

E + P H (194 9) Department.

my SERIES.

closed

G.O. NO. 132 EGN

Dated 20.1.47

orders on P6 NF.

(11)

[Despatch Abstract.]

School run by the mission Evangelical mission of
Bargar - Krishnagiri (at the) - Balan Pt.
Conversion - 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.

Confidential

D.O. No 69408A/481-21-9-48

Dear Mr. Reddi,

Sub. Schools run by the
Evangelical Lutheran
Indian Mission - Conversion

I am to enclose a ^{copy of} ~~note~~ ^{minutes}
dated 16-9-48
from Hon (Edn) on the above
subject and request ^{you to forward} ~~for~~ your
remarks at an early date

h n i

22/9/48

To
Sri D.S. Reddi,
H.A. (Oxm), H.B.E

Director of public
Instruction
(with a copy of Hon's note)

20/9/48
29/9/48

21/9/48

Yours sincerely
h n i

From S. Nagaraja Maniger M.L.A.

Kaveripattanam P.O.

Salem Dist.

To
Sri. T. S. Arivandilingam
Hon. Minister for Education.
Madras.

Sir,

News have reached me that a Western Missionary who is having an elementary school near Mallappadi, Bargur Firka, Krishnagiri Taluk, Salem Dist. has taken to convert children to Christianity. I learn that some conversions without the knowledge of the parents have already taken place. I also learn that the matter was subsequently reported to the Dist. Board and to the Collector by the villagers. (My information is that the village munsiff of Mallappadi reported the matter). It seems the school is getting grant. Thereupon the Dy. Inspector of ^{schools, Krishnagiri} made enquiries. The Missionary seems to have replied that he gave only "Gnanan-Bnanam" Holy bath, and nothing else. It is learnt that he is regularly having compulsory Bible class.

I have to bring all the above information for your kind notice so that an ^{early} investigation may be ordered and if the truth is as stated ^{above} to take necessary action as is suitable to our Country and traditions. I hope you will pay your kind and immediate attention.

Yours sincerely
S. Nagaraja Maniger
M.L.A.
25.9.48

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E+P+2447
C1

D.O. No. 69408A/48-2C1 Encl dated 20-12-48

confd

Dear Mr. Reddi,

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Schools run by the
Evangelical Lutheran
Indian Mission - Conversion

I am to invite your attention
to my D.O. ~~letter~~ No. 69408A/48-1C1 Encl
dated 21-9-48 and to ~~request~~ ^{ask} you
for an early reply in the matter

yours sincerely,

18/1
28/12/48 S ^{18/1}
M. V. R.

Desptd. in S.C.

21/12/48

To
Smt D.S. Reddi,
M.A (Oxon), M.B.E.

Director of Public
Instruction.

C1 7
Education Department.
From The Director of Public Instruction,
M a d r a s

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, M a d r a s.

R.O.C.No.2897-B2/48 dated 21st December, 1948.

Sir,

Schools run by the Evangelical Luthern Indian Mission-
Conversion.

Reference:-Your D.O.No.69408-A/48-1-C1 Edn., dated 21.9.48.
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I have enquired into the matter and I submit herewith a
copy of the detailed report of the District Educational Officer,
Salem, Roc.No.300-B/48 dated 28.9.1948 and 4.10.1948. In view of the
violation of Rule 9(a) of the M.E.R. relating to Religious Instruction
in schools, the District Educational Officer, Salem has since withdrawn
the recognition of the three elementary schools referred to in his
report cited above. The Manager has also appealed against the District
Educational Officer's Order and the same has been rejected by me. He is
however being informed separately that in case religious instruction is
not made compulsory the recognition withdrawn would be restored.

Yours faithfully,

D. P. Sankaranarayanan
22.12.48

For Director of Public Instruction.

ks.22.12.

3/22/48



phot 11 info

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Copy of this office Roc.No.300/B/48 dated 28.9.1948 to the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore.

Elementary Education--Aided School--complaint of teaching of religious instructions in the M.E.L.I.M. unaided Higher Elementary School, Bargur, Krishnagiri Range--Instructions--Solicited.

Refce.:--Letter Roc.No.540/B/48 dated 1.9.1948 of the Deputy Inspector of schools, Krishnagiri Range.

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Copy submitted to the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore Division, Coimbatore for favour of orders.

2. The three M.E.L.I.M. Elementary Schools in this district are recognised ones but not aided.

3. A copy of the explanation of the resident manager of the M.E.L.I.M. School, Bargur, is also submitted for favour of perusal.

4. In view of the fact reported by the Deputy Inspector and of the manager concerned the Recognition of the schools may be withdrawn.

(True copy).

II.

Copy of letter Roc.No.540/48 dated 1.9.1948 of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Krishnagiri.

Recently a mahazar from the villagers of Barugur was forwarded to this office by the Special Officer, District Board for remarks. The allegations in the mahazar related to the working of the M.E.L.I.M. unaided Higher Elementary School, Barugur in this range and to the activities of its resident Manager Rev. John G.P. Naumann. At the enquiry, the following facts were disclosed.

1. That the teaching of the bible is done every day for 1 period in all standards.

2. That no exemption is given or would be given to any pupil irrespective of his faith from attending the Bible class.

3. That some children who were studying in the school were baptized to Christianity last year. Rev. Naumann refused to disclose the number and names of the pupils.

4. That the pupils so baptized were minors, though according to Rev. Naumann they looked like majors by appearance and

5. That the conversion was performed from his bungalow situated in the same compound as the school and that the parents of the children had not been fully apprised of the fact that their children would be converted to christianity.

Religious or moral instruction is an optional subject included in the scheme of studies for elementary schools and can therefore be taught in elementary schools during working hours. Details rules in regard to the imparting of religious instruction in schools and colleges are given in rule 9(a) of the Madras Educational Rules, introduced by G.O.No.Ms.1444-Education, dated 7-7-1947. These rules are common to all schools, elementary and secondary. According to this rule, religious instruction may be imparted in a school under private management subject to the condition (1) that where the religious instruction given in an institution is in a faith other than that to which a pupil belongs, he shall be exempted from attending the religious instruction classes, if his parent or guardian requests in writing for such exemption and

: 2 :

(2) that the staff, pupils or buildings of any school shall not be utilized for proselytization purposes.

The resident manager told me that no exemption could be given to any pupil from attending the Bible classes as that would militate against the very purpose of the school. The management has violated the 2 conditions above referred to. It is not prepared to conform to the first condition hereafter also. The villagers have protested against the activities of the management and have requested for the opening of a Board school in the village. According to the latest order on the subject, no new school can be opened in a locality already served by a school till all schoolless centres are provided with schools.

I therefore request you to advise me as to what further action has to be taken in the matter so as to make the management of M.E.L.I.M. schools conform to the conditions relating to the imparting of religious instruction. There are 3 M.E.L.I.M. Schools in this range. And there are many in other taluks. As the matter is a delicate one, I request you to inform me about the nature of the order I am to serve on the management.

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III.
Copy of explanation of the Resident Manager, Bargur, to the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Krishnagiri Range.

Dear Sir,

In respect to the petition of some villagers of Bargur village of no date, submitted by you to me on 23.8.1948, I wish to state that the allegations contained in the petition are not true to the facts. Specifically I wish to state the following facts.

1. A school was opened in this village in the year 1899 at the specific request of the villagers to have a Christian Day School. All the implications of this were well known to the villagers, namely that it involved the teaching of the Christian religion as the chief purpose of the school. When due to laxness in attendance the school was closed in 1925 the villagers again petitioned me to re-open the school from 1930, on, stating that they had no objection to the teaching of religion. When their request was not acceded to a Board school was opened and conducted for some time. At the villagers' special request the Mission School was reopened in 1937 with the distinct understanding that the teaching of the Christian religion would be the chief consideration under which the school would be conducted.

2. At no time was there a change in the policy of the school. The teaching of the religion took a foremost place in the conduct of the school and the villagers were always aware of the fact. Nothing was done in secret where the general policy of the school is concerned. The villagers have always had access to the records of the school and no hindrance was placed in the way of ascertaining of the policy of the school.

As to the alleged conversion of certain children, wherever the circumstances warranted the assumption that the religious convictions of the persons involved were set and that outwardly all the acts of a Christian such as attending divine services, prayer meetings, and moving on an intimate level with the other Christians in the community were being followed, no hindrance was placed in the way of these persons being accepted into the Christian faith through the rite of baptism. Where there was reason to believe that the children in question were still minors the parents of these children were consulted.

3. The management is not prepared to drop religious instruction from its syllabus. It would militate against the very purpose of the school and mean a decided breakdown in the morale of the school if exceptions were to be made in the attendance of religious instruction on the part of certain children.

3.

: 3 :

4. Opening of the religious records to the view of the general public would involve the revealing of certain confidences which the management is not prepared to do unless asked to so by the parties concerned.

5. It is reiterated that no secret instruction is being imparted to any one. The religious instruction is done openly and anyone is welcome to attend and receive instruction. The allegation that secret instruction is being given is refuted.

Yours sincerely,
sd. John G.P. Naumann.

Roc.No.540/48 dated 14.9.1948.

Resubmitted to the District Educational Officer, Salem.

2. The mahazar was retransmitted to the Special Officer, District Board with remarks. It may kindly be got direct from the District Board Office for kind perusal and return.

3. The statement of the resident manager in original was also sent to the Special Officer, District Board, Salem. A copy of the same is submitted above for kind perusal.

sd. C.R. Ramanathan,
Deputy Inspector of Schools,
Krishnagiri.

(True copy).

IV.

(CONFIDENTIAL.)

Office of the District Educational Officer,
Salem, Dated 4.10.1948.

D.O.

Sir,

With reference to your D.O. (Confidential), dated 24th September 1948, and the Hon'ble Minister's minutes regarding conversion by the representative of Mussorie Mission of Bargur, Krishnagiri Taluk (Salem) I beg to submit that I visited Bargur and made enquiries. I was able to gather the following particulars from the people of Bargur.

1. 6 children (who were studying in the school) have been converted so far without the permission of the parents.

2. No conversion has taken place among the teachers-employed in the school before. At present all the teachers employed belong to the Lutheran Mission.

The service of a teacher, Aruldoss by name was dispensed with, in May 1948 by the Management, as he is a non-Lutheran.

3. Of the six conversion mentioned above, four were made in the bungalow of the resident manager. The bungalow is situated in the same compound as the school.

The other two were made outside the school in the church nearby.

No conversion has hitherto been made outside the school among the people of the locality.

I had a talk with the Resident Manager, Mr. John E.P. Naumann

P.T.O.

: 4 :

and I find that his aim in running the school is to impart religious instruction as one of the subjects to all the children without exception and as per rule it is objected to and in this connection I beg to state that I agree with the view of my predecessor submitted in his D.O. dated 29.9.1948, and I recommend that the recognition of the school may be withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,

** *** **

To Sri V.R.Ranganathan, B.A. (Hons.) B.Litt. (Oxford)
Deputy Director of Public Instruction,
Madras.

(True copy).

CONFIDENTIAL.

Secretary, E.& P.H.



69408A
17-9-48

While on tour in Salem District, I received complaints from some people that one Rev. John E.P. Naumann of Bargur, Krishnagiri Taluk, who is the representative of ^{Misery} Evangelical Lutheran Indian Mission, is making conversions through the schools run by that Mission and it is causing a lot of agitation. The man himself met me at Krishnagiri. He accepted that some conversion is being made. He told me that Christian religious instruction is being given in schools and that they do not forcibly make conversion. Even from the information that he gave me it seems there is ground for the complaint. The President of the District Congress Committee also tells me that these accounts are true.

Mr. Naumann also told me that his schools are not receiving grants. The schools run by the Mission and not receiving grant are as follows:-

- 6 schools near Bargur in Krishnagiri Taluk;
- 3 schools in Krishnagiri;
- 35 schools in N.Arcot Dt.
- 1 High school in Ambur;
- 1 High School in Vadakangulam in Tinnevely dt.

He said that as these schools are not receiving grants, we should not do anything to stop these schools even in view of the complaints. This is a dangerous claim that one may conduct schools and may be allowed to convert in the schools, if he does not receive grants for them. The matter must be examined from that point of view. ^{+ reported}

SA

16 9-48

H.M. Education.

E+P H Dept.

Please see the minutes of Hm (Edn) ¹ above. Perhaps the remarks of the DPI may be called for in the first instance. Subj.

2

to order a draft. D.O. is submitted for approval

20/9/48
21/9/48

BM
21/9/48
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(Issued as D.O. No. 69408A/48-IC/EDN dated 21-9-48)

10/4

CONFIDENTIAL.

CL 5

3

Chief Secretary.

While on tour in Salem District, I received complaints from some people that one Rev. John E.P. Naumann of Bargur, Krishnagiri Taluk, who is the representative of Misery Evangelical Lutheran Indian Mission, is making conversions through the schools run by that Mission and it is causing a lot of agitation. The man himself met me at Krishnagiri. He accepted that some conversion is being made. He told me that Christian religious instruction is being given in schools and that they do not forcibly make conversion. Even from the information that he gave me it seems there is ground for the complaint. The President of the Salem District Congress Committee also tells me that these accounts are true.

7244
16.9.48



71527

H.M. Education.

The D.O. may be asked to enquire & report.

10/9/48



Public (General - A)

May be transferred to E+PH Dept for necessary action.

Pub (Genl A) No 7244/48-1
24.9.48

23.9.48

EPH

E+PH Dept
C1.

Please see the note of the Pub Dept above. A copy of H.M.'s minute

above with an additional paragraph
pertaining to this Dept. has
already been received in this
Dept. and ~~action has been taken~~
~~to forward a report on it.~~
Submitted for orders whether

plante

p3 ante

this Dept. may now call for a
report from the D.M. Salem also

/ Jos W. apper
to be being
by

per
26/9/48
dp
27/9/48

DM
28/9/48 S

by
28/9/48 (by)



ISA
8-10-48

28/9/48

Secretary, E. & P. H.

10

p9 ante

Please see herewith a representation from Sri
S. Nagaraja Manigar, M.L.A. This is a matter on which I
have already sent a note. I hope the matter has been
referred to the D.P.I. and the Collector for enquiry and
report.



ISA
28-9-48
H.M. Education.



E + P H Dept
C1

p3 ante
p1 of

Please see the minutes of H.M. (Edn.)
above. A reference ^{on the same subject} has already been
made to the D.P.I. ~~in the matter~~. The
main file on the subject has been
circulated to the H.M. for orders whether
the Collector ^{Salem} should be addressed in
the matter. This may ~~be awaited~~ await
the return of the file from circulation

per
4/10/48
dp
4/10/48

DM
5/10/48

11/10/48

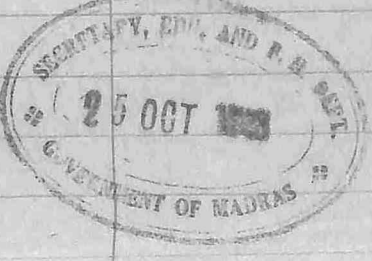
Please see the orders in circulation at
page 6 ante. It has been ~~decided~~ ^{ordered that} ~~not~~
~~to call for a report from the Collector~~
~~this may await the reply from the~~
D.P.I. to the S.O. at page 3 ante may be awaited

per
17/10/48

DM
19/10/48 S

by
19/10/48 (by)

28/9/48



ISA
23-10-48

69408 A. S. 1/4

Please see the minutes of H.M. (Edn) at pages 1, 3 & 5 ante. The D.P. was asked to enquire into the matter and report to Govt. His report is at p. 7 of. The ~~recog~~ will be seen that the recognition of the educational institutions in question has since been withdrawn. No more action seems called for ^{on} the part of Govt. This may be circulated to H.M. (Edn.).

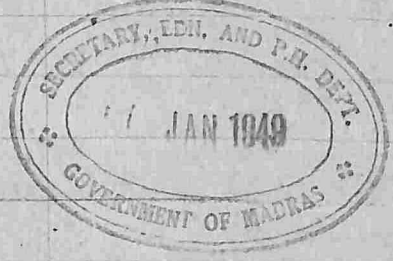
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29/12/49
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DM
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H3/4/49 (Edn. P.H.)

30/12/49

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15-1-49



The papers may be rechecked.

recd
18/1/49

dp
18/1/49

Co/H.S. No 132 ^{Edn. D.} 20/49
Recorded

DM
19/1/49

Subject:
Schools run by
the Marrowie
Evangelical
Mission of
Bargur - Krishna
giri Taluk -
Salem Dt. -
Conversion -
Papers recorded.

20/1/49