cannot interpret the statement that schools started in the villages under private management aided with financial help by Government and Local Boards will be of great value and efficiency, etc., as a statement that the deputation urged the development of Panchayat schools, although it is quite possible that some such idea was in the minds of the members of the deputation.

The Registrar-General of Panchayats (no)

Office of the Registrar General
of Panchayats

Submitted

28.11.25
30.11.25

The deputation obviously used that the management of aided schools should be in the hands of the village community and that, when schools are so managed and aided more liberally than now they are bound to be more efficient than existing board schools. This is substantially what is claimed on behalf of panchayat schools.

Govt. Disputation
of Dakshin Kanara, Dargan
District - paper received

Luv (Edu) no

2068
30.11.25
2065-12 Law (Edu) Dept
Recd Received

Relief no. 8344-1
30.11.25



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192

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ENCLOSURES to G. No.

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LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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