

Law

(1926) Department.
Education

Ms SERIES.

G.O. No. 953

DATED 25.5.26

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council - Meeting - Budget motion - Law College -

indiscipline among students - notes recorded.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Law (Education) Department.

Mr. K. Prabhakara Thampan : -

P. 211

213. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 59,900

for Law College by Rs. 100

(To suggest enforcement of better discipline and restrict admissions in the Law College).

Under rule 39 of the rules relating to the constitution and working of the Law College, the provisions of the Madras Educational Rules relating to discipline shall apply to the college in so far as its special character permits of their application. The Educational Rules contain due provision for the maintenance of discipline among students and for their proper behaviour towards their teachers. There are also special disciplinary regulations in the Rules, prohibiting students in colleges under public management from taking active part in political agitation directed against the authority of the Government.

2. No instances of indiscipline among the Law College students have been brought to the notice of the Government and it is not clear what exactly the member means by "better discipline".

The executive management of the college is vested in the Principal, and the governing body of the college is the Law College council which includes two or more Judges of the High Court, the Principal and the Advocate General. Questions of internal discipline are for them to settle. It may generally be observed that students in the Law College are graduates, grown-up young men who may be expected to realise their responsibility and that any undue strictness may defeat the object in view.

3. As regards admissions, it is not clear what sort of restriction is aimed at. Though there is no fixed limit to the number of students to be admitted

P. 4 of G.O. No.

1608 (E)
15.9.25

cf rule 50 in p. 6
of G.O. No. 1212
(O) 24.7.24

chap VIII - I
in pp 12-13 of
the G.O. (O)
revised

rule 7 in p. 1 of
G.O. No. 1608 (E)
15.9.25

rule 3 ibid

rule 15 in p. 2
of the G.O. (E)

40 2

into any class, the Selection Committee makes admissions with due regard to the accommodation and staff available for efficient instruction. With a view to make the classes as small as possible and to secure an approach to the tutorial system prevailing in England, the staff of assistant lecturers in the college has recently been strengthened as a result of the recommendations of the Reorganisation Committee. The classes are not, therefore, likely to be unwieldy. Admissions to the college are determined by the Selection Committee and the Government do not interfere with their discretion. Possibly the member may suggest that the legal profession is overcrowded and that admission should be confined to 'picked' students. Any such restriction will be resented by the public and, in any case, it would be inappropriate for the Government to issue instructions in this regard.

11.3.26.

by T. V. Rao

11.3.26

V. T. K.
11.3

M2

17/26.26



para 4 of Memo

1702

5.11.24

(K)

Answer

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I beg to move

that the allotment of Rs. 59,900 for Law College be reduced by Rs. 100."

"Sir, there are two points which I want to suggest for the consideration of the hon. the Minister in charge of Education. One is for enforcing better discipline than is obtaining now in the Law College. We find, Sir, in the Law College more than two hundred to three hundred students in each class. As a matter of fact, I know that some students while remaining at home in their districts are marked regularly as present in the Law College. (The hon. Sir A. P. Patro: Not now.) Even this year, I have known instances of the kind. From what I understand the discipline that is enforced in the Law College is at a very low ebb. I would like the Government to pay some attention to it, and see that these scandalous incidents are stopped and put an end to.

"The other suggestion is that the admission into the Law College should be restricted. I am one of those who believe that we have too many lawyers in this country and that efforts should be made to see that their number does not increase in the same proportion as now. Admission to the Law College may be restricted. But my hon. Friend who is sitting beside me (Mr. Krishnan Nayar) wants me not to press this suggestion of mine which he thinks is full of danger and calamity to the country. I do not therefore press that point. With regard to the first point, I am anxious that the Government will give some consideration."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"I must oppose the motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Prabhakaran Tampan. As regards the first point, viz., the one of discipline in the Law College, I do not think it is in any way worse than the other colleges. (Laughter.) When there are large numbers of students and if a particular student is absent, and somebody else answers 'Here' when his name is called, and if the teacher or monitor marks him present, I do not think it is right to attribute want of discipline in the particular college."

"As regards the other point, namely, the restriction of admission into the Law College, it touches upon a very serious and important question which affects the lawyers as a class. I do not know whether it will be conducive to the well-being of the country if you are going to restrict the admission of students and the production of lawyers. Our wants in the struggle for existence will find their level. Why should you place an arbitrary restriction on admissions in particular years or in particular sets of students? Well, law is a study in this country which may be pursued for the benefit of the study alone, though not for the practice of it. I know as a matter of fact a number of people who have passed their B.L. and who are not practising as lawyers. Should the study of law be denied to men who do not want to practise it? If you want to restrict the practice of it to a smaller number, are there not other means of doing it than of restricting the admissions into the college? And there are several avenues in the struggle for existence, and these things are safely settled when they are left to themselves. I think my hon. Friend can leave this question alone, and it is a serious matter on which the opinions of lawyers and other eminent men should be obtained."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I wish to say one word with reference to the latter part of this motion."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"May I say that I did not press that point?"

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"As a matter of fact, my Friend referred to the views I gave him and said that I advised him not to move it. But he did not actually take my advice. If he had taken my advice, he would not have taken that position. Therefore, I am going to oppose it. In addition to what was suggested by my learned Friend, Mr. Marthandam Pillai, I wish to say this, namely, the problem of unemployment exists to a very large extent in this country. Sir, the problem of unemployment among educated men is also increasing to a very large extent, and if it goes on increasing at the present rate, I do not know whether it will not become a serious political problem to be solved, and by restricting the admission into the Law College we are taking away from these graduates or those who have passed the B.A. examination one avenue for the outlet of their energies, and thereby we shall be adding to the discontent of these graduates who are now wandering about the country in search of employment, which they are not able to find. They cannot be blamed; those who cannot give them employment cannot be blamed; and those who have power and patronage in their hands absolutely find it impossible to give appointments to those that seek appointment, and those that seek employment find it very difficult to maintain their body and soul together. Now, if the suggestion of my hon. Friend, viz., that those who have passed the B.A. examination should be prevented from seeking admission into the Law College and thereby into the profession of law, be adopted, the number of people seeking employment will become so large that it will lead to a very serious state of affairs. There is, I submit, no right on the part of anybody to say 'thou shalt not enter the Law College'. That will be an interference not compatible with the freedom and liberty of individuals. I am therefore absolutely and wholly against that suggestion."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" May I ask my hon. Friend who spoke last whether those who pass out of the Law College and enrol themselves as lawyers do not generally apply for appointments?" 12-45 p.m.

* The hon. Rao Babadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" Sir, with regard to the suggestion of the hon. the Mover that there is slackness of discipline in the Law College, I must enter my strong protest, because the Law College is managed by an able Principal and there are now 12 assistant lecturers and other special lecturers and attendance is strictly enforced. I should therefore think that the hon. the Mover should have thought twice before he cast any reflections on the discipline of the college. The students of the Law College are all graduates and grown up young men with large promises of their future, and with a sense of responsibility. And it seems, Sir, very unfair to cast any slur on their discipline or conduct. Certainly I have not come across any such indiscipline in the Law College. The students of the Law College have shown themselves to be foremost in the games. If the other day my hon. Friend was present when the prize distribution was held he would have seen how they had carried away the cups in the various games, and the way in which they conducted the meetings of the Law College Societies there is very little ground for saying that there is any

[Sir A. P. Patro]

[23rd March 1926]

kind of indiscipline or want of discipline in the Law College. The discipline is as good as that in any other college. Therefore my hon. Friend is not at all justified in insinuating that there is any lack of discipline in the Law College."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Sir, I envy the hon. Minister's frame of mind. He is taking for granted that since he has appointed an efficient and able Principal and a set of good assistants and a council, everything is going on very well. I know that the attendance and the discipline enforced in the College is very questionable, and it is almost a scandal. I am afraid not only the students are culpable in that respect but also the staff who are conniving and abetting it. I am making the statement with a full sense of responsibility. I have brought it to the notice of the Government and I leave it there."

* Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" Sir, may I raise my voice of protest against anything that is said not only against the Members of the House but also against institutions on very ill-founded information? My hon. Friend from Malabar has never been within the precincts of the Law College. If he expects in the Law College the discipline and methods which are observed, for instance, in a high school, he is quite mistaken. For aught I know—I have got friends in that College—the students in that College—they are not boys but men who have graduated—observe discipline compatible with the institution, young men who can be relied upon to show good manners and on behalf of those certain freedom should be allowed. (The hon. Sir A. P. Patro: Hear, hear.) Surely you cannot expect the methods and discipline enforced in a small primary school or high school. This is an institution where students come after graduating. If my hon. Friend has heard some impressions of some persons, this is not the place where information based on impressions of some other persons should be brought to cast reflections on the institution. Therefore I think my hon. Friend ought to withdraw his statement as befitting the dignity and decorum of this House."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" I am not satisfied with the Minister's attitude in the matter. However, I withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

M.A.S.
28/3/26

Legislative Council

Meeting - Budget

Motion - Law

College - indiscipline

among students -

notes - recorded.

CR
mis

Recorded

CR
19/5

17.5.26 17.5.26

Copy to the D.P.O.

DESPATCHED
17-31-MAY-1926

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed _____

192 .

READ AGAIN, G.O. No. _____, DATED
 192 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURE TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT KEPT OF, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B. —

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.