

Home (1920) Department.

Cumulative

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 1231.

DATED 21-7-20.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition---Sri Rangachari--Religious endowments--withheld
under Rule 11(16) of Memorial Rules(B.)

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Papers of other departments.

Home (Wis)
9pm
1.7.20

Ms 3317
17-20

[illegible]

இனமென்கொடுந்து
 உக கொலொடு கொடுக்க
 யொடு கொடுந்து இனமென்கொடுந்து
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வெட சூரனா டென்கிணி
 நங்குரி வண்கிமொட டென்கி
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[illegible]

2
அரசுப் பள்ளி
திருச்செங்கோட்டை
நாள் 27-11-1918
பெரிய
பள்ளி

[illegible]

$\frac{C.R.}{14-7-20}$

1

To

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for India.

The humble Mahazarnama of the undersigned Memorialists the Mahajana and others.

1. The two Mahazars dated $\frac{1085-3}{4-5-708}$ and $\frac{4884-1}{25-11-709}$ heretofore submitted by us to His Excellency the Governor of Madras and the Mahazarnama dated $\frac{529}{24-5-11}$ submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy of India through the Governor of Madras, regarding the management of religious endowments of Hindu Temples, Muts, Feeding Choultries, Watersheds, Chavadies and Vedic Schools have been endorsed upon to the effect that "the matter will receive the consideration of Government." Nothing has been decided as yet. All the abovementioned charities from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin are common to all the Hindus. It is unjust that Gurukals, Pujaris, Darmakartas or Committee Members should be permitted to expend the incomes as they like and misconduct themselves.

2. Many a Rajah have ruled in India and are gone. Only their charitable deeds have survived. Amongst them Sriramachandra Murthi and Srikrishna Murthi are being worshipped as God's Incarnate for the purpose of protecting the righteous and destroying the wicked, by the people and other Rajahs. This Ramachandra Murthi and Srikrishna Murthi have advised the future Rajahs to the effect that they should never fail in their duty to maintain the charitable institutions established by the pious. Thus have they often done at different times. Now that their Gracious Majesties the KING GEORGE V and QUEEN MARY come to Delhi as God's Incarnate for the purpose of being crowned as Emperor and Empress of India, if their Majesties could graciously be pleased to direct that the aforesaid institutions should be maintained and managed properly they will be looked upon and worshipped as Gods so long as the sun and the moon last. People also will prosper and be happy. It will redound to the Glory of the Government.

3. That the former Native Princes and private individuals endowed Devasthanams with plenty of arable lands, topes and flower-gardens, and also dug up temple ponds and constructed mantapams. About the year 1807, with a view to carry out the object and intentions of the donors, Government made additional grants of their own and granted Tastik amounts according to the then-selling prices, in the place of lands which they treated as Ayan, and made over other lands, topes, flower-gardens, temple ponds, etc., with Government sanction and got them all registered as temple properties in Pymash accounts of Fasli 1217.

4. That in the year 1843, trustees were appointed for big temples and small ones were entrusted to villagers and accounts were taken only for cash payments, and the amounts were paid. No notice was taken of other lands and other incomes, and from that time forward some lands and other properties have miscarried.

That under Act XX of 1863, Devasthanam Committees were formed, and the duties that devolved on the Board of Revenue and Collector under Act VII, of 1817 were transferred to the Committees who appointed trustees for each temple under section 4 of Act XX of 1863, and made over to them the Temples. Middling temples were taken no note of. Accounts were not strictly demanded and the Government did not concern itself with taking any account, and the Committee do not care to publish any summary of them. There is thus no way of knowing what is going on in Temples, and many Temples have not made pooja in them. Some trustees of Tastik Temples have claimed them as their own, while the managers of small temples have asserted their rights to them, and lands and other temple properties have been alienated by mortgages and sales. In some cases Pattahs are transferred to the names of the trustees. Even the Government authorities have levied assessments on temple lands and issued pattas to outsiders. Thus irregularities are rife.

5. That it is unjust and improper that persons having mirasi right of Fusli 1217 for puja, trusteeship or ownership to such endowments, should fulfil their duty only partly and claim the rest as theirs or to resort to misappropriation by bringing endowment property under sale or under mortgages and to refuse to submit accounts to Devasthanam Committee and for Devasthanam Committee to omit to take accounts from the delinquent trustees. It naturally devolves on the Devasthanam Committee to discharge the duties formerly performed by the Board of Revenue under Act VII of 1817 and to take accounts for such charities.

Mr. S. Panduranga Mudaliar, the President of the South Arcot Devasthanam Committee in the Madras Presidency having prescribed forms for submitting regular accounts of receipts and expenditure and having also issued circulars that proper persons should be appointed for the purpose of checking them, that these persons should send in their reports after they examine the accounts and that one per cent of the charity income should be sent for the expenses of the management, a large sum has been collected accordingly. Many other cases are yet pending. If the Government should take the matter into their consideration, appoint Managing Committee and issue proper orders every now and then for their guidance, everything will be properly managed. There will be no room for any sort of wrong dealing with charitable properties. If there be any misappropriation they will be easily found out and the money thus lost or misappropriated will be recovered then and there.

That it is a sacred obligation for the Government and the Committee to safeguard the charities and to enforce their fulfilment according to the original founders' object and intentions and to provide against miscarriages that are cropping up rather numerously.

6. Act No. XX of 1863 has been passed for the management of the abovesaid charities and there is a Board's Standing Order No. 77 for the appointment of Committee Members. In para 14 it has been stated that registered copies should be sent to

voters asking them to come and vote in person for such persons as they think proper after due enquiries made. They do not vote in the said manner, nor do they know that they should come and vote in person, nor do they care. The President of the Committee sends copies to whomsoever he likes and asks them to vote for his own men. The appointment of Committee Members are improperly made. The present arrangements that the affairs of the Temples of great endowments should be managed by Panchayats or Darmakartas and that of the smaller ones by the villagers themselves may well exist as it now is; but if the Government should be pleased to order that members of Committees be appointed from among persons such as the following, then such of the religious institutions as have been ruined will be restored to their former position and grandeur and their management will be properly conducted.

Description of persons from among whom members are to be appointed :—

- A. Those that have endowed lands for religious use, income from which is not less than Rs. 10 per annum.
- B. Those that have made a gift of jewels worth not less than Rs. 1000.
- C. Those that have gifted houses carrying rent of not less than Rs. 25 per annum.
- D. Those that make oopayam (உபயம்) or kattalais (கட்டலைகள்) incurring an expenditure of Rs. 125 per annum.
- E. Those that give to Darma Sabha Rs. 25 year after year or have given Rs. 225 once for all or in a lump.
- F. Those that have donated Rs. 225 per annum or Rs. 2500 in a lump for the purpose of (திருப்பணி) thirupani or Temple repairs.
- G. And those that are permanent inhabitants of the place well versed in the Sastras.

It is also desirable that the Government should direct that in appointing members for Village, Taluq, District, Presidency and for India as a whole, the rank and position of the members of any such Committee be ten times greater than those of the next below and also that each Committee submit their accounts to the Committee next higher to themselves.

7. Therefore we do pray that their Majesties at the time of their being Crowned at Delhi may order and direct that as stated in Mahazars viz: $\frac{1085-3}{4-5-08}$, $\frac{4805-1}{25-11-09}$ & $\frac{529}{24-5-11}$ previously submitted and are now under consideration by Government, Temples, Mosques, Matams, Choultries, Water-shed chavidies and Vedavriti etc. be properly looked into, that pujahs and nivadhams that have now remained unperformed be revived, that lands and other things endowed for religious purposes but are now misappropriated be restored to its former purposes and that the endowers of the charitable institutions themselves do establish Managing Committees as Village Sabah, Taluq Sabah, District Sabah, Presidency Sabah and Sabah for the whole of India for the purpose of systematically maintaining the abovesaid Dharmas.

The following papers relating to this subject are also herewith submitted for reference:—

A. Printed copy of the Memorial to His Excellency the Governor in Council, dated 2-2-08, Fort Saint George, Madras, and the reply thereto 4-5-08.

B. Printed copy of the Memorial to His Excellency the Governor in Council Fort Saint George, Madras, dated 25-9-1909 and reply thereto, dated 25th November 1909.

C. Printed copy of the Memorial, to His Excellency The Right Honourable the Viceroy & Governor-General of India, Calcutta, dated 15th April 1911, and the endorsement thereon by the Government of Madras, dated 24th May 1911.

15-10-1911

3ree Rangachari. Devasthanam Committee
Superintendent, South Arcot District, Madras Presidency.

G. Ramaswami Aiyar, Amin, Gamin Vettavalam,

Menkatasari Pleader Tiruvannamalai
Shanmugham Pillai agent and member of the Thosma-
Devasthanam Sabha.

Mr. Krishna Gounder, Contractor & Mirasdar, Tiruvannamalai
and a member of Sharmarabakshana Sabha.

Mr. R. Ramanujam, Pleader

V. Ranganatha. Stamp Auditor, Tiruvannamalai

H. V. Srinivasanarayana Aiyar, Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. Narayanaiah, District Board Officer, Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. S. S. School, Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai, Director National Mercantile & Industrial Association; Vice President of the Tiruvannamalai Urban Co-operative Credit Society; & Managing Committee member Victoria Primary School, Tiruvannamalai. & Fellow of the Theosophical Society.

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

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Mr. S. R. Ramanujam of Tiruvannamalai

செயல்பாட்டுக்குரிய
பெரிய அளவுக்குரிய

B.

To The Secretary
to Government Public Department
Madras

The most humble Memorial of Sree Ranga Chariar, Devasthanam Committee late Superintendant, South Arcot residing at Odiyattur, Odiyattur Post, Via Mugayur S.I.R., Tirukoilur Taluk, South Arcot District, Madras Presidency and others.

SHREWETH,

1. That on the dates 30-11-1911, 15-10-1911, 1-12-1911, 11-3-1912, 23-5-1913, the Memorialists submitted petitions to you regarding the administration and Management of Temples, Samadhis, Muts, Feeding choultrys, watersheds, Chavadis and Vedic schools etc., through the Government of Madras Vide G. O. 672-3/5-6-1912 and 725-6/14-6-1913 Public Department and by way of reply they received an endorsement thereon from the Government of Madras to the effect that proper arrangements would be made regarding them after the close of the present war. Vide G. O. No. 501 dated 16-3-1916.

2. That proper as the reply is in the present circumstances the Memorialists would nevertheless submit the following to be taken into consideration when the arrangements above referred to are to be made.

3. That our sastras repeatedly declare that the Rajahs or the Rulers are responsible for the sinful or righteous deeds of their subjects; that where truth, austerities and gifts prevail there the enemies all perish; that Dharma being protected they are in their turn protected by Dharmadevetah; that alms-giving has no equal in merit especially when it is coupled with giving instructions in the Vedasastras and that in short the practice of these virtuous deeds leads one to Moksha itself.

4. That the Memorialists also beg to submit that by the grant of large extent lands for religious purposes, by building up choultrys for the feeding of the poor, by encouraging the study of the Vedas and others, by conferring shrothriams on learned Pandits, it is by deeds such as these alone Rajahs and others in ancient times lived a prosperous, long and happy life.

5. That now however these things have all either disapproved or materially diminished owing to non-management or mismanagement on the part of those concerned viz., the successor of the original endowers and the Local Fund Department whose business it is to look after them. No food is given to Athithis (அதிதிகள்); Endowed lands have been alienated and other wrongs and irregularities committed with none to enquire into or care for them and as a necessary result the whole country is sunk in an ocean of sorrow and distress; its prosperity and good name being things of the past.



6. That the Memorialists therefore think that if proper enquiries be instituted into these matters with a view to ascertain the extent of lands endowed originally and in recent times by way of gifts, wills etc., their incomes, and the way in which they are spent with reference to rules framed in that behalf, then will be manifest the enormous wrongs perpetrated and the number of false statements made to cover them and to make wrong look like right.

7. That in these circumstances the Memorialists beg to submit the following scheme for your kind and generous consideration and adoption if approved or with such modifications as it may deem proper.

8. That a committee be appointed consisting of members to be elected by the inhabitants of each village in the country as noted in the margin. This committee is to insist upon every household to set apart a handful of rice daily to be disposed of by them as follows :—
- A. The village Magistrate and Munsif of each village.
 - B. Those that have endowed lands for religious use, income from which is not less than Rs. 10 per men-sem.
 - C. Those that have gifted houses etc., worth not less than Rs. 125 for religious use.
 - D. Those that have made a gift of Jewels worth not less than Rs. 1000.
 - E. Those that make Oopayam (உபயம்) or kattalais (கட்டலை) incurring an expenditure of Rs. 125 per annum.
 - F. Those that give to Dharma sabah Rs. 25 year after year or have given Rs. 225 once for all or in a lump.
 - G. Those that have donated Rs. 225 per annum or Rs. 2,500 in a lump for the purpose of Thirupani or temple affairs.

One half of the collection of each village is to be appropriated for the use in that village itself by way of erecting watersheds, establishing Bajanasabahs, alms-giving etc; Of the remaining half to be distributed for like purposes among the Taluk; District Head-quarters and Presidency Towns each one of these getting half of what its immediate preceding ones should get. The final or the last remainder going to be added to the Revenue of the Indian Government to which a proper statement of account will be submitted.

9. Whimsical and insignificant as the scheme may appear the Memorialists nevertheless fully believe that it will yield happy results. Plague, Cholera and other epidemics will disappear from the lands. There will be prosperity, happiness and contentment in the land and in short both the Rulers and the Ruled together will make a heaven of this earth.

10. The Memorialists therefore humbly pray that every household in the country daily sets apart a handful of rice and the collection distributed as detailed above in addition to the various reforms to be introduced in connection with the subject herein referred to for which the Memorialists will ever pray as in duty bound.

Devastanam late Superintendent

Free Rangaiah
27-11-1918

NOTES.

Petition

C. 3317

From Sri Rangachari, Orugattur, S. Arcot d/ 27.6.1920

Vide notes to G.O. 979/18

Flag (A)

Abstract of
G.O. 501 (Pub) d/ 16.3.16.

Flag (G)

Mr Rangachari is a constant petitioner of Government on the subject of the administration of Charitable endowment. In reply to one of his memorials addressed to the Secretary of State, drawing the attention of Govt. to the general maladministration of religious and charitable endowments and praying for remedial legislation, the Govt. of India informed the petitioner that it was their intention to introduce a Bill on the subject at the close of the war and that requirements in the matter of provincial legislation could best be decided when the scope of the Imperial Act was known. This was communicated to Mr Rangachari in G.O. No. 501 Pub d/ 16.3.1916.

2. Mr Rangachari, however, submitted a second petition d/ 27.11.18 addressed once again to the India Office, requesting them to take into consideration a certain new proposal of his regarding the appointment of a local Committee for levying compulsory contribution of rice on every household, and for disposing of this collection in

G.O. 979/14.12.18 (A)

(A)

local Charities. This Govt. however, withheld the memorial under rule 11(3) of the B Memorial Rules, ^{on the ground that it} ~~has not~~ referred to a matter already disposed of by the Govt. of India.

C. 3317.

3 The petitioner now states that the two memorials were different in their subject matter; ~~that~~ ^{the} previous one related to the general mismanagement of Charitable endowments while his second memorial referred to an original scheme of his for collecting Charities. On this ground he requests Govt. to reconsider their order withholding the second petition and forward the ~~memorial~~ ^{memorial} for the consideration of ^{the} India Office.

Flag (V)

G.O. 1716/9.12.29 (M)

4 Attention is invited to the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920 (Act XIV of 1920) which received the assent of the Governor-General on the 20th March 1920 and to the collection of views furnished by this Govt. on the provisions of the above Bill. In passing this Act which provides an effectual control over the administration of Charitable and Religious Trusts, the Govt. of India have amply redeemed their promise to Mr. Ranjachar. If he is a "person interested" in any charitable

Vide Sec. 3 of the Act
(V)

endowment with whose ^Badministration he is not satisfied, the Act now allows him to petition the Court to direct the management to furnish all information and accounts necessary to vindicate itself against any charge as to mis-
^{that may be}management alleged by the petitioner. As a final reply to his first memorial Mr. Rangachari may perhaps be referred to the date and page of the Fort. St. George Gazette, in which the Act is republished, and told that he can avail himself of the provisions of this Act.

Though this reply does not technically answer his objection against withholding the memorial, there is nothing in the ~~draft of the proposal~~ to merit any consideration.

~~As regards his request to reconsider the order withholding his second petition it is submitted that the proposal contained in it is not worth considering. The petitioner appears to take objection to the wording of rule 11(3) of the Rules and wants his second petition to be considered in itself as bearing no relation to his previous one. As nothing short of special stipulation could bring about his whimsical scheme it is submitted that the present petition may be withheld under rule 11(16) of the 'B' Rules to get out of a difficulty.~~

→ 6. The draft order ^{below} is for approval.

OK
8.7.20
Sd/-
W. V. Rao

CH
11.7.20

Please to translate the petition in Tamil
12/7/20

For ~~the~~ S/

(4)

14
A translation of the petition is put up
on page 3 c.f. for secretary's perusal.

CR.
14.7.20.

15.7.20.

Withheld under rule
11(16) mem. rules B
16/7/20

~~Geop~~

Draft order subd.

SAB
17.7.20

12.7.20.

CR
19.7.20

Petition -

Home (mis)

DEPARTMENT

Sn. Rangachari - Religious endowments - ^{withheld} Rejected under Rule 11 (16) of Memorial Rules B.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. 501 Public, dated 16. March 1916. G.

" " " " 979 Home (mis) " 24 Decr 1918. A

READ ALSO:-

C. 3317, From the MRA Rangachariyan, No. —, dated 27. June 1920.
Odiyattun

" " " " " " " " 191

" " " " " " " " 191

ORDER.

Mis.

No. 1231 dated 21. 7. 1920.

The petitioner is informed that his memorial has been withheld under Rule 11 (16) of Memorial Rules B.

[H.E. Rule 11 (16) of Memorial Rules B.]

The Petitioner (gao)

S.M.
17.7.20
Se.
17.7.20.

CA
15.7.20

To be entered in the Withheld Memorials

CA

T.

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

192

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
192

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING WANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.