

Government of Madras

HOME DEPARTMENT (MISCELLANEOUS)

G.O. No. 372, 10th April 1917

Government servants' conduct rules

Issuing instructions directing that no Government servant should become a member of a
"Round Table" group in India.



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ORIGINAL

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HOME DEPARTMENT (MISCELLANEOUS)

G.O. No. 372, 10th April 1917

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Issuing instructions directing that no Government servant should become a member of a "Round Table" group in India.

READ—the following paper :—

Letter—from the Hon'ble Sir J. H. DuBOULAY, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Political).
To—the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.
Dated—Delhi, the 5th March 1917.
No.—616.

I am directed to invite a reference to the statement made by Sir James Meston in the United Provinces Legislative Council on the 29th January 1917 in connection with the publication of a private letter from Mr. Lionel Curtis to the Secretary of the "Round Table." It will be observed that the Government of India consider that Government officials should not in future be members of "Round Table" groups in India.

2. In coming to this decision the Government of India have no desire to express any disapproval either of the methods or of the objects of the "Round Table" associations. As far as they are aware, the "Round Table" association is an association of students who are devoting earnest study to a solution of important political problems, having no desire to launch political propaganda, and with no ulterior political aims; their method being to endeavour by comparison and exchange of views and by promoting discussion, oral and in writing, between men of different schools of thought, to reconcile differences of opinion, and thus to create a greater solidarity of agreement behind the solution whatever it may be, that may emerge from such discussions among the associates.

3. Although, however, the objects of the "Round Table" association are laudable, and in themselves quite innocuous, the publication of Mr. Curtis' private letter has given rise to so much misapprehension and to such definite charges, unfounded though they are, that Government servants in this country are combining with Mr. Curtis, and the "Round Table" to give prominence to political views which are unpalatable to advanced Indian political sentiment, that the Government of India are constrained to direct that no Government servant should become a member of a "Round Table" group.

4. Mr. Curtis, or any other gentleman who may visit India for the study of political problems, is of course at full liberty to discuss questions of this kind with Government officers as with non-official Indians. Indeed, it would be just as undesirable that such enquirers should be debarred from ascertaining official views, as it would be for them to neglect the study of non-official opinion; but the direct association of officials as actual members of "Round Table" groups is likely to lead, as it has done in this instance, to the public identification of Government officers with political views that may be entirely out of accord with those held by the Government under which they are serving, and thus lead to an infringement of the rules governing the conduct of Government servants.

I am accordingly to request that with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, this decision of the Government of India may be made known to all who are concerned.

Order—No. 372, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 10th April 1917.

It will be observed from the statement made by Sir James Meston in the United Provinces Legislative Council on the 29th January 1917, in connection with the publication of a private letter from Mr. Lionel Curtis to the Secretary of the "Round Table" that Government officials should not in future be members of "Round Table" groups in India.

2. In coming to this decision the Government of India state that they have no desire to express any disapproval either of the methods or of the objects of the "Round Table" associations. As far as they are aware, the "Round Table" is an association of students who are devoting earnest study to a solution of important political problems, having no desire to launch political propaganda, and with no ulterior political aims; their method being to endeavour by comparison and exchange of views and by promoting discussion, oral and in writing, between men of different schools of thought, to reconcile differences of opinion, and thus to create a greater solidarity of agreement behind the solution whatever it may be, that may emerge from such discussions among the associates.

3. Although, however, the objects of the "Round Table" association are laudable, and in themselves quite innocuous, the publication of a private letter written by Mr. Curtis has given rise to so much misapprehension and to such definite charges, unfounded though they are, that Government servants in this country are combining with Mr. Curtis and the "Round Table" to give prominence to political views which are unpalatable to advanced Indian political sentiment, that the Government of India have found it necessary to direct that no Government servant should become a member of a "Round Table" group. Mr. Curtis or any other gentleman who may visit India for the study of political problems is of course at full liberty to discuss questions of this kind with Government officers as with non-official Indians. But the direct association of officials as actual members of "Round Table" groups is likely to lead to the public identification of Government officers with political views that may be entirely out of accord with those held by the Government under which they are serving, and thus lead to an infringement of the rules governing the conduct of Government servants.

4. The above instructions of the Government of India are communicated to heads of departments for information and guidance.

5. The following will be inserted as local ruling (iii) under rule 21 of the Government servants' conduct rules:—

"Government servants are prohibited from joining a 'Round Table' group; this ruling does not debar a Government servant from discussing political questions with any gentleman visiting India for the study of political problems, who may consult him."

(True Extract)

E. A. HARVEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To all heads of departments under the Home Department.
" the Honourable the Chief Justice (with C.L.)
" Departments of the Secretariat.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 372, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS),
DATED 10TH APRIL 1917

[SUBJECT.—Government servants as members of "Round Table" groups in India.]

From the Government of India, Home Department, No. 616, dated 5th March 1917.

A draft order on the lines of the Government of India letter communicating the instructions to all heads of departments is submitted for approval.

M.D.R.—20-3-17.

P.D.R.—23-3-17.

I think we should add—

"The instructions of the Government of India are communicated to head of departments for information and guidance" or words to that effect.

It will probably be necessary to add a supplementary ruling to the Government Servants' Conduct Rule affected and opportunity may be taken to do so now. Please draft one.

E. A. HARVEY—26-3-17.

Submitted that a paragraph has been added to the draft as directed.

2. A supplementary ruling may be issued under rule No. 21 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

A draft ruling is submitted.

M.D.R.—28-3-17.

P.D.R.—31-3-17.

Draft submitted for approval.

It is proposed to add a supplementary ruling to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

E.A.H.—4-4-17.

H. F. W. GILLMAN—6-4-17.

[G.O. No. 372, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 10th April 1917.]

Government servants conduct rules.

Issuing instructions directing that no Government servant ^{should} ~~could~~ become a member of a "Round table" group in India.

Read:-

C.No.881. From the Government of India, Home Department (Political)
No.616, dated the 5th March 1917.

Order.
Press.

No. 372 dated 10-4-1917.

It will be observed from the statement made by Sir James Meston in the United Provinces Legislative Council on the 29th January 1917, in connection with the publication of a private letter from Mr. Lionel Curtis to the Secretary of the "Round Table"

that Govt. officials should not in future be members of "Round Table" groups in India.

2. In coming to this decision the Government of India ^{state that they} have no desire to express any disapproval either of the methods or of the objects of the "Round Table" associations. As far as they are aware, the "Round Table" ~~association~~ is an association of students who are devoting earnest study to a solution of important political problems, having no desire to launch political propaganda, and with no ulterior political aims; their method being to endeavour by comparison and exchange of views and by promoting discussion, oral and in writing, between men of different schools of thought, to reconcile differences of opinion, and thus to create a greater

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solidarity of agreement behind the solution whatever it may be, that may emerge from such discussions among the associates.

3. Although, however, the objects of the "Round Table" association are laudable, and in themselves quite innocuous, the publication of a private letter addressed by Mr. Lionel Curtis to the Secretary of the "Round Table" has given rise to so much misapprehension and to such definite charges, unfounded though they are, that Government servants in this country are combining with Mr. Curtis and the "Round Table" to give prominence to political views which are unpalatable to advanced Indian political sentiment, that the Government of India direct that no Government servant should become a member of a "Round Table" group. Mr. Curtis or any other gentleman who may visit India for the study of political problems is of course at full liberty to discuss questions of this kind with Government officers as with non-official Indians. But the direct association of ~~members~~ ^{officials} as actual members of "Round Table" groups is likely to lead to the public identification of Government officers with political views that may be entirely out of accord with those held by the Government under which they are serving, and thus lead to an infringement of the rules governing the conduct of Government servants.

4 The above instructions of the Govt. of India are communicated to heads of depts. for information and guidance. To M.D.R. 20-3-17. P.S. 3.17

All heads of departments under the Home Department. The Hon'ble C.J. with C.L. Copy to the Depts of the Sectt. Not for E.T.

5 The following will be inserted as Local Ruling (iii) under Rule 21 of the Govt. Servants' Conduct Rules:—
"Govt. servants are prohibited from joining a "Round Table" group; this ruling does not debar a Govt. servant from discussing political questions with any gentleman visiting India for the study of political problems, who may consult him".

Copy to Hon'ble C.J. with 31 March 1917
All heads of depts. under the Home Dept. The Hon'ble the Chief Justice. Dept. of the Secretariat. Look for E.T.

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" Departments of the Secretariat.



HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.
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DATED 10TH APRIL 1917

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M.D.R.—28-3-17.
P.D.R.—31-3-17.

Type the draft ruling please.

E.A.H.—2-4-17.

Typed and submitted.

M.D.R.—2-4-17.
P.D.R.—2-4-17.

Draft submitted for approval.

It is proposed to add a supplementary ruling to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

E.A.H.—4-4-17.

H. F. W. GILLMAN—6-4-17.

[G.O. No. 372, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 10th April 1917.]

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