

Home (1918) Department.

Miscellaneous

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 630

DATED 30.8.18

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Paranomas.-

Recording papers regarding the applicability of the term
Dravidians to-----

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

MEMORIAL PRESENTED BY

THE DRAVIDA MAHAJANA SANGAM, RANGOON

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE FREDERIC JOHN NAPIER, BARON CHELMSEFORD, P.C., G.M.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.M.I.E., *Viceroy and Governor-General of India*, and THE RIGHT HON'BLE EDWIN SAMUEL MONTAGU, P.C., M.P., *His Majesty's Secretary of State for India*.

The petition of the President on behalf of the Members of the Dravida Mahajana Sangam, 48, Lewis Street, Rangoon.

Humbly sheweth—

The petitioners represent the Tamil Dravidians, or the so-called Panchamas, who form six millions of the population of the Madras Presidency.

2. The petitioners have understood the significance of your visit to India.

3. The petitioners enter their emphatic protest against the grant of Home Rule to India at this stage.

4. The petitioners most humbly appeal to you to safeguard their interests as a community in the reforms proposed to be formulated by the Government.

5. The petitioners at present have no representatives on the Provincial Legislative Council, the municipal councils, and the local boards of the Madras Presidency.

6. The petitioners beg to place for your benign consideration, the following grievances due to the caste prejudices prevailing in India—

(a) They are refused admission into the public schools managed by the other caste people.

(b) They are not allowed to draw water from the village wells intended for public use.

(c) They are not allowed to walk through the public roads in certain parts of the Madras Presidency.

(d) They are prevented from possessing Government 'darkhast' land by the sharp practices adopted by the other caste Hindus.

7. The petitioners view with abhorrence the contemptible use of the word 'Paraiya' as applied to this community, as it is now synonymous with everything that is mean and degrading.

8. The petitioners, some of whom are graduates of recognized Universities, are afraid of calling themselves as Panchamas or Paraiyas, on account of the social restrictions placed on them by the other caste Hindus, who often boycott them in public offices.

9. The petitioners have all along been loyal to the Crown and have rendered memorable service in the defence of the Empire.

Wherefore, the petitioners humbly pray that they shall be represented on the Provincial Legislative Council, the municipal councils, and the local boards of the Presidency; that they shall be provided with additional schools and wells by the Government; that facilities shall be afforded by the Government to acquire land; that they shall be given free education; that the ancient and the proper name 'Dravidian' shall be given and recognized by the Government instead of the name

'Paraiya'; that they shall be given communal representation in any scheme of reform that may be given to the country at large; that a department of inquiry consisting mainly of European officials shall be created to listen to the grievances of the Panchamas, and the Panchama graduates in particular, and to recommend them for positions of trust and responsibility, without submitting them to competitive examinations along with the members of the more advanced communities, especially the Brahmans, who have a regular monopoly of the gazetted appointments.

And for this act of kindness, the petitioners shall for ever remain grateful.

RANGOON,
7th November 1917.

V. G. VASUDEVA PILLAI, President,
The Dravida Mahajana Sangam.

I think an order was passed at the instance of Mr Tremenhare directing that the persons previously known as Pariahs should be called Panchamas. If there was such an order, please let me see it.

Alf
23.7.18

Please see para 27 of Mr. Duncan's letter on page 6, and para 14 of the orders thereon on page 8 of G.O. 68 Edl. & 1-2-93. flagged (P). Presumably this is the order referred to. No other orders are traceable. The Record Office has however been asked to furnish any other papers available on the subject.

MOR
8.8.18

Recd.
10.8.18

Submitted to Mr.

The following is the result of a reference to Thurston (Coster & Tules Vol. II).

I Panchama

Buchanan (Journey through Mysore 1807) refers to the Pancham Bandaru as consisting of 4 tribes, the Parian, Baluan, Sheklian & Toti.

Up to 1893 the Department of Public Instruction referred to the

Mr. 21.27.18
25-7-18.



Mr. H. D. box 19
17.8.18.

"Fifth Class" peoples as "Paraiyas"
 "thunder classes". This was then
 replaced by "Panchama", &
 include Chakkachadis, Jodais,
 Noleyas, Madigas, Males, Pallans
 Paraiyans & Totis. & Valluvans.
 Thurston then makes a reference
 to some order of 1902 but that the
 language of this as cited by him is
 almost identical with that of 1868
 1.2.93

Pariah

Thurston deals with these
 only under the head Paraiyan (a
 Tamil name). These, he says, are
 "the found throughout the Tamil
 country from N. Arcot to Tinnevely
 & in the southern extremity of the
 native state of Travancore. In the
 Kelapp country the Males & Madigas
 & in the Cananore country the Noleyas
 take their place." They include
 Koliyans (weavers) & Valluvans (medicine
 men). (Francis: Census Rep. 1901)

2. Apart from any question
 of opprobrium, the use of the term
 Pariah (Paraiyan) is ethnologically
 incorrect. The Pariah is a special

Tamil tribe & the name has come to be used for the 5th Class of the southern part of the Presidency. In the Telugu Districts I have rarely or never heard these people called Pariahs: there the generic term is always "Panchamas". The pancheri of a village is ^{then} called the male panchi or the Chachchadipeta. The objection of the memorialists to the term Pariah is well-founded, but I don't think they can object to Panchama which is etymologically correct & (see for reference to Buchanan above) of long standing. In affairs it's really a case of "a rose by any other name".

3. They don't seem to have any title to the name "Dravidians" even if the Paraiyans originally were, as some suppose, the ancient, conquered agriculturists. Thurston says "South Indian Brahmins are called Dravidas." (the Fifth Class) have ^{they} really no more claim to be called "Dravidians" than to be called "Aryans".

J.S.

Please send me this at ooty. I have no box here. ¹⁸ 818

para 8 of the memorial.

para 9 of the memorial

This cannot - I think - be regarded as correct. ¹² 818.

I doubt whether Dravidians would be a very suitable name for the Panchamas, because it belongs particularly to the Tamils and would be of very doubtful appropriateness as applied to the Telugus. Thus Yule & Burnell quote a writer of about 700 AD as speaking of the "Andhra dravida bhāsha", thus covering both Telugu & Tamil. No doubt the idea of calling the Panchamas Dravidas or Adi Dravidas has started in the Tamil country, without sufficient reflection as to whether it would suit the corresponding Telugu classes. I think they may have to think of some more appropriate name. The name Adi Dravidians or Original Dravidians would not be unsuitable for the Tamil Panchamas who undoubtedly represent an older strain of inhabitants of S. India than the so-called Aryans - but it w^d n^t do to extend the term to persons dwelling north of the Pennar.

My
22.8.18

The papers may now be

Recorded

KDR

27.8.18.

Pd R
28.8.18



G.O. / Mis

No 630 8

30.8.18

When signed

191

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH LITTO.

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