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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 553 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 6.12 18 .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 553.

FROM

A. J. ARBUTHNOT, ESQ.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to forward to you, for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the accompanying letter and enclosures from the Collector of Coimbatore, relative to the grant of an increased pension to M. Soondara Moodaliyar, Tahsildar of Ootacamund.

2. This officer has applied to be permitted to retire, after 30 years service, from the 1st February next, on a good service pension, and he asks, as a special boon, that he may be granted a pension of Rupees 112-8-0, being half the pay of his rank, in place of Rupees 103-2-0, the average of his salary for the past five years.

3. I am to state that M. Soondara Moodaliyar has, for upwards of 11 years, held the responsible post of Tahsildar of the Ootacamund Taluq, comprising the whole of the plateau of the Neilgherry Hills. His duties in this position have been no less arduous than responsible.

4. In a climate very unfavorable to a native of the plains, this officer has had to travel in all weathers to any part of the Hills; while the inspection and demarcation of lands, which have of late years been so largely purchased for coffee and other plantations, have detained him for days together on the slopes of the Hills, exposed to the deadly fever which prevails there. His duties have brought him constantly into contact with Europeans, Planters and others, in circumstances where tact and discretion were eminently required. In none of the qualities necessary for the due performance of these duties has he failed.

5. In addition to these ordinary duties of his position, he has had the no less difficult task of ministering to the wants of the many visitors to the Hills, and in this he has been most successful. He met with the approval and notice of the late Lord Dalhousie and of Lady Canning, on her visit to the Hills, and the testimonials which he submits shew how universal has been the satisfaction he has given.

6. M. Soondara Moodaliyar has been personally known to His Excellency the Governor and the Members of Council for several years, and they are able to bear testimony to his high qualifications for the post he holds, and to the worthy manner in which he has performed its duties.

7. The boon which he asks is small, being an increase of only Rupees 9-6-0, to the pension he has earned, and it is asked rather as a mark of distinction and approbation, than as a pecuniary emolument, and I am to state that the Governor in Council cordially supports the recommendation of the Collector that it may be granted.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
6th December 1865.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Chief Secretary.

From the Collector of Coimbatore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Coimbatore, 21st November 1865, No. 137.

I beg to forward, for the consideration and orders of Government, a letter to my address from M. Soondara Moodaliyar, Tahsildar of the Neilgherry Taluq, applying for permission to re-

tire from the Public Service from the 1st February 1866, the date succeeding that on which he will complete 30 years service.

2. I am aware that under existing orders, applications for pension should be forwarded through the Accountant General, and this rule will be adhered to in the present instance when the time for the submission of his application through that authority arrives; but my object in addressing the Government beforehand is to request that such special notice may be taken of Soondara Moodaliyar's past meritorious services as they deserve, and that such favorable orders may be passed as will ultimately ensure the grant of an increased rate of pension, as desired by him. Soondara Moodaliyar is so well known to Government, that I need hardly say anything as to his merits and past good services. His testimonials, herewith submitted, speak for themselves. I can only add that, during the past 3½ years, I have always found him an active, painstaking, hardworking, and respectable officer, and that, in a climate like that of the Neilgherries, most trying to natives, he has never shown himself wanting in meeting those difficulties which his out-door work entailed on him. He is now old, and his health has been much impaired by frequent exposure and continued hard work, extending over a period of no less than 12 years on the Hills. The pension to which he will be entitled, with reference to the average salary drawn by him during the past 5 years, will be Rupees 103-2-0; but he requests that, in consideration of his past services and the hardships he has undergone in the discharge of his duties, he may be allowed to draw Rupees 112-8-0, being half of his present pay, or Rupees 9-6-0 more than can be sanctioned under the existing Rules. This request, I beg strongly to recommend to the favorable notice of Government, as a special favor in Soondara Moodaliyar's case.

To P. GRANT, Esq.,

Collector of Coimbatore.

Most Honored Sir,

I beg most respectfully to submit this my humble application for pension for your honor's most favorable consideration.

2. I entered the service of the Honorable Government on the 12th January 1836, and have continuously served as set forth in the accompanying Statement.

3. My period of service will therefore be 30 years on the 11th January 1866, and on the 1st February following, I hope to retire on the merciful bounty of Government.

4. When I took charge of this Taluq, the Beriz was only Rupees 8419-5-8 per annum. By my exertions, it has gone on increasing, as follows, from Fusly 1267 :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Fusly 1267.....	9,547	12	7
,, 1268.....	10,196	13	6
,, 1269.....	10,796	3	0
,, 1270.....	12,794	2	6
,, 1271.....	13,399	1	9
,, 1272.....	18,005	8	2
,, 1273.....	19,898	6	10
,, 1274.....	22,027	10	6

5. Had it pleased my late superior to employ me in a low country Taluq, I should have been able to show a larger amount of Beriz, but he decided thus :—"I should really, in justice to "Soondrum Moodelliar's hard work, long service, and character, have promoted him to a larger "Taluq *below* (which would be of course his preference) had I any one else who could *equally* "supply his place. His local knowledge, activity, and character, with his knowledge of English, "make him *most* valuable where he is."

6. The holdings of the Budgers had no distinctive marks. They cultivated at their pleasure, and it was very difficult to identify their lands. I often represented the same to the Hoozoor, and on obtaining orders, measured out every land, and set boundary marks to each holding as well as to Government land.

7. For more than 25 years, there was a boundary dispute between Macanad and Paranganad Villages. Party spirit ran high, and the parties resorted to the District Moonsiff's Court, where the dispute was long pending under the orders of the Collector. I visited the disputed spots, and arranged the boundaries to the satisfaction of all parties.

8. In 1863, when applications from European gentlemen residing on these Hills were so numerous and frequent, and the ill-will and clamour of the Budgers were so great, I worked hard, went over these hills and dales, and inspected almost every land in person. The labor entailed upon me was immense and harassing, and I thereby contracted fever and disease in the chest and limbs, from which I suffered so severely that my life was despaired of. Under the kind treatment of Dr. Rogers, I recovered; but ever since, whenever I am obliged to work hard, I feel the symptoms of the severe disease.

9. I am now 60 years old, and feel weak in body and mind. Should I continue to serve, I am afraid that I shall not be able to do full justice to the high character my superiors have been pleased to give me, and which I value as dear as my life.

10. I beg to submit a copy of my testimonials. You best know, Honored Sir, with what care, industry, and faithfulness I continue to discharge my humble duties. During the earlier years of my service here as Tahsildar, I have had to face dangers and privations peculiar to the nature of these Hills, and notwithstanding the severities of this climate, added to my own ill health, I have never once left the Hills for the low country since my appointment as Tahsildar of Ootacamund 12 years ago. My former superior, Mr. E. B. Thomas, was so good as to speak of me as follows :—

"Soondrum Moodelliar has been now four years Tahsildar of Neilgherries, and many years "in public employ. I am not in the habit of giving high characters, but of Soondrum Moodel-"liar it is only justice to say that I believe him to be one of the most hard working, honest, and "painstaking of 15 Tahsildars in the District. He has raised himself by his own merits, and I "have never yet had occasion to find fault with him."

11. When these Hills were honored by the august presence of the Governor General of India and the Governors of Madras, I have worked so hard and carefully as not to incur the displeasure of any with whom I came in contact. Mr. G. L. Morris, now Collector of Tanjore, has favorably spoken of my services on one of these occasions in the following terms :—"During the "six months that I have been Special Assistant at Ootacamund, Soondrum Moodelly has been "Tahsildar under me. I have on every occasion found him every thing that I could desire, he "never once having refused or even said that he could not do what I directed, and this is saying "a great deal, when it is recollected that the camp of the Governor General consisted of more "than 500 Bengalees, who expected that every thing was to be got at a moment's notice. Soon-"drum Moodelly has given the highest satisfaction to all the suite of the Governor General, and "I only trust that it may one day be in my power to serve him in the way that he most highly "deserves."

12. My labors were so graciously viewed, that the most noble the late Marquis of Dalhousie, then Governor General of India, honored me with his personal notice, and presented me with a pair of shawls. Lord Harris presented me with a pair of shawls, and a gold ring, with the following inscription :—

"Presented to M. Soondrum Moodeliar by Lord Harris, for good service rendered to His "Lordship on the Neilgherry Hills in 1856 and 1858;"

Lady Canning with a diamond ring, and Mr. E. B. Thomas also with a diamond ring.

13. During my tenure of office as Tahsildar of Ootacamund for 12 years, I have always endeavoured, and I am thankful to say successfully, to maintain public order and peace by conciliatary measures; and in the selection and allotment of lands for public and private purposes, I have arranged matters to the satisfaction of all parties concerned, and have prevented any discontent in the minds of the Budgers and other Native land owners on the Hills.

14. By the rules of the service, my pension will be Rupees 103-2-0 on the average salary of five years ending with the 31st January 1866. But as I am weak and unable to discharge my duties as usual, I most humbly beg that your honor will be pleased to obtain me half pension on my present rate of salary, which will be Rupees 112-8-0.

15. I humbly solicit this favor not because the pension of Rupees 103-2-0 is insufficient. I and my family will always be grateful to Government for that amount, but because the small pittance of Rupees 9-6-0 will add a value to the high characters my superiors have been pleased to bestow on me, and will be a great honor to me among my countrymen.

16. The Government which I have the honor to serve have often been pleased to reward their servants with personal allowances, life pensions, titles, and lands, for hard and faithful service. I most respectfully beseech your honor to obtain me the favor I solicit, and thereby enable me to retire from the service with honor.

I beg to remain, &c.
(Signed) M. SOONDRUM,
Tahsildar.

OOTACAMUND, 14*th October* 1865.

Statement of service of M. Soondrum Moodelliar, Tahsildar of Neilgherries.

Situations held.	Period of service.	Amount of pay.		
		RS.	A.	P.
Post Office Head Writer, Coimbatore... ...	From 12th Jany. 1836 to 10th Oct. 1851.	30	0	0
Cutwall at Metapolliem	,, 11th Oct. 1851 to 5th March 1852.	40	0	0
Acting Neilgherry Tahsildar	,, 6th March 1852 to 10th April 1852.	50	0	0
Cutwall at Metapolliem	,, 11th April 1852 to 23rd Jany. 1853.	40	0	0
Acting Town Police Ameen, Coimbatore.	,, 24th Jany. 1853 to 24th May 1853.	40	0	0
Cutwall at Metapolliem	,, 25th May 1853 to 9th May 1854.	40	0	0
Tahsildar Neilgherry Taluq.	,, 10th May 1854 to 30th April 1856.	50	0	0
Do.	,, 1st May 1856 to 31st Dec. 1860.	100	0	0
Do.	,, 1st Jany. 1861 to 30th April 1862.	150	0	0
Do.	,, 1st May 1862 to date.	225	0	0

OOTACAMUND, 14*th October* 1865.

(Signed) M. SOONDRUM,
Tahsildar.

Exd. J. H. Burns

Coimbatore Collector's office
21st November 1865.

No 137.

From

P. Grant Esqre
Collector of Coimbatore

To

The Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to
Government.

Sir,

I beg to forward for the consideration and orders of Government a letter to my address from M. Soondra Moodelliar Tahsildar of the Neilgherry Talug, applying for permission to retire from the public service from the 1st February 1866, the date succeeding that on which he will complete 30 years service.

2. I am aware that under existing orders, applications for pensions should be forwarded thro' the Accountant General, and this rule will be adhered to in the present instance when the time

for

for the submission of his application thro' that authority arrives; but my object in addressing the Government beforehand is to request that such special notice may be taken of Soondra Moodelliar's past meritorious services as they deserve, and that such favorable orders may be passed as will ultimately ensure the Grant of an increased rate of pension as desired by him. Soondra Moodelliar is so well known to Government, that I need hardly say anything as to his merits and past good services. His testimonials, herewith submitted, speak for themselves. I can only add that during the past 3½ years, I have always found him an active, painstaking, hardworking and respectable officer, and that in a climate like that of the Neilgherries most trying to natives, he has never shown himself wanting in meeting those difficulties which his out-door work entailed

entailed on him. He is now old, and his health has been much impaired by frequent exposure and continued hard work extending over a period of no less than 12 years on the Hills. The pension to which he will be entitled with reference to the average salary drawn by him during the past 5 years, will be Rs. 103-2-; but he requests that in consideration of his past services and the hardships he has undergone in the discharge of his duties, he may be allowed to draw Rs. 112-8- being half of his present pay, or Rs. 9-6- more than can be sanctioned under the existing Rules. This request I beg strongly to recommend to the favorable notice of Government as a special favor in Soondra Moodelliar's case.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

A Grant
Collector.

Ed. Maitland
Dy Master

Colaccamund
14th October 1865

To
P Grant Esquire
Collector of Coimbatore

Most Honored Sir,

I beg most respectfully to submit this my humble application for Pension for your honor's most favorable consideration.

2. I entered the service of the Honorable Government on the 12 January 1836, and have continuously served as set forth in the accompanying Statement.

3. My period of service will therefore be 30 years on the 11 January 1866, and on the 1st February following, I hope to retire on the merciful bounty of Government.

4. When I took charge of this Talaiy, the Beriz was only Rs 8419-5-8 per annum. By my exertions it has gone on increasing as follows from Fasly 1267.

Fasly	1267	9547	12	7
"	1268	10196	13	6
"	1269	10796	3	0
"	1270	12794	2	6
"	1271	13399	1	9
"	1272	18,005	8	2
"	1273	19898	6	10
"	1274	22027	10	6

Had

5. had it pleased my late superior to employ me in a low country Taluq, I should have been able to shew a larger amount of Boxy, but he decided thus.

" I should really in justice to Sondrum
" Modeliar's hard work, long service and
" character, have promoted him to a larger
" Taluq below (which would be of course his
" preference) had I any one else who could
" equally supply his place - his local knowledge
" activity and character, with his knowledge
" of English, make him most valuable where
" he is.

6. The holdings of the Budgers had no distinctive marks - They cultivated at their pleasure, and it was very difficult to identify their lands - I often represented the same to the Hoozoor, and on obtaining orders, measured out every land, and set boundary marks to each holding as well as to Government land.

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8. In 1863 - when applications from European Gentlemen residing on these Hills were so numerous and frequent, and the ill will and clamour of the Budgers were so great, I worked hard, went over these Hills and dales, and inspected almost every land in person. The labor entailed upon me was immense and harassing, and I thereby contracted fever and disease in the chest and limbs, from which I suffered so severely that my life was despaired of - Under the kind treatment of Dr Rogers, I recovered; but ever since, whenever I am obliged to work hard, I feel the symptoms of the severe disease

9. I am now 60 years old, and feel weak in body and mind - Should I continue to serve, I am afraid that I shall not be able to do full justice to the high character my superiors have been pleased to give me, and which I value as dear as my life.

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low country since my appointment as Tahsildar of Colaramund 12 years ago - My former superior Mr C B Thomas was so good as to speak of me as follows.

" Soondrum Modeliar has been now 12 years " Tahsildar of Veilgherie and many years in " Public employ. I am not in the habit of giving " high characters but of Soondrum Modeliar " it is only justice to say that I believe him " to be one of the most hard working, honest and " painstaking of 15 Tahsildars in the District - " he has raised himself by his own merit and " I have never yet had occasion to find fault " with him "

11 When these Wills were known to be the august presence of the Governor General of India and the Governor of Madras, I have worked so hard and carefully as not to incur the displeasure of any with whom I came in contact - Mr G L Morris now Collector of Tanjore has favorably spoken of my services on one of those occasions in the following terms

" During the six months that I have been " Special Officer at Colaramund, Soondrum " Modeliar has been Tahsildar under me. I have " on every occasion found him every thing " that I could desire, he never once having refused " or even said that he could not do what I directed and

" and this is saying a great deal when it is " recollected that the Camp of the Governor " consisted of more than 500 Bengalees who ex- " pected that every thing was to be got at a " moments notice - Soondrum Modeliar has " given the highest satisfaction to all the Suite " of the Governor General and I only trust that " it may one day lie in my power to serve him " in the way that he most highly deserves "

12 My labors were so graciously viewed that the most noble the late Marquis of Dalhousie, then Governor General of India honored me with his personal notice and presented me with a pair of shawls - Lord Harris presented me with a pair of shawls and a gold ring with the following inscription:

" Presented to A Soondrum Modeliar by Lord " Harris for good Services rendered to His Lordship " as the Neilgherry Hills in 1856 and 1858, " Lady Canning with a Diamond ring and Mr C B Thomas also with a Diamond ring

13 During my tenure of Office as Tahsildar of Colaramund for 12 years, I have always endeavoured and I am thankful to say successfully to maintain public order and peace by conciliatory measures, and in the selection and allotment of lands for public and private purposes, I have arranged matters to the satisfaction of all parties concerned

concerned and have prevented any discontent in the minds of the Budgers and other Native land owners on the Hill.

14. By the rules of the Service, my pension will be Rupees 103—2— on the average salary of 5 years ending with the 31 January 1866. But as I am weak and unable to discharge my duties as usual, I most humbly beg that your honor will be pleased to obtain me half pension on my present rate of salary, which will be Rupees 112—8—0.

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16. The Government which I have the honor to serve, have often been pleased to reward their servants with personal allowances, life pensions, titles and lands for hard and faithful service. I most respectfully beseech your honor to obtain me the favor I solicit and thereby enable me to retire from the Service with honor.

I beg to remain
Most Honored Sir
Your Most obedient Servant

W. Saunders
Tahsildar

Statement of Service of C M Soondrum Modeliar
Tahsildar of Neilgherries. 17.

Situations held.	Period of Service.	Annual Pay.
Post Office & Writer Coimbatore	From 12 January 1836 to 10 Octr 1851	30 " "
Cutwall at Mettapollum	" 11 Octr 1851 to 5 March 1852	40 " "
Asst Neilgherry Tahsildar	" 6 March 52 to 10 April 1852	50 " "
Cutwallat Mettapollum	" 11 April 52 to 23d January 1853	40 " "
Asst Town Police Annoon	" 24 January 1853 to 24 May 1853	40 " "
Cutwall at Mettapollum	" 25 May 1853 to 9th May 1854	40 " "
Tahsildar Neilgherry Talug	" 10 May 54 to 30 April 1856	50 " "
Do	" 1st May 1856 to 31 December 1860	100 " "
Do	" 1 January 1861 to 30th April 62	150 " "
Do	" 1st May 62 to date	225 " "

C M Soondrum
Tahsildar

Dated 11th October 1865.

deposited with a Book-

19

Financial Department.

No. 553-

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India.

Financial Department.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to forward to you for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor General in Council the accompanying letter and enclosures from the Collector of Coimbatore, relative to the grant of an increased pension to M. Soondara Mooda-liyar, Tahsildar of Cotacamund.

2 This officer has ~~made~~ application to be permitted to retire after 30 years service, from the 1st February next, on a good Servicer pension, and he asks as a special boon, that he may be ~~permitted to draw~~ a pension of Rs. 112-8- being half the pay of his rank, in place of Rs. 103-2- the average

of

of his salary for the past five years.

3 I am to state that M. Soondara Moodaliyar has for upwards of 11 years held the responsible post of Tahsildar of the Cotacamund taluq, comprising the whole of the plateau of the Neilgherry Hills. His duties in this position have been no less arduous than responsible.

4 In a climate very unfavorable to a native of the plains, this officer has had to travel in all weathers to any part of the Hills, ~~at inclement visits, on more than one occasion, to his life~~, while the inspection and demarkation of lands, which have of late years been so largely purchased for coffee and other plantations, had detained him for days together on the slopes of the Hills, exposed to the deadly fever which prevails there. His duties have brought him into contact ~~in a great measure~~ with Europeans, planters and others,

offices, in circumstances where tact and discretion were eminently required. In none of the qualities necessary for the due performance of these duties has he failed.

5 In addition to these ordinary duties of his position he has had the no less difficult task of ministering to the wants of the many visitors to the Hills, and in this he has been most successful. He met with the approval and notice of the late Lord Dalhousie and of Lady Canning on her visit to the Hills, and the testimonials which he submitted ~~to them~~ show how universal has been the satisfaction he has given.

6 M. Soondara Moodaliyar has been personally known to his Excellency the Governor and the Members of Council for several years, and they are able to bear testimony to his high qualifications for the post he holds and to the worthy manner in which he has performed

performed its duties.

7 The boon which he asks is small, being an increase of only Rs. 9-6-- to the pension he has earned, and it is asked rather as a mark of distinction and approbation than as a pecuniary emolument and I am to state that the Governor in Council cordially supports the recommendation of the Collector that it may be granted.

Fort St. George.
6 December 1865

Council

Pension
Soondara Moody
Tahsildar of Cottacamund

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Pro: of Decr

Financial 1865 Departt

№ 553.

To

The Secy. to the Govt.

of India.

Fin. 55 of 1865

Dated 6th December 1865.

Recommendation
made to the Government
of India for the grant
of an increased pension
to M. Soondara Moodaliyar
Tahsildar of Potacamund

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