

Edu (1947) Department.

~~Let~~ Ms. SERIES.

~~G.O. NO.~~ Letter (Ms).
No 2520. Edu.
Dated 25-11-1947.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Post-war Reconstruction - Scheme No 88 -
Introduction of Compulsory Elementary
Education - Govt. of India's Reference -
Replied to.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Letter (M)	636.	Eds.	24-11-47				
Letter	4264 - 3 - A7-11	"	3-11-47				

Further Papers.

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

No.F.6-3/46-P.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
New Delhi the 23rd Sept. '47.

(2)

From:

Sir John Sargent, C.I.E., M.A., D.Litt.
Secretary to the Government of India.

To:

The Secretary to the Government of Madras
Public (Planning & Development) Department,
Fort St. George, M A D R A S.

Subject:- Post-War Reconstruction Scheme No.88.—
Introduction of compulsory elementary
Education

Sir,

I am directed to invite the attention of the Government of Madras to their post-war development scheme No.88 for compulsory elementary education. According to this scheme, compulsory education is to be confined upto the standard V during the first ten years and is to be extended to standards VI to VIII during the next ten years. Government of Madras thus propose to follow the principle of introducing compulsory education from age to age and not from area to area. This is a deviation from the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education which the Government of India feel are of fundamental importance from purely educational point of view.

This question was exhaustively discussed at the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education and it was only after mature consideration that the Board came to the conclusion that if, as is almost inevitable in a large Province like Madras, a system of universal compulsory education could only be introduced by stages, the progression should be from area to area.

The reasons, which induced the Board to come to this decision, were that the experience of other countries like Great Britain, had shown that the method of introducing compulsory education from age to age was both wasteful and inefficient. Children who may acquire literacy in the restricted sense till the age of 11 are likely to lapse into illiteracy and in any case the education which lasts for five years, will hardly prepare the child either for life or for livelihood or for good citizenship. Besides, Basic Education from 6-14 being an organic whole, will lose much of its value, if not so treated.

Apart from the reasons stated above the Government of Madras will also agree that to-day there is an urgent need for experts and technical personnel and in more general terms, leaders in all spheres of national life in India. This need can only be satisfied within a reasonable period if the necessary number of trained teachers are available and they can be had only when the number of High Schools is increased and suitable candidates from the Primary Schools are given the chance to study in them. Any plan of development which is restricted to primary education in the first instance cannot satisfy this need for further development. Furthermore, public opinion which may otherwise acquiesce in an inadequate provision of education spread thinly over the whole province, will be more vocal in supporting projects for greater opportunities if it sees these existing in some areas and not in others.

nor can it provide
the trained
teachers

For.....

Exp. No. 100. No. 2
77859.4 / 478.000
9.000
1223
11/10/47

Letter/Ref. No. 2520

Edn. dated 26-11-1947.

To
The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Education,
New Delhi.

Sir,

POST-WAR Reconstruction - Scheme No. 88 -
Introduction of compulsory elementary
education.

With reference to your letter F.6-3/46-P, dated 23rd September 1947, I am directed to state that the Madras plan of compulsory elementary education ^{up to Standard V as at present} provides for the introduction of the scheme from area to area and not from age to age. Selected areas in each district are taken up every year and compulsion is applied right upto Standard V at the ~~first~~ ^{first} stretch. Compulsion upto Standard VIII is the ultimate objective of the Government and splitting up into two stages is only a matter of expediency. ^{Although Basic Education is an organic whole} the age of 11 or the end of Standard V is nevertheless a definite age ^{stage in Education, too} and as already pointed out in Mr. V.N. Kudva's letter No. 636 Edn., dated 24th April 1945, the experience in Madras has definitely shown that education upto Standard V does to a large extent ensure permanent literacy. I am to add that it is not the intention that post-primary Education should be ~~stalled~~ ^{starved}. Post-Primary Education, whether for trades or by way of secondary education, will meanwhile continue to improve on a voluntary footing. In fact, secondary and middle schools have largely increased recently and are increasing.

As regards the point made in your letter that 'public opinion which may otherwise acquiesce in an inadequate provision of education spread thinly over the whole Province, will be more vocal in supporting projects for greater opportunities if it sees these existing in some areas and not in others' I am to point out that, on the other hand, if only a few areas are selected for compulsion upto Standard VIII year by year, criticism will be strong and will be justified that other areas are being altogether neglected in the meanwhile and particularly so, as the process ^{that way} ~~backward~~ will take an extremely long period before the whole Province is covered by the Scheme of compulsion.

I am further to ~~say~~ ^{state} that the Government are finding difficulty about staff and accommodation apart from the question of finance, even for a scheme upto Standard V. These difficulties will

For these reasons it is recommended that the Government of Madras should consider the scheme for compulsory education as it stands at present and see their way to bring it into line with the scheme recommended in the Board's Report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.

B. Shankar



B. Shankar

Enclosed are the letter from the Secretary to the Government of Madras dated 11.11.47 and the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India dated 11.11.47. The letter from the Secretary to the Government of Madras is in the original and the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India is in the copy.

Yours faithfully,
B. Shankar

B. Shankar

Enclosed are the letter from the Secretary to the Government of Madras dated 11.11.47 and the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India dated 11.11.47. The letter from the Secretary to the Government of Madras is in the original and the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India is in the copy.

Yours faithfully,
B. Shankar

(11.11.47)
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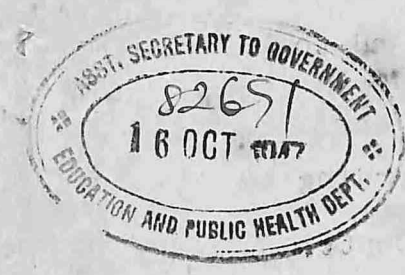
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2
be accentuated if a scheme of compulsion upto Standard VIII is embarked upon right from the start. If the Government set apart as much money each year as they have been able to do during the last two years, the areas where they will be able to introduce such a scheme of compulsion will be much smaller than under the present scheme and the period within which compulsion can be made universal will be very long. The Government's present scheme has the advantage of more rapid introduction of compulsion and over a comparatively larger area each year. For the reasons stated above the Government wish to adhere to the scheme already accepted by them.

im
6/11/47

Y.O.S.
11/11/47

copy to Secy
(M.D.)
I. Se.

compulsory
elementary
education



Dev (P.D.VI) Dept
001232/47-1
16-10-47
J.S.
Fm/Secy

X on 1/27
referred
p-2 (K)

Development (P&D VI) Department.
Letter from the Govt of India, Ministry of
Educ., No. F 6-3/46 P.D. 23-9-47.
To A.S.

Please see E & P.H. note on p.3 ante. It is stated that the question raised by the Govt. of India in their letter on pp.1-2 ante has already been discussed fully and that a reply has also been sent to them; the decision being that the Madras Sixty Plan need not be modified. It may, however, be pointed out that this decision was arrived at in 1945 during the Advisers' Regime. This department may perhaps suggest that the orders of the present Ministry may be taken before a final reply is sent to India by E & P.H. Dept.

With these remarks, the file may be returned to E & P.H. Finance (P.W.R.) may also see.

14/10/47

11/10/47

J.S.
15/10/47
Fin (P.W.R.)
E.P.H. (C) & H.

The Central Advisory Board of Education drew up a report on Post War Educational Development in India. In the matter of compulsory elementary education the view was expressed in the report that universal compulsory system of basic education should be introduced from area to area and not from age to age. The report was forwarded to Government. The D.P.I., Madras, who prepared a report for the Madras Government expressed views at variance with the Central Advisory Board. His idea was that compulsory elementary education should first be introduced upto standard V in the Province and should thereafter be extended to standard VI, VII, and VIII year after year. The Education Sub-Committee of the Post War Reconstruction Committee which considered the D.P.I.'s report approved his proposal. The Five Year Plan framed by the Govt. was based on the recommendation of the Sub-Committee. (P.T.O.)

Under the plan compulsory elementary education should first be introduced upto VI standard within a period of ten years and should be extended to standard VIII within the subsequent decade.

When a copy of the Madras Plan was sent to the Government of India in January 1945, the Government pointed out that the Madras plan was not according to the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board. The question was further examined in the notes to G.O. No. 636 Edn., dated 24-4-45. The then Adviser for Education, Sir Thomas Austin, also discussed the matter personally with Dr. Sargent, the Educational Adviser to the Government of India, and a reply was sent to that Government explaining the implications of the Madras scheme and how that scheme suited to the needs of this Province.

2. The Government of India have again raised the issue regarding compulsory elementary education. The Development (P. & D.) Dept., have suggested that the orders of the present Government may be taken in the matter; (presumably on the question whether the scheme originally drawn up requires any revision.)

The file may be circulated for orders.

A.G. 20.10.47

26/10/47

A' u p: 1 c.f.:

Our plan too provides for introduction of the scheme from area to area. We do not proceed, that is, to raise the age of compulsion by one year in successive years all over the Province. We take up selected areas in each district each year and there apply compulsion right up to the standard V. The only difference thus is that while the Central Advisory Board would have this done up to standard VIII at one stretch in selected areas, we are doing this only up to standard V at the first stretch.

'B' at page 1 c.f.: As explained against 'A' above this comment would not properly apply.

'C' at page 1 c.f.: As explained in the letter sent at flag (A) our experience here has definitely shown that education up to standard V does to a large extent ensure permanent literacy. Compulsory education up to standard VIII or the age of 14 is also our ultimate objective: our splitting

[I am sorry I did not mark the note as p 3 CF for sec.]
(with a book).

A/12/47



(with Report)

it up into stages is only a matter of practical expediency.

'D' at page 1 c.f.: The age of 11, or the end of standard V, is nevertheless a definite stage; and post-primary education, whether for trades, or by way of secondary education will meanwhile continue to be in vogue on voluntary footing.

'E' at page 1 c.f.: As indicated against 'D' above, it is not the intention that post-primary education should be stopped, on the other hand secondary and middle schools are largely increased recently, and are increasing.

'F' at page 1 c.f.: But there is also the point, on the other hand, that if we concentrate on only a few areas for compulsion up to the standard VIII year by year, criticism will be strong, and will be justified, that we are leaving other large areas altogether neglected meanwhile - and particularly so, as the process, that way will take an extremely long period before the whole Province is covered by the scheme of compulsion.

Even for a scheme up to standard V we are finding difficulty about staff and accommodation - apart from the question of finance.

These difficulties will be accentuated if we want a scheme of compulsion upto standard VIII right from the start. If we set apart as much money each year as we have been able to do during the last two years, the areas where we will be able to introduce such a scheme will be much smaller than under the present scheme, and the period within which we will have compulsion covering the whole Province will be very long indeed; our present scheme will have the advantage of more rapid introduction of compulsion and over a comparatively larger area each year.

For the reasons indicated above we may say that we wish to adhere to the scheme which has already been accepted here.

15/10/47
1/11/47
1/11/47
15/10/47

per A draft letter is only for app.
But it may see

5-11-47

6/11/47

7/11/47 Dev.
Fin.

(with what
to be returned)

E.P.H. No. No.

77859 Br - 2

7-11-47

Dist (P.D.V.) Dept.

(Previous note of this. dep't. on p. 1 ante).

The further notes of E.P.H. on

top 1-2 above, the orders in circulation
on p. 4 ante. and the draft letter below
be perused and the file passed on to the

10/11/47

10/11/47

J.S. H. in
10/11/47

Dev (P.D.V.) Dept

1223/47-2

13-14-47

14 NOV 1947

68863

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Fin (P.W.R.) Dept

The letter from the Govt of India, Ministry
of Education on pp 1-3 C.F., notes of Dev and E.P.H.
on top 1-4 above and the draft letter to Govt of India
below may be perused and the case returned to E.P.H. no.

17/11/47 18/11/47

15/11/47

19/11/47

E.P.H.

B2

Fin no 68863 Part 1

18/11/47

9/883
14 NOV 1947
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

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me
12/11/47