Scott. II-48—27,368—9-2-20.

Hon (192 /) Department.
(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 354

DATED 8/3/1921

3

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Examinations:-

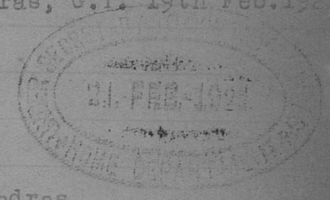
Ladies Vernacular ---- Petition from M.R.Ry., C.S. Gargha-tharam Pillai praying for the extension of the scope of the above tests - request refused.

Misc. C.No. 858
21.2.21

The Correspondence School of
Vernacular Studies for Europeans,
.....
Head Pandit: O.S.Gangatharam Pillay,
and six Assistants.
.....

93 Ramasawmy St.,
Madras, C.T. 19th Feb. 192





To

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Fort St. George.

Sir,

Respectfully returned to the petitioner as irregular petition. Send to the Educational Officer.

In reply to a letter addressed by me to the Secretary of State for India regarding the 'Ladies Vernacular Examination', I have been asked to make my representations I may wish to make to the Government of Madras. So I am forwarding herewith a copy of my letter to the Secretary of State with the other enclosure for your perusal, and such orders as you may deem necessary.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

O.S.Gangatharam Pillai

Enclosed 2.

a1

The Correspondence School of
Vernacular Studies for Europeans,
Head Pandit: O.S.Gangatharam Pillay,
and Six Assistants.
.....

93 Ramasawmi St.
Madras, G.T. 19th Feb. '21.

To

The Rt. Hon. Secretary of State for India,

India Office,

L O N D O N.

Rt. Hon. Sir,

With reference to your Despatch No.81, Public, dated 10th July 1919, to His Excellency the Governor-General of India in Council, published in G.O.No.728 Home (Miscellaneous) dated 24th March 1920 of the Government of Madras on the subject of the institution of Ladies' Vernacular Examinations, I have the honour to make the following representations:

1. I may introduce myself as a Tamil Pandit (Teacher) running a Correspondence School for teaching vernaculars personally and through correspondence to Europeans in the Madras Presidency. Besides, I can claim the privilage of having taught tamil to more than 70 per cent of the Civilians - not to speak of the officials of other departments - in this Presidency, and believing in my qualification and experience I offer these suggestions on the above subject.

2. Acting on the recommendations of the Government of India in their despatch No.85 dated 2nd April 1919, your office issued despatch No. 81 Public, referred to and I believe the intentions of the same are the most laudable. But the scheme in regard to the institution of ladies' examination defined in G.O.No.728 of Local Government open the benefit of the course only to the nearest relatives, viz. wives, mothers or daughters of Government Gazetted Officers, Military or Civil, and provides a nominal grant of Rs.100 for each of the two tests specified therein. There is already a feeling of apprehension and dissatisfaction among Government non-gazetted officers regarding these defects in the scheme as launched by the Local Government. When I had occasion to express the G.O. to the wife of a Military Warrant Officer she expressed her resentment in words "why I learn Tamil? I have nothing to do with the language. A trifle .. I lose Rs.300 to Rs.400. My husband is a non-gazetted officer and I won't get Rs.200 as reward.

3. Apart from the restricted scope of applicability alleged there is another defect in the scheme which I wish to mention. I consider from my experience of over 25 yeare the nominal grant of Rs.100 for each of the two tests as inadequate even to meet the remuneration to a teacher and journey expenses involved. Minimised tution fees alone amount to a sum of Rs.200 to Rs.300, and I trust that this assertion of mine would be ascribed to better motives than selfishness. I am aware of the difficulties besetting any endeavour towards the extension of grants to other than English Public Servants as it would spell persistent calls on the purse and want of justification but utilization of public funds for the welfare of the relatives of European public servants cannot be questioned.

4. As having for the present an indirect bearing on this subject, it may not be out of place at least to make a passing reference to the political upheavels in this country, constitutional and otherwise. The reforms are emerging on the political horizon and a new era is sought to be inaugarated. These point to an imperative necessity of making relations between Englishmen and Indians more cordial, that they might more truly understand each other than at present. The Pubjab massacres with its savage episodes still crying out for condemnation are likely to bring about the social ostracism of Englishmen in Indian circles and social acquaintance with them an impossibility unless the desirability of utilizing the channel of communication with the people contemplated in the G.O. is recognized as swiftly and strongly as possible. Vernacular Newspapers of all shades of political opinion have increased in volume and are devoted to the discussion of political and social questions. If the Europeans as a body are denied the knowledge of the vernacular, misrepresentations and racial hatred may spread unchecked. Reference may suitably be made at this point to the readiness with which all sorts of statements or wild rumours are accepted by Englishmen in this country, foreigners as they are to this country and ignorant of local usages, customs and language. Till quite recently the innocent term "Swaraj" engendered strong fears among Englishmen and conveyed a particularly offensive meaning not really conveyed by the term. Lastly, I would even go further and plead strongly for a knowledge of the vernaculars to

all Englishmen and ladies irrespective of their status in life as a good device of guarding the loyalty of this country from being tampered with by other foreign powers. At the time of the great war there were still at large in India a large number of undesirable German Missionaries in the closest touch possible with Indians through the medium of the local vernacular. Herr Bucher, a German, His Excellency the Viceroy's bandmaster was wielding authority over other bandmasters. Herr Otto St uss, a Professor of the Calcutta University attempted to find his way home at the commencement of the war. The instances are cited to show the possibilities of tampering with Indian loyalty by foreign powers and the perfected system of "Kultur" espionage at the back of the whole thing may not be familiar to Englishmen at Home. Startling phenomenon of the presence of spys in the villas of Lords and other high dignitories were gradually noticed even in England. The German Government attempted to build an Empire by the spy-system and Englishmen may use the same legitimately for the protection of their Empire.

5. While I wish to mention my sense of satisfactinn at the step taken by Government and while the measure is welcome as evincing the desire of Government to move forward in the path of progress, the G.O. unfortunately affords ample confirmation of the apprehension which prevails among non-gazetted Military & Civil Officers as to the half-hearted and unsatisfactory treatment given to the subject of your despatch No.81, referred to herein. The Non-gazetted officers have done nothing to deserve the misfortune unconsciously provided for them and they in their desire not to embarass the Local Government have been refraining from holding public meetings against this half-hearted measure.

6. I hope the Government will appreciate the fact that this letter is inspired by a sincere desire on my part to serve the best interests of the Empire. Trusting that these earnest representations which are animated at the same time by a desire to strengthen the hands of Government may not be lightly set aside, I confidently

await definite and immediate action on the suggested lines by offering facilities for all ladies related to European Government servants without distinction to gazetted character to undergo a vernacular course and by enlarging the grants to at least Rs.350/- for each of the two tests which I venture to hope will not be denied.

I have the honour to be,

Rt. Hon, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

O. T. Gangatharam Pillai

Government of Madras.

Home Department (Miscellaneous).

G.O.No.728, 24th March 1920.

Examinations

Institution of the Ladies Vernacular Examinations - Government of India Orders recorded and notification published.

Read - the following papers:-

G.O.No.1091, Home (Miscellaneous) dated 1st October 1917.

Abstract.- Recording letter from the Government of India, Department of education, No.83 datedthe 23rd August 1917 regarding the institution of a special examination in vernaculars for the wives and near relatives of European British subjects,

II

Letter - From the Hon'ble Mr. H. Sharp, C.S.I.,C.I.E. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education (Examinations).

To - The Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Dated - Simla, the 17th October 1919.

With reference to the Department of Education circular letter No.83 dated the 23rd August 1917, I am directed to forward a copy of the correspondence noted in the margin on the subject of the grant of rewards to the wives, daughters or sisters of European Officers of Government for passing examinations in vernacular languages.

Finance Department despatch to the Secretary of State for India No. 85 dated the 2nd April 1919.

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No.81, Public, dated the 10th July 1919.

2. It will be seen that the Government of India have, with the approval of the Secretary of State now decided that small rewards to cover the expenses of tutitional fees and possible journeys to examination centres should be granted to the wives and female relations of European officers of Government for passing examinations in the vernacular languages of India. In this connexion, they have formulated a general scheme which is outlined below for the consideration of and adoption by the Governor in Council with such modifications as may be necessary. It is left to the local Government to define the class of persons to whom the examination should be open but the grant of rewards should be restricted to the wives , daughters or sisters of European Officers of Government, both civil and military.

3.. The general scheme of the examination, which should be known as the "Ladies Vernacular Examinations" is briefly as follows; The examination should consist of two parts, one colloquial and the other written in the vernacular script. The former may be known as the "Ladies Vernacular Examination, Colloquial" and the latter as the "Ladies Vernacular Examination, Written". The reward for passing one test will be Rs.100, but if two parts are taken up together, the candidate will be eligible for a reward of Rs.200 for passing both the tests. A candidate who passes in one test on one occasion will be permitted to earn a second reward by passing the other test on another occasion.

The colloquial part should consist of -

(1) Viva voce translation into the vernacular of a paper of English sentences read out by the examiner.

(11) Viva voce translation into English of a peper of sentences in the vernacular, read out by the examiner or by an Indian.

(111) Conversation with an Indian in the vernacular on subjects mentioned by the examiner.

Papers (1) and (11) are to be set by the central Boards of Examinations, Calcutta, Madras or Bombay, or by the Provincial Departmental Examinations Boards, as the local Government may consider most convenient; an aggregate of 75 per cent of marks should be required to pass.

The written part should consist of -

(1) Written translation into the vernacular of a paper of English sentences ..... 1 hour.

(11) Written Translation into English of a paper of sentences in the vernacular .... 1 hour.

Both the papers are to be set and examined by one of the above mentioned boards; 60 per cent of marks in each paper should be required to pass.

4. Although a general scheme is given above, the Government of India desire to leave the Local Government a free hand with regard to the syllabus and conduct of the examinations. It is desirable, however, that some degree of uniformity should be maintained as regards the form of the examination. I am to observe that, if desired, the Board of Examiners, Calcutta would be prepared to draw up and issue a set of sample papers of the local Government or to intending candidates which might serve as a standard for local examining bodies and as a guide to candidates.

5. In conclusion I am to say that the Government of India suggest that a list of books, grammars, manuals, reading books, etc., recommended for study by candidates may be added to the syllabus of this examination which each local Government will publish and that the attention of intending candidates should be drawn to their list of qualified teachers to enable them to utilize their services in connexion with these examinations.

Enclosures.

(1)

Despatch - from the Government of India, Finance Department (Pay allowances and Finance officers - Language Rewards and language allowances)
To - His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.
Dated, Simla, 2nd April 1919.
No.85.

We have recently had under consideration the adoption of measures to encourage the wives of European officers of Government to learn and obtain a good colloquial knowledge of a vernacular language. English ladies are now taking a greater interest and share in Indian affairs than formerly and in particular, since the beginning of the war, they have been brought into closer contact with Indian ladies for charitable objects. Moreover, with the spread of education among Indian ladies, the weakening of the purda system and of old customs generally and an increasing desire among many Indian ladies to meet English ladies and wives of British Officers in India are beginning to have many calls on them forthe due discharge of which a good colloquial knowledge of the vernacular is desirable.

2. We consulted Local Governments of the subject and placed some suggestions before them. These suggestions were in most, but not in all, cases approved. In these circumstances we did not feel justified in laying down any general scheme for the whole of India, but considered that local Governments should be in a position to give the shceme a reasonable trial if they so desired. We accordingly addressed the local Governments ina circular in the year 1917 permitting them after consultation with the Board of Examiners to institute an examination under Government agency to which European ladies would be ~~permitted~~ admitted. No money reward was to be given. But it would be open to the local Govemnment to give a certificate or deploma to a successful candidate. The examination might be conducted in any of the vernaculars for which examinations are now provided. Certain other minor suggestions were made.

3. When the local Government were consulted in the first instance some of them suggested that a reward should be given. The amount suggested varied from Rs.100 to Rs.500. But in view of the difficulty of giving rewards from the public funds to others than Government servants we did not feel to accept these suggestions. We have now however reconsidered the position. In order that an adequate knowledge of the language may be attained, it is necessary to employ a teacher and journey expenses are involved in going to the centres where the Board of Examiners' test are held. We think therefore that it would be legitimate to give a small reward to successful candidates. Local Governments may define the class of persons to whom the examination shall be open, but it was generally intended for the near relatives of European British subjects in the service of Government, and we would restrict the grant of rewards to the case of of wives, daughters or sisters of such officers. We consider that the examination for the purpose might be divided into two parts, one colloquial the other written in the vernacular script, and propose to allow a candidate who passes in one of these tests Rs.100 or, if the two parts are taken together Rs.200. A candidate who had passes in one test on occasion would be permitted to earn a second reward by passing the other test on another occasion. The reward is very small and it is improbable that it will even cover the necessary expenses. But we think that it will be some inducement to ladies to take up this examination and that it is reasonable that some part of the expenses incurred should be defrayed.

4. As the expenditure proposed will be incurred on an object outside the ordinary work of administration we submit the proposal for your sanction.

(2)

Despatch - from His Majestey's Secretary of State for India.
To - His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council.
Dated - India Office, London, 10th July 1919.
No. - 81 Public.

Having considered in Council the letter of your Excellency's Governmentin the finance department No.85 dated the 2nd April last, I approve your proposals for granting rewards to the wives daughters or sisters of European Officers of Government for passing examinations in vernacular languages.

Examination A, June 1919 No.1
Grant of rewards to the wives, daughters or sisters of European Officers of Government for passing examinations in vernacular languages.

2. I presume that it is your intention to include the relatives of Military officers.

III

Endorsement No.6669 - 1, Home (Miscellaneous) dated 1st December 1919.
Communicated to the President, Board of Examiners.

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of the letter of the Government of India, he is requested to submit for the consideration of Government a detailed syllabus and proposals for the conduct of the examinations. He is also requested to state whether he requires the assistance of the Board of Examiners, Calcutta in the matter.

3. The president's attention is drawn to the suggestion in paragraph 5 of the letter from the Government of India.

R, Ramachandra Rao,
Secretary to Government.

To the President Board of Examiners.

IV½

Letter - from L.T. Harris Esq.I.C.S. President Board of Examiners.
To - The Secretary to Government, Home(Miscellaneous) Department.
Dated - Madras, the 20th February 1920.
No.250.

With reference to Government endorsement No.6669-1, Home(Miscellaneous) dated 1st December 1919, I have the honour to submit for the consideration of Government a draft notification for the conduct of the "Ladies' Vernacular Examinations".

Such assistance as was required of the Board of Examiners, Calcutta, has been taken in the matter and no further assistance is necessary.

Order No.726,Home(Miscellaneous) dated 24th March 1920.
Recorded.

2. The following notification will be published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

Notification.

In order to encourage European ladies resident in India to acquire a good colloqual knowledge of Indian vernaculars, Government have decided to institute for their benefit two examinations to be called (1) Ladies' Vernacular Examination - Colloqual and (2) Ladies' Vernacular Examination Written.

2. Government do not consider it necessary to dilate on the advantages to themselves and to their neighbours of ladies being able to talk in the language of their locality without the intervention of a third person, and wish only to point out that these advantages gain in importance every year in proportion to the political and social advancement of the country.

3. The examinations will be open to all European ladies as Government may decide, but for the present only those ladies of European parentage who are wives, sisters or daughters of Government gazetted Military or Civil Officers will be eligible for rewards. The reward of each test will be Rs.100 and a candidate may appear at one examination for both tests Every successful candidate whether eligible for a reward or not will receive a diploma from the Board of Examiners, Madras, and her name will be published in the Fort St. George Gazette.

4. The Colloquial test will consist of -

(1) Viva voce translation into the vernacular of a peper of English sentences read out by the examiner.

(2) Viva voce translation into English similarly of a paper of

sentences in the vernacular.

(3) Conversation with an Indian on subjects selected by the Examiner.

5. The written test will consist of -

(1) Translation in script into the vernacular of a peper of English sentences.

(2) Translation into English of a paper of sentences set in the vernacular.

6. The examinations can be held in different centres and at convenient times if intending candidates give at least two months' notice of their desire to be examined and in the following vernaculars spoken in the Presidency :-

(1) Tamil (2) Telugu (3) Malayalam (4) Kanarese (5) Hindustani (6) Oriya.

7. Applications consisting the necessary particulars including the degree nature of the relationship of the candidate to a Government Officer should be forwarded to the Secretary, Board of Examiners, Madras who on application will also furnish information and suggestions on the books that can best be consulted or studied.

(True Extract)

R. Ramachandra Rao,
Secretary to Government.

To the President, Board of Examiners.
" The Accountant General (Through Financial Department)
" Department of the Secretariat (Except financial (pension) and local and Municipal (Legislative))
" The Superintendent, Government Press, (for publication of the notification.)

Copy to the Publicity Officer.
" Government of India, Department of Education (with C.L)

Scott. II—8 (b) -29,004—16-1-17.

NOTES.

Pa

Home (Miscellaneous)

Subject.- Ladies Vernacular Examinations.

[C. No. 858.]

From M.R.Ry. O.S. Gangatharan Pillai, dated 19-

For the U.S.

The petitioner requests that the scope ladies vernacular examinations may be enlarged the following manner:-

(1) The tests should be thrown open to the l related to non-gazetted military and civil offic and

(2) the amount of the reward for each test sho be raised to Rs. 350.

2. Attention is invited to Mr. Hilton Brown's remarks at pages 1 and 3 of the notes to G.O. No. 728, Home (Mis), dated 24-3-20, from which it will be observed that the exclusion of the class of ladies referred to in para 1(1) above, from the scope of the tests, was intentional. It does no therefore seem necessary to remove this restriction

3. The reward of Rs. 100 for each test is admittedly inadequate. In spite of the fact that the Govt. of India have themselves recognised that ~~that~~ this ~~sum~~ would not even cover the necessary expenses of the candidate in respect of tuition fees or travelling allowance to examination centres they have not been inclined to recommend a more substantial reward ~~of~~ in this direction. The existi remuneration is merely intended to se ducement to ladies to take up exam sub

respect of increased rewards need not ~~perhaps~~ be Therefore
~~carefully~~ considered. 12

4. The petitioner may simply be informed that the Govt. are unable to entertain the suggestions contained in his letter. A draft order is submitted for approval.

2.3.21

2nd 4/3/21
Secy.

5/3/21

2.3.21

Ladies Vernacular ————, Petition from S. Ganghatharam Pillai praying for the extension of of the above tests - request refused.

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(R)

G. No.728, Home (Mis) dated 24-3-20 ..... 191 .

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From The M.R.Ry. O.S. Ganghatharam Pillai, No. ..... dated 19-2-21. 191 .

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" " ..... " " ..... " ..... 191 .

ORDER. No. 354, dated 8-3-1921.

Mis.

The memorialist is informed that the Govt. are unable to entertain the suggestions contained in his letter read above.

SAR 2.3.21

Lg 4/3/21

Lg 2/3/21

MEJ 5/3/21

MEJ 8/3/1921

DESPATCHED 8 MAR 1921

To

M.R.Ry. O.S. Ganghatharam Pillai, Head Pandit, The Correspondence School of vernacular studies for Europeans, 93, Ramaswami Street, Madras

(q of II & O)

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83

DATED

VERNMENT .. .. A A A A A A A

VERNMENT.

WITH DITTO.

FILED UP. BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
RIGINAL.

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Not to be copied.
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