

closed

157

Sectt. II-27-58,004-27-10-47.

Edn. & P.H.

(194 . 8) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. NO. 2942. Edn.

Dated the 23rd November 1948.

[Despatch Abstract.]

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE - Access to the records relating to
the Vellore Mutiny - Permitted.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
G.O.	700.	Fin.	22-12-32.				

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To



64677

The Secretary,
Education Department,
Govt of Madras,
Madras.

Sir, Beg to state that I am a bonafide research scholar of the Lucknow University. The subject of my research work is Sir George Bartolsh Administration. In response of my application dated 10th May '48 to the Curator, Madras Record Office, Chittoor, to consult the records of the Vellore Mutiny, which formed a major event in Sir George Bartolsh Administration, I received the following reply on 20.6.48:-

"As under the existing order of the Govt of Madras no research student is to be allowed access to the records relating to the 'Vellore Mutiny'."

To me it seems that the aforesaid regulation was promulgated when the Britisher prevailed. Though the Britisher have departed & things have changed but unfortunately the rule is there. It would indeed be a good move if the said rule is modified in view of the present circumstances.

It might interest you to know that the Central Govt threw open its records up to the year 1880 long before the advent of freedom. There are no restrictions imposed to consult the records of the two major mutinies i.e. The Vellore Mutiny & the Sepoy Mutiny. There may be some facts in the Vellore Mutiny which were prejudicial to the interest of British Govt but there is nothing in it which can harm in any way the interest of Indian Union.

31

I earnestly hope that in view of the present circumstances, in the interest of research scholars & specially when attempts are being made to write authentic history of India, you will be kind enough to relax the said order. This will give a great impetus to research workers & remain grateful to you.

Awaiting a favourable reply.

National Archives of India
Govt of India
Queensway
New Delhi.

Dated. 28.8.48

your obediently,
Nirode Chandra Dhole

EXP-4(83)
Encl: 64677/48-83 Encl: 2. 11/9/48

Referred to the Curator, M.R.O.
Chittoor for early remarks.

To
The Curator, M.R.O.,
Chittoor (with
pp 1-3 of in
original to be
returned with
reply)



V. Ramaswami
Assistant Secretary to Govt
8/9/48
9.9.48

No.2094-D-VII/48-1.

Madras Record Office,
Chittoor, 25th September 1948.

From

Rao Bahadur Dr.B.S.Baliga, Ph.D.(Lond.),
Curator, Madras Record Office, Chittoor.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Education and Public Health Department,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sub:- Madras Record Office - Access to the
records relating to the Vellore Mutiny-
Sri Nirode Chandra Dhole - Application.

Ref:- Education and Public Health Department
Endorsement No.64677/48-1 G3., Edn.,
dated 11th September 1948.

In June last Mr. Dhole applied to me for permission to consult the Vellore Mutiny records in connection with his research on Sir George Barlow's administration. As it was thought that by these records were meant the 12 Secret Department Sundry volumes which are known as the Vellore Mutiny records, and as these records had expressly been withheld from research in G.O.No. 700, Finance, dated 22nd December 1932, he was informed that, under the existing orders of the Government, he could not be allowed to consult them. The circumstances under which these records were withheld from research are as follows:- In 1932, Prof. K.A.Nilkanta Sastri of the Madras University applied to Mr. Macqueen, my predecessor, for permission for one of his research students to consult the records of the Vellore Mutiny. Mr. Macqueen recommended to the Government that permission might be granted to consult the 12 volumes on the Vellore Mutiny, but Government did not accept his recommendation. They called for the volumes in question and, after examining them, finding that they contain controversial matter relating to the origin of the mutiny, that is, whether the sons of Tipu Sultan were responsible for it or not, decided not to throw them open for research. I have, however, now discovered that these volumes contain nothing but extracts of the matter contained in the Military and the Secret Department Consultation volumes. And as, the Military and the Secret Department Consultation volumes have not been withheld from research students, no object is really served by withholding the 12 volumes alone from research students. This point does not seem to have been noticed either by Mr. Macqueen or by the Government in 1932.

-2-

2. The reason why the 12 volumes were withheld from research is not, as Mr. Dhole imagines, that they contain information prejudicial to the British Government. The reason has been stated above, that they contain information relating to the origin of the Vellore Mutiny. They also contain information relating to the Muslim conspiracy to overthrow the Government and the allowances given to Tipu Sultan's sons. But considering that it is more than 140 years since the Mutiny occurred, and considering also that the corresponding series of Military and Secret Consultations have never been withheld from research, there does not appear to be any serious objection to throwing open these 12 volumes now for research. I may point out in this connection that the report of the Commission which enquired into the Vellore Mutiny has been published as a Parliamentary paper in 1861. (Please see Mr. Macqueen's letter No.370 D-VII/32 dated 12-10-1932 read in G.O.No.700, Finance, dated 22-12-1932). If the volumes are thrown open for research, the notes taken down by the research students will, as usual, be carefully scrutinized and if it is found that they have taken down anything objectionable, it will be withheld from them. This ought to be a sufficient safeguard.

3. Mr. Dhole states that the Central Government threw open its records up to the year 1880 long before the advent of freedom. In regard to this, it may be stated that, so far as the Government of Madras are concerned, they have thrown open for research the records of all but the last 50 years and also such of the records as have been placed at the disposal of the Press down to the present.

Yours faithfully,

CURATOR.

17-9-1948.

Encl: 1 letter (pages 1-3). 25-9-48.

BR.

Education & P.H.(G3) Dept.

C.No.64877/48.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE - Access to the records relating to the Vellore Mutiny. *Sumitha*

From Mr. N.C.Dhole, New Delhi, letter, dated 28-8-48.

From the Curator, M.R.O., No.2094-D-VII/48-1, dated 25-9-1948.

ORDER(MS) No. 2942 Edn. 23 dated 1-48.

In modification of the orders in G.O.No. 700. Finance, dated 22-12-1932, Government authorize the Curator, Madras Record Office, to permit research scholars and students of Indian History engaged in special studies, to have access to the twelve Secret Department Sundry Volumes known as the Vellore Mutiny records, subject to the reservation that the notes taken by the persons perusing the records are scrutinized, to see if the notes contain anything objectionable. The other conditions laid down in the rules in G.O.No.58. Finance, dated 5-12-1932 will also be applicable in respect of the examination of these documents.

2. The Curator is requested to accord the necessary permission to Sri Nirode Chandra *a research scholar* of the Lucknow University in accordance with the orders

in paragraph 1.

To the Curator, M.R.O., Chittoor.

Copy to Sri Nirode Chandra Dhole, National Archives of India, Government of India, Queensway, New Delhi.

(para 2 only)

From Nirode Chandra Dhola, New Delhi, No. Nil dated 28-8-48.
From Curator M.R.O., No. 2094-D-VII/48-1 dated 25-9-48.
Sub:- M.R.O. Access to the records relating to the Vellore Mutiny.

On a request from a research scholar of the Lucknow University (Mr.N.C.Dhole), the Curator, ~~M.R.O.~~ ^{him} refused access ~~to him~~ to the records of the Vellore Mutiny. It is seen from his letter that for his research thesis, a scrutiny of these records is necessary.

2. Access to the records of the Vellore Mutiny (1806-1808) has been refused to research students, under the orders contained in G.O.No. 700 ^{Finance} ~~Edn.~~ Dated the 22nd Dec.1932. The note of the then Chief Secretary on which the above order was based was: "I agree it is undesirable to allow research into these records at present xx" The main reason for withholding the records from the public was that they related to certain controversies pertaining to the ~~origins~~ of the Mutiny and the Conduct of certain Army officers in connection with the Mutiny.

3. The Curator, M.R.O. has now pointed out that the records in question contain only extracts of the Military and Secret Department consultation volumes which have not been withheld from research students. As observed by him, the event occurred more than 140 years ago. Having regard to these facts, the Curator considers that there is no serious objection to throwing open the 12 volumes now for research scholars subject to the reservation that the notes taken by the scholars are scrutinized, to see if they ~~concerned~~ ^{take down} anything objectionable. The Curator's view may be ~~concerned~~ ^{accepted} and the orders of 1932 may now be cancelled.

4. Public may see the case, for remarks, if any, before circulation.

pages 13 y

p1 y

(C)

Notes on pages 13-14 y
(C) K

A on p 5 y

p.b y

Pub Political on
4479
18/10/48

EPH no 64677-98-482
15.10.48

(C) A
m
7/10/48

15/10/48

7-10-48

15/10/48

(for 5 and)

The E. & P. H. note overleaf & pp. 1-6 of may be perused. In view of the changed

political situation in the country, there does not seem to be any objection to this dept. agreeing with the views of the Curator explained in para. 3 of E. & P. H. note on p. 1 supra for orders.

19/10/48. The E. & P. H. Dept. may be requested to take orders in circulation. It Pr. should also see.

See 19.10.48. An account of the Vellore Mutiny is given on pp 106-113 of the North Arcot District Manual but this

Thro' Supdt. CRB
(to be sent to H.S. to
for the note)
R. note
AR
22/11/48

See 2 in p. 15 of C. is only an ~~ade~~ inadequate and inaccurate story. The question for consideration is whether the records in question can now be thrown open to the research students without prejudice to the public interests. The main reason for withholding the records from the public was that stated at K on page 1 ante but as things have now changed the said reason seems to be no longer valid. The Curator is of opinion that no object is really served by withholding the volumes from research students. He has examined the volumes and is satisfied that they contain nothing prejudicial to the public interests. He will carefully scrutinise the notes taken down by the research students

and if they have taken down anything objectionable it will be withheld from them. This seems to be a sufficient safeguard. This dept. may therefore agree to the proposal.

Pub. Political Bn.
no. 4479/48-1
3/11/48.



AR 31.10.48
1 E & PH.
E & P. H. note on p. 1 ante & E. P. H. (93).
The Pub (Poll) Dept. note above may be perused. ~~But~~ Public agree to the proposal at 'A' on p. 1 ante. The case may be circulated to H. M. (Edn) and H. Pr. for orders on the proposal at 'A' on p. 1 ante.

5.11.48.

5.11.48.

6-11-48

6/11/48
H.M. (Edn)
H. Pr. ✓

15A
11.11.48
13/11/48



Draft P.

A draft order is submitted for approval.
12.11.48.
18.11.48.
19.11.48.
S. H. Pr. ✓

2/11/78
2/11/78
2/11/78

2/11/78

2/11/78

2/11/78

2/11/78

2/11/78