M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair 10/5/40

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 254 Press / Mis.

120-121

Dated 13-2- 1874.

9/10

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 120. Proceedings of Government, 13th February 1874, No. 254.

In their Resolution in the Home Department (Public), dated the 11th September 1871, No. 4202, the Government of India, in reviewing the correspondence on the general question as to the best means of securing the destruction of noxious animals and poisonous snakes, remarked regarding rewards for the destruction of *wild animals*, that—

"The system of rewards hitherto in force in all provinces seems to be the most effective means by which the Government can accelerate the work, and Local Governments and Administrations are empowered to increase, within the limits of their respective budget allotments, the rate of the authorized rewards, whenever such a measure is considered desirable; but rewards should only be given for killing destructive, and not merely wild, animals;" and added

"As regards *snakes*, it seems to be overlooked by many officers that there is a deep-rooted prejudice among most natives against killing a snake—a prejudice which nothing but the offer of a reward will overcome. And as deaths from snake-bite are extremely numerous, the Governor-General in Council has no doubt that the recent prohibition against the grant of rewards for killing snakes should be partially withdrawn, and that rewards not exceeding 2 Annas a-head, as a general rule, should, at the discretion of the Local Governments and Administrations, be offered for snakes known to be deadly, that is, the cobra, and some other species to be expressly named. But such rewards should not be offered throughout a whole province, or for an unlimited period, but in selected districts where the mortality from snake-bite is greatest, and for a period not exceeding two years. At the end of this period the result of the experiment should be reported to the Government of India, in order that, if successful, the propriety of extending it may be considered."

2. In accordance with the latter clause, this Government, in their Order in the Revenue Department, dated 19th January 1872, No. 119, sanctioned, experimentally for two years in the districts of Tanjore and Madras, the grant of a reward of 2 Annas each for every cobra, Bungarus, and Russel's viper, and in consequence of the representations of the Inspector-General of Police in his annual report on accidental deaths for 1871, the experiment was, by Order dated the 29th May 1872, No. 156, subsequently extended to the districts of Nellore, Bellary, North Arcot, and Chingleput.

3. In October 1872, the Collector of North Arcot reported that rewards, amounting to Rupees 2,814-6-0, had been disbursed for killing venomous snakes in that district.

Proceedings of Government, Revenue Department, dated 7th December 1872, No. 1652.

4. In March 1873, the Collector of Nellore reported that Rupees 86,049 had been paid for rewards in five months, and in April, that a further sum of Rupees 41,340 were disbursed, making a total of Rupees 1,27,390 for six months. The Government upon this directed (in their Order in the Revenue Department, dated the 28th May 1873, No. 543) that pending further instructions a reward of 1 Anna each shall be paid for the destruction of cobras only in the districts of Nellore, Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot, Bellary, and Tanjore.

Proceedings, dated 9th April 1873, No. 404.

5. These several orders, passed in the Revenue Department, appear not to have been communicated to the Financial Department, and the Governor in Council has discovered now with much surprise that the whole charge for killing snakes has been debited by the Accountant-General, without any reference to the Government in this Department, to Provincial Services.

6. It was clearly the intention of the Government of India in their Resolution, dated 11th September 1871, No. 4202, that the expenditure was to be exceptional for two years, and that the charge, a special one, should be met from Imperial Revenues, and not from the grant of Rupees 24,780, for the "destruction of wild animals," which was transferred to Provincial Services only in March 1872, two years after the Government of India had discontinued the practice of giving rewards for venomous snakes.

Resolution in Financial Department, dated 30th March 1872, No. 2086.

7. According to accounts and statements rendered by the Accountant-General, the expenditure in 1872 73 under "destruction of wild animals" was Rupees 1,93,087-15-0, and the (partly estimated) expenditure in 1873-74 would be Rupees 2,11,095. How much of this is for "destruction of wild animals," and how much for "killing venomous snakes," the Government are unable to ascertain. The Accountant-General will, therefore, be instructed to take immediate steps to ascertain and report it, adjusting at the same time in the accounts of Imperial Revenues the amounts erroneously debited to "Provincial Services" for the latter purpose.

8. The period of two years during which rewards for killing snakes were to be given having expired on the 18th of January 1874, orders will be issued in the Revenue Department stopping all further expenditure on that account from the 31st proximo, the end of the current official year, unless instructions to the contrary effect are intermediately received from the Government of India, in reply to the letter of this Government, dated 20th August last, No. 886, Revenue Department.

(True Extract,

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. J. Wright.

Financial Department

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter ~~from~~

~~the Board of Revenue, &c.~~

~~dated 20th December 1872,~~

~~No. 1846.~~

Order thereon 18th February 1874 No. 254.

L. D. S.

In their Resolution on the Home Department (Public) dated the 11th September 1871, No. 4202, the Govt. of India, in reviewing the correspondence on the general question as to the best means of securing the destruction of noxious animals and poisonous snakes, remarked regarding rewards for the destruction

Govt. of Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT, &c., &c., &c.

Dated February, 13*th*.

Read.

Read.

G.O., 13*th February* 1874, *No.* 254.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 120-121.

Accounts.—Instructions issued to the Accountant-General to adjust in the accounts of Imperial Revenues the charges for killing venomous snakes, erroneously debited to Provincial Services, and the Revenue Department requested to issue orders to stop further expenditure on that account.

destruction of wild animals, that,

"The system of rewards hitherto in force in all Provinces seems to be the most effective means by which the Govt. can accelerate the work, and local Govts. and Administrations are empowered to increase, within the limits of their respective budget allotments, the rate of the authorized rewards, whenever such a measure is considered desirable; but rewards should only be given for killing destructive, and not merely wild, animals", - & added

"As regards snakes, it seems to be overlooked by many officers that there is a deep-rooted prejudice among most natives against killing a snake - a prejudice which nothing but the offer of a reward will overcome. And as deaths from snake bites are extremely numerous, the Governor General in Council has no doubt that the recent prohibition against the grant of rewards for killing snakes should be partially withdrawn, and that rewards not exceeding two annas a head, as a general rule, should, at the discretion of the local Govts and Administrations be

be offered for snakes known to be deadly, that is, the cobra, and some other species to be expressly named. But such rewards should not be offered throughout a whole province, or for an unlimited period, but in selected districts where the mortality from snakebite is greatest, and for a period not exceeding two years. At the end of this period the result of the experiment should be reported to the Govt of India, in order that, if successful, the propriety of extending it may be considered."

2. In accordance with the

the latter clause, this Govt, in their Order in the Revenue Department, dated 19th January 1872, No 119, sanctioned, experimentally for two years in the districts of Tanjore and Madras, the grant of a reward of two annas each for every cobra, Bungarus, & Russell's viper, and in consequence of the representations of the Inspector General of Police in his annual report on accidental deaths for 1871, the experiment was, by order dated the 29th January 1872, No 156, subsequently extended to the districts of Nellore, Bellary, North Arcot & Chingleput.

3. In October 1872, the Collector

Collector of North Arcot reported that rewards amounting to Rs 2814-6-- had been disbursed for killing venomous snakes in that district.

Proc. of Govt., Revl. Dept. 7th Decr 72, No 1652.

4. In March 1873, the Collector of Nellore reported that Rs 86,049 had been paid for rewards in five months, and in April, that a further sum of Rs 41,340 more disbursed, making a total of Rs 1,27,390 for six months. The Govt upon this directed (in their Order in the Revl Dept dated the 30th May 1873, No 543) that pending further instructions a reward of one anna each shall be paid for the destruction of cobras only in the Districts of Nellore, Madras, Chingleput, North Arcot, Bellary and Tanjore.

Proc. of Govt, Revl Dept dated 9th April 73, No 1406.

These several orders, passed in the Revl Dept, appear not to have been communicated to the Financial Dept and the Governor in Council has discovered now with much surprise that the whole charge for killing snakes, has

has been debited by the Accountant General, without any reference to the Government in this Department, to Provincial Services.

6. It was clearly the intention of the Government of India* that the expenditure was to be exceptional for two years, and that the charge a special one, should be met from Imperial Revenues, and not from the grant of Rs 24,750 for the "Destruction of wild Animals" which was transferred to Provincial services only in March 1872-

* in their Resolution dated 11th Sept 1871 No 4202

Resolution in Financial Dept dated 30 March 1872 No 2056.

7. According to accounts and Statements rendered by the Accountant General the expenditure in 1872-73 under "destruction of wild Animals"

* two years after the Govt of India had discontinued the practice of giving Rewards for venomous Snakes.

was

was Rs 193087-15, and the (partly estimated) expenditure in 1873-74 would be Rs 211095. How much of this is for "destruction of wild animals" and how much for "killing venemous snakes," the Government are unable to ascertain. The Accountant General will therefore be instructed to take immediate steps to ascertain & report it, adjusting at the same time in the accounts of Imperial Revenues the amounts erroneously debited to "Provincial Services" for the latter purpose indicated.

8. The period of two years during which snakes were to be killed having expired on the 18th of January 1874, Orders will be issued in the Revenue Department

stopping

stopping further expenditure on that account. The Report called for by the Government of India on the experiment will also be submitted to them.

I would say "from the 31st prox. the end of the current official year - unless instructions to the contrary should be received from the Govt of India, in reply to the letter of this Govt dated 20 Augt last No. 886 R.D.

To

The Revenue Department
" " Accountant General
Local Govt

18-5-93 Revs ✓

13-11-6
7-5-18

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

From

To

The Revenue Deptt.
&c.

Dated 13 July
Recd.

1874, Nos 254.

Nos. 120-1

Accounts - Instructions issued to the Accountant-General to adjust in the accounts of Imperial Revenues the charges for killing venomous snakes, erroneously debited to Provincial services & the Revenue Deptt. requested to issue orders to stop further expenditure on that account &c

Rev. No. 1383 of 74

C12/2