

Home (1917) Department.

Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 584

DATED 13-6-17

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council Resolution.

Recording papers relating to a resolution proposed to be moved by the Hon'ble Mr. B. V. Narasimha Ayyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council of the 23rd May 1917 for the publication of the newspapers and journals subscribed for Government.

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NOTES CONNECTED WITH THE RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

[For the meeting of the 22nd May 1917]

[SUBJECT.—*Newspapers and journals subscribed for by Government.*]

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. NARASIMHA AYYAR :—

XXX. This Council recommends to His Excellency in Council that the number of each newspaper and journal that the Government pay for during the current year and paid for during the last official year should be published.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

The number of copies of each newspaper and journal subscribed by the Government is contained in the statement of periodicals prepared by the Superintendent of Stationery. The latest list available is the one revised up to the 30th June 1915. It was specially brought up to date by the Superintendent of Stationery and it is now being printed. A proof copy of it has been called for at the instance of His Excellency. At the last meeting of the Council the Hon'ble Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu asked whether the Government would be pleased to state under the following heads the details of the amounts spent for subscriptions to periodicals during the last three years, and the amount proposed to be spent in the current year :—

- (a) name of the periodical ;
- (b) number of copies subscribed for ;
- (c) amount spent for the periodical ; and
- (d) officer or officers under whose order the periodical was or is subscribed for.

The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew observed as follows :—

"I am inclined to think we should give at once what we can. The following answer may go to Legislative :—

"The information asked for is not available, but a copy will be furnished to the Honourable Member of the latest available return of periodicals subscribed for by this Government and if there is any particular periodical or periodicals regarding the supply of which he desires later information the Government will be glad to furnish it if he will communicate with the Secretary."

The question was however subsequently discussed in Council, and the following answer was approved and given :—

"For public purposes, the Government obtain for official use in various departments a number of monthly, weekly and daily publications which varies from time to time according to public requirements. No papers are being subsidised. The Government are unable to give any further information on the subject."

At the same meeting, the Hon'ble Mr. T. Ranga Achariyar asked whether the Government would be pleased to lay on the table a list of periodicals and newspapers taken by the Government, together with the number of copies subscribed for in each case. The Government in accordance with the decision arrived at in Council declined to comply with the request of the Additional Member, who was given the following reply :—

"The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 56"—

vide the answer quoted above. A similar reply was also given to the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu and to the Hon'ble Mr. K. R. V. Krishna

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Rao Pantulu in reply to questions asked by them at the last Council regarding the newspapers and periodicals taken by the Government, and to the Hon'ble Mr. P. Siva Rao with reference to his question as to whether the paper "Justice" is proposed to be subsidised or subscribed for by the Government.

(71)

Attention is also invited to the discussions in the last meeting of the Legislative Council on question No. 13, asked by the Hon'ble Rao Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao, and on question No. 56, asked by the Hon'ble Mr. A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu. The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew then spoke thus:—

"It was decided, on consideration, that it was undesirable to give the details as to the periodicals that are subscribed for. The details run to a hundred pages in print and are not up to date. The last statement refers to the year 1915. The list includes technical, scientific and art journals supplied to various departments. It is considered undesirable to publish all these details.

Subsequently the Honourable Member observed:—

"Personally I do not think that there is any objection to an Honourable Member seeing the list or going through it. It is the 1915 list. I should also like to say that there is absolutely no mystery and nothing to conceal."

In closing the discussion, His Excellency the President remarked as follows:—

"The Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew will be glad to consider whether there will be any useful purpose served by showing him the list. If he thinks that it will be thoroughly misleading, there will be no purpose served by showing it."

In the circumstances, it is for consideration whether the resolution will be accepted by the Government. Submitted that the orders of the Honourable Member may be taken as to whether he will take charge of the resolution and whether he wishes the attitude of Government in replying to it to be discussed in the Executive Council.

(The resolution has been admitted.)

M.D.R.—14-5-17.

P.D.R.—14-5-17.

The Honourable Member has already stated that it is undesirable to *publish* all

The list of 1915 is ready but a revised list is under preparation.

R.R.R.—15-5-17.

what countenanced by the Honourable Member.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—14-5-17.

R. RAMACHANDRA RAO—15-5-17.

This will have to be discussed in Council.

H. F. W. GILMAN—15-5-17.

If by the words "each newspaper and journal" the Additional Member means the entire list of periodicals for which the Government subscribe, I would oppose it.

A. G. CARDREW—16-5-17.

(Resolution not moved)

Submitted that the resolution was not moved in the Council. The papers may now be

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