

1950

E. + P. H. (~~194~~) Department.

Ms. SERIES.

G.O. NO. 266. E. dn.

Dated 1-2-1950.

closed
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[Despatch Abstract.]

J. H. R. d. — Regional Records
Survey Committee — Additional
work — proposals — Recorded.

to go

Back Papers.

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

Further Papers.

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



No. F.92-14/49.A.2.
Government of India,
Ministry of Education,



New Delhi 3, the 26th July, 1949.

From

Ram Lal, Esquire, M.A.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Education Department, M A D R A S.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION - AD HOC
REGIONAL RECORDS SURVEY COMMITTEE - ESTABLISHMENT OF
PERMANENT SURVEY COMMITTEE BY THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your G.O. Ms. No. 3303-Edn., dated 24th December, 1948, in regard to the establishment of a Regional Records Survey Committee in Madras. This Regional Committee replaces the ad hoc Committee set up by the Indian Historical Records Commission in 1943 and the Central Government grant-in-aid which was being disbursed by the Commission to the Madras ad hoc Committee has accordingly been suspended from the current financial year.

2. It was reported by the Convener of the (permanent) Regional Records Survey Committee, Madras, during the last meeting of the Research and Publication Committee held in New Delhi in May 1949 (an extract from the proceedings enclosed herewith) that the permanent Committee is not inclined to take over all the items of the activities which the ad hoc Committee was engaged in. As the Indian Historical Records Commission is acting as the coordinating agency between the various regional committees; and as the programme already adopted has been arrived at after careful consideration, the Government of India consider it desirable that the Provincial Regional Committee should continue the programme hitherto followed by the ad hoc Committee, in its entirety.

The Government of India trust that necessary instructions will be issued by the Provincial Government to their Committee to cooperate with the Indian Historical Records Commission in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

Rue

Under Secretary.

Education and Public Health Dept.

Enclt. No. 58342-1C2. Edu., dated, 24-8-49.

Referred to the curator, Madras
Record Office, for remarks.
(By order)

V. Ramaswami

Assistant Secretary to Govt.

20/8/49. N 2/8

To the curator,
Madras Record Office,
Chittoor.

(3)

Copy of an Extract from the Proceedings of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Research & Publication Committee held at New Delhi on the 2nd May, 1949, at 3-30 P.M.

VI. Any other subject that may be brought before the Committee.

Professor Srinivasachari informed the Committee that the Madras Government had set up a permanent Regional Records Survey Committee; but since this Committee had decided to limit its activities only to the salvaging of documents, Professor Srinivasachari proposed that the ad hoc Committee set up by the Indian Historical Records Commission should continue to function in order to cover the remaining items of its activities as recommended by the Research & Publication Committee from time to time. After some discussion it was agreed that with the establishment of a permanent Committee the ad hoc Committee automatically ceased to exist. The Madras Government would however be requested to ask their Committee to take over all the activities of the ad hoc Committee.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT. (X)

Received



19

Registered

19

Subject.

Indian Historical Records Commission - Regional Records Survey Committees - Duties of.

Ref:- Endt.No. 58342-1. C2 Edn. dated 24th August, 1949.

p. 1 ante

ENCLOSURES.

No.

Spare copies

No. 2282-D. 7/49-1.

Station Chittoor. Dated the 30th August, 1949.

From (Name) Dr. B. S. Baliga, Ph.D. (Lond.),
(Designation) Curator, Madras Record Office, Chittoor.

To The Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Education & Public Health Department.
Fort St. George, MADRAS.

Sir,

(X) 61-62
d. 7.

p. 3 ante

p. 1 ante

The Convenor of the Regional Records Survey Committee formed in G.O. No. 3303 Education, dated 24-12-1948, is stated to have represented to the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission that the Committee is not inclined to take over all the items of the activities which the ad hoc Committee was engaged in. The Government of India, therefore, desire that the Provincial Committee should be instructed to take over all these activities without exception.

pp. 9-12 infra

p. 9 infra

2. Till now only one meeting has been held after the Regional Records Survey Committee was formed. This was held in April 1949. I enclose copies of the agenda and the minutes of this meeting. It will be seen from them that the Committee has accepted almost everything that the Convenor suggested. The only items on the agenda to which it did not completely agree are items Nos. 7 and 8. I explain below the reasons which prompted the Committee to pass resolutions in a slightly altered form in regard to these two items.

-2-

3. Item 7. The first part of this related to a suggestion of Dr. Sen, the Director of Archives, National Archives of India, that the Committee might help in preparing a National Register of records, manuscripts, etc. The preparation of this Register involves the examination of the records in almost all the offices in the province, big and small; official, semi official and non-official. The details of the scheme will be found in the letter of the Government of India No.F.92-34/48 E.I. dated 9-8-48 which was referred to me with Endt.No.61104-1.C2 Edn. dated 13-9-48. In my letter No.2187-DVII/48-2, dated 28-4-1949 sent in reply to this Endorsement, I suggested that the scheme might be adopted. I also pointed out that a special paid staff would be necessary to attend to the work connected with the scheme. The Government, however, in their Memorandum No.61104/48-2.C2. Edn. dated 25-1-1949, decided that it was unnecessary to adopt the scheme. They considered that "it would be an inexcusable waste of time and energy to endeavour to compile register for All-India in which the records of these small local bodies and of the subordinate Government offices all over India should be listed up". They also considered that, as the permanent Committee had been set up with the idea of having valuable records in private custody traced and provision for their preservation made, it was not desirable that it should be diverted from the work and asked to take up the work of compiling the register in the manner proposed. A copy of the Memorandum was communicated to the Convenor by the Government with their letter No.9012-I.C2 Edn. dated 3-3-1949.

4. According to the scheme of the Research and Publication Committee the regional Committees were to take up the work of preparing the National Register to the exclusion of all other activities including the activity of unearthing the manuscripts in private custody. But, in view of the orders of the Government, the Committee could not take up the work of preparing the National Register. Nevertheless it resolved to furnish to the Director of Archives such information as it might obtain and as might be useful for the compilation of the Register. In my opinion the Committee was right in not taking up this work ~~first~~. For, although I suggested to the Government last year that this scheme might be taken up, I now agree with the Government that this is not so important or urgent an activity of the Committee as the unearthing, preserving etc. of the manuscripts in private custody. There is no danger of the important records of public offices being destroyed. In fact, this office is receiving annual reports from the Collectors and Heads of Departments in regard to the condition of their old records in their custody and no old records are destroyed by them without the permission of this office. In the case of the manuscripts in private custody, however, there is no such control and, therefore, the sooner the Committee sets about unearthing them, the better.

5. In regard to the second part of item 7, viz., the measures to be taken for the centralisation and proper preservation of the records of merged states, although nothing is mentioned in the Minutes, I pointed out that the records of the merged states would be treated as Government records and looked after properly and the Committee agreed with me.

6.

6. Item 8:- This item related to the general instructions issued by the Indian Historical Records Commission for the guidance of the Regional Records Survey Committees. The instructions will be found in paras 3, 4 and 5 appended to this item. The Committee made only a small change in these instructions and resolved to follow them in all other respects. (Please see para 8 of the Minutes). The change made by the Committee consisted in deleting the words "Municipal Councils" in para 5 of the Instructions and it was made because the records of Municipal Offices do not come under the description of records in private custody. It was felt that these records, come within the scope of the National Register, being semi-public records, and that the Committee ought to confine its activities only to the unearthing of private manuscripts and records and their preservation, publication etc.

7. From what has been stated above it will be seen that the Committee has co-operated with the Convenor and has accepted almost all the suggestions placed by him before it. If he had felt that the Committee was not inclined to take up any item of work which the ad hoc Committee was doing he could have brought it to the notice of the Government instead of taking it up with the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission. The only considerable matter on which the Committee disagreed with the Convenor was that of the compilation of the National Register of all public and semi-public records, and that was because such a compilation the Government had expressly ordered should not be undertaken in our Province.

8.

A G E N D A .

for the first meeting of the Committee to be held at the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, on Thursday, the 21st April 1949.

1. The definition of the purposes that should be aimed at by the Committee, with reference to the Circular Letter from the Convenor dated 14th March 1949 containing 4 paragraphs.

2. The suggestions made by Dr. B.S. Baliga, Curator, Madras Records, Chittoor, in his letter to the Secretary to Government, No. 395-D.VII/49-1 dated 15th February 1949, containing the suggestions, that the object of the Committee should be to consider the ways and means by which historical manuscripts or records in private custody should be (1) brought to light, (2) preserved, listed or catalogued and (3) made available for bona fide historical research. All this can be done by correspondence or personal contact with individuals or private bodies likely to possess old records, like the old commercial firms (Binny & Co., Parry & Co.,) with religious institutions like temples and mutts, churches, mosques etc., with Zamindars and other big landowners whose history goes back to olden days, with societies or associations, social, cultural, political etc., who have a history worth knowing. Propaganda in the Press may also be carried on inviting owners of old manuscripts to get into touch with the Convenor, and the records arranged to be acquired as suggested in para 3 of the Circular letter referred to in 1.

3. The letter from the Curator, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, Roc.No.60/49 dated 5-2-49, communicating the methods conducted by him in acquiring manuscripts - consideration of methods of co-ordination between the Curator of the Oriental Manuscripts Library and the Regional Records Survey Committee.

4. The proposal of Professor V.R. Ramachandra Dikshitar of the Madras University that the record material at Pudukkottai which may be of value for the different aspects of the History of South India from the period of the Carnatic Wars may be made available by Government for consultation and study.

5. The suggestion of Mr. R. Subba Rao of Rajahmundry that members may be requested to approach institutions and persons in several districts for collection of records and that these records may be preserved in district centres and utilised for public exhibition and scholarly study.

6. The suggestion of the Rev. Father T.N. Siqueira, S.J. of a scheme for organising the education of the people in appreciating the value of documents scattered in unlikely places, as the preparation of the public for documentary research is more important in the present state of India than research itself.

7. The suggestions of Dr. S.N. Sen, Director of the National Archives of India, that our Regional Committee might help (1) in preparing a National Register of Records, Manuscripts etc. and (2) suggest measures for the location and maintenance at a central place for purposes of historical research of the records of States that have merged or are likely to merge in the Province.

8. The consideration of the General Instructions of the Indian Historical Records Commission for the guidance of their Regional Records Survey Committees in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 which will be of help in canalising the activities of the Committee.

8. In these circumstances, if there is no objection, the Government of India may be informed that the Regional Records Survey Committee has, except, in the matter of the compilation of the National Register of all Public, and Semi Public records, agreed with all the proposals and suggestions of the Convenor, and that this Government have after a careful consideration, thought it unnecessary to compile such a national Register for the reasons stated in their Memorandum No. 61104/48-2.C2.Edn., dated 25-1-1949. Before, however, sending such a reply, the Convenor may, perhaps, be asked to specify what are the activities which the ~~Ad Hoc~~ Committee was engaged in, and which of these activities, the present Committee is not inclined to take up.

Yours faithfully,

B.S. Baliga
CURATOR,
31-8-1949.

CPS.

Encls. 3.

M
31-8-49

(R) 27-28c7.

The Instructions are as follows:-

3. The need of public co-operation cannot be too much emphasised. In co-opting new members the ad hoc Committees should try their best to enlist the services of all influential sections of the Society. As far as possible all interests should be represented on the Committees and every effort should be made to inspire public confidence. It will defeat its own purpose if the Committee is suspected to be an official organisation or institution, political or otherwise. Every means should be taken to convince the public that the only object of the Committee is to preserve for the future generations one of their rightful heritages, viz., the raw materials of Indian History.

4. This leads to another important question. Should the Committee limit its enquiries to manuscript records only and if so, should non-historical records be left out of the scope of the proposed survey. The Secretary can offer his personal opinion only. The Committee in the course of its survey may come across important historical materials relating to periods with which the Indian Historical Records Commission is not primarily concerned. The Chairman of the Punjab Regional Survey Committee found that most of the manuscripts unearthed by him were of non-historical character. It will not be in the best interest of the country to ignore such manuscripts and withhold the information thus collected. All the finds should be carefully catalogued and steps should be taken to bring them to the notice of the interested scholars through learned journals and official publications. If the finds happen to be of archaeological interest the discovery should at once be communicated to the Director-General of Archaeology and it is expected that his department will similarly co-operate with the Indian Historical Records Commission. Briefly, care should be taken to give the country the maximum benefit from the survey and narrow interpretation of its scope and function as far as possible be avoided.

5. While important manuscripts may be found in unsuspected quarters the most likely places should be first tried. Religious establishments, municipal offices, etc., may have in their custody very important records attempts should be made to trace the present representatives of historical families and descendants of persons who played any part however insignificant in shaping the history of their country and it is not unlikely that among the family papers will be found important political correspondence or other valuable records. To the students of economic history papers belonging to old banking families may be equally useful.

(True Copy)

CPS.

M. Subramanian
1/3 ASSISTANT CURATOR,
31 -8-1949.

Mm
31/8/49.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION,
Regional Records Survey Committee,
MADRAS.

The first meeting of the Committee, constituted by the Government of Madras in their G.O.No.3383 (Education) dated 24th December 1948, was held in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, on Thursday, the 21st April 1949, at 11 A.M. when the following members of the Committee were present:

1. Professor C.S. Srinivasachari ~~Convenor~~, Principal, Rajah Doraisingam Memorial College, Sivaganga.
2. Dr. B.S. Baliga, Curator, Madras Records Office, Chittoor.
3. Sri N.R. Banerjee, Assistant Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India, Southern Circle, Madras (In the place of the Superintendent - Vide Government Memorandum No.20042-1 C2 (Education) dated 19-4-49).
4. Sri T.M. Chinniah Pillai, President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, Madras.
5. Professor V.R. Ramachandra Dikshitar, University of Madras.
6. Professor R. Satyanatha Aiyar, Annamalai University.
7. The Rev. Father T.N. Siqueira, S.J. Professor, St. Joseph's College, Trichinopoly.
8. Sri P.V. Ramanujaswami, Director, Tirupati Sri Venkateswara Oriental Institute, Tirupati.
9. Sri R. Subba Rao, Secretary, Andhra Historical Research Society, Rajahmundry.
10. Dr. C. Kunhan Rajah, Hony. Curator, Adyar Library, Adyar, Madras.
11. Sri T.P. Minakshisundaram Pillai, Correspondent, Chintadripet High School, Chintadripet, Madras.
12. Sri R. Bhaskaran, University of Madras.
13. Sri S. Gopalan, Hony. Secretary, T.M.S.S.M. Library, Tanjore.
14. Sri T. Chandrasekharan, Curator, Government Oriental Manuscript Library, Madras.

Members Absent:

1. Dr. George Kuriyan Hony. Secretary, Indian Geographical Society, Gopalapuram, Madras; and
2. Sri T. Balakrishnan Nair, Professor of Indian History, Presidency College, Madras.

MINUTES:

The Convenor welcomed the Members of the Committee.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. The Members approved the definition of the purposes of the Committee, as indicated in the Circular of the Convenor, dated 14th March 1949.

2. ACQUISITION OF RECORD MATERIAL: Suggestions of Dr. B.S. Baliga regarding acquisition of records of historical value in the custody of institutions such as Old Commercial Firms, Religious Institutions like Temples and Mutts, Mosques and Churches, Zamindars and other big landholders, the ways and means of acquiring them and preserving them in a central place for reference:

In general it was suggested that the members be requested to find out through personal inquiries in their areas, what records may be available with private persons etc., and to contact such persons, so that the Convenor may be enabled to acquire them or have them carefully preserved and duly catalogued or indexed.

With regard to the acquisition of records in possession of Temples, Mutts etc., it was resolved to request the President, H.R.E. Board to circularise in order to find out if any records of value are available with them, to arrange to gather particulars of their contents and to help in their acquisition, if possible. It was also suggested that in the case of temples under the management of the Zamindars in their capacity as Trustees of the institutions they may be contacted and information gathered about records with

them relating to their administration, management of temples and temple lands etc. The President, H.R.E. Board kindly offered to issue a circular to this effect and inform the Convenor of the Results.

Sri R. Subba Rao of Rajahmundry suggested that the Raja Kandragula C. Jagannath Rao Bahadur might be addressed for a list of old records of the 18th century in his possession. He also added that the Rajah Saheb of Vizianagaram also might be addressed.

Sri S. Gopalan suggested that in cases where the parties were not for parting with the records, copies might be taken and preserved in a central place.

3. It was suggested also that propaganda in the Press might be carried on inviting owners of old records and manuscripts to get into touch with the Convenor. The Curator of the Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, suggested that action in this respect similar to what his Office has been taking, might be adopted. The Curator was requested to inform the Convenor from time to time his collections of record material of a historical character which he might come across during his tours.

The letter of the Curator, Government Oriental Manuscripts Library, Madras, No. Rc. 60/49 dated 5-2-49, was read and it was resolved to adopt as far as possible the methods recommended therein with regard to the co-ordination between the Curator and the Committee.

4. As regards Professor V. R. Ramachandra Dikshitar's suggestion for the acquisition of the records of historical value in the Pudukkottai Palace, the Curator, of the Madras Records Office, pointed out that the state of Pudukkottai having been merged with the Province, all its records have become Government property and they would be preserved in a central place.

5. Sri R. Subba Rao's proposal that members be requested to approach institutions and persons in their respective areas for collection of records of value, was approved. It was also suggested that the Rajah Saheb of Vizianagaram be requested to supply a catalogue, which he is reported to have printed, of the manuscript and other record-material in his - Palace etc.

6. Suggestion of the Rev. Fr. T. N. Siqueira, S. J., to organise a plan of educating the people to appreciate the value of documents scattered in unlikely places, as the preparation of the public for documentary research is very important: Resolved to request the Rev. Fr. T. N. Siqueira, S. J. to prepare a small pamphlet on the scheme which may be translated in several languages and circulated.

7. Read suggestion of the Director of Archives, New Delhi to help in the preparation of a National Register of Documents and Manuscripts: Resolved to furnish information to the Director of Archives as and when record-material is obtained.

8. Consideration of the General Instructions of the Indian Historical Records Commission for the guidance of the Regional Committees (Paras 3, 4 and 5). The instructions were read. It was resolved to delete the word "Municipal Offices" in para 5, 2nd sentence and the instructions contained in the above paras as modified be followed.

(sd) x x x x x
CONVENOR.

Copy communicated to the Members.

(True Copy)

M. Subramaniam
ASSISTANT CURATOR,
31 -8-1949.

13

E. J. P. H.

C₂

Hemo. No. 58342 cr/49 Edm 27.10.49

Indian Historical Records
Commission - Ad hoc Regional
Regional Records Survey Committee
- Establishment of permanent
Survey Committee by the Govt.
of Madras.

PP. 1-30.7.

Ref: From the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Education,
No. F. 92-14/49.A.2., dated,
29-7-49.

A copy of the letter cited is
forwarded to ^{Prof. Dr.} Sri C. S. Srinivasachari,
Srinivasachari, Convenor,
Regional Committee for the Survey
of

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of historical records, and he is requested to report the ^{various} activities which the ad-hoc committee had engaged in and which of ~~them~~ these activities the permanent committee is not willing to take up.

27/9/49.
Jb
8/9/49
W-10/49

Note.

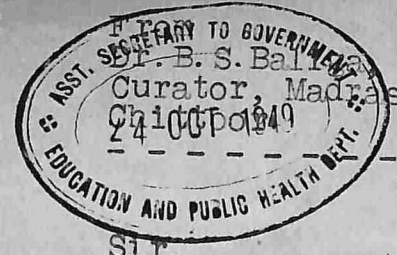
Before a reply is sent to the Gov. of India, it is necessary that the points mentioned at "x" on page 8 & 7. Should be examined. The draft above is for approval.

27/9/49.
Jb
8/9/49
W-10/49

Sp
Jb
W-10/49

To
Sri C.S. Srinivasa
Principal, Regional
Committee for the Survey
of Historical Records,
Sivagangal.
(with copy of
pages 1 and 3 & 7.)
Copy to the Curator, M.P.
Chittoor. (W.R.B. his file)
22.8.49-D.7/49-1, d., 30-8-49

PP. 5-8 d. 7. 22.8.49-D.7/49-1, d., 30-8-49



Ph.D. (Lond.),
Curator, Madras Record Office,

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To
The Secretary to Government,
Education & Public Health Dept.,
Fort St. George, M A D R A S.

No. 2282-D.7/49-2, dated 22nd October 1949.

Sir,

Sub:- Indian Historical Records Commission - Ad hoc -
Regional Records Survey Committee - Establishment
of permanent Survey Committee by the Government
of Madras.

82170

PP. 13-14 ante

Ref:- Government Memorandum No. 58342-C2/49 Edn. d/ 7-10-1949.

I have received two copies of the Memorandum cited above and one of them appears to be meant for Professor Sri C.S. Srinivasachari to whom the Memorandum is addressed. I may therefore kindly be informed whether I may return the copy which appears to be meant for him.

Yours faithfully,

CPS.

W-10/49
22/10/49

M. S. Mahalingam
CURATOR,
22-10-1949.

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in d.
2/28-10

P. 15 A. 7

PP. 13-14 C. 7.

10

17

E. O. P. H.
C₂

Memo. No. 58342-3 C₂ Edu., dated, 28-10-49.

Indian Historical Records
Records Commission — Ad-hoc
Regional Records survey
Committee — Estt. of
permanent Survey committee
by the Govt. of Madras.

Ref: From the director,
M.R.O., No. 2282-D. 7/49-2,
dated, 22-10-49.

The director, M.R.O., is
informed that he may send
the copy of Memo. No. 58342-C₂/49
Edu., dated, 7-10-49, meant
for

7530048314

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS.

CONVENOR:

PROF. C. S. SRINIVASACHARI, M. A.

&
Principal,
R.D.M. College, Sivaganga.

To

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

Sivaganga,
26th Oct. 1949.



Sir,

Ref:- Your Memorandum No. 58342 - C2/49-Education, dated 7th October, 1949 - Calling for a report on the activities which the previous Ad Hoc, Regional Survey Committee for Madras appointed by the Indian Historical Records Commission in 1943-44 had engaged in and those activities that the permanent Historical Records Survey Committee, Madras, could not take up.

I enclose herewith a copy of the General Instructions (Appendix-A) issued by the Indian Historical Records Commission for the guidance of the Regional Survey Committees whose paragraphs 2,3,4,&5 the Committee tried to implement as far as lay in its power. The Government of Madras was often approached for help and on every occasion responded with help and directions given to the Board of Revenue to the President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board and the Curator, Madras, Record Office.

Not put up (Vide Government's Letters from No. M.S. 1201-Education dated 7th September, 1943 to that dated 28th October, 1948)

The help, I have received from the Government, from the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, the Board of Revenue, and the Curator of the Madras Record Office from time to time during the years 1944-48 has been acknowledged in my reports on the working of the Regional Survey Committee for Madras; and copies (Appendix-B) of the last two reports submitted are enclosed herewith for your perusal, as indicating the scope of activities undertaken by the Ad-Hoc Committee.

Another activity on which the Ad Hoc Committee was engaged, was the help given in the publicity activities of the Indian Historical Records Commission through the All India Radio, in order to create and develop and foster in the public a consciousness for the

for Professor Sri C. S. Srinivasachari,
direct to the addressee.

25/10/49.
27/10/49

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

sub
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u

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS.

CONVENOR:

PROF. C. S. SRINIVASACHARI, M. A.

Sivaganga,
26th Oct. 1949.

value of the records and of their preservation.

The Indian Historical Records Commission in its meeting of March 1947, recommended that the "Regional Survey Committees in the Provinces and States, render active help in the compilation of a National Register of Records and Historical Manuscripts," and that they be instructed to concentrate on the work of the compilation of the materials for the Register to the exclusion of all other items of work they may have taken up or intend to take up in the near future". Various directions were also given to the Ad Hoc Committees to enter the information collected in the form approved by the Committee.

The Convenors of the various Committees were asked to submit, and duly submitted, in May, 1948, a detailed programme of work as regards the Survey of and preparation of a National Register with estimates of probable expenditure for five years.

It is this and the letter of the Director of Archives, New Delhi of 21/3/1949, suggesting that "the resources of all Survey Committees should be directed towards the preparation of a National Register", that made me include as item 7 in the Agenda of the First Meeting of 21/4/1949, a suggestion that our Regional Committee might help in preparing a National Register of Records. The Committee considered the suggestion of the Director of National Archives as to the preparation of National Register and resolved "to furnish information to the Director of Archives as and when record material is obtained."

Consequently, I brought the above-noted resolution to the attention of the meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at New Delhi on 2/5/1949 that their full programme with regard to their compilation of their National Register, as planned, could not be fully implemented by the Madras Committee and therefore requested them to consider whether the

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS.

CONVENOR:

PROF. C. S. SRINIVASACHARI, M. A.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS.



Sivaganga,
26th Oct. 1949.

CONVENOR:
PROF. C. S. SRINIVASACHARI, M. A.

-8-

activities essential for the compilation of the National Register could not be undertaken by some body created by them.

In my opinion, it is not possible, with the resources at the disposal of the Madras Regional Survey Committee, to implement all the items of work on the compilation of the National Register as contemplated by the Indian Historical Records Commission. I shall bring the subject again before the Historical Records Survey Committee at its forthcoming meeting.

Yours faithfully,

C. S. Srinivasachari

Convenor.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS

CONVENOR

PROF. C. S. KRISHNABACHARI, M.A.

activities essential for the completion of the National Register
could not be undertaken by some body created by them.

In my opinion, it is not possible, with the resources at the
disposal of the Regional Records Survey Committee, to implement all
the items of work on the completion of the National Register as
contemplated by the Indian Historical Records Commission. I
shall bring the subject again before the Historical Records Survey
Committee at its forthcoming meeting.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

CONVENOR

E. P. H.

C₂

Letter No. 58342-45 Edu, dated, dated, 9¹²/₄₉.

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Education,
New Delhi 3.

Sir,

Indian Historical Records
Commission — Ad hoc Regional
Records Survey Committee —
Establishment of permanent
for Survey Committee by the
Madras Govt.

P.O.F.

With reference to your
Ministry's letter No. F. 92-14/49. A.2.
dated, 29-7-49, on the subject
mentioned above, I am directed
to

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to say that Professor Srinivasachari, the convenor of the Regional Records Survey Committee, Madras, who is also a member of the Indian Historical Records Commission, ^{who was consulted in the matter,} proposes to bring up the subject at the next meeting of the Historical Records Survey Committee.

y. 7.

8/12/49

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- 1) copy to the director, H.R.O., Chittoor.
- 2) copy to Prof. d.S. Srinivasachari, M.A., Principal, R.D.M. College, Sivaganga. (w.r. to letter dated, 26-10-49)

PP. 19-23 d. 7.

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(5)

R. & P. H.

C₂Memo. No. 58342-5^d2. Edu., dated, 9-12-49

Indian Historical Records Commission — Regional Records Survey Committees — Duties of.

Ref: ~~from the director, H.R.O., No. 22,82-5.7/49-1, dated, 30-8-49.~~

Ref: ~~letter from Prof.~~

d.S. Srinivasachari, dated, 26-10-49

PP. 5-8 d. 7.

PP. 19-23 d. 7.

With reference to ^{his} letter cited, a copy of the letter from Prof. d.S. Srinivasachari, dated the 26th Oct. 1949, on the subject mentioned above, is forwarded to the director, H.R.O., for information.

The director,
H.R.O., Chittoor.
(with copy of pages 19-23 d. 7.)

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INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS.

CONVENOR:

PROF C. S. SRINIVASACHARI, M. A.

To

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



Your letter No. 58342-402, Education dated 9th Dec.49.

I shall bring up the subject at the forthcoming April Meeting
of the Historical Records Survey Committee.

Yours faithfully

C. S. Srinivasachari

Sivaganga,
12th January, 50.

PP.2.5-2.6 ante

AS III
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Subject: Indian Historical Records Commission -
Ad hoc Regional Records Survey Committee - Estab-
lishment of permanent Survey Committee by the
Madras Government.

From the Government of India, Ministry of Education,
No. F.92-14/49.A.2., dated 29th July 1949.
From the Secretary, M. Govt. No. 2282-37-49-18 30/8/49
From the Prof. C. S. Srinivasulu, dated 26-10-49.

At the instance of the Government Of India, this
Government set up a Regional Survey Committee composed
of persons and representatives of institutions interest-
ed in the subject for a period of three years at the
outset. The Government of India state that this Commit-
tee replaces the ad hoc Committee set up by the Indian
Historical Records Commission in 1943 and it was report-
ed by the Convenor of the Regional Records Committee,
Madras, that this Committee was not inclined to take
over all the items of the activities which the ad hoc
Committee was engaged in. They therefore observe that
as the Indian Historical Records Commission is acting
as the Co-ordinating Agency between the various Regional
Committees, and as the programme already adopted has
been arrived at after careful consideration, they
consider it desirable that the Provincial Regional
Committee should continue the programme hither followed
by the Ad Hoc Committee in its entirety. They request
that necessary instructions may be issued by the Provin-
cial Government to their Committee to co-operate with
the Indian Historical Records Commission in the matter.

2. The Curator, Madras Record Office reports that
the only items the Regional Records Survey Committee
Madras, did not completely agree are with regard to
items 7 and 8 of the agenda on p. 9 c.f. The reasons
for this attitude has been explained by the Curator
as follows:

Item 7: The first part of this related to a
suggestion of Dr. Sen, the Director of Archives,
National Archives of India, that the Committee
might help in preparing a National Register of
Records, manuscripts, etc. The preparation of
this Register involves the examination of the
records in almost all the offices in the Province
big and small; official, semi official and non-
official. The details of the scheme will be found

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

Regional Records Survey Committee

MADRAS



(X)

Co. 3303 Em.
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in the letter of the Government of India, No.F. 92-34/48 E.I. dated 9-8-48 which was referred to me with endorsement No. 61104-1 C2 Edn. dated 13-9-48. In my letter No. 2187-DVII/48-2, dated 28-9-1949 sent in reply to this endorsement, I suggested that the scheme might be adopted. I also pointed out that a special paid staff would be necessary to attend to the work connected with the scheme. The Govt. however in their Memo No. 61104/48-2 C2 Edn., dated 25-1-1949 decided that it was unnecessary to adopt the scheme. They considered that "it would be an inexcusable waste of time and energy to endeavour to compile a register for All-India in which the records of these small local bodies and of the subordinate Government offices all over India should be listed up". They also considered that, as the permanent Committee had been set up with the idea of having valuable records in private custody traced and provision for their preservation made, it was not desirable that it should be diverted from the work and asked to take up the work of compiling the register in the manner proposed. A copy of the Memorandum was communicated to the Convenor by the Government with their letter No. 9012-1 C2 Edn., dated 3-3-1949.

In regard to the second part of item 7, viz. the measures to be taken for the centralisation and proper preservation of the records of merged states, although nothing is mentioned in the Minutes, I pointed out that the records of the merged states would be treated as Government records and looked after properly and the Committee agreed with me.

Item 8: This item related to the general instructions issued by the Indian Historical Records Commission for the guidance of the Regional Records Survey Committees. The instructions will be found in paras 3, 4 and 5 appended to this item. The Committee made only a small change in these instructions and resolved to follow them in all other respects. (Please see para 8 of the Minutes). The change made by the Committee consisted in ~~deleting~~ deleting the words "Municipal Councils" in para 5 of the Instructions and it was made because the records of Municipal Offices do not come under the description of records in private custody. It was felt that these records come within the scope of the National Register, being semi public records, and that the Committee ought to confine its activities only to the unearthing of private manuscripts and records and their preservation, publication etc.

The Curator however wanted, before sending a reply to the Government of India that the Convenor may be asked to specify what are the activities which the Ad Hoc Committee was engaged in and which of these activities the present Committee is not inclined to take up.

(S. S. Srivastava)
The Convenor was asked to furnish this information

The Convenor in his reply refers to the preparation of National Register of Records as one of the duties of the Ad Hoc Committee since discontinued. The Convenor says, that in his opinion it is not possible, with the resources at the disposal of the Madras Regional Survey Committee

to implement all the items of work on the compilation as contemplated of the National Register/by the Indian Historical Records Commission. He states that he will bring the subject again before the Indian Historical Records Survey Committee at its forthcoming session.

In view of this no reply to the Government of India seems called for at present. On receipt of a further report from the Convenor, the Government of India may be replied to. A copy of the Convenor's letter may be sent to the Curator for information.

B may be agreed to.

As regards 'A', it is possible that the Govt. of India may remind this Govt. They may perhaps be informed that Prof. Srivastava, the Convenor of the Regional Records Survey Committee, Madras, who is also a member of the Indian Historical Records Commission, proposes to bring up the subject at the next meeting of the Historical Records Survey Committee.

6-12-49

As proposed by AS.

Drafts submitted for approval. (To be recorded after two months if in the meanwhile there is no further correspondence).

7/12/49
7/12/49

8/12/49

PP. 25-26 d. 7. [Signed as letter Ref. No. 58342-4 C2 Edn. d., 19-12-49. + as

P. 27 d. 7.

Memo. No. 58342-5 C2 Edn. d., 19-12-49.

P. 29 d. 7. d. No. 3352. From Prof. S. S. Srivastava, dated, 12-1-50.

The letter from the Prof. d. S. Srivastava on page 29 d. 7. may be communicated to the Govt. of India

India in continuation of this
Government's letter on pages 25-264.7.
A draft letter is submitted for
approval.

25/1/50. may be perused. Perhaps no
further action necessary.
We may review the paper from
time to time - C.B.

JD
28/1/50

31-1-50

Order 266 Edn., d.,
1.2.50

Indian Historical
Records Commission -
Regional Records Survey
Committee for Madras -
Proposal for taking up
additional work by the
Committee - Papers
recorded.

Entered in d.B.

11/2/50.

Appendix A

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE REGIONAL SURVEY

COMMITTEES.

The Secretary has been asked by the Research and Publication Committee to indicate the general policy which the ad hoc Committees appointed by the Indian Historical Records Commission at its Aligarh session should keep in view in conducting the regional survey in their respective areas. Conditions widely differ in different Provinces and States and it is well high possible to frame an exhaustive set of rules to cover all possible cases. Only one Province has so far appointed a regional survey committee. The Provincial Governments were naturally anxious to see the war through and disinclined to divert their energy to purely academic objectives not likely to further war efforts. Owing to the continuance of the abnormal conditions brought about by the war it has not yet been possible for them to set up regional committees of their own. They have however agreed to lend their support to private or non-official enterprise organised by the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission. But it will not be wise to forget that the Commission is not at present in possession of detailed information about the localities where the ad hoc Committees are to operate and such suggestions as the Secretary may offer must be tentative.

2. The first difficulty with which the Committees will be confronted is the general ignorance about the value of old records and a certain amount of suspicion on the part of the owners. The Committees will have to educate public opinion and remove the general suspicion, if any, about the purpose of the survey. A uniform system of propaganda may not prove successful in every case. Whereas one owner may yield to official persuasion another may react very differently to even indirect approach from official quarters. Individual cases must therefore be left to the discretion of the members of the Committee but a systematic propaganda for creating public interest in old records and their preservation may very well be carried through newspapers, popular magazines, radio and public meetings. University teachers may

successfully exploit the enthusiasm of students and the survey can be simultaneously started in widely separated areas through their agency, particularly when University students disperse for the long vacation. Every effort should be made to utilise the services of local enthusiasts.

3. The need of public co-operation cannot be too much emphasised. In co-opting new members the ad hoc Committees should try their best to enlist the services of all influential sections of the society. As far as possible all interests should be represented on the Committees and every effort should be made to inspire public confidence. It will defeat its own purpose if the Committee is suspected to be an official organisation nor will it be wise to allow it to be closely associated with any particular organisation or institution, political or otherwise. Every means should be taken to convince the public that the only object of the Committee is to preserve for the future generations one of their rightful heritages, viz., the raw materials of Indian History.

4. This leads to another important question. Should the Committee limit its enquiries to manuscript records only and if so, should non-historical records be left out of the scope of the proposed survey? The Secretary can offer his personal opinion only. The Committee in the course of its survey may come across important historical materials relating to periods with which the Indian Historical Records Commission is not primarily concerned. The Chairman of the Punjab Regional Survey Committee found that most of the manuscripts unearthed by him were of ^a non-historical character. It will not be in the best interest of the country to ignore such manuscripts and withhold the information thus collected. All the finds should be carefully catalogued and steps should be taken to bring them to the notice of ~~the~~ interested scholars through learned journals and official publications. If, the finds happen to be of archaeological interest the discovery should at once be communicated to the Director-General of Archaeology and it is expected that his department will similarly co-operate with the Indian Historical Records Commission. Briefly,

care should be taken to give the country the maximum benefit from the survey and narrow interpretation of its scope and function should as far as possible be avoided.

5. While important manuscripts may be found in unsuspected quarters the most likely places should be first tried. Religious establishments, municipal offices, etc., may have in their custody very important records. Attempts should be made to trace the present representatives of historical families and descendants of persons who played any part, however insignificant, in shaping the history of their country; and it is not unlikely that among the family papers will be found important political correspondence or other valuable records. To the students of economic history papers belonging to old banking families may be equally useful.

6. It is very likely that the Committees will find the manuscripts discovered by them in an advanced state of decay. Efforts should be made to secure the consent of the owner for their repair and transcription whenever the necessary funds and facilities are available. In any case an exhaustive report of the year's work should be placed before the annual meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission. The Committee may entrust this duty to its Chairman or appoint a sub-committee for this purpose, but the following information is likely to be useful:--

- (i) Location (viz., Madras, Bombay, etc., Districts, Towns etc.);
- (ii) Buildings;
- (iii) Dates from which the records are available;
- (iv) General subjects;
- (v) Number of volumes or bundles or boxes, etc.;
- (vi) State of preservation;
- (vii) Whether the owner is agreeable to part with his collection under certain conditions; if not, whether free services for the preservation of documents will be acceptable to the owner on condition that copies will be made available to the public;
- (viii) Whether check-list available.

7. When the survey is actually in progress the Committees may be unable to find a solution for unforeseen problems. These may be appropriately referred to the Indian Historical Records Commission and the Commission will be competent to appoint a Committee to deal with questions of special urgency when it is not in session.

True copy

SS Miniasackan
26-10-49

Report on the Working of the Madras Regional Survey Committee for the years 1946-1947.

In 1945, according to resolution V of the Research and Publications Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission passed at its third meeting held at Aligarh and subsequently approved by the Commission an ad hoc Regional Survey Committee consisting of all grades of the members of the Commission residing in the area concerned, and of other members co-opted by them was formed. The personnel of the full Committee was duly completed and communicated to the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission. The General Instructions issued for the guidance of the Regional Survey Committees were followed.

The Government of Madras, in the Education and Public Health Department, was requested in November 1945 to accord facilities for the members in bringing to light records in private custody, through the help of District and other officials, of the Zamin Offices, of Temple authorities and of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board. In December 1945 the Secretary to the Government of Madras called for reports from the President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board and the Board of Revenue about the progress made in the classification, indexing, and preservation of old records of historical value in the custody of temples and mutts and zamins respectively. Further, Government called for a report from the Collector of Tinnevely (Tirunelveli) about the nature and value of the records in the possession of one Sankara Sastri of Sankara-nainarkoil; but it is regretted that the attempt made to get at these records has not been fruitful, and enquiry showed, that an attempt should be made to look into a large number of palm-leaf manuscripts in Sanskrit, Grantha and Dewanagari characters, by persons authorised by Government to have access to them, in the presence of Sri. S. Anantanarayana Aiyar, son of Mr. Sankara Sastri.

A report from the President, Hindu Religious Endowments Boards, Madras, made in March 1946 informed the Convenor that information called for from all the important temples and Zamins has been received only from 22 institutions. Thus the Ramnad Samasthanam has duly preserved an index of its records and the 25 copper plates of historical value in their possession. The Saranatha Perumal Temple at Tiruchirai

refers to the districts of North Arcot, Kistna, West Godavari, Salem, Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Madura, Guntur, Vizagapatam, Trichinopoly, Ramnad, Chingleput, Coimbatore, East Godavari and South Arcot, and the following Zamin Offices have reported the preservation and listing and in some places classifying and indexing of their respective records:

Dt.

1. Kistna: South Vallur, Devarakotta, Sooravaram, Munagala, Muktiyala, and Lingagiri.
2. Tinnevelly: Uthumalai, Sivagiri, Ettiyapuram and Athangerai.
3. Vizagapatam: Kurupam, Vizianagaram, Bobbili and Salur..
4. Trichinopoly: Marungapuri and Kadavur.
5. Ramnad Dt.: Sivaganga, Ramnad and Seitur also Sri Vaidyanatha Temple at Srivilliputtur.
6. Chingleput Dt.: The records of the estates belonging to the Tirupati Devasthanam and the Wanapathi Estate are preserved in the head offices respectively at Tirupati and Wanaparathi in Hyderabad. The records of Sri Viraraghavaswami Temple at Tiruvellore are with the head of the Ahobilamatam to which the temple belongs. Those of the Siva Temple at Tirupachehur are with the Trustees. The authorities of the Sri Bhashyakara swami Temple at Sriperumbudur and the Alwar Temple at Tirumushie are being cared for. Those of the Sri Kandaswami Temple at Tiruporur, the Sri Vedagiriswami Temple at Tirukazhukundram and Boovarahaswami Devasthanam have been asked to preserve and classify their records.

The Huzur Officer, Venkatagiri Samasthanam, Venkatagiri assures us that no record of importance has been destroyed and that he would prepare a list of important selected documents in due course.

The officers of the Tirumalai Tirupati Devasthanam and of the Zamins of Bangarupalaya and Pullicherlapalayam and the temples of Yedamari and at Paradarami have all been urged to preserve and classify their records. These are all situated in the Chittore District.

The Government of Madras in their G.O. dated the 20th February 1948 have very kindly arranged that instructions be issued to the persons in charge of the Zamin Offices to examine the lists already prepared by them and to prepare fresh lists of the records dealing with important events in the history of these Zamins, their relations with the Nawabs of the Carnatic and the East India Company and succession is its of Zamindars as requested by the Committee. Government requested the Board of Revenue to issue the necessary instruction to the Collectors

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-4-

and obtain and forward to them a consolidated list for transmission to the Committee. The Curator, Madras Record Office and the Board of Revenue have recommended that the listing of records of religious establishments, temples, mosques and charitable institutions and family papers should be undertaken not by the persons in charge of those institutions but by members of the Regional Survey Committees. Government agreeing with these recommendations their orders are early expected in the matter.

Owing to the paucity of resources and to my having to work largely by myself, I have been able to collect only the following items of record material:

1. A Tamil Life of Sivaji,
2. Some family and official papers of the Tahisal (Tanksal I.E. Mint Masters) of the Tanjore Maratha Raj, and a few of their Sanads.
3. The family papers of the Christian Courtiers of Pondicherry from the time of Lazare De Motta, the Dubash of Francois Martin, the Founder and First Governor of Pondicherry, Andre Muthayappa, his successor and of Pedro Kanakaroya Mudaliyar, the rival and contemporary of the well-known Diarist Ananda Ranga Pillai.
4. Two Tamil manuscripts concerning the History of the Carnatic in the 18th century preserved in the Archives of Paris, and being copies of manuscript accounts of the Chronicler ~~xxxxx~~ Narayana Kone who wrote in the first decade of the 19th century and whose history is among the Meckenzie Collection of papers.

An attempt at the discovery and acquisition of other family papers of importance has been recently made.

Reports as to the activities of the Committee were made to the Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission from time to time.

Arrangements have got to be made for the reconstitution of the personnel of co-opted members in addition to the members of the Commission in the several grades. An authorised list of the regular members of the several grades is awaited.

The Madras Government, in their letter Ref. No. 33-C2-47-1 Education dated 13/5/47 asked me for a rough estimate of the costs involved in the proposal for setting up a Permanent Regional Committee of Province by the Provincial Government, for an examination of

ments involved and I submitted to them on 17/5/47 an outline of the activities of our Regional Survey Committee and the allowances made to it.

B. Srinivasachari

Sivaganga, X
Dated 19th June, 1948. X

Convenor,
Madras Regional Survey
Committee.

True copy
B. Srinivasachari
26/10/49

Appendix B 14 20

Report on the Working of the Regional Survey Committee for Madras in the years 1948- and January-March 1949.

In continuation of my report submitted for the years 1946- & 47 in June 1948, I have pleasure in submitting the following report on the work of Ad-hoc Regional Survey Committee for Madras.

(1) The tenure of the members of the Madras Regional Survey Committee constituted in August-September 1944, and in February 1945 came to an end after the close of the Triennium 1945-48. The list of the members were duly communicated to you in my letters dated 31st August, 1944 and 4th February 1945. In view of the fact that the Madras Government had in the year 1947-48 in their contemplation the constitution of a permanent Record Committee for the Province, the existing members were requested to continue kindly in office for the time being.

(2) In addition to the measures undertaken and progress made, reported in my report on the Working of the Committee for 1946-47, I have to mention the following among the activities of the Madras Committee. (a) Broadcasting over the All India Radio at Trichinopoly and at Madras on the subject of the proposed compilation of the National Register by the following persons. There were three talks at Trichinopoly. (1) Sunday 7th November 1948, on the Value of Historical Records, by Mr. C.S. Srinivasachari, (2) Sunday 28th November 1948, Preservation of Historical Records by Mr. S. Gopalan, a member of the Commission, (3) Sunday 12th December 1948, Organisation of Archives, by Mr. V. Vridhagirisan. At Madras six talks were scheduled of which two, which were in English, were delivered by Mr. C.S. Srinivasachari on 28th November on "The Compilation of the National Register of Activities", and by Dr. P. C. Alexander, M.A.D. Litt., on 19th December 1948 on the Value of Historical Survey. The two Tamil Talks were given on the 26th instant and on the 31st December by Prof. V. Venkataraman and by Mr. D.D. Krishnaswami of the Archaeological Department. The two Telugu Talks were delivered by Mr. M.S. Sarma and by Dr. M. Rama Rao of Gundur on the 17th and 24th December respectively.

There was no Radio Publicity Programme undertaken in the quarter beginning from January to March 1949.

(3) A careful transcription in legible and modern Tamil of the manuscript material secured from M. Gnana Diagou Mudaliar of Pondicherry, was made of 145, folio pages, 30 lines to a page and about 17 letters in each line, and submitted in a bound volume along, with the original manuscript material to the Director of the National Archives.

The Translation into English of the Tamil version, with notes of the manuscripts was begun and will be continued after the receipt of the Transcription copy from the National Archives.

Further attempt was made to secure more manuscripts from Mr. Mudaliar, illustrative of the fortunes of the Christian Courtiers of Pondicherry, and it is hoped that some of value material may be secured from him, soon after the imbroglio in which the French Indian possessions are now involved, leading to restriction of free movement into and out of Pondicherry, should end by the likely absorption of Pondicherry into the Indian Dominion.

A number of papers including certain genealogical lists, firmans of appointments etc. were secured from the family of Tanksal Jannappa Pandits and deposited with S.M.S.S. Library, Tanjore for favour of its valuation for purpose of acquisition for the National Archives. The report is awaited.

An account of the Marakkayers and of their maritime activities has been promised by M.G. Muhammad Ali Marakkayar member of the Ad-hoc Committee.

(4) I have to report as follows. The Madras Governmeng G.O. Miscellaneous No. 325, Education dated 28th February 1948, communicated to me that Government have requested the Board of Revenue to issue necessary instructions with the Collectors of Districts so that the latter might issue in their turn to persons in charge of the Zamin Offices to examine the lists already prepared by them and to prepare revised fresh lists of the records concerning important events in the History of their respective Zamins, in their relations with the Nawabs of the Carnatic and the East India Company and the succession lists

of the Zamindars. The action of the Zamin offices, naturally slow at all times has been reduced to the lowest minimum by the legislation for the abolition of the Zamin estates and their implementing.

Government have also addressed the Curator of the Madras Record Office and the Board of Revenue as regards the listing of the records of religious establishments, temples, mosques and charitable organisations. These authorities consider that the listing of such records should not be entrusted to the persons in charge of these institutions, since they are not generally competent to do such work. (Vide G.O. Mic.No. 325 Education dated 20th February 1948). They recommend however that this work should be undertaken by the members of the Ad-Hoc Regional Survey Committee. It was not possible for the members to do so on account of paucity of funds and lack of power of approach to these institutions. Government have again addressed the Board of Revenue to take action in the above matters.

The Dewan of the H.H. the Prince of Arcot has also been addressed to furnish a list of historical manuscripts of value in the possession of the Arcot Family and a calendar of their donations to religious institutions during the period of their active rule in the country 1744-1855.

The formation of the Madras Regional Survey Committee by the Madras Government by G.O. Mis. No. 3303 Education dated 24/12/1948 was duly communicated to the Director of Archives & Secretary to the H.H.R. Commission in my letter dated 12/1/1949.

True copy

B. Srinivasachari

