

(No. 14-16)

(File 2D/2-1)

No. 891, dated Calcutta, the 20th January, 1904

From – A. Pedler, Esq., F.R.S., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal
To- The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department

I have the honour to forward for the favourable consideration of Government, the accompanying petition, dated the 7th January, 1904, from Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ray, Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College, in which he proposes to visit some of the most important centres of scientific study in Europe, with a view to acquaint himself personally with all the more recent methods, laboratory improvements and appliances in the study and teaching of Chemistry, and thereby to qualify himself(missing words due to missing pieces of paper).....as a teacher of that science.

2. Dr. Ray requests that he may be deputed by the government to Europe for six months, from April to September 1904.... (missing words due to missing pieces of paper)...., and asks for a grant of passage, travelling and incidental expenses.

3. The Principal of the Presidency College, in forwarding the application with his letter No.30, dated the 8th July 1904 (herewith enclosed), supports the proposal with the remark that Dr. Ray has a high reputation as a Professor of Chemistry, and that an officer of his status should, in his opinion, be encouraged in the intended visit by a grant from Government of all the concessions he has asked for.

4. While fully agreeing in the views expressed by Mr. Edwards and strongly supporting Dr. Ray's application, I think I should explain the particular features of Dr. Ray's case more fully than has been done by Mr. Edwards.

5. (missing words due to missing pieces of papers)

6. Dr Ray has also more recently undertaken and performed some special original work in the investigation of the science of Chemistry as known to the ancient Hindus and which is

contained in their Medical and Tantric literature. This is a subject of enquiry which was never dealt with by anyone. The first volume of the promised work has already been issued, which has gained for him much praise from scientific authorities like Sr Henry Roscoe and M. Berthelot, and which book has been reviewed and most favourably criticized in various periodicals, both in this country and Europe.

7. One important object which Dr Ray has in visiting Europe is as stated by him in his application, to collect fresh materials from rare Sanskrit and Tibetan Manuscripts on Chemistry and Alchemy which he has reason to believe to be available in Europe, though copies or the originals of which have been discovered in India. These materials may serve to help him in completing his work on ancient Hindu Chemistry.

8. The Government was pleased to accord sanction..... (missing words due to missing pieces of paper), to a research grant of Rs 2000..... (missing words due to missing pieces of paper)..... to carry on his researches into Hindu Chemistry..... (missing words due to missing pieces of paper)

9. Dr. Ray now asks for facilities to visit Europe in connexion with the development of his original work, and I would urge on Government the desirability of helping one of its most distinguished natives officers, and to give him the opportunity of keeping himself abreast of the times, which he cannot do, except by visiting Europe. His pay, too, is small and he could scarcely visit Europe, unless helped by Government.

10. In this connection, I have to observe the recommendations of the recent Simla Educational Conference regarding the encouragement of the officers who take up various scientific branches of learning in the Educational Service to visit Europe for special training, which were accepted by the Secretary of State for India in his Despatch No. 146, dated the 28th November 1902, appear to apply only to officers of the Indian Educational Service, but the proposal to put forward by Dr. Ray, who belongs to the Provincial Educational Service, may well be held to be fully in consonance with the spirit of the recommendations and orders.

11. It therefore seems to me to be open to Government to sanction Dr. Ray's deputation under the provisions of article 85 of the Civil Service Regulations, which do not appear to limit the application of the rules to the officers of any particular service.

12. It will also be remembered that long before the issue of the Secretary of State's Despatch above referred to, Government had on two occasions allowed Dr. Jagadish Chandra Bose, a native officer of the former graded service, to visit Europe for similar purposes, and on each of these occasions he was allowed, under article 103 of the then Edition of the Civil Service Regulations corresponding to article 85 of the present edition, two-thirds of the salary ordinarily drawn by him together with free passage, actual travelling expenses in Europe, and a daily allowance of 10s 6d for hotel expenses during his stay in Europe.

13. If, therefore Dr. Ray's prayer for deputation to Europe on fully pay be held to be not admissible under the rules, I would strongly recommend that he be allowed all the concessions which were allowed to Dr. Bose on his deputations.

No. 30 dated Calcutta, the 8th January 1904

Memo. By – A.C. Edwards, Esq, M.A., Principal, Presidency College.

COPY of the following forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal with recommendation for favourable consideration.

2. Dr. P.C. Ray has high reputation here as a Professor Chemistry. His object in visiting the several Chemical Laboratories in Europe to qualify himself more efficiently in the scientific knowledge of his special subject – "Chemistry."

3. An officer of his status should, in the opinion of the undersigned, be encouraged in his intended visit to Europe, by granting him the concession of full pay and free passage asked for by him; also travelling expenses in Europe.

(Missing letter from P.C. Ray, Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College, to the Principal of Presidency College due to missing pieces of paper)

(Missing letter from P.C. Ray, Professor of Chemistry, Presidency College, to the Director of Public Instruction due to missing pieces of paper)

(No. 17)

(File 2D/2-2)

General Department

Education No 707

Calcutta, the 10th February, 1904

From A. Earle. Esq., I.C.S.,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal,

To THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HOME DEPARTMENT

Sir,

I AM directed to submit, for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, No. 891, dated the 20th January, 1904, and enclosures, on the subject of an application made by Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ray, a Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College and an officer in Class II of the Provincial Educational Service, to be deputed for a period of six months to visit some of the most important centres of scientific study in Europe.

2. The Director bears testimony to Dr. Ray's distinguished career as a student, both in India and at Edinburgh, to his success as a teacher, and to value of the research work which has been carried out by him. Of recent years, Dr. Ray has been engaged in investigating the science of Chemistry, as known to the ancient Hindus and as contained in their Medical and Tantric

literature; and this Government has, from time to time, made concessions to him for the purpose of furthering his efforts in this direction. Dr. Ray now proposes to visit Europe with the object of advancing his knowledge in this special line; but he also wishes to study modern methods of Chemistry as followed at the best laboratories in England, France, and Germany.

3. In view of Dr. Ray's reputation as a scientist and his undoubted qualifications for the work to which he proposes to devote himself, the Lieutenant-Governor strongly supports the recommendation of the Director. I am, accordingly, to request that the Secretary of State may be moved to sanction Dr. Ray's deputation for a period of six months, with effect from the 1st April next; and to recommend that, while on deputation, Dr. Ray may be allowed, under Article 85 of the Civil Service Regulations, to draw two-thirds of the salary which he would draw were he on duty in India. His Honour also recommends that Dr. Ray may be allowed further concessions which were granted in the case of Dr. Jagadish Chandra Bose, another Professor in the Presidency College, under the orders communicated with Home Department Memorandum No. 378, dated the 14th December, 1896, viz., (1) the payment of the cost of his passage from and to India; (2) the payment of his actual travelling expenses in Europe; and (3) an allowance of 10s 6d. a day for hotel expenses during his stay in Europe.

4. The Lieutenant-Governor regrets that this reference could not be made earlier. As, however, the Government of India, will observe, Dr. Ray did not submit his application to the Director of Public Instruction till last month, and the papers have only recently reached this Government. I am to suggest that, if it is found impracticable to obtain the orders of the Secretary of State, in time to allow of Dr. Ray proceeding on special duty by the 1st April, he may be allowed to do so as soon after that date as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. EARLE

Secretary to the Government of Bengal