Close

Scott II-27—58,004—4-11-46.

E.&.P.H. (194 8) Department.

SERIES.

G.O. NO. Ms.301 Edn.

Dated 16th Feburary 1948.

22

[Despatch Abstract.]

L.A. Question - Tanjore Palance Library - Records .
Papers recorded.

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province

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Letter Ms	88.	Edn.	24-1-'44.				
G.O. Press.	2069.	Pub (Poll)	30-10-'37.				
G.O. Ms.	1833.	Rev.	9-10-'45.				
G.O. Ms.	145.	Pub (Poll)	20-1-'47.				

Further Papers.

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

From

Sri A.Vedarathnam Pillai, M.L.A.,
Camp Madras.

To

The Hon'ble Minister for Education,
Fort St. George, Madras.

Sir,

I shall be glad if you will kindly accept to answer the following short notice questions.

Yours sincerely,

3-11-47

Short notice Starred questions.

Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.

1. (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to to state whether he is aware that in 1938, the Tanjore Palace Agency Record Room, under the custody of the Collector of Tanjore contained actually 2,452 bundles and nearly 800 bound volumes in which the history and the administration of the Naicks and the Marathas of Tanjore were described?

(b) Is it a fact that this Record Room contained manuscripts not only in Modi, but also in Urdu, Persian and Tamil?

(c) Is it a fact that the records, for want of proper cloth for bundling, were piled in a heap?

(d) Is it a fact that the Superintendent, Archaelogical Survey, Madras, and the Curator, MadrasRecord Office, proceeded to Tanjore and inspected the Agency room for the final disposal of the manuscripts? If so, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly enlighten the house with their reports?

(e) Does the Curator, Madras Record Office, possess the knowledge of deciphering the manuscripts recorded in various languages and especially in Modi and Persian? If so, has he prepared a catalogue for the heap of records?

(f) On what grounds did the Collector of Tanjore and the Curator , Record Office, Madras, seek the orders of the Government for burning the heap of manuscripts which they considered useless?

(g) Is it a fact that the records were burnt in the Palace grounds on two occasions, one nearly a year and half ago and the other, five months ago?

(h) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Modi-knowing staff is working in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library?

(i) Is it a fact that the services of an outsider from Bombay was requisitioned to catalogue those records?

(j) Is it not better to utilise the services of the Modi and Persian knowing staff of the Govt. Oriental Manuscripts Library Madras, to catalogue and translate the records of the Agency Record room before they become further damaged by weather and worms.

(k) Will the Hon'ble Minister make enquiries about the negligence in allowing a certain number of valuable and historic records to decay?

(l) Is it a fact that the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, has applied to the Government to transfer those Tanjore records to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library,Madras, where other rare and valuable manuscripts are preserved under expert supervision?

(m) Are there any administrative difficulties in transferring those records to the Govt.Manuscripts Library,Madras; or Saraswathi Mahal Library,Tanjore if so, what are they?

(Sd) A. Vedaratnam Pillai
27.11.47

P.T.O.

To the Speaker, Legislative Assembly.

I shall be prepared to answer the question tomorrow morning.

(Sd.) TSA, 27.11.47.

5

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT.
6 NOV 1947
4496
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

D.O.No.7220/47-1.M.L.

Fort St. George,
5th November 1947.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated 3rd November 1947 to the Hon. the Minister for Education enclosing a Short Notice question to be answered in the Assembly, I am to draw your attention to rule 21(1) of the M.L.A. rules under which every notice, including notices of question, should be addressed to the Secretary to the Assembly. I am therefore to suggest that proper notice may be given in respect of this question to enable this Office to take further action on the question.

Yours faithfully,

Hanumanthappa

Assistant Secretary,
MADRAS LEGISLATURE.

To
Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.
Copy to:--
Public (Political) Dept.
with reference to their u.o.
No.4475/47-1 dated 4-11-1947.

GS/5-11/

2 drafts

D

Public (Pers) dept

Memo No. 4461/47-1 dt 6-11-47

Sub. Records, govt. — Records relating to the old Tanjore Raj housed in the Tanjore palace — M.L.A. Short notice question by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.

A copy of a short notice question proposed to be asked at the next meeting Legislative Assembly is enclosed. The Collector of Tanjore / the D.P.I. / the Curator M.R.O. is requested to furnish the necessary detailed information at once with reference to the clauses with which he is concerned ~~relate to him~~. ~~The clauses (a), (g) and (h) should be specifically considered~~. The Collector of Tanjore is particularly requested to say whether there were 2,452 bundles and 800 bound volumes in Palace Record room in 1938 and whether the records were burnt in the palace grounds on two occasions as alleged in clause (g) of the question and if so the authority under which it was done.

6.11.47

P.T.O.

Issue today

Opd. initial 6-11-47

5/11/47

5-11-47

To
The Collector of Tanjore
D.P.I.
Curator M.R.O.
Chittoor.

RS. 12/11/47.

2

II

Pub (Pol) dept

G.O. Note No. 4461/47-2 dt 6.11.47

Sub: Madras Legislative assembly – Short notice starred question by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai M.L.A regarding the records housed in the Tanjore palace.

Ref: G.O. Note No. 4475/47-1 Pub (Pol) dept dt 4/11/47.

The Secty of the M.L. may be informed that the above short notice question (a copy of which was sent to them with the G.O. note cited) will be answered first on the next Assembly day.

5/11/47 5.11.47

6.11.47

To
The Secty of M.L.

Dpd B
6.11.47

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8 9

No. 2314-D-VII/47-1.

Madras Record Office,
Chittoor, 9th November 1947.

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

To
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Public (Political) Department,
Fort St. George, MADRAS.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT.
4532
10 NOV 1947
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

Sir,

Sub:- Records, Government - Records relating to the old Tanjore Raj housed in the Tanjore Palace - Madras Legislative Assembly Short notice question by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.

Ref:- Government Memorandum No. 4461/47-1 dated 6th November 1947.

I have the honour to furnish below the information relating to the questions with which I am concerned. I may point out in this connection that these records, being Agency records, were the responsibility of the Crown Representative and are perhaps now the responsibility of the Government of India. I have mentioned this fact in my remarks against question (k).

Question 1 (d).

In accordance with G.O. No. 145, Public (Political), dated 20th January 1947 I proceeded to Tanjore on 13th February 1947 and inspected the Agency records and submitted a report suggesting what should be done to preserve them properly and to sort them and list them in order to find out which of them are of historical or administrative value and should, therefore, be retained and which of them are valueless and can, therefore, be destroyed. I invite attention to my letter to Chief Secretary No. 1257-D-VII/46-17 dated 5th March 1947.

pp 53-54 CF

pp 1-5 CF w LFI (C No 1016/47)

Question 1 (e).

A1

I do not possess a knowledge of Modi and Persian and that is why I have suggested that competent persons who know Modi may be engaged to sort and list the records in English (Please see my letter to the Chief Secretary No. 1257-D-VII/46-17 dated 5th March 1947). I have not prepared any catalogue for the records, but I have examined the lists in English of the records prepared by a Modi-knowing attender employed by the Collector of Tanjore for some time and pointed out such of the records as have any historical value.

Question 1 (f).

B

I did not seek the orders of the Government for burning any of these records, but when, on my inspection of the record room, I found that there was a large crate full of pieces of paper, which had once formed part of the records but which it is now impossible to piece together, and that the pieces of paper had been extensively attacked and damaged by insects, I recommended that these pieces of paper might be destroyed as useless. I pointed out that their retention in the record room would be dangerous to the preservation of the other records as the insects contained in them were likely to spread to the other records (Please see paragraph 2 of my letter to the Chief Secretary No. 1257-D-VII/46-17 dated 5th March 1947). The Government have not yet passed orders on this suggestion.

Question 1 (i).

Proposals have been made to get competent Modi-knowing men from the Bombay Province to catalogue these records, but till now nobody has actually been brought from the Bombay Province to do this work. The reason why it was proposed to get men from the Bombay

province

province was that no competent Modi-knowing men belonging to this province came forward to undertake the work, inspite of advertisements made by the Collector.

Question 1 (j).

If there are competent Modi-knowing persons (the bulk of the records are in Modi) in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library there can be no objection to utilising their services to sort and catalogue these records. But in that case some arrangement will have to be made for effectually supervising their work and, so far as I know, there is no one to do this supervision properly.

Question 1 (k).

It is not true to say that these records have been neglected. In fact the question of examining them and dealing with them properly has been under the consideration of the Collector of Tanjore, the Board of Revenue and myself for more than 6 years. The great difficulty in dealing with them has been the dearth of competent Modi-knowing persons. In spite of this difficulty a certain amount of sorting and listing has been done. A peon has also been employed to dust these records and keep them clean and instructions have been issued for their proper preservation. It must be stated in this connection that these records, being Agecny records, were formerly under the control of the Crown Representative and are perhaps now under the control of the Government of India. It would, therefore, appear that without the knowledge and consent of the Government of India nothing can be done to these records.

A

Question 1 (m).

It is a fundamental principle of archive administration that no public documents should at any time go out of official custody. In fact the peculiar value of public records and their authenticity depend upon their remaining in unbroken official custody. The records in question are public records,being the records which were brought into existence by the rulers of Tanjore in the course of their day to day administration. They are likely to contain, for instance, information relating to matters like the ownership of villages, lands, inams, etc. and, therefore, if they are placed in a public library litigious persons can consult them and rake up old claims and thus embarass the Government. It is for these reasons that, when the Curator of the Oriental Manuscripts Library suggested that they might be transferred to his library and the Collector of Tanjore suggested that they might be transferred to the Saraswathi Mahal Library, I stated that they should not be so transferred.

Question 1 (n).

A great deal has already been done by the Madras Record Office for ascertaining the nature and contents of the records in the local languages kept in the Collector's Offices and for preserving such of them as are of historical or administrative interest. Lists of these records have been prepared in English and sent to the Madras Record Office for suggesting which of them are worthy of retention and which of them can be safely destroyed. Instructions have from time to time been issued for the proper preservation of these records and an attender from each Collectorate has been trained in mending work in this office so that he can attend to all the ordinary repairs of these as well as other old records in the Collectorate. Besides this, special repairs to the Collectorate records are also undertaken by this office when necessary. I have lately suggested, as a post-war scheme, the centralisation of all the old records in the Collectorates as well as other public offices in the mofussil in a few Record Offices to be organised under the close supervision of the Madras Record Office. I invite attention to my letter to the Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department, No.3163-D-VII/46-5 dated 13th June 1947.

S

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

CURATOR

Public (Poll) dept.

Special

Memo No. 4461/47-3 d. 12.11.47.

Sub: Records, Govt. – Records relating to the old Tanjore Raj housed in the Tanjore Palace – M.L.A. Short notice question by Sri A. Vedaratnam, M.L.A.

Ref: Memo No. 4461/47-1 Pub (Poll) d. 6.11.47.

p 7 cf.

The Collector of Tanjore / D.P.I. is requested to expedite his reply to the memo cited.

ABL
13.11.47

12.11.47.

NS
12.11.47

To the Collector of Tanjore ✓
D.P.I. ✓

13/11

13

6

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT.
4589
14 NOV 1947
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

Secretariat of the Madras
Legislature.
--

U.O.Note No.7220/47-2 M.L. dated 13th Nov. 1947.
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Sub: Legislative Assembly short notice question by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A. regarding the records housed in the Tanjore Palace.

Ref: Public (Political) U.O.Note No.4461/47-2 dated 6th November 1947.
--

p8 above

With reference to the u.o.note cited above, the Public (Political) Department's attention may be drawn to this office D.O.No.7220/47-1 M.L. dated 5th November 1947 addressed to Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A. copy of which was endorsed to them and they may be informed that if and when proper notice of the question is received from the member, its admissibility will be considered by the Hon'ble Speaker.

pp5 above

T. HANUMANTHAPPA,
Assistant Secretary,
Madras Legislature.

To Public (Political) Department U.O.

Forwarded
/By order/

Superintendent.

A.K.13/11

13/11/47

From
H.C.M.McLaughlin Esq.,
Collector, Tanjore.

To The Chief Secretary to Government,
Public (Political) Department,
Fort, St. George, Madras.

ADDL. ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
4590
15 NOV 1947
SECRETARIAT

R.C.No.6712-45-G.6, dated 14-11-47.

Sir,

Sub. - Records - Government records relating to the Old Tanjore Raj househ in the Tanjore Palace - Madras Legislative Assembly - Short notice question by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A. - Reply submitted.

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p 7 and

Ref:- Government Memorandum No.4461/47-1, Public (Political) Department, dated 6-11-47.

P.d.(Poll)

A

The question of preservation or disposal of the Agency records is already under the consideration of the Government and it has been the subject matter of a correspondence between the Collector, the Curator, the Board of Revenue and the Government of Madras for the past 2 1/2 years, i.e. from April 1945, and no decision has yet been taken in the matter. The matter was last referred to the Curator by the Board of Revenue on 2--7--47, suggesting that a couple of men from Poona might be employed for three months or even one month to sample some quantities of these records at random under the supervision of the Curator. The need to arrange for men from Poona arose as there was only one applicant, viz. Parameswar Butt of Madras (who claimed to know Modi) as a result of an advertisement published by the Collector under the orders of the Board of Revenue, in two successive issues of the three important dailies, viz. 'THE HINDU', (10--1--46 and 11--1--46), 'THE MAIL', (8--1--46 and 9--1--46), and the 'SWADESAMITRAN', (10--1--46 and 11--1--46) at a total cost of Rs.156--8--0. The applicant did not appear for an interview by the Collector in spite of a notice, or before the Board of Revenue. The numbers and dates of the important correspondence relating to the question of preservation or disposal of these records that has taken place for the 2 1/2 years which must be referred to in this connection are given below:--

1. Board's Reference No.P.963/45-2 dated 14--6--45.
2. Board's Reference No.P.963/45-3 dated 3--7--45.
3. not put up — Collector's R.C.6712-45-G.6 dated 29--7--45.
4. Board's Reference No.P.963/45-4 dated 11--8--45.
5. pp 9-10 of (Y) — G.O.No.Ms.1833, Revenue, dated 9--10--45.
6. Board's Reference No.P.963/45-8 dated 16-11-45.
7. not put up — Board's Reference No.P.963/45-9 dated 5--12--45.
8. Board's Reference No.P.963/45-11 dated 27--3--46.
9. p 17 CF of (M) — Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 10--6--46 (to the Board of Revenue and copy to the Curator).
10. p 23 CF of (M) — Board's Reference No.P.963/45-12, dated 19--7--46.
11. Board's Reference No.P.963/45-13 dated 17--8--46.
12. not put up — Curator's letter No.1257/D.VII-46/10 dated 10--9--46.
13. p 45 CF of (M) — Letter of the Government of Madras, No.3198/46-2 Public (Political) Department dated 5-10-46 to the Secretary to His Excellency, the Crown Representative, New Delhi.
14. p 53 CF of (M) — G.O.No.145, Ms. Public (Political) dated 20--1--47.
15. not put up — Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 3--2--47.
16. Board's Reference No.P.458/47-1 dated 10--2--47.
17. p 9 CF in LF I; pp 1-5 CF in LF I — Government Endorsement No.1016/47-1, Public (Political) Department dated 18--3--47 on the Curator's letter No. 1257-D.VIII/46-17 dated 5--3--47.
18. pp 13-14 CF in LF I — Collector's R.C.6712-45-G.6 dated 13--5--47.
19. Board's Reference No.P.1015/47-3 dated 2--7--47.
20. p 17 CF in LF I — Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 7--7--47.
21. Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G,6 dated 15--7--47.
22. p 18 CF in LF I — Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 16--7--47.
23. p 15 CF in LF I — Board's Reference No.P.1015/47-6 dated 20-8-47.
24. not put up — Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 27--8--47.

2. The replies to the several clauses of the question

8

proposed to be asked at the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly are given below seriatim so far as the records in my Office bear out.

(a) There is no definite record of information regarding the total number of bundles and volumes that were in 1938, nor is there any information to show that the history and the administration of the Naicks and the Mahrattas of Tanjore were described in them. As to what these records contain is to be decided on a scrutiny of these records. The subject matter is already under the consideration of the Government. The records as taken over from the Tanjore Raj are still kept intack pending a decision by Government.

1A

(b) It would appear from the examination of the records made by the Curator in February 1947, and his report to Government that there are manuscripts in Modi and Tamil. Whether there are manuscripts in Persian and Urdu is not known, because there is none to decipher the languages.

B

(c) No records were piled in a heap for want of proper cloth for bundling. On the other hand, pieces of paper and mutilated records, which were crumbling and falling off into pieces have been carefully bundled in pieces of cloth. It is these loose pieces of paper which the Curator has recommended to Government for destruction. Orders of the Government are awaited.

pl. on pp 33-37 CF 9 (m)

(d) The Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Madras, inspected the room on 19--8--46. There is no information to show whether he inspected them with a view to take a decision on the final disposal of the Manuscripts. The Curator inspected the room with reference to the instructions in G.O. No.Ms.145, Public (Political) dated 20--1--47 and sent his report to Government in his No.1257/D.VII-46/17 dated 5--3--47 (dealt with in Government Memorandum No.1016/47-1 dated 18--3--47).

pp 53-54 CF 9 (m)
pp 1-5 CF in LF I
p 9 CF in LF I

(e) To be answered by the Curator.

(f) No records were considered/as useless ~~x~~ by the Collector and no orders were sought ~~x~~ for burning any of the records. A suggestion was made to the Government that the loose bits of paper soiled and affected by fungus might be caused to be examined by the Curator and certified if they were to be destroyed. The Curator has in paragraph 2 and 9 of his report dated 5--3--47 recommended the destruction of these bits of paper. No orders have been received on the Curator's report.

R/
pp 1-5 CF in LF I

(g) The allegation is false. No records were burnt, at any time. On the other hand, they are being very carefully looked after with the aid of a peon specially employed temporarily for the purpose under the orders of the Government as will be seen from the long correspondence referred to at the outset. The windows and almyrahs of the Record Room are kept open during day time, so as to allow free dry air to pass through, and thereby to keep the room free from dampness, the records are dusted by the special peon and eacy h almyrah is examined carefully so as to guard against damage by white ants and the room is also fumigated at frequent intervals. The work of the peon is supervised by the Additional Huzur Head Clerk of the Collector's Office and the Personal Assistant and the Collector has also inspected the room and satisfied themselves that the bundles and records are intact.

1S/

(h) Not for Collector.

(i) and (j) Reference is solicited to Government Memo. No.24461, Education dated 5--8--46 suggesting to the Curator

pp 27-28 CF 9 (m)

11

10

that the authorities in Bombay might be contacted to procure men knowing Modi and Marathi.

S1

(k) As stated above, every endeavour has been and continues to be made to preserve the Records as best as possible so as to facilitate their examination feasible. The insinuation of negligence is unwarranted. The correspondence for the past 2 1/2 years will show the earnest endeavours of the Collector and the authorities concerned to expedite a final decision about the retention or otherwise of these records, and to preserve them till then.

pp 16-17 CF in LF I

(l) The Director of Public Instruction applied to me in his R.C.No.945/47-G dated 31--5--47 to transfer such of the records as were of historical and literary value to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, The request was recommended by me to the Government for consideration in my R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 20--6--47 along with the question of transfer of the records to the Tanjore Mahratta Sri Saraswathi Mahal Library.

pp 13-14 CF in LF I
pp 15-16 CF in LF I

(m) I have strongly ~~xxx~~ recommended the transfer of the records to the Tanjore Mahratta Sri Saraswathi Mahal Library in my R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 13--5--47 (Para.4). But the Curator seems to have different views. Please see his letter No.2557/D. VII-46/19 dated 10--6--47 to the Board of Revenue, Madras.

(n) Not for Collector.

General Remarks - It seems there is some misapprehension among some persons that attempts are being made to destroy or burn the records. Even so early as May 1946 (about 1 1/2 years back) the Executive Officer of the Sikkil Devasthanam, Negapatam Taluk, wrote to the Government about this, and a detailed report was submitted to the Board of Revenue in Collector's R.C.No.6712-45-G.6 dated 10--6--46 that the question of indexing and sorting records was under consideration. In reply to a D.O. dated 26--9--47 from the Principal Private Secretary to the Hon'ble the Premier that the Hon'ble Premier was informed that I had issued orders for the destruction of these records, I replied that no such orders had been issued by me, and that, on the other hand, they were carefully looked after. I once again~~xx~~ suggest to the Government that the entire records, (Bundles, Volumes and Cadjan leaves) may be made over to the Tanjore Mahratta Sri Saraswathi Mahal Library, or to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, so that they may be preserved, and utilised to the extent possible, ~~and~~ ~~[illegible]~~.

p 3 CF in LF II

14/XI
Collector.

ksv/14.11.

(18)

(19)

11 Public (Pol.) dept.

D.O. No 4461/47-4 d. 17.11.47

Sub: Records, Govt. — Records relating to the old Tanjore Raj House in the Tanjore Palace — M.L.A. Short notice question by Sri A. Vaidyanatham Pillai, M.L.A.

p 7 CF. Ref: Memo No. 4461/47-1 Pub. (Pol.) d. 6.11.47

p 11 CF. Std. Reminder Memo No. 4461/47-3 — Pub. (Pol.) d. 13.11.47

—.—.

I am to request you to send your reply to the above memo urgently.

17.11.47

17.11.47

17.11.47

Dr. S.R.U. Savoor,
M.A., D.Sc., I.E.S.
D.P.I.

17/11

17/11

Public (Poll) dept

D.O.No. 4461/47-5 d. 25.11.47

Records, Govt. – Records relating to the old Tanjore Raj housed in the Tanjore Palace – M.L.A. Short notice question by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai.

p. 7 CF Ref: Memo No. 4461/47-1 Pub.(Poll) d. 6.11.47,
p. 11 CF Spl. Reminder Memo No. 4461/47-3 Pub.(Poll) d. 13.11.47.
p. 19 CF and my D.O. No. 4461/47-4 d. 17.11.47.

—..—.

I am to request you to expedite your reply to the above memo.

25.11.47 NS 25.11.47. 25.11.47

Dr. S.R.U. Savoor,
M.A., D.Sc., I.E.S.
D.P.I.

25/11

22

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C.F. 32.

In reply, please quote number, date and short title.*

E D U C A T I O N DEPARTMENT.

Received ______ Registered ______

From (Name) DR. S.R.U. SAVOOR, M.A., D.Sc., I.E.S.,

(Designation) DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION,

Post Box ______, (Station) M A D R A S.,

Telegraphic Address ______

To

The SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
PUBLIC (POLITICAL) DEPARTMENT, MADRAS.

RC. No. 2455-G/47, dated 20th November 1947.

Sir,

* SUB: RECORDS, Government - Records relating to the Old Tanjore Raj housed in the Tanjore Palace Madras Legislative Assembly Short Notice question by Sri A.Vedaratnam Pillai M.L.A.,

REF: Government Memo.No.4461/47-1 dated 6..11..1947.

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Enclosures ______

p 7alm

Spare Copies ______

I have the honour to furnish herewith the information called for in the above Government Memorandum relating to clauses (h), (j) (l) and (m) with which the Director is concerned:

A

Clause (h): One pandit knowing Modi and Mahrathi is working in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras. He is now cataloguing Mahrathi Manuscripts (Modi script) of the Library.

B

(j): One member knowing Modi and three memebers including the Curator knowing Persian are on the staff of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras. The Services of this staff can be utilised for Cataloguing and translating the Modi and Persian records of the Agency Record Room if so required.

Sorth. 16-17 CF
mLFI

C

(l): In this office letter Rc.No.945-G/47 dated 31-5-47 I requested the Collector, Tanjore that such of the records of the collections in the Agency Record Room as were of Historical and Literary value might be transferred to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library Madras, in view of the existence of a Special staff therein to deal with such manuscripts. The Collector in his endorsement R.C.No.6712-45-G6 dated 13-8-1947, has replied

P.T.O.

24

replied that the Government have been addressed in the matter and that their reply is awaited.

(m): The Director has no idea whether there may be any administrative difficulties in transferring the records from the Agency Record Room. There will not however be any administrative difficultires for the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library to receive these records and preserve them properly.

I may add that these records belong to Government and it is meet and proper that they are transferred to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library which has got suitable and adequate staff to deal with such manuscripts and not to the Tanjore Library which has yet to make sufficient arrangements even to take care of the existing Manuscripts therein.

for DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Ram.21/11.

RAK 25/11

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT.
4704
26 NOV 1947
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

14

95

Madras Legis. I-3—1,500—12-9-47.

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE,
Fort St. George
~~Chepauk~~, dated the 30-11- 1947.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
2 - DEC 1947
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

95025

QUESTION NO. 1205 for the next meeting of the Legislative Assembly ~~to be held on the 194~~.

Two copies of this question are forwarded to the E and P.H. Department.

The question has been admitted.

30/11/47.

1/12

1/12

To

The E and P.H. Department.

MCo 7969/47-34ML
2.12.47.

Edu & PH (C2)

A

Public (Poll) U.O. That Dept may be requested to intimate the transfer to the Sectt. of ~~Mad~~ Legislature.

RC
3.12.47

8.S
2.12.47.

3-12-4

Public Pol.

E & PH U.O. No.
95025 C2/47-1 Edn
4.12.47

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT.
4790.
4 - DEC 1947
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

26

15 27

SECRETARIAT OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATURE.
ASSEMBLY SECTION.
27-11-1947.

~~SHORT NOTICE~~ STARRED.

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI, M.L.A.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*Q. No.1205.

Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state:-

(a) whether he is aware that in 1938, the Tanjore Palace Agency record room, under the custody of the Collector of Tanjore, contained actually 2,452 bundles and nearly 800 bound volumes in which the history and the administration of the Naicks and the Marathas of Tanjore were described;

(b) whether it is a fact that this record room contained manuscripts not only in Modi, but also in Urdu, Persian and Tamil;

(c) whether it is a fact that the records, for want of proper colth for bundling, were piled in a heap;

(d) whether it ~~xx~~ is a fact that the Superintendent, Archaelogical Survey, Madras, and the Curator, Madras Record Office, proceeded to Tanjore and inspected the Agency room for the final disposal of the manuscripts; if so, will the Hon. the Minister kindly enlighten the house with their reports;

(e) whether the Curator, Madras Record Office, possess the knowledge of deciphering the manuscipts recorded in various languages and especially in Modi and Persian; if so, whether he has prepared a catalogue for the heap of records;

(f) on what grounds the Collector of

Tanjore

Tanjore and the Curator, Record Office, Madras, sought the orders of the Government for burning the heap of manuscripts which they considered useless;

(g) whether it is a fact that the records were burnt in the Palace grounds on two occasions, one nearly a year and half ago and the other, five months ago;

(h) whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that Modi-knowing staff is working in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library;

(i) whether it is a fact that the services of an outsider from Bombay was requisitioned to catalogue those records;

(j) whether it is proposed to utilise the services of the Modi and Persian knowing staff of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, to catalogue and translate the records of the Agency Record Room before they become further damaged by weather and worms;

(k) will the Hon'ble Minister make enquiries about the negligence in allowing a certain number of valuable and historic records to decay;

(l) whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, has applied to the Government to transfer those Tanjore Records to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, where other rare and valuable manuscripts are preserved under expert supervision; and

(m) whether there are any administrative difficulties in transferring those records

to the

Public (Poll)deptt.

U.O. note No. 4461/47-26 d. 6-12-47 18

Sub. L.A.Q. No.1205 by Sri A.Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.

Ref. Legislature Sectt. u.o. note No.7969/47-3ML dated 2-12-47

p.25CF

The Sectt. of the Madras Legislature may be informed that the above question has been transferred to this Deptt. by E & P.H. deptt.

6.12.47

5/12/47.

To the Sectt. of the
Madras Legislature

5/12/47

6/12

~~2 Drafts~~

~~Draft I~~

19

Edn. P.H. (C2)

U.O. Note No. 96939 C2/47-1 Edn dated 13-12-47.

Madras Legislative Assembly Starred Qn. No. 1205 by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai regarding the records housed in the Tanjore Palace.

Ref: Leg. Sectt. U.O. Note No. 7969/47-34 ML d. 2-12-47.
Public (Poll) U.O. Note No. 4461/47-6 d. 6-12-47.

13/12

p. 25 y
p. 33 y

The Sectt. of the Madras Legislature may be informed that the Question referred to above has since been retransferred by the Public (Poll) Dept. to this Dept. and that it will accordingly be answered by this Dept.

✓ vide H.M. (Edn)'s minute on p. 8 N.7

To
The Sectt. of the Madras Leg. ✓
Copy to the Public (Poll) Dept. ✓

12.12.47.

13.12.47

13.12

36

KS/15/12 Draft II Clean Copy 37

Starred

Education & Public Health Dept
~~Public (Political) Department~~.

*QUESTION NO. 1205

Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.

V

~~(a)~~ Will the Hon'ble Minister for Education be pleased to state // (a) Whether he is aware that in 1938, the Tanjore Palace Agency Record Room, under the custody of the Collector of Tanjore, contained actually 2,452 bundles and nearly 800 bound volumes in which the history and the administration of the Naicks and the Marathas of Tanjore were described;	para (a) p 16 CF (a) There is no definite record of information regarding the total number of bundles and volumes that were in the Record Room in 1938, nor is there any information to show that the history and the administration of the Naicks and the Mahrattas of Tanjore were described in them. What these records contain has to be decided on a scrutiny of them.
(b) Whether it is a fact that this Record Room contained manuscripts not only in Modi, but also in Urdu, Persian and Tamil ;	A on p 16 CF (b) There are manuscripts in Modi and Tamil. But it is not known whether there are manuscripts in Urdu and Persian.
(c) Whether it is a fact that the records , for want of proper cloth for bundling, were piled in a heap;	B on p 16 CF (c) No records were piled in a heap for want of proper cloth for bundling. On the other hand even pieces of paper which were crumbling and falling off into pieces and which it is now impossible to piece together and restore to their proper places have been bundled up in pieces of cloth.
(d) Whether it is a fact that the Superintendent Archaeological Survey, Madras and the Curator, Madras Record Office proceeded to Tanjore and inspected the Agency Room for the final disposal of the manuscripts, if so, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly enlighten the House with their reports; × pp 33-37 CF + 41 CF of ⓜ ✓ pp 1-5 CF in LFI # pp 53-54 CF of ⓜ Ⓧ pp 33-37 CF + 41 CF of ⓜ @ pp 1-5 CF in LFI	(d) The Superintendent, Archaeological Survey and the Curator, M.R.O. inspected these records. The Curator, and Expert on the I.H.R. Commission was authorised by this Government to assess the historical value of these records. The reports of the Superintendent Archaelogical Survey and of the Curator, M.R.O. are mainly in the way of suggestions to improve the state of preservation of the records and the method of working upon them with a view to assessing their historical value, and they do not relate to the contents of the records in question.

(e) Whether the Curator, M.R.O. possesses the knowledge of deciphering the manuscripts recorded in the various languages and especially in Modi and Persian, if so, whether has he prepared a catalogue for the heap of records;	(e) The Curator, M.R.O does not know the Modi and Persian languages. The question in the latter part of this clause does not arise.
(f) On what grounds the Collector of Tanjore and the Curator, Record Office, Madras, sought the orders of the Government for burning the heap of manuscripts which they considered useless;	(f) There is no proposal to burn any of the records as such, though it may perhaps be necessary to destroy the broken pieces of paper referred to in clause (c) above.
(g) Whether it is a fact that the records were burnt in the Palace grounds on two occasions, one nearly a year and half ago and the other, five months ago;	(g) No records were burnt at any time.
(h) Whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that Modi-knowing staff is working in the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library;	(h) Yes.
(i) Whether it is a fact that the services of an outsider from Bombay was requisioned to catalogue those records;	(i) The question of preservation or disposal of the Agency records is already under the consideration of the Government, and it has been the subject matter of correspondence between the Collector, the Curator, the Board of Revenue and the Government of Madras from April 1945 and no decision has yet been taken in the matter. The matter was last referred to the Curator by the Board of Revenue on 2-7-47, suggesting that a couple of men from Poona might be employed for three months or even one month to sample some quantities of these records at random under the supervision of the Curator. The need to arrange for men from Poona arose as there was only one applicant, Viz. Parameswar Butt of Madras (who claimed to know Modi) as a result of an advertisement published by the Collector under the orders of the Board of Revenue. The applicant did not appear for an interview by the Collector in spite of a notice, or before the Board of Revenue.
(j) Whether it is proposed to utilise the services of the Modi and Persian knowing staff of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras to catalogue and translate the records of the Agency Record Room before they become further damaged by weather and worms ;	(j) One member knowing Modi and three members including the Curator knowing Persian are on the staff of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras. The matter of utilising their services in this regard will be considered.
(k) Will the Hon'ble Minister make enquiries about the negligence in allowing a certain number of valuable and historic records to decay;	(k) Every endeavour has been and continues to be made to preserve the records. The question does not therefore arise.
(l) Whether it is a fact that the D.P.I. Madras has applied to the Government to trasfer those Tanjore records to the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, where other rare and valuable manuscripts are preserved under expert supervision;	(l) Yes.
(m) Whether there are any administrative difficulties in transferring those records to the Government Manuscripts Library, Madras or Saras-wathi Mahal Library, Tanjore; if so, what are they; and	(m) The question has to be examined.
(n) Will the Hon'ble Minister make enquiries and let the House know about the existence of historic records in local languages in Collector's offices such as Trichy, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly Salem, Coimbatore and Kurnool ?	(n) An enquiry has been made and it has been ascertained that a great deal has been already done by the Curator, M.R.O. for ascertaining the nature and contents of the records in the local languages kept in the Collectors' Offices and for preserving such of them as are of historical and administrative value.

Checked with the original by 13.12

To

Secy. to the M.L. (5 copies) /
(Assembly Section)

Pub (Elections) (1 copy) /

P.A. to H.M. Edn. (1 copy)
Give S.C.

Ed. P.H. W.O. No. 96939 C2/47-2 Edn
13-12-47.

(Approved in Note)

Copy of U.O.Note No.218/48-17 Madras Legislature dated 19-1-1948.

Sub: LEGISLATNVE ASSEMBLY QUESTIONS - Return of copies of Answers.

The Edn. and P.H. Department may be informed u.o. that answers to Assembly Questions Nos.379,570,755, 848,889, 1075, 1092,1110,1138,1177,1181,1205,1264 and 1340 for which answers which were received in this Department were not put and answered in the Assembly as the Assembly has been prorogued on 5th January 1948. It is not likely that the member~~s~~ will renew notice of them in the same form in future. If any ~~suc~~ such notice is received intimation will be sent to that ~~Depar~~ Department. The answers may therefore be returned to that Department.

(A)

True Copy

SS.Sm.

Superintendent.

7/2/48.

Note file

C2

23

SPECIAL: Secy., E. & P.H.

Please see herewith a notice of the L.A. Question to be answered at short notice. In view of the answer that was given to a previous question that no such action was contemplated, this is surprising. The Member tells me that he gives this notice of question to answer that information. We must answer it on the 5th, if possible. Information may be collected immediately.

TSA
3.11.47

H.M. Education.

Linked file II

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GOVT.
4461
4 - NOV 1947
4/11/47
CHIEF SECRETARIAT

Special

SECRETARY, EDN. AND P. H.
3 - NOV 1947
87019
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Edn & P.H (C2)

~~The minutes of HM (Edn) above may be perused.~~

The previous Question referred to in HM's minute above was ~~therein was been~~ answered in Pub (Pol). It is understood that Deptt has got a file on the subject. This may also be transferred to Pub (Pol) Deptt.

dealt with.

Re
3.11.47

Cca
3.11.47

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Pub (Pol)

3/11/47
Pub (Pol.)

Special

E41400 PM
87019 C2/47 - 1Edn
3.11.47

4.30 PM

Pub. (Poll) Deptt.

This seems to be a question handed to H.M. (Edn) by the M.L.A. direct. H.M. desires that the question may be answered on the 5th if possible. Though materials for answering the question are ready in this Deptt. the question has to be admitted by the Hon. the Speaker first. A copy of the question together with the extracts of the notes may be sent to the Secrt. M.L. first.

Not necessary H.M. has waived notice ABh 4-11-47

No harm to this. The M.L.A. might have given a copy to the Speaker

Cue 4.11.47

C.S. may see. An answer will be prepared and the file ~~re~~submitted again today.

ABh 4.11.47

C.S.

4/11

PUBLIC (POLITICAL) DEPARTMENT.

The short notice starred question in c.f. relates to the records housed in certain rooms of the Tanjore Palace building. The constitutional position of the records is as follows:-

The records being very ancient they might possibly contain references to the old Tanjore Raj and to ancestors of the present political pensioners. In this sense they do not come under the administrative control of the Provincial Government. Upto the date of transfer of power they were the property of the late Crown Representative. The Crown Representative delegated to the Provincial Government certain functions of his which relate only to the access to those records. All other administrative details concerned the Crown Representative. Now that the office of the Crown Representative is abolished the Government of India in the Ministry of States have taken charge of his functions the concerned authority for the preservation etc. of the Records in question now are the Government of India in the Ministry of States. As the question of the Hon'ble Member relates to the records of the Ministry of States this Government it seems should not answer any question relating to those records.

Whatever action that has been so far taken in the matter of those records was at the instance of the Government of India and with the concurrence of the Crown Representative.

A draft answer is however submitted.

Lr 2069 PM 30/10/37 (V)

See para 3 in pp 7-8 of the f.o. 1451 P dt 20/1/47 (31) in L.F.

It does not appear that the question can be disallowed under the rules

ABh 4.11.47

See L.F. p1 of the f.o. 1457 Pw dt 20/1/47 (31) in LF

pamphlet put up

The previous question on the subject of destruction of records in the Tanjore Palace Building ~~has~~ was answered in linked file II. on 29.10.47.

Cue 4.11.47.

ABh 4.11.47

C.S.

H.M. (Edn)

Draft answer for approval

HM (Edn.)

4/11

I have seen the draft answer. In certain respects it requires verification e.g., (g) & (h). These matters ~~also~~ may be verified and answers put up. If any records are burnt it must be under instructions from the Central Govt. through us. The relevant authorities may be enquired into.

About answer to (a) i.e., number of volumes that may also be verified, if possible.

The Legislative Assembly Office may be informed that we will answer the question first on the next Assembly day.

SH

The Draft answer on enquiries being made may be put up in a few days.

TSA
5-11-47

With reference to H.M's minutes above a draft memo to the officers concerned & a draft u.o. note to the Sectt of the H.L. are submitted for approval.

DBL
6.11.47

AS

5/11/47

[Issued Memo No. 4461/47-1 d 6.11.47. p 7 CF

[From the Curator, M.R.O. No 2314 D. VII. 47-1 d 9.11.47 pp 9-10 CF
— . . —

The report from the Curator, M.R.O on pp 9-10 CF may be perused. The reports from the Collector of Tanjore & D.P.I. may be awaited.

DBL
11.11.47

NS
10/11/47 10/11/47

The report from the Collector of Tanjore on pp. 15-17 CF may be perused. Reply is still due from the D.P.I. He may be reminded by d.o. Draft submitted.

DBL
17.11.47

Please see the u.o. note from the Legislature Sect. on p. 13 CF. Though the question has not yet been admitted by Hon'ble the Speaker, yet the draft answer will be got ready in this dept. as soon as the D.P.I's report is received. It is for consideration whether the file need be circulated to H.M. Edn. for perusal of the u.o. note of the Legislature Sect at this stage.

We may wait till Speaker's order regarding admissibility has been received. DBL 17.11.47

Not necessary now. DBL 17.11.47

NS
17/11/47 17.11.47

I understand that the question has been admitted but will come only in the normal course. The file may be sent when the question comes up. The answer may be as revised now.

TSA
28.11.47

H.M. Edn

Pub (Sol

Please see the draft answer to the L.A.Q by Sri A.Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A. The following points aresubmitted for favour of consideration in respect of the answersto questions (b), (c), (d), (g) and (k).

Answer to qn.(b). The draft answer to this clause says that the Govt. of India havestated that the records contain manuscripts in Modi, Marathi, Telugu and Tamil scripts which

17/21.x1

information is with reference to the Govt. of India's letter on page 1 of flag 'n'. ~~in L.F.I.~~ In the Collector's report on page 16 C.F. it is stated that there are manuscripts in Modi and Tamil and that it is not known whether there are manuscripts in Persian and Urudu.

para (c) p. 16 CF

Answer to Qn.(c). The Collector of Tanjore categorically reports that no records were piled up in a heap for want of proper cloth for bundling ~~ad~~ and that on the other hand even pieces of paper and mutilated records which were crumbling and falling off have been carefully bundled in pieces of cloth. This information may perhaps be substituted in the draft answer. If so, it may be necessary to omit or alter the latter part of the answer to clause (f)

Answer to Qn.(d). The Superintendent, Archaeological Survey also inspected the records in the Tanjore Palace on 19-8-46 — see (d) on page 16 C.F.. His report was also in the same nature as of the Curator M.R.O. This also may be incorporated in the draft answer.

x pp 33-37 CF q (n)

Answer to Qn. (g). No records were burnt at any time.- please see para (g) on page 16 C.F. The answer to this clause may be in the negative.

Answer to Qn.(k). It is apparent that every endeavour has been and continues to be made to preserve the records as best as possible. This question does not therefore arise. The answer may be modified accordingly.

para (K) on p 17 CF + A on p. 10 CF

The file may be submitted to H.M.Edn. for favour of consideration of the above points.

(The draft answer was prepared by HM's personal staff and approved by him.)

29.11.47. NS 29.11.47

29.11.47

C.S.

29/11

HM (Edn.)

A ~~modified~~ corrected draft may be duly settled

TSA 30.11.47

1 DEC 1947

Pul. C.No. 4461/47

26

12/2.12

A revised draft answer is submitted for approval. The file may be circulated to H.Pr and to H.M. Education

1.12.47. NS 2.12.47.

2/12/47

C.S.

H.Pr E.P.R. 3/12/47

HM (Edn.)

TSA 4-12-47

4 DEC 1947

Recd in office at 5.10 pm

8/12/47

Recd in Secn on 5.12.47.

+ A on p 25 CF

Issue p. 33 f.

6.12.47

The L.A.Q. by Sri Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A. received from the Madras Legislature Sectt. is on pages 27-31 C.F. As desired by E & P. H deptt. the ~~Legislature~~ Secretariat of the Madras Legislature may be informed that the L.A.Q. has been ~~transformed~~ transferred to this deptt. A draft u.o. note is submitted for approval.

2. It does not seem necessary to send an advance copy of the L.A.Q. to the Hon'ble Minister ~~of~~ for Education.

3. Clause 'n' in the L.A.Q. on page 31 C.F. is not to be found in the question on page 3 C.F. It is presumed that this ~~question has~~ clause also has to be answered. If so it is for consideration whether the answer to the ~~question~~ clause may be as follows:-

This clause was in the question as originally handed in by the M.L.A. It has been deleted. Curator has offered his remarks on this clause - see 5 on page 10 CF.

6.12.47

' ~~A~~ An enquiry has been made and it has been ascertained that a great deal has been already done by the Curator, Madras Record Office for ascertaining the nature ~~of~~ and contents of the records in the local languages kept in the Collectors' Offices and for preserving such of them as are

5 on p 10 CF

A

Pul. cno 4461/47

18
6.12

of historical and administrative value." ~~Instructins have also been issued from time time by the Curator to the Collectors' Offices for the proper preservation of these records and an attender from each Collectorate has been trained in mending work in the M.R.O. so that he so that he can attend to all the ordinary repairs of these as well as other old records in the Collecdrates.'~~

A

The file may be recirculated to H.M. Education for approval of the above.

ABL
8.12.47

5.12.47

5/12/47

C.S.

HM (Edn.)

Conclusion above approved. ~~The question may~~ The Secretariat may be informed that the question will be answered by Edn. Dept.

TSA
7.12.47

CHIEF SECRETARY
8 DEC 1947
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

ABL
8.12.47

Please see the minutes of H.M. Edn. above. It is presumed that it is the intention of the H.M. that the file should now be transferred to Edn. depts. for issue of the answer in the name of that dept.

The file may be transferred to E & P.H. dept. & they may be requested to inform the Legislature Secty that the L.A.Q. has been retransferred to them.

'B'

Please put up a clean copy of the answer as now approved.

ABL
8.12.47

---

d. No. 96939 C2/47.

A clean copy of the answer is put up below.

9/12/47.

ABL
8.12.47

8/12/47

Ex. P.H. No

Pub. (Poll) Ans. 4461-7 d 9.12.47.

Linked with (No. 1016 & 4206/47.

ASST. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
96939
DEC 1947
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT.

pp. 27-31 d

Edn & P.H (C2)

Please see the Public (Poll) note and the orders in circulation at pages 3–8 ante, and the draft answer below. The case was all along dealt with in the Public (Poll) Dept. and this Dept. has no papers or ~~[illegible]~~ information relating to the subject matter of the L.A. Question. The file is now proposed to be transferred to this Dept. with reference to the minute of H.M. (Edn.) on page 8 ante. It is for orders whether the transfer of the file may be accepted and the draft answer below issued from this Dept. If so, the draft w.o. note to the Sectt. of the Madras Legislature regarding the retransfer of the Question to this Dept. is also for approval.

12.12.47. 13.12.47

13.12.47

S 1/12

P. 35 C.7. Issued as w.o. Note No. 96939 C2/47-1 Edn., d., 13-12-47.
PP. 37-39 C.7. " " " " " 96939 C2/47-2. Edn., d., 13-12-47.

L.A. Question

Tanjore Palace Library

Records of Mofussil offices

Papers recorded

Please see the copy of note of the Madras Legislature Sectt. on page 41 C.7. In the circumstances stated therein, the papers may now be ~~[illegible]~~

7/2/48.

13.2.48

Order

Recorded. ~~Edn~~ 301. Edn. 16-2-48.

14.2.48

2.