M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-99.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 428	Press ~~Mis.~~
252-253	
Dated 27.3.1861 ~~19~~	

415

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
27th March 1861.

No. 252. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 22nd March 1861, No. 673.

Communicating the Order passed on certain letters from C. Pelly, Esq., referring to the subject of the remuneration of Village servants belonging to the Revenue and partially to the Police Department, and forwarding for decision some important questions in connection with the subject.

(Vide Proceedings Revenue Department, dated 22nd March 1861, Nos. 110—113.

No. 253. ORDER THEREON, 27th March 1861, No. 428.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Police.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letters from C. PELLY, Esq. :—

Submitting for consideration and orders of Government a report on the propositions of the Collector of Kurnool with regard to the Village Establishment of his District.	(Here enter 8th December 1860, No. 665.)
Recommending for sanction the proposition of the Inám Commissioner regarding the future emoluments of the Village Officers.	(Here enter 12th January 1861.)
Submitting copy of a letter from the Inám Commissioner suggesting the enfranchisement of all Village Service Ináms in the Ceded Districts at two-thirds their assessed value.	(Here enter 6th February 1861, No. 733.)

ORDER THEREON, 22nd March 1861, No. 673.

1. The three papers here recorded refer to the subject of the remuneration of village servants belonging to the Revenue and partially to the Police Department; and some important questions in connection with the subject are brought forward for decision. The first and longest paper relates to Kurnool, and contains Mr. Pelly's report on the Collector's plan for that District.

2. The village servants' emoluments in Kurnool consist, as elsewhere, partly of rent from land and partly of fees. The latter comprise "Mérah" or contributions in kind at harvest time by the Ryots, and "Vartana" or payments chiefly in money by the non-agricultural community.

3. The Inám lands are very extensive, comprising 4,46,090 acres, assessed roughly at Rupees 4,14,013 of which one-fourth is waste. This amounts to not less than 29 per cent. on the Revenue of the District for Fasli 1268, which was Rupees 14,24,000 in round numbers.

4. The land is valued at the same rate as Government land, of which the assessment is said to be too high. Considering however that the average is under one Rupee per acre, that village Officers under the loose rule of Native powers are not likely to have taken the worst land, and that even in those of the old British provinces in which a proper Survey does not exist, alterations of clasification are a very common mode of alleviating over-assessment, it may be doubted whether the Inám lands of the District are over-assessed.

5. The fees amount to Rupees 49,270, of which Rupees 17,388 are paid in the single Táluq of Putticondah, transferred from Bellary. They are also levied in much the same way though at lower rates in the Cumbum and Dúpád Táluqs, transferred from Cuddapah. In Kurnool proper they are still paid voluntarily, notwithstanding an order of one of the early Commissioners abolishing them. In Putticondah they amount to 10 per cent. on the Revenue. On the whole District they are 3½ per cent.

6. Thus the Ináms and fees altogether amount, as valued, to Rupees 4,63,772 or 32½ per cent. on the Revenue of Fasli 1268.

7. There are nearly 24,000 servants, or about one to every 27 of the population.

8. Mr. Minchin's propositions have reference mainly to the Revenue servants whose Ináms are shown in the following abstract:—

	Inám.	Fees.	Total.
Reddies.....Rs.	63,114	Rs. 3,494	Rs. 66,609
Curnums..... ,,	1,33,641	,, 11,691	,, 1,45,333
Vetties..... ,,	98,819	,, 5,443	,, 1,04,263
Total...	2,95,574	,, 20,628	,, 3,16,205

9. The leading points in his plan are the following:—

I. To enfranchise the whole of the land Ináms at half assessment; and thus to obtain the means of paying money stipends to the office-bearers. The Ináms thus dealt with would yield, it is stated, a sum of Rupees 1,47,787 yearly.

II. To abolish all existing fees and in their place to levy a general cess of 6¼ per cent. or one Anna in every Rupee which, on the Revenue of Fasli 1268 would yield 89,000 Rupees.

III. To assign the proceeds of the Reddies Ináms and one-third of the proposed cess, to the Village Police, and the remainder* to the Revenue Department.

* *Rupees* 1,75,563.

IV. To make the office of Potail or Headman honorary and magisterial only, on the plan proposed by Rangacharlu, Special Assistant of the Inám Commissioner.

V. To unite or club together two or more villages, where conveniently situated, so that each such group shall form a convenient charge for a set of village Officers. He has gone carefully over the District and proposes a scheme which would reduce the whole number of villages from 1,112 to 696.

VI. He proposes a scale for paying the Curnum and Vetties money salaries according to the size, &c., of their villages.

VII. On the whole the number of servants would be reduced from 25,000 to 5,000.

10. The Government have already refused to entertain the proposal of making the Headman's office honorary. Mr. Pelly therefore provides for the remuneration of these Officers on Mr. Minchin's scale, and the calculation then stands thus:—

	Rs.
Salaries of Potalls.....	74,052
Curnums.....	85,188
Vetties.....	61,410
Total...	2,20,638
Assets.	
Half Assessment of Ináms...	1,47,786
Deficit...	72,852

This deficit is 5¼ per cent. on the Revenue of Fasli 1268. The proposed cess of 6¼ per cent. would produce 89,000, so that *altogether* there would be a net excess of about 16,000 Rupees.

11. In his review of the Collector's plan, Mr. Pelly throws out a suggestion that instead of half assessment, the Ináms should be enfranchised at two-thirds; his two subsequent letters contain a stronger expression of his opinion to that effect, and are accompanied by letters from the Inám Commissioner advocating the same course.

12. The order of September 3rd 1859, as subsequently modified on this point by the order of 15th February 1860, No 233, provided that in dealing with village Service Ináms, so much should be reserved as, added to the available fees of the office, would afford a suitable provision for the office-bearer; and that the remainder should be enfranchised at half the fixed assessment. In the order of December 4th 1860, No. 2,301, the Government adopted for the Ceded Districts, (paragraph 5) a maximum scale of rates of remuneration proposed by Mr. Pelly for Maniyakárans and Curnums, which was designedly fixed high, with the object of avoiding extensive confiscations in those Districts, where the village Service Ináms are known to be very large.

13. It is now pointed out that though this rule is liberal as regards the office-bearers, it would operate hardly on the co-sharers not holding office; who would be compelled to give up their shares of the Inám, in order to provide an inordinate remuneration for the office holders. The Government fully recognize the force of this objection; and to this it is to be added that with these extensive Ináms attached to offices, much inconvenience and ground of complaint would be caused, when a change of incumbency took place, as it often must from various causes, out of the line of inheritance. Those who had held and had improved the Inám land would think it hard to have to give it up to another; and yet without such transfer, the emoluments of the in-coming office-holder could not be secure, and the present evils would be perpetuated.

14. On the whole, the Government, after careful consideration, are of opinion that the course now proposed will be the best; viz., to enfranchise the whole of the Service Ináms at two-thirds of their fixed assessment, and to pay money stipends to the office-bearers. Under this rule the wants of the office will be adequately provided for, while the co-sharers will be far better off than under the recent order; they will retain their shares of the Ináms, subject to a payment of two-thirds of the fixed assessment, instead of in general losing them entirely.

15. In paragraph 6 of his letter of December 8th, Mr. Pelly adverts to the fact that a fourth of the Inám in Kurnool is waste. It will be at the option of the holders to give up such part of their Inám as they do not wish to retain on the terms now fixed, whether because it is uncultivated or from any other cause; but all that they elect to retain will be dealt with under the present order. Inám land relinquished will be immediately transferred to the head of Government land.

16. In the case of all classes of servants except the Maniyakáran the possession and care of land is undesirable. It takes up the time of the Curnam, the Shroff, the Vettiyan, and others, which would be better given to the duties of their office. But the time of the Maniyakáran is not required to be wholly given to his official duties; and it is desirable, for the sake of the respectability which it brings, that Officers of this class, should be among the leading Ryots of their villages. It will be provided therefore that in the case of Maniyakárans the stipend, instead of being paid in money, will be allowed him in the form of deduction from the payments on account of his Putta.

17. The Governor in Council wishes Mr. Pelly to reconsider his proposed scale of remuneration for village servants. As remarked in the order of December 4th 1860, they form, on that scale, a very heavy charge on the Revenue. Under the arrangement now ordered it will not be necessary to allow the maximum rates, and even the minimum rates may in some cases be reduced. Economy may also be effected by a judicious clubbing together of small villages, as contemplated in the original order of September 3rd 1859, and of which Mr. Minchin has given so good an example.

18. With reference to the stipend of Maniyakárans in particular, the Government are of opinion that Mr. Pelly's scale is too high. As already said, this Officer's time will be only partially taken up by his duties, and the very tenure of office gives him weight and influence in the village, and the use to some extent of the inferior village servants. It is not desirable that the office should be honorary only; the Government consider such a state of things to be inconsistent with efficiency. But with a stipend greatly less than that assigned to the Curnum, the office of Maniyakáran will still be an object of primary ambition to all the leading resident Ryots.

19. This present order treats of village Service Ináms only. The subject of village fees is also touched on in the papers before Government; but that will be dealt with in a separate order.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To C. Pelly, Esq.
To the Board of Revenue.
" Inám Commissioner.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Auditor.
" Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec.d 7th Dec.r 1860 Ent.d 58-59.

List of P.C.s filed

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With an Order

No. 428 - 27 March 1861 -

Communicated to
the Inspector General
of Police.

The Inspector General
of Police

Dep.t 27-3-61.