

Law (Education) (1926) Department.

Ord. SERIES.

G.O. No. 870

DATED 14-5-1926

Encl. - 6

52

[Despatch Abstract.]

1019 G.O. No. 7
Legislative Council - Budget Motion

Admission of pupils belonging
to the depressed classes in Secondary
Schools.

FURTHER

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக்காப்பகம்
பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு

செப்பனிட்டவரின் பெயர் : எஸ். சந்திரன்...

செப்பனிட்டவருக்கு

எடுத்துக்கொண்ட நாள் : 9/11/4

செப்பனிட்ட முடித்த நாள் : 10/11/4

-- சரிபார்க்கப்பட்டது --

முதிபாள(1) முதிபாள(2) ஆராய்ச்சி உதவியாளர்
7.11.14
Supdt. D

2/870

Page 226 Budget.

329
17.3.19

233
23.6.20 (C)

The resolution proposed
that grants should be stopped
for schools which do not
admit A.R. Dravidians.

Law (Education) Department

DEMAND XIX Education (Transferred)

Mr. R. Veerian

66 To reduce the allotment of Rs. 11.13,000 for direct grants to non-Government secondary schools by Rs. 100/- (to raise the question of not admitting the depressed classes.)

Law (Education) Department

The Hon'ble Member wants apparently to raise the question of admission of the depressed classes in secondary schools under private management. Orders have been issued by Government for the removal of the difficulties in the way of the admission of these classes in schools under public management. No such orders have been issued in regard to schools under private management as it has been held that the time has not yet come for compelling managers of schools to admit such classes. The question raised by Mr. Veerian formed the subject of a resolution in the Legislative Council in 1920. The D.P.L. who opposed the resolution spoke as follows:--

"The policy of the Government is to rely upon private effort for the diffusion of higher education and the grant-in-aid system has been devised with a view to stimulate such enterprise. All institutions which impart some secular instruction and are under adequate local management are eligible for grants from provincial funds provided they satisfy the requirements of the Department of Education. The acceptance of this resolution would certainly be resented by managers of aided institutions who have done in the past and continue to do work of a public character. If these institutions did not exist it would be incumbent upon similar institutions being opened, the total cost of maintenance of which will have to be met from provincial or local funds. I do not feel justified in view of

of the additional expense involved, if for no other reason, in advising Government to give cause for aided institutions closing down ~~down~~ together or for a deviation from a policy which has been in existence for 65 years.

"We have in the Educational ~~Dept~~ Department sufficient difficulties in enforcing in aided institutions rules and regulations which are based on sound educational and hygienic principles and I certainly do not look with any favour on a suggestion to enforce on aided schools rules which are framed with a view to accelerate a change in the social and religious customs of the people. Until it is proved that a Panchama is refused admission to a school or a college, because he is a Panchama, and that it is not possible for him to obtain a similar education in a neighbouring educational institution I scarcely think that the decision which is taken by the Hon. mover called for any immediate or serious action. The problem is social rather than educational in character and it will solve itself only with the change in the opinion of the people. The public is growing accustomed to the admixture of Panchamas and non-Panchamas and the departmental policy is to nourish such an admixture. But to endeavour to force a change on public opinion might do more harm than good."

2. At the meeting of the Legislative Council held in August 1924 Mr. Anjaneyalu asked whether orders had been issued in regard to the admission of Adi Andhra students into aided secondary schools. The Hon'ble the Minister replied that it was left to the option of the managements of such schools to admit Depressed classes in their schools and that the Government ~~is~~ ^{could} not compel them in the matter.

3. From the Public Instruction Report it is observed that the number of pupils belonging to the Depressed Classes who are reading in aided secondary schools is gradually increasing, The figures for the last three

years ^{being} as follows

1922-23

1923-24

1924-25

No. of pupils belonging to Depressed
Classes in aided secondary schools.

843

963

1,226

As time goes on the position of the Depressed classes will gradually improve and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{private managements} will begin to admit these classes more freely in their schools. The Government may not be justified in forcing the pace at the present stage.

4. The file may be submitted to the Hon. the Minister

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* Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Sir, I beg to move

"that the allotment of Rs. 11,13,000 for direct grants to non-Government secondary schools be reduced by Rs. 100."

"The point I want to raise is quite a different matter. When I met some of the missionaries and non-missionaries some time back and when I asked them as to why a large number of depressed classes pupils were not admitted into their schools, they said that it would not be possible for them to admit those pupils unless the Government paid them compensation for granting remission of fees or granting a concession regarding the payment of fees. They generally admit pupils belonging to the forward classes because they are able to pay the school fees. Owing to poverty, the depressed classes are not able to pay the school fees in full. We see that very many Government secondary schools are being established in rural parts, and therefore the education of the depressed classes suffers very much, and unless the Government pay compensation to these bodies, I am sure they will not admit the depressed classes pupils at the half-fee concession rate at least. What I should like to suggest is that the Government should ask the management of the schools to submit a bill for the remission of school fees, and I submit it would be advisable for the hon. the Minister for Education to meet that bill. If such bills are met, I am sure that there will be no difficulty in these schools admitting many members of the depressed classes. What takes place at present is that Government, as I said before, gives only teaching grants. But we cannot say if that compensation is included in the teaching grant or not. Therefore, Sir, in order to make matters clear it would be advisable that the Government should accept such bills claiming the amount of the remission of full fees or half fees in the case of the depressed classes."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, I should like to remove some sort of misapprehension that seems to exist in the mind of my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian. We happened both of us, when I was once at Salem, to visit a Christian school, and Mr. Veerian who has been doing so much to improve the lot of the depressed classes inquired how many depressed class boys were studying in the school. It was found there were none in that school. As a matter of fact from what the teachers told us, it appears that that school is practically what is called a caste school. That school is held in the midst of a class of people who may practically be called 'caste Christians', and for the benefit of the depressed classes the missionaries have established a school near the railway station where most of them generally reside. So that, so far as the depressed classes are concerned, they have got a school there into which their boys are admitted practically without any fees. I do not think the missionaries would refuse to admit depressed class pupils without any fees, because their object is to give education at some sacrifice of money. But we must bear in mind an important point which my hon. Friend Mr. Veerian overlooks, that in Southern India, especially on the East

23rd March 1926]

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

Coast, caste distinctions are still observed among Christians. There are depressed classes among them and there are churches where these depressed classes are not admitted."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Are there churches where they are not admitted at all?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" There are churches from which non-caste Christians are excluded practically, at least some of them, I mean the depressed class people. I know of a place at Palghat where I was told low-caste Christians are not admitted into the church or school. Now I shall confine myself only to schools. So far as this school is concerned, it is impossible to get non-caste children admitted; it is confined to the caste Christians. So that as it may, there is a difficulty always that in the schools at any rate apart from the churches the depressed classes even among Christians are not admitted. So, the difficulty might be not on account of the need of compensation for lower rates of fees which are to be received from the depressed classes but on account of caste objection. In this matter some of us sympathize with the missionaries who at much sacrifice opened schools for the benefit of the depressed classes, while the caste Christians are rather particular that their school which is more or less maintained by them to a great extent should be more or less confined to the caste Christians."

* Rao Sahib R. SRINIVASAN :—" Is it not a fact that missionaries spend all the money on educating the higher class pupils and get all conversions from the lower class people?"

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" There might be some explanation for it. I shall take only one instance illustrative of what takes place. Here the missionary has got a school for the depressed classes and into that school the depressed classes are admitted. We visited both the schools, and this was a school particularly kept for the depressed classes, and in point of position it is at a convenient distance from their residences. And it is not that these missionaries devote all their time and money and energy only for the benefit of the caste people. I find the general tendency is to devote a good portion of the missionary money which they get from Europe for the benefit of the depressed classes, who may be Christians and also those who are not within the fold of Christianity."

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Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, there is some confusion in the House with reference to the treatment accorded to those who have been converted from the depressed classes. Mr. R. Srinivasan wanted to know whether these depressed classes were treated as untouchables: Speaking for the community which I represent, especially the Roman Catholic portion of it, which is 60 per cent of the Indian Christian community in the Madras Presidency, I have to say that I am ashamed to own it that the treatment accorded to the depressed classes by the caste Catholics is certainly very bad. (Hear, hear.) They are not allowed to mix with other people in their churches. A certain portion of the church is set apart for them, generally railed and marked from other portions. The difficulties raised by my friend from South Kanara with regard to the admission of the children of the depressed classes into the schools frequented by the children of caste Catholics is a real difficulty. The mission is very often forced to tolerate these things for the simple reason that if any rule is introduced there is sure to be an agitation. The persistence of this policy due to

3-30 p.m.

[Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar] [23rd March 1926]

the fact that the caste Catholics are very particular to maintain the restriction on social grounds. They think that any relaxation may result in their forfeiting the esteem of caste Hindus. So, on the one hand you have the pleasant and agreeable spectacle of a caste Hindu coming out as a social reformer and even orthodox Brahmins trying to elevate the depressed classes, while on the other you have the spectacle of people who believe in the teaching of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man keeping nearly 50 per cent of their congregation in that miserable condition. In the discussion affecting the depressed classes who happen to be Indian Christians, especially Roman Catholics, I hope my hon. Friend will remember this fact that, especially in Southern India and the East Coast as the hon. Member from South Kanara pointed out, their condition is far worse than that of an Adi-Dravida and that they should be allowed to share in the fee concessions extended to Adi-Dravida boys and girls."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Apparently there seems to be some misapprehension in the mind of the hon. Mover of this motion that compensation is not given by the Government for the half fee given by the schools. In calculating the grant-in-aid, the concession that is given to the depressed classes is calculated at the full standard rate and the grant-in-aid is fixed. The rule says that in every case where the school admits depressed classes and concession is given to the depressed classes, in estimating the grant-in-aid the Director of Public Instruction has to take into consideration the bill that is prepared by the school management for having given the fee remission. The fee income that is lost to the management on account of the depressed classes under the concessional rules is taken into consideration. Therefore, there is no difficulty or disadvantage in the matter of the education of the depressed classes."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The motion was withdrawn after discussion. The notes may now be

Order / Recorded

Quis

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9.5.26
8/4
11.5.26

Leg. Council
Budget motion -
admission of pupils
belonging to the depressed
classes in secondary
schools - notes