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Educational (1903) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 23

DATED 22-1-03

N. P.
INDEXED.

ORIGINAL

[Despatch Abstract.]

Fees in Schools & Colleges:-

Copy to the D.P. I with remarks letter from
the Govt. of India with drawing their
proposal for the establishment of a
minimum scale of —.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government {1903} of Madras. EDUCATIONAL.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1903.

Enclosures

Spare copies

ORIGINAL

G.O., No. 23, 22nd January 1903.

JANUARY.

Fees in Schools and Colleges.

Communicating to the Director of Public Instruction, with remarks, letter from the Government of India withdrawing their proposal for the establishment of a minimum scale of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following papers:—

G.O., No. 575, Educational, dated 11th October 1901.

" Nos. 615, 616, Educational, dated 29th October 1901.

" " 452, 453, " " 5th August 1902.

READ—also the following paper:—

From H. H. RISLEY, Esq., C.I.E., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home department (Education), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Educational department, dated Calcutta, 31st December 1902, No. 1003.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 453, dated the 5th August 1902, on the subject of fees in schools and colleges in the Madras Presidency. This letter has been considered in connection with Mr. Weir's letter of 29th October [1901] on the same subject.

2. In reply, I am to express the thanks of the Governor-General in Council for the explanation given in your letter as regards the working of the rules affecting fees in aided institutions. The Government of India note that the remarks in the letter No. 466 addressed to the Government of Madras on 6th November 1901, as to the proportion borne by the fees raised to the standard fees, were made under a misapprehension; and that the apparently low average rate of fees in Government secondary schools, to which reference was made in the same letter, is satisfactorily explained. They further observe that the Local Government is in general agreement with the principles laid down by them as to the maintenance of a reasonable standard of contribution, in the shape of fees, by the scholars towards the cost of their education, and as to the prevention of undue competition by means of the unchecked lowering of fees; but that the Government of Madras are of opinion that these objects are sufficiently secured in aided institutions in Madras by the system in force there, and that strong exception is taken to the proposal of the Government of India that a minimum scale of fees should be established.

3. The proposals of the Universities Commission upon the establishment of a minimum scale of fees in colleges affiliated to the University have recently been referred to the Government of Madras for their opinion, by a letter No. 854, dated 24th October 1902, in which the Government of India have stated some general principles which appear to them to be applicable to the subject generally.

4. In view of the explanations given in your letter of the working of the system in force in Madras, and the strong representations of the Government of Madras against a return to the system of a minimum scale of fees previously in force, the Government of India agree that, subject to the following observations, the Madras system is well designed to carry out the policy of Government, and they are pleased to accede to the request of the Government of Madras that the proposal for the establishment of a minimum scale of fees in Madras shall not be further pressed.

5. As the system described in your letter leaves unaided institutions outside its scope, and as there may be cases in which improper competition may be carried on, or may be alleged to be carried on, by means of lowering the fees in aided institutions within the limits allowed by the action of the check-limit, the Government of India are of opinion that, unless the Governor in Council sees objection, a general rule should be laid down that the fees must be reasonable, and that institutions must not improperly compete by means of unduly lowering the fees. It appears to the Government of India that such a rule would be no more than an expression of the principles which are generally accepted, and which the present system in Madras is intended to effect; and that, while it would be free from the objections which the Madras Government entertain to the proposal to prescribe a scale of fees for each institution, and to ascertain in each case that such a scale is conformed with, it would provide for inquiry into those individual cases in which either complaint may be made by aggrieved parties, or the department may have reason to be dissatisfied with the condition of affairs and may wish to institute inquiry. It appears to the Government of India that, if each case of the kind were considered on its merits, proper freedom would be left for the exercise of the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction as to the amount of the fees to be considered reasonable, and as to the existence of improper competition, without being bound by an inflexible standard of a minimum fee and without being compelled to regard all competition as necessarily improper. As stated in their letter, No. 854 of 24th October 1902, the Government of India are strongly of opinion that the establishment of schools and colleges where, with the help of endowments, a good education can be given at a low cost to the scholar, is much to be encouraged. The difficulties which the Local Government have experienced in ascertaining the facts as regards the fees paid are not overlooked, but it appears that the application of the check-limit now in force itself depends upon truthful accounts being rendered of the expenditure and of the income other than fees; and the Government of India hope that in the individual cases in which cause is shown for inquiry into the fees paid, the Director of Public Instruction will, as in other questions of disputed facts, take such measures as are possible for investigating the truth.

6. In paragraph 2 of your letter under reply the operation of the check-limit is said to depend upon the excess of the total income, including the grant, over the total expenditure. The term "total income" is not defined, and in the last line of the same paragraph the term "fee income" is used as if it were convertible with "total income exclusive of the grant." It appears to the Government of India that in reckoning the income of an aided institution for the purpose of the calculation, all endowments and all voluntary contributions should be taken into account. The voluntary contributions may fluctuate with the means of the agencies by which the institutions are supported, and with the needs of the institutions. But the principle upon which aid is given is that such contributions should be forthcoming, and it appears to the Government of India that it should not be open to managers to regulate their contributions so as to adjust the accounts of the institution after the amount of the grant has been determined; but that the balance sheet, upon which the limit of the grant is dependent, should be a full statement of all the actual sums received and disbursed.

ORDER—No. 23, Educational, dated 22nd January 1903.

Communicated to the Director of Public Instruction with the request that he will in due course submit the draft of the rule suggested in paragraph 5.

(True Extract.)

M. HAMMICK,
Secretary to Government.

To the Director of Public Instruction.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 23, EDUCATIONAL, DATED
22ND JANUARY 1903.

[SUBJECT.—*Fees in schools and colleges in Madras.*]

From the Government of India, Home department, dated 31st December 1902, No. 1003.

The Government of India have withdrawn their proposal for the establishment of a minimum scale of school-fees in Madras, but they think that, unless the Governor in Council sees objection, a general rule should be laid down that the fees levied must be reasonable and that institutions must not improperly compete by means of unduly lowering the fees. The Director is to enquire and decide in each case whether the scale of fees is reasonable and whether there is improper competition.

2. It is submitted that the Government of India do not seem as yet to have correctly understood the position taken up by this Government. This position is that Government should have nothing to do with the scale of fees actually levied in a school or college under private management nor with competition by unduly lowering the fees. All that they should see is that the school or college conforms to the Educational rules and is efficiently managed. An institution in which the fees are too low cannot be efficiently managed unless it has ample funds at its disposal from other sources, and in that case no objection should be raised on the score of low fees.

3. It does not appear, however, that there is much use in making any further representation to the Government of India at present. Mr. Orange is shortly expected in Madras and the Director may have a discussion with him on this matter. The final action to be taken on paragraph 5 of the letter of the Government of India may depend on the result of this discussion. If this suggestion is approved, the necessary instruction may be issued to the Director.

4. With reference to paragraph 6, it is submitted that, in reckoning the income of an aided institution for the purpose of calculating the grant, all endowments and voluntary contributions are taken into account. The balance sheet upon which the limit of the grant is dependent is a full statement of all the actual sums received and disbursed. This was explained to Mr. Orange in Mr. Harold Stuart's demi-official, dated 22nd August 1902. A

P. T. THARYAN—14-1-03.

I agree that no further representation is likely to be of any use. When Mr. Orange comes down, and discusses matters orally with the Director of Public Instruction, the Madras case will, no doubt, be made clearer to him. What is contained, however, in paragraph 5 is rather on the lines of an indication of general policy than an instruction to bind the local Government and their officers.

2. The existing practice is correctly stated at A, and that being so, it is unnecessary to discuss the point raised. So long as we do make the balance sheet a complete statement, that is all the Government of India require and they will necessarily be satisfied.

A. T. PRINGLE—15-1-03.

The letter may be communicated to the Director of Public Instruction, who should submit a draft of the rule asked for in due course. He has no doubt already spoken to Mr. Orange on the subject. There is no need to carry the correspondence further. The Madras Government have really carried their point.

M. HAMMICK—16-1-03.

J. T[HOMSON]—18-1-03.

This is a notable triumph.

A[MPHILL]—20-1-03.

The draft placed below may issue.

P. T. THARYAN—21-1-03.

A. T. PRINGLE—22-1-03.

M. HAMMICK—22-1-03.

[G.O., No. 23, Educational, dated 22nd January 1903.]

Educational (1903) Department.

CURRENT No. 32. 4

From

[Name] The Govt. of India.

[Designation] (Home) Secy.

[Station]

No. 1003

Received 12-1-1903

Dated 31-12-1902

Enclosures

Registered 50 1903.

SUBJECT.

Expressing general agreement with regard to the system of levying fees in schools & colleges in the Madras Presidency according to the request of this Govt. that his proposal for the establishment of a minimum scale of fees shall not be pressed.

BACK PAPERS.

on 306 of 7-10-02
Letter 453 of 5-8-02
G.O. 678 of 21-11-01

FURTHER PAPERS.

C. No. 32, From the Govt. of India, No. 1003, Dated 31-12-1902

Subject. The Madras Fee notification.

The Lt. Gov. will be in Madras on the 15th and the letter from the Govt. of India may be circulated to them on that day for perusal. It can go to His Excellency later on as H. E. arrives later, apparently.

By 12/1/13
The Lt. Gov. is sending down a letter of the Govt. of India by H. E. - it is Geo.

13-1-3
The Lt. Gov. is sending down a letter of the Govt. of India by H. E. - it is Geo.
papers - Please put it up for disposal with the papers as soon as possible
13-1-13

Please see the linked file. May I remind the Secretary that in making proposals to send round this without papers in the office do nothing but what can be done out

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
190 .

, DATES

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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1003

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1003

Communicated to the D.P. in
the report that results in the course