

EDUCATION 1950

DEPARTMENT.

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M.S. SERIES.

(1)
(6)

G. O. no. 1566 - Edn.

DATED. 22. 5. 1950.

Sub L. A. Question No. of Will ages

Whether Compulsory primary Education is —
Enforced of the Scheme in force paper

Recorded.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE

(ASSEMBLY SECTION)

28-2-1950.

STARRED:

SRI B.S. MURTHY, M.L.A.,

EDUCATION AND ~~PUBLIC HEALTH~~ DEPARTMENT

* Q. No.307.

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

(a) the number of ^{villages where} ~~places selected for~~
compulsory primary education ^{is in force at present?}

(b) whether all the children of school-
going age in these areas are attending school;
and

(c) what the inducements provided for to
attract children to school are?

svt/28.2.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE
(ASSEMBLY SECTION)
28-2-1950.

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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Will the Hon. the Minister for
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(b) whether all the children of
school-going age in these areas are
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(c) what the inducements provi-
ded for to attract children to school
are?

To

The Sectt. of the Madras Legislature
(Assembly Section) 6 copies
The Public (Ele.) Department.
S.C.

Education Department (C)

Draft Answer

(a) The Hon. Member is referred
to the annexure to the report on
Public Instruction for the year
1947-48 which contains information
regarding the localities where the
scheme of compulsory ele. education
was introduced prior to 1945-46.
The Govt. have also sanctioned the
introduction of the scheme of com-
pulsory education in selected vil-
lages in each district during the
years 1945-46 to 1947-48. The total
number of such villages is 1,816.

(b) ~~It is expected that all~~
~~the children of school-going age~~
~~in these areas should be attending~~
~~schools.~~ Steps ^{are being} have been taken to
^{achieve this} ensure this as far as practicable.

(c) Free supply of books and
slates is made to children in
schools in these areas.

Edm v. 1173 4/50 -1

15-3-50.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE,

Fort St. George, dated the 4.3.1950.



QUESTION No. 307 for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly to which commenced on 27th February 1950. be held on the 19th.

Two copies of this question are forwarded to the Education Department.

The question has been admitted.

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To

The Education Department.

U.O. 1621/50 - 18 R.L.
7.3.50

Education Department (C)

Please see the L.A. Question below.

Clause (a) of the question:- The scheme of compulsory elementary education is in force in 27 municipalities and also in selected villages in each district. Please see the annexure to the report on Public Instruction for 1947-48. During the years 1945-46 to 1947-48, the Govt. sanctioned the introduction of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district. The extension of the scheme to other villages has been temporarily suspended, from 1948-49 on account of the introduction of the scheme of Basic education.

Clause (b) of the question:- It is true that some children of school-going age in the compulsory areas are not attending the schools. Local bodies and the Education Department are taking all possible steps to enrol these few children in schools.

p 32 Mr
Report put up

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Clause (c) of the question:- No special inducements have been provided in these areas to attract children to schools. Local bodies and private managements have been permitted to supply books and slates to children free of cost in these schools. The expenditure incurred by them on the supply of books and slates is taken into account for purposes of subsidy or grant from Provincial funds. A scheme of supply of midday meals to children in compulsory areas was in force up to the end of the year 1946-47. The scheme was given up from 1-4-1947 for financial considerations.

2. A draft answer is submitted below for approval. The file may be circulated to H.M. (E. & L.)

S.S.
13-3-50.

Compulsory primary education.

* 124 Q.—SRI B. S. MURTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the number of villages where compulsory primary education is in force at present;

(b) whether all the children of school-going age in these areas are attending school; and

(c) what the inducements provided for to attract children to school, are?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“(a) The hon. Member is referred to the annexure to the report on Public Instruction for the year 1947-48 which contains information regarding the localities where the scheme of compulsory elementary education was introduced, prior to 1945-46. It is given at page 32 of the report. The Government have also sanctioned the introduction of the scheme of compulsory education in selected villages in each district during the years 1945-46 to 1947-48. The total number of such villages is 1,816.

“(b) No. Not yet. Steps are being taken to achieve this.

“(c) Free supply of books and slates is made to the children in schools in these areas.”

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied that in these 1,816 villages the scheme of compulsory education is being carried to their entire satisfaction?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“This is clause (b) that is whether all the children of school-going age in these areas are attending school? I replied: No. Not yet. Steps are being taken to achieve this.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know what steps the Government are taking to see that compulsory education is enforced in these areas?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“One of the things I have already mentioned in answer to (c) is free

3 (40)

supply of books and slates to the children in schools in these areas. The penal provisions of the Act has to be enforced and there are difficulties in enforcing the penal provision. But we are gently and carefully applying the penal provisions.”

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—“If it is the view of the Hon. Minister that the enforcement of the penal provisions of the Act would do greater harm to the elementary education, if that is the case, may I know, Sir, why arrangement should not be made to remove this unnecessary provision, if the Hon. Minister thinks so?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“From my personal experience as Chairman of the Municipal Council in enforcing the penal provisions, I have found it very hard and difficult. The penal provisions have to be enforced not exactly in a manner which would retard the progress of compulsory education but it has to be enforced carefully.”

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered that giving of mid-day meals and changing of working hours of the school would help to attract poorer children to these schools?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“During the year when mid-day meals were supplied, there was difference in the attendance but regarding the question of changing the hours we shall consider the question.”

SRI V. D. RAMASWAMI:—“In answer to clause (a), the figure was given as representing the progress up to 1947-48. As the question asked relates to the number of schools now working, till to date, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give the figures up to date or at least till the end of last year?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“I do not think there has been additional villages more than what is given in the report.”

JANAB MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM:—“Certain municipalities come forward with proposals to introduce compulsory elementary education. Will the Government reconsider the decision of giving additional financial help to them?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“I think I will be coming before the House in another week for the amendment of the Elementary Education Act regarding the increased payment of compensation to the municipalities and local boards. The question can be considered then.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know, Sir, whether attendance committees are functioning in these areas?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The Act provides for attendance committees. I presume they must be functioning. I can't say with certainty, Sir.”

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“Is it not a fact, Sir, that because of the difficulties experienced by the Chairmen of municipalities in enforcing the penal provisions of the Act, the power has been given to the educational authorities so that they can do it much more efficiently?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“It is not a question of efficiency. I was one of those Chairmen who asked that it should be entrusted to somebody else.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“May I know, Sir, what are the difficulties in enforcing the penal provisions under this Act?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“The penal provision is only to fine the parents. The first fine is eight annas, the second is 12 annas and the third is Re. 1-4-0. The poor people find it more difficult to pay the fine and do not send the children to school. The result has been that these fines have never been realized and there are huge arrears.”

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—“Do the Government expect that the provisions of the Village Panchayat Act when it is enforced will affect the position favourably, I mean the position of the scheme of compulsory primary education and, if so, how?”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—“That is rather an opinion, Sir, whether the new Panchayat Bill will improve the situation, I am fondly hoping it will. That is no

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that in most cases it is not ignorance so much as poverty that is responsible for the parents not being able to send their children to school? That being the case, may I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing these poor children mid-day meals as well as night meals? Will the Government consider the desirability of taking over the burden of maintenance of these poor children from their parents so that they may not be bothered with feeding them?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The same thing which applies to mid-day meals will apply to this also. The cost will be terribly prohibitive for the time being."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"What I exactly wanted to know, Sir, was why the Government did not extend the scheme of compulsory primary education. Was it because of their expectation that the Village Panchayats Bill would improve matters?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The Village Panchayats Bill was not under contemplation when the Government stopped the further extension of compulsion. So any expectation with regard to the Panchayats Bill cannot be the reason for the stopping of the extension."

JANAB ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have enough teachers for the spread of compulsory education in the Province? If they do not have enough number of teachers, what arrangements are they making to increase the number of trained and qualified teachers?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I think that that must be one of the reasons why in 1945, for the time being, the extension of compulsory education was stopped. It is true there is a dearth of teachers."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether it is basic education that is the objective of the Government to spread throughout the Province by means of this compulsory primary education or is it something else?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The compulsory education in these villages that is referred to in the question was taken up long before basic education was attempted in this Province. As regards the policy of the Government in this matter, it has been stated in the Governor's speech at the beginning of this session that it is the policy of the Government to convert all existing schools into basic schools."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the fact, Sir, that the new Constitution gives a guarantee that all children up to 14 years of age will be educated at the cost of the State, may I know whether the Government are at least prepared to extend this compulsory education to the villages included in the firkas selected for special development?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The Constitution does not give any such guarantee, Sir. There is only one directive principle about compulsory primary education. But even before this was thought of, we have been attempting to introduce this. As regards the hon. Member's suggestion to introduce this compulsion in these firkas, we shall try to do that, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the enforcement of the penal provisions of the Elementary Education Act is not vested now in the local bodies, but is entrusted to the District Educational Officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is so, Sir. By an amendment of the Act, the penal provisions are now being enforced by the District Educational Officers."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Has enforcement been more successful now than when the local bodies were entrusted with it in the past?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I think they have been more successful than the local bodies in finding the people who have been in default. In the question of punishment, they have been more successful than the local bodies."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall take ten minutes more and finish the remaining questions also."

JANAB M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have taken serious steps to improve the position of the supply of teachers since they stopped the extension of compulsory education? What are those steps and what are the results, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"I cannot give the figures now, Sir. We have increased the number of training schools. Even in this year's budget, we have provided for twenty additional training schools."

JANAB M. S. ABDUL MAJID:—"Sir, is it not due to the liberality and generous-heartedness of Chairmen of local bodies like the Hon. Mr. Madhava Menon that there is so much of illiteracy in this Province?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"The Hon. Gentleman can have any opinion about me."

JANAB H. S. HUSSAIN:—"Has the Hon. Minister considered the problem that without the spread of compulsory primary education, the spread of adult education will become difficult and the whole thing will move in a vicious circle and the number of illiterates will go on increasing?"

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON:—"It is only a question of arithmetic, Sir."

Sub: L.A. Question -
No. of villages where
Compulsory primary education
is not in force
Enforcement of the scheme
is not in force
Papers. recorded.

The papers may now be recorded.
By No. 1566 Edn. No. 22-8-50
No action seems called for
with reference to X or f. 3/3/50
16/22/8/50

The paper was not in evidence

enclosed 9.1 - 252

under report 4.1

documentary evidence

very in fact

but not report