

(1) Number of pages 26(2) Date of repair 3-11-42(3) Initials of the Referencer G**MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.****Government of Madras.***Judicial* **DEPARTMENT.**G.O. No. 654Press
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12/1291
23
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Government of Madras.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

G.O., No. 654, 3rd April 1890.

Gunpowder for the Zamorin.

Stating that the supply of gunpowder to the Zamorin of Calicut for the Miyama-vedi will be continued gratuitously as before, but no future grant of gunpowder will be made on occasion of installations.

Government of Madras.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Recd.

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Regd.

1890.

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G.O., No. 654, 3rd April 1890.

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OFFICE

Gunpowder for the Zamorin.

Stating that the supply of gunpowder to the Zamorin of Calicut for the Miyama-vedi will be continued gratuitously as before, but no future grant of gunpowder will be made on occasion of installations.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers:—

I

Official Memorandum No. 2, Judicial, dated 10th January 1890.

Adverting to the annual indent for gunpowder for the Zamorin of Calicut, the District Magistrate of Malabar is requested to report, with reference to the statement in paragraph 1 of his letter, dated 3rd May 1861, No. 43, recorded in Government Order, No. 1687, Military, dated 11th May 1861, that the Zamorin "is entitled to receive 50 lb. of powder monthly", the number and date of the Government Order on which the statement is based. He will also report the purpose for which the gunpowder is supplied, whether for daily salutes as alleged, or, as would appear from the enclosure to the District Magistrate's letter, dated 12th May 1821, disposed of by E.M.C. No. 189, dated 22nd May 1825, for the daily ceremony called Miyama-vedi" which seem to be a religious rite. If, for the latter purpose, the issue is apparently contrary to E.M.C. No. 34, dated 18th January 1844.

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

II

Letter—from H. M. WINTERBOTHAM, Esq., I.C.S., District Magistrate of Malabar.
To—the Chief Secretary to Government.
Dated—Calicut, the 27th February 1890.
No.—506-M.

With reference to Official Memoranda No. 2, dated 10th January 1890, and No. 157, dated 31st January 1890, I have the honour to report that I have not been able to trace any order of Government on which the District Magistrate's statement that the "Zamorin is entitled to receive 50 lb. of gunpowder monthly" is based.

2. The papers I have on record are noted below:—

- (1) District Magistrate's letter to Government, dated 12th May 1821, with translation of the enclosure thereto.
- (2) Judicial Department Secretary's letter No. 189, dated 22nd May 1821.
- (3) District Magistrate's letter to Government, dated 22nd December 1821.
- (4) Judicial Department Secretary's letter No. 13, dated 8th January 1822.
- (5) District Magistrate's letter No. 33, dated 18th November 1843.
- (6) E.M.C. No. 34, dated 16th January 1844.
- (7) E.M.C. No. 253, dated 29th April 1851.
- (8) District Magistrate's letter No. 18, dated 19th May 1851.
- (9) G.O., No. 1106, Judicial, dated 21st July 1864.

Note.—In the margin of this last order is quoted a letter, dated 20th March 1815, from the Magistrate in the zillah of South Malabar; but this is not forthcoming.

3. In his letter forming the enclosure to the District Magistrate's letter dated 12th May 1821, the Zamorin speaks of the origin of the grant as dating from the year 966 M.E. (1799 A.D.) when Malabar came under the British power, and of the quantity having been fixed by "the Honourable the Governor of Bombay" at 36 maunds a year; and, in reply to a communication I made on receipt of the official memorandum under reply, the present Zamorin gives the same account of the grant.

4. The vernacular term incorrectly transliterated as Miyama-vedi is properly Niyama-vedi, and Gundert's dictionary gives this as meaning "morning and evening gun". It literally means "regular gun-fire".

5. The gunpowder supplied to the Zamorin is used for firing two guns in the morning when the Zamorin rises and two at 6 o'clock in the evening. This Niyama-vedi is regarded at once as a time-gun and a royal salute, and has no connection whatever with any religious rite or ceremony.

6. If this time-honoured privilege were now withdrawn, it would be difficult to make the Zamorin understand that the withdrawal indicated no displeasure on the part of Government. Like his ancestor, in 1821 (in the letter referred to by Government), the present Zamorin would deem a withdrawal of the privilege to be a great disgrace, and on this ground I would beg that the concession be continued.

7. The grants of gunpowder on the occasion of installations have been few and far between, and no one can feel injured, if Government is pleased to direct that no such grant will be made in future. The only instances I can find on record were sanctioned in the following Government Orders:—

G.O., No. 812, Judicial, dated 25th May 1866, this office letter * No. 108, dated 30th October 1878, and G.O.,
* Recorded in Official Memorandum No. 2049 R., No. 2240, Judicial, dated 30th October 1888.
dated 1st November 1878.

Order—No. 654, Judicial, dated 3rd April 1890.

The Government agrees with the District Magistrate. The supply of gunpowder to the Zamorin for the Miyama-vedi will be continued gratuitously as before, but no future grant of gunpowder on occasion of installations will be made.

(True Extract.)

J. GROSE,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the District Magistrate, Malabar.

2/9
No. 654, JUDICIAL, 3RD APRIL 1890.

3. In his letter forming the enclosure to the District Magistrate's letter dated 12th May 1821, the Zamorin speaks of the origin of the grant as dating from the year 966 M. E. 1799 A. D. when Malabar came under the British power, and of the quantity having been fixed by "the Honourable the Governor of Bombay" at 86 maunds a year; and, in reply to a communication I made on receipt of the official memorandum under reply, the present Zamorin gives the same account of the grant.

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5. The gunpowder supplied to the Zamorin is used for firing two guns in the morning when the Zamorin rises and two at 6 o'clock in the evening. This Niyama-vedi is regarded at once as a time-gun and a royal salute, and has no connection whatever with any religious rite or ceremony.

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* Recorded in Official Memorandum No. 2049 R., dated 30th October 1878; and G.O.,
dated 1st November 1878. No. 2240, Judicial, dated 30th October 1888.

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(True Extract.)

J. GROSE,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

To the District Magistrate, Malabar.

G.O., No. 654, 3rd April 1890.

Gunpowder for the Zamorin.

Stating that the supply of gunpowder to the Zamorin of Calicut for the Niyama-vedi will be continued gratuitously as before, but no future grant of gunpowder will be made on occasion of installations.

1891 the original in same place
Total 1000 lbs. of powder
3/10/11

NOTES TO G.O., No. 651, JUDICIAL, DATED 3RD APRIL 1890.

[SUBJECT.—Gunpowder for the Zamorin of Calicut.]

Chief Secretary—

The old papers put up show that the Zamorin of Calicut has always been supplied with gunpowder by the State. In his letter to the Assistant Magistrate, Calicut, the "Samoory Raja," in reply to a letter informing him that he could not be supplied with the usual annual supply of 36 maunds required for performing the daily "Memawaddy" ceremony as there was no powder in store of the kind (unserviceable) given for religious purposes, pointed out that from the time his country was ceded to the Company to the present period he had always been supplied with powder for the performance of religious rites and that it was the Hon'ble Mr. Duncan, the Governor of Bombay, who had fixed the quantity to be supplied at 36 maunds and prayed that it may be arranged to supply him with the usual quantity.

Consultation 189, 22nd May 1821.

The Government sanctioned the supply of serviceable powder and ordered its cost to be debited to the Judicial department.

In a subsequent order, the Government informed the District Magistrate that it considered it very proper that the Rajas and Chiefs of Malabar should be

Consultation 13, 8th January 1822,

supplied with gunpowder to celebrate their feasts according to the usage of the country and that if the quantity be supplied it should be supplied gratis.

In 1844, the Government approved the proceedings of the District Magistrate, Malabar, withholding the grant of gunpowder when required for religious

Consultation 34, 18th January 1844.

rites, but authorized its supply on the occasions of feasts and festivals unconnected with religious ceremonies. The action of this Government was approved by the Court of Directors.

In a letter from the District Magistrate, Calicut, dated 3rd May 1861, he stated

Proceedings, Military, 1887, 11th May 1861. that the Zamorin is entitled to receive 50 lbs. of powder monthly, but the Record department is unable to trace the order fixing this quantity.

Under Secretary—

If the Record department is unable to trace the authority for the statement made in the letter of the District Magistrate embodied in G.O., No. 217, Military, dated 11th May 1861, a reference to the District Magistrate might lead to its being traced. There may be some further correspondence which may have been overlooked. Thirtysix maunds *per annum* is, so far as can at present be seen, the quantity to which the Zamorin was held to be entitled, but that does not—50 lbs. *per mensem*. From General letter No. 4, dated 3rd January 1845, and E.M.C. No. 34, dated 16th January 1844, it appears that Government confirmed the discontinuance by the then District Magistrate of Malabar of the supply of gunpowder for religious rites and confined it only to feasts and festivals. From the enclosure to E.M.C. No. 189, dated 22nd May 1821, it appears that there is a ceremony called "Memawaddy" which seems to be a religious rite, and it seems probable that the powder applied for is not intended for daily salutes as alleged but for this ceremony. It would be as well, I think, to obtain definite information regarding this from the District Magistrate.

J. F. PRICE—19-12-99.

Official Memorandum to the District Magistrate, Malabar, dated 27th February 1890, No. 506-M.

In 1889, the District Magistrate of Malabar applied for sanction "for the usual supply of 600 lbs. of gunpowder to the Zamorin of Calicut" stating that "the gunpowder is required for daily salutes." The Honourable Member passed the endorsement—G.O., R. No. 1261, dated 20th November 1889—transferring the indent to the Military department for compliance, but asked how the Zamorin was entitled to the supply.

Some papers were then collected from the Record, but as the information was incomplete, the Chief Secretary in his note, dated 19th December directed a reference to be made to the District Magistrate, Malabar.

Meantime in 1890, another case came up in regard to the supply in 1888 of a barrel of gunpowder to the Eliya Raja on his installation. The Honourable Member then noted his opinion that future supplies of this kind should be discontinued, but deferred passing orders until the reply to the reference above mentioned was received.

NOTES TO G.O., No. 651, JUDICIAL, 3RD APRIL 1890.

There are thus two questions—first, as to the periodical supply to the Zamorin of Calicut of gunpowder for daily salutes; second, as to the occasional supply to several of the Rajas of Malabar of gunpowder for salutes at the time of installation.

As regards the first, the District Magistrate has been unable to point to the original order sanctioning the supply, but the correspondence referred to by him

Letter of 20th March 1815.

proves the privilege to be a very ancient one. The earliest paper is one of 1815

when the District Magistrate, in submitting an indent for powder, said it was needed "for the use of the Zamorin Raja who, in consideration of his rank and character, is permitted to continue an ancient custom in firing two small guns from his Palace morning and evening and for the performance of the principal religious ceremonies at the various pagodas within his jurisdiction."

In 1821, no *damaged* powder which was usually supplied was available, and the District Magistrate was thus unable to make the periodical supply. The Zamorin, thereupon, addressed a memorial on the subject to the Assistant Magistrate in which he said that "the annual supply of 36 maunds required for performing the 'Memawaddy' ceremony" had been granted him "from the time when the

* Answering to A. D. 1791.

In Consultation 22nd May 1821.

country was ceded to the Honourable Company, viz, 966, to the present time." He added that the quantity 36

maunds had been fixed by the Government of Bombay. The usual supply was then passed by Government.

The matter came up again in 1843-44. The Court of Directors had just then issued its important orders directing the severance of all Government connection with native religious temples, festivals and ceremonies, and the District Magistrate considered that he was thereby required to stop the supply of gunpowder intended for use in religious ceremonies. At the instance, however, of the Eliya Raja, he referred the matter to Government. After some discussion among the members of Government, it was laid down that the Magistrate's action in stopping the supply was proper, but that Government did not wish "to withhold the indulgence when it

EM.C. No. 34, 16th January 1861.

is solicited on the occasion of feasts and festivals unconnected with religious ceremonies."

From that date, therefore, the powder has been apparently granted only for the morning and evening gun and not for any religious ceremony.

The question of this supply was raised again in 1864, but the grant was continued (G.O., No. 1106, dated 21st July 1864).

It is proved that so early as 1815 the grant was a customary one, and that in 1821 the Zamorin asserted that he had enjoyed the privilege since 1791. The District Magistrate points out that it could not be withdrawn without making the Zamorin feel that he was in disgrace, and it is submitted that so small a concession may well be continued as recommended by Mr. Winterbotham. The exact amount of powder supplied is not very clear. In 1821, it was stated to be 36 maunds a year; in 1861, the District Magistrate reported that the Zamorin was "entitled

G.O., 1687, 11th May 1861.

"to receive 50 lbs. monthly." Supposing the maund mentioned in 1821 to be one

of 25 lbs., the annual supply would thus be 900 lbs. or 50 per cent. larger than the supply mentioned in 1861, and the decrease may, perhaps, be due to the supply being no longer made for religious ceremonies. Perhaps, however, it is unnecessary to go into the question of the exact amount supplied. The District Magistrate's present letter shows that the supply is made only for the daily salute or time-gun and that this has no connection with any religious rite.

There is the further question concerning the supply of gunpowder for use at installations. As to this, Mr. Winterbotham says that the grants have been few and far between and that no one can feel injured if Government should direct that no such grant shall be made in future. He expressed a similar view in his letter recorded in G.O., No. 157, dated 31st January 1890. The amount granted to the Eliya Raja in 1888 was 70 lbs. The point seems a small one, but it hardly appears necessary to keep up this custom.

A. G. CARDEN—25-3-90.

J. G. R. E.—26-3-90. *hoh*

Approved.

The supply to the Zamorin is gratuitous and worth a good deal. If it were abolished, he would clearly have to be compensated.

H. E. STOKES—27-3-90.

[G.O., No. 651, Judicial, dated 3rd April 1890.]

A. Rumpelstein

102 151 P 155
Memo of 10 Jan 1890.

Adverting to the annual order
for gunpowder for the Zamorin of
Calicut, the D.M. of Malabar is
requested to report, with reference to
the statement in para 1 of his
letter of 3rd May 1887, W. 63, recorded
in G.O. Military, of 11 May 1887,
no 1687, that the Zamorin is
entitled to receive 50 lbs of powder
annually, the number & date of
the G.O. in which the statement
is based. He will also report
the purpose for which the gunpowder
is supplied, whether for daily
salute as ordered, or, as is
shown from the Enclosure to the
1st May Co. letter of 12 May 1887,
referred to by G.M.C. 22 May 1887,
no 189 for the daily ceremony
called 'Memawaddy' which
seems to be a religious rite. If
for the latter purpose, the info.

68/10/14

16 Jan'y 1944 v. 34

27 Jan 1944

To the Wm. of Ministers

with copy for 11 May 1944

W. H. H.

In Cons. 22 May/26. H. 17

The old viapas perhaps
 that the Examiners of Madras
 always been supplied with
 powder by the State. - In
 letter to the Assistant Master
 of the "Lamoori Rajah,"
 only two letters informing
 that he could not supply it
 at the ~~usual~~ ^{usual} annual
 of 36 cuds required for
 forming the daily ^{men} ~~men~~
 among as there was no powder
 of the kind (unservicable)
 for religious purposes, printed
 that from the time his country
 was added to the Company to the
 present period he ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~not~~ ^{not}

supplied with powder for
performance religious rites
that it was the Gov. Mr.
Mr. Gov. of Bombay
had fixed the quantity bl.
1112 at 36 mds - and prays

that it might be arranged to supply him with the usual quantity

The Govt sanctioned the purchase of powder for the use of the

In a subsequent order the Govt informed the D. Magt.

It considered it very proper that the Rajas & Chiefs of the

should be supplied with gun powder

to the use of the Court

and the Govt. authorities

It was decided that

In 1846 the Govt. after

the proceedings of the D. Magt.

Malabar withholding

grant of gun powder was

required for religious use

but authorized to supply

on the occasion of fairs

and festivals connected

with religious ceremonies

The action of the Govt. was

approved by the Council

In a letter from the D.

Magt. Calicut of 3 May

he stated that the Govt.

is entitled to receive 50

of powder monthly - but

the Govt. is unable

to supply

the order

Cons 22 May 1821. 159

Cons 8 Jan'y 1822. 13.

Cons 16 Jan'y 1846. 34.

Cons 11 May 1847. 1887

Jud
CN^o 803.

3
13

From D^t. Magt^r, Malabar, 27 Feb 9.
N^o 506 m.

For order.

In CN^o 4103 of 1809 the D^t. Magt^r of Malabar applied for sanction for the usual supply of 600 lbs of gun powder to the Zamorin of Calicut, stating that "the gun powder is required for daily Salutes". H.M. passed the Indorsement by 20 Nov. 1803 N^o 1261 R^o transferring the Indent to the mil. dep^t for compliance, but asked how the Zamorin was entitled to the supply.

Some papers were then collected from the Zamorin but as the information was incomplete, the Chief Secy. in his note dated 19 Dec^r, directed a reference to be made to the D^t. Magt^r Malabar.

Meanwhile in CN^o 105/90. another case came up, regarding the supply in 1806 of a barrel of gun powder to the Raja on his installation. H.M. then ~~passed~~ ^{noted his opinion} that future supplies of this kind should be discontinued, but deferred passing orders until the reply to the Reference above mentioned was rec^d.

There are thus two questions - 1st as to the periodical supply to the Zamorin of Calicut of gun powder for daily Salutes - 2^d as to the occasional supply to several of the Rajas of Malabar of gun powder for Salutes at the time of installation.

As regards the first, the D^t. Magt^r has been unable to point to ^{the original} order sanctioning the supply, but the correspondence referred to by him proves the privilege to be a very ancient one. The earliest paper is one of 315 - where the D^t. Magt^r in submission Indent for powder - said it was need

Letter of 20 mch 1815

consideration of his rank & character is permitted to continue an ancient custom in firing 2 small guns from his Palace morning & evening & for the performance of the principal religious ceremonies at the various pagodas within his jurisdiction -

In 1821 - no damaged powder - w^h was usually supplied - was available, & the St. Magt^y was, thus, unable to make the periodical supply. The Zamorin, therefore, addressed a memorial on the subject to the Asst. Magt^y - in which he said that the annual supply of 36 maunds, required for performing the Pema-waddy Ceremony ~~at the pagoda~~ had been granted him from the time when the country was ceded to the Honble Compt^y viz. 1661 to the present time. He added that the quantity 36 maunds had been fixed by the Govt of Bombay. The usual supply was then passed by Govt.

answering to A.D. 1791.

In Govt 22 May 1821.

The matter came up again in 1843-44. The Court of Directors had just then issued its important orders directing the severance of all Govt connection with native religious temples, festivals & ceremonies, & the St. Magt^y considered that he was, thereby, required to stop the supply of gunpowder intended for use in religious ceremonies. At the instance, however, of the Eluja Raja, he referred the matter to Govt. After some discussion among the members of Govt, it was laid down that the Magt's action in stopping the supply is proper but that Govt did not wish to withhold the indulgence when it is solicited on the occasion of Feasts & Festivals connected with religious ceremonies.

EMC. 16 Jan 44.
183.

From that date, therefore, the powder has been apparently granted only for the morning & evening gun - & not for any religious ceremony.

The question of this supply was raised again in 1864 - but the grant was continued - (G.O. 21 July 1864. N^o 1106).

It is proved that so early as 1815 the grant was a customary one, & that in 1821 the Zamorin asserted that he had enjoyed the privilege since 1791. The St. Magt^y points out that it could not be withdrawn without making the Zamorin feel that he was disgraced - & it is submitted that ^{as a small concession} it may well be continued as recommended by Mr. Winterbottom.

The exact amt^y of powder supplied is not very clear. In 1821, it was stated to be 36 maunds a year: in 1861 - the St. Magt^y reported that the Zamorin was "entitled to receive 50 lbs monthly". Supposing the maunds mentioned in 1821 to be one of 256, the annual supply w^h thus be 900 lbs. or 50 per cent. larger than the supply mentioned in 1861, & the decrease may perhaps be due to the supply being no longer made for religious ceremonies. Perhaps, however, it is unnecessary to go into the question of the exact amount supplied. The St. Magt's present letter shows that the supply is made only for the daily salute or time gun & that this has no connection with any religious rite.

There is the further question concerning the supply of gunpowder for use at religious occasions. As to this, Mr. Winterbottom states that the grants have been few & far

G.O. 11 May 1861
N^o 1657

that and no one can feel injured if Govt. should direct that no such grant should be made in future. He expressed a similar view in his letter recorded in No. 31 Jan 1890. N. 157. The amt. granted to the Eliza Rajah in 1888 was 70 lbs. The point seems a small one, but it hardly appears necessary to keep up this custom.

slf
25 mar.

26/3

Approved.
The supply to the Zamorin is gratuitous with a good deal. If it were abolished he would clearly have to be compensated.

W.S.
27 mar

Order, 3rd Dec 1890 N-154
The Govt. agrees with the D. Mag. A. The supply of gunpowder to the Zamorin for the Niyamma Veds will be continued gratuitously as before, but no future grant of gunpowder on occasion of installations will be made.

From order.
slf
28 mar. 25/3

Govt. Calabar des 5/4

[1]

PRESS SLIP.

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Current No., dated 190

G.O., No. 654, dated 3.4.1890

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C. M. SCHMIDT,
Registrar,
Chief Secretariat.

[P.T.O.]

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READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED 188, No. MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURE.

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[Despatch Abstract.]

agreeing with the District Surgeon
of Malabar, and stating that the
supply of gunpowder to the Zam
rins of Calicut for the Nijama
Vedi will be continued, particu
larly as before, but no future
grant of gunpowder will be
made on occasion of similar
petitions.

24/9/87

3-11-97

7-2-98

9-2-98

13/11/90

17-8-98

6-11-99

20.12.11

17.12.16

17.11.24 BT

11.12.28 BT

12.11.29 BT

13.9.30 BT

23.6.32 BT

24.8.34 BT

24.11.34 BT

4.1.38 BT