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E & P. H. (1948) Department.

Education SERIES.

G.O. NO. 1261

Dated 18-5-48.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Assembly Question no 263. A.
Appointment of poet Laureats in the various
languages — Papers — Recorded

Back Papers.

G.O.	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.
26-1-1948.

STARRED.

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI, M.L.A.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*Q. No. 263 A.

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

(a) when the Government propose
announcing the appointment of Laureates in the
various languages; and

(b) what is the basis of their
selection?

SK/26.1.

answered.

TSA
10.3.48

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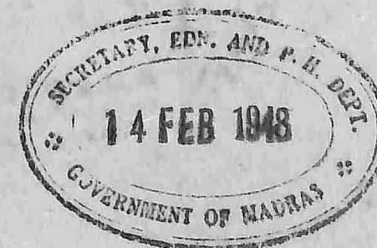
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The advance copy may be circulated to

H.M. (Edn).

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H.M. (Edn.)
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SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE.
ASSEMBLY SECTION.
26-1-1948.

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STARRED.

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI. M.L.A.
EDUCATION & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.
*Q.263.A.

E.P.H. (G3) Dept.
ANSWER.

Will the Hon. the Minister for
Education be pleased to state:

(a) when the Government propose
announcing the appointment of

Laureates in the various languages; and

(b) what is the basis of their
selection?

Clauses (a) and (b).--

Poets for the laureateships
will be chosen with the help of
committees specially constituted
for the purpose. The constitution
of ~~these~~ committees is under con-
sideration. The basis of selection
will be ~~settled only after the~~
~~committees are constituted.~~ *that he should be the best*
poet in that language. The
appointments of poet laureates will
be announced after the *recommendation*
of the Committee is received.
~~is made.~~

vide p 1946
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To the Sectt., Madras Legr.
(Assembly section - 3 copies)

To the Pub (Elenos).

Spare copies 3.

E.P.H. NO. 9027-93-48.
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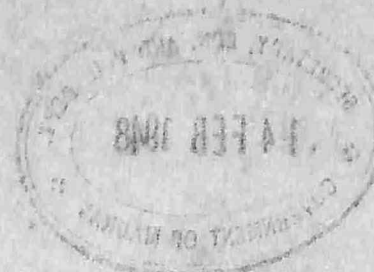
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO. 263.A - (Starred). 30

(123) Sri A. VEDARATHNAM PILLAI, M.L.A.

Will the Honourable the Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

- (a) when the Government propose announcing the appointment of Laureates in the various languages; and
- (b) what is the basis of their selection?

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANSWER.

(a) and (b): Poets for the laureatehips will be chosen with the help of committees specially constituted for the purpose. The constitution of these committees is under consideration. The basis of selection will be that he should be the best poet in that language. The appointments of poet laureates will be announced after the recommendation of the Committee is received.

Secretary to Government.

To the Secretariat, Madras Legislature (Assembly Section).
" Public (Elections) Department, Madras.

The above answer has been approved by the Honourable
Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar.

RPH. NO. 9027-43-48-1
25th February, 1948
S.S. No.

S/c

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE,
Fort St. George,
Chennai, dated the 5.2.1948.

9027
QUESTION No. 263-A for the ^{next} meeting of the Legislative Assembly to be held on the 194.

Two copies of this question are forwarded to the E and P. H. Department.
The question has been admitted.

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To
The E and P. H. Department.

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E.P.H (93)

PRC (A) / 47

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Please see the L.A. Question in the c.f. The question is starred. Poets for the laureateships are to be chosen once in five years with the help of Committees specially constituted for the purpose from amongst those who are residents and belong to the Province. The Committees referred to above have not yet been constituted; the 3 universities in the Province and Universities of Travancore and Mysore have been addressed to nominate their representatives on the proposed committees and final replies from the Travancore and Andhra universities are awaited. As soon as the committees are constituted and selections made, the appointments of poet laureates will be made by Government. The basis of selection will apparently be settled only after the committees are constituted.

The draft answer below is submitted for approval.

The case may be circulated to H.M. (Edn) for *approval*.

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HR (W.H. (Dm.))

The answer may be as follows:-

Poets for the laureateships will be chosen with the help of committees specially constituted for the purpose. The constitution of ^{these} ~~such~~ committees is under consideration. The basis of selection will be that he should be the best poet in that language. The appointments of poet laureates will be announced after the recommendation of the Committee is received.

TSA

24-2-48

please see the minutes of H.M. (Edn)
above. The draft answer below may
now issue as amended.



Appointment of Laureates in the various languages.

* 123 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) when the Government propose announcing the appointment of Laureates in the various languages; and
- (b) what is the basis of their selection?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“(a) & (b) Poets for the laureateships will be chosen with the help of committees specially constituted for the purpose. The constitution of these committees is under consideration. The basis of selection will be that he should be the best poet in that language. The appointments of Poet Laureates will be announced after the recommendation of the committee is received.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I know whether the Government have appointed those committees, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“The committees have not yet been appointed, Sir. As has
A-2

[10th March 1948]

been explained in the Press Note, the various Universities in the regional areas have been asked to send a representative to those committees and on their recommendation, the Government will make the nomination of the Poet Laureate. Some of the Universities have not yet sent their replies and so the committees have not yet been appointed.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“May I know on what basis the members of the committee will be constituted?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Men of culture and learning in those languages, Sir.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know on what criteria the Hon. Minister will select the members of the committee? Is it on account of their ability, or on account of their knowledge in poetry, that they will be in a position to decide who is the best poet who could be recognized as the Poet Laureate?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“That is exactly the answer I have given in connexion with the question of my hon. Friend Mr. Murthi. Men of culture and learning in those languages will be appointed to the committee, Sir.”

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMIAH:—“Will the Hon. Minister assure this House that he would strictly adhere to the communal Government Order in appointing and in assessing the genius of these Poets Laureate?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I did not think that a genius like my hon. Friend will put a question like that, Sir. The Government have no such considerations in their mind.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know whether the Poet Laureate will be paid any remuneration and what is the sort of poetry that is expected of him?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“The Poet Laureate is the person who will be able to compose the best possible poetry, Sir.”

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know what will be the term of office of the Poet Laureate, is it for life or for a term?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“It is for a term of five years, Sir.”

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—“May I know whether the Government have thought of the consequence of inviting a committee like this, which is to elect the Poet Laureate? Will it not lead to a number of difficulties and create bad blood among persons who are now in the field of letters?”

10th March 1948]

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I am unable to understand the hon. Member's question, Sir. If the hon. Member tells us what he likes us to do, that would be better, Sir.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is it not a fact that a person is born and not made, and in the same way a Poet Laureate is born and not made, and that it would well-nigh be impossible for a committee constituted by the Government to find out who is to be a Poet Laureate?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“It is quite right, Sir, that they are born; but there are also some who are made so sometimes by their own efforts. But these members of the committee will select who is to be the best poet from among those who are already born.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“In view of the importance of the committee, will the Government consider the desirability of these people being chosen by the Senates of the respective Universities?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“We have written to the Universities to send their representatives. The Universities know best how to choose and send their representatives, Sir.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“May I know whether there will be one committee for each language, or one committee for all the languages?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“One committee for each language, Sir.”

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—“As the Government have asked the Universities to send their representatives, will they also in the same way ask the Hindustani Prachar Sabhas and other Hindi Premi Mandals to send their representatives to select Hindi poets?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Hindi poets are not opened for selection in this matter, Sir.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister that culture and education will be the basis of selection for the committee, may I know whether English degree-holders will be eligible for seats in that committee?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Culture and learning in those respective languages, Sir.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know whether the Government expect the Poet Laureate to be an expert in classical poetry or in poetry dealing with the present social and economic matters?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I will be averse to going into matters of details, Sir. I hope that the expert committee will guide us in this matter.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“May I know whether in selecting these Poets Laureate, the works already published by the celebrated poets will be taken into consideration, and in which case, their prose works also will be considered?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Sir, I am afraid, hon. Members have not understood the scheme as it was explained in the Press Note. Nobody applies for the post of Poet Laureate. Their existing works are examined by the committee and the best among them is selected as the Poet Laureate in that particular language in the Province. The question of prose works does not arise, Sir.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know whether any remuneration will be paid to these Poet Laureate? That question has not been answered by the Hon. Minister. And what are the specific functions of these Poets Laureate?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Rs. 1,000 per year, that is the amount fixed, Sir. It is not a matter of remuneration that counts. It is a matter of recognition. This is given to them not for any specific duties that they are expected to perform, but as a matter of recognition that they are the best poets of the day.”

Please see the answer extracted from the proceedings of the legislature above at pp. 2-5 above. The papers may now be recorded.

17/5/48.

18.5.48.

G.O. No. 126/Edn. dt 18/5/48.

Extract.

L.A.Q. no. 263A -

Appl. of ^{poet} laureates in the various languages -

papers recorded.

17/5/48.

18.5.48.

P.T.O.

