

Local & Munl. (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 754 M.

DATED 26-5-99.

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Accounts.

Communicating to the Municipal Council of
Chidambaram letter from the Coler of South Arcot
stating that the St. Board has resolved to pay Rs 250
to that Council towards the expenses of the festivals
incurred in 1898-99 and requesting the Coler to
state what portion of the festival charges will
be paid by the St. Board in the current &
ensuing years.

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. (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 1274 m



From

The collector of South Arcot.

Order No. 754/1899-26-5/99

Communicated to the
Munl Council of Chidambaram

Disposal No. 288 of 99

2. The collector is requested to state what portion of the festival charges will be paid by the District Board in the current and ensuing years.

Dated 6th May 1899.

Received 9th

Registered

Enclosures (one)

Spare copies nil

V.R.
7/5/99

W.R.
23.5.99

SUBJECT.

Stating that the
Submitting reply to G.O.
No. 2178 of 98 dated
16.3.99 regarding the
expenses of the festivals
incurred in that town in 98-99.

To
The Ch. M. Chidambaram
The collector of S. Arcot.
supd. 29/5/99

a/15/5/99

12/5

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	1055	1/1/99	20/12/88
	2178	1/1/99	16/12/88

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Bound & Cont. No. 5
L.M.W.
5/1/99

(True Copy)
Reference G. O. R.—No. 185 DB. of 1898.

SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT BOARD'S OFFICE

CUDDALORE.

16th January 1899.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

DISTRICT BOARD,
SOUTH ARCOT.

To
M-R-RY

THUNGASAMY DECKSHADAR AI,
HONORARY BENCH MAGISTRAT, E, & C.
CHIDAMBARAM.

Sir,

I have been directed by Government to address the authorities of the temple at Chidambaram regarding the payment by them of a contribution towards the charges for Extra Sanitary arrangements during the annual festivals in view to persuading them to reconsider their refusal to do anything more than attend to the sanitation of the temple precincts.

The gathering together of large crowds from all parts of the Presidency at these festivals is a fertile source of disease and death not only amongst the pilgrims themselves and the inhabitants of the town in which the temple is situated but also amongst the people at large who are liable to catch the infection of disease from the returning pilgrims. These dangers can be minimised by adequate Sanitary precautions but not without the expenditure of large sums of money.

The burden of this expenditure presses heavily upon the ratepayers of Chidambaram Municipality and it is only right and proper that the pilgrims themselves should be made to contribute to the expense of the measures which the highest Sanitary authorities have found to be essential to the preservation of their health. No means at present exist of levying any such contribution save through the authorities of the temple which attracts these pilgrims, and it seems to me a perfectly just and reasonable request that the temple authorities should in communication with the Municipal authorities fix upon a definite sum to be set aside annually out of the collections made at the temple as a cess levied for Sanitary expenditure. This might be done either by determining a fixed sum as is done at Theruvannamalai or by a deduction of so many pies per Rupee from the actual collections.

Regarded from this point of view it is immaterial whether the temple receives any Tasdik allowance or not as the contribution is not demanded from temple funds, the temple authorities are merely asked to levy a cess on the worshippers whose assemblage in large numbers at the temple festivals constitutes such a grave danger to the public health unless adequate precautions are adopted.

In view of the attitude taken by the temple authorities I was unable on the last occasion to advise the District Board to make any contribution.

So far as the precautions taken tend to preserve the inhabitants of the rest of the District from risk of contagion from pilgrims returning from the festivals it may be argued that some contribution from funds raised by general taxation is fairly due. An admission of the force of this argument does not however in any way detract from the cogency of the arguments which have used above viz that the bulk of the sum required should be contributed by the temple authorities and by the rate payers of Chidambaram who are the persons most immediately interested. More especially is this the case when at a time like the present Government is making every effort to preserve the people of this Presidency from the terrible scourge of Plague.

The Comm
Cassette

2
His Excellency the Governor of Madras has intimated his desire to pay a visit to the temple at Chidambaram and I trust you will be able to induce the authorities of the temple to take a more enlightened view of their responsibilities in regard to the matter now placed before you so that I may not have to make an unfavourable report to His Excellency when he arrives.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

J. H. JOHNSON.
FOR PRESIDENT. DISTRICT. BOARD.

To

THE L. M. WYNCH ESQ.
COLLECTOR
SOUTH ARCOT DISTRICT

Date

The humble petition of the undersigned Dikshidars Trustees and Proprietors of Sri Nataraja Swami Temple Chidambaram.
Most respectfully sheweth.—

1. That they have been asked to defray a greater portion of the sanitary arrangements for the temple in your honour's order dated 16th January last.

2. That there has been no such practice ever since the institution of the Municipality in 1873, nor are they able to pay being very poor.

3. That when there was such a demand in 1897, your honour's petitioners put in a petition for exemption and the Municipality was then pleased to direct them in order No 234 dated 17. 5. 97 to look up to the sanitation of the temple premises which is being done ever since without any room for Complaint whatever.

4. That there was similar order and petition in 1898 also.

5. That should your honour too impose on them this additional burden it is indeed hard for them.

6. That this shrine has no income whatever derived from lands endowments by several independent gentlemen who have their own agents to look after the business. Should there be any want in the above, the petitioners have no other remedy but to depend upon their bounty. They cannot claim anything as a matter of right.

7. That as it would be difficult to satisfy the several visitors to the temple by the single person who is selected for the day's work, the petitioners do service on behalf of the visitors which provides them a poor means of sustenance.

8. That the special common expenditure incurred for the whole temple such as the maintenance of car, Vakanam, servants &c is met from the special contribution made by the visitors. This receipt is managed by the right to collect the same being leased out every 20 days amongst themselves.

9. That the amount collected as above mentioned having been too small to cover the expenditure, the petitioners had to incur debts which still remain undischarged.

10. That the amount realized from the Hundi (2. 6. 12) collection is very little. The petitioners who compose about 300 Families have all along been carrying a life of beggary, they holding neither appointments nor engaged in trade &c.

11. That such gifts not being available in days of famine, the petitioners had to be in great difficulties during such seasons.

12. That on account of the plague and the consequent fall in the number of pilgrims during the past one year, there has been a steady fall in their income.

13. That owing to the difficulty of securing plague passports and the other difficulties attended therewith, the petitioners have not been able to go to distant places and get the little they can from their constituents.

They get a considerable amount apparently.

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14. That though there are so many Municipal towns which are places of image, there seems to have been no such demand made except perhaps Tiruvannamalai. They most humbly beg to submit that it is indeed hard for a poor unendowed temple to be thus taxed while the rich temples of Srirangam, Madurai, and Cumbakonam, which are richly endowed are left free.

15. That the festivals such as Pancha Parvotsavam, Panguni Utram, Arpisi Param do not attract out siders. The petitioners will be happy to see the outsiders prevented by the Government from entering the town on account of the plague ven for the two other festivals.

16. That the object with which such festivals are enjoined by the shastras is to secure the well-being of the Sovereign and the country. They do not want that people should throng in numbers from outside. Such festivals are celebrated in every temple. Those celebrated in this place are not so showy as those in Conjevaram, Srirangam, and other places where not less than a thousand is spent on fireworks and other things. The petitioners cannot afford to do any such thing. They celebrate them only for the benefit which they are expected to bring to the world and no more.

17. That the petitioners imagine that they have been thought to be rich because there are some rich jewels in the temple and because some of them put on costly clothes &c. on occasions.

18. That the number of gentlemen who pay for the sight of God (Darsanam) in the Ayakal Mantapam (thousand pillard portico) on the last festival day are very few, the majority of the pilgrims being very poor persons who resort to this place because they can get good food for charity in the 24 Chatrams here. The pilgrims generally wait till the swami sets out in Vakanam to go to the Sabha (the inner-shrine.)

19. That the general jewels and clothes worn by the petitioners are specially secured by them to be put on at the time of the pujah and other occasions by the charity of their constituents. As a matter of fact they are really very poor.

20. That in spite of their poverty, they have been assessed for the shop premises within the temple precincts the temple Elephant and the Bulls.

21. That in addition to the above, they have also been taxed for carrying on the sacred profession of temple pujah. They are therefore in a dialamma as to what they should do in the management of such a big shrine.

22. That your honour may be aware of their memorial to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, during his last visit to this shrine praying for redress in the above matters. This order has therefore caused considerable anxiety in them, as they have been expecting favourable orders on their memorial.

(a) That they fear that some of their own members might have, with the intention of securing your honour's favour informed your honour that they can afford to pay the additional burden.

(b) In this connection they most humbly beg to submit that should there have been any such thing, it should never be given credence to.

23. That as a matter of fact it is the Railway authorities who make a good fortune by these festivals. It is therefore but fair that they should be made to contribute towards the sanitary arrangements. It is really uncharitable that your honour's poor petitioners should be made to pay anything.

24. That your honour's humble petitioners beg to submit that the evil of over crowding in the town on account of festivals would be put a stop to should the Government be pleased to prohibit the issue of Railway Tickets to this station about the festival time.

25. That your honour's petitioners will feel happy only when no amount is levied from them, thus not giving effect to your honour's letter on the matter. If so, the affairs of the temple cannot go on regularly.

26. That your honour will, they are sure be convinced of their extreme poverty should a reference be made to pages 400-406 of the south Arcot Dt. Manual by Mr. J. H. Gariston.

27. That under section 51 of act IV of 1884 as amended by Act 3 of 1897 they most humbly beg to submit that the poor temple could not in any way be taxed, & that it is not charitable to your honour to impose such a tax which is quite unbearable by them and against the amended act.

Disposal No. 288 of 99
Sup.

South Arcot.
6th May 1899.

FROM

L. M. Wynch Esq I.C.S.

TO

Acting COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ARCOT.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY,

TO GOVERNMENT

Local Municipality DEPARTMENT.

MADRAS.

SIR,

I have the honour to reply to
 G.O. No. 2178 M. Mis, dated 16th March
 1899, re contribution by the District
 Board to the Chidambaram Municipal
 Council towards the expenses of the
 festivals in that town in 1898-1899.
 On receipt of the order I called for
 a statement of special festival
 expenditure incurred by the Municipal
 Council during the last 3 years and
 the figures furnished are noted

*year Amount in the Margin. Before determining
 Rs. A-P
 1896-97 - 1042-12-7
 1897-98 - 1279-4-6
 1898-99 - 874-4-4
 1898-1899 Should be debited to the
 District Board, the Dikshadars or
 the hereditary trustees of the temple
 Chidambaram

petitioners therefore most humbly beg to request that your honour will be
 most graciously pleased to take their poverty as well as that of their temple and hard of
 into your honour's benign consideration, cancel the tax imposed on them
 Municipality, for the shop Premises within the temple precincts, the Elephant and the
 Bulls kept up for its maintenance and the new profession tax, demand no sum whatever
 on account of the special sanitary arrangements during the festivals and thus protect them
 and their temple.

For which act of justice and charity, they shall as in duty bound, ever pray.
 They most humbly beg to remain,
 your honour's most obedient and humble servants,

Chidambaram Sri Nataraja Swami Temple Trustees

1-4-1899.

*If this
 Pet should
 address the
 Council
 I have informed
 Council to inform
 Council.*

[Handwritten signatures and notes]
 B - 2005 23 23 -

1276/20/99

*The Collector
 Gazette*

chidambaram temple were asked if they would reconsider their decision declining the payment of any contribution and their reply was received after long delay. A copy of my letter and their reply on which I have made some marginal notes are enclosed for the perusal of Government. I think it is hopeless to expect anything from the temple authorities. A real obstacle in the way of getting any contribution from these people is the fact that so many of them have a voice in the management. On the papers being referred to the District Board, that body at a meeting held on the 29th ultimo sanctioned a contribution of Rs 250 towards the festival expenses of chidambaram ⁱⁿ 1898-1899. This amount may be debited to the District Board.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most obed^t servant

M. Arinjuddi

8/8/89
for Acting Collector.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____
When examined _____
When signed 26/5 189

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.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP; BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
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