Sectt. II-27—104,006—4-11-40.

Education (1950) Department.

(Ms) SERIES.

Enclosed

G.O. NO.	2595
Dated	14/9/50

D2
Supt

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legis. Assembly Question- defective Setting of Papers for the S.S.L.C. Pub. Exam in March Steps to obviate Complaints in future Papers recorded.

Back Papers.

C.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	C.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Further Papers.

C.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	C.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. No. (9) Department.

Scott. H.-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.

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

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE

(ASSEMBLY SECTION)

24-3-1950.

STARRED.

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

* Q.NO.643.

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) ~~whether any action was taken~~ if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

PSK/11-4.

Edn (F)

Advance Copy. Separate action is being taken to answer the above Legislative Assembly Question.

May be Circulated to H.M (E&L)

15-4-50

15.4.50

17-4-50

H.M (E&L)

SECRETARY 19 APL 1950 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Draft I 1(a)

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE

(ASSEMBLY SECTION)

24-3-1950.

STARRED.

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

* Q.NO.643.

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) ~~[illegible]~~ if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what~~?~~ action the Government have taken against them?

PSK/11-4.

Draft Answer

(a) No. There is no negative No.

(b) (c) The question do not arise.

15.4.50

17-4-50

17.4.50.

Edn. oo. No. 7119/F/50-1 19-4-50.

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.643 STARRED.

Dated 24th March 1950.

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

...

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

V. Ramaswami
For Secretary to Government.

To The Secretary of the Madras Legislature. (Assembly Section)

Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Law.

Education, U.O.No.7119/F/50-1, dated 19-4-50.

Es/21/4.

(6) 5

Copy of the U.O.Note No.3436/50-5 ML. dated 13-5-50 from the Secretariat of the Madras Legislature, to the Education Department.

Sub: The Madras Legislative Assembly- Prorogation with effect on and from 11.5.50- Return of copies of answers.

...

Copies of answers to the Legislative Assembly, Question Nos. 571, 643, (Starred) are placed below. As these questions have lapsed consequent on the prorogation of the Assembly with effect on and from 11-5-50 the copies of these answers may now returned to the Education Department.

/true copy/

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.643 STARRED.

Dated 24th March 1950.

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

...

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) and (c) The question do not arise.

V. Ramaswami
For Secretary to Government.

To The Secretary of the Madras Legislature. (Assembly Section)
Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Law.

Education, U.O.No.7119/F/50-1, dated 19-4-50.

Es/21/4.

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.643 STARRED.

Dated 24th March 1950.

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

...

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) and (c) The question do not arise.

V. Ramamma

For Secretary to Government.

To The Secretary of the Madras Legislature. (Assembly Section)

Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Law.

Education, U.O.No.7119/F/50-1, dated 19-4-50.

Es/21/4.

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.643 (STARRED).

Dated 24th March 1950.

SRI A. VEDARATHAM PILLAI, M.L.A.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

***

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) and (c) The question do not arise.

For Secretary to Government.

To The Secretary of the Madras Legislature. (Assembly Section)

Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Law.

Education, U.O.No.7110/P/50-1, dated 10-4-50.

Ed/23/4.

13

MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY QUESTION NO.643 ANSWER.

Dated 24th March 1950.

(10)

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

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

...

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

V.Ramaswami
For Secretary to Government.

To The Secretary of the Madras Legislature. (Assembly Section)
Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Law.

Education, L.D.No.Z110/7/50-1, dated 13-4-50.

sa/XX/4.

(11)

NAVAL ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY SQUADRON.

Dated 24th March 1950.

SHRI A. VEDARATHAM PILLAI, M.L.A.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

***

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

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding irregularities in the recent S.S.L.C. examination question papers and if so, what they are;

(b) if so, who are responsible for the same; and

(c) what action the Government have taken against them?

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ANSWER

(a) No.

(b) and (c) The questions do not arise.

V. Ramamurti
For Secretary to Government.

To The Secretary of the Madras Legislature. (Assembly Section)
Copy to the Public (Elections) Department.

The above answer has been approved by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education and Law.

Education. M.O.No.7333/Y/50-3. Dated 23-6-50.

S/o

Re/22/6.

Edn (

17

1119/F/50

S.S.L.C. Public Examination held in 1950 March - defective setting of question papers - Complaints in the Press.

3 a/Vol 1/ at (P)

Memo No. 7119/F/50-3 Edn.d. 26.5.50.

Extracts of Certain Criticisms in the Press regarding defective setting ~~and misleading Translation~~ of question papers in Some of the Subjects of the recent S.S.L.C. Exams are forwarded to the C. of E. He is requested to report on the Criticisms and to State what action he is taking to obviate Complaints of this Kind.

A'an p3 uf

25.5.50.

Dft Memo 27/5

To the C. of E.
with enclosures in Original to be returned (with reply)
paper at (P) Ex. R.1, 24/6/50
N. Ex. R. 20/7/50.

24/5/50

20/7/50

Subject:

S.S.L.C. Examination - March 1950 - Criticism of the Question Papers.

19193
11 JUL 1950
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

R.No.491-B/50.

Station:-Madras. Dated 8th July 1950.

From (Name):- Sri D.S. Reddi, M.A., (Oxon).
(Designation):- Commissioner for Government Examinations,
Madras.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir,

Ref:- Government Memorandum No.7119/F/50-3, Education, dated 26-5-1950.

A copy of the criticism on the question papers passed by the Headmasters' Association, Madras, was furnished to me by its Secretary before the Chief Examiners in the various subjects met in this office to settle the instructions for valuation of the answer papers by the Assistant Examiners. The criticisms were placed before the Examiners in the respective subjects and suitable instructions were drawn up to meet the difficulties or hardships, if any, as pointed out by the association. I give below the Presidency average in important subjects in the examinations held in March 1949 and 1950:-

Subject:	Presidency Average in 1949,	1950.
English.	34%	33%
Elementary Mathematics.	48%	48%
Sanskrit.	48%	48%
Elementary Science.	40%	39%
History & Geography.	33%	36%
History (Optional).	25%	31%
Mathematics (Optional).	43%	41%
Physics.	39%	36%
Chemistry.	40%	38%

It will be seen from the above figures that the candidates have not had any serious handicap in tackling this year's papers despite the alleged severity and shortcomings in certain papers. This year's performance is better than last year's. The total number of pupils is much greater than last year's and on account of all the students - good, bad and indifferent being sent up for the examination, the - Presidency averages in certain subjects have been brought down this year. The students have not however suffered in any way due to the alleged stiffness of the question papers or defects in translation.

2. One of the suggestions made by the Association is that paper setters should not be frequently changed. This is seldom done. No question paper setter is changed within a period of three years except for valid reasons. Question paper setters are usually selected from among experienced educationists, with considerable high school teaching experience. The question papers are examined and approved by a Sub-Committee consisting of three or four members who are proficient in the subject and are experienced educationists. One-third of the number of members of each Committee is replaced each year so that continuity of the policy or mode of work could be ensured.

P.T.O.

The Examiner in English Paper I is setting the paper for the fifth year continuously. There was no criticism against his paper in the past. This year it will be seen as found in the article in the Indian Express that he too has been severely criticised. It will always be seen that only competent persons are appointed as paper setters and members of the paper passing Boards to maintain uniformity and to keep up the standard.

Persons who are highly proficient in the subjects and the languages of the Presidency are normally appointed as translators of the question papers. They are primarily the paper setters themselves or the members of the question paper passing boards and if the translation work cannot be arranged for among them, then persons of integrity of character with proficiency in the subject and language concerned are appointed as translators. In view of the defects in translation pointed out, I propose to take suitable measures to avoid defects in the translation of question papers, in consultation with some members of the Board of Secondary Education.

3. It has been suggested that the examination in Elementary Mathematics may be held in the last day of the examination. The psychological factor underlying this point is true of persons who have a mathematics phoebia. In the case of persons fearing failure in English, they would like to have English as the last paper. The failure in English is much more than that in Elementary Mathematics and the average percentage of marks secured in Elementary Mathematics is also greater than in English. Elementary Mathematics is now held in the second day of the examination and there is no reason to make any change in the existing examination programme.

The enclosures sent along with the Government Memorandum are returned herewith.

For COMMISSIONER.

I.T./10.7.yes

Edn (F)

7119/F/50

S.S.L.C. Public Exams held in March 1950 - defective setting of question papers - Steps to obviate ~~Such~~ Complaints in future - ~~Orders passed~~

30/31

p. 19-20 of From the C.of.E. R.C. No 491-B/50 d 8.7.50

Memo. No. 7119/F/50-4 Edn. d. 31/7/50

The C.of.E is informed that ~~Such of~~ ~~misleading and defective Translation of question papers and Such other defects of the kind that occurred~~ in the Setting of question papers for the S.S.L.C. Exam held in March 1950., should be ~~avoided~~ scrupulously avoided ~~in future~~ and that the persons who were responsible for ~~these~~ the

wide orders at 'X' on p5 ntf. defects of the kind pointed out by the Headmasters' association

P.T.O.

wrong translations should be replaced by other suitable persons.

29.7.50.

26.7.50.

To

The C.G.E

S(CL)

Madras Legis. 3,002—13-8-49.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE,

Fort St. George, dated the 11.4.1950

QUESTION No. 643

ASSISTANT SECRETARY
14 APR 1950
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
7119

for the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly to be held on the ——— 194—.

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

The question has been admitted.

To

The Education Department,

D.O.2794/50-4 M.C

12.4.50.

Edn (F)

Please see the Legis. Assembly question on pl cfs. So far no Complaints have been received in this Dept. ~~The draft memo below to the C.G.E is for approval.~~

No complaints or irregularities have been received by Govt. in regard to the recent S.S.L.C Examination - there does not seem to be necessity to refer the Qn to the C.G.E -

2. The draft answer below is for approval. If a reference is to be made, the

2

draft Memo below may be approved

Let
15.4.50

Better to get the remarks of the C.G.E. for answering supplementary questions, if any. The draft Memo below may come.

17/4/50

S

No need at all. The question relates to complaints if any received by Govt.

17.4.50.

The draft answer below is for approval. The file may be circulated to Hon(E&L)

17-4-50

17.4.50

Issue as there were some Complaints in the press about the Question papers being beyond Comprehension & the translation of Question papers not being correct etc

H.M. (E. & L.)

19/4

(Issued as U.O. No. 7119/F/50 dt. 19.4.50)

Edn(F)

With reference to H.M(E&L's) minutes above, attention is invited to the extract put up at (P). P.W(I&P) Dept may be requested to put up Cuttings or extracts from Press reports, if any, regarding recent Complaints against the S.S.L.C. Examination question papers. If they can easily do so, please

Let
6.5.50

PW (I&P)

Edn. U.O. No. 7119/F
6.5.50.

3

7119/F/50 S

P.W(I&P) Dept

The Cuttings and extracts from press reports regarding Complaint about the recent S.S.L.C. Communal question papers are put up below. The case may be returned to Educn Dept.

Hw
8.5.50.

PW(I&P) 3338/50-1
10.5.50.

PRESS ASSISTANT SEC. 10977 11 MAY 1950 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Edn
F

Please See the minutes of H.M(E&L) overleaf. Paper cuttings from the leading dailies The Hindu, The Hindu and The Indian Express and translations of a letter and a leading article from the Tamil magazine 'Kalki', relating to Criticisms against the defective Setting and misleading translations of question papers in Some of the Subjects of the last S.S.L.C. Exams are put up at (P)

May be Circulated to H.M(E&L) with ref. to his minutes at 'X' ante 2 ante.

12/5/50.
15/12/5/50

The Criticisms in the Press extracted and put up at (P), especially those from the Headmasters on p1 of (P) seem to deserve notice - The C.G.E may be asked to report on the Criticisms and to state what action he is taking to obviate Complaints of this kind -

The Answer has been despatched

SECRETARY 16 MAY 1950 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

15.5.50

13-5-50

15.5.50

H.M.(E.&L.)

P.T.O.

7119/F/50

Edn(F)

Please see the orders in Circulation overleaf.

The draft memo below to the C. Eg. E is for approval.

25.5.50

24/5/50.

25/5/50

(Issued as Memo. 7119/F/50-3 d 26.5.50) p17 cf

(C. 19193/50. From the C. Eg. E. Rc. 491 B/50 d 8.7.50) p19 cf

With reference to the orders at A on p3 ante, a report has been called for from the Commissioner for Govt Examinations on the criticisms in the press regarding defective setting of question papers in some of the subjects of the recent S.S.L.C. examination and the action he is taking to obviate complaints of the kind. The report of the Commissioner on pp 19-20 cf may be perused. It is seen that the criticisms of the Headmasters' association on the question papers was already received by the Commissioner and that necessary instructions were issued for valuation of the answer papers by the Assistant-Examiners. The Commissioner also observes that the candidates have not had any serious handicap in tackling this year's papers despite the alleged stiffness of the question papers & defects in translation.

p17 cf

p19-20 cf

p19 cf

The C. G. E. proposes to take suitable measures to avoid defects in the translation of question papers in consultation with some members of the Board of Secondary Education

No further action seems called for in the circumstances explained by the Commissioner in his report.

We will have to tell the C.G.E that defects of the kind pointed out by the Headmasters (p.1 of (P)) must be scrupulously avoided & the persons who were responsible for the wrong translations last year should be replaced by other suitable persons

X

19/7/50

21.7.50.

The file may be circulated to H.M. (Edn) (minute on p.2 ante & orders on p. 3 ante) —

21.7.50.

21.7.50.

HM(Edn)

Edn(F)

With ref. to orders in Circulation above, the draft memo. below to the C. Eg. E is for approval.

29.7.50

26.7.50.

23/7/50

(Issued as Memo 7119/F/50-4 Edn d 31.7.50)

Edn(F)

No further action seems necessary in view of the orders issued in Memo on page 2 ante. The papers may now be recorded

P.T.O.

6

for future reference.

Order (Ms) No. 2595 Edn.d. 14.9.50

Recorded.

Subject

Legislature Assembly Question. ~~relating to the~~ defective setting of question papers for the SSLC Pub. Exam in March 1950 ~~Lapsed~~. Steps to obviate Complaints in future papers recorded.

Was to be answered in the Legislature

13.9.50

Re: to Asst. Secy's query above it is submitted that it was not answered in the Legislature due to prorogation of the Assembly for 11-9-50 vide U.O note on p 5 ante.

9/9/50.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS (INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY) DEPARTMENT

Extract from The Mail

of Madras, dated the 22nd. May, 1950.

203

29 MAY 1950 5,002—24-5-50.

S.S.L.C. QUESTION PAPER DEFECTS

Criticism by headmasters

MADRAS, MAY 22.

THE S.S.L.C. Examination question papers of March, 1950 were subjected to a severe criticism yesterday at a meeting of the Headmasters' Association at Muthia Chettiar's High School, Vepery, Mr K. Kuruvilla Jacob, President, presiding. The Headmasters and Headmistresses of almost all the City High Schools were present.

During a two-hour discussion on the question papers, many defects, especially the "misleading" and wrong translations of the papers into regional languages were pointed out.

The meeting was of the opinion that the persons setting the papers should not be frequently changed, and a certain amount of continuity in the personnel of the Paper-Setting Board should be maintained. Such an arrangement would help in keeping a uniform standard in the tests.

Earlier, the President placed before the meeting a letter from Mr R. Narasimhalu Nayudu, District Educational Officer, suggesting the holding of a conference of the Headmasters and Headmistresses of city schools under the auspices of the Department at the end of April, to discuss some aspects of the reorganised scheme of education, the administration and other problems of schools such as admissions. The meeting was of the opinion that the conference might be held on two afternoons between Apr. 20 and 25.

Aids to visual education

The Association reiterated its recommendation to the Government that aids to visual education should be exempt from the levy of import duty, and deplored that the Headmasters' Association was not represented on the Board of Film Censors this year.

Mr Doraikannu Mudaliar, Vice-President of the Association, took the chair at a later stage of the meeting.

Deviation from model paper

In the discussion on the S.S.L.C. question papers, it was pointed out that it would be of great psychological value to the students, if the Mathematics examination was held at the end.

The meeting took exception to the Elementary Mathematics paper especially to questions 12, 14 and 15, which were considered far beyond the comprehension of students, involving more than two or three principles. Questions 3, 5 and 7, it was pointed out, were also complicated, involving fractional answers. The Elementary Mathematics paper was stated to be certainly a deviation from the model papers, circulated by the Education Department in 1934. Algebra and Geometry papers were too long and some problems very difficult.

In the History paper, the Association felt that the distribution of marks was inequitable and the paper was too long. In A group history, the Tamil translation was misleading in many places.

Omission of English terms

In the Elementary Science paper, some members referred to the omission of English terms and in the Natural Science part, the technical terms were not given. This was stated to be a great handicap to many students.

Regarding Physics, the Association considered that two questions, 3 and 19 on Sensibility, were definitely out of the syllabus and it was regretted that instead of Convex, it was mentioned in the paper Concave lens.

In the Telugu paper, many questions were stated to be not based on the text, but on the notes appended to it. In the annotation question, two lines from one stanza and the other two lines from another had been clubbed, causing much confusion to the pupils. In the Sanskrit paper, a passage for annotation occurred in more than one place. Another mistake was, that the students were asked to translate a Sanskrit passage in English, whereas they had been taught translations into regional languages.

Mr K. Hanumantha Rao proposed a vote of thanks.

29 MAY 1950
5,002

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS (INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY) DEPARTMENT

Extract from The Indian Express Hindu

of Madras, *dated the* 22nd March, 1950

S.S.L.C. EXAM. 1950

HEADMASTERS' CRITICISM OF QUESTION PAPERS

MADRAS, March 22.

Headmasters of high schools in the City met last evening at the M. Ct. M. High School, Purasawalkam, and made a critical review of the question papers set for the S.S.L.C. Public Examination which has just concluded. There was a general feeling that the translation of question papers in Tamil and Telugu was not upto the mark and that as a result the candidates were considerably handicapped.

The question paper on Elementary Mathematics, it was felt, deviated very much from the model paper circulated to schools in 1934. Three questions were beyond the capacity of the VI Form students to understand. Further these particular questions involved more than two or three principles which rendered them very complicated. Exception was also taken to three other questions which involved too many details, and their answers were fractional.

The question paper on Algebra and Geometry was, in the headmasters' view, too long. Some of the problems in theoretical Geometry were considered very difficult. In the Telugu translation of this paper one problem was altogether omitted.

The Tamil translation of the question paper on History came in for considerable criticism. In some portions it was stated, the translation was positively misleading. It was also thought that the question paper was too long and that the distribution of marks was not equitable. The question paper on Optional History was also criticised as being too long.

It was further pointed out that in the Natural Science section of the Elementary Science question paper, English equivalents of technical terms were not given and that this proved a handicap to many students. In the Optional Physics question paper, three questions were stated to be out of the syllabus and two others too difficult.

In the Sanskrit question paper, it was pointed out, the students were asked to translate a Sanskrit passage into English, whereas they had been taught only to translate such passages into the regional language or the mother tongue. A passage given for annotation was found repeated in more than one place. In the Telugu question paper, a passage for annotation contained two lines from one stanza and two other lines from an entirely different stanza! This question paper, it was stated, contained questions based not on the actual text but on notes appended to the text.

The headmasters expressed the view that greater care should be exercised in the translation of question papers into the regional languages. There was also general agreement that there should be some continuity in the question paper setting board, to ensure uniformity in the standards in setting question papers. A number of headmasters suggested that the question paper on Elementary Mathematics might be put down for the last day of the examination.

4

(2) 7

29 MAY 1950 5,002—2-5-49.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS (INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY) DEPARTMENT

Extract from The Indian Express

of Madras, *dated the* 25~~nd~~ 28th March, 1950.

S. S. L. C. ENGLISH PAPERS I & II, 1950

Sir,—It is well-known that the standard of English of the S. S. L. C. students is going down year after year and it is quite necessary that the wording of the questions asked should be very simple and the subject-matter covered must be within their grasp. In the English-I Paper words like 'recount' (Question III (a)) 'lament and consolation' (Question IV (a) 'possessors' (V (a)) reception (V (b)) cannot be understood by most of the candidates. It would have been better if 'Wrinkle's horse' is used for latter's horse' in Question III (d). The essay question demanding a contrast from the two lessons of King Lear and King Canute is of University standard. 'Marconi' is a difficult lesson and an essay question based on dry details could have been wisely omitted. In English II paper, the passage for precis is tough and words like 'career' 'possibilities' and 'spirit' in the questions asked took away what little spirit the students had and deprived them of 50 per cent of the marks allotted for that question.

Mathurai,

SIMPLE ENGLISH.

6



(2) 9

29 MAY 1950 5,002—24-5-49.

7

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS (INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY) DEPARTMENT

Extract from the Kalki

of Madras, *dated the* 2nd April 1950.

The following is a translation of a letter dated 22nd March 1950, from Y. Sethuraman, Tiruchy, to the Editor, "Kalki".

STUDENTS' LAMENT.

The question, as to who had set the ~~question~~ papers for the S.S.L.C. Examination this year has to be considered. We have to decide whether the examiner had set the paper for S.S.L.C. Examination or for B.A. Degree Examination. We have to doubt if the examiner is of this country or one returned from foreign studies. The method of setting question papers hitherto adopted for years has been completely changed. 4 questions in English, Sanskrit and Mathematics are of the same model. The Government should understand the students' difficulties and treat them with sympathy and understanding.

29 MAY 1950
GOVT. OF INDIA COMMISSIONER FOR GOVERNMENT TRANSACTIONS MADRAS

The following is a translation of the leading article in the issue of Kalki dated 2.4.1950.

Public Works (I & P) Department.

NO PUNISHMENT FOR THE SINNERS?

All of us are aware of the disaster that overtook the Calcutta Mail some days back resulting in the death of 6 persons and severe injuries to over hundred persons. Our country men expressed their sympathies for these victims. The whole of India felt indignant at such an heartless action on the part of saboteurs, which resulted in such a terrible catastrophe.

But now another disaster of a far greater magnitude has occurred in Madras State. Because of this 68,000 young people have been sorely wounded.

Of course I we mean by this the mental agony the students who sat for their recent S.S.L.C.Examination, are under ~~xxxxxxxx~~ going.

~~N~~ Is not the wound inflicted on the youthful minds of boys and girls more terrible and serious than the trivial wounds suffered by the body?

How heartless should these wretches be who subjected these 68,000 children to such mental agony and suffering at one point of time.

One could not help becoming angry when one realises that those responsible for this belong to the Education Department?

It would be more appropriate if these people who have been the cause of the miseries of tens and ~~of~~ thousands ~~of~~ students are assigned the posts of jail wardens or circus officials entrusted with the duty of controlling wild animals rather than posts in Education Department.

Big authorities assert that the whole examination system itself is bad. Such is the time. What other thing is required to torture the young boys when the very papers

set for an examination, prove to be hard and difficult to understand?

But such is the manner in which the question papers for this year's S.S.L.C. examination have been set.

Preparing difficult question papers not easily comprehensible itself is a blunder that cannot be pardoned. In addition if there are to be mistakes in the question paper itself which would make the students' heads reel what would be their fate?

We have always emphasized the evils of the examination system. So readers should not construe that we are pricking holes from this year's question papers in pursuance of our general policy.

Last year when we condemned the examination system we ploughed a lonely furrow.

This year the responsible headmasters of many high schools have aligned themselves with us to some extent. The headmasters of Madras City Schools who met at M.Ct.Muthiah Chettiar School last week considered these question papers calmly and pointed out the mistakes which are many:--

1. The Tamil and Telugu translation of question papers had been rendered very badly and had confused the students very much.

2. Three sums in the maxima mathematics paper were not such as could be understood by students of S.S.L.C. class. In addition as the answer for many problems were in fractional numbers the students became confused and lost heart.

3. Question papers in Algebra and Geometry were long and difficult. In the telugu translation one problem itself was left out.

4. The Tamil translation of the history paper could be easily understood by nobody other than God himself.

5. The words used in the science question paper seemed more a puzzle to the students.

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6. In Sanskrit and Telugu papers also there were mistakes which could stupefy students.

The mathematics examination was held on the very first day. As the mathematics questions were difficult and confusing, the students were rudely shocked and lost their hearts. And how could they write well in the subsequent examinations? What an ordeal the students should have undergone while answering these question papers containing so many mistakes cited above. If even the headmasters who call for the reintroduction of the selection examination for S.S.L.C. students have come out to condemn the question papers set-up, how badly should they have been set?

We have received a large mass of letters from students condemning this cruel outrage on them.

"The teachers who set the question papers for this year have done so guided solely by their whims and fancies. All questions alike are difficult and ununderstandable. In Physics, while the students had been taught new terms in the class, the old terms have been used in the question papers. Only for a few words the equivalent English terms have been given. Mathematics questions not falling within the syllabus have also been given in the paper. What is the ire that they have got against us?" So writes a student from Valangiman, heart-broken.

"The question papers set for the S.S.L.C. this year had been translated so recklessly that they could not be understood. For example the translation of the instruction "mark wherever necessary and name ..." in the Geography paper from English and to Tamil was highly misleading, many being led think that they were given the choice to answer the question or not. While a few asked for the English copies of the question papers many blinked not knowing what to do. So atleast in future, steps should be taken to see that papers are not

translated in as to shock and mislead the young students in their thousands", so writes a student from Kunoor.

We give here an account of the mathematics paper given by a student from Karur:

"This year the questions set in Elementary Mathematics, Optional, Mathematics and physics are very tough. There are 15 sums in the Elementary Mathematics paper. Of these, three sums are beyond the comprehending powers of VI Form students. Two sums contain fractions . One sum was tough. These six sums carry a total of 41 marks, more than the marks requisite for passing the examination. It is doubtful if one can get the necessary marks for a pass by working even tolerably well the remaining sums. ..... The students have got their minds confused after seeing this paper. A sum dealing with cylinders has been given. We cannot understand what it all means, Some have deduced the volume of the cylinder in that sum. Others who could not understand the sum came out quietly. The students' enthusiasm waned on the first day itself, When they got the mathematics paper. There is no precedent at all for these three sums out of syllabus, 2 sums with answers in fractions and another really tough sum, which were not in this year's paper. If the mathematics paper is like this, the other papers strike the same chord in unison / and are equally bad.

Please read the aganised words of another student from Tiruchirapalli.

"I am used to attending examinations without any fear complex. This year also I went with the same feeling for the S.S.L.C. examination. But I was shocked thoroughly when I went through the mathematics paper. I lost my hopes of passing the examination successfully. All the sums were tough and the answers also were in fractions. Many students struck off the sums worked by them as they got answers

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in fractions, thinking that they had been wrong somewhere. Will not the authorities see that they do not torture students by setting question papers so badly at least in future?

Many letters similar to those already cited have been written by many heart-broken students. Thus the aptitude shown by the examiners of the Madras State has culminated in the tears of tens of thousands of students.

Is there to be no punishment for those sinners who have wounded the young hearts of 68,000 boys and girls and thus shaken and ~~killed~~ choked their self-confidence? Are they yet to be allowed to continue in the education department? If they are to continue as teachers can we trust our dear ones with these heartless wretches? ?

We want to say a few words to those boys and girls who sat for the S.S.L.C. examination this year.

Our sympathies go with them for the agonies they suffered when they wrote the examination . We pray to God that He will pardon those people who set these question papers.

We cannot say how many of those who appeared will pass and how many will ~~fail~~ fail.

It may be that in consideration of the tough nature of the papers set, the valuation may be liberal and hence as usual atleast half of the ~~pupils~~ that had appeared may pass successfully.

Anyhow it cannot be made out that those who passed alone are qualified and others are otherwise.

No one need suffer mentally for failure to secure a pass.

You have to remember that thousands who failed at the school tests have proved successful in the greater test of life.

P.T.O.

Shake off the dust of the schools where such slaughter takes place and engage youself even - now in some life avocation with enthusiam.

Select some avocation such as Agriculture, Commerce or Industry and train yourself in that field.

Surely you should find youselves successful in your avocations long before those who pass this year's S.S.L.C. Examination come out of the Colleges after taking their Degrees.

CONSIGNMENT FOR GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS
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MADRAS

Extract from 'Indian Express' dated 25-3-1950. - Letter to Editor.

"S.S.L.C. English Papers I & II"

It is well known that the standard of English of the S.S.L.C. students is going down year after year, and it is quite necessary that the wording of the questions asked should be very simple and the subject matter covered must be within the grasp. In the English I paper words like 'recount' Questions III(a) 'lament and consolation', Question IV(a) Possessors , V(a) reception, V(b) cannot be understood by most of the candidates. It would have been better if 'Winkle's' horse is used for"latter's horse" in Question III(a). The essay question demanding a contrast from the two lessons of King Lear and King Canute is of University standard. 'Manconi' is a difficult lesson and an essay question based on dry details could have been wisely omitted.

In English II paper the passage for precise is tough and words like 'cover' 'possibilities' and 'spirit' in the questions asked took away what little spirit the students had and drprived them of 50% of the marks allotted for that question.

Mathuram. 'Simple English'.

(True extract)

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