

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

JUDICIAL.

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10TH AUGUST 1895, No. 1685, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—again the following paper:—

G.O., dated 12th March 1895, Mis. No. 559, Judicial.

Read—again G.O., dated 26th November 1894, No. 2850, Judicial.

Read—also letter from the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, dated 31st January 1895, No. 90.

Order—dated 12th March 1895, Mis. No. 559, Judicial.

It is understood that the late minor Muttadar of Kottavídhi-Lammasinghi has left behind him three male relatives, namely, a father, an elder brother and a nephew (being the elder brother's son). The elder brother is stated to be incapable of performing the duties of Muttadar, but the nature of his incapacity has not been explained. The Agent proposes that the mutta should be resumed and supports his proposal by an allusion to the disloyal conduct of Bálayya (the Pátavídhi-Lammasinghi Muttadar) in 1886 and of Narasimha (the Kottavídhi-Lammasinghi Muttadar) in 1891. But, as the former was punished by the resumption of his mutta, and as the Government has already expressed the opinion that the conduct of the latter was not such as to justify sequestration of the Kottavídhi-Lammasinghi mutta, His Excellency in Council is not prepared to accept the Agent's suggestion. Accordingly, the nephew of the late minor Muttadar will be appointed in his stead.

2. This decision renders necessary a re-consideration of Mr. Wolfe-Murray's further proposals, which are—

- (i) that the resignation of the Lotugedda Muttadar should be accepted and his mutta resumed;
- (ii) that all the resumed muttas and the Kottavídhi-Gudem mutta should be placed under an officer of the rank of Revenue Inspector on Rs. 35 rising to Rs. 50, assisted by three peons on Rs. 5; and
- (iii) that this officer should be stationed at Chintapalli and should be in subordination to the Tahsildar of Golconda.

3. The Agent will therefore be requested to report further on the subject, to furnish a rough sketch-map showing the position of *all* the muttas in the Golconda Hills and the line of the ghâts and to supply answers to the following questions:—

- (i) What, approximately, are the (a) areas, (b) population and (c) revenue of the Pátavídhi-Lammasinghi, Koyyúr, Chittampád-Bandivalsa, Lotugedda, Kottavídhi-Gudem and Kottavídhi-Lammasinghi muttas?
- (ii) What is the nature of the land tenure in the muttas the resumption of which has been ordered, and in what way does it differ from ordinary ryotwári tenure?
- (iii) By what means was the conversion of the Chittampád-Bandivalsa mutter into "Ryotwári" effected? that is to say, in what way did the conversion affect the position and interests of the cultivators?
- (iv) Has the Lotugedda Muttadar actually resigned? If not, is he determined to do so if Government insists on his residing in his mutta?

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- (v) As stated in G.O., dated 30th August 1894, No. 2105, Judicial, the Lotugedda Muttadar requested that he might be granted his mutta on patta; is this to be understood as a request to be given a patta for the whole mutta or for that portion *only* which is in his own immediate possession? Is there any objection to acceding to the request? Would the rights of any others be affected by the grant of patta for the whole mutta?
- (vi) It having been decided not to sequester Kottavidhi-Lammasinghi, is any reduction in the pay and establishment of the proposed managing officer feasible?
- (vii) Is the proposed establishment of a managing officer with three peons to take the place of the separate establishments now working in Pátavídhī-Lammasinghi, Chittampád-Bandivalsa, Koyyúr and Kottavidhi-Gudem?
- (viii) Would it be feasible to place the Kottavidhi-Lammasinghi mutta also under the supervision of the managing officer during the minority of the new Muttadar? If not, how should the mutta be managed during the Muttadar's minority?

4. The Agent, it is observed, views the Muttadarí system with dislike, and there is no doubt that it has proved on many occasions in the past a source of weakness and danger rather than of strength. The gradual absorption of the muttas appears desirable on general grounds, but, when Mr. Turner proposed the abolition of the present arrangements, Mr. Wolfe-Murray, on a reference being made to him as Principal Assistant Agent, opposed the suggestion and the matter was dropped (G.O., dated 18th November 1886, No. 3080, and G.O., dated 26th March 1888, No. 744, Judicial). Mr. Wolfe-Murray does not refer to this previous expression of opinion on his part and he will be requested to explain whether he has since altered his views of the situation.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam.

READ—also the following paper:—

From F. D'A. O. WOLFE-MURRAY, Esq., Acting Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam District, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 20th May 1895, F.D. No. 524-Agency.

Referring to G.O., No. 559, dated 12th March 1895, I have the honour to state that I will first answer the queries of Government put in paragraph 3 of the Government Order *seriatim* and then discuss further on the subject of the appointment of a Revenue Inspector for the resumed areas.

I. The following table shows the area, &c., of the four muttas which are under the management of Government and of the two which are contemplated to be resumed:

Mutta.	Area.	Population.	Revenue.
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Pátavídhī-Lammasinghi	SQ. MLS.		RS.
Koyyúr	70	1,200	540
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	250	800	562
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Lotugedda	100	200	66
Kottavidhi-Lammasinghi	40	600	365

the Agency tracts are not surveyed the figures under area are approximate and those of population.

II. My Head Assistant Agent describes the tenure in these muttas as follows:—

Each village in the mutta has to pay so much sist every year to the Muttadar, the person responsible for the sist being the village munsif. The latter collects the sist from the villagers at a proportionate customary rate which may have been probably fixed long ago by the village heads. Usually the villagers pay the munsif a little more than he pays to the Muttadar and he keeps the difference as a reward for his trouble. At times the sist of each village is subject to increase or decrease according to circumstances, but this is only in exceptional cases such as when a village is partially deserted or when additional settlers come in. This is what is elsewhere called the joint rent system, and the chief difference between this and the ryotwári tenure is that in the muttas it is the village as a whole that is responsible for the sist while in the latter it is the individual tenant. The sist in the muttas cannot, however, be called absolutely fixed for any period of years, though as a rule the customary sist is adhered to.

III. The Chittampád-Bandivalsa mutta has not yet been converted into ryotwári. A karnam and munsif were sanctioned only from 1st March. The karnam is engaged in measuring the lands roughly and in preparing an adangal account. These measurements will be checked by the Revenue Inspector and the Tahsildar in due course and then each tenant will have a sist imposed on him according to Golconda settlement rates or preferably a trifle below these. The new sists when sanctioned will be introduced from next fasli for a period of years to be fixed and each tenant will have a fixed rent to pay to Government directly, the customary service rendered to the Muttadar hitherto being abolished.

IV. The Head Assistant Agent reports that the Lotugedda Muttadar sent in his resignation, but he withdrew it subsequently saying that he is willing to live in Lotugedda. This statement cannot be believed as it is obvious that life in the hills has been long distasteful to him owing to his long stay in the plains. The paltry sum he gets from the mutta after defraying the charges (Rs. 30 for Government kattubadi and Rs. 20 for Goddess festivals out of the total demand of Rs. 66) is no inducement to him to leave the plains, for it is on the latter and not on the hills that his sole means of maintenance are to be found.

V. It is reported by the Head Assistant Agent that the Lotugedda Muttadar says he is willing to take a patta for the whole mutta. If a patta be given him he will collect his sist and pay what is due to Government as he has always done. Mr. Elwin does not think that the rights of any others would be affected by grant of patta to him, but I foresee that he would, or at least might, if he held it under an ordinary patta, cut down and sell all the jungle. As a Muttadar he cannot do this.

VI. Kottavidhi-Lammasinghi is only a small mutta and close to Narsapatam and so is easily looked after. The fact that it is not resumed will make no difference in the distances to be travelled by the managing officer and very little difference in his work. No reduction is therefore feasible in the pay and establishment of the proposed managing officer on this account.

VII. The proposed establishment of a managing officer and his three peons cannot altogether take the place of the separate establishments now working in the four muttas mentioned, but the following reductions may be made: the munsifs on Rs. 15 at Koyyur and Pátavídhī-Lammasinghi may be abolished and men on Rs. 7 appointed instead. In Chittampád-Bandivalsa and Kottavidhi-Gudem the establishments must remain as they are.

VIII. The Head Assistant Agent reports that as Kottavidhi-Lammasinghi is not to be resumed, it is not necessary to place it now under the managing officer and that the best thing to do will be to allow the minor's father (the deceased Muttadar's elder brother) to manage the mutta during the minority of his son, who is aged sixteen and not nine as mistakenly reported in paragraph 1 of my letter, No. 90, dated 30th January 1895. This man (the father) who is called Virabhadra Padal and who waived his claim in favour of his brother on account of bad health when his father was ousted, is reported to have stated that he was suffering from colic up to two years

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2. Even if Lotugedda and Kottavídhí-Lammasinghi are excluded from Government management, there will be ample provision for maintaining the Revenue Inspector and his peons from the savings of Koyyúr, Pátavídhí-Lammasinghi and Chittampád-Bandivalsa.

3. I beg to submit herewith a map, marking on it the position of all the muttas in the Golconda Hills and the line of the ghâts as well. It is on too small a scale to be very clear, but one thing is plain, and that is that Chintapalli is the centre of, and the key to, the position, and a good cart-road to Chintapalli will further strengthen that position.

4. As regards the observation of Government in paragraph 4 of the Government Order under reply, I can only say that Government itself has remarked on the failure of the Muttadárí system. I have in a previous letter shown that it is not to be expected of human nature that a single Muttadar suddenly confronted with a dozen budmashes will do anything but tremble before them and do their bidding, and that he can hardly be expected to send off at once correct information as to their movements to Government authorities, even though he knows that his failure to do so may cause him the loss of his mutta. The present fear of ten men with sticks standing about him must necessarily have much more effect on his actions than the future fear that Government will hereafter at some distant and uncertain date make a judicial inquiry into the case, perhaps take away his mutta, perhaps not, but if they do, they will certainly provide for the filling of the stomachs of himself and family for the rest of their lives. It is true that I gave a different opinion on the question in 1886, but this is 1895 and *tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*. In this period the Muttadárí system has failed, a large police station has sprung up at Chintapalli, where formerly it was common to see bison, wild dog and spotted deer within a few yards of the bungalow. The forests, I trust, will be worked and a road made and the people will be left less to their own devices. Mr. Elwin wrote to me privately two months ago: "It seems a great pity not to resume these muttas where possible, as we shall have endless bother until all these hills come under us. The Peddavalasa man has been troublesome of late, requiring much pressure to make him do repairs to bungalows and roads." It is a difficult question, no doubt, how to get rid of the Muttadars quietly according to the peaceful policy of the British Government. Gradual absorption is possibly the only feasible plan.

5. Such questions are preferably decided on the spot and the feelings of the hillmen and the Muttadars will, I think, have to be inquired into by the Agent personally. Much depends, therefore, on the Agent's personal character and influence over the people. Their language is Telugu, which I know fairly, and I would prefer to make personal enquiries on such a matter casually when out shooting or unaccompanied by any official, so as to better gain the people's confidence and occasionally to question them without their knowing who I was. This latter, now that Englishmen go up the hills to shoot occasionally, is quite practicable. I have been 15 months in the district, but it covers 17,000 odd square miles, and of that large extent of country I have as yet only covered 10,000 square miles since my appointment as Collector and Agent. As already stated, I intend on my return from leave to visit these hills during the monsoon; travelling therein, if the monsoon is average light, is possible, and if Government will allow me I will visit them later in the year and report on the hillmen's feelings. I may state that around Anantagiri, where the Maharaja's coffee plantation is, cultivation and civilization have increased in a wonderful way since my visit there in 1878, and in the Gudem hills I may also find some development since 1886.

ORDER—dated 10th August 1895, No. 1685, Judicial.

From the Agent's report it appears that there is no necessity to take under management the Kottavídhí-Lammasinghi Mutta inasmuch as the minor Muttadar is already sixteen years old and his father is capable of managing it on his behalf until he comes of age.

2. The Lotugedda Muttadar will not be permitted to withdraw his resignation and his mutta will therefore be resumed. The Government is not prepared to give him a patta for the whole mutta, but the Agent will be authorized to grant him a patta for so much of the mutta as forms his own personal holding.

3. The entertainment of the additional establishment proposed as shown below is approved:—

Name of Mutta.	Present Scale.	Proposed Scale.
	RS.	RS.
Pátavídhí-Lammasinghi	1 Peon on .. 15	1 Munsif on .. 7
Koyyúr	{ 1 Munsif on .. 15 2 Peons on Rs. 5 .. 10	{ 1 Munsif on .. 7 2 Peons on Rs. 5 .. 10
Chittampád-Bandivalsa	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 1 Karnam on .. 6	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 1 Karnam on .. 6
Kottavídhí Gudem	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 2 Peons on Rs. 2½ .. 5	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 2 Peons on Rs. 2½ .. 5
Lotugedda	Nil.	Nil.
General establishment	Nil.	{ 1 Revenue Inspector on 35—50 .. 45 3 Peons on Rs. 5 .. 15
	Total .. 61	Total .. 105

The necessary formal proposition statement should now be submitted.

4. When the Kottavídhí-Gudem Muttadar, who is now only nine years old, comes of age, it should be reported whether any reduction in establishment is rendered feasible by the withdrawal of the mutta from the Revenue Inspector's charge and whether it would not be desirable to transfer the head-quarters of that officer from Chintapalli.

5. When the survey and settlement of the Chittampád-Bandivalsa Mutta is approaching completion, the Agent should report for the approval of Government the rates of assessment which it is proposed to lay, mentioning the term for which he would impose them and stating how the will affect the cultivators as compared with the payments to which they are now liable.

6. With regard to the general question of the resumption of the muttas in the Golconda Hills, the Government considers that no active steps can be taken in the matter for the present at any rate.

(True Extra

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J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

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2. This decision renders necessary a re-consideration of Mr. Wolfe-Murray's further proposals, which are—

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4. The Agent, it is observed, views the Muttadarí system with dislike, and there is no doubt that it has proved on many occasions in the past a source of weakness and danger rather than of strength. The gradual absorption of the muttas appears desirable on general grounds, but, when Mr. Turner proposed the abolition of the present arrangements, Mr. Wolfe-Murray, on a reference being made to him as Principal Assistant Agent, opposed the suggestion and the matter was dropped (G.O., dated 18th November 1886, No. 3080, and G.O., dated 26th March 1888, No. 744, Judicial). Mr. Wolfe-Murray does not refer to this previous expression of opinion on his part and he will be requested to explain whether he has since altered his views of the situation.

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2. Even if Lotugedda and Kottavídhí-Lammasinghi are excluded from Government management, there will be ample provision for maintaining the Revenue Inspector and his peons from the savings of Koyyúr, Pátavídhí-Lammasinghi and Chittampád-Bandivalsa.

3. I beg to submit herewith a map, marking on it the position of all the muttas in the Golconda Hills and the line of the ghâts as well. It is on too small a scale to be very clear, but one thing is plain, and that is that Chintapalli is the centre of, and the key to, the position, and a good cart-road to Chintapalli will further strengthen that position.

4. As regards the observation of Government in paragraph 4 of the Government Order under reply, I can only say that Government itself has remarked on the failure of the Muttadári system. I have in a previous letter shown that it is not to be expected of human nature that a single Muttadar suddenly confronted with a dozen budmashes will do anything but tremble before them and do their bidding, and that he can hardly be expected to send off at once correct information as to their movements to Government authorities, even though he knows that his failure to do so may cause him the loss of his mutta. The present fear of ten men with sticks standing about him must necessarily have much more effect on his actions than the future fear that Government will hereafter at some distant and uncertain date make a judicial inquiry into the case, perhaps take away his mutta, perhaps not, but if they do, they will certainly provide for the filling of the stomachs of himself and family for the rest of their lives. It is true that I gave a different opinion on the question in 1886, but this is 1895 and *tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*. In this period the Muttadári system has failed, a large police station has sprung up at Chintapalli, where formerly it was common to see bison, wild dog and spotted deer within a few yards of the bungalow. The forests, I trust, will be worked and a road made and the people will be left less to their own devices. Mr. Elwin wrote to me privately two months ago: "It seems a great pity not to resume these muttas where possible, as we shall have endless bother until all these hills come under us. The Peddavalasa man has been troublesome of late, requiring much pressure to make him do repairs to bungalows and roads." It is a difficult question, no doubt, how to get rid of the Muttadars quietly according to the peaceful policy of the British Government. Gradual absorption is possibly the only feasible plan.

5. Such questions are preferably decided on the spot and the feelings of the hillmen and the Muttadars will, I think, have to be inquired into by the Agent personally. Much depends, therefore, on the Agent's personal character and influence over the people. Their language is Telugu, which I know fairly, and I would prefer to make personal enquiries on such a matter casually when out shooting or unaccompanied by any official, so as to better gain the people's confidence and occasionally to question them without their knowing who I was. This latter, now that Englishmen go up the hills to shoot occasionally, is quite practicable. I have been 15 months in the district, but it covers 17,000 odd square miles, and of that large extent of country I have as yet only covered 10,000 square miles since my appointment as Collector and Agent. As already stated, I intend on my return from leave to visit these hills during the monsoon; travelling therein, if the monsoon is average light, is possible, and if Government will allow me I will visit them later in the year and report on the hillmen's feelings. I may state that around Anantagiri, where the Maharaja's coffee plantation is, cultivation and civilization have increased in a wonderful way since my visit there in 1878, and in the Gudem hills I may also find some development since 1886.

ORDER—dated 10th August 1895, No. 1685, Judicial.

From the Agent's report it appears that there is no necessity to take under management the Kottavídhí-Lammasinghi Mutta inasmuch as the minor Muttadar is already sixteen years old and his father is capable of managing it on his behalf until he comes of age.

2. The Lotugedda Muttadar will not be permitted to withdraw his resignation and his mutta will therefore be resumed. The Government is not prepared to give him a patta for the whole mutta, but the Agent will be authorized to grant him a patta for so much of the mutta as forms his own personal holding.

3. The entertainment of the additional establishment proposed as shown below is approved:—

Name of Mutta.	Present Scale.	Proposed Scale.
Pátavídhí-Lammasinghi	1 Peon on .. 15	1 Munsif on .. 7
Koyyúr	{ 1 Munsif on .. 15 2 Peons on Rs. 5 .. 10	{ 1 Munsif on .. 7 2 Peons on Rs. 5 .. 10
Chittampád-Bandivalsa	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 1 Karnam on .. 6	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 1 Karnam on .. 6
Kottavídhí Gudem	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 2 Peons on Rs. 2½ .. 5	{ 1 Munsif on .. 5 2 Peons on Rs. 2½ .. 5
Lotugedda	Nil.	Nil.
General establishment	Nil.	{ 1 Revenue Inspector on 35—50 .. 45 3 Peons on Rs. 5 .. 15
	Total .. 61	Total .. 105

The necessary formal proposition statement should now be submitted.

4. When the Kottavídhí-Gudem Muttadar, who is now only nine years old, comes of age, it should be reported whether any reduction in establishment is rendered feasible by the withdrawal of the mutta from the Revenue Inspector's charge and whether it would not be desirable to transfer the head-quarters of that officer from Chintapalli.

5. When the survey and settlement of the Chittampád-Bandivalsa Mutta is approaching completion, the Agent should report for the approval of Government the rates of assessment which it is proposed to levy, mentioning the term for which he would impose them and stating how they will affect the cultivators as compared with the payments to which they are now liable.

6. With regard to the general question of the resumption of the muttas in the Golconda Hills, the Government considers that no active steps can be taken in the matter for the present at any rate.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam.