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education be inserted under the sub-division of "Indian and Goan Education" on the understanding that this grant should be on an ex gratia basis; the Committee, on the suggestion of Elected Members, not wishing to commit itself to a continuance of such a grant as a recurrent charge for future years. I have found it difficult to reconcile the arguments advanced in Select Committee in favour of Government responsibility towards Goan Education, with the disappointing conclusions which that Committee has accepted.

Under the circumstances, my Association has considered it necessary to submit to Your Lordship some of the facts which render our claim for Government responsibility for the education of Goan children in the Colony, just and equitable.

As mentioned on page 12 of the 1926 Census Report, the connection of Goans with East Africa dates back to the days of the Portuguese occupation of the Coast, and the Goan Community has been long established in this country. Goans supplied to the early British Administration as they still continue to do to a large extent, the type of professional and business men, clerks and other lower ranks, which it was difficult to attract here in those pioneer days. Many have made their homes in the Colony and Goans generally would identify themselves more closely with the country if adequate educational facilities were available for their children, a large number of whom are being educated in India.

Although racially Indians, Goans have changed their

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their language, religion and traditions to such an extent that they are now compelled to impart to their children a system of education different from that of other Indian Communities; and, as education in this country has developed on communal lines, they cannot, for one reason or another, avail themselves of the facilities provided to the other communities. On the other hand, it has been found by experience that no private agency can adequately undertake this responsibility. These difficulties had been realised by the Community as far back as 1908 when, as described in paragraph 95 of the Report of Mr. (now Sir) J.N. Fraser, Educational Adviser to the Government in 1909, an effort was made by Goans, which was also subsequently repeated, to inaugurate, with Government assistance, a Goan School in Nairobi. Verbal assurances of Government financial support appear to have been received from the authorities from time to time, but these efforts did not materialise for various reasons, chiefly due to the projects being beyond the financial capacity of the Community. Two Education Commissions have considered the educational policy of Government since 1908 and both of them recommend the acceptance of some responsibility by the State for the education of Goan children.

The rapid and extensive educational development which has taken place in respect of the other communities in the Colony reacted on the Goan community and opened its eyes to the disabilities it was suffering from in this respect. It began to realise that Goans formed the fourth largest non-native community; that their contribution to the early development of the Colony was not a mean one;

that they have been giving their quota to the general revenue of the Colony in the same measure as other communities; that their contribution to the specific education revenue by way of the wines and spirits consumption tax, which is estimated to be from 10 to 15%, was about £5000/- annually; that they had not received any educational benefits in return for these contributions, apparently because they had no school of their own.

Following, therefore, the example of other sister communities, a Goan School was inaugurated in April 1928; and, as sympathetic concern for Goan education had been expressed in the 1928 Education Department Report, the Honourable the Director of Education was approached with a request to recommend a subsidy for Goan education. The specific item of £500/- included in the 1930 Draft Estimates and His Excellency the Governor's sympathetic reference thereto in his relative Budget speech gave to the community the necessary stimulus and the existing school was re-organised on a broader basis and a scheme formulated for its development into an up-to-date central school, with the necessary boarding facilities, for Goan children scattered in the smaller centres of the Colony. A prominent Goan offered £1,000/- towards a school building and the community subscribed an equal sum. The Honourable the Director of Education attended a representative public meeting of Goans in Nairobi with a view to ascertaining their wishes as to the disposal of the provision in the 1930 Draft Estimates. He was assured that Goans consider

the responsibility for the education of their children to be a matter primarily between the Government and themselves and that they were prepared to make any sacrifices and to bear any equitable burdens towards this cause.

Strangely enough, at this stage it was held that Goans were foreigners and that Government had no responsibility towards the education of our children and the proposed vote of £500/- for Goan Education deleted from this year's Estimates. This sudden and unexpected development reacted to some extent on the enthusiasm of the community; but in accordance with the mandate given by the community, this Association proceeded with the scheme.

The school is at present conducted in a hired building under a qualified European Lady Principal, who is assisted by another European and three Goan Lady teachers. The number of children enrolled from the re-opening of the school in January is 187. The number on active roll fluctuates from month to month and at presents stands at 145 children, a large majority of whom are natural born British subjects. The teaching is carried on to the Cambridge Preliminary Standard. The actual attendance is far beyond the capacity of the present building and admissions have had to be restricted as it is impossible, on financial grounds, to hire other accommodation. Some considerable accession to this strength is anticipated when the new school building is available which is expected to be sometime

sometime in the month of May 1931, if no further delay occurs with regard to the grant of land.

After protracted negotiations regarding suitable and sufficient land for our scheme, we have been recently advised by the Municipal Corporation that a plot of about 3 acres land has been recommended for the purpose. A comprehensive plan of the school building, as it will develop in future, has been drawn up, but it is proposed to build only a portion, as soon as final approval of the grant has been communicated to us by the Government namely, 6 class rooms with the necessary appurtenances, sufficient to accommodate about 220 children which is anticipated to be the attendance of the school in the very near future. The annual deficit on the working of the school in Nairobi is about £600/-.

I hope I have sufficiently summarised the history and the present position of Goan educational effort in this Colony to convince Your Lordship of the equity of our claim and of the fact that the Goan Community will go to any length to establish, with Government assistance, the education of our children on sure and solid foundations which will ensure to the present and future generations of Goans a place in this Colony befitting their status as British subjects, acquired by virtue of their birth in a British Territory.

My Association is alive to the present difficult financial position of the Colony; but, having regard to all the circumstances of our case, we earnestly pray that it may be possible for Your Lordship to include provision

provision in the 1931 Estimates for adequate financial assistance towards the working expenses of our school and also towards the capital expenditure of the school building, for which favour the Goan Community at large as well as this Association will be grateful to Your Lordship and to the Government.

I beg to remain,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant.

A. Chelvan

President

EXTRACT
FROM PAGES 17 & 18 OF REPORT OF SELECT
COMMITTEE ON 1931 DRAFT ESTIMATES.

GOAN EDUCATION.

The Committee discussed a proposal put forward by the Government for making provision in Estimates for some assistance to be given to the education of Goan children. When the Estimates for 1930 were under consideration Elected Members recommended the deletion of the proposed vote for making grants-in-aid for Goan education and Government accepted this recommendation, although with regret, because the difficulty was recognised of incurring any obligation on the part of the State to foreign subjects resident in the territory. More recently, Government has had the question under further consideration because it is satisfied that strong reasons exist for State assistance. It is, in the first place, in the interests of the country as a whole that Goan children resident in the Colony should have reasonable education facilities and that there should be some measure of Government inspection; in the second place, Goan children born in the Colony are British subjects; and in the third place, it is admitted that the Goan community makes a substantial contribution to the Colony's special education tax revenue by way of the Wines and Spirits Consumption Tax, in respect of which the community derives no advantages at present in the form of State-assisted elementary education. A majority of the Committee agrees with the Government that provision should be made for a grant to be paid during 1931 to a school already established for the education of Goan children, but Elected Members consider that this grant should be on an ex-gratia basis and do not wish to commit themselves to a continuance of such a grant as a recurrent charge for future years. On this understanding the Committee recommends

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recommends that under the sub-division "Indian and Goan Education" a vote of £250 should be provided for Grants-in-Aid to Goan Education and, as it understands that there is a possibility of savings between £40 and £50 being found in certain eventualities on the vote for Grants-in-Aid for Indian Education, it would offer no objection to such savings being utilised for adding to the Grant-in-Aid for Goan Education during 1931.

Mr. Malik maintains that the Goan community have a just claim for a substantial grant-in-aid and that any aid granted to them is not an act of benevolence. He cannot, therefore, accept the view that any aid granted should be regarded as on an "ex-gratia basis". He considers that the grant-in-aid should not only continue as a recurrent charge for future years, but that it should be adequately increased to be a real aid. He considers the grant proposed insufficient.