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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Legislative

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 123
B.P. No. _____Press
Mts.Dated 5 8195
1885

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5TH AUGUST 1885, No. 123, LEGISLATIVE.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

G.O., dated 15th July 1885, No. 823, Revenue.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th May 1885, No. 1451 :—

Read—again the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th May 1884, No. 1747 :—

ABSTRACT.—Referring, for early report, to certain Collectors official memorandum from the Assistant Secretary to Government, Legislative Department, requesting a report on certain points on the Bill to amend the law in regard to Karnams in estates permanently settled, &c.

Read—also the following papers :—

From the Collector of Arcot, North,	dated 27th September 1884,	No. 376.
“ “ of Arcot, South,	“ 17th November “ “	573.
“ “ of Chingleput,	“ 6th December “ “	1366.
“ “ of Coimbatore,	“ 11th September “ “	734.
“ “ of Ganjam,	“ 19th June “ “	2118.
“ “ of “	“ 19th February 1885, “ “	375.
“ “ of Godavari,	“ 11th December 1884, “ “	585.
“ “ of Kistna,	“ 5th June “ “	1625.
“ “ of “	“ 10th November “ “	3651.
“ “ of Madura,	“ 26th October “ “	589.
“ “ of Malabar,	“ 20th June “ “	2854.
“ “ of Nellore,	“ 17th December “ “	6457.
“ “ of Salem,	“ 4th October “ “	2789.
“ “ of Tanjore,	“ 5th September “ “	5207.
“ “ of Tinnevely,	“ 18th October “ “	535.
“ “ of Trichinopoly,	“ 28th August “ “	2967.
“ “ of Vizagapatam,	“ 10th December “ “	1462.
“ Zemindar of Chintalapati Vontu,	“ 22nd November “ “	—

Resolution—dated 18th May 1885, No. 1451.

* G.O., dated 15th May 1884, No. 2063, Revenue. The Board are required * to report upon the following points :—

- The expediency of the proviso contained in Clause 3, Section 14 of the Bill, which would empower the Collector to impose the full assessment upon Karnam inam land not in the possession of the office-holder, and
- The probable annual value of the “Karnams’ Fund” (Section 17), which is to be composed of the net proceeds of the assessment of these inams.

2. The Board having called for report from the Collectors of all districts, except those noted in the margin, the letters read above have been received in reply. The following is a précis of the Collectors’ letters :—

Madras.	Cuddapah.
Nilgiris.	Bellary.
Kurnool.	

North Arcot.—Mr. A. J. Stuart would maintain the proviso to Section 14. In regard to enfranchisement of present inam lands, and in reply to the second question

பாதுகாப்பு பிரதி

செப்பனிடெவர்பெயர் : ரா. சிவாமிசுவம்
செப்பனிடெவற்காக எடுத்தல் - 11/08 - 2/09
கொள்வப்படி நான்.

25. 2/11/09
சுரபார்க்கும்
முதல் முதிபாள
கையொப்பம்

12/13/09
சுரபார்க்கும்
2ம் முதிபாள
கையொப்பம்

12/13/09
சுரபார்க்கும்
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

of Government, he calculates that the salary of each Karnam could only be Rs. 15 a year, and he deprecates enfranchisement on the basis proposed, though he would apparently make each Karnam pay a quit-rent of $\frac{5}{8}$ to the General Fund. Mr. Stuart objects that the Bill does not provide for the levy of Merah fees, which in the district of North Arcot are said to amount to Rs. 67,000.

South Arcot.—Mr. Cruickshank thinks Clause 3, Section 14 unnecessary, but does not say why. In reply to the second question put by Government, the Collector sends a statement, from which it appears that the fund would be quite insufficient.

Chingleput.—Mr. Price makes some criticisms on the general provisions of the Bill. He would certainly enact Clause 3, Section 14. In reply to the second question, he calculates that the proceeds of the enfranchised inams would be some Rs. 5,300, or about Rs. 18 a year for each Karnam.

Coimbatore.—Mr. H. J. Stokes does not see any objection to the proviso to Section 14; sends a statement showing the amount of fund which may be expected, which will be nearly sufficient.

Ganjam.—Mr. Horsfall. In answer to the first question, would charge full assessment on all the inams, whether in possession of the Karnam or not. Returns of emoluments are not complete, but the fund will certainly be very insufficient.

Godavari.—Mr. Foster in reply to the first question says that, as indulgence has been shown in Government villages, he would not enforce the terms of the proviso; and as to the second inquiry, he furnishes an estimate of the fund which would give about Rs. 7-8-0 a-month to each of the present Karnams.

Kistna.—Mr. Austin in a letter written *à propos* of the Bill, but not in answer to the present reference, suggests the imposition of a village-cess under legal enactment in Zemindaries and other proprietary tracts.

Mr. Happell, in reply to the first question asked by Government, says (with Mr. Foster) that since the distinction between working and non-working Karnams was not made in Government villages, it seems worth considering whether it should be made in Zemindaries. In regard to the probable amount of the fund which could be raised, the Collector is unable to give full particulars, but expresses the opinion that it would not suffice, and advises the introduction of the Village Cess Act or the levy of an uniform rate of cess from the Zemindars in the same manner as the road cess under the Local Funds Act. All fees to village servants would then cease. Adds that provision should be made in the Bill for including agra-harams in Government taluks. Referring to a petition from a District Zemindar, the Collector states that he asks that the control of Karnams should rest with the Zemindar, subject to appeal. A Zemindar of this district has also petitioned the Board to the same effect, which is submitted herewith.

Madura.—Mr. Crole entirely approves the enactment of the proviso to Section 14. The total fund available would provide less than Rs. 3 per mensem for each Karnam, and it is explained that this is made up for the most part by deduction from beriz, the original inams having been resumed before the permanent settlement.

Malabar.—Mr. Galton reports that there are no permanently-settled estates or unsettled poliums in this district.

Nellore.—Mr. Grose in regard to the first question would follow the rule applicable to Government villages and omit the proviso. As regards the possible amount of the fund, the Collector has been unable to obtain complete statistics, but thinks it would be quite insufficient unless Merah fees were added and made leviable under the Bill.

Salem.—Mr. McWatters would not enact the proviso to Section 14. The fund which would be raised would be quite insufficient, the Karnams' emoluments in land being only 286 acres, assessed at Rs. 340; for the most part they are paid in cash.

Tanjore.—Mr. Hebbert would retain the proviso. Information regarding the probable amount of the fund has not been furnished in a complete shape.

Tinnevely.—Mr. Lee-Warner would enact Clause 3, Section 14. He furnishes a statement showing the probable amount of the fund which, according to the proposed terms of the Bill, would give only Rs. 9-6-11 per annum to each existing Karnam.

But the Collector has also shown in the statement the ready-money and grain fees now received, and thinks that, if all these could be realized, the total amount would be ample.

Trichinopoly.—Mr. H. Sewell thinks that Clause 3, Section 14 may be enacted. As regards the Karnams' Fund, he says that the nett proceeds of inam assessment would not be nearly sufficient for the remuneration of the Karnams, and suggests that the village service cess should be imposed in lieu of fees now paid.

Vizagapatam.—Mr. H. G. Turner has consulted several gentlemen, official and non-official, some of whom are in favor of retaining the proviso to Section 14, and some recommend its omission or modification. The Collector himself does not see any sufficient ground for treating such inams differently from similar inams enfranchised in Government villages; but if the clause is to be retained, he would modify it so as to bring it into operation gradually. This might be done by rule under Section 23. In reply to the second question, the Collector calculates that the fund would be insufficient to meet the demands upon it after allowing for clubbing of villages, and he suggests that opportunity might be taken for introducing the Village Cess Act in Zemindari tracts by bringing all the village establishments into order.

3. The sum of the opinions given is—That the proviso to Section 14 may stand, though some Collectors would apply it gradually, while others would go beyond it and would not enfranchise these inams at all, but impose the full assessment upon all, whether held by the working Karnam or any one else, issuing roytwari puttass to the holders. That the fund which would be realized on the basis indicated would be inadequate, except in rare cases, to meet the demands upon it; the Merah fees would continue to give trouble and the simplest plan would be to impose the village service cess in supersession of such fees, whether for the payment of the Karnams alone or for the whole village staff.

4. The Board would retain the provision which enables the Collector to impose the full assessment in the case of Karnams' inams not in the possession of the office-holder, although it would work hardly in some cases; but they would suggest that, instead of being enacted as a proviso, it might with advantage be embodied in the first and second clauses of the section.

5. As it is clear, however, that the fund which may be expected from the source contemplated would not be adequate to meet the demands which would be made upon it, that is to say, that an efficient service could not be maintained from the proceeds, it seems necessary to adopt other means for attaining the end in view. The alternative courses open would seem to be to impose in Zemindaries the village service cess, or (as suggested by Mr. Happell) to levy such a cess from the Zemindars in the same manner as the road cess is collected, but one-half would be paid by the tenants as a set-off against Merah fees now paid by them, and the other moiety by the Zemindar to whom the assessment on inam lands might be assigned in compensation. Assuming that present emoluments consist one-half of Merah fees and one-half of assessment foregone, this arrangement would be equitable. On this point, however, the information is incomplete.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. F. MACCARTIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with eighteen letters to be returned.

Copy to all Collectors.

Order—dated 15th July 1885, No. 823, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Transferred to the Legislative Department with the following remarks.

2. The Government in this department think that the proviso in Clause 3 of Section 14 should not be retained, as it seems

inexpedient to treat service inams in Zemindaries differently from service inams in Government villages. If it be considered desirable to retain the proviso however, it is suggested that it be appended to Clause 1, to which only it seems properly to appertain.

3. It is suggested that the wording of the first and second clauses be altered as follows:—

for "The Inam Commissioner *may*," &c., read "The Inam Commissioner *shall*, if the Government so order," &c.

4. The fund to be created under Section 17 will apparently be very inadequate to its purpose, and it is suggested that a cess be imposed as in Government villages; the basis of assessment should be the rent-roll returned by the Zemindar for the purposes of the Local Boards Act, but instead of dividing the charge equally between the proprietor and the ryot as is the rule under that Act for the purpose of local cesses and as is now recommended by the Board as an alternative method for the purposes of the Zemindari village service fund, the Government in this department would, considering that the fees which the cess would supersede are a charge on the gross produce, distribute it according to the shares of the gross produce that it was estimated at the time of the permanent settlement fell to the Zemindar and the ryot respectively, viz., in the proportion of 1 to 3.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Legislative Department, with eighteen original enclosures
to be returned.

„ Board of Revenue.

ORDER—dated 5th August 1885, No. 123, Legislative.

Communicated to the Select Committee on the Madras Kurnams Bill.
(True Extract.)

Ag. Asst. Secy. to Govt.

To the Honorable Members of the Select Committee
on the Madras Kurnams Bill.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Government of Fort St. George.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

PAPERS

(No. 18.)

RELATIVE TO

A Bill to amend the law in regard to the office
of Kurnams in estates permanently settled, &c.

G.O., Legislative Department, 5th August 1885,
No. 123 (Revenue Board's opinion with remarks of
Government, Revenue Department).

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Order: 5th August 1883,
No 12.

Communicated to the
Select Committee on the
Madras Kurnams Bill.

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4/8. 

To
The Honble Members of the
Select Committee on the
Madras Kurnams Bill
Dated 2/9/83 -

Government of F.A.S.
Legislative Dept.

Legislative (1883) 9

5/12/83
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Papers

(187) relative to

A Bill to amend the law
in regard to the office of
Kurnams in estates perma-
nently settled, &c.

G.O. 5th August 1883, No 123

10-49 II

Madras Kurnam, Bill-
Communicating to the
Select Committee, ^{Proceedings}
of Government, Rev. Dept.,
transferring on the remark,
Revenue Board's opinion
on the —

G.O., Legislative Dept.,
August 1883, No 123 (on
Board's opinion with
of Govt, Rev. Dept.)

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