

PRINTED.

DATED 25th February 1895.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Birth and Death Registers.

Referring to all Chairmen of Municipal Councils and the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, G.O., dated 28th January 1895, No. 45, Revenue, for report as to the manner in which--are now kept in municipalities.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

(Copy)

Revenue
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Current No. 9456 of 1894.

Retention of village registers of births & deaths

From

B. P. d/ 17 December 1894.

No. 6919 Mis.

FOR ORDERS.

These Birth & Death Registers though they are not compiled in a very trustworthy manner have some evidential value. The questions which come before the Courts after many years have not arisen when the entries are made and are not likely to give rise to false entries. I do not see why these records are more likely to be falsified subsequently than other records. The High Court thinks they ought to be retained. On the whole I agree with the suggestion made in the note. These records do not satisfy the conditions for permanent retention, but they may be retained for 10 instead of 5 years.

(Initialed) J. G.
23/1.

We ^{may} agree with the Board generally. The original suggestion for permanent retention was commended by the High Court but perhaps without very full consideration.

The main arguments against the proposal appear to me to be,
(a) the comparative worthlessness for legal purposes of the statistics;
(b) the facilities for fabrication and falsification; and
(c) the inefficiency of the agency which compiles them.

If we retain these records permanently we are likely to give them

a factitious, artificial and spurious value. As things are at present, the limit of retention should not I think exceed the period during which fairly sound independent testimony might ordinarily be expected to be available to parties against whom these records, which of course have a certain value, are produced in evidence. On this principle, the period of retention might perhaps be extended to 10 years. The present period is 5 years. The difficulty & expense of retention should not be very serious.

As the question is also judicial, I have marked this pp. for both

(Initialed) G.S.F.

19/1/5.

I don't think we are sufficiently advanced at present in India for the formation of such a Registry of Births as is maintained in England. But of course we ought to have a better system than we have at present & we shall have to come to it some day, expensive though it certainly will be. In the meantime, I think we might make a beginning in Muni. towns. The L. & M. Deptt. might ascertain how Municipalities keep B. & D. registers, especially the former, whether in bound books and whether the names of the children as well as of the parents are entered therein and what steps are taken to prevent subsequent interlineations and erasures. It is not,*

Vide appendix to Bogard's Standing Orders No. 219 under village accounts. The village Birth & Death Register is section of village account No. 19.

* difficult to check both. An entry by some responsible person of the totals of the no. of columns in each page would prevent the first and a similar stat. of the no. of erasures would prevent the second. I would say that we might arrange for Muni. Registers being sent once a month to Sub Registrars for this purpose.

(Initialed) H. W. B.

23/1/95.

The Hon. Mr. Grose J. C. S.
The Hon. Mr. Bates J. C. S.

C. 22/1.
R 24/1.

28TH JANUARY 1895, No. 45, REVENUE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., dated 17th November 1894, Mis. No. 4484, Revenue:—

Read—the following letter from H. W. FOSTER, Esq., Registrar of the High Court of Judicature, Appellate Side, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated 30th October 1894, No. 3151:—

I am directed to forward herewith copy of a letter, No. 75, dated 4th September 1894, addressed to this Court by the District Judge of Kurnool, who suggests the advisability of directing the permanent retention of the village registers of births and deaths in modification of the present rule sanctioning their destruction after five years.

2. The High Court agrees with the District Judge that these registers are valuable records which should be preserved, and I am to commend the suggestion to the Government's consideration.

ENCLOSURE.

From W. M. THORBURN, Esq., District Judge, Kurnool, to the Registrar of the High Court of Judicature, Appellate Side, Madras, dated 4th September 1894, No. 75.

In a very large number of suits the date of a birth or death is a fact in issue. Often the decision depends entirely on proof, or want of proof, that a certain person died before or after a certain date or another person. Definite evidence is very rarely forthcoming and is still more rarely to be trusted. A public record of births and deaths would enable the Courts to settle such issues with ease and confidence. Such a record is maintained in each village (at least each Sirkar village), but is now destroyed in the Collector's office after five years. It is therefore practically useless for judicial purposes. I beg therefore that the High Court will move Government to direct the permanent retention of these records for the future.

No. 2144.

Transferred to the Revenue Department for disposal. It is understood that the records in question are destroyed under a Standing Order of the Board of Revenue (Appendix to No. 219).

5th November 1894.

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

Order—dated 17th November 1894, Mis. No. 4484, Revenue.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), dated 17th December 1894, Mis. No. 6919:—

Read—G.O., dated 17th November 1894, Mis. No. 4484, Revenue.

Resolution—dated 17th December 1894, Mis. No. 6919.

The effect of the proposal made in the papers read above would be to burden record-rooms with a mass of birth and death registers, most of which would never be required. Requisitions from the Courts to produce the registers or certified extracts therefrom would entail on taluk officials the expenditure of much time which could ill be spared and an amount of trouble altogether incommensurate, in the Board's opinion with the value of the evidence when produced, since the percentage of entries verified by responsible officers is exceedingly small, and the fabrication of false entries would be a matter of but little difficulty. For the foregoing reasons, the Board considers the proposal futile and impracticable.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two enclosures returned.

ORDER—dated 28th January 1895, No. 45, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Birth and death registers are not compiled in a very trustworthy manner by village officers, but there is no reason to suppose that their use in evidence would give rise to false entries or to falsification of entries already made. To retain them permanently would, however, give them an artificial value, and, having regard to the inefficiency of the agency compiling them, the Government is of opinion that the limit of retention should not exceed the period during which fairly sound independent testimony might ordinarily be expected to be available to parties against whom they may be produced in evidence. The period of retention in the case of these records will accordingly be fixed at ten years.

2. It is doubtless very desirable to improve the present system of registration, but the country is not yet sufficiently advanced for the maintenance in rural tracts of such a registry of births and deaths as is maintained in England. His Excellency the Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that something in this direction might be done in Municipal towns, and the subject will be considered further in the Local and Municipal Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Local and Municipal Department, with Hon'ble Members' notes, in original
,, the Judicial Department
,, the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Exd. A. Grubert.

45 Copies.

4 de

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
REVENUE.

30

CS
PS. Order 2572-75 89286 M

Issued

Recd.

G.O., 28th January 1895, No. 45.

JANUARY

13 FEB 1895

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Birth and Death Registers.

Directing that the period of retention of rural — should be ten years instead of five, and stating that the subject should be further considered in the Local and Municipal Department in view to the system of registration of vital statistics being improved in Municipal towns.

The Government order read above will be referred to all Chairmen of Municipal Councils, and the President Municipal Commission, Madras, for report the manner in which the Birth & Death registers, especially the former, are now kept in Municipalities, whether in bound books, and whether the names of the children as well as of the parents are entered therein, and what steps are taken to prevent subsequent interlineations and erasures.

13/1/95 11/19/295. 18
21/2/95.

Seen

M. V. 19/5

Is kind of any use asking regarding names of children. as the naming of a child comes along some time after it is born. I think with records in the S. Lang. but I am not sure.

To. All Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
Collector
The President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
Sanitary Commissioner.

Dated 6/3/95

25TH FEBRUARY 1895, No. 286 M., LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

G.O., dated 28th January 1895, No. 45, Revenue.

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2. The High Court agrees with the District Judge that these registers are valuable records which should be preserved, and I am to commend the suggestion to the Government's consideration.

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Chief Secretary.

5th November 1894.

Order—dated 17th November 1894, Mis. No. 4484, Revenue.

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(True Extract.)

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Resolution—dated 17th December 1894, Mis. No. 6919.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed)

L. M. WYNCH,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two enclosures returned.

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Miscellaneous.

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2. It is doubtless very desirable to improve the present system of registration, but the country is not yet sufficiently advanced for the maintenance in rural tracts of such a registry of births and deaths as is maintained in England. His Excellency the Governor in Council is, however, of opinion that something in this direction might be done in Municipal towns, and the subject will be considered further in the Local and Municipal Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

E. GIBSON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Local and Municipal Department,
with Hon'ble Members' notes, in original.
,, the Judicial Department.
,, the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

ORDER—dated 25th February 1895, No. 286 M., Local and Municipal.

The Government Order read above will be referred to all Chairmen of Municipal Councils and the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, who will be requested to report the manner in which birth and death registers, especially the former, are now

kept in Municipalities, whether they are maintained in bound books, whether the names of the children as well as of the parents are entered therein, and what steps are taken to prevent subsequent interlineations and erasures.

(True Extract.)

J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

To all Chairmen of Municipal Councils.
,, all Collectors.
,, the President, Municipal Commission, Madras.
,, the Sanitary Commissioner.

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(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Local and Municipal Department,
with Hon'ble Members' notes, in original.
,, the Judicial Department.
,, the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Ed. C. M. Brisson.

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 25th February 1895, No. 286 M.

FEBRUARY.

Birth and Death Registers.

Referring to all Chairmen of Municipal Councils and the President, Municipal Commission, Madras, G.O., dated 28th January 1895, No. 45, Revenue, for report as to the manner in which — are now kept in Municipalities.

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18 , No.

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 15

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 15

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT NO. 507 M (Go. d/28-1-95 ho 45 Rev) A

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INDEXED.

PRESS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

G.O., DATED 25-2-95

No. 286 m

First copy sent to Press. 26/2/95

Returned for signature. 5/3/95

Despatched in print. 6/8/95

[Despatch Abstract.]

Birth and Death Registers

Referring to all Chairmen
of Municipal Councils and the
President, Municipal Commission,
Madras, G.O. dated 26th January
1895 No. 45 Rev. for reports
as to the manner in which
_____ are now kept in
Municipalities.

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189

DATED

CURRENT No.

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LATTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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