

D. Q. No. **464c**



Office of the Director of Public Instruction,
Bengal.

Confidential.

Calcutta, The **2nd** Aug., 19**30**.

My dear Barrow,

Will you please see the ~~confidential~~
enclosed copy of a Council Question by Raja B. N. Sinha
Bahadur of Nashipur and let me have a suitable reply to
^{(a), (d), (e) and (f)}
~~each~~ sub-paragraph, as soon as possible?

Yours sincerely,

J. R. Barrow, Esq.,
Principal, Presidency College.

STARRED QUESTION.

By Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur of Nashipur :-

Question.

Answer.

240. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether the Principal of the Presidency College, Calcutta, or the Director of Public Instruction himself sought police help to combat the picketers at the gate of the Presidency College ?

(b) What action, if any, has the Hon'ble Minister taken in connection therewith, either independently or in consultation with the Cabinet of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal ?

(c) Is he considering the advisability of moving the Government to call off the Police pickets ?

(d) Has the Hon'ble Minister ascertained whether it is a fact that on Wednesday the 16th July last when some of the students of the Presidency College were coming out of the College, they were roughly handled by Sergeants and other policemen and that a Professor of the College was also beaten ?

(e) Is it a fact that petitions signed by about 300 scholars protesting against the action of the Police in front of the College and even inside the Hindu Hostel and urging the withdrawal of Police pickets and stating that it was not possible for students to attend the College till they are withdrawn, have been sent to the Principal ?

(f) If so, what steps, if any have been taken by the Principal of the College and by the Hon'ble Minister ?

The 6th August 1930.

My dear Stapleton,

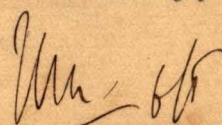
I enclose draft answers to the Council Questions of Raja Bhupendra Narayan Singh Bahadur of Nashipur sent with your confidential D. O. No. 464 C of the 2nd.

I add one or two notes :

As to (a) you have H. E.'s original order. So far as I recollect, the wording is something like this: " If the Principal thinks he can deal with picketing without police assistance, well and good. But, if not, he must call in the police and he cannot impose any restrictions etc. " Thus the onus of deciding is in a sense thrown upon the Principal. But I think it would be very unfair if, having been made personally responsible for seeing that the College is kept open and having received such very clear instructions about the freedom of action to be given to the police, I am further to incur the odium of having myself summoned the police. / ~~That it is not~~ It is no doubt true true that I made arrangements with Gordon, but this was after the picketing of the Law Examination and on the principle ~~that~~ 'prevention is better than cure '. I should like to discuss this point with you if necessary, with reference to the exact wording of H.E.'s order which I have not got with me.

(c) If the picketing at the University and the other colleges is stopping and if it appears to be stopping here also the question of reducing or removing the police force will, I suppose, shortly have to be faced and I presume considerable pressure may be brought ^{to bear} on the Department to that end when the Council meets next week. I venture to hope that no hasty action will be taken. It is only the presence of the police which has kept this college open and able to work. It is quite possible that our action may have caused a good deal of resentment and that when the police are no longer on the scene, a raid may be made upon us. The situation therefore should be carefully watched before any decision is taken.

Yours sincerely,



Draft Answers to Council Question.

- 240 (a) Police help was requisitioned under the orders of Government.
- (d) Two or three verbal complaints were made by students ; no complaint by a professor.
- (e) Two such documents were received, one signed by 200 students, the other unsigned, brought by three students said to represent the Presidency College members of the Baker Hostel.
- (f) None.

MM - 6/8

Offg. Principal, Presidency College.

6.8.30.