

Law (192 6) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 298

DATED 25-2-1926

14

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Question---treatment of pupils of
the depressed classes in the Board Elementary Schools, Singenallur.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MADRAS

23 OCT-1925

The Secretary

Law (Education) Department,

Madras.

Sir,

I enclose herewith a copy of my complaint, and shall be obliged if you will kindly do the needful with reference to paras 2 and 3.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

N. V. S. S. S.

A circular ink stamp from the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Law Department. The outer ring of the stamp contains the text "SECRETARY TO GOVT. OF MADRAS" at the top and "LAW DEPARTMENT" at the bottom. In the center of the stamp, the date "23 OCT-1925" is stamped. The stamp is slightly faded and tilted.

Law (Education) Department

M a d r a s.

2 Further I am exceedingly sorry to mention that there is no free access into the Higher Elementary Board School run under the management of the Coimbatore Taluq Board in the same village to the girls belonging to the poor.

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Studies in the higher standards, as the school is situated in a pucca
valug Beard building in the other corner of the village. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
in the same row of houses as the post office. In the capacity of a
member of the Coimbatore District Educational Council, I went to
this school on the 21st instant, and when I entered the 6th standard
the teacher of that standard by name Mr. K. Ramasamy Iyer went out
of his class room fearing that he would be polluted on account of
my presence. I was in the class room and though I asked him to come
and take up his class lessons, he did not care to enter his class
room. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ I considered that this was a great insult.
He said that no member of the depressed classes entered into this
school room up to this, and therefore he observed pollution and he
wanted to maintain pollution. If such thing were to exist how is it
possible for such orthodox teachers to welcome boys belonging to the
depressed classes. On making enquiries I found out that the pupils
of the depressed classes ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ were not ^{at all} allowed to enter or go

near the compound of this public school. There are more than 3 Brahmin
teachers who are all orthodox and they may be substituted by adi
dravida trained teachers with a view to admit the pupils belonging
to the depressed classes, or such orthodox teachers should be
transferred to some other schools. On the roll there are 188 boys
belonging to Brahmins and Non-Brahmins caste Hindu Boys, but there
is not a single soul belonging to the depressed classes. Two of
the boys belonging to the depressed classes on completing the 4th
standard in the adi dravida school in the same village sought ad-
mission some months back but they were denied admission and driven
back informing that they were not found fit to continue in the higher
standard, but these boys could have been admitted in the same school
in the lower standard without sending them away on the plea of lame
excuse. This school is running on sectarian principle. For how long
the so called depressed classes will have to remain under such a
slavery system? Can we throw public money for running schools on
sectarian principles? What about the sentiments, honour self res-
pect and dignity of the so called depressed classes if other classes
wanted to maintain their feelings and sentiments?

-4-

Another peculiarity is that in the girl school located very near this boys school, it seems a Brahmin girl by name Kaveri is suffering from itch all over her hands, and such a girl is allowed freely into the school, but the so called depressed classes girls who are free from all sorts of diseases have no free access into this school. There is a Conductress and she is in the habit of going to call only the Brahmin and other caste Hindu girls belonging to the touchable community. The good Mistress says that if the depressed class girls were to be admitted the other girls would be stepped. I do not know why teachers should have this idea throughout. If matters were to go on like this indefinitely, how and when to rectify them. There should be some beginning somewhere. When Andhra boys and girls sought admission in one of the Salem Taluk Board schools some time back the caste boys and girls boycotted the school, and after a few days all of such boys and girls sought admission again finding no other go for them. Such stronger steps should be ~~taken~~ adopted here also, in order to change all lip sympathy into practical sympathy.

R. Veeranna M.L.C.

20/28K

(no. 4050A)

Law (Edu) Department

Adm. No. 4050A-1 dt 27.10.25.

Board Elementary Schools,
Singanailur — Admission of
pupils of the depressed classes.

Referred to the Director of
Public Instruction for enquiry
and report.

To

The D.P.O. (with copy of paras 2 and 3 of the
letter on pp 2-4 CF)

P.V.K.
26.10.25
NH
26/10/25

A
26/10

RECEIVED
18 OCT 1925

II

Letter. No. 4050A-2 dt 27.10.25.

To M.Ry. R. Venkatesan M, M.L.C

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge
receipt of your letter dated 22nd
October 1925 and to state that
the matter is receiving attention.

I have etc.

DESPATCHED
18 OCT 1925

To

M.Ry. R. Venkatesan M.L.C.

P.V.K.
26.10.25
NH
26/10/25

A
26/10

12-11-25.

Starred Question.

Mr. R. Veerian:

THE LAW (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

* 1450. Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state:-----

(a) whether they are aware that girls belonging to the touchable community suffering from itch all over their hands are freely admitted into the Singanellur Board Elementary School for girls run by the Coimbatore Taluk Board;

(a) ^{whether} ~~are~~ the Government ^{are} aware that admission is ^{being} denied to the girls belonging to the depressed classes in the Singanellur Board Elementary school; and

(b) ^{whether} ~~are~~ the Government ^{are} aware that a conductress employed by the Board, declines to go to the locality of the depressed classes ^{to persuade those girls to attend the school} [with a view to bring the girls belonging to the depressed classes] and

(d) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (c), will they be pleased to call for the information?

K.S.M.

Law (Edu) Dept.

Legislative Council Question no. 1450.

Draft answer.

The Govt. have no information.
A report has been called for.

DESPATCHED
12 DEC 1925

C. I. B.

Issue answer to L.C.O.

Law & Edu. 44584.1

11.12.25

Copy
12/11/25
11.12.25

P.V.K.
1.12.25.

2/12

V.K.
3.12

to provide for
girls to attend the school

LAW (EDUCATION)

DEPARTMENT.

2.E.574A

17.2.1926

Received

192

Registered

1926



Subject.

Board Elementary Schools, Singanellur - Non-admission
of pupils of the depressed classes.

ENCLOSURES.

No.

R.C. No.2317-B/25.

Spare copies

Station Madras. Dated the 12th February, 1926

From (Name) R.LITTLEHAILES, Esq., M.A.,

(Designation) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras

LAW (EDUCATION)

Department.

Sir,

With reference to Government endorsement

No.4050-A-1 dated 27-10-25, I have the honour to state that
there are two Board Elementary Schools at Singanallur, one
for boys and another for girls, besides a separate Adi-
Dravida School for Boys.

2. In regard to the complaint of Mr.Veerian attention
is invited to the remarks of the inspecting officers and
the explanation of the 1st Assistant of the Boys' School
(Copies enclosed).

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

R. Littlehales
for Director of Public Instruction.

M.R.P.13/2.

9
Explanation of K. Ramaswami Aiyar, 1st Assistant, Board Higher Elementary School, Singanailur, to the Headmaster, Board Higher Elementary School, Singanailur.

10
With reference to your office No. 233 dated 17-11-25, I beg to submit the following explanation to your kind consideration and favourable orders thereon. What I write below is quite true to the best of my knowledge.

When Mr. Veerian entered my class I promptly wished him and he also wished me in return. As I was conducting half yearly examination to my class and the class boys were seated in a row just near the wall opposite to my class, I was standing outside the class, just near the bench that was placed just in front of my seat, for supervising my boys. This is usually done in every school. Only three of my class boys, out of 14 were seated in the class. So, to stand outside the class and supervise the boys was found quite necessary.

When Mr. Veerian entered my class and took my seat, he asked me "what are your boys doing now?".

I promptly replied to him, "Half yearly Examination is going on to my class. I have given my boys some questions in Arithmetic and they are answering them".

Then Mr. Veerian took the History book that was placed on my table and asked me to put some questions to my boys. No doubt, it was found a little difficult to put questions to the boys as they were seated in different places for answering examination papers. Yet I did not linger to do so. I got the book from Mr. Veerian and began to question the boys. Soon after this, he asked me "why are you standing outside the class"? "Do you observe caste pollution"?

I immediately entered the class very promptly and put some questions in History to the boys that were seated on the class benches.

By this time, the closing bell of the school was rung and Mr. Veerian asked me "Is it closing bell?"

I replied to him "Yes sir, it is closing bell".

Then he appeared to be very much satisfied and left my class.

I honestly confess that there is nothing wrong in my behaviour and therefore I beg to request that my explanation may be favourably considered and disposed of.

10
No.R.O.C.1137-C/25 dated 3rd January 1926 from the District Educational Officer, Coimbatore and the Nilgiris.

Resubmitted to the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, with reference to his endorsement N.R.O.C.2317-B/25 dated 27-10-25 herewith returned.

2. The remarks of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Range and those of the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Western Circle, with reference to paras 2 and 3 of the report, are submitted. Steps have been taken to admit Adi Dravidas into the schools as may be seen from the Deputy Inspector's report.

R.C.No.274-C/25 dated 28th January 1926 from the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Western Circle.

Retransmitted to the District Educational Officer.

The building in which the Board Girls' School is held is accessible to all classes of pupils including Adi-Dravidas. There are at present no Adi-dravida girls studying in the school. The headmistress has been instructed to admit Adi-dravidas freely into the school in future, and the conductress of the school has been ordered to bring all classes of girls irrespective of caste, race or creed to the school.

Extract from letter R.C.No.845/25 dated 14-12-25 from the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Range.

x x x x x

3. I also humbly beg to submit that there are 3 other Brahman teachers in that school besides K.Ramaswami Ayyar and the fact that none of them are so particularly made the target of attack on ground of caste pollution as the individual in question leads me to judge from the connected incidents that he is open to blame.

4. He is, I know, very orthodox but this orthodoxy should not have made him treat a distinguished visitor, in the way in which he has, I infer, done in a public school.

At any rate, even from his own statement, it is evident that he was standing outside his class even after Mr. Veerian entered the same till he was pulled up. His work also is not fair as the District Educational Officer judged him after his visit to Singanallur Board last year. I therefore suggest that ~~he~~ ~~she~~ he should be severely warned and transferred to some other distant school. Also he completes his 55th year on 31-5-1926. He may be retired after that date without giving him an extension even though he produces a certificate of medical fitness.

5. As regards the non-admission of Adi-dravida pupils in Singanallur Board, there is a separate Adi-dravida School at the place with the V Standard as the highest. If after his completion of the V, any Adi-dravida pupil applies for admission to Higher Elementary course, I will get him admitted into the Singanallur Higher Elementary School. Recently, I got an Adi-dravida similarly admitted into the Vellakkinar Higher Elementary School. Even for admission of Adi-dravida pupils of the V standard and below, none has applied hitherto.

A good Taluk Board building has been constructed and it cannot now be given up. But if any Adi-dravida pupil applies for admission, I will see him admitted. In this connection I may be permitted to give a little bit of my own experience. More often, it is due to the fear and apathy of Adi-dravidas to get admission into these schools that we find no depressed class pupils there. Fancy! this is the case also with Adi-dravida teachers. There is Teachers' Association at Singanallur and there are two Adi-dravida teachers in the Adi-dravida school there. These two teachers put in a petition to me to attend Coimbatore Association only and it is due to my compulsion that they attend the Singanallur Association in my presence. If I do not attend that meeting, they do not turn up.

6. As regards the Singanallur Girls' School, the explanation of the headmistress has been separately submitted by me to the Inspector. The conductress has been warned that she should take steps to bring in Adi-dravida girls also. If further reports are received against her, recommendation will be made to replace her by another.

(True copy)

R. S. Sull
for Director of Public Instruction

Law (Education) Department

12
12/2/26
12/2/26
Letter no 4050 A/25-3 D 25.2.26
To Mr. R. Veerian Sub. N. d. C.
Coimbatore.

Board Elementary Schools,
Singanallur — ^{Admission} ~~Admission~~ of
pupils of the depressed classes.

Sir,

with reference to your letter dated 22-10-1925 and to Q. & Question no. 1195 asked by you at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 18th Dec. 1925. I am to inform you that steps have been taken to admit Adi-dravida ^{pupils} ~~boys~~ into the Board Elementary Schools for boys and girls ^{at Singanallur} ~~and that~~ The conductress of the Board Elementary School for girls has been ^{directed} ~~ordered~~ to bring all classes of pupils to the school.

P.V.K.
22.2.26.

NH
22/2/26

22/2/26

V.K.

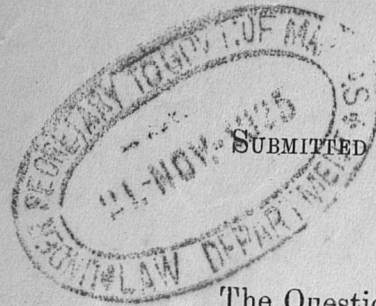
25/2

QUESTION.—No. 1450

for the meeting of the Legislative

Council to be held on the

192



SUBMITTED that two copies of this Question may be forwarded to the Law (Education) Department.

The Question has been admitted.

8x
20/11/25

20/11/25

U.O. No. , dated

To

The Law (Education) Department.

Law (Educ) Dept

A report has been called for from the D.P.D. on the ~~same~~ Subject dealt with in the Question. His reply may be awaited till 1st Dec. 1925 when the file will be submitted for orders.

18
20/11/25
M2
14/11/25

24/11/25

The D.P.D. has not yet replied to the reference made to him on the Subject. He may be reminded.

2. An intermediate answer may be sent the Council Office. A reminder and a draft answer are submitted for approval.

P.R.

27/12

3.12
M2



* Taken out
for loan
cl

Admission of depressed classes girls into the Singanallur Board Elementary girls' school.

* 1195 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that admission is being denied to the girls belonging to the depressed classes in the Singanallur Board Elementary girls' school; and

(b) whether the Government are aware that a conductress employed by the board declines to go to the locality of the depressed classes to persuade those girls to attend the school?

A.—The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

The L.C. Question was answered as above.

The information now furnished by the D. P. O. may be communicated to Mr. Veerian. A draft letter is submitted. After issue the papers may be

L.C. Question —
Treatment of pupils
of the depressed classes
in the Board Elementary
Schools, Singanallur.

Order No. 298 25/2/26
made

Re corded.

D.R.M.
22.2.26.

N/S
25/2/26

A
25/2

V.T.
25/2

Q = Copy reading only.