Scott. II—48—21,640-19-1-17.

Home (1919) Department.

Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1216

DATED 16-8-19

NDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Information to newspapers.

Recording notes relating to a legislative council question proposed to be put before the meeting of the 12th August regarding ------ which was subsequently disallowed.

8—2-8-19]

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL (LEGISLATIVE) DEPARTMENT.

Public Department Home (Mis) Dept. *and Local and Municipal (Legislative) Department.*

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. Narasimha Ayyar.

4 Q.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether information about the intentions of Government on such matters as nomination of additional non-official members to this Council is communicated earlier to the *Madras Mail* than to all the other dailies of Madras; and whether the Government would be pleased to arrange for the issue of such information to all papers at the earliest possible date?

[Meeting of the 12th August 1919]

Local and Municipal (Legislative) Department

2

QUESTIONS Nos. 1 TO 7 FOR THE MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON THE 12th AUGUST 1919.

Submitted that two copies of each of the questions may be forwarded to the Departments concer with reference to Nos. (1) and (4) of the rules regu ting secretariat procedure in dealing with these que in the Legislative Council. The point whether que and resolutions should be admitted at the meeting 12th August was discussed in the Executive Council decision was against this course. The questions received have however been submitted to His Excell with the recommendation that the Additional Member be told that his questions cannot be admitted and th can put them at a later meeting. His Excellency ha the same time been requested that if the decision in Council is to be departed from and the questions be admitted for this meeting, telegraphic orders sent to this department as to whether they are or are no accepted and in the former case whether Question 5 ma admitted with the omission of the argumentative enclosed in brackets in the copy. His Excellency orders will be communicated to the departments as as received.

C.S.
2-8-19.

L.A.C.
2-8-19.

To

The L & M (Legislative) Qns. 1 and 4.
The Public Qns. 4 and 6.
The Revenue (Special) Qns. 2 and 7.
The Financial Qn. 3.
The Home (Mis). Qns. 4 and 6.
The Home (Education) Qn. 5.

3

Home (Mis) Dept

p.l. note

As to Question (4), the consolidated answer will presumably be prepared in L&M. So far as this department is concerned we may say that apart from Press Communiqués (Press Notes) an E.T. papers no information is communicated to any newspaper direct from the Secretariat. As to the second part of the question we may make mention of the Publ Board.

C. Hilton Brown.
4-8-19.

Question 4 with note may go to Legislative.

R Ramachandra Rao
4.8.19

L & M (Legislative) U.O.

Home (Mis) No 3360-1
4.8.19

UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT
4 AUG 1919

L & M (Legi

The names of most of the nominated non-official members announced in the Madras Mai of the 26th July. A list of the nominations was received in office from the Private Secretary

4

(P)

C.O. 336 (I)
17.7.19

The 31st July.

There is no information in the office as to how the Madras Mail got the nomination in advance of the other papers. In its issue of the 30th July, the 'Madras Mail' has however stated, in answer to a criticism in the Hindu, that "such intelligence "as we have been able to gather was "obtained by perfectly legitimate enter-"prise, which is just as much open "to the "Hindu" as to ourselves."

With regard to the functions of the Publicity Board, the paper refers to the preamble to the Order constituting the Board and says that "The Board was not founded to enter into "competition with the proper functions "of the Press".

For orders as to the answer which may be given to the question if admitted

LAC
5.8.19

CVO
5.8.19

5/8

Sec

The answer to Question 4 is (so far as Leg. is concerned) that the names of the Addl. members were not communicated to the Madras Mail at all in advance of anybody else

Leg. A. O. 1810-1
6-8-19

D.P.
6/8

Noted in C.R.
6.8.19

REGISTRAR HOME DEPARTMENT
6-AUG-1919

The question however does not confine itself to this item of news, and it is for the Dept. concerned with "publicity" to frame a suitable reply.

H.L. 6-8-19

Home (Mis) U.S.

U.S.

Home (Mis) Dept.

The following draft answer is subd. for consideration:—

"Answer:- apart from Press communiques (Press notes and papers placed on the E.T. no information is communicated ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~are not supplied by the Government to the~~ ~~Madras Mail or any~~ ~~other~~ newspaper. direct from the Secretariat ~~Such information that the Government~~ consider fit for communication to newspapers are sent to them in the form of Press Communiques (Press Notes). Certain orders of Govt. are also placed on the Editor's Table for publication ~~by the Press~~. A Publicity ~~Board~~ Bureau has also been recently inaugurated for supplying useful information on all important matters."

SM
6.8.19

S

I would substitute for the concluding portion of the above—

6.8.19

Box. 20
Cir. 8-8-19
Retd.

"So far as the Govt are concerned information is made available to all newspapers at the same time & in the same manner & further action is entirely left, to ~~the~~ individual enterprise."

(I would like to make it clear in some way that it is not Govt's concern if the Mail, say, has the enterprise to keep a man on the look-out for items instead of waiting to be spoon-fed like the others)

6.8.

Suggested answer:

The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The answer to the second part is that the Govt. will certainly not discriminate in the issue of information to any particular newspaper.

6/8/19

7 7

I think the answer should be somewhat on these lines

Communications made by the Government to newspapers are made simultaneously to all newspapers entitled to Editors' Table privileges. This does not apply to items of news gathered by reporters from various sources.

Before this is finally settled, however, I should like to hear from Mr Gwynn on the subject. Please send him the following

My dear Gwynn

I enclose copy of a question set down for Tuesday's meeting and my draft reply. I should be glad to know whether you have any amendment to suggest with reference to the results of your discussion with the Publicity Board.

I should like to see you soon about this and other matters. When would it be convenient to you to come round? I shall be in office till late this evening and all day tomorrow.

8.8.19

Shorthand writer.
Please copy and send at once

Despd. 8.8.19
acc. 8.8.19.

8

8

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Camp, Fort St. George,

8th August 1919.

My dear Gwynn,

I enclose copy of a question set down for Tuesday's meeting and my draft reply. I should be glad to know whether you have any amendment to suggest with reference to the result of your discussion with the Publicity Board.

I should like to see you soon about this and other matters. When would it be convenient to you to come round? I shall be in Office till late this evening and all day to-morrow.

Yours sincerely,

J. T. Gwynn, Esq., I.C.S.,
Officer in charge of Publicity Bureau,
Fort St. George.

The Hon'ble Mr. B. V. Narasimha Ayyar.

Q.No.4. Will the Government be pleased to state whether information about the intentions of Government on such matters as nomination of additional non-official members to this Council is communicated earlier to the Madras Mail than to all the other dailies of Madras; and whether the Government would be pleased to arrange for the issue of such information to all papers at the earliest possible date?

(Meeting of the 12th August 1919).

Draft reply.

Communications made by the Government to newspapers are made simultaneously to all newspapers entitled to Editors' Table privileges. This does not apply to items of news gathered by reporters from various sources.

Publicity Bureau,
Chief Secretariat,
9th August 1919.

D. O.

Dear Mr. Todhunter,

p 11 infra

With reference to your enclosed demi-official, I attach an extract from the agenda of the Publicity Board meeting this morning. The whole Board was strongly opposed to the suggestion that Government or Government Secretaries should deny themselves to reporters. Mr. Kasturiranga Ayyangar who was not present is the only Member of the Board who wishes to make the Bureau the channel for the issue of press notes and communiques.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. Todhunter, I.C.S.

May be added to the file. The question has been disallowed

9.8.19

Publicity Bureau.

Extract from the Agenda of the meeting
held on the 9th August 1919.

To consider whether any recommendation should be made to Government regarding the method to be adopted in issuing press notes and communiques to the Newspapers so as to ensure simultaneous receipt of information by all interested.

Extract from the Minutes of the meeting
held on the 9th August 1919.

The Board as at present advised is opposed to any responsibility being accepted by the Bureau for simultaneously issuing to the press Government press notes and communiques.

12

U.S.

No questions having been allowed for the meeting of the 12th August, these notes may be

No 1216 Home (mis) of 16. Aug 1919

Recorded.

16.8.

SMM
15.8.19

Lg
15.8.19

Mr Lanyon's do. at pp. 10-11 is important: you shd take a copy of it & its enclosure for the main file.

16.8.

Copy taken.

SMM
16.8.19

When given for copying
When copied ______ } 191 .
When examined ______
When signed ______

READ AGAIN G.O. No. , DATED 191 .							
CURRENT No.							
ENCLOSURES TO C. No.							
ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.