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G.O. NO. MS.977Edn.

Dated 10-5-1947

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly question - Compulsory elementary education - extension of the scheme - Consultation ~~xxxxxxx~~ with the members of Legislature - Notes recorded.

Back Papers.

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

Further Papers.

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

Secretariat of the Madras Legislature.
Assembly Section.
18-12-1946.

STARRED QUESTION

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN, M.L.A.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

* Q.- No. 76 Will the Hon'ble the
Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

(a) whether ~~xxxxxx~~ the
members of the Legislature are consulted by
the District Boards in the matter of the selection
of areas for the extension of compulsory
education in the districts;

(b) whether in extending
compulsory education the claim of the backward
communities for priority in this regard is
borne in mind;

(c) The reason why Welfare
Officers have not been appointed by the Govern-
ment to implement their scheme of compulsory
education;

(d) upto what age compulsory
elementary education is being enforced on (i) boys
(ii) girls; and

(e) whether religious
instruction is provided for Muslim pupils in areas
where compulsory education has been introduced?

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Q. t.

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religious instruction in a faith other than ~~those~~^{that} to which the child belongs is compulsory. Provision of religious instruction is left to the discretion of the managements. In the special

24/1/47
school for Muslims religious instruction can be imparted by a member of the staff. In non-muslim schools a part-time religious instructor may be employed if there are sufficient numbers of pupils and religious instruction imparted out of school hours.

28/1/47

79352-1
24.1.47

Copy to Public (Elections) Department
Assembly Sect. (3 copies)

BESE: SULTAN MIR AMIRUDIN, M.L.A.

Will the Hon'ble the Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

(a) Whether the members of the Legislature are consulted by the District Boards in the matter of the selection of areas for the extension of compulsory education in the districts;

(b) whether in extending compulsory education the claim of the backward communities for priority in this regard is borne in mind;

(c) the reason why Welfare Officers have not been appointed by the Government to implement their scheme of compulsory education;

(d) upto what age compulsory elementary education is being enforced on (i) boys; (ii) girls; and

(e) whether religious instruction is provided for Muslim pupils in areas where compulsory education has been introduced?

Education and Public Health Department.

Answer.

(a) No.

(b) It is open to the District Board to select such areas which contain a large number of people belonging to the backward communities.

(c) The Government have not found it necessary to appoint Welfare Officers for the present, but a proposal to appoint attendance Officer is under consideration.

(d) Compulsory elementary education is enforced in respect of boys upto the age of 14 and upto the age of 12 in respect of girls. In the areas served by separate girls' schools, compulsion is enforced upto age of 14 for girls.

(e) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the provisions of Section 1 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920 under which no guardian be compelled to cause a child to attend a school in which attendance of religious instruction in a faith other than that to which the child is compulsory. Provision of religious instruction is left to the discretion of the managements. In the Special Schools for Muslims religious instruction can be imparted within school hours by a member of the staff. In non-muslim schools a part-time religious instructor may be employed there are sufficient numbers of pupils and if religious instruction is imparted out of school hours.

Secretary to Government.

The above answer has been approved by
The Hon'ble Mr. T.S. Avinashilingam Chettiar,
To the Secretary, Madras Legislature (Assembly Section).
Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

S/c
S. & P.H.U.O. No. 79352 -1, dated 24-1-1947.

Madras Legis. I-3-1,206-23-12-38.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE,
Cheparuk, dated the 20-12-1936.

79352

QUESTION No. 76
be held on the

for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly to
193 .

Two copies of this question are forwarded to the L. and P. U. Department.

The question has been admitted.

20/12/46

20/12/46

To

The L. and P. U. Department.

6406/46 - 20L

Leg. Assembly -
Question - Compulsory
elementary educa-
tion - selection of
areas - Religious
instruction

2 A draft answer is sent for
consideration.

8.1.47

Consult
SS

to make 'consultation'
of members
of the Legislature
an essential
condition.

Para 3
1059-64 63-64 CF
JH 10.5 (1)
12.7.47

for the
file

Clause (a) of the question:

The selection of villages for compulsion ~~was~~ ^{are} made by the inspecting officers of the Education Department in consultation with the Presidents of the Dist. Boards. The following principles ~~were~~ ^{are} ~~borne~~ ^{followed} in mind in making the selection:-

1. The areas should be served by one or more schools;
 2. The centres should be such that additional accommodation could easily be secured.
 3. Supervision should be rendered easy.
- Bigger ^② centres ~~were~~ selected in 1945-46 and smaller centres ~~have been~~ selected this year. It was not, therefore, considered necessary to consult the members of the Legislature, ~~(as they may not be in a position to advise on these points)~~. ^{As selection is made on definite principles, it is not necessary}

Clause (b) of the question:

The scheme of Compulsory elementary education applies to all communities. The need for giving special priority for backward communities is not understood. Poor children attending elementary schools in compulsory areas are supplied with free midday meals and books and slates. Presumably, the M.L.A. suggests that areas mostly inhabited by backward communities should be selected for compulsion. In view of the principles referred to at "A" above, it does not appear that the suggestion can be adopted.

Clause (c) of the question:

The scheme of Compulsory elementary education is being ~~looked after~~ ^{supervised} by officers of the Education Department. The Director of Public Instruction has separately submitted proposals for the appointment of attendance officers. Apparently the M.L.A. refers to the Welfare Officers recommended by the Education Sub-Committee. It is not at present the intention of the Government to appoint such officers.

Clause (d) of the question:

Compulsory elementary education is enforced in

6/1

respect of boys upto the age of 14 and upto the age of 12 in respect of girls; in areas served by separate girls' schools, compulsion is enforced upto the age of 14 for girls. In the areas selected for compulsion, boys who have attained on or before the date of introduction of the scheme the age of 10 and girls who have attained the age of eight have been exempted from compulsory attendance at schools, as these children if brought to schools cannot be retained there till they complete the school course.

Clause (e) of the question:

Prior to 1933, the policy of the Government ~~was~~ was that public funds should not be utilised for imparting religious instructions to school children. In that year an exception was made in the case of Muslims. Religious instruction can be provided in the Muslim schools within the school hours.

It was assumed that a member of the staff would be able to impart religious instruction to pupils. ^{in case school} The teacher ^{or} can be paid an extra allowance for the purpose. In the case of non-Muslim schools, religious instruction can be imparted outside school hours provided that there are Muslim pupils in the

Schools. A part-time religious instructor ^{may} will be employed for the purpose. ^{or a small remuneration may be paid to a member of the staff if he can impart religious instruction.}

In 1939, when the syllabuses for elementary schools were revised religious instruction was included in the list of optional subjects. ~~Thus~~ Thus religious instruction can be imparted ^{now} (to all children in elementary schools within the school hours, if the management is willing to do so.

These instructions apply to compulsory and non-compulsory areas. In compulsory areas the guardian is exempted from sending his children to schools, in which attendance in religious instruction, in a faith other than that to which the child belongs, is compulsory. A Muslim parent cannot refuse to send his child to a school in a compulsory area on the plea that religious instruction is not provided in that school.

2. A draft answer is sent for

consideration

28/1/47 S



The answer may be altered as follows:

"(b) It is open to the District Board to select such areas which contain a large number of people belonging to the backward communities.

"(c) The Government have not found it necessary to appoint Welfare Officers for the present, but a proposal to appoint attendance officers is under consideration."

Otherwise the answer is approved.

15A
21-1-47

with reference to the orders of H-11 (Edn.) above clauses (b) and (c) of the draft answer have been amended altered. It may now be despatched to the ^{Assembly} Secretariat.

22-1-47

28/1/47

Extension of compulsory education in districts.

* 86 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the members of the Legislature are consulted by the District Boards in the matter of the selection of areas for the extension of compulsory education in the districts;

(b) whether in extending compulsory education the claim of the backward communities for priority in this regard is borne in mind;

(c) the reason why Welfare Officers have not been appointed by the Government to implement their scheme of compulsory education;

(d) up to what age compulsory elementary education is being enforced on (i) boys and (ii) girls; and

(e) whether religious instruction is provided for Muslim pupils in areas where compulsory education has been introduced?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“(a) No.

“(b) It is open to the District Board to select such areas which contain a large number of people belonging to the backward communities.

“(c) The Government have not found it necessary to appoint Welfare Officers for the present, but a proposal to appoint attendance officers is under consideration.

“(d) Compulsory elementary education is enforced in respect of boys up to the age of 14 and up to the age of 12 in respect of girls. In the areas served by separate girls' schools, compulsion is enforced up to the age of 14 for girls.

“(e) The hon. Member is referred to the provisions of section 49 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, under which no guardian will be compelled to cause a child to attend a school in which attendance at religious instruction in a faith other than that to which the child belongs is compulsory. Provision of religious instruction is left to the discretion of the managements. In the Special Schools for Muslims, religious instruction can be imparted within school

hours by a member of the staff. In non-Muslim schools a part-time religious instructor may be employed if there are sufficient numbers of pupils and if religious instruction is imparted out of school hours."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I request the Government to see that at least the Muslim Members of the Legislature are consulted by the District Board with regard to the selection of areas for the extension of compulsory education in the districts? My idea is that the Muslim Members of the Legislature in the various districts concerned should be consulted by the Presidents of District Boards before the latter decide about the areas to which compulsory education should be extended."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am afraid this House would not like to make a distinction between one Member of the Legislature and another."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Then the rule may be made applicable to all."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Members themselves could make their suggestions voluntarily."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"My idea is that not only Muslim members but all the Members of the Legislature may be consulted."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Hon. Members of this House have great influence with the District Boards and it is not necessary for the Government to recommend to the District Boards that they may be consulted."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that discrimination has been made against the Muslims in the choice of centres and that they have a grievance in this respect?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am not aware, Sir."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Now that it has been brought to the notice of the Hon. Minister, will he issue instructions to the Presidents of District Boards to consult the Muslim M.L.As. of the district in the matter?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Muslim as well as non-Muslim M.L.As."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is not possible for the Government to issue instructions to consult certain class of M.L.As. as against other class of M.L.As."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that it is not the President of the District Board alone but also the Educational Officer who is responsible for the selection of these areas?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Yes, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"With reference to the answer to clause (b), may I remind the Hon. Minister that it has been specifically recommended by the Post-War Reconstruction Committee that backward communities should be given preference in the matter of the extension of compulsory education?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am obliged to the hon. Member for the information."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Will the Hon. Minister for Education issue instructions to the Educational officers that the local Members of the Legislature should be consulted in the matter of selection of areas for the extension of compulsory education?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir, it will not be possible. It will not work. This responsibility has been entrusted to institution which is elected on a different basis. If we connect both it will lead to confusion."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"With reference to clause (c), may I ask the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that that renowned Educationist the late Sir Meverel Statham has suggested in the Post-War Reconstruction Committee report that welfare officers should be appointed with the idea of making compulsory education effective. May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he would bear this in mind and appoint welfare officers?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have referred in my answer to the appointment of attendance officers. They will be almost welfare officers also."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"With reference to clause (d), I find that a differentiation is made between boys and girls. May I request the Hon. Minister to look up the Sargeant Report and other reports in regard to this matter? He will find that in none of these reports has it been recommended that differentiation should be made between boys and girls. May I therefore request the Hon. Minister to see that no difference is made between boys and girls?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am afraid this differentiation is made in deference to the wishes of the parents."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have not called the hon. Member. We shall proceed to the next question."

For future reference the notes may be
10/5
Abdullah
Legislative Assembly
Question - Compulsory
edu. - Extension of
Scheme - Consultation
with the members of
the Board - Notes included.
Corder/112 977 B. den. d. 10-5-47
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Cf. 2 11
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