

Government of Madras.

HOME DEPARTMENT

(EDUCATION)

G.O. No. 85, 19th January 1917

INDEX

Moveable antiquities

Requesting Collectors to issue instructions to Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors regarding the prohibition of the use of — to objectionable purposes.

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Government of Madras.

HOME DEPARTMENT

(EDUCATION)

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G.O. No. 85, 19th January 1917

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Moveable antiquities

Requesting Collectors to issue instructions to Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors regarding the prohibition of the use of — to objectionable purposes.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
HOME DEPARTMENT
(Education)

Read—the following papers :—

I

Letter—from A. H. LONGHURST, Esq., Superintendent, Archaeological Survey,
Southern Circle, Madras.
To—the Secretary to Government, Home (Miscellaneous) Department.
Dated—Camp Kamalapur, the 9th October 1916.
No.—654.

I have the honour to state that in most districts of this Presidency a number of moveable antiquities, such as stone sculptures and inscribed stones are being destroyed by ignorant villagers who use such antiquities for a variety of objectionable purposes. Some are used for washing clothes or for grinding chunam for building purposes, others do duty as steps, or are used as boundary stones while others are wantonly defaced by cattle boys. In order to prevent this, as far as possible until such antiquities have been inspected by an officer of this department, I venture to think that it would be as well if the Tahsildars and the village officers in particular, were instructed to assist the Government in the preservation of such moveable antiquities by preventing this form of vandalism so far as possible.

II

Endorsement No. 2523 C/16-1, Revenue, dated 5th December 1916.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for favour of remarks.

2. Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors could probably do much by an appeal to the feelings of the village officers and ryots, who usually err through thoughtlessness and are susceptible to friendly remonstrance. A note on the subject might perhaps be embodied in section 32 of chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual.

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), with copy of letter.

III

Proceedings from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue),
No. 4147, Routine, dated 18th December 1916.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. B. CLEGG, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

In reply to Government Endorsement No. 2523 C/16-1, Revenue, dated 5th December 1916, the Board begs to state that it sees no objection to the issue of general instructions to Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors regarding the preservation of moveable antiquities. It considers however that, so far as village officers are concerned, section 32, chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual contains sufficient instructions, and that no addition to it is necessary.

(True Extract)

H. R. PATE,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that moveable antiquities of archaeological interest, such as stone sculptures and inscribed stones, lying scattered about in most districts, are being destroyed by villagers who use them sometimes for a variety of objectionable purposes.

2. The general principles to be adopted in the matter of the preservation of objects of archaeological interest have already been laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the resolution of the Government of India, No. 3-187-181, dated the 8th November 1882, and repeated in that Government's Resolution No. 1-58-71, dated the 8th June 1883, printed in G.O. No. 505, Public, dated the 11th June 1910. A strict observance of these principles should be ensured and moveable antiquities of archaeological interest should be guarded against wanton mutilation or defacement by the public. Collectors of districts will accordingly be requested to issue instructions to their Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors regarding the preservation of these antiquities until they have been inspected by an officer of the Archaeological Survey Department. Village officers should be reminded of their duties under section 32 of chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual regarding the preservation of ancient buildings, inscriptions and other antiquities.

(True Extract)

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey
„ all Collectors
„ the Assistant Archaeological Superintendent for Epigraphy
„ the Revenue Department (Complete G.O.).
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) (Order only).
Editors' Table (Order only). } (Order only).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 85, HOME (EDUCATION),
DATED THE 19TH JANUARY 1917

[SUBJECT.—*Moveable Antiquities.*]

From the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Southern Circle, Madras,
dated the 9th October 1916, No. 654.

The criterion to be adopted in the matter of the preservation of moveable antiquities is laid down in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Resolution of the Government of India No. 3-167-181, dated the 8th November 1882, and repeated in that Government's Resolution No. 1-58-71, dated the 8th June 1883, printed on page 5 of G.O. No. 505, Public, dated the 11th June 1910.

2. Briefly stated the instructions issued by India on the subject are as follow:—

All discoveries of objects of Archaeological interest made by Government officers whether belonging to the Archaeological survey or not should be reported by them to the head of the Local Government or Administration within which the discovery is made. On receipt of such report it will be for the Local Government or Administration to issue orders for the preservation of the objects discovered *in situ*, or for their removal to a Provincial or local museum, or where such a museum does not exist, to the Imperial museum if the trustees of that museum so desire.

Again in regard to the question of preservation as opposed to removal to, and exhibition in, a museum, the Government of India have directed that isolated figures, not *in situ*, especially if they might happen to be the remains of an extinct religion which are not unfrequently mutilated by the people unless they happen to have been adopted by the Brahmans as well as others which might be lying neglected about the country, may be found to be suitable objects for removal to a safe place such as the Indian museum, where they could be seen and studied by all persons who take an interest in Indian Art.

3. The Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, now reports that a number of moveable antiquities, stone sculptures and inscribed stones are being destroyed by ignorant villagers who use them for a variety of objectionable purposes. With a view to prevent this, the Superintendent suggests that tahsildars and village officers may be instructed to assist in preserving them until an officer of the Archaeological Department is able to inspect them.

4. It may however be pointed out that tahsildars and Collectors have already been instructed to do everything in their power to prevent the destruction of valuable inscriptions. Further, district and municipal authorities should keep the Provincial Archaeological Officer informed of any intended demolition or defacement of ancient buildings, inscriptions or other antiquities in private possession which may come to their knowledge.

5. The case of moveable antiquities stands on a different footing. But tahsildars and other revenue officials should in the ordinary course of their duties surely try to prevent the use of these antiquities to objectionable purposes, if it comes to their knowledge. It is however doubtful whether it will be possible for them to do the work amidst their multifarious duties. It is, therefore, for consideration whether it is necessary to issue any instructions in the manner proposed by the Superintendent, Archaeological survey. Perhaps the Revenue Department may be consulted.

E.A.V.—17-11-16.

T.K.—17-11-16.

The Revenue Department is the only possible agency that could assist the Archaeological Department in this matter. Irrespective of the question whether the officers could afford to inspect all the inscriptions and valuable antiquities, circulars may be issued by them and general warnings given to the people by them that the existence of such things should be immediately brought to notice. Not that such orders had not already issued; but their occasional repetition seems necessary to remind officers and the public of their duties. Revenue may be consulted.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—21-11-16.

What does Revenue think please.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—22-11-16.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

In the village officers' manual instructions are laid down on page 80 about the duty of the village officers in regard to the "preservation of ancient buildings, etc.". But there is no distinct provision in these rules for the preservation of moveable antiquities such as those referred to in the Superintendent of Archaeological Survey's letter. It is submitted that the remarks of the Board of Revenue may be called for on the proposal. A draft endorsement is submitted for approval.

A. H. A. TODD—30-11-16.

C.K.M.—29-11-16.

S.A.—29-11-16.

To the Honourable Member with draft.

I have more than once saved old carvings from destruction by remonstrating with villagers for their impiety and predicting bad fortune unless they mend their ways.

J. P. BEDFORD—2-12-16.

No objection.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—3-12-16.

Issue.

J.P.B.—4-12-16.

[Endorsement to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated the 5th December 1916, No. 2523 D/16-1.]

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 4147, dated the 18th December 1916.

The Board of Revenue has no objection to the issue of general instructions to tahsildars and revenue inspectors regarding the preservation of moveable antiquities. The Board however considers that so far as village officers are concerned section 32 of Chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual contains sufficient instructions and that no addition to it is necessary. The file may, it is submitted, be returned to the Home (Education) Department with an expression of concurrence in the views of the Board of Revenue.

S.R.—23-12-16.

S.A.—27-12-16.

Revenue may agree. It seems to be rather the working than the wording of the existing rule that is at fault.

A.H.A.T.—30-12-16.

HOME (EDUCATION) DEPARTMENT.

With reference to the Revenue Department note on the previous page, it is submitted that section 32 in Chapter V of the Village Officers' Manual does not specifically mention moveable antiquities. Since however both the Board and the Revenue Department are of opinion that no additional instructions to village officers are necessary, this department need not perhaps press the point and confine the general instructions only to tahsildars and revenue inspectors who will inevitably secure the co-operation of village officers also in the matter.

2. Subject to approval a draft order is submitted.

E.A.V.—8-1-17.

T.K.—11-1-17.

C. RAMANUJA ACHARIYAR—13-1-17.

P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR—17-1-17.

P[ENTLAND]—18-1-17.

Issue.

P.R.—19-1-17.

[G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917.]

Moveable antiquities.

Requesting Collectors to issue instructions to Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors regarding the prohibition of the use of _____ to objectionable purposes.

Read—

C.No.783 Home (Mis.), from the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, No.654, dated the 9th October 1916.

From the Board of Revenue, H.R., Resolution No.4147 R, d/the 18th December 1916.

ORDER No. 85, d/ 19.1.17
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T.K.
11-1-17.

C.R.
13-1-17.

To the Supt. Arch. Survey

All Collectors

The A.A.S. for Epigraphy

" Revenue Department

" B.O.

Release - See queries 25/1/17 2-2 affl:
26.1.17 JK
28.1.17

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27-1-17

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Issue.

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[G.O. No. 85, Home (Education), dated the 19th January 1917.]

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