

Local & Munl. (1898) Department

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 424 M.

DATED 22-2-98

INDEXED. *by*

DEPT. FILED

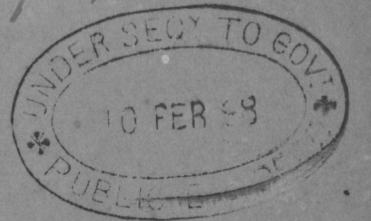
[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition — Declining to comply with the request
of C. T. Natesa Dikshitar & others of Chidam-
baram to exempt the temple elephant from
municipal taxation.

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

G.O.	N ^o .	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CURRENT No.



From

W. A. T. Esq. J. C.
Private Secretary &
H. E. McEwen

At Seaf
Huse

Order

The petitioner's request

Cannot be complied with.

V.B.
19/2/98

11. 298

No.

Dated 7th February 1898.

Received 6-298

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT:

Transfers a petition of 31st Jan
1898 from C. T. Natesa Nicksathe
& S. Sreemoola Theekashotha
Chidambaram, appealing against
the orders of the Chidambaram Municipi-
cality Council their temple Elephan-
(M. 1000)

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Dep. 24/2/20

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1892

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Go	1648	hch	24-9-16

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

SIR ARTHUR ELIBANK HAVELOCK G. C. M. G.
GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

The humble Memorial of C. T. Natesa
Theetchathar, S. Strimula Theetchathar and
others, Stanickars of Sri Sabanayakar Temple
of Chidambaram.

Most Respectfully sheweth:—

I. That the said Sabanayakar Temple is an ancient shrine largely resorted to by millions of pilgrims from all parts of India, and elsewhere;

II. That for that temple there have long since been *Elephants* which were being publicly possessed and used by the temple tax free.

III. That however the present Elephant, which has been a gift to the temple by the Zamindhar of Ramnad, is taxed by the Municipality of Chidambaram for the first half year of 1897;

IV. That upon the memorialists depositing the taxed amount and appealing to the Municipality for the remission of the tax, the Municipality have asked memorialists for the opinion of the Advocate General on the legal point of the taxability or otherwise of the Chidambaram temple *Elephant*;

V. That the Memorialists obtained and produced the opinion of the advocate General on the point at issue and that even after doing so the Municipal Chairman with a strong disregard for the same confirmed the said Tax; without heeding all our reasons.

VI. That as for the fiscal condition of the temple to bear the tax, it need hardly be submitted, that the temple has neither lands nor funds nor any other ostensible source of revenue like so many other temples of Southern India, and that its only means of up-keep so as to fit in with its ancient and wide-spread renown and prestige, has been nothing but its Theetchathars who attach themselves to the patronage of gentlemen and carry on the great temple pooja and festival by the alms got by them; and thus maintain its position.

VII. That besides the cruelty of the taxation its anomaly will become all the more apparent if your Excellency should consider that ever since their inauguration in Chidambaram in 1872, the Municipality did not tax *Elephants*, publicly possessed and used by the pagoda of Chidambaram; since and before that date; that having taxed the Elephant of the Temple for the former half year of 1896, the tax was remitted by the memorialists that, thereafter there was no taxing at all for the second half year of 1896, and that the question having been whimsically raked up this year

again, the memorialists appealed to the Municipality having deposited the taxed amount whereupon they have made the disposal in question asking the memorialists for the opinion of the Advocate General, thus showing by themselves, how uncertain they are of their own ground;

VIII That everything in Connection with this temple has been mentioned in the south Arcot District Mannual from page 400 to 406 published by Mr. Garistion.

IX That the memorialists herewith attach for His Excellencies perusal and Consideration copies of:—

- (1) The Municipal Councils reply to the memorialists appeal petitions.
- (2) The opinion of the advocate General.

The memorialists therefore most humbly pray that your excellency may be graciously pleased to annul the tax for ever on the reasons stated herein so that it may not again be levied in future.

For which act of Kindness and favour the memorialists ever pray.

Date 3/—/—1898.

Chidambaram,

[Handwritten signature in Tamil script]

[Handwritten text in Tamil script]



Chidambaram Municipal Council,

Chidambaram.

14th July 1897.

(1)

From.

The Chairman,

Municipal Council, Chidambaram.

To

S. Strimula Theetchathar and

C. T. Natesa Theetchathar,

Stanikars of the Shrine of Chidambaram.

With reference to your Appeal Petitions dated 13th May 1897 and 30th June 1897 respectively, requesting to abolish the tax levied on the temple Elephant, you are hereby informed by the Municipal Council of 12th Ultimo, that if the opinion of the Advocate General on the point of the Municipal Act justifying the remittance of the tax levied on the Elephant, be not furnished to this office within one month from the date of this notice the tax so levied will have to be confirmed.

(Signed) M. RAMASWAMIAH,
Chairman.

OPINION.

(2) Under Section 51 of Madras Act IV of 1884 as amended by Act III of 1897, the Municipal Council at Chidambaram, has full power to exempt the temple from payment of the tax in question on the ground mentioned in the Section; But on no other ground.

(Signed) V. BHASHYAM IYENGAR.

17—8—97.

(True Copy)

When given for copying _____
 When copied _____
 When examined _____
 When signed 2/4/2 } 189 .

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

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT. _____

STATEMENT WITH DITTO. _____

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 IN ORIGINAL.

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Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 428-M.

DATED 22-2-98

INDEXED. *sh*

DESPATCHED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Education:-

Sanctioning the proposals of the Municipal Council of Periyakulam to award prizes in books to the value of Rs. 20. every year to deserving students in drawing, drill & gymnastics.