

Law (Education) (1925) Department.

Ord. SERIES.

G.O. No. 832

DATED 18. 5. 25

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council meeting - March 1925 -

Provision for pay of establishment - motion  
for reduction - Pay of Pandits - Notes  
recorded.

## BACK PAPERS.

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Law Edu 793c  
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Demand III.

Education Trans.

572/25C

Mr. P. Anjaneyulu :-

p. 197.

414. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,32,000 for  
pay of Establishments - by Rs. 100.

(To discuss the necessity to improve the pay  
and prospects of Pandits employed, in the Colleges  
and High Schools).

Law Edu Sept

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do do

The pay of Pandits employed in Grant  
institutions ranged from Rs 30 to Rs 100  
besides the percentage temporary additions to pay  
prior to revision. In 1920 when the  
revision of the scales of pay of the  
non-gazetted services was under the  
consideration of the Reforms Commission  
the Pandits submitted memorials  
praying that the Pandits and munsh  
employed in high schools might be  
given pay ranging from Rs 70 to Rs 150  
and that those employed in colleges  
might be given pay ranging from  
Rs 100 to Rs 200. The Reforms  
Commission, however, recommended  
that the temporary pay of Pandits  
might

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be ~~divided into~~ the following grades: 3

25 40 - 2 - 50,

For Secondary School

" 50 - 3 - 65

For Secondary grade colleges.

" 75 - 4 - 95 and

" 100 - 5 - 125.

} For first grade colleges.

The Reform Commission's recommendation was accepted by Govt. The general principle which was followed in the revision of the pay of the non-gazetted services was to round off the pay and temporary allowance drawn prior to revision. This was followed in the case of Pandits. There has been no complaint that the sanctioned rates of pay are inadequate to attract the right type of Pandits.

3 The pay of Pandits in schools under private management and under local bodies is a matter ~~to be decided by~~ <sup>to be decided by</sup> the management and local bodies concerned.



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Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"I beg to move

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,22,000 for pay of establishments by Rs. 100.'

"I have only a few words to say in commending the motion to the very kind and sympathetic consideration of this hon. House. It is common knowledge that of all professions perhaps till recently the teacher's profession has had very small emoluments to its credit. And of all the teachers, the pandits went for the smallest portion of the whole lot. We have been hearing, Sir, that at the present time, the Indian atmosphere is surcharged with a sort of national orientation, a phrase which once puzzled my hon. Friend the Minister for Education. These poor pandits are the custodians of all that is best in the Indian vernaculars and in the Indian culture, and their lives are generally wedded to poverty. Because, Sir, there is a proverb that Lakshmi and Saraswathi are always at loggerheads and never live together, these men of letters being the custodians of all that is best in the Indian culture are generally very poor. And though they teach the highest classes in the University course, the F.A., the B.A. and probably the M.A., the remuneration that they get month after month is very much limited. And especially in these hard times when the cost of living has very much increased it is really a pity that their case has not been sympathetically considered. But these pandits are mostly inarticulate and do not make out a case before the authorities. When they come out even with their half-suppressed and half-expressed words, sympathy, kindness and all possible considerations are not wanting for them. For, Sir, recently I had the privilege of listening to such sympathy and consideration from the hon. the Minister for Education in reply to the demands of a few pandits. But, Sir, it seems to me to be an unrelenting kindness and an unrelenting sympathy because not a pie is remitted towards raising the pay and prospects of these poor paid men. Much need not be said at this fag end of the day and I request the hon. the Minister to translate the sympathy of his heart into something tangible in the way of rupees, annas and pies and increase the pay and prospects of the poor paid lot of pandits."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I do not want to add to the load of sympathy which my hon. Friend has had on the shoulders of the poor paid pandits. The only difficulty that I feel is that the scales of pay for the pandits were fixed very recently along with those for the non-gazetted services. Therefore it seems to be impracticable to give effect to the intentions of my hon. Friend. On the other hand if any general revision of the pay of the non-gazetted services is to be taken up, the case of the

[Sir A. P. Patro]

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pandits will be pressed to be reviewed generously. Beyond that it is not possible for me to say anything at present. The scales for the pandits, I may say, were fixed two years back and the following grades were adopted:—  
'Rs. 40 to 50 for secondary school pandits, Rs. 50—3—65 for pandits in second-grade colleges, and Rs. 75—4—95, and Rs. 100—5—125 for pandits in first-grade colleges.'

"The general principle followed in the revision of pay for all non-gazetted services was to round off the pay and temporary allowances drawn prior to the revision. This applies to the Government institutions. So far as the institutions of local boards and those under private management are concerned, it has not been possible for Government to interfere with their internal management, unless there be any apparent illegality in the agreements between the institution and the pandits, the former taking advantage of the latter's position. Otherwise the Government do not interfere with the contractual relations between the teachers and the management. We cannot therefore interfere with the scales of pay for pandits employed by the private management. So far as those in Government institutions are concerned, the scales are considered sufficient though the pandits have sent up memorials complaining that they are inadequate. If the question is to be considered, it may be taken up with any scheme for a general revision of the pay of the non-gazetted services."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I would like to add my sympathy with the views expressed by my hon. Friend, Mr. Anjaneyulu. In the field of education, among the numerous workers the most silent lot are the pandits and as a result probably of their silence and their uncomplaining nature, half a century has left them materially just where they were. Sir, one is at a loss to know the reasons which contributed to this stagnation in their material condition. Is it contended even by the hon. the Minister for Education . . ."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Why, even?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"Because, Sir, I give the hon. Minister more respect than to others, is it contended even by him, that because they are pandits, the provisions and other necessities of life are sold gratis or cheaper for them?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—"I do not at all intend to minimise the importance and the value of the work that is done by the pandits. I have great appreciation for their work in the field of vernacular education. And it is not to be understood that I minimise their importance."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"What I wish to point out is that the abundant sympathy does not bring rice and dhal to their famished homes. It looks as if that time may change, increases may be given, changes may be introduced and the educational department may be reorganised; but that though things may come and things may go, the pandits' lot is where it was. Sir, fortunately the present times are such that even in India things Indian have begun to be respected, Indian art, Indian philosophy, Indian literature, Indian vernaculars. So much is being talked about the orientation of the system, but whatever may take place, the pandits' lot between the lip sympathy of the hon. the Minister for Education on the one hand, and the inexorable scales of pay as immutable as the laws

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of the Medes and the Persians, is far from consoling. Sir, the hon. the Minister for Education made reference to the scales very recently fixed. I would like to know whether the opinion of the pandits was ascertained in the matter of fixing the scales. So long as they had no say in the matter, the argument that the scales were only recently fixed will not hold water for a minute. Reference was made to the local boards and privately managed institutions, and it was said that there was nothing to prevent them from paying the pandits much more handsomely than they gave probably to the Honours Graduate or Master of Arts. But it is a well-known fact that the local bodies copy the methods of the Government good or bad. And therefore unless the Government take the lead and set the example, there is no prospect of the local bodies, famished and starved as they already are financially, doing justice to these set of people. Sir, many of these men are very very famous men noted for their learning. I may mention the late Mahamahopadhyaya Rangachariyar or the Mahamahopadhyaya Swaminatha Ayyar whose compeers cannot be found in any other country. And these men, I think, were paid not more than Rs. 50 or Rs. 60.

"I may point out, though it is unnecessary for me to do so, that in all the civilized countries of the world classical and literary education is not treated in the way in which it is treated here in this country. Whatever may be the various demands upon the Government and the state of their finance, the continuance of this exploitation of a poor set of learned pandits is a thing which stands as a blot upon the educational administration of this country. Therefore I appeal—this is all I can do within the limited powers which we now have—to the authorities to unfix the fixed scales of these pandits. Even the partition of Bengal which had been stated to be a settled fact was afterwards unsettled, and so it would not be very difficult to revise the already revised scales of these pandits and pay them if not adequately to their learning, at least a wage which will keep the wolf of hunger from their doors."

Mr. V. C. VELLINGIRI GOUNDER :—"Sir, may I make a motion to omit all these motions up to No. 671, so that we may discuss about elementary education, as we have now got only a very few minutes before us."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (from the Chair) :—"The hon. Member Mr. Anjaneyulu is in possession of the House with his motion and unless that is disposed of, I cannot take up any other motion."

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"Sir, in this connexion, I just want to bring to the notice of the hon. the Minister for Education the matter of recruitment to the subordinate educational service. They are paid Rs. 125. . ."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (from the Chair) :—"I am afraid the hon. Member would be out of order. The question now before the House is about pandits."

Mr. A. V. BHANOJI RAO :—"There are only a few minutes more, Sir, and I may be permitted to say a few words."

Mr. A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR (from the Chair) :—"I am afraid I cannot allow it."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU :—"Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful for the little ray of hope that the hon. the Minister has been pleased to advance to

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me, but just to strengthen his hands and also to show that the sympathies not only of the hon. the Minister but of the whole hon. House are on the side of these poor-paid pandits, I request your permission and that of the House to make this a token motion and reduce the Rs. 100 to Re. 1, and then press for a division. (Voices:—"No, no".) The House does not wish to make it merely a token motion, and I would rather leave it in doubt, rather than press my motion. It is doubtful what a division now will disclose, and so I will rest content with the present position, and hope on a future occasion when perhaps better advocacy will be on their side, better results may be obtained. With these words, I beg permission to withdraw my motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Legislative Council

Meeting — March,

1925 — Provision

for pay of establish-

ments — motion for

reduction — pay

of Pandits —

notes — recorded

Order 832 Recorded

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