

Home (1917) Department.
(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 421

DATED 27-4-1917

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Certificate of age and nationality.

Recording papers relating to an enquiry made by the India Office in regard to the circumstances under which a ——— was refused to P. Sathianarayam Rao, a candidate for the Indian Civil Service and the reply given thereto.

SETON

86 no 278 Home (R) 8-11-16
1119 Pub. 9-6-16

J. & P. 877/17.

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.



1st March, 1917.

Confidential

CURRENT
211-1127
PUBLIC

Dear Sir,

Mr. S.M. Burrows, Secretary to the Delegacy for Oriental Students at Oxford, has recently sent to Dr. T.W. D/-13 Feb.'17 } with enclo. Arnold, Educational Adviser here, the letter of which copy is enclosed regarding the failure of Mr. P.S. Rau to produce - in connection with his candidature for the Indian Civil Service - evidence of age in the form prescribed by the Notifications cited in Regulation 2.

Some further details in the matter were supplied by Mr. Rau in a memorandum dated 27th February 1917, which is also enclosed.

It would be convenient if this Office could be furnished with information to show how the matter stands of Mr. Rau's representations.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. Farnham

Asst. Secretary,
Judicial & Public Department.

The Chief Secretary,
Government of Madras.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Delegacy for Oriental Students

Indian Institute, OXFORD.

Feb. 13. 17.

Dear Arnold,

A curious question has arisen in the case of P.S. Rau of New College (see Mallet's letter of Aug. 31 1915 and connected correspondence). He is a B.A. of Madras, and took a 2nd class in Part I, and a 1st class in Part II, of that examination. He is a Brahmin, and was given a scholarship of over £300 a year by the Raja of Pithapuram (for merit) and was to go in for the I.C.S. Some difficulty has arisen about his birth certificate. I enclose ^{pp 3-4} his statement. He has twice given a wrong date of birth, but I ^{infra} do not gather, either from his oral or written statement, that any "mens rea" was involved, and you and I know how casual these people are about such dates, especially where horoscopes are concerned. He knew nothing about any prospect of a scholarship or of the I.C.S. until 1915. But the result is that the Madras Government refuses to grant him the birth certificate that will be required were he to pass for the I.C.S. and therefore there is at present no use in his entering. The Raja has been informed of this, is very much annoyed, and threatens to withdraw his subsidy, which will leave Rau stranded, and with nothing to show for his time at Oxford. Of course I give the facts for what they are worth: there may be more behind it all than I know of. Would you be so kind as to let me know whether it is possible now to do anything in the matter?

Yours sincerely, (Sd.) S.M. BURROWS.

3
New College,

4
O x f o r d.

15th Nov. 1893.

Given as the date of birth by me in Jan. 1904 when I was a little more than eight and living alone a hundred miles away from my parents and without consulting them.

Some time later I found that my elder brother, who is two years older than me and whose horoscope is in the family register, was born in 1893.

My own horoscope was lost:-

The original paper containing the date of my birth and the star etc. was given by my father to an old astrologer in order that he might cast the horoscope. Soon after the astrologer became a "Sanyasi". So the paper could not be recovered. But I was always feeling that I had overaged myself.

Nov. 15, 1894.

In Intermediate and B.A. this was given in response to the feeling above described.

July 14, 1895.

When in July 1915 I got the scholarship which brought me here for the I.C.S. I tried hard to know my real date of birth. Fortunately, or as it turned out unfortunately, I discovered it on application to the Government Taluk Officer. I produced an extract from the Census Returns and the above is the age there given.

Fully convinced that there will not be any difficulty if

(P.T.O.)

the real and incontrovertible date is found. I submitted it to the Govt. of Madras. But they were "unable to find the candidate's age in view of the discrepancies in the evidence produced."

No "mens rea" in the date given:-

There could not be any for the I.C.S. was not even dreamt of then.

Negative evidence.

Not 1893 for conclusive proof exists that an elder brother was born in that year.

Positive.

1895: extract from the Census Returns.

27/2/17.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras was approached through the Collector of the Godavay District. The latter officer took the evidence, filled up the usual form and commented on it favourably. He was satisfied with it. But the Secretary got the other facts to which I referred in my last note which conflicted with the evidence I submitted, so he was "unable to find when I was born".

(Sd.) P.S. RAU.

It might be noted that the Regulations lay down that an extract from a public record viz. from the Census Report if produced by the candidate, should be accepted as conclusive. I produced it. The difficulty is it conflicts with the age I gave at school. But I tried to explain why and how I came to do it in my last note.

(Sd.) P.S. RAU.

Public Deptt.

The papers about the quest of age & nationality of P.S. Rauland (P. Sateanarayana Rao) are in Home (Misc). It is only that the reference from the India Office on page 1 supra may be transferred to that Deptt. for disposal.

Home (100)

Wm



Home (Misc) Deptt.

From a perusal of G.O. No. 1119 Pub of 9th June 1916 and the notes thereto it will appear that the ^{date of birth according to} ~~evidence of~~ the Birth Register of the Narendrapuram village was not then accepted for the following reasons :-

- (1) ~~It is~~ The entries cannot be considered trustworthy as it is not proved that they relate to the applicant at all. vide para 2 of the G.O.
- (2) The D.M. remarked that in his opinion the correct date of birth is the 14th March 1895, whereas

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4-4-17

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L

File of the G.O. (L)

the true extract from the Birth Register shows that the entries relate to the month of July - vide para 1 (IV) of the L.O.

In regard to the argument that ~~the entries in the Birth Register cannot be considered true~~ it is not proved that the entries relate to the applicant at all, it is submitted that it will be seen that the entries relate to the birth of a son to P. Tegneswara Sasthulu, the father of the applicant in the year 1895. It is now stated that conclusive evidence exists that an elder brother of the applicant was born in 1893. vide statement on p 4 and If this be so, the evidence furnished by the Ellore School registers which gives the date of birth as ^{November} ~~the 11th~~ 1893 ~~is not~~ cannot be correct. If it can be shown that an elder brother was born in 1893, submitted that it will go a great way in proving that the ~~entries in the Birth Register~~ entries in the Birth Register relate to the applicant himself. It is for consideration whether in view of the present communication, the D.H.,

p 6 of G.O. 298 Home (Lies)
8.11.16. I

ref. p 12 of G.O. 1119 Pub.
9.6.16 (L)

p 12 of G.O. 1119 Pub.
9.6.16 (L)

may be asked to produce and forward to Govt. documentary evidence in support of the statement that an elder brother of the applicant was born in 1893, and also to furnish evidence that the child referred to in the Birth Register is the applicant himself. 3. It is also for orders whether in regard to the D.M.'s report that the correct date of birth is in his opinion 14th March 1895, he may be requested to state how he arrives at this date of birth, ~~where~~ although the entries in the Birth Register relate to the month of July.

Not
7.4.17
Per
10.4.17

S.
It is for orders whether this matter should be reopened.

Whether Satyanarayana Rao has deliberately given incorrect age and not, it seems impossible in such a case to arrive at a correct view of the facts. In any case I would reply at once to the India Office (Y p l c. f.) stating how the facts stand.

Certificate of age cannot, I submit, be given when the facts of the case are open to doubt.

Chd
10.4.17

H. M.

It is not possible on the records to ascertain the date of birth; nor I submit can the D.M. give any further useful information on a call on a second report.

11/4/17

Per 10.4.17

urgent board

aw
11/4/17

H. M.

It is not possible on the records to ascertain the date of birth; nor I submit can the D.M. give any further useful information on a call on a second report.

11/4/17

I agree. ~~Say that~~ ⁹ state the facts to the India office - say that it is unimpeachable to any date. The earliest & best evidence forthcoming is that of the school which supports the date 15.11.93 -

Recd in
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13.4.17 627

Draft D.O. reply is submitted.

Not

21-4-17

Not
24-4-17

627
24.4.17

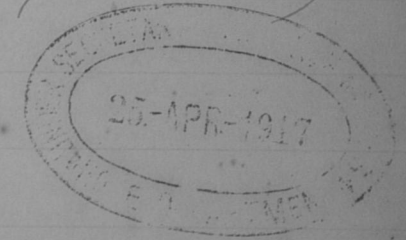
Presumably the Sec. will sign this letter to India office. If the form of the D.O. is available, the final copy is submitted for signature.

Signed

627
25.4.17

627
25.4.17

(D.O. 1225-1 325-4.7)



Submitted that ~~it~~ ^{in an order} it appears desirable to record the papers for future reference. Draft submitted.

Not

26/4/17

627
26.4.17

627
27.4.17

10 Home (Misc) Dept.

D.O. 1225-1 of 25.4.17

Sir,

With reference to your D.O. letter to the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Madras, No. J & P 877/17, dated the 18th March 1917, I am directed to state that the fact of the ~~case~~ will be made clear from the ~~following~~ a review of the evidence adduced in regard to the date of birth of Mr. P. Sathianarayana Rao:- appended below:-

(i) The Secondary School Leaving Certificate issued by the Inspector of Schools, First Circle, and the Admission Register of the C. M. S. School, Ellore give the ^{of Mr. Sathianarayana Rao} date of birth as November 1893.

(ii) In his applications for admission to the Intermediate and B. A. degree examinations, Mr. Sathianarayana Rao gave the date of birth

So. 1117 Pub. (L)
7-6-16

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7-6-16

(iii) The true extract from the Birth Register of Narendrapuram village forwarded by the S. M., Godavari, gives the date of birth as the 14th July 1895, and the applicant has stated that this is his date of birth.

As to this the D. M.

In his letter dated the 23rd May 1916, forwarding an exact translation of the entries in the Birth Register, the D. M. remarks that in his opinion the correct date of birth is the 14th March 1895, although the heading of the true extract from the Birth Register shows that the entries relate to the month of July. His opinion is apparently based on a date given in the remarks column appended to the entry, viz. April 3rd 1895, and the G. O. was unable to accept it.

The evidence adduced does not lead to any certain conclusion, and it is impossible therefore to certify to any date. The earliest and perhaps the best

undisputed as it is by the production of a horoscope, & with the original entry & unimpeachable entry in the remarks column referred to above.

The entry in the Birth Register, ordinarily a source of valuable evidence, cannot be considered trustworthy ^{as it} is ^{it} (not) proved that ^{it} relates to the applicant at all. The earliest and perhaps the best evidence forthcoming is that of the Ellore School Register which supports the date 15th Nov. 1893. This date of birth has however been subsequently altered on more than one occasion, and other dates with evidence in support of each have been given. In the face of all this conflicting evidence the correct date of birth of Mr. Sathanarayana Rao cannot be ascertained.

I am to say that this G. O. is not ^{not} prepared to certify to any particular date, but of the birth of Mr. Sathanarayana Rao.

E. Gerard Edge
Asst. Secretary,
Judicial and Public Dept.
India Office,
Whitehall, London.

Yours faithfully
25/4/17

Certificate of age and
nationality.

Recording papers relating to an enquiry made by the India Office in regard to the circumstances under which a ——— was ~~declined to be issued~~ ^{refused} granted to P. Satianarayana Rao, a candidate for the Indian Civil Service, and the reply given thereto.

191

C. No. 425 From the, No., dated 191

No. 421, dated 27-4- 1917

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