

close
work

Sec II-27-15,004-22-8-46.

Edu.

(1947) Department.

Ms SERIES.

G.O. NO. 389.

Dated 3.3.1947.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Schools - Special - Victory Memorial School for the
Blind, Poonamallee - Appointment of an unqualified
Principal teacher as principal - Assessment of
teaching grant - order passed.

Back Papers.

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

Further Papers.

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

No.

Department.

Sectt. II-74.

List of records put up

Number.	Date.	Department.	Signature of Clerk putting up the paper.	Signature of Clerk removing the paper.

(P.T.O.)

Office of the Director of Public
Instruction, Madras, dated 22-9-46.

Dr. S.R.U. Savor, M.A., D.Sc., I.E.S.
Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

The Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Department, Madras.

Sir,
I have the honour to state that the Director of Public Instruction is one of the Ex-officio members on the Board of Governors and the Executive Committee of the Madras Association for the Blind. This Association is running the Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamallee. I may state in this connection that the Education Department was consulting the late Mr. Bell, Principal of the School on all matters relating to the development of the Education of the Blind, Deaf, and other Defectives as long as he was in charge of the Victory Memorial Blind School. He was also assisting departmental officers in examining candidates for Teachers' Certificate in teaching Blind children. Government have recently requested me to collect statistics regarding the number of physically and Mentally handicapped children in this Province. In another reference, I have been asked to offer my remarks on the establishment of provincial Councils for widening the facilities for the education, employment and welfare of the Blind. As the Government have taken up the question of expansion of facilities for the education of the deaf, dumb and blind, advice and co-operation of the experts in this branch of education would be of immense help to the department. With this object in view I suggested to the President of the Association that it was very desirable to have a properly qualified and competent person at the head of the Poonamallee High School so that the department might consult him whenever necessary. A copy of my letter to the president, dated 29th April 1946 is herewith enclosed for your information.

2. It will be observed from my letter to the President, that after the retirement of Mrs. Bell, an irregular appointment was made by appointing one Mr. R.P. Joseph to the post of Principal. The appointment was not only irregular, but the incumbent of the post is, in my opinion, no way qualified to hold the post. He is a secondary grade teacher who is also qualified as a Physical Instructor. Subsequent to the issue of my letter to the President, the Association held two meetings, on 2-5-46 and 16-8-46. Though the suggestions put forward by me to the President regarding the appointment of a Principal for the Poonamallee Blind School were on the Agenda for these two meetings, the question was not taken up for consideration. I am, therefore, inclined to believe that the governing body is not prepared to make any change in the arrangements already made.

3. At the time the vacancy was advertised, no application from a qualified candidate except one from a Bengalee was received. But, since then, I pointed out in my letter No. Nil dated 29-4-46 that a candidate with high qualifications and considerable experience was available and that he was willing to accept the post. Details regarding the candidate referred to are herewith enclosed with his testimonials.

The late Mr. Bell who was well qualified for the post was receiving a salary of Rs.1000/- p.m. The Education Department has been paying a special grant to this institution. The grant paid during the last 3 years is as follows:-

1943-44	...	Rs. 2,779/-
1944-45	...	2,712/-
1945-46	...	2,606/-

Number.	Date.	Department.	Signature of Clerk putting up the paper.	Signature of Clerk removing the paper.

If the governing body of this institution insist on retaining an unqualified man as the Principal of this school, there would be no justification for the payment of government grant. In the absence of a qualified candidate, the present incumbent could have been appointed temporarily but there was no justification for the selection of a secondary grade teacher who would ordinarily have got a maximum pay of Rs.70/- per mensem and who has no qualifications whatever to be the head of a school for the blind and to pay him a salary of Rs.275-20-450 with free house and car allowance. Though it is perfectly clear from the earlier proceedings of the committee that this was intended to be an emergency appointment until a further appointment was made, the later proceedings gave rights of probation to the candidate with the idea of confirming him in the post.

My reasons for opposing this appointment are detailed in my letter to the President referred to above and I bring this matter to the notice of Govt. for such action as they might consider necessary.

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

TRB.24/9

for Director of Public Instruction.

R/S
24/9

COPY OF Letter dated 29-4-46 from the Director of Public Instruction, Madras to the President, The Madras Association for the Blind, T.Nagar.

Sir,

Ref: Appointment of a Principal for the Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamallee.

%%

In September 1945, the members of the Board of Convenors were asked to consider the application of one Mr. Amal Kumar Shah from Calcutta for the vacancy that was likely to occur at the above school. At the meeting of the Board held on 5th November, 1945 it was resolved to form a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Fyfe, Miss Bain and Mr. Raghavan to recommend and name or names of suitable candidates for the Principalship of the School. At the meeting of the Board held on 5th November '45 it was resolved to form a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Fyfe, Miss Bain and Mr. Raghavan to recommend and name or names of suitable candidates for the Principalship of the School. Before this sub-committee made any recommendation, the President on his own authority appointed Mr. R.P. Joseph as Assistant Principal from 1-12-45 to the date of relief of Mrs. Bell and thereafter as acting Principal. Under the rules governing the administration of the Blind School, the creation of a post of Assistant Principal by the President on his own authority is irregular. The President should also have been aware that the appointment of an Assistant Principal was once considered before by the Board and was turned down as being unnecessary. Further the appointment of Mr. Joseph as acting Principal on the retirement of Mrs. Bell was equally irregular because neither the president nor the School Committee were competent under the rules to make the appointment of a Principal for the school. An urgent meeting of the Board was however called for on 22-2-46 to consider among other things the temporary appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph. Item (4) of the agenda for this meeting reads as follows:-

"To consider the temporary appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph, the scale of pay and right to subscribe to the Provident Fund as recommended by the School Committee". The discussions at that meeting and the amendment proposed by Mr. Fyfe at the last meeting of the Board show clearly that there was no recommendation from the School Committee but that the appointment was made solely on the authority of the president himself.

2. In the note by the President issued with the notice of that meeting the President says as follows:-

"Confirmation of the Board is now sought to the emergency appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph as acting Principal until a further appointment is made, in order to enable him to operate on the Principal's Imprest Account in the Imperial Bank, Mount Road". Whether the recommendation was from the School Committee or from the President himself, what they had in mind was that MR. R.P. JOSEPH WAS TO BE AN ACTING PRINCIPAL UNTIL A FURTHER APPOINTMENT WAS MADE. It is clear that the President and the School Committee and, perhaps I should add, the selection committee did not have any idea in their minds that Mr. R.P. Joseph was the most suitable man to be in charge of the School. It was purely a temporary appointment until a suitable candidate was selected for the post.

3. At the meeting held on 22-2-46 it was decided that the appointment made as an emergency measure might be provisionally approved but that it might be considered as a temporary appointment without giving any rights of probation to Mr. Joseph. The Board also requested the selection committee to advertise the post again so as to select a qualified candidate and Mr. G.L. Lobo was co-opted as a member of the selection committee. No action seems to have

have been taken on this matter till the last meeting of the Board. At the meeting held on 8-4-46 Mr. Fyfe moved an amendment to the minutes on this point, pointing out that the appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph was made by the President and not by the School or Selection Committees. While members were agreeable to accepting the amendment, the President seems to have urged on the members the necessity of reconsidering the whole question so as to permit Mr. R.P. Joseph to continue in his post. Further he read out a ~~MEMORANDUM~~ passage from a report which he said he had received from the School Committee on the work of Mr. R.P. Joseph. I regret to point out that the whole procedure seems to be highly irregular. If the School Committee visited the school and sent a report that report should have been placed before the meeting before it could be considered by the Board. It is not known which members of the Committee visited the school or whether the School Committee meeting was convened by the acting Principal, Mr. R.P. Joseph himself. Secondly the Board having resolved at the previous meeting that the selection committee should advertise again and select a qualified person, the School Committee was not competent to make any recommendation regarding the appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph or of any other person to be the Principal of the School. Thirdly at this meeting which was mainly convened for the purpose of confirming the minutes of the previous meeting and where the other item was to consider the amendment proposed by Mr. Fyfe regarding a verbal change in the resolution approving the emergent appointment of a Principal, the minutes of the previous meeting were not read at all. The amendment, though agreeable to the members, was neither voted upon nor recorded and an entirely different resolution about which no notice was given was rush through at the instance of the President. Apart from this may I also question the propriety of undoing a resolution passed by the Board only about five weeks before?

4. I have brought the above circumstances to your notice so that you may be good enough to take such action as may be necessary in the matter. It is no doubt the Madras Association for the blind that has got full authority to conduct the Blind School at Poonamallee and to make the appointments therein; but in the interests of the School I feel very strongly that a properly qualified and competent person should be appointed as the head of the School. I certainly feel that Mr. R.P. Joseph is not so qualified either in his general educational qualifications or in his experience to be in charge of the school. A trained Inter-mediate with a certificate in Physical Training who is eligible in the department for a pay of Rs. 35 to 55 is not a fit person to be the Principal of a Blind School on a pay of Rs. 275 to 400 with ~~year~~ allowance and a free house. He has no technical qualifications whatever and his general knowledge regarding Blind Schools in this country and outside is also nil. Hence at a time when not only the welfare of the Poonamallee school is uppermost in our minds but when the development of the education of the Blind, Deaf and other Defectives is also to be taken up, the department in particular is very desirous of having a ~~proper~~ properly qualified and competent person at the head of the Poonamallee school so that the department may consult him whenever necessary. You are aware that in this Province there are about a dozen institutions for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. We have no competent person to give an opinion on the working of these schools. Similarly we have no person to direct the training of teachers for the blind or to examine such teachers when they come up for certificates of teaching. You must also be aware that the Government of India is anxious

P.T.O.

for a survey to be made of the possibilities of expanding the facilities for such afflicted children. In addition to this the department very often gets various references from the Government of India or elsewhere regarding the systems of training and various other technical questions regarding the teaching of the blind. In all such matters the department was relying on the late Mr. Bell who was the Principal of the Poonamallee School and who was highly qualified in regard to the teaching of the blind. With the appointment now made by the Board, if it is to continue, it will be impossible for the department to refer any matter to the Principal of that School. I do not say that the department has a right to expect this help from the Poonamallee School but the department has definitely appreciated the services which Mr. Bell was always ready to render to the department. In future if the expansion of the education of the deaf, dumb and blind is taken up by the department, advice and co-operation on the part of the Principal of the Poonamallee School would be of immense help to the department. It is only for this reason that I am so anxious that a fully qualified person who is conversant with the working of the blind schools in foreign countries should be in charge of the Poonamallee School.

5. At the last two meetings of the Board I was represented by my Deputy Director, Mr. G.L. Lobo who, I understand put forward the main reasons why it was necessary to advertise again and to select a properly qualified person for the post. I have reiterated these reasons and I hope the Board will give due consideration to the matter, and reconsider the question once again, firstly because, as pointed out in my preliminary paragraphs the procedure adopted in appointing Mr. R.P. Joseph and in the resolution at the last meeting is highly irregular and secondly because the interest of the school in particular and the interest of South India in general make it imperative that a fully qualified technical man should be appointed as the Principal of the School. I understand that there were no qualified applicants who responded to the advertisement in the papers but this is no argument for the appointment of an unqualified person. It is the usual procedure in all departments, when qualified persons do not respond to advertisements to make emergency appointments purely as a temporary measure and to readvertise the post as quickly as possible. Apart from this, I understand that a fully qualified and well experienced person is available and that he is quite willing to accept the post on a reasonable salary, I am willing to get full particulars of the person and send them to you if you desire me to do so."

/True copy/

For Director of Public Instruction.

59
28/1

6

Education and Public Health Department
(B.L.)

Letter/Ref. No. 56829/46-B-Ed. Dated 28 ~~15~~ January '47.

To

The President,

The Madras Association for the Blind,
Thygarayanagar.

Sir,

APPOINTMENT OF A PRINCIPAL FOR THE VICTORY
MEMORIAL SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND, POONAMALLE.

I am directed to invite your attention to
the letter from the Director of Public Instruction
dated 29-4-1946 pointing out the necessity for the ~~appointment~~
appointment of a fully qualified technical person as the
Principal of the Victory Memorial school for the Blind
Poonamalle ~~as~~ *in place of* Mr. R.P. Joseph, the present Principal
~~who is not qualified either by his general educational~~
neither ~~qualifications or by his experience to be in charge of~~
is qualified the head
the School and to enquire whether the Director's sugges-
tion was placed before the Board of Governors and if
at a conf deli
so to report the decision of the Board in the matter.

1822
22.1.47

hr Y. O. S. 4
24.1.47 5 27/1/47

28/1/47 28/1

Poonamallee General

1/2
of the Madras Association of the Blind has appointed one Mr. R.P. Joseph as the Principal of the Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamallee even though he is not qualified for being the head of the institution and that no action has been taken by the management on his suggestion that steps should be taken to appoint a fully qualified technical man as the Principal of the School treating the appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph as a temporary one. Being an aided institution, it is open to reduce the amount of grant or with-hold the grant paid towards the maintenance of the institution, if the Governing body of the institution insist on retaining an unqualified person as the Principal of the School.

The President of the Madras Association for the Blind may be asked to request the action taken on the letter of the D.P.I. on pp 3-5 c.f.

A draft letter is submitted for approval.

The Madras Association for the Blind

Patron:

H. E. THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS

President:

SIR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI, C.I.E.

Hony. Secretary:

DR. K. MANJUNATHA RAO, F.R.C.S., D.M.R., ETC.

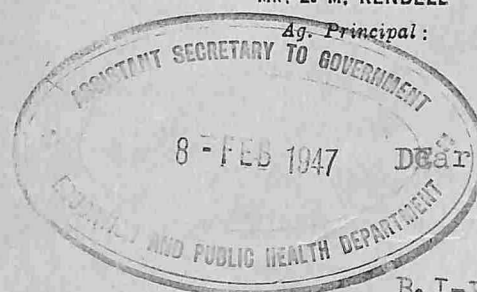
Hony. Treasurer:

MR. L. M. RENDELL

Ag. Principal:

"Sri Nivas",
48, Harris Rd, Egmore,
Madras, 6-2-47.

The Secretary to Govt. of Madras,
Education & Public Health Dept.,
Fort St. George, Madras.



Dear Sir,

Reference:- your letter No. 56829/46.

B.I-Edn., dated then 28th Jan. 1947 re: the appointment of a Principal for the Victory Memorial Blind School, Poonamallee.

The letter dated 29-4-1946 of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, was placed before the Board of Governors of this Association. An extract from the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors held on 25-1-47 concerning the subject is furnished as desired.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

R. Manjune N Rao

Hony. Secretary.

x "Resolved that Mr. R.P. Joseph be confirmed as Principal of the Victory Memorial

The Madras Association for the Blind

Memorial Blind School, Poonamallee, with effect from the 1st January 1947 and be ~~xxxxi~~ directed to undergo the course in the teaching of the blind as soon as facilities are available in India at his own cost. Carried unanimously."

<i>W.E.</i> C.No. 51829/81/46	Edn. & P.H. Department (B1). TELEPHONIC MESSAGE.
<i>23/10/46</i> <i>DP</i> <i>25/11/47</i>	From The Assistant Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department.
<i>25/11/47</i> <i>DP</i> <i>25/11/47</i>	To The Deputy Director of Public Instruction, Office of the D.P.I., Madras.
<i>25/11/47</i> <i>DP</i> <i>25/11/47</i>	Sub: Schools - Special - The Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamallee - Appointment of Principal.
<i>25/11/47</i> <i>DP</i> <i>25/11/47</i>	Ref: D.P.I.'s letter R.C.No.7396-E2/46 dated the 22nd September '46. It is stated in the letter cited above that if the Governing body of the Victory Memorial School insist on retaining an unqualified man as principal, there would be no justification for the payment of Government grant. Please say ^{urgently} what exactly is the recommendation of the Director i.e., whether he proposes that the grant payable to the institution

institution on the employment of the principal should be cut out
or whether no grant should be paid to the institution as ^{in whole} such.

h
25-2-47

P.C. to go. ✓

dp
mk

POST COPY OF TELEPHONIC MESSAGE DATED 27--2--1947



From the Director of Public Instruction, Madras.

To the Assistant Secretary to Government, Edn & P.H. Dept.

Sub: SCHOOLS - Special - Victory Memorial School for the blind
Poonamallee - Appointment of the Principal.

Ref: Your T.M. dated 25-2-1947.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors of the Madras Association for the Blind held on the 25th January 1947, it has been resolved to direct the present Principal of the Victory Memorial Blind school viz Mr. R.P. Joseph to undergo the course in the teaching of the blind as soon as facilities become available in India.

2. In view of the above it is recommended that the salary paid to the present Principal may be left out of account for purposes of calculation of grant for the institution so long as he remains unqualified and that I may be permitted to assess grants in respect of the other teachers of the school and disburse the grant. As the financial year is coming to a close I request that the orders of Government may be communicated to me soon.

Gedda

For Director of Public Instruction

P.R.K. 28/2/47

10 12

Example

Schools - special - Victory Memorial School for the Blind
Poonamalle - Appointment of an unqualified teacher as
Principal - Assessment of teaching grant - orders passed

11/4

From the DP 9 Memo 7396 E 2/46 & 22-9-46

12/4

From the Honorary Secy, the Madras Association
for the Blind & 6.2.47

13/4

From the DP 9 Post copy of TM dated 27.2.47

~~Sp at mce~~
27/3/47

Order no 389. Edu dated 3.3.47.

14/4

In the circumstances stated, the Govt approve
the proposal of the DP 9, Madras, that the salary
paid to Mr R. P. Joseph the present Principal
of the Victory Memorial School for the blind
Poonamalle may be left out of account for
purposes of calculation of the teaching grant for
the institution so long as he remains unqualified.

(B.I.)

Schools---Special---The Victory Memorial School for
the Blind, Poonamalle---Appointment of Principal.

From the D.P.I. Rc. No. 7396 E2/46 dated 22-9-46.

THE D.P.I. has brought to the notice of Govt. that after the retirement of Mrs. Bell, the President of the Madras Association of the Blind has appointed one Mr. R.P. Joseph as the Principal of the Victory Memorial School for the Blind, Poonamalle, even though he is not qualified for being the head of the institution and that no action has been taken by the management on his suggestion that steps should be taken to appoint a fully qualified technical man as the Principal of the School treating the appointment of Mr. R.P. Joseph as a temporary one. Being an aided institution it is open to ^{the D.P.I.} reduce the amount of grant or withhold the grant paid towards the maintenance of the institution, if the Governing body of the institution persist on retaining an unqualified person as the Principal of the School and fail to take steps to appoint a qualified person.

2 The President of the Madras Association for the Blind may be asked to report the action taken on the letter of the D.P.I. on pp 3-5 c.f.

3 A draft letter is submitted below for approval.

18872
22.1.47

24.1.47 S 21/47

[Letter No. 56820/46-47-2, 20/1/47]

From the Honorary Secretary, Madras Association
for the Blind 26.2.47

The Honorary Secretary of the Madras Association for the Blind states that the letter from the D.P.I. in regard to the appointment of a qualified person as the Principal of the

The Director is permitted to assess grants in respect of
the other teachers of the school and disburse the teaching
grant to the institution before the close of the current
year

3.3.47

3.3.47

To ✓
The D.P.I.
Seps 18
2/3

Victory Memorial School for the Blind at Poonamalle was placed before the Board of Governors but the Board resolved that Mr. R.P. Joseph be confirmed as Principal of the Victory Memorial School, Poonamalle, with effect from 1-1-47 subject to the condition that he should undergo the course for the teaching of the blind as soon as ~~the~~ facilities are available in India at his own cost. In view of this the D.P.I. recommends that the salary paid to the present Principal may be left out of account for purposes of calculation of grant for the institution so long as he remains unqualified and that he may be permitted to assess grants in respect of other teachers of the school and disburse the grant.

2. Attention is solicited to rule 64 of the M.E.R. in regard to the qualifications of the staff in schools for defective children. It is open to the Director to fix the general educational and professional qualifications of the Principal. From portion marked 'A' on pages 2 and 4 c.f. it will be seen that Mr. Joseph has neither the general educational qualifications nor experience to be in charge of the school. Under rule 45 of the Grant-in-Aid Code it is open to the Director to fix the amount of teaching grant taking into consideration the fact that the Principal of the School is not qualified. His recommendation at X above may therefore be accepted. A draft T.M. is submitted below for approval. As the Director wants immediate orders for the disbursement of the grant the T.M. may be issued, and the file may then be circulated to H.M.(Edn.) for orders.

hr
1.3.47 S 1/8nd
y 1/18nd
3/3/47

A draft order is submitted below for approval

hr
3.3.47



Extract at (a)
190/1827 Sm (b)
22/12/42
11.15.16 & 25.26.4

11.6.7g Boco 40

1/47

From

The Superintendent, E & P H (B.) Section.

To

The Superintendent, E2 Secchis.

Office of the Director of Public Instruction

Ref: G.O. no. 689 Edn. & 3.3.47. regarding the appointment of an unqualified principal in the Victory Memorial School for Blind.

Please correct the number of the

Govt order as 389 Edn & 3.3.47. instead of numbered as 689 Edn. & 3.3.47.

Done
4/3/47

Min
4/3
4/3/47



GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Guindy,
13th June 1947.

My dear Subramanian,

Could you inform me whether the Government Grant in aid for the Victory Memorial Blind School, Poonamallee, managed by the Madras Association for the Blind, has been refused this year and, if so, for what reasons. If there is any file on the subject in the Secretariat please circulate it for His Excellency's perusal.

Yours sincerely,



J. B. Brund
13647

M.V. Subramanian Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Madras 9.

52/30

52/30 (M)

Please see the correspondence leading to go
5/12-13 of NO 389 200 dated 3.3.47 in which the Govt
approved the S.P.D.'s proposal that the salary
paid to Mr R.P. Joseph the present Principal of
the Victory Memorial School for the Blind
Poonamallee may be left out of account
for purposes of calculation of teaching grant
for the institution so long as he remains unqualified.
The Director was asked to agree that the grant
due to the institution for the remaining 12 months of the year
has not been refused as mentioned in A above.
The file may be sent to Governor's Secy.

F-1295C.

18 JUN 1947

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P.H. DEPT.
24 JUN 1947

EDN. V.O. 14-647
14-647

Seen & returned with thanks

J. B. Brund
20647 5.5

24641M

The paper may now be filed with
J. O. No. 389 Edm. dated 3/3/47

(J)

lin
24641M
1000
24/6/47

lin
24641

24641

IX

24641M