

Local & Munl. (1896 ) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 463 M

DATED 18<sup>th</sup> March 1896

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[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition.

Declining to interfere on behalf of C.K. Viraswami  
Nayudu in the matter of his complaint regarding certain irregularities in the Madura Municipality.

# BACK PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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# FURTHER PAPERS.

| G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. | G.O. | No. | Department. | Date. |
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Local & Municipal Dept.

CURRENT No. 3209M

Madura, 21<sup>st</sup> October 1895.

From

C. K. VEERASAWMI NAIDOO,

Municipal Councillor,

MADURA.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY

to the Government of Madras.



Sir,

I beg to submit for the consideration of the Government, the following facts, showing the high-handed and arbitrary manner in which the affairs of the Madura Municipality are being managed by the present Chairman, Mr. Fischer, and to request that the Government may be pleased to take such notice of the matter as it may deem fit.

2. It is an open secret that Mr. Fischer is quite unable to devote so much of his time as is necessary for the efficient discharge of the heavy work of this large Municipality—second to Madras—which requires a Chairman who will devote his full time to the work, Mr. Fischer having too many calls upon his time in his manifold capacities of Barrister, Banker, Landlord, Mortgagee and Manager of Bodinayakanoor Zemindary.

3. During the recent elections, a seat in the Council was secured for his private law clerk, Mr. Venkatasalu Naidoo, who has ever since been virtually the Chairman, Mr. Fischer solely depending upon the counsel and advice of Mr. Venkatasalu Naidoo in the discharge of Municipal work.

4. Messrs. Fischer and Venkatasalu Naidoo have selected some Councillors and entrusted to them the supervision of the several Wards of the Municipality and have, thereby, secured their co-operation and support for carrying out all their pet schemes, most of which are, in no way, conducive to the public good or to the interests of the Municipality.

5. Mr. Venkatasalu Naidoo, in addition to his being in charge of the Seventh Ward is, above all others, entrusted with the management of the Traveller's Bungalow, Kunnathoor Chuttram, Water Works, Stores, and Workshop.

6. The delegation of the duties by the Chairman in the above manner has relieved him to a very great extent of his work, except that of affixing his signature to the papers as they are brought to him.

7. It is not the object of this letter to enumerate the several irregularities or vagaries existing under the present regime, but for the purpose of showing the high-handed manner in which Municipal affairs are transacted. I shall, for the present, confine myself to a case in which I am directly concerned.

8. In the revision of assessment, in which the Chairman practically takes no part, but simply passes the Registers prepared by the Ward Councillors, Mr. Venkatasalu Naidoo has enhanced the assessment on my house in the Seventh Ward from Rs. 22-8 to Rs. 31-8 and a notice of the enhanced assessment, dated the 31st July 1895, was served upon me in due course. I did not object to this increase.

9. Meanwhile, some of the disinterested members of the Council, who are aware of the state into which Municipal affairs have fallen, expressed to me their desire to move the Government for the appointment of a paid Chairman and I agreed with them as to the sheer necessity of such a course, for the well-being of the Municipality, got up on the 14th September 1895, a proposal signed by 11 Councillors, viz., the District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Police Superintendent, Assistant Collector, Messrs. Alagerisawmi Naidoo, Veerasawmi Naidoo, Ananthakristna Naidoo, Ramachandra Ayer, R. Venkataramier, Sriramen Chettiar, Obla Moonisawmi Ayer and Kristnasawmi Ayer and submitted it to the Chairman with a request to convene a Special Meeting on the 29th October 1895 for the purpose.

10. Three days after the date of the above proposal, viz., the 17th September 1895, a notice was issued to me increasing the tax again on my house from Rs. 31-8 to Rs. 45, which, to use Mr. Fischer's and his Clerk, Mr. Venkatasalu Naidoo's words, is the reward for my having taken the initiative in the matter of a paid Chairman.

11. While the assessment on my house has been thus increased, the taxes levied on the houses of the Councillors forming Mr. Fischer's clique, have been either nominally increased or altogether left undisturbed as will appear from the following table :—

|                                  | Last year's Tax. | Present year's Tax. |
|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mr. Fischer                   | Rs. 55 0 0       | Rs. 55 0 0          |
| 2. „ Venkatasalu Naidoo          | „ 3 0 0          | „ 4 2 0             |
| 3. „ Selvaraja Naidoo            | „ 9 0 0          | „ 9 0 0             |
| 4. „ Subbarayaloo Naidoo         | „ 6 6 0          | „ 7 8 0             |
| 5. „ Subba Naidoo                | „ 8 0 0          | „ 8 0 0             |
| 6. „ Syed Gulamalli Saheb        | „ 10 0 0         | „ 10 0 0            |
| 7. „ Moothoosawmi Pillai         | „ 1 4 0          | „ 1 4 0             |
| 8. „ Jamboo Chettiar             | „ 8 0 0          | „ 8 0 0             |
| 9. „ Alloo Cheetharamen Chettiar | „ 75 0 0         | „ 75 0 0            |

12. In connection with this subject, it will not be out of place to mention a curious incident that happened, when I was examining at the Municipal Office, the several Tax Registers. I noticed in the Register that the tax on Mr. Fischer's Bungalow as revised was fixed at Rs. 55. The clerk who was showing me the Registers altered, in my presence, the Rs. 55 into Rs. 67-8, and on my questioning him if he had any authority to do so, he said that he had, but would not produce it.

13. It cannot be denied for one moment that Rs. 55 or even Rs. 67-8 as subsequently altered by the clerk is too low, considering the annual rental, which the Bungalow would fetch, at least, Rs. 150 a month, and Mr. Fischer should therefore have been assessed at Rs. 160 a year.

14. It has also been brought to my notice that, in certain cases, the taxes have been inordinately increased and, in certain others, considerably reduced. I think that unless the Registers are thoroughly revised and checked by a responsible Government Officer, taxation cannot be said to be fair and equitable on the whole.

15. I beg to be permitted to add that it is not in my interest alone that I solicit interference of the Government, but also in those of rate payers and the Municipality generally.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

*Obl. Moonisawmi*

Municipal Councillor.

Local &amp; Municipal Dept.

CURRENT No. 3207M.

Current No. 4934 A

Date 12-11-1895

TO BE RETURNED  
WITH REPLY.

From

C.K. Viraswami Nayudu,

Munl. Councillor,

Madura.

NO. 1637

Referred to the Collector of  
Madura, for report.

(By Order)

*W. S. Shulley*

Ag. Asstt. Secretary.

*For Mr. George  
15th Nov 1895*

No.

Dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 1895.Received 24<sup>th</sup> October 1895.

Enclosures

## SUBJECT.

Bringing to notice certain irregularities regarding the management of the Madura Municipality and requesting Government to interfere.

Enclosure to Madura Collector's  
letter no. Ref. 4934A dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 96.  
*sent*

To,

The Collector of Madura.

(With an Endorsement)

Local & General Dept.  
CURRENT NO. 3446 M

Madura 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1895

From

C. K. Veerasawmi Naidoo

Madura.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,

Fort St George.

Sir,

C No 3209

In continuation of my petition to Government dated the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1895, I beg to submit herewith the endorsement sent to me by the Chairman of the Madura Municipality, reducing the tax on my house from Rs 45 to Rs 36, which was handed to me on the 31<sup>st</sup> Idem and to state that even Rs 36 is excessive. Considering the annual rental, my house would fetch

I beg respectfully to point out that the Chairman, knowing that I have sent a petition to Government, has made this <sup>the</sup> nominal reduction with a view to justify his conduct in the matter of my complaint.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most Obedt Servt  
C. K. Veerasawmi

CURRENT No.

3446M

Cuo 3209 1495

From

C.K. Veraswami Nayudu  
Madura.

No.

Dated 2-11-95

Received 4-11-95

Enclosures /

## SUBJECT.

Stating that the Chairman M.C. Madura  
has made a nominal reduction in the  
amount of house tax imposed on him.

To be over pending receipt of the  
report from the collector.

V.R.  
25/11/95

W.S.  
26/11/95

Reference on Current No. 4934 A of 1905  
*Sent*

Madura Collector's Office  
19th February 1896 —

From

*Recd  
17.10.95*

PETITION NO. 611  
7<sup>th</sup> Ward

Read petition of Mr. G. K. Veerasami residing in

North Velyuday street dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 1895.  
requesting reduction of tax on his house.

Endorsement.

This license is  
in force only for  
three months.

Reduced to Rs 36.

(Signed) R. Fischer  
Chairman.

(True Extract)

Municipal Office,  
MADURA.  
24<sup>th</sup> Oct 1895.  
*[Signature]*  
Clerk.

[Signature]  
Manager.

own initials under date 9<sup>th</sup> September, and  
appeal the amount was reduced to Rs 36.

Reference on Current No. 4934 A of 1895  
Sent

Madura Collector's Office

19th February 1896

From

J. Twigg Esquire,  
Collector of  
Madura.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,  
Local and Municipal Department  
Madras.

Sir,

With reference to Government Endorsement  
No. 1637 dated 15th November 1895, I have the honor to  
report as follows:—

2. The tax on buildings was revised in 1895  
and a notification under section 69 of Act IV of  
1884 was published on August 1st, fixing 2nd  
September as the date of revision.

3. Petitioner's assessment had been raised  
from Rs 22-8-0 to Rs 31-8-0. This was increased  
by the Chairman Mr. Fischer to Rs 45 under his  
own initials under date 9th September, and on  
appeal the amount was reduced to Rs 36.

4. Mr. Fischer's own assessment which originally stood unaltered in the register was raised by him under his own initials to Rs 67-8-0.

5. The Council has not worked very harmoniously lately and the petitioner till he vacated his seat in November on expiry of his term of office was the most active member of the opposition.

Petitioner's estimate of the rent value of Mr. Fischer's bungalow is extravagant. The decision of the Council fixing Petitioner's assessment at Rs 36 shows that he was underassessed before Mr Fischer raised the tax, and the date of the order raising it, 9<sup>th</sup> September, shows that it was not a reply to Petitioner's action of the 14<sup>th</sup> September as supposed by him in para 9 of his petition. I would submit that the case brought forward by the petitioner is not such as to call for any interference on the part of Government.

6. I may add that though I agree with petitioner as to the desirability of having a full time paid Chairman, I am of opinion that under existing conditions Mr. Fischer is the best man for the post of Chairman; and I am recommending his reappointment.

as such.

7. The petition under reference is returned

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
your most obedient servant

W. J. W. J.  
Collector

no. 6520, 96

From *653M*

The collector of  
Madura.

Cuo 3446-95  
Cuo 652-96

Cnos 3209 & 3446 m. 995  
+ 653 m. of 96.

H. M.  
misc

N<sup>o</sup> 463 Minis Order *BS*  
of 18-3-96 17/3/96

The Government sees no  
reason to interfere on behalf  
of the petitioner *BS*

V.R. *BS*  
17/3/96 6-3-96

Reference on Current No. 4934A 5  
Sent

Enclosure & C. No. 3209 M.  
of 1896-1900

CHIEF SECRETARY  
21. FEB. 1896  
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

All the same, according to  
my recollection of Mr. F's house,  
the assessment of Rs 67-8-0 in  
it is absolutely low  
*BS*

*BS*

Reporting on the petition of *M.R.*  
C. K. Venu-  
sami Nayudu, Madura, bringing  
to notice certain irregularities re-  
garding the management of the Madura  
Municipality and requesting Govern-  
ment to interfere.

(with order)

To the Petitioner,  
thru the Collr. of Madura.  
Dated 21/3/96

When given for copying  
When copied  
When examined  
When signed } 189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.  
189, DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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IN ORIGINAL.

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