

Law (Education) (1926) Department.

Miscellaneous SERIES.

G.O. No. 972.

DATED 28/5/1926.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Meeting - Colleges - Specialisation
of Subjects - Budget motion -
Notes recorded

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DEMAND XIX--EDUCATION (TRANSFERRED).

Mr. K. Prabhakaran Tampen:-

p. 215.

212. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,36,600 for Government Arts Colleges by Rs. 1,000/-

(To concentrate specialisation of subjects in selected colleges).

Law (Education) Department.

It is not clear whether the member refers only to Government colleges or to aided colleges as well. In any case the Government are directly concerned only with Government colleges. Specialisation of subjects in colleges or, ~~to use another phraseology,~~ concentration of teaching in certain subjects in selected centres has the manifest advantage of preventing "the uneconomical repetition of advanced courses of study in many scattered colleges."

It may also lead to the highest possible standards of instruction: But concentration of teaching is ordinarily practicable in a limited area.

The Madras University has on its rolls more than 15,000 students scattered over a wide area and the application of the principle of concentration might lead to the result that a student who wanted to take

A on p 3 of the report
at the Andhra University

Figure for Andhra

p. 1 of

The introduction of the new era:

S. 6(3) of the Act.

pp. 149 + 150 of the Gazette
at (Q)
removed

p 39 the note in
the linked file
discontinues

3. In connection with the equipment grant to the Sri Minakshi College, Chidambaram, the Finance ~~Committee~~ Committee recently raised the question whether concentration of science teaching in certain centres could not be enforced by refusing grants to aided institutions. The D.P.I. who was consulted on the subject has made the following remarks : --

The next point is that affiliations in the various branches of subjects, including Science branches are given by the University, this power vesting in the University under the Madras University Act so that even although the Government desire that a particular college should not receive affiliation in Science it is not possible constitutionally for Government to enforce their wishes in this regard unless the University is also of

the same opinion.

* * *

"Treated educationally there are two objections to the acceptance of such a proposal. The first is that we have a continual clamour going on not only now but for many many years against the purely literary education which has been given in India as opposed to the more practical training which can be obtained through the teaching of Science. If we concentrate the teaching of Science in a few centres the grounds for this agitation will be stronger than they are at present.

"The second point is that a true University education can be given only where students rub shoulders with those who are engaged in other courses of study than those in which they themselves are taking part. The colleges which confine themselves to the teaching of purely arts subjects and do not teach any Science subjects will be held to give an inferior education to those colleges situated in centres which teach Science.

"I may mention that a few years ago it was the policy of the University of Madras to insist so far as was possible upon colleges making provision for the teaching of Science pari passu with the provision that they proposed to make for the teaching of arts subjects."

4. It will thus be observed that ~~the decision is not~~ ^{decision is not} ~~wholly~~ ^{decided yet as to whether concentration is under existing conditions} wholly advantageous. In any case the University has to be consulted on the subject. It may be practicable to follow the member's suggestion when new Universities are started. This, again, is a matter in which the Madras University has to take the initiative.

5. Perhaps the member may be informed that the question is under consideration. Although the

p 49 note in
the linked file
discussed



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immediate issue raised is in relation to the question of grants, ^{for science laboratories and equipment} the general question of concentration of science teaching has to be considered in that connection.

R.M.
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Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"I beg to move
that the allotment of Rs. 7,36,600 for Government Arts Colleges be
reduced by Rs. 1,000."

"My object in moving this token motion is to suggest the desirability of beginning to concentrate in certain subjects in few selected colleges in the Presidency. Time was when there were very few colleges in the Presidency and they were located in distant parts of the Presidency also. In those circumstances it was desirable to equip all these colleges in an efficient state. Now we have a first-grade college practically in every other district, at any rate one for two or three districts. As for the Presidency town we have got four first-grade colleges. What I suggest is that the money which the Government could afford to spend on the equipment of laboratory, for instance, is spent on one institution with a view to make that institution very efficient and sufficiently fit to give advanced course of studies in that subject. Instead of frittering the resources of the Government by giving grants to large number of colleges, it is highly desirable to spend the money on one and the same institution and make it thoroughly efficient. For instance, in the Presidency College, facilities may be given to take advanced courses and make researches in Physics and Chemistry. In the Kumbakonam College which is also a Government College the subject of History may be given particular attention. Similarly in the Christian College, Mathematics may be specialized in. I have heard that Cambridge is the centre for the study of Mathematics, Oxford for History. I think it is time Government revises its policy which has been hitherto adopted and helps to create local Oxford and Cambridge. I commend this proposal to the consideration of the House and the hon. the Minister in charge."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is not a question of revising the policy of the Government. Our policy has been to concentrate in one place all these colleges so far as the Madras University is concerned. The essential principle of the Madras University Act is that there should be more inter-collegiate work, that the University should co-ordinate in the work of the colleges, that there should be a particular course of study in every college, and that one college student should be able to attend the lectures of other colleges. It is on these lines that University organization has
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been made. How far any progress has been made in that direction may be read from reports. There has been some collegiate work between the Presidency College and the Christian College, and I understand that the Syndicate is taking steps to bring about the principle into operation. In regard to the Andhra University also, I have to repeat the same thing. One has to restrict Science in one place, Philosophy in another and so on. I have already communicated the lines on which educational development is sought to be made under the Andhra University Act, viz., by the principle of concentration. Anantapur will develop in certain branches of study, Rajahmundry will develop certain others, and Waltair will develop something different. So under the Andhra University scheme concentration is to be the underlying principle. Similarly in regard to any other University the one underlying principle will be that all the colleges in Southern India will not repeat the same thing, but as far as possible a college will take up a particular subject for development so that there may not be waste of finance and waste of educational energy. We have been pursuing this policy as far as possible but as more universities are started and more educational development takes place in these centres, it would be quite possible to have this principle of concentration in a more effective form and in a more definite manner than at present."

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It seems to me, Sir, that there is some difficulty in accepting the suggestion of my hon. Friend at the present stage of University education in this Presidency. The existing University is undergoing a process of disintegration. The Madras University is being split up. The Andhra University Act has already become law and is to come into operation immediately. As my hon. Friend the Minister stated, the Andhra University Act has actually been brought into operation. So far as that particular University is concerned, within the limits of that University there will be places of concentration on different subjects. For instance, technological subjects will be dealt with at Vizagapatam, for other subjects at Rajahmundry and others again at Anantapur and so on. So that, within the area served by that particular University there will be places of concentration and it will be unnecessary to have the same subjects repeated in more than one place. Yesterday we had a pretty long discussion about the founding of the Tamil University and within the area served by that University there may be concentration. The same will be the case with reference to the other universities. If at the present stage Government is going to concentrate at particular places with reference to particular subjects the result will be that when these new universities come into existence difficulties will be felt. For instance within a particular area served by a particular university it will be found that there will be only one subject in which advanced teaching is given so that the result of introducing this policy advocated by my friend will be to introduce disadvantages in these university areas when new universities come into existence. So that it seems to me that the present time is inopportune to introduce and adopt the policy advocated. When these universities come to be established, then is the time to introduce the principle of concentration."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"I wish to associate myself with what Mr. Tampar said as regards this motion. I only wish to point out that large sums of money are being wasted as grants to these various schools because they attempt to establish in their particular colleges all the

branches of a particular course of studies. We, as Members of the Finance Committee, have been met with the difficulty of allotting these grants to the various schools and there we were acquainted with the necessity of making these grants which automatically come into existence whether the educational authorities like it or not. I wish to emphasize the position that under the Grant-in-Aid Code if a particular school wants to attempt a particular course of study and if it finds half the money under the Code, without the authorities having a voice in it, automatically Government gets itself committed to the other half. We found difficulties in allotting these grants to the various schools and if it is possible for Government to initiate the policy of concentration of particular course of studies in a particular area it would aid to a greater extent than the distribution of grants to the various schools. I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government the difficulty in making grants to the various schools without having an efficient voice on the schemes themselves. I therefore support the motion made by Mr. Tampan."

12-30 p.m. * Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"The hon. the Minister for Education has practically accepted the principle underlying my proposal. I am certain that in the Madras University Act also the idea is that only few colleges should be allowed to specialize in one and the same subject. But I found in the Finance Committee, as was referred to by my hon. Friend from Tinnevely, proposals for giving large grants for some of the colleges are put up for consideration. For instance, the Sri Minakshi College, Chidambaram, applied for Rs. 96,000 for fitting up a science laboratory. If the principle, as accepted by the hon. the Minister for Education, is to be adopted, there is no need to sanction any grant for that college, because the colleges in Madras are provided with efficient laboratories, and there is absolutely no need for another one at Chidambaram. There were one or two other instances also like that. I am one of those who believe that by fitting up all first-grade colleges with large and efficient and costly laboratories the Government are only incurring unnecessary expenditure. I only want to bring this aspect of the question to the notice of the hon. Member in charge of Education, and he is welcome to do what he chooses."

* The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I am afraid the hon. Members have not properly appraised the need of the Presidency in the matter of laboratories, etc. If as they suggest it is possible to have one college for the whole of the Northern Circars and one college for the whole of the Tamil districts for teaching one subject, the principle can be followed. But you find that there is such a large demand on the part of the people for the kind of study. If you have only one college situated in one district, you can imagine the difficulty of students who have to go from other districts to that district, or to go all the way from Tinnevely to Madras. There must therefore be some relief given to the students and for meeting the public demand in the matter. You cannot therefore say that, at present, as Mr. Krishnan Nayar pointed out very rightly, there are facilities to see that such a principle is put into practice. But it is admitted that what we are working at in regard to university education is to have concentration, so as not to fritter away money on several colleges teaching the same subjects. On the other hand, for instance, there is Madanapalle also to be developed in the Ceded districts which have no other college except Anantapur. If one

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college is developed in the north, another college has to be developed in the south, you find great difficulties felt by the people, and it is necessary that some provision must be made to meet that difficulty. If only we have got the other universities, then there can be concentration and co-ordination among the colleges in one university area like that of the Andhra University. Under the Madras University Act, we are at present making such a concentration in the City of Madras."

* Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—"Though I do not believe there can be any difficulty in putting it into practice, I am prepared to withdraw the motion."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.



Legislative Council

meeting - Colleges -

specialisation of

subjects - Budget

motion - notes received.

Please see notes at pp 1-5 ante; no discussion has yet been
arranged at this regard to the concentration of university
education.

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