

Law (1926) Department.
(Education)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 918

DATED 19-5-1926

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Meeting--budget motion--Queen Mary's College--Intermediate
classes--admission of failed students in the junior class
✓ for a third year--notes recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

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DEMAND XIX -- EDUCATION (TRANSFERRING)

Durau Bahadur
M. Krishnan Nayar.

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To reduce the allotment of Rs.60,200 for
Queen Mary's College by

Rs.100/-

(To urge the need for allowing pupils who
have failed twice in the Junior Interme-
diate class to continue in the same class
for a third year also without being put to
the necessity of changing their groups.).

Law (Education) Department.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council held in ^{October} ~~August~~ 1925
Dr.U.Rama Rao asked a question whether students in the Queen
Mary's college who failed to secure a pass in the class examina-
tions and promotions from the junior to the senior classes were
not allowed to continue their studies in the same college. In
reply the Government stated that students were allowed to return
for a second year in any class. At the meeting held in February
Mr.Veerian last asked whether students were not allowed to continue in the
same class for a third year. The Director who was requested to
furnish information on the point noted as follows : --

"Students who fail twice in the annual examination for
"promotion from the Junior Intermediate class to the Senior
"Intermediate class are not ordinarily readmitted to the Junior
"class for a third year since their failure for two consecutive
years indicates that they are not competent satisfactorily to
"undertake a University course of studies and if readmitted
"would occupy a seat which can much more usefully to the
"be filled by a more competent person. When, however, a
"is prepared to change her optional group so as to stud
"subjects than those which she at first took up she is
"to continue her studies in the college provided she
up an option ^{at} group which in the opinion of the Prin

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"she is likely to be able to pursue with profit up to a University standard."

An answer was given in the sense of the Director's note.

There was a series of supplementary questions on the subject. The ^{relevant portions of the} supplementary questions asked by Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar and the answers given by the Hon'ble the Minister are reproduced below : --

" • Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar - "With reference to the answer given to this question, will the hon. the Minister change the practice of prohibiting girls who have failed twice in the junior intermediate to pass the annual examination to go to the senior intermediate. I suppose the hon. the Minister can allow these girls in the junior intermediate class for the third year also particularly because they are girl students.

" The Hon. Rao Bahadur Sir. A. P. Patro : - No special reason has been assigned for the change. If in a particular case any special reasons are given, that will be considered.

" Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar : - "I want an answer not ^{with} ~~on~~ reference to this particular question but with reference to the general question. My question was whether this general practice of prohibiting the girls to continue for the third year in the junior intermediate class, if they failed twice, would be changed.

" The hon. Sir. A. P. Patro : - "General practice does not require any alteration now."

" 2. The present motion ^{has} evidently been prompted by the above answer. Apparently it has to be opposed with reference to the answer given by the Hon'ble the Minister.



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* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Sir, I move

'that the allotment of Rs. 60,200 for Queen Mary's College be reduced by Rs. 100.'

"It has been stated on the floor of this House in answer to a question that the system of promotion that obtains in the Queen Mary's College is at present this: so far as the girls who are studying in the Junior Intermediate class are concerned, if they fail consecutively for two years, they are of course not promoted; that, one can understand. They are not also allowed to continue even in the same class unless they change their group. I submit this is very hard. So far as I am aware, this system of denying to the pupils the privilege of continuing even in the Junior Intermediate class without changing the group does not exist even in boys' colleges; and so long as these girl students are prepared to pay their fees and study in the class it

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seems to me that there is no reason why they should be compelled to change their groups. And that the girls should be compelled to change their groups I submit is very hard. I therefore submit that the Government or the college authorities may very well allow the girls to continue in the same class without being compelled to change their group. It seems to me that there is nothing reasonable that can be said in favour of the practice that obtains in the Queen Mary's College."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, I am afraid I do not see the force of the argument in support of the motion. If a student fails once in the first year class and fails a second time as well and does not get qualified for promotion, and if that student is to be allowed to continue in the school, it would mean the blocking up of many other girls, more intelligent girls to be admitted into the college. That is one aspect of it which I would request hon. Members to remember. Failing once, a second chance is given and if even that is not availed of and the girl does not show any improvement, it would seem fair for the authorities of the college to presume that the candidate could not cope with the subject and therefore they give her an option to change the subject. It is only an option and it is not obligatory. If the student changes and shows some improvement, she will have a fair chance. If she cannot, it does not seem to be worth while continuing her education. It is from this standard that we have to judge the matter. The point of view of the student, of the parent, has also to be taken into consideration. The parents should not waste their money on a student who is not able to equip herself properly in the course of two years in the Junior class. Though it would seem theoretically hard that such students should not be allowed to continue in the same groove in practice, and in the interests of educational efficiency it seems desirable that such slackers or dullards may take to some other pursuit of life than the education in the Arts colleges. It is that reason that prompted the Principal and the staff to make such a rule in the government of the college. Therefore hon. Members will see that there is no hardship at all. If, on the other hand, a large number of girl students in the college were kept out under this rule, I would certainly consider that there was something wrong with regard to the quality of the students that are admitted to the college. If a large percentage is not promoted because they are not up to the standard, it requires to be examined why a college admitted such students without a preliminary examination. But, in all cases we have got other students waiting for admission and these students who have not taken advantage of their opportunities for study in the college will be blocking better students seeking admission into it. It was therefore that the college authorities thought it advisable to ask them to change the subject and afford them another chance to show some improvement. Instead of working the other alternative of altogether excluding from the college such students, the college authorities have considered it fit to give them another opportunity and it seems to me therefore that there is no hardship. If there are any particular cases where the rule is worked in such a way as to create a hardship, I am prepared to examine such cases; but as a general rule it is not fair that we should interfere with the college discipline and the college management."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I am very much disappointed at the answer given by the hon. the Minister for Education. What the hon. Minister says is this: seeing that these girls failed twice in the Junior Intermediate class, if they are allowed in the same group, that will result in

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the exclusion of other girls brighter and more intelligent being admitted into the class. Does not the same principle apply to boys and should it not be extended to them also?"

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" May I explain, Sir? In the case of boys, there are several institutions and there is a large room for admission; but in the case of girls, there is but limited space in the Women's College, and we would be obliged to keep out really deserving and efficient students."

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* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I should correct my hon. Friend. I know from personal experience as a Member of the Committee for admission into the Palghat College that we are obliged, much against our will, to refuse admission to more than 50 per cent of the boys who after passing the School Final examination seek admission into the Junior Intermediate class in that college. My hon. Friend is not correct in stating that there is room for boys and that there is no room for girls. It seems to me if the principle seems to be so sound in the opinion of my hon. Friend, it should really be extended in the case of boys as well. But my hon. Friend, the Minister, is not prepared to concede that."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"If it is urged that it is necessary, we are prepared to examine that also."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I do not urge that it is necessary, Sir. But I will leave it to my hon. Friend to extend it. My point is that such a restriction is very hard even in the case of girls. The reason namely that brighter girls or more intelligent girls will be excluded is not a sound one, and if it were so, the educational authorities and my hon. Friend the Minister would have thought it fit to extend it to the boys as well. Then, is it possible, Sir, that if, as my hon. Friend says, girls fail twice in the same group, there is a chance of their succeeding in another group? That seems to be altogether incomprehensible. A girl who has failed twice in a subject which she has studied in the Junior Intermediate and which she must necessarily have been studying in the sixth form for her School Final examination . . ."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I should make a personal explanation, Sir. Instead of dismissing the student altogether from the college which the college has a right to by virtue of its powers for the internal discipline of the college, a student is given another opportunity of studying and an option to exercise."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The student is given an option; yes, I understand it. I do not know what personal explanation there was in this statement. But I don't quarrel with my hon. Friend for interrupting me. What I still say is this. If a girl fails twice in the same subject in the first year class in a subject which she has been studying for two years in that class and which she must have certainly studied in the School Final class and in the Fifth Form as well, I ask, what chance is there for such a girl to succeed in another group if she is compelled to change the subject? It seems to me, Sir that the reason is all on my side, and there is absolutely no reason on my hon. Friend's side. (Laughter.) However, I do not like to press the motion and embarrass the hon. the Minister."

12 noon.

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

DESPATCHED
21 MAY 1926

Legislative Council

Meeting - Budget
motion - Queen Mary's
College - Intermediate
classes - admission of
failed students in the
junior class for third
year - note - wanted

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