

Liability of Pedler to pass an exam in Bengali as DPI.... Appt Genl, Sect B II Collection no 1, File 6. Proc 3-4, Aug 1875

No. 3533, dated Fort William, the 28th July 1875
From J SUTCLIFFE, ESQ., Offg. Director of Public Instruction,
To - The Offg. Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department.

I HAVE the honor to forward, in original, a letter from Mr. Pedler to the officiating Principal of the Presidency College, accompanied by copies of the covenants under which he and Mr. Nash (a recently appointed 4th grade officer) came out to join the Bengal Educational Department.

2. The question of Mr. Pedler's liability to pass in a vernacular was raised by the Officiating Principal of the College in a letter dated 2nd June, addressed to me. In that letter Mr. Woodrow stated that all educational Officers were, by a genera order of the Secretary of State, liable to pass in one of the vernaculars, and that the omission of any mention of an examination in a covenant did not, according to his belief, remove the application of the order; and he requested that I would state whether Mr Pedler was exempt or not.

3. On referring to the papers in this office, I find that, on Mr Pedler's arrival in May 1873, he was in a demi-official note informed by Mr Atkinsodn that he would be liable to pass in a vernacular. But he has not done so, nor up to date has he made any preparatin to pass, being under the impression that by the terms of his covenant he is not required to pass an examination. I think Mr Pedler is right in tis view, and that he can continue to draw the increments in the pay of his grade (third) without passing the usual examination.

4. Mr Pedler now desires to have an authoritative decision as to his liability to pass in a vernacular, and expresses his readiness to do so if required. In the event of its being decided that he is to pass, he asks that a period of 12 months may be allowed him for preparation, and that he may continue to draw, during that period, his present salary (Rs 850), and I recommend that this be granted.

5 The return of the accompanying papers is requested when no longer required.

C. E. G. - Reg. No. 1893.

No. 1623 V. S., dated Calcutta, the 25th August 1875.

From - H. J. REYNOLDS, ESQ., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, General Dept.,

To - The Officiating Director of Public Instruction

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3533, dated 28th July last, forwarding for the decision of Government the question of Mr. A. Pedler's liability to pass in a vernacular language.

2. In reply, I am to request that you will inform Mr Pedler that the Lieutenant-Governor considers that it is necessary that he should pass in Bengali.

3. I am, however, to add that as the clause requiring him to pass the examination was not inserted in his covenant, His Honor will allow Mr Pedler 12 months in which to pass the examination, and will permit him, during that period, to draw the increased pay which he is now receiving.

4. The original enclosures of your letter are herewith returned as requested.

No. 1624 V.S.

Copy forwarded to the Accountant-General for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

H. J. REYNOLDS,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,

The 25th August 1875.

A. G. - Reg. No. 1894