Secret. II-87—87,000—18-11-45.

Education (1946) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. No. 1574 Edn

Dated 14-8-1946

[Despatch Abstract.]

Indian Historical Records Commission - 22nd Session - Resolutions.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1	796	Edn	7-8-39	8	798	Edn	11-6-43
2.	1978	"	30-8-39	9	931	"	9-7-43
3.	1106	"	17-6-40	10	1240	"	15-9-43
4.	715	"	9-5-41	11	758	"	15-5-45
5	1474	"	16-10-42				
6.	1626	"	16-11-42				
7.	782	"	7-6-43				

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ms no.	2418	59-4 Public (Edn)	6.5.59				

No.F.92-44/45-E.I.
Government of India.
Department of Education.
New Delhi 3, the 17th May 1946.

29.5.46

From

Dr. D.M.Sen, M.A., Ph.D.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Education and Public Health Department,
MADRAS.

27161

22 MAY 1946

Indian Historical Records Commission -
Research and Publication Committee -
7th meeting - Resolution VI.

(438) VII/46

.....

Sir,

I am directed to forward for information and such action as the Provincial Government consider necessary a copy of Resolution VI passed at the 7th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Peshawar on the 29th October, 1945, which was approved by the Indian Historical Records Commission. In this connection I am to forward for information a copy of the resolutions on the subject passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission at its previous sessions.

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

for Deputy Secretary.

Proceedings of the 7th meeting
of the Research and Publication
Committee of the Indian Historical
Records Commission - 22nd Session
at Peshawar in October 1945.

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.....

Resolution VI. Resolved that this Committee requests the Commission to move the Provincial Governments and the Indian States to take up now the various items of work recommended by the Commission which they approved but kept in abeyance on account of the war emergency.

Sd.

Proceedings of the 7th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission - 22nd Session at Peshawar in October 1945.

.....

Resolution VI: Resolved that this Committee requests the Commission to move the Provincial Governments and the Indian States to take up now the various items of work recommended by the Commission which they approved but kept in abeyance on account of the war emergency.

Annexure to Resolution VI - Research and Publication Committee.

Resolutions on which majority of Provincial Governments and Indian States have postponed action.

(1) Resolution IV(a), Mysore Session - The Commission recommends that a copy of the Five-year publication programme be forwarded to the Provincial Governments and Indian States with a request that they should also arrange for the publication of the records in their custody on similar lines as far as practicable. The Commission is aware that the Government of Madras have their own publication scheme.

pp 1-2 + p 3 of min dr 1474 Sd (V) 16.10.42

para 6, p 13 of pg (V)

(2) Resolutions V(a),(b),(c), Mysore Session - This Commission recommends that the Government of India request the Provincial Governments and the Indian States.
(a) to set up local committees in consultation with the Ordinary, Associate and Corresponding members of the Commission in their areas to conduct regional surveys with a view to bringing to light records in private custody and providing for their preservation and publication;
(b) to include the Ordinary, Associate and Corresponding members of the Indian Historical Records Commission in their respective areas;
(c) to accord all facilities to the Ordinary, Associate and Corresponding members of the Commission for carrying on the regional surveys pending the appointment of the Committees recommended.

pp 1-4 of min Dr 1626 Sd (K) 16.11.42

(3) Resolution VII, (a) (b) (c), Mysore Session. This Commission recommends that (a) the Governments of Bombay & Bengal be requested to expedite the work of indexing their records on the lines of the index in the Land Revenue Records issued by the Imperial Record Department.
(b) While appreciating the preliminary steps already taken the Bihar Government be requested to expedite the projected indexing and publication work and (c) as the existing Indexes to the records of the C.P. Government are inadequate for research purposes that Government be requested to re-index their old documents under the supervision of experts, if possible.

Does not concern this Govt.

P.T.O.

(4) Resolution IX, Mysore Session - Does not concern this Govt	The Commission reitrates its request to the Provincial Governments and Indian States that Central Records Offices should be established at an early date by such Provinces and States as are not already provided with one.
(5) Resolution XIV, Mysore ~~Assam~~ Session - No action	This Commission with reference to its previous recommendations strongly urges upon the U.P. Government the necessity of creating a Central Record Office in the United Provinces at an early date.
(6) Resolution XV, Mysore Session. - No action	This Commission recommends that a Record Office be established in the N.W.F.P.
(7) Resolution XIX, Mysore Session. - No action	This Commission recommends to the Government of Assam that they should establish a Records Office and provide necessary facilities for research work there to such bonafide students as may seek them.
(8) Resolution XXI, Mysore Session - No action	This Commission recommends to the Government of India that early steps be taken for a proper examination of the records of the pre-mutiny period in the custody of the British Residencies and those which are not of confidential character be published and thrown open to the bonafide research scholars.
Resolution VII, Aligarh Session. - No action	This Commission recommends that ~~ix~~ the principal Indian States be addressed to ascertain whether they would be prepared to finance a publication programme regarding records in the custody of the British Residencies in India.
(9) Resolution IV, Trivandrum Session. - Pp 1-2 of file 78 (2) 7.6.42	This Committee strongly feels the need of a "Consolidated Guide to the Archives in India" and recommends that the Provincial Governments and Indian States be requested to co-operate with the Imperial Record Department in the preparation of a complete and up-to-dated handbook of Indian Archives.
(10) Resolution III, (R&P Committee), Aligarh Session. - No action	This Committee recommends that the Delhi University is requested to take up the publication of the Persian Akhbars edited by Dr. I.H. Qureshi under the Scheme III of the Five-year Publication programme.

S.

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No. F.22-56/45.E.I.
Government of India
Department of Education
New Delhi 3, the 24th May, 1946.

2 JUN 1946

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
2 8 MAY 1946
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

14498

From

Dr. D.N. Sen, M.A., Ph.D.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

To

All Provincial Governments and Local Administrations. 6

Madras

28302

Sub:- Indian Historical Records Commission
22nd Session - Resolution VI & VII.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for your information and such action as you may consider necessary, a copy of Resolution VI passed at the 22nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Peshawar in October, 1945.

2. I am also to forward a copy of Resolution VII and to request that if the Provincial Government have no objection, necessary information may be furnished direct to the Director of Archives, Government of India, New Delhi.

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

for Deputy Secretary.

'RN'

Edn. No. 28302-1 C2 Edn. & P.H. Dept. (C2)
31/5/46.
Forwarded to the Curator,
Madras Record Office for remarks in continuation of Record Office Endt. No. 27161-1 C2 dated 27.5.46.

Assistant Secretary

The Curator, Madras Record Office
(Original to be returned with reply)

2 8 MAY 1948

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Resolution VI. It may be forwarded to the authorities concerned. As far as the Imperial Record Department is concerned the practice has been send all stray papers found in the course of normal work to the agency or agencies to which they relate. Specified papers whenever asked for are also as a rule supplied to the requisitioning party, provided they do not belong to any regular series of the Central Government records and are not required for reference by the Imperial Record Department. It will not, however, be possible to institute a systematic search for papers relating to various agencies without sufficiently strengthening the superior and inferior staff of the Department. If the Government of India so desire, details of the extra staff required to implement the proposal will be submitted.

Resolution VII. This recommendation comes under the Post-War re-organization scheme now under the consideration of the Government of India and may be considered along with that scheme. The Resolution should be implemented as early as possible if we have to carry out our programme of filling up the existing gaps in the records of the Central Governme It is therefore essential that Governments concerned should be reques to furnish the Imperial Record Department with list of records as recommended.

'RN'

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1529 Pub/ub No.F.92-55/45-E.I.
Government of India.
Department of Education.
New Delhi, the 28th May 1946.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
2 - JUN 1946
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE
7 - JUN 1946
MADRAS

From

Dr. D.M.Sen, M.A.,Ph.D.,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

~~All Provincial Governments~~ Madras. and Local Administrations.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION
22ND SESSION RESOLUTION IV.

29452

Sir,

I am directed to forward for information and such action as the Provincial Government/Local Administration consider feasible a copy of Resolution IV passed at the 22nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Peshawar in October 1945.

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

Rsh

"GLD" for Deputy Secretary.

Edn. 29452-1 C2 / 6.6.46. Edn. ~~&PH~~ -(C2)

Forwarded to the Curator, Madras Record Office, for remarks.

I. [illegible]
Assistant Secretary to Govt.

3.6.46 / 5.6.46

To the Curator, Madras Record Office, [illegible]

Resolution V. This Commission recommends that such of the Provincial Governments and Indian States as may possess Central Record Offices be requested to concentrate in them, after the war, such of their district or division records as may not be required for current administrative purposes and to see that they are properly looked after and made available for research. It also recommends that in the Provinces and Indian States which do not possess Central Record Offices these records be transferred to suitable institutions approved by the Governments and that where even this is not possible, the district or division officers be instructed to see that their record keepers receive a brief training in archives preservation and to throw open for research such of their records as may be unobjectionable.

No. 1438-DVII/46-1.

Madras Record Office,
Chittoor, 17th June 1946.

From

Rao Bahadur Dr.B.S.Baliga, Ph.D.(Lond.),
Curator, Madras Record Office, C H I T T O O R.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, M A D R A S.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
22 JUN 1946
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTT.

33441

Sub:- Indian Historical Records Commission -
Resolutions passed at the 22nd session.

Ref:- (1) Government Endorsement No. 27161-1 G2., dated 27th May 1946.
(2) Government Endorsement No. 28302-1 G2., dated 31st May 1946.
(3) Government Endorsement No. 29452-1 G2., dated 6th June 1946.

With the three endorsements mentioned above the Government have forwarded to me for my remarks a number of resolutions which have been passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission at its twenty second session and which have been forwarded by the Government of India to the Provincial Government for suitable action. I shall deal with these resolutions one by one.

2. With their letter No.F 92-44/45-E.I. dated 17th May 1946 the Government of India have forwarded a general resolution, No. VI, which calls upon the Provincial Government "to take up now the various items of work recommended by the Commission which they approved but kept in abeyance on account of the War emergency." Appended to this letter is a list of "resolutions on which majority of Provincial Governments and Indian States have postponed action". Only items 1, 2 and 9 of this list require consideration by this Government.

Item 1. Resolution IV(a) Mysore session: In this resolution the Commission desires that the Provincial Governments should arrange for the publication of the records in their custody on lines similar to those followed by the Imperial Record Department in what is called its five year publication programme. A rider has been added to this resolution which states that the Commission is aware that the Government of Madras have their own publication scheme. This rider was added in view of the great progress which has already been made by the Madras Record Office in the field of publications. When this resolution was referred to me by the Government in 1942 I observed as follows:- At the XVII session of the Commission held at Baroda in December 1940 the following resolution was passed. Resolution II. In view of the fact that the Madras Government have printed their records up to 1753 and have the Calendaring of records from 1753-65 well in hand, besides having made still further progress with the Calendaring of the Revenue records, this Commission recommends that work at Madras should continue on the present lines. I also pointed out how the publication activities of this office had begun far in advance of all other Record Offices in India and how the progress which it had steadily maintained had been much appreciated by archivists and historians. For these reasons I then stated that no action was called for in regard to this resolution, but suggested that the Government of India might be informed that several important publication programmes had already been undertaken by the Madras Record Office extending to more than 5 years with the aid of a trained permanent establishment. (Please see paragraphs 6 and 7 of my letter No. 807 E/42-3 dated 11th August 1942 in reply to Government Memorandum No.24157 G-1 Education dated 14th July 1942) The Government thereupon informed the Government of India accordingly in their letter No. 1474 Education dated 16th October 1942. The position has in no way

changed

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changed since 1942. In fact the publication activities have been since enlarged by including among the publication programes a programme of publishing selections from the records of the various Departments of the Government of the period 1800 to 1857. In fact the publication programmes of this office will continue for ever, being treated as part of the normal activities of this office. No action therefore is necessary so far as this resolution is concerned.

Item No.2. Resolutions V(a), (b), (c) Mysore Session:

In this resolution the Commission desires that the Provincial Government should (1) set up a local committee in consultation with the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission in the Province 'to conduct regional surveys with a view to bringing to light records in private custody and providing for their preservation and publication', (2) include the ordinary, associate and corresponding members of the Indian Historical Records Commission in that Committee and (3) accord all facilities to the ordinary, associate and corresponding members of the Commission for carrying on the regional surveys pending the appointment of the Committee recommended. This resolution was referred to me by the Government with their Endorsement No. 23186 C 142-1 dated 6th July 1942 and I offered my remarks upon it in my letter No. 712-DVII/42-1 dated 18th July 1942. So far as the first point was concerned, I stated that if the committee were to be really useful it should be composed of not only the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission but also representatives of Commercial firms, Zamindaris and ancient families and temples and devasthanams. I suggested that there should also be a lawyer like the Government Solicitor upon it and that the Secretary to Government in the Education and Public Health Department who exercises administrative control over the Madras Record Office should be its President. I invite the attention of the Government to my letter referred to above for a full discussion on this proposal to form a Regional Survey Committee. So far as the second point was concerned, I pointed out that the two members of the Province who were then on the Commission, viz., Rao Bahadur, now Dewan Bahadur, C.S.Srinivasachari and myself, would have to be appointed as members of the Committee. There have since then been one or two additions to the Commission from this Province. There is, however, no objection to adding these persons also to the Committee proposed. In regard to the third point I stated that the local officers of the Government might be instructed to render such assistance as might be required of them by the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission who might wish to do something pending the appointment of the Committee. I have not been furnished with a copy of the reply sent by the Government to the Government of India in regard to this resolution, but I gather from a copy of Government Memorandum No. 23186 C-5 dated 14th November 1942 communicated to me that the Government postponed the setting up of the Regional Committee for the duration of the War and that they informed the Government of India that till then they would afford all reasonable facilities to the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission who might wish to undertake Regional Surveys. Subsequently on the recommendation of the Indian Historical Records Commission, an ad hoc Regional Survey Committee has been organized by Dewan Bahadur C.S.Srinivasachari. This committee which was organized in 1945 consists of 48 persons*, but so far as I know it has not met at any time till now and I do not know whether it has succeeded in unearthing any records. The Convener of the Committee lately applied to the Government for facilities, but as the nature of the facilities required was not clear, the Government asked him to explain what was required** I do not know whether any reply was received from him.

p5 ante

(K) p5 c/min for 1606 16.11.42

K/7-11 cf

K/9-10 mf.

pp1-3 c/min L.F.

*Please see Education and Public Health Endorsement 43435C/45-1 Edn., dated 8-10-45.

**Please see Education and Public Health Letter Ref.No. 43435C/45-2 Edn., dated 25-10-45.

p7 c/min L.F.

19 | e

3. Turning to the suggestion before the Government, namely, that, now that the War is over, they should organize a local committee for the Province, I have already explained fully how the Committee ought, in my opinion, to be constituted if it is to be really useful. (Please see para 2 above and my letter No. 712-DVII/42-1 dated 18th July 1942 referred to in it). It is for the Government to consider whether they should organize such a Committee now or whether they should postpone it until circumstances become more normal and favourable. Action may, perhaps, safely be postponed until the records of this office are transferred back to Madras and this office is in a position to render assistance in preserving the records that may be unearthed. As has already been pointed out, so far as this Province is concerned, there is at present a Committee, though it is only a temporary Committee, and it is doubtful whether a new Committee will be in a position to do immediately anything more than what the temporary Committee can do.

K/7-45

B

p7 ante

Item No.9. Resolution IV, Trivandrum Session: In this resolution the Indian Historical Records Commission desires that the Provincial Governments should co-operate with the Imperial Record Department in the preparation of a complete and up-to-date hand book of Indian Archives. The resolution by itself does not explain the nature of the co-operation required by the Imperial Record Department, but when the resolution was originally referred to this Government in 1943 it was indicated that a guide to the records should be prepared so that it might be incorporated in the consolidated guide or hand book of Indian Archives*. This resolution was referred to me by the Government for my remarks. I then explained how the Madras Record Office had already published three guides or hand books to the records of the Province, besides the several guides to the district records. I also explained how one of these guides had been published as late as 1936 and how the Imperial Record Department would find in them all the information required by it. The Secretary to the Indian Historical Records Commission was however not satisfied with this. He stated that what was required was a fresh guide prepared on the model of Sir William Foster's Guide to the India Office records. I then pointed out to the Government that one of the 3 guides of this office called 'Report on the Madras Records' and prepared by Mr. Dodwell in 1916 was not only prepared more or less on the lines of Sir William Foster's Guide but that it was even more comprehensive and that Sir William Foster himself had referred to it with approbation. I also pointed out that the work of preparing a fresh guide would take several years and that a special establishment would have to be employed to do it properly. I suggested that the Government of India might be informed that in these circumstances the preparation of a fresh guide was not a matter of urgent necessity, that, if absolutely necessary, it can be prepared after the office moves back to Madras, and that it would be sufficient if it were indicated in the All India Guide that detailed information about the Madras records would be found in the guides already issued by the Madras Record Office. The Government of India were informed accordingly*. It does not appear that any further communication was received upon this matter either from that Government or from the Indian Historical Records Commission. It is, however, now to be considered whether a fresh guide on the lines of Foster's Guide should be prepared at all. As I have already explained above, the existing guides and hand books serve all practical purposes. If, therefore, a fresh guide is to be prepared it has to be prepared solely with the object of supplying to the Imperial Record Department a guide in the exact form in which that Department desires to have it. In my opinion no case has been made out for the issue of a fourth guide, so soon after the publication of the third guide in 1936. If the Government are of the opinion that such a guide should be prepared I shall submit proposals for employing the staff necessary. I may however point out that so long as the records are scattered in several places in the interior it will be extremely inconvenient to spare any of the experienced men for this work. The

pp1-2 c/min L.F. (Q) 7.6.43

*Please see Government of Indian letter No. F.92-3(A)/43-E, dated 20-4-1943.

*Please see Government letter No. 230730/43-2 dated 23-8-43.

Q/7-8 cf

C

work cannot also be performed satisfactorily until all the records are centralised again in Madras.

4. Turning now to the resolutions received with the Government of India letter No. F. 92-56/46.E.I dated 24th May 1946 it will be seen that these are two in number and that both of these are extremely vague. The first resolution (No. VI) begins as follows: " It may be forwarded to the authorities concerned". It then goes on to state that so far as the Imperial Record Department is concerned it has been the practice to send all stray papers found in the course of normal work to the agency or agencies to which they relate. The resolution also states that if a systematic search for such stray papers is required the Imperial Record Department would submit proposals for an establishment to the Government of India. It will be seen from this that the action required of the Provincial Governments is not at all made clear in the resolution. As I could not attend, owing to pressure of official work, the Peshawar session at which this resolution was passed I am also not in a position to state anything definitely about the scope and implications of this resolution. However, on referring to the agenda of the Peshawar session I find that a resolution had been tabled by Mr. B.B. Chakravartty which reads as follows: "(i) Be it resolved that the Commission request the Government of India, Provincial Governments and Indian States to transfer papers of historical interest in their custody, particularly the stray ones, which are not of local interest to them, as they are to some other Province or State, to the archives of the place primarily interested". It is quite possible that this is the basis of the resolution No. VI which has been forwarded by the Government of India. Anyway it seems to be desirable to obtain from the Government of India some more information about the resolution and to ascertain the precise nature of the action which this Government has been called upon to take.

5. The second resolution (No.VII) reads as follows: "This recommendation comes under the Post-War reorganization scheme now under the consideration of the Government of India and may be considered along with that scheme. The resolution should be implemented as early as possible if we have to carry out our programme of filling up the existing gaps in the records of the Central Government. It is therefore essential that Governments concerned should be requested to furnish the Imperial Record Department with list of records as recommended". This resolution too it will be seen is very vague. The reference to filling up the gaps, however, makes me think that this resolution is based upon another resolution which I find in the agenda in the name of Mr. Chakravartty and which reads as follows: "(ii) Be it resolved that the Commission request the Provincial Governments and Indian States to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of different series of records in their possession showing the gaps or wanting papers in such series". If my surmise is correct it will be necessary to obtain some particulars from the Government of India before it will be possible to offer any remarks upon this resolution also. I therefore suggest that the Government of India may be requested to furnish complete and precise information in regard to this resolution also.

6. It now remains to deal with the resolution forwarded with the Government of India letter No.F.92-55/45-E.I., dated 28th May 1946. This is a resolution which was proposed by me in 1944 and which was forwarded by the Government to the Indian Historical Records Commission. It was moved, in my absence by one of the members of the Commission at the session held in 1944 but was not passed at that session as it was considered that parts of it required clarification. It was therefore deferred for consideration at the 1945 session. In the meantime the

the Secretary to the Commission desired me to clarify the points in question. This I did and also altered the resolution to a slight extent. The altered resolution was passed at the session held last year at Peshawar and has now been referred to the Government. In the explanatory note which accompanied the resolution I had made it clear that the Madras Government had taken action on the lines suggested in it and that it would be very desirable if the other Governments and Indian states took similar action. This note which explains my reasons for suggesting the resolution runs as follows:

"The Madras Government have centralised all their Collectorate records in English from the earliest times down to 1856 in the Madras Record Office. They have also ordered that the records from 1857 to 1892 should similarly be transferred to that office as soon as the space required for their accommodation becomes available there. The Madras Record Office will be in a position to take in these records after the War is over. In the meantime such of the records as have already been taken in and were in a bad condition have been mended with chiffon and rebound. It is proposed to mend the remaining volumes after the War. Guides or hand books to the records of each of the districts up to 1835 have also been prepared and published. These measures have gone a long way not only to preserve these valuable records but also to facilitate searches and researches among them. The mending and reconditioning of these records which were mostly in the shape of volumes have proved of value not only to the administrators to whom they are frequently sent for reference but also to the research students who have occasion to consult them. A similar policy if followed by other Provincial Governments and Indian States is bound to ensure the better preservation and use of their valuable district or division records. In the Provinces and Indian States in which there is no central Record Office these classes of records can be transferred to some proper institution approved by the Government where they will be properly preserved and made available for research. If this is not possible the district or divisional officers may be requested to see that their record keepers receive a brief training in archive preservation. They may also be requested to throw open for research such of their records as are unobjectionable".

7. The foregoing note will show that the Madras Government have already done every thing that is contemplated by this resolution and that no action is now called for upon it.

M.H. Mahiga
CURATOR.
20-6-1946.

BR.

Encl. 3 letters from the Govt of India in original.

23

No. 1438-DVII/46-2.

Madras Record Office,
Chittoor, 29th June 1946.

From

Rao Bahadur Dr.B.S.Baliga, Ph.D.(Lond.),
Curator, Madras Record Office, C H I T T O O R.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, M A D R A S.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTT.
8 JUL 1946

Sir,

Sub:- Indian Historical Records Commission - Resolutions passed at the 22nd session.

Ref:- Government Endorsement No. 28302-1.C.2 dated 31st May 1946 and my letter No. 1438-DVII/46-1 dated 17th June 1946.

35322

In paragraphs 4 and 5 of my letter referred to above I have stated that the resolutions VI and VII forwarded by the Government of India with their letter No. 92-56/46.E.1 dated 24th May 1946 were vague and that I was therefore unable to offer any remarks upon them. I have now received a copy of the proceedings of the Peshawar session at which these resolutions were stated to have been passed. On examining the proceedings I find that resolutions VI and VII passed by the Indian Historical Records Commission read as follows:

Resolution VI: This commission requests the Government of India, Provincial Governments and Indian States to transfer papers of historical interest in their custody particularly the stray ones, which are not of much local interest to them as they are to some other Province or State to the archives of the place primarily interested.

Resolution VII: This Commission requests the Provincial Governments and Indian States to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of different series of records in their possession whowing the gaps or wanting papers in such series.

Since these two resolutions were, as I surmised, based upon the proposals tabled by Mr. B.B.Chakrabartty I am inclined to think that, instead of forwarding the actual resolutions, the Government of India have, perhaps, by mistake, forwarded the remarks or suggestions made to them by the Secretary to the Indian Historical Records Commission or the Director of Archives in regard to these resolutions. I shall therefore offer now my remarks upon the two resolutions quoted above without waiting for a further communication from the Government of India.

2. Resolution VI suggests that the Provincial Government might transfer papers of historical interest in their custody, particularly the stray ones, which are not of much local interest but which may be of interest to some province or state, to the archives of such province or state. So far as the records in the Madras Record Office are concerned I may state that there are neither stray papers nor collections of papers of the kind mentioned in the resolution among them. In fact

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- 2. -

it is extremely unlikely that there will be any stray papers in a record office. Almost every document or collection of documents in an archives repository has, so to say, a particular history behind it by virtue of which it has become part of the official archives in its custody. Nor is it desirable to split up any series of records just because it contains some papers, which are not primarily of local interest, and to add them to some other archives. It is entirely opposed to the recognized principles of archive administration. No action would therefore seem to be required so far as this resolution is concerned.

3. Resolution VII: In this resolution the Provincial Governments and Indian States are desired to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of different series of records in their possession showing the gaps or wanting papers in such series. The enclosure to the Government of India letter under reference shows that the object of this resolution is to fill up the existing gaps " in the records of the Central Government". How a list of the gaps in the series of records in the Madras Record Office will be of use in filling up the gaps in the records of the Central Government it is difficult to imagine. If, on the other hand, a list of the gaps in the records of the Central Government were to be furnished to me I may be in a position to state whether any of these gaps can be filled up by the records available in the Madras Record Office. I therefore beg to suggest that the Director of Archives may be asked to furnish a list of the gaps in the records of the Central Government which it is proposed to fill up with the aid of the records of the provincial Governments. On receipt of the list the catalogues and records in this office will be examined and particulars of the gaps which can be filled up will be furnished. I may state in this connection that no separate list of the gaps in the records in this office is maintained. Nor is it easy to prepare a list now considering the immensity of the bulk of hundreds of thousands of the records that have to be examined before a list can be prepared. However when any gaps are noticed in the course of publication of historical records, they are filled up by this office by obtaining copies of the documents required, from the India Office.

p23 cf

p11 cf

E

M.H. Shaliga
CURATOR.
29-6-1946.

BR.

25

E. & P.H. Dept. (C-2).

Revised 106 14/8

Letter/Ms. No. 1574 Edn., dated 14-8-46.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Education,
New Delhi.

13

D/- 13/8 Docket p/l Leg

Sir,

Subj:- Indian Historical Records Commission - 22nd Session - Resolutions.

I am directed to invite reference to Dr. D.M. Sen's letters No. F.92-44-E.I dated 17-5-46, No. F.92-56/45-E.I dated 24-5-46 and No.F.92-55/45-E.I dated 28-5-46 and to say that this Government have carefully examined the resolutions of the Indian Historical Records Commission with a view to see if action so far taken and being taken by this Government requires to be modified in any manner.

2. In resolution No.VI at the 7th meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission and approved by the Commission, the Provincial Governments have been asked to take up the various items of work recommended by the Commission but kept in abeyance on account of the war. The items which require consideration are:-

p1 cf

p 13 cf

p3 cf

p5 cf.

(1) Resolution No.IV(a) of the Mysore Session.

"

(2) Resolutions V(a), (b) and (c) of the Mysore Session.

p1 cf.

(3) Resolution IV of the Trivandrum Session.

p5 cf

3. In resolution No.IV (a) of the Mysore Session, the Commission recommends the adoption of a five-year programme for publication of records in the custody of Provincial Government. It has been suggested that these publications should be on the lines similar to those followed by the Imperial Record Department. In this connection I am to invite attention to Mr. V.V. Subrahmanyam's letter No. 1474, Edn., dated the 16th October 1942 in which the Govt. of India were informed of the several programmes of publication which had been undertaken by the M.R.O., extending over a period of more than 5 years. The position has in no way changed since 1942 and this Government would therefore prefer to adhere to their original programme under which the programme of publications by the Madras Record Office will continue to be treated as part of the normal activities of that office. I am further to

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p55 of (V)

pp 17-18 cf.

to observe that the Indian Historical Records Commission have themselves recognised that this Government have their own programme of publication. I am to enquire whether the Govt. of India or the Indian Historical Records Commission ~~would be satisfied with~~ desire the programme of this Government should in any way be amplified or modified.

4. In resolutions V (a), (b) and (c) of the Mysore Session it has been proposed that local committees should be set up for regional surveys, with a view to bringing to light records in private custody and to provide for their preservation and publication. In 1942 when this resolution was communicated to the Provincial Governments, this Government decided to postpone the setting up of local committees till after the war. In this connection I am to invite attention to Mr. V.V. Subrahmanyam's letter No. 1626, Edn., dated 16th November 1942. Since then, at the instance of the Indian Historical Records Commission, an ad hoc Regional Survey Committee has been organized by Diwan Bahadur C.S. Srinivasachari, a member of the Commission. The Hindu Religious Endowments Board, Madras, and the Board of Revenue have been asked to submit reports on the progress made in the classification, indexing and preservation of old records of historical value in temples and mutts and in Zamin offices. The reports received from them are being passed on to Diwan Bahadur Srinivasachari. This Government have re-examined the question of the appointment of a formal Regional Committee as proposed by the Commission and are of the view that the question of appointing a Local Committee should be deferred until conditions become a little more normal. I am to ask whether the Government of India and the Indian Historical Records Commission will be agreeable to this suggestion.

5. In resolution No.IV of the Trivandrum Session a recommendation was made that the Provincial Governments should co-operate with the Imperial Record Department in the preparation of a consolidated Guide to the Archives in India. In Mr. V.V. Subrahmanyam's letter No. 23073-C/43-2 & Edn., dated 23rd August 1943, the Government of India were informed of the work done by the Madras Record Office in the preparation of Guides. This Government have carefully reexamined the question whether a fresh guide

on the lines of the Foster's Guide should be prepared now and are of the view that the existing guides and hand-books serve all practical purposes and at present there is no need for issuing a new Guide.

6. In resolution V of the Peshawar Session a suggestion has been made that such of the Provincial Governments & and Indian States as may possess Central Record Offices should be requested to concentrate on them such of the District and Divisional records as would not be required for current administrative purposes and to see that they are properly looked after and made available for reference. This Government observe that the Curator, Madras Record Office, ~~who~~ was the author of this resolution and I am to invite attention to the explanatory note sent by the Curator regarding this resolution in which he has stated that this Government have already taken action on the lines suggested by him. This Government therefore consider that no further action is necessary on this resolution.

7. In resolution VI of the Peshawar Session a suggestion has been made about the manner in which ~~the~~ stray papers found in the course of normal work should be handled. The Curator, Madras Record Office, reports that there are neither stray papers nor other papers of the kind referred to in this resolution. Should any such paper come to light later on in the course of normal work, they would be disposed of in the manner suggested in this resolution.

8. In resolution VII of the Peshawar Session, Provincial Governments have been asked to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of the different series of records in their possession showing the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ gaps or wanting papers in such series. This Government presume that the object is to fill up the existing gaps in the records of the Central Government. The Curator of the Madras Record Office states that no separate list of gaps ~~that may be~~ are maintained in that office ~~is maintained~~ and that it is not easy to prepare such a list now considering the very large volume of records that have accumulated over a series of years since the constitution of this office. If however, the Director of Archives, I.G.P. ~~Central Government~~, would furnish this Government

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-4-

with the list of gaps in the records of the Central Government which it is proposed to fill with the aid of the records of the Provincial Governments, then, the records in the custody of the Madras Record Office will be examined and so far as may be the particular gaps disclosed by the Director of Archives will be filled and relevant information furnished to you.

I have the honour to remain etc.,

SRK.
7.8.46

'E' on p24 c.f

the Curator, Copy to MRO. (S. c for file)

Not file E & P.H. (C.2) Dept.

C.No.27161 From the Govt. of India, Department of Education No. F. 92-44/45-E.I. dated 17.5.1946.

p1cf p9cf

From -do- No.F. 92-56/45-E.I. dated 24-5-1946
From -do- No.F. 92-55/45-E I dated 28-5-46. p13cf
From the Curator, M.R.O. No. 1438-DVII/46-1 dated 17.6.46.
From -do- No. 1438-DVII/46.2. dated 29-6-46.

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Indian Historical Records Commission--Resolutions passed at the 22nd Session.

Vide last note 22/7/46

With their three letters read above the Govt. of India have forwarded to this Govt. for information and such action as they may consider necessary certain resolutions passed by the I.H.R.C. and the Research and Publication Committee of the Commission at their sessions held at Peshawar in October 1945. The Curator, M.R.O. has offered his remarks on the resolutions--See pages 17-24 C.F. The resolutions are dealt with below.

2. In resolution No. VI on p 3 c.f. the I.H.R.C. requests the Provincial Govt. to take up now the various items of work recommended by the Commission which they approved but kept in abeyance on account of the war. These items will be found at pp 5-7 c.f. The items which require consideration by this Govt. are noted on below.

p 5 cf

(i) RESOLUTION IV(a) MYSORE SESSION--FIVE YEAR PUBLICATION PROGRAMME:-

The Commission recommends that the Provl. Govt. should arrange for the publication of the records in their custody on lines similar to those followed by the Imperial Record Dept. in what is called its Five Year Publication Programme. When this resolution was forwarded to this Govt. in 1942, the Government of India were informed that this Govt. had their own publication schemes and that several important programmes of publication had already been taken up by the M.R.O. extending to more than five years with the aid of a trained permanent establishment. The Curator now states that the position has in no way changed since 1942, that the publication programmes of the M.R.O. will continue for ever being treated as part of the normal activities of that office and that no action is therefore necessary on this resolution.

pp 17-18 cf

The Curator's view may be agreed to.

We shd. tell the Govt. of India.

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SESSION-

(ii) RESOLUTIONS V(a) (b) (c) MYSORE/CONSTITUTION OF REGIONAL COMMITTEES :--

[p5 cf]

In this resolution the Commission desires that the Provl. Govt. should set up a local committee in consultation with the members of the I.H.R.C. in the Province to conduct regional surveys with a view to bringing to light records in private custody and providing for their preservation and publication. (When) this resolution was referred to the Curator for remarks in 1942, he ~~then~~ suggested that the Committee proposed should be composed of not only the members of the I.H.R.C. but also representatives of Commercial firms, Zamindaris etc., and that the Secretary, E & P.H. Dept., should be its President. This Government, however, decided to postpone (action in) the matter till after the war and the Govt. of India were informed accordingly.

[pp 7-9 cf in (K) Lr 1626 Edn 16.11.42]

[pp 10-11 cf (K)]

Since then an ad hoc Regional Survey Committee has been organised by Dewan Bahadur C.S. Srinivasa Chari, a member of the I.H.R.C. This Committee consists of 48 persons. At the instance of this Committee the President, H.R.E. Board and the Board of Revenue have been asked to submit reports on the progress made in the classification, indexing and preservation of old records of historical value in temples and matts and in the Zamin offices. The reports received are being passed on to Dewan Bahadur C.S. Srinivasa Chari. The point for consideration now is whether a local committee (as) proposed, should be appointed now or the question (should) ~~may~~ be postponed till circumstances become more normal. As there is already a temporary Committee functioning, the Curator suggests that action may safely be postponed till the M.R.O. is brought back to Madras. ~~He proposes acceptance~~. For orders whether the curator's view will be accepted.

[pp 1-4 cf in L.F.]

[p 11 cf in L.F.]

[pp 24 + 31 cf in L.F.]

[B on p 19 cf]

Yes. But tell India. [initials]

(iii) RESOLUTION IV, TRIVANDRUM SESSION--PREPARATION OF AN UP TO-DATE HAND BOOK OF INDIAN ARCHIVES.

[p 7 cf]

The I.H.R.C. desires that the Provincial Govt. should cooperate with the Imperial Record Dept. in the preparation of a 'Consolidated guide to the Archives in India.' When the resolution was orginally referred to this Govt. in 1943 the Curator stated that the M.R.O. had already published three guides or hand-books to the records

[pp 5-6 cf in Lr 782-8 (R) 9.6.42]

3

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of this Province besides the several guides to the Dist.Records. Attention is invited to the Curator's remarks at pp 19-20 c.f. In letter No. 23073 C/43-2, dated 23-8-43 the Government of India were informed that the preparation of a fresh guide to the records in the M.R.O. on the lines proposed by the Commission would be postponed till after the war and that, in the meantime, it might be indicated in the proposed All India Guide that detailed information about the Madras records will be found in the guides already issued by the M.R.O. It has now to be considered whether a fresh guide on the lines of Foster's guide should be prepared. The Curator states that the existing guides and hand books serve all practical purposes (and if a fresh guide is to be prepared) it has to be done solely with the object of supplying (it) to the Imperial Record Dept. He considers that there is no case for issuing such a guide at present. The Curator's view may be accepted. For orders.

[Q/7-8 cf]

[C on p 19 cf]

None at all. But tell India. [initials]

[pp 9-11 cf]

3. RESOLUTION VI PESHAWAR SESSION DISPOSAL OF STRAY PAPERS:-

[p 23 cf]

This resolution suggests that the Provincial Government should transfer papers of historical interest in their custody, particularly the stray ones, which are not of much local interest but which may be of interest to some other Province or State to the archives of such Province or State. So far as the records in the M.R.O. are concerned, the Curator states that there are neither stray papers nor other papers of the kind referred to in the resolution. He considers that no action is required on this resolution. The Government may agree.

[D on p 23 cf]

Yes. But tell India. [initials]

4. RESOLUTION VII--~~GAPS~~ (Wanting papers) IN RECORDS:-

[p 23 cf]

In this resolution the Provincial Government is requested to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of different series of records in their possession showing the gaps or wanting papers in such series.

P.T.O.

The object of this request is to fill up the existing gaps in the records of the Central Government. Please see the Curator's remarks on p. 24 c.f. He says that no separate list of the gaps in the records in the M.R.O. is maintained and that it is not easy to prepare a list now considering the immensity of the bulk of the records. He, therefore, suggests that the Director of Archives, Government of India, may be asked to furnish a list of the gaps in the records of the Central Govt. which it is proposed to fill up with the aid of the records of the Provincial Government. On receipt of the list the M.R.O. will examine which of the gaps can be filled up. The Curator's suggestion may be accepted. A draft letter is submitted.

Emp24cf

5. RESOLUTION V--CONCENTRATION OF DISTRICT RECORDS:-

pp 13-15 cf
p15cf

The I.H.R.C. recommends that such of the Provl. Govts as possess Central Record Offices should concentrate in them such of their District or Division records as may not be required for current administrative purposes and to see that they are properly looked after and made available for research. The Curator's remarks on this resolution are in paras 6 and 7 on pp 20-21 c.f. He states that this Govt. have already done everything that is contemplated by this resolution. No action is called for on this resolution.

para 7, p21cf
We should tell him so

A draft letter ~~below is for approval~~. to Govt of India will be subd after orders are passed.
18.7.46
DM 21/7/46 ~~DS~~ / HM (Edn)

I would amplify the Draft, telling India what we are doing & how and indicate that no special measures are necessary to implement the recommendations

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the I.H.R.C. In our reports to India we don't tell them clearly what we are doing. We have been ~~therefore~~ often misunderstood to be a very conservative Province, not willing to spend money on useful objects. It is only the War and the way we managed our difficult problems that convinced Govt of India we are not so bad or so futile as they once thought. We are now slipping back to our old habits.

It is necessary to blow our trumpet loud & hard, so that other Provinces do not run away with the money when any is going leaving us poorer than ever.

Pl. redraft.

SRK
24.7.46

as II
A draft letter is subd.
DM 6/8/46 ~~DS~~ / HM (Edn)

I have redrafted. Please
reference and resubmit.
SRK 7.8.46

6/5

Referenced ceno resubmitted.
ARK 8/8

Cwa 8.8.46

BM 9/8/46 DS

The revised draft below, which explains what we are doing about "Historical Records" to the Govt of India, is for approval.

SRKaiwar
9.8.46

9/8/46

HM. (Edn.) TSA 12-8-46

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P. H. DEPT.
13 AUG 1946
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Sir
13/8/46

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No.F.92-56/45-E.I.
Government of India,
Department of Education,
New Delhi 3, the 7th August, 1946.

C2

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
12 AUG 1946
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

From

H.S.Verma, Esquire,
Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Education and Public Health Departmet,
MADRAS.

45519

SUBJECT:- Indian Historical Records Commission, 22nd Session, - <u>Resolutions VI and VII.</u>

Sir,

I am directed to requst that the enclosed copy of Resolutions VI and VII passed at the 22nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commisson held at Peshawar, the October, 1945 may kindly be substitted for the enclosure to this Department letter No.F.92-56/45-EI, dated the 24th May, 1946, on the subject mentioned above.

Letter to GofI under issue

E&PH (C2)

May be ~~filed with~~ added to the main file

(Added to the main file.)

Cwa 14.8.46

BM 15/8/46

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

H S Verma

Assistant Secretary.

"TH"

Copy of Resolutions VI & VII passed at the 2nd Session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Peshawar in October, 1945.

RESOLUTION VI.-

This Commission requests the Government of India, Provincial Governments and Indian States of transfer papers of historical interest in their custody, particularly the stray ones which are of much local interest to them province or State, to the archives of as they are to some other the place primarily interested.

RESOLUTION VII -

This Commission requests the Provincial Governments and Indian States to furnish the Imperial Record Department with a list of different series of records in their possession showing the gaps or wanting papers in such series.

=o=o=

"TH"

