

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL

OFFICE OF.....

DEPARTMENT.....

GROUP.....

BRANCH.....

No. 6805A
4C/11a-36.

FROM

The Director of Public Instruction, Bengal,

TO

The Principal, Presidency College, Calcutta.

Calcutta, Dated the 11th Aug., 1936.

Subject:—

Sir,

I have the honour to invite a reference to your Memo No. 1947, dated 8th July 1936, on the subject of reopening an additional section in the First Year 1.Sc. Class at the Presidency College during the session 1936-37.

2. On the Science side, an additional section in the First Year Class appears to have been in existence since 1932-33 and that in the Second year class since 1933-34. Presumably both the additional sections have been continued during the current session. I have now to request you to let this office know whether the above presumption is correct and to supply this office with the following information:—

- (i) The number of students on the roll of the 1.Sc. (1st and 2nd years) Classes during the sessions 1935-36 & 1936-37.

1935-36 - 31.7.35 - 196
1st yr Sc. - 196
2nd yr Sc. - 209
1936-37 - 31.7.36
1st yr Sc. - 157
2nd yr Sc. - 194

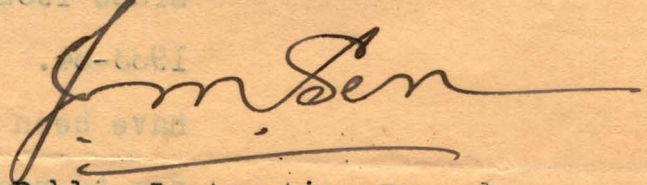
1933-34
31.7.33
- 1025
1934-35
31.7.34
1146
1935-36
31.7.35
- 1174
1936-37
31.7.36
1050

[N.B. It appears that there were 84 students in the First Year Arts and 192 in the Science Sections and 166 in the Second Year Arts and 212 in the Science Sections on 31st March 1936. The figures on 31st July 1936 may be supplied as the required figures for 1936-37].

- (ii) The total number of students in the College during 1935-36 and 1936-37 (this is necessary to see whether the maximum limit of 1125 students fixed under Government Order No. 392T, Edn., dated the 10th June 1926 has been exceeded)
- (iii) How the classes (including additional sections in the I.Sc. classes) were managed during the sessions 1934-35 and 1935-36, so far as teaching of English was concerned.
- (iv) How many periods per week each of the existing teachers in English taught during the last two sessions and with the addition of one more teacher in English how many periods a week each teacher (including the additional teacher asked for) shall have to take during the current session.

3. The information is wanted by Government (Finance Department) in connection with the question of appointment of an additional teacher in English at the Presidency College during the current session and should be furnished to this office as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,



Asstt. Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

8/8
N.10/8.
aa
10/8

July 5 - Dec 1936

P.C.F. - hcc -
Tub -

3rd yr P - 1+1
3rd yr H - 1+1+1
4th yr H - 1+1
3+4 H - 1
4th P - 1

Queries

- (iii) How the classes (including additional sections ~~sections~~ in the I.Sc. Classes) were managed during the sessions, 1934-35 and 1935-36, so far as the teaching of English was concerned.
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Replies

(iii)

Our plan of work in the past:

- (a) B.A. Pass and Honours Classes were not separated for lectures on the common text-books.
- (b) No tutorial classes were held for the First Year boys until after the Second and Fourth Year Classes had been dismissed, that is, not before the third week of January.
- (c) Tutorial work was done for the Third Year Honours men from the very beginning of the session.
- (d) Tutorial work was done with the Fourth year Pass men from July to December, sometime up to the middle of January.

Changes during the present session:

- (a) In the Third Year Class, Pass and Honours men are being taken separately in the Common books. This has given the staff extra work for 5 hours. This has been a step in the right direction, and we would have taken it long ago were it not for the inadequacy of our staff. We ventured upon this plan only when we were given to understand at the beginning of this term that there were to be not more than two sections for the First year men. The College Enquiry Committee also seemed to favour this idea.
- (b) Tutorial work has been planned out for the First Year boys even from now, instead of making them wait till the last week of January. The reason for this is too obvious for explanation in detail, which is clear to anybody realising the alarmingly increasing need for such early assistance to these young students just come from schools where they learn but little and learn that little ill. They should be taken in hand from the very beginning for any effective good to be done to them. There are 239 students in the present First Year Classes (I.A. and I.Sc.), who have been planned to be taken in groups of 6 each, once a fortnight. This would give additional work for 20 hours a week.
- (c) We have not undertaken tutorial work for the Third Year Honours men this term. We have held a preliminary Test for some of the applicants for admission into the Honours Department, and I have made arrangements for some weekly tests for those that have been admitted. This work is purely voluntary with me personally, and I have not shown it in my regular routine.
- (d) We have similarly dropped the Fourth Year Pass tutorials this term. But the Fourth Year Honours men are having weekly examinations in addition to their ordinary tutorial classes. This has increased the work here by 4 hours.

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The dropping of the Third Year Honours and Fourth Year Pass tutorials, which had to be done in the interests of the First X Year boys, it being impossible to run all these classes together even with the strength of the staff increased by one man more, has cut out 13 hours from the amount of work done by us in the past.

But there has been an increase of 29 hours on the other hand: 5 hours in the Third Year lecture classes, 4 hours in the 4th Year Honours Tutorial classes, and 20 hours in the First year Tutorial classes.

Thus there has been an increase of 16 (29-13) hours on the total for previous years. It should be further remembered that next year when the new third year men will come, we shall have another 5 hours' work to reckon with, if we continue to work on the present plan of separating Pass and Honours men for lectures on the common text-books.

The question now is very simple: Who is to do this additional amount of work (16 hours) in the present session, and a heavier amount (21 hours) next year? The answer to this is as simple or perhaps simpler: Either we must have an extra hand to help us in carrying out our new and wiser plan or we shall have to go back to our old ways, sacrificing educational needs to other considerations.

(iv) The amount of work done by each member of the existing staff is shown in the attached statements, from which it will appear that there has not been nor will there be any lightening of the burden ~~for~~ ^{at least} for any of them. On the other hand there will be an increase of 3 hours' work next year for the staff with the proposed addition of one man more.

As matters stand now, we have been obliged to drop 3 lectures for the First year Classes, We are unable to make any arrangements for tutorial work with the two Science sections in the First Year, an awkward situation in view of the fact that we have started tutorial work with their fellow students in the First Year Arts Class. And until recently, in consequence of Mr. House's illness, we had to drop some lectures in the other classes as well. We are not able to give more attention to the Post-Graduate students attached to our College. Only two seminars a week seem to be quite inadequate for the work that should be done. Two months have gone out of a very busy term of four without anything being done in spite of well-intentioned assurances of speedy help given by persons in

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authority. One might well wonder if the remaining months were to be spent in "considering" the matter. Meanwhile the hungry sheep look up and are not fed.

Sd: P. C. Ghosh,

August 21, '36

Senior Professor of English