

Law (Soncentia) (1926) Department.

mes SERIES.

G.O. No. 848

DATED 14.5.26

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legis lativo Council - Budget motions -
Policy of delegating powers in the
hands of village panchayats - notes
recorded.

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DEMAND XIX - EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED).

Rao Bahadur M.C. Raja.

p.231. 413 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 60,55,300 for grants to local bodies for Primary Education by Rs. 100 (To question the policy of delegating powers in the hands of village panchayats).

Law.(Education) Department.

(Z) In G.O.No. 1424 Law (Education), dated 8th October 1923, the Government authorised village panchayats constituted under Madras Act No. XV of 1920, to visit aided elementary schools in their jurisdiction and to record notes and suggestions for their improvement in the visitors' book maintained in the institution concerned. Inspecting officers were also instructed to consult and take the opinion of the village panchayats when submitting recommendations for an increase of, or decrease in, the grant admissible to a school. Again in G.O.No. 1512, dated 1st November 1923, village panchayats were given similar powers to inspect board elementary schools and to make suggestions as to any improvement in their condition. Thus, it will be seen that village panchayats can only inspect and advise, and cannot, in any way, interfere with the internal management of the schools. It may, however, be mentioned that under section 16 of the District Village Panchayats Act, it is open to a taluk board to transfer an elementary school under its control to the management of a panchayat. under conditions which may be agreed upon.

2. In his note on the expansion of elementary education, the Honourable Mr. Moir recommended that local interest and contributions should be stimulated by creating properly constituted panchayats as managing bodies of village schools. The reasons for the recommendation are contained in the following extract:-

28. I turn now to a further problem with which the financing of any programme of elementary education is intimately concerned. We are informed that we cannot expect much further expansion of the educational activities of mission agencies; that, in fact, they are more likely to contract, or at any rate to be confined to those who belong to the respective denominations. Other non-mission agencies also are not likely to show progressive expansion, apart from the fact that in many cases schools so established are ephemeral and represent no permanent addition to our institutions. In this connexion I would call attention to the statistics in statement No. 41 in volume II of the Report on Public Instruction for 1922-23. No less than 4,505 elementary schools (boys) were closed. It is true that some of these were taken over by local authorities and that in some cases new schools opened in the neighbourhood provided a substitute. But the figures mean that every year the education of well over a lakh of children is dislocated and in possibly a majority of cases brought prematurely to a close. If, however, additional schools are to be almost entirely local authority schools, the average cost per pupil will be much higher than it now is. By G.Os. No. 1424, Law (Education), dated 8th October 1923 and No. 1512, Law (Education), dated 1st November 1923, an attempt has been made to enlist the interest of village panchayats by giving them the privilege of visiting elementary schools. There is no doubt that village schoolmasters are much inclined to neglect their duties and their pupils. This is not confined to schools under private management and Mr. Madhava Raja's experience could be corroborated by that of many of us. Teachers in local authority schools are equally disposed to neglect their duties and where local public opinion is lacking, they have little reason to fear either the visit of an Inspector or of a roving committee whose movements cannot be concealed. It is therefore worth while considering the suggestion that where a suitable panchayat is found, it should be associated in the management of the village school and induced in return for such association to contribute to the cost of its maintenance. If we could induce a panchayat to erect a building on the cheap type required on a grant of half the estimated cost of the building together with a grant for equipment and the promise that the local authority would find a sum of Rs. 15 per mensem so long as the panchayat provided a qualified teacher, maintained the building and equipment and supplied school accessories such as books, slates, etc., on the scale laid down, it would be good policy to give the panchayat considerable discretion as to the selection of the teacher, the determination, subject to the general rules, of the hours of attendance and the annual vacations. It also ought to have certain powers as to the removal of an unsatisfactory teacher. The grant would have to be increased if the strength of the school required an addition to the number of teachers.

3. In conformity with the above recommendation, the Registrar-General of Panchayats has submitted proposals for the opening of 300 panchayat schools in school-less centres in the areas of taluk boards not levying the education tax and a provision of Rs. 60,000/- (Rs. 36,000 recurring and Rs. 24,000/- non recurring) ~~a provision~~ has been made for the opening of these schools in the budget estimate for 1926-1927. The advantages of a panchayat school over a teacher-manager school are set out in paragraph 3 of the Registrar-General's letter extracted below: --

"The advantages of a panchayat school are that the panchayat will not suffer an inefficient teacher to continue indefinitely in its employ. The management being on the spot and being organized on

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4. The Member may perhaps urge that Village Panchayats should contain representatives of the depressed classes to protect the interests of those classes. He has many promises consideration to any suggestions he may make.

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Law (Ed.) Dep't

The motion was not reached. The notes

may be
Case 848 Received
on 14.5.26

NY
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Leg Council
Budget motion -
Policy of delegating powers
in the hands of Village Panchayats -
notes recorded

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READ AGAIN G.O. No. _____, DATED
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ORDER 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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