[L. & M. 2,000—23-10-97.]

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 3062.

DATED 21-2-98.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council.

Recording G.O. Legl. Dept. Communication to the Departments of the Secretariat concerned for information & guidance re questions & answers at the Meeting of the 1st July 1898.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Local & Munl. (189) Department.

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SUBJECT.

Comg for information & advice questions to answer at the Council meeting of 1 Feby 98

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[G. 53]
250—6-1-98.

Legislative Department.

MUNICIPAL
PAPER No. 324 L

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

READ the following paper:—

Questions asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 1st February 1898 and the answers given to them.

(1) *Additional Members.*

Memo. No. 6, dated 1st February 1898.

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat concerned for information and guidance.

2. The Judicial department will be informed that question XXIV was withdrawn by the Honourable Subba Rao with the permission of His Excellency the President.

3. The attention of the Judicial, the Local and Municipal and the Revenue departments will be specially drawn to the answers given to the questions marginally noted.

Judicial, XII, VII, XXXIV & XXXV
Local & Municipal, IX(b)
Revenue, XXVII.

(True Extract)

C. J. Hannay
2/2/98
for Secretary to Govt.

To the Departments of the Secretariat concerned.

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 1898.

(1) *Additional Members.*

The Secretary reports that the following gentlemen take their seats as additional Members of Council:—

The Hon'ble MR. H. M. WINTERBOTHAM,
Acting First Member, Board of Revenue.

" " MR. J. THOMSON,
Acting Second Member, Board of Revenue.

" " MR. G. S. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

" " GHULAM MUHAMMAD SAHIB BAHADUR.

(2) *Questions.*

With the permission of His Excellency the President—

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI asks the following questions:—

I. With reference to my question No. X asked at the meeting of the Council on the 23rd November 1897 and Revenue demi-official No. 9, dated 13th February 1895, referred to in the reply, will Government be pleased to furnish information on the following points:—

(*a*) Whether there were 215,463 pattas or individual holdings in the district of Tanjore in fasli 1303 (1893–94), the year in which the new settlement rates were introduced?

(*b*) In how many of *the above* pattas, the increase over the old assessment, without reference to increment remissions, was between

1 and 10 per cent.		40 and 50 per cent.	
10 " 15 "		50 " 75 "	
15 " 20 "		75 " 100 "	
20 " 25 "		100 " 200 "	
25 " 30 "		200 " 300 "	
30 " 40 "		300 " 400 "	

(*c*) If the above statistics can only be compiled at considerable cost in time and labour, will Government be pleased to furnish the information in such shape as may be found convenient, in view to showing the relative operation of the new settlement rates in Tanjore upon individual holdings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

I. It is true that 215,463 pattahs, single and joint, were issued at the recent revenue settlement of Tanjore. The increase over the old assessment exceeded 25 per cent. in 42,890 cases, *i.e.*, in only about one-fifth of the total number of pattahs. At the settlement the number of changes that had taken place in the reputed holdings was found to be very great and pattahs for 215,463 holdings had to be issued in place of the 179,078 pattahs which previously existed. The new survey fields were demarcated without reference to the old paimash fields and to locate these and to ascertain the exact demand upon them under the old settlement in the case of every individual holding would entail an expenditure of time, labour and expense which would be utterly out of proportion to the resulting information and which the Government sees no reason to undertake.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

II. (*a*) With reference to my question No. XV (*b*) at the last meeting and the reply thereto, will the Government be pleased to state whether there are several sailing vessels of the name of *Mahomed Samudhani* registered at the ports of Negapatam and Pámban and whether barque *Mahomed Samudhani* registered at Negapatam as No. 6 of 1895 on 22nd September 1895 (built at Coringa in 1876—burden 294·20 tons) is still in existence ?

(*b*) Whether the above-named barque which sailed from the port of Negapatam for the Nicobars on 22nd July 1896 with cargo and crew has not been heard of since, and whether any information is available regarding the fate of the vessel and her crew ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

II. (*a*) and (*b*) Eight sailing vessels named *Mahomed Samudhani* were registered at the ports of Negapatam and Pámban between 1885 and 1892. On further inquiry being made it has been found that a barque of that name of 294·20 tons left Negapatam for the Nicobars on the 22nd July 1896 and has not been heard of since, although various attempts have been made to trace her whereabouts. There is no information available regarding the fate of the vessel or her crew.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

III. (*a*) Is it a fact that the Head Assistant Magistrate of Anantapur, Mr. Macmichael, in discharging the accused in a case of alleged bribery has characterized in the judgment the evidence of Deputy Collector Mr. D. Venkata Sastry, 5th prosecution witness, as "perjured," and that the witness cannot be regarded either as "truthful or scrupulous" ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to call upon the District Magistrate to obtain an explanation from the Deputy Collector in question on the strictures passed against the latter by the Head Assistant Magistrate in his judgment, and to forward it with the opinion of the District Magistrate, in view to Government taking such notice as may appear necessary ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

III. (*a*) and (*b*) The Government has received no official information in the matter. A report will be called for from the District Magistrate.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

IV. (*a*) Is Government in possession of any information regarding the extent to which bones and bone-manure are being used for agricultural purposes in this Presidency, and the quantities which have been exported to other countries from the ports of this Presidency during the past five years, and will it be pleased to place at the disposal of the press such information as may be available ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to take steps to acquaint the agriculturists with the value of bones as manure and to minimise the export of the article by introducing an export duty ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

IV. (*a*) and (*b*) Government has no information as to the extent to which bones and bone manure are used for agricultural purposes in this Presidency. It is known, however, that such manure is largely used in the planting districts. According to the returns, nearly 16,000 tons have been exported by sea from the Presidency during the last five years.

Information regarding bones as manure will be found in the series of "Agricultural Ledgers" published by the Government of India, Nos. 8 and 15 of 1897, copies of which may be had on application. The value of this and other manures is one of the subjects which the Agricultural Department brings to the notice of the people. This Government as at present advised is not prepared to support a proposal for the imposition of an export duty on bones.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

V. (*a*) Is Government in possession of any information regarding the successful working or otherwise of benches of village courts under section 9 of Madras Act I of 1889 in the ten districts in which the benches have been constituted in 1896, and if so, will it be pleased to lay the papers on the table ?

(*b*) If Government is not in possession of any information on the matter, will it be pleased to call for a report from the authorities of the districts in which the benches have been in operation ?

(*c*) Will Government be pleased to issue orders under section 9 of the Act for the constitution of such benches in all the municipal towns in the Presidency ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

V. (*a*) and (*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 1132, Judicial, dated 11th May 1894, which has been placed at the disposal of the press. The Government has no further information in the matter and it does not propose to call for any at present.

(*c*) Government will be prepared to consider the extension of the provisions of Section 9 of the Act to any Municipality on receipt of a recommendation to that effect from the local officers.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

VI. (*a*) Is there any organized system in force in the rural parts under the jurisdiction of the District and Taluk Boards and unions for combating cholera, and will Government be pleased to place on the table papers relating thereto ?

(*b*) If there is no organized system, will Government be pleased to lay down definite regulations more or less on the lines of those sanctioned for Municipalities in G.O., No. 1536 M., dated 9th September 1896, for the guidance of the Local Boards ?

(*c*) What is the total number of attacks and deaths from cholera in rural areas other than Municipalities in the Presidency during 1896–97 and what is the total number in the Municipalities during the same period ?

(*d*) What are the total amounts spent on account of the epidemic in the rural parts and municipalities, respectively, in 1896–97 ?

(*e*) Considering that the total number of deaths from cholera in the rural parts of the district of Tanjore (non-municipal areas) during 1896–97 was 7,792 against 645 in the previous year and that the total amount spent on account of the epidemic was only Rs. 1,083, will Government be pleased to invite the attention of the Local Boards in the above district to the necessity of making larger outlays on preventive and remedial measures ?

(*f*) Will Government be pleased to urge upon the District and Taluk Boards the necessity of employing one certificated sanitary inspector at least for each of the revenue taluks under their jurisdiction to superintend general sanitation and the preventive and remedial measures on occasions of epidemics in villages?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

VI. (*a*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the instructions issued in G.O., No. 277 L., dated 7th February 1887, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*b*) The Government considers that the regulations referred to are too elaborate to be made applicable at present to rural areas.

(*c*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the monthly returns of vital statistics published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, as regards the number of deaths from cholera. Information regarding the number of attacks is not available.

(*d*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Local Fund and Municipal Administration Reports which have been placed on the Editors' Table.

(*e*) The outlay of Rs. 1,083 referred to by the Hon'ble Member was on remedial measures only, and was very much in excess of the figure for the previous year, namely, Rs. 457. The Government is not prepared to invite the attention of the Local Boards as desired, as it is a matter which may generally be left to their discretion.

(*f*) The Government is not prepared to do this at present.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

VII. In view of the circumstance that the want of a telegraph office at Manjéri (Malabar) must have been greatly felt on the occasion of the late Mapilla disturbance and escape of prisoners from the sub-jail, will Government be pleased to take steps to establish a telegraph office at the above station?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

VII. A report on the subject from the Collector will be called for.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

VIII. (*a*) In view of the fact that compulsory vaccination, which is in force in all the Municipalities except Chingleput and Tiruvannámalai, is working satisfactorily, will Government be pleased to direct the introduction of the system in these two Municipalities also?

(*b*) In view of the circumstance that there were 12,218 deaths from small-pox in the Presidency during 1896–97 against 6,440 in the preceding year, will Government be pleased to declare, under section 106 of Act V of 1884, that vaccination shall be compulsory in all the Local Fund unions (major and minor)?

(*c*) Have any orders been issued by Government that heads of villages should maintain separate lists of children under ten who have not been vaccinated. If not, will Government be pleased to issue the necessary orders in view to facilitating the work of the vaccinators?

(*d*) Has Surgeon-Major W. B. Bannerman, M.D., submitted any scheme to Government for the employment of two Assistant Inspectors of Vaccination of the Assistant Surgeon's grade for supervising the work of the Deputy Inspectors, and has Government passed any final orders?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

VIII. (*a*) Vaccination is now compulsory in both the Chingleput and Tiruvannámalai Municipalities.

(*b*) Under section 106 of Act V of 1884, quoted by the Hon'ble Member, vaccination cannot be made compulsory in portions of a district.

(*c*) Yes. Orders were issued by Government in September 1896 requiring village officers to maintain in connection with the birth registers a list of unvaccinated children. The manner in which these orders may best be carried out is still under the consideration of the Board of Revenue.

(*d*) The scheme referred to has not been received.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

IX. (*a*) Is there any proposal before Government by the President of the Taluk Board of Ramnad, or the District Board of Madura, to reduce Paramagudi from an apothecary's station to an hospital assistant's?

(*b*) Will Government, before passing orders, be pleased to take into consideration the fact that Paramagudi is an important place with a population of about 10,000 on the high road to Rámésvaram visited by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India, that it is on the proposed Madura-Pamban Railway line, that it is a District Munsif's court station, that it has been in charge of an apothecary for a long time, that its hospital has wards for in-patients, and that there is no other hospital within a radius of 25 miles?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

IX. (*a*) A proposal by the Taluk Board of Ramnad to convert the Paramagudi hospital into a dispensary has been received by Government.

(*b*) The matter will receive due consideration before orders are passed.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

X. (*a*) Is it a fact that the President of the District Board of Anantapur has appointed Mr. Russell, a European, as the Local Fund Engineer, and has the appointment been sanctioned by Government?

(*b*) Has Government issued any instructions to the Presidents of District Boards suggesting the desirability of giving preference to graduates of the local Civil Engineering College in making appointments to the post of Local Fund Engineer?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss:—

X. (*a*) The nomination has been received, but the Government has as yet passed no orders thereon.

(*b*) The Hon'ble Member is referred to G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XI. (*a*) Has Mr. Castlestuart Stuart, President of the District Board of South Arcot, in the administration report for the past year, made the following observations in regard to education?:—

"The Assistant Inspector of Schools states that the condition of education during the year may be considered as stationary. Personally I do not agree with him. There are, in my opinion, far too many incompetent teachers, whose personal interests rather than the interests of the children to be taught appear to me to be too often the object of solicitude on the part of the supervising educational officers, who would prove themselves much more useful to the boards if they took a livelier interest in bringing to notice, with a view to weeding out, such of the board's schoolmasters as are practically worthless. By the maintenance of the two sessional schools, the number of certificated teachers is increasing every year; but even they are, in my opinion, often really incompetent."

(*b*) Whether any, and what, steps have been taken by Government to remedy the state of things set forth above?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan:—

XI. (*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*b*) With reference to the second part, the Hon'ble Member is referred to the concluding portion of clause (2) of paragraph 4 of G.O., No. 1972 L., dated 12th October 1897, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XII. Will the Government be pleased to direct, in future, the preparation of separate lists of jurors as distinguished from assessors, instead of one list of jurors and assessors for a district as at present, and also prescribe adequate property and educational qualifications for service as jurors in mufassal Sessions Courts, in view to the proper discharge of the far higher responsibilities devolving on juries in the trial of cases triable by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XII. The law places upon the Sessions Judge and the Collector the responsibility of preparing the list of jurors and assessors and of fixing the qualifications necessary in their judgment. The Government cannot therefore issue directions as suggested by the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of land revenue dry remission granted in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool owing to failure of the crops during the late famine?

(*b*) Has a similar concession been granted, and, if so, to what extent, in the affected taluks of the Cuddapah district? If not, will the Government be pleased to consider and decide the question at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XIII. (*a*) From information obtained from the Board of Revenue, it appears that Rs. 6,84,547 and Rs. 3,03,985 were remitted in the Bellary and Kurnool districts, respectively, during the past revenue year (fasli 1306) out of a total demand on "dry" land of Rs. 11·77 and 11·50 lakhs respectively. The exact amount of "dry" remissions in the Anantapur district has not yet been reported, but the Board states that the remissions, both "wet" and "dry", amounted approximately to Rs. 5·63 lakhs out of a total demand of 11·43 lakhs.

(*b*) Proposals for remissions on "dry" land in Cuddapah recently received from the Collector are now under examination and will be disposed of shortly.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XIV. Have any petitions and telegrams been submitted to the Government or the Board of Revenue by ryots in the Ongole taluk, Nellore district, bringing to notice the failure of crops, and the consequent hardships they are suffering, and praying for a postponement of revenue collections? Will the Government be pleased to consider the prayers favourably and pass orders, if it has not already done so?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XIV. Telegrams and petitions from the ryots of certain villages in the Ongole taluk have been received by the Government and the Board of Revenue. The petitioners have been informed that they should apply in the first instance to the Collector. The Commissioner of Revenue Settlement is on tour in the Nellore district.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XV. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in the project called "Annanji Project", a scheme for feeding some of the tanks in the Ongole taluk, Nellore district, with the water of the Gundlakamma river?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the execution and completion of the project as a famine work, as it will render substantial help to the ryots in those tracts during adverse seasons?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XV. In August 1897 the Executive Engineer, Nellore division, reported that the levels that have been taken and the reports made show that there is no likelihood of the Annanji project being found worth carrying out even as a famine relief work. No definite decision, however, can be arrived at with regard to the project until detailed investigations have been made. This will be done in due course by the Special Executive Engineer who has recently been appointed to investigate schemes for the extension of irrigation in the Nellore district, and who is at present engaged on the investigation of another scheme known as the Gandipalem tank project. Pending such investigation, it cannot be said whether the project would render substantial help to the ryots during adverse seasons.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XVI. Will the Government be pleased to adopt early measures to appoint non-official Vice-Presidents of District and Taluk Boards in all districts where competent men are available for the office?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XVI. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer given to a similar question asked by the Hon'ble N. Subba Rao at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th December 1893.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR :—

XVII. Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of placing Stationary Sub-Magistrates under the control of the High Court in the matter of selection, nomination and punishment, and state the objections, if any, for the adoption of such a course?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XVII. The arrangement would involve a modification of the Criminal Procedure Code and the matter is therefore not under the control of the Governor in Council. The Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to Rule 6 of the rules made in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 2 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR—

XVIII. Will the Government be pleased to appoint Stationary Sub-Magistrates for all taluks of the Presidency instead of having under-paid Sarishtadar-Magistrates in certain places, so as to effect a complete separation of judicial from executive functions, in at least the subordinate ranks of the magistracy?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XVIII. Stationary Sub-Magistrates have been appointed in all those taluks in which their services are deemed to be necessary. The Government is not prepared to appoint such officers to the remaining taluks and does not consider the Sarishtadar Magistrates underpaid.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XIX. With reference to the notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 4th May 1897, that a competitive examination would be held in Madras in September last "for the selection of one candidate (who may be either a European, Eurasian, or Native) for appointment as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police," will the Government be pleased to state (*a*) how many candidates applied for admission for such examination, (*b*) how many of these candidates were found qualified under the rules, (*c*) what were the circumstances under which the proposed examination was abandoned, (*d*) whether it will place on the table its report to the Government of India stating why no such examination was held, (*e*) whether it is a fact that this Government was opposed to recruitment to the superior grades of the Madras Police by election of European or Indian candidates upon the results of a competitive examination in Madras, (*f*) and if so, whether it will place on the table the correspondence on the subject with the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XIX. (*a*) Six.

(*b*) None were found fit for admission to the examination.

(*c*) The examination was abandoned because there were no suitable candidates.

(*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) The papers and the correspondence with the Government of India containing the views of this Government cannot be laid on the table.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XX. (*a*) In reference to the appointment of Municipal Secretaries and to the assignment of powers to them by municipalities in the mufassal under the new provisions of the Madras District Municipalities Act, is the Government aware that there is considerable uneasy feeling on the part of Chairman and members in consequence of the interference of the local executive officers ?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government has issued orders generally or to particular municipalities calculated to induce a belief that it would not sanction the appointment of non-officials as Secretaries ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government has, in some cases, called for delegation to the Secretary of more powers than the Chairmen and the municipal councils had assigned ?

(*d*) In view of the fact that the new provisions in the Act relating to the appointment of Municipal Secretaries were introduced by non-official members of the Council in order to assist and co-operate with the Chairman on account of the desire of the Government for "full-time" and paid Chairman in some cases and in view to harmony in Municipal Councils and between them and the local executive officers and to successful municipal administration, will the Government be pleased to see that Chairmen and municipal councils are left free in the exercise of their powers under section 39-A of the Act in the matter both of qualifications of their Secretaries and of the delegation of powers to them, at all events till such time as the Government and the Municipal Councils have gained experience from the working of these new provisions ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XX. (*a*) and (*b*) The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the negative.

(*c*) The answer to this part of the question is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The Government is not prepared to leave these matters entirely to the discretion of Municipal Councils.

The Hon'ble C. VIJIYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

XXI. Is it a fact that it has been proposed to the Government to reduce the proportion of the elected municipal councillors in the Ootacamund Municipal Council ? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the proposal has been made ? Before considering the proposal, will the Government be pleased to ascertain the views and wishes of the rate-payers and voters of the said municipality ?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XXI. The Hon'ble Member is referred to Notification No. 899 published at page 1593 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, extraordinary, dated 18th December 1897, by which the proportion of elective seats on the Ootacamund Municipal Council has been reduced after consulting the Municipal Council according to law. The Municipal Council unanimously accepted the proposal.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXII. Will Government be pleased to state whether it has received any representations urging the desirability of connecting by railway (1) Sálúru, Párvatípuram and Bimlipatam with Vizianagram on the East Coast Railway, and (2) Chicacole and Kalingapatam with Chicacole road station or Amudalavalasa on the East Coast Railway, and what steps are proposed to be taken in the above matter to construct feeder lines to the East Coast Railway ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXII. Under the orders of the Government of India a railway Survey party is now in the field engaged upon the location of a railway from Vizianagram through Bobbili, Párvatípuram, Rayagudda, Bariguda, and Ombadola (or their neighbourhoods as near as may be) to Raipur in the Central Provinces.

A concession has been granted for a 2′ 6″ gauge railway from Bimlipatam to Vizianagram. What the concessionaires are going to do is not known.

Government considers that the connection of Chicacole with the East Coast Railway will be sufficiently well served for the present if the District Board will connect Chicacole with Dusi station by a new road about four miles in length along the river bank.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXIII. (*a*) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following resolution No. X passed at the First Vizagapatam District Conference held in May 1897 :—

"That, in view of the unsatisfactory administration of Civil Justice in the Agency tracts (in the Vizagapatam district), this conference is of opinion that two Munsifs' Courts with the pecuniary jurisdiction of a District Munsif under Act III of 1873 should be created for the Senior and Special Assistant Agent's divisions subject to the appellate jurisdiction of the Agent to the Governor, and that the Revenue officers in the said tracts should be divested of their civil jurisdiction and that persons possessing qualifications of a District Munsif in the ordinary tracts should be appointed" ?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to direct an inquiry into the matter and determine how far effect might be given to the above suggestion ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXIII. (*a*) & (*b*) The answer to both parts of the question is "No."

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXIV. Will Government be pleased to obtain and place on the table a statement showing (1) the number of bench courts constituted under section 9 of Act I of 1889, and (2) the number of suits decided by the said courts during the year 1896 ?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXIV. Clauses (2) to (8) of section 9 of the Act have been extended to 222 villages or groups of villages in this Presidency and it is presumed that bench courts have been constituted in all these localities. The Government has no information as to the number of suits decided by bench courts during 1896 and it regrets that it cannot undertake the laborious task of collecting it. The possibility of affording information of this description in future reports on the administration of Civil Justice will however be considered.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXV. Will Government be pleased to state how far the following recommendation of the Indian Education Commission has been carried out in this Presidency :—

"That a general educational library and museum be formed at some suitable locality in each Province" ?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

XXV. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the annual reports on Public Instruction which give full information on the subject.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXVI. With reference to the answer of Government at the meeting of the Council held on the 26th February 1896 that the merits of the assignment system in connection with results grants were under the consideration of Government, will Government be pleased to state if it has arrived at any decision, and if so, what?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXVI. Since the date mentioned an Educational Conference has discussed the system and made certain suggestions on which the Director has addressed Government. The matter is now under consideration.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXVII. In view of the fact that in districts (excepting South Canara and Malabar) where the tree-tapping system is in force, rule 1, clause (*f*), of the tree-tax rules for the drawing of toddy required for domestic purposes is not availed of to any appreciable extent, as disclosed by the statement placed on the council table at the last meeting of the Council, will Government be pleased to inquire why the benefit of the rule is not largely availed of by the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XXVII. The Government will make inquiries on the subject.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXVIII. With reference to the order of Government that the area to be exempted from the enhanced water-rate should not exceed 15 per cent. of the wet area in the deltaic tracts in the Gódávari and Kistna districts, will Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the said limit was fixed on the recommendation of the Board of Revenue or the Collectors of the Gódávari and Kistna districts, and

(*b*) Whether Government was satisfied that 85 per cent. of the wet area could bear the enhanced rate?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXVIII. (*a*) The Government declines to state what recommendations were made by its subordinates on the subject.

(*b*) Yes in Gódávari. There was no order such as the Hon'ble Member refers to with regard to Kistna.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXIX. (*a*) Is it a fact that in the Kistna district, unlike in the Gódávari district, exemption from the enhanced rate was made with regard to whole villages, and lands though unable to bear the enhanced rate were not exempted because whole villages wherein they are situate were not exempted?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to state the principle adopted for exemption in the Kistna district and whether it has met with the approval of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXIX. (*a*) The answer to the first part of the question is "Yes," and to the second part "No."

(*b*) The principle adopted for exemption was the same in Gódávari and Kistna. What that principle was, was stated in answer to question LIII at the meeting of the Council held on the 8th April 1896.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXX. (*a*) Is it a fact that no land held on zamindari or inam tenure is exempted from the enhanced water-rate but that neighbouring zerayati lands of similar quality have been so exempted?

(*b*) Will Government be pleased to explain its policy in according different treatment to neighbouring landholders.

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXX. (*a*) & (*b*) The Hon'ble Member should be aware from G.O., No. 3696, dated 16th September 1896, which was communicated to him that zamindari and inam lands were not exempted in any cases, and that the reason was that Government considered that they were on the whole more favourably circumstanced, and that the exemption which was a mere temporary expedient in the case of certain ryotwari holdings till final settlement, need not be extended to such lands.

The Hon'ble N. SUBBA RAO PANTULU :—

XXXI. Will Government be pleased to state the grounds on which the Madras Government reported in 1891 to the Government of India that no alteration could be made in the water-rates in the Kistna and Gódávari districts during the currency of the present settlements, and when and why the above statement was found to be erroneous?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXXI. The Hon'ble Member is referred to Rule 6 of the rules published in page 178, Part I, of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 14th February 1893.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

XXXII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has received any report from the Senate of the Madras University on the Bye-law 152 (*d*) regarding the question of keeping terms in colleges referred to them as per G.O., No. 37, Educational, dated 19th January 1897? If so, will it place the same on the table? If not, will the Government be pleased to move the Senate to expedite the despatch of the report?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXXII. No report has been received and the Government sees no reason to move the Senate as suggested.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

XXXIII. (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether effect has been given by any of the District Boards to the Order of the Government, No. 86 L., dated 10th January 1897, that Local Boards "will have their wants fully and efficiently met by employing engineers locally born and trained or locally trained"?

(*b*) In how many districts have there been vacancies since the order has been issued, and how many have been filled up? Will the Government be pleased to state how many of them have been filled up by men locally born and trained or locally trained?

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss :—

XXXIII. (*a*) Seeing that vacancies occur very gradually, and that men already in employ must first be provided for, the question appears to be premature.

(*b*) There have been vacancies in six districts and all except one, the nomination for which is under consideration by Government, have been filled up. The Government considers it sufficient to say that in filling up these vacancies the terms of G.O., No. 86 L., dated 16th January 1897, have been borne in mind.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

XXXIV. Will the Government be pleased to state whether its attention has been drawn to the article in the *Hindu*, dated 27th August last, to the purchase of lands in Coonoor sold for arrears of revenue under the Rent Recovery Act? If not, will the Government send for the papers and state whether the Chief Inspector of Police was justified in purchasing lands in Coonoor? How long has he been at Coonoor? Is it a fact that he has been at Coonoor since 1872, with one year's break?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXIV. The Government has now perused the article in question and will call for a report on the subject.

The Chief Inspector has been at Coonoor since 1885. Previously to that he had been for eleven years at Ootacamund with supervision over Coonoor.

The Hon'ble P. RANGAYYA NAYUDU :—

XXXV. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article in the *Hindu*, dated 13th January, under the heading of "Gross misconduct of a Deputy Collector," and also to the judgment of Mr. Macmichael, the Head Assistant Magistrate of Anantapur, published in the same paper on the 15th January? If not, will the Government be pleased to send for the judgment and take such action as the Government consider fit?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXV. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply to the question No. III put by the Hon'ble P. Ratnasabhapati Pillai.

(3) *Act assented to by His Excellency the Governor.*

The Secretary reports that the Bill to amend the Malabar Marriage Act, 1896, which was passed by the Council at the meeting of 23rd November last, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 30th idem.

(4) *Act assented to by His Excellency the Governor-General.*

His Excellency the President announces the assent of His Excellency the Vicerory and Governor-General to the Act to amend the Malabar Marriage Act, 1896.

(5) *Petitions, &c.*

The Secretary reports the receipt of the following papers and lays them on the table :—

Petition from certain mirasidars and tenants of the Chingleput district relating to the Bill further to amend Madras Rent Recovery Act VIII of 1865.

From M.R.Ry. A. Sankariah, and
From M.R.Ry. G. Chitambarayya, } relating to the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill.

(6) *Hindu Gains of Learning Bill.*

The Hon'ble V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur (Acting Advocate-General), moves that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee for report.

(7) *Bill to amend Madras Act II of 1886 (The Harbour Trust Act).*

The Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss, K.C.I.E., moves that the Bill be passed into law.

(8) *Malabar Testamentary Bill.*

The Hon'ble V. Bhashyam Aiyangar, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur, Acting Advocate-General, moves that certain members be added to the Select Committee on the Bill in place of Messrs. Stokes and Sankaran Nayar, who have ceased to be members thereof.

H. TREMENHEERE,
Secretary to the Council.

Government of Fort St. George.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES

FOR THE

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

On Tuesday, the 1st day of February 1898.

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copied ____ } 189 .
examined ____
signed ____

G.O., No. , DATED
89

No.

OSURES TO C. No.

RDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.								
STATEMENT WITH DITTO.								
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.								

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