

Legislative (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 49

DATED 17-4-99

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Communicating to the departments of
the Secretariat concerned for information
of guidance Questions asked at the
meeting of the Legislative Council
held on the 7th April 99 & the
answers given to them.

T. 17.4.99

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

[E. & L.]
1
500-19-11-98.

Leper DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
Again G.O., No. , dated 189 .
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Questions & Answers at the meeting of the Council held on 7. April 1899.

ORDER. No. 49 d/17-4-99
Mis

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat concerned for information & guidance

2. The attention of the Revenue
Educational
Local Municipal
Public
Public Works
Judicial

departments will be drawn to the answers given to questions noted against them on the margin

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17/4/99

The Departments of the Secretariat concerned.
[also Poll & Fuel - para 1 only]

Pd
05/4/99

Revenue — I + II
Educ — XXVI ✓
L & M — VIII, XVI + XXII
Public — XII (b)
P.W.D — XVII (c) + XX + XXII ✓
Fuel — XVIII (a) + (c) + XX + XXII ✓

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY,
THE 7TH DAY OF APRIL 1899, AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

(1) *Financial Statement.*

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. ARUNDEL, C.S.I., explains the Annual Financial Statement for 1899-1900.

(2) *Questions.*

With the permission of His Excellency the President—

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal asks the following questions:—

I. With reference to the statement published in the *Tanjore District Gazette* for September 1898 showing that 37 plots of land, measuring 136 acres and assessed at Rs. 296, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sale and furnish the Council with information as to why no one offered to bid, and Government was obliged to purchase the lands for a nominal price?

II. With reference to similar statements published in the *Tanjore District Gazette*, dated the 20th October 1898 and 1st December 1898, showing that 28 plots of land, measuring 51.11 acres and assessed at Rs. 59-2-0, and 57 plots, measuring 76 acres and assessed at Rs. 203, respectively, were sold for arrears of Government revenue and purchased by Government itself at one anna per plot, will Government be pleased to inquire into the circumstances attending the sales, and furnish the Council with similar information as is requested in the preceding question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham:—

I & II. The reports received from the Collector and his Divisional officers will be laid upon the table for the Honourable Member's information.

He will see therefrom the trouble which has been taken to collect the information which he requires, and how difficult it is to frame a concise and comprehensive answer to his questions. To take a single instance, in which a block of 82 acres of dry land in the village of Vittalapuram assessed at Rs. 164 was bought in by Government for one anna. Enquiry shows that the assessment was increased at the settlement by only 16 per cent.; that the land is Samudayam or held jointly by 101 pattadars, of whom 78 are Brahmins and 23 are Kallars. It is reported that the pattadars cannot agree amongst themselves as to how the land should be cultivated or divided, and as not one of the persons interested has raised any objection to the sale of the land for arrears, it appears probable that the sale was brought about by all or some of the shareholders as the readiest means of freeing the land from Samudayam claims.

The Deputy Collector gives several instances in which the defaulting pattadars had mortgaged the lands to their full value and in which the sale was due to the mortgagees taking no precautions to protect their own interests by arranging for the payment of the assessment. In some cases the assessment of the land sold is actually less than it was prior to settlement. In many cases the lands are poor and on the margin of profitable cultivation.

In accordance with Kallar tactics, these lands are often dharkasted for in small patches by substantial ryots *benāmi* in the names of relatives or dependants who have no property. A crop is harvested, the assessment is not paid, and when the land is put up to sale and bought in by Government, the only loser is the State. The practice referred to largely accounts for the fact that a great number of defaulting Kallar pattadars only hold pattas to the value of two or three rupees. The Collector and his Divisional officers are of opinion that it may be generally affirmed that the sales are not a consequence of over-assessment, and it should be remarked that the areas sold are after all inconsiderable. As at present advised, Government does not intend to pursue the enquiry further.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

III. With reference to the statement published in the Supplement to the

- (i) A piece of land measuring 5.03 acres and assessed at Rs. 20-2-0 was sold for Rs. 10-8-0.
- (ii) A piece measuring 5.03 acres and assessed at Rupees 22-12-0 was sold for Rs. 2.
- (iii) A piece measuring 10.48 acres and assessed at Rupees 47-3-0 was sold for Rs. 55-1-0.
- (iv) A piece measuring 3.07 acres and assessed at Rupees 13-13-0 was sold for Rs. 5.
- (v) Nine pieces of land measuring 4.12 acres and assessed at Rs. 10-8-0 was purchased by Government itself at one anna per lot.

the sales fetching such exceedingly small or almost nominal prices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Winterbotham :—

III. No information has been collected regarding the plots referred to in this question, but it may at once be remarked that in most cases the land sold lies in villages forming part of the Talanayar group which are actually below the mean sea level, and in which boats are used for harvesting the special sorts of paddy which will alone grow in such swampy land. The land is thus probably on the margin of profitable cultivation. In the absence of any complaint by the pattadars concerned Government does not, as at present advised, consider it desirable to consume further time in local enquiry.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

IV. (a) Has Government perused the complaint published in the *Hindu*, dated the 9th February 1899, in the correspondence columns on the "transmission of goods by the railway" over the signature of one Bangi Candi Batcha Sahib?

(b) Is there any truth in the statements made by the correspondent complaining of the reduction of quantity in the contents of bags, or the substitution of inferior articles in the place of valuable goods during transit and while in custody of the Railway Company?

(c) Will Government be pleased to take steps to redress the complaint by causing an alteration of the existing B Form Risk Note which the consignors have to execute, and thus ensuring the liability of the Railway Companies in cases of the kind specified in clause (b) of this question?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

IV. (a) Yes.

(b) Government cannot say; but it may be safely admitted that consignments despatched by rail do not invariably arrive uninjured or untampered with at their destination.

(c) The use of Risk Note B by the consignor is entirely optional with him. By its use he secures the advantage of a special reduced rate on account of the consignment being carried at owner's risk. It is open to him to use the ordinary Forwarding Note under which consignments are carried at the risk of the railway. If a consignor sees fit to speculate by using an optional Risk Note, he must doubtless expect to lose sometimes as well as to gain.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

V. Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances in which the Municipal Council of Chidambaram has been called upon to pay to it an annual water cess of Rs. 1,300 for the supply of water to the tanks in that municipality, and the circumstances in which the Municipality of Cuddalore is obliged to pay a similar cess to Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

V. There are eleven tanks in the Chidambaram Municipality which are filled up three times a year by water from the channels from the Veeranum tank of the Lower Coleroon anicut system. The capacity of these tanks is about 12,363,856 cubic feet and the quantity of water annually supplied is therefore about 37,000,000 cubic feet. The Cuddalore Municipality is supplied from a sluice in the Kondangy tank, which is regulated by the municipality, but the quantity of water taken by it is not known. As there is no valid reason why these municipalities should not pay for the water supplied to them from Government sources of irrigation as is done by several other municipalities in this Presidency, it was decided in November 1898 that they should pay for the water at the rate of 1,000 cubic yards per rupee, which is the rate paid for Government water by the other municipalities referred to above, but that in view of the unsatisfactory state of their finances, the charge should not be made until the 1st April 1900, the municipalities being free to cease taking water from this source and to cease paying for it when they have organized their own water-supply. The municipal councils having subsequently made a representation that their funds are reduced to a very low ebb owing to the demands on them on account of famine and plague, the question of the further postponement of the date from which the charge should be made is now under consideration in the Local and Municipal Department.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

VI. In view of the recent decision of Government to reserve the Principalship of the Mangalore College to the European Educational Service, will Government be pleased to take steps to transfer the Vice-Principalships of the Teachers' College and the College of Agriculture to the Provincial Educational Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

VI. The Honourable Member is mistaken in supposing that the Government has decided to reserve the Principalship of the Mangalore College to the Indian Educational Service. In G.O., No. 120, Educational, dated 24th February last, a copy of which has been placed on the Editors' Table, it was decided that an English graduate should be appointed as headmaster of the college; but the post will still be included in the Provincial Educational Service, and the Government is not prepared to take steps in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

VII. In view of the frequent complaints regarding the working of the Madras Law College and the adequate salary attached to its Principalship, will Government be pleased to reconsider its decision granting permission to Mr. R. A. Nelson, the Principal, to engage in private practice and to withdraw the concession?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

VII. The Government is not prepared at present to make any statement on the subject.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

VIII. (a) Has Government perused the correspondence headed "Plague Scandal at Tadpatri" in the evening edition of the *Madras Standard* of the 18th March 1899, and will it be pleased to state whether the complaints made therein regarding the treatment of passengers by the plague officers are true or substantially true?

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to issue orders in view to the prevention of the recurrence of such complaints?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

VIII. The Government has now perused the correspondence referred to. A report will be called for.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

IX. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it has directed that the rules regarding identification by finger-print impressions should be applicable to political pensioners?

(b) Whether, in view of the circumstance that the order is felt as an indignity, Government will be pleased to re-consider it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

IX. (a) The rules were made applicable to political pensioners in order to facilitate the identification of such pensioners.

(b) The Government is not prepared to reconsider the order nor is it prepared to concede that any ground exists for regarding compliance with the rules as an indignity. Exemption from the rules is granted when there are special circumstances calling for such exemption.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

X. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there are any rules now in force for the grant of pensions, gratuities or compassionate allowances to officers and servants in the service of Municipal Councils and Local Boards?

(b) If there are no such rules in operation in Municipalities or Local Boards or in both, will Government be pleased to direct the adoption of the necessary measures in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

X. The Honourable Member is referred to notifications Nos. 375 and 376 published at pages 186 to 188 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 25th August 1891, and to the rules relating to the establishment of Provident funds for the benefit of Local Fund servants sanctioned in G.O., No. 623 L., dated 31st March 1898, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

XI. (a) Whether it is a fact that Civil Assistant Surgeons appointed to act as Civil Surgeons or as District Medical and Sanitary Officers, who had hitherto been drawing a deputation allowance of Rs. 100 in the case of 2nd and 3rd class officers and Rs. 150 in the case of 1st class officers in addition to their substantive pay, have been directed to draw from the middle of January 1899 only an allowance of Rs. 70?

(b) Whether, in view of the recent resolution of the Government of India to better the status of this class of officers, Government will be pleased to take steps to continue their old deputation allowances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XI. (a) Yes.

(b) The change has been ordered by the Government of India, and it is not in the power of this Government to continue the former scale of allowances.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

XII. (a) Whether Government is now in a position to give a definite reply as to when the five Civil Surgeoncies thrown open for the Civil Assistant Surgeons will become available for them?

(b) Whether Government will be pleased to avail itself of the occasion afforded by the retirement of Major Patch of the Indian Medical Service, District Medical and Sanitary Officer of Kurnool, to create a vacancy in one of the Civil Surgeoncies now held by a commissioned officer of the Indian Medical Service by transferring the latter to the place of Major Patch, and make the Civil Surgeoncy thus vacated available for one of the first class and senior Civil Assistant Surgeons?

(c) Whether the number of the Civil Surgeoncies available for Civil Assistant Surgeons will be increased as proposed by the Government of India, and, if so, whether Government will be pleased to state when this is likely to be carried out?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XII. (a) It is impossible to say when Civil Assistant Surgeons will be appointed to the five posts of Civil Surgeon for which they are eligible. Before the claims of Assistant Surgeons can be considered, the posts must be vacated in the ordinary course by the present incumbents.

(b) The question will be considered when arrangements are made for filling up the vacancy at Kurnool.

(c) The Government is not aware that any proposal has been made by the Government of India for increasing the number of Civil stations in this Presidency available for Civil Assistant Surgeons.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

XIII. Will Government be pleased to state whether the question of legislation in view to declaring ancient zamindaris impartible and inalienable is engaging its attention, and, if not, will it be pleased to consider the desirability of initiating legislation upon the subject in order that ancient estates may be preserved from ruin and ruinous litigation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

XIII. The answer to the Honourable Member's question is that legislation for the purpose stated is in contemplation.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal:—

XIV. (a) Whether it is a fact that in the taluk of Palladam (Coimbatore) certain inam wet lands, which have been cultivated with double crops from time immemorial free from all tax except the quit-rent, have been ordered during the current fasli to be assessed for the second crop with retrospective effect from the time of the last settlement, i.e., for the past 20 years?

(b) Whether such assessments with retrospective effect for a long series of years are legal?

(c) Whether in view of the hardships resulting to land-holders by being called upon to pay the dues for long periods, which they never expected, will Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case referred to in clause (a) of this question, and whether, in the event of the statement being true, Government will see fit to issue instructions for the cancellation of these retrospective assessments?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

XIV. (a) The Collector of Coimbatore reports that the answer to this question is in the negative.

(b) and (c) With reference to the reply to clause (a) of the question, these parts of the question require no answer.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

XV. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which Mr. J. G. Kernan has been appointed both as Clerk of the Crown and Official Assignee of the Court for the relief of Insolvent Debtors at Madras?

(b) Whether there is any objection to these two posts being held by two different incumbents, and whether, in the absence of such objections, Government will be pleased to move the High Court in view to the appointments being conferred upon separate officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XV. (a) The Government has no information on the subject. Mr. Kernan was already Clerk of the Crown when he was appointed Official Assignee in 1894. The latter appointment was made by the Honourable the Chief Justice of the High Court under 11 and 12 Victoria, Chapter 21, section 14, and is not under the control of Government.

(b) There seems to be no legal objection to these two appointments being held by different officers, but the Government is not prepared to move in the matter, which is left to the discretion of the Chief Justice. It may, however, be remarked that the appointment of Clerk of the Crown will be abolished on its being vacated by the present incumbent.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR Avargal :—

XVI. (a) Is the Government aware that at the 41st mile on the road from Calicut to Wynaad a bridge toll is levied on carts, &c., by the District Board of Malabar to cross the Vataparam bridge, and that at the 45th mile, i.e., at a distance of four miles from Vataparam bridge, a ferry rate is levied to cross the Karimbola stream?

(b) Is it a fact that the District Board of Malabar realizes a sum of about Rs. 3,000 annually by lease of the above ferry across the Karimbola stream?

(c) Is it a fact that substantially-built masonry piers and abutments of an old bridge called Karimbola bridge are in existence, and that the said bridge could be restored at a small cost, thereby dispensing with the need for the ferry, which is now in use, and the levy of ferry charges?

(d) In view to prevent the hardship caused by the levy of two tolls within a distance of four miles and to render travelling easier and safer, will the Government be pleased to consider the feasibility of restoring the Karimbola bridge and advise the District Board to take up its restoration at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XVI. A report will be called for from the President of the District Board.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR Avargal :—

XVII. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress, if any, has been made up to date in the Chepaud irrigation project in the Cuddapah district (branch canal from the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal)?

(b) Is it a fact that all work has been postponed for some time, but that an establishment is being maintained in connection with the project? What is the cost of such an establishment?

(c) In view to the great importance of irrigation in the dry taluk of the Cuddapah district, which the project is intended to benefit, will the Government be pleased to direct the early completion of the work?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XVII. (a) An approximate estimate, amounting to Rs. 3,65,000, having been sanctioned, the Chepaud project was undertaken as a famine-relief work in April 1897 and was stopped in October 1897, when the rains set in. Work to the value of Rs. 33,389 was done.

(b) In December 1897 instructions were issued that the work should be proceeded with as an ordinary work, but as the sanctioned plans and estimates were useless except for carrying out some earthwork for famine relief purposes and the alignment of the channel has been altered, it will be necessary to draw up the whole project afresh without any assistance from the plans and estimates sanctioned. To facilitate the completion of the work the employment of a special draughtsman on Rs. 100 per mensem for two months in the Superintending Engineer's office has just been sanctioned.

(c) On receipt of the revised estimates for the project orders will be issued for its early execution.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR Avargal :—

XVIII. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of revenue realized by the Commissioner of Police on licenses granted for the use of music in processions of Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the City of Madras during the year 1897-98?

Is the Government aware that till 1888, no license fees for performing music were charged for applications from Hindu temples and Muhammadan religious institutions, that in 1888, a fee of four annas only was charged for the whole period of an occasional festival lasting for several days, and that subsequently a fee of four annas was collected for each day of a festival lasting for more than a day?

Is the Government also aware that from 1888 fees were charged only on the occasion of special festivals as described above, and that till 1895, no license fee was required for daily customary ceremonies accompanied with music, and that since April 1895, a daily license fee of four annas is levied for the daily customary ceremonies and also additional fee of four annas for every day of an occasional festival?

Will the Government be pleased to state if all the various collections of fees from temples and other religious institutions stated in the last two clauses are in pursuance of orders of Government or any authority, and will the Government be pleased to place on the table all orders in connection with the collection of such fees?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to place Hindu and Muhammadan religious institutions in the matter of music in the same position as they were before 1888 by exempting such institutions from the payment of any fees and granting free licenses when required?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the report said to have been called for in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XVIII. (a) and (c) A copy of the Commissioner's report which affords the information required will be placed on the table.

(b) The matter is now under consideration by Government.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR Avargal :—

XIX. (a) Is it a fact that the District Munsif's Court at Vayitiri in the Wynaad taluk is closed annually for two months instead of six weeks owing to the very unhealthy condition of that station?

(b) In view to the notoriously unhealthy condition of Cuddapah town and taluk generally, and to mitigate to some extent the great hardships suffered by the court officials and litigant population by reason of a severe type of malaria in the cold months (not yet subsided in this year) and the intense heat in the hot months, will the Government be pleased to direct the Munsif's Court of Cuddapah to be closed for a period of two months along with the District and Sessions Court instead of for six weeks only as at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XIX. (a) Yes.

(b) The Government cannot interfere in the matter, which is left, by Section 30 of Madras Act III of 1873, to the discretion of the High Court.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR Avargal :—

XX. Will the Government be pleased to state if it has now under consideration any scheme or schemes for the irrigation of the Bellary district from the Tungabhadra and Hagari rivers or other sources? Will it be pleased to give some information as to any such schemes under contemplation?

XXI. Will the Government be pleased to state if any orders have been passed on the report regarding Bellary irrigation said to have been pending disposal in answer to questions Nos. III and IV asked by me at the meeting of the Council of 13th May 1898, and if so, to publish the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XX. and XXI. On a consideration of the reports submitted on the problem of using water from the Tungabhadra and the Hagari for the irrigation of the more arid parts of Bellary, a further detailed investigation was ordered in September 1898, the result of which is embodied in G.O., No. 222 I., dated 8th March 1899, a copy of which will be furnished to the Honourable Member.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR Avargal :—

XXII. (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement contained in the letter of Gooty correspondent to the "Hindu" newspaper printed in its issue of 18th March 1899, page 5, to the following effect regarding plague inspection at Tadpatri station :—

"Men of low caste and of no caste are employed to fetch water and pour on the heads of healthy passengers who have to sit in a row for the ablution at the camp. Brahman widows would not be allowed to have their own water to bathe, no doubt mixing with it the necessary disinfecting powder. No, plague officials would not grant the prayer."

(b) Will the Government be pleased to issue strict injunctions to inspecting officers to respect caste scruples to the utmost possible extent to ensure the continuance of the smooth working of the regulations?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XXII. The Government has now perused the letter in question. A report will be called for.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

XXIII. (a) With reference to the goods traffic rates in force on the South Indian Railway, has the Company been permitted to charge comparatively very much cheaper rates for rice consigned to Ceylon *via* Tuticorin than those charged for the same commodity consigned through other Coast ports?

(b) Have these cheaper rates been adopted in view of the longer lead which the Company obtains to Tuticorin?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage by which the rates in the case of Tuticorin are less than those obtaining in the case of other Coast ports?

(d) In view of the circumstance that favorable rates in the case of one port operate prejudicially to other ports, will Government be pleased to issue instructions for the adoption of an uniform scale of rates applicable to consignments through all ports equally?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XXIII. (a) The attention of the Government has already been invited to the fact that the South Indian Railway are quoting through rates for rice consigned to Ceylon *via* Tuticorin from certain stations. Enquiries have been made and it is found that in no case does the South Indian Railway share of the through rate infringe the minimum rate laid down by the Government of India.

(b) It is customary on all Railways to quote a lower rate per maund per mile as the lead increases.

(c) Taking Shiyali, which is about the centre of the South Indian Railway rice trade to Colombo, the distance thence to Tuticorin is 282 miles and the Railway share of the through rate is annas 7 and pie 1 per bag which is equal to Rs. 31-14-0 per 6-ton truck load.

The distance from Shiyali to Negapatam is 51 miles and the rate works out to annas 2 pies 4 per bag which is equal to Rs. 17 per 6-ton truck load.

(d) As the minimum rate laid down by the Government of India is in no case infringed, this Government sees no reason to interfere.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI Avargal :—

XXIV. With reference to my question No. XXI asked at the meeting of the Council, dated the 13th May 1898, will Government be pleased to state whether any and what arrangements have been made for sending up to the Paris Exhibition of 1900 specimens from this Presidency in weaving, ivory, sandal and metal-works, marble carving and agriculture, &c.?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XXIV. The Honourable Member is referred to the Rules and Regulations relating to the British Indian and Ceylon Section of the Paris Exhibition 1900, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 28th March 1899, at pages 1 to 6 supplement.

The Indian Section of the Exhibition will be divided into three Courts :—

(a) *The Imperial* in which the exhibitions of the Government of India and of Native States will be shown;

(b) *The Private Exhibitors*, in which the more artistic productions of Indian manufacturers, merchants and others will be displayed; and

(c) *The Commercial*, in which the trade and economic samples will be exhibited.

The selection of the exhibits to appear in the Imperial Court rests with the Government of India. Intending exhibitors in the other two Courts should apply for any information they may require to the Official Agents of the Indian Committee of the Exhibition, Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., or to the Sub-Agents Messrs. T. N. Singh & Co., Fen-Church Avenue, London.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXV. (a) In reference to its decision that an English graduate should be appointed to the headmastership of the Mangalore College in accordance with the original desire of the subscribers and with the vote of the great majority of those who have now been consulted in the matter and that this arrangement may be followed when it is reasonably within the power of Government to effect it, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is in possession of the reasons on which the original desire of the subscribers and the vote of the majority were based and, if so, what those reasons were?

(b) Is it a fact that 61 out of 74 persons have voted for a European graduate of an English University, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the expression in the decision, namely "an English graduate", is in accordance with the vote?

(c) Is it a fact that the headmastership was, at the recent re-organization of the Educational Department in India, included in the Madras Provincial Educational Service, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state the necessity for re-opening the question?

(d) In view of the fact that this post is henceforth lost to the Provincial Educational Service of Madras, is it the intention of the Government to consider the desirability of transferring to this service a similar appointment from the European Educational Service?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XXV. (a) The Government is not in possession of the exact reasons on which the original request of the subscribers and the vote of the majority for an English graduate as headmaster of the Mangalore College were based, but the subscribers appear to have been impressed with the advantage of having a well-educated gentleman, a graduate of an English University, at the head of the college in order to give effect to the desire existing among the inhabitants of Mangalore for English education of a higher class.

(b) Yes; the expression "an English graduate" in G.O., No. 120, Educational, dated 24th February 1899, is meant to denote a European graduate of an English University.

(c) Yes; it is not intended to re-open the question.

(d) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to question VI.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal:—

XXVI. (a) Is it a fact, as stated in the *Madras Standard* of 8th March, that the Principal of the Law College was, the previous day, unable to attend the class between four and five o'clock in the afternoon in consequence of his professional engagement in the High Court?

(b) Is it a fact that the new hours of attendance in the Law College cause great inconvenience to students as well as to the Principal and Professors?

(c) Is it a fact that the Principal and Professors have in practice altered the hours of attendance to suit their own convenience?

(d) Is it a fact that numbers of students have left the College since the introduction of the new time-table? and if so, how many? Will the Government be pleased to state what is the present strength of the students in the College when compared with the average strength for each of the past five years?

(e) Is it the intention of the Government to consider the desirability of re-adjusting the hours of attendance in the College?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the scheme submitted by the Director of Public Instruction for converting the institution into a day College together with the orders of the Government thereon and other connected papers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XXVI. (a) It is a fact that the Principal of the Law College did not give the lecture referred to, owing to a professional engagement in the High Court. Previous notice was given that there would be no lecture, and the lecture was delivered on the following day.

(b) The Government is informed that the new hours cause no inconvenience to the Principal and Professors. The hour 10 to 11 is found inconvenient by students employed in offices; such students are allowed, as far as practicable, to attend during the evening hours only.

(c) The Government is informed that this is not the case. The hours of attendance are fixed by the Principal, within the limits laid down by the rules.

(d) The number of students who have left the College since the introduction of the new time-table is reported to be three. Of these, one was detained in Mysore owing to plague regulations and another has become a teacher and has therefore given up his law studies. It is not known why the third has left.

The strength of the College on the 31st March 1899 was 417. On the same date in the previous five years, the figures were 591, 630, 731, 620 and 612. In former years, students were allowed to join the College in March immediately after the publication of their B.A. degree results. This year such students will not join until July, so that a proper comparison cannot be made till then.

(e) The Government is not prepared to make any statement on the subject.

(f) The Hon'ble Member may peruse the papers at the Government office.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal:—

XXVII. (a) Is it a fact that the Government has made a grant of about Rs. 25,000 towards the construction of a building in the Black Town for the benefit of the Madras Young Men's Christian Association? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the principle of the grant?

(b) Is it a fact that the Association has put up a notice within the premises of the building in question that rooms in it are available to let? If so, was the Government aware of this purpose of the building when it made the grant?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government has placed at the disposal of the Association the services of the Government Consulting Architect gratis?

(d) Is it a fact that bricks from Government kilns were ordered to be supplied for the use of the building at a discount of $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.? If so, what is the quantity ordered to be supplied? Will the Government be pleased to state the necessity and the principle under which these concessions have been made to the Association?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XXVII. (a) A grant of Rs. 24,983 payable by instalments in five years has been sanctioned towards the construction of a building for the Madras Young Men's Christian Association. The Government considered that the building, which includes technical class rooms, an intercollegiate department and a hostel, came within the scope of the Grant-in-aid Code.

(b) The Government has no information on the subject.

(c) Government permitted the Consulting Architect to give his professional assistance, but it was not given gratuitously.

(d) Government sanctioned the issue of the bricks required for the building, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs at 10 per cent. over stock rates, with a view to make the building harmonize with the High Court and other buildings in the immediate vicinity and as the institution is intended for the benefit of the public.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal:—

XXVIII. (a) Is it a fact that the Government has refused to supply the "Gopal Row Memorial Library" at Kumbakonam with copies of Government publications gratis?

(b) Is it a fact that the Library has been registered under the Indian Companies Act?

(c) Is it a fact that the Library is open to all irrespective of race or religion?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the free supply of the Government publications has been asked for and refused?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes:—

XXVIII. (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the published lists of companies and societies registered under the Act.

(c) The Government has no certain information on the subject.

(d) The application was refused as the free supply of Government publications, which are on sale at the Government Press and with Book-selling Agents at very moderate prices, has been stopped.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXIX. (a) Has the attention of the Government been called to a publication in the *Swadesa Mitran* of Madras in its issue of 30th January 1899 that cattle poisoning has greatly increased in Srirangam?

(b) Is the Government aware that considerable destruction of cattle due to poisoning takes place throughout the Presidency?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to direct an investigation as to the kinds of poison administered and the causes and methods of administration and as to the most suitable remedies by way of prevention and cure? Will it also be pleased to call for annual returns of cattle destroyed by poison in each district?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XXIX. (a) The Government has now perused the article referred to.

(b) and (c) Cases of cattle mortality from criminal poisoning are reported to the Board and reviewed every quarter by that authority together with statistics of cattle mortality from other causes. The figures for the last five quarters for which statistics are available give an average of 16 deaths of cattle per quarter by criminal poisoning. The Government at present sees no sufficient reason to order any further special investigation into the subject.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXX. (a) Is the Government aware that there is great dissatisfaction among the merchants who despatch goods by rail under what is called Risk Note, Form B, issued under the provisions of sub-clause (b), clause 2, of section 72 of the Indian Railways Act, by which the railway is free from all legal responsibility for the loss, destruction or deterioration of the goods consigned for conveyance?

(b) Is the Government aware, as stated in the *Swadesa Mitran* of 10th February 1899, that goods sent under the above provisions are being habitually tampered with and purloined during their transit by rail?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to call from the South Indian and Madras Railway Companies for returns during the past two calendar years of the complaints and claims made to the railway authorities in connection with goods sent under the above conditions?

(d) Further, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of adopting such measures as it may deem fit in view to increase the confidence of the merchants electing to send goods at their own risk and to improve the efficiency of railway administration?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XXX. (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to a letter published in the "Hindu," dated the 9th February 1899; previous to this no complaint had been brought to the notice of Government.

(c) and (d) As it is purely optional with the consignor to send his goods under Risk Note Form B instead of using the ordinary forwarding note under which goods are carried at the risk of the Railway, Government sees no reason to interfere.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXXI. (a) Is it a fact that the Government intends to introduce legislation regarding the question of the impartibility or otherwise of the zamindaris and other large estates? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the scope of the proposed legislation and whether it will invite public opinion on the subject before introducing a Bill in the Legislative Council?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider whether it is desirable to retain the law, as to the powers of alienation by the owners of impartible zamindaris as declared in the recent Pittapur zamindari case?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XXXI. The Hon'ble Member is referred to the answer to question XIII put by the Hon'ble M.R.Ry. P. Ratnasabhapat Pillai Avargal. The Government is unable to make at present any further declaration of its intentions in the matter.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXXII. (a) Has the attention of the Government been called to an article in the *Madras Times* in its evening issue of 16th March headed "Three devotees, a variation of hook-swinging"?

(b) Does the case of the gruesome exhibition described in the article come within the orders passed by the Government regarding hook-swinging? If not, will the Government be pleased to state what steps it intends to take in view to prohibit revolting tortures of this kind?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XXXII. The Government has now perused the article referred to, and will call for a report on the subject.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXXIII. (a) In reference to the rules governing the pecuniary relations of Government servants embodied in Part III of the "Rules regulating the personal conduct of Government servants," will the Government be pleased to consider whether it is desirable that that portion of rule No. 23 should be retained, which prohibits officers in the subordinate executive and judicial services from lending money at interest to landholders throughout the province and to owners of house property in towns and hill stations?

(b) In view of the general indebtedness of agriculturists and small landholders in this province and of the extortionate rates of interest charged by sowcars, as well as in the interests of the comparatively low-paid subordinate service, will the Government be pleased to exclude from the area of prohibition the native district and one or two neighbouring districts of the Government servant concerned on the condition of his not being employed in those districts?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which British firms are exempt from the rule of prohibition as regards monetary transactions with Government servants as embodied in rule No. 24? Will it be pleased to consider the desirability of taking such steps as may be necessary to place all firms, British and Indian, on the same footing in connection with this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. Stokes :—

XXXIII. The provisions of rules Nos. 23 and 24 are based upon orders of the Government of India, and cannot be altered without the sanction of that Government. The Governor in Council regards the rules as necessary and salutary in the interests of upright administration and declines to consider their modification.

The exemption referred to by the Honourable Member in clause (c) having been made by the Government of India, the Government is unable to state the circumstances upon which it was based.

The Hon'ble M.R.Ry. C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR Avargal :—

XXXIV. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that a public meeting convened by the Trustees of the Victoria Public Hall of qualified men to elect six Trustees whose time expired on the 4th March 1899 was attended by none at the appointed hour?

(b) Is it aware that the failure of the meeting was due to want of sufficient and proper notice to the Public?

(c) Is it a fact that the Trustees have made no subsequent attempt to convene a proper public meeting for the purpose of filling the vacancies?

(d) Is the Government aware that the remaining six Trustees have the power to elect six others to serve as Trustees and whether two meetings of the remaining six Trustees called for the same purpose were not held for want of a quorum?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to place the management of the Hall on a more satisfactory footing?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

XXXIV. This is a matter in which Government has no concern and in which it cannot interfere.

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

The Secretary reports that the Bill to make provision for the registration of births and deaths in rural tracts which was passed into law at the last meeting of the Council received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 3rd instant.

(4) *Petitions, &c.*

The Secretary reports the communication of the following papers to the Select Committee on the Malabar Compensation for Tenants' Improvements Bill:—

G.O., No. 30, Legislative, dated 11th March 1899.

"	"	33	"	"	14th	"	"
"	"	34	"	"	14th	"	"
"	"	35	"	"	14th	"	"
"	"	37	"	"	20th	"	"

The Secretary further reports the receipt of a telegram from the Secretary Koodali Union Club, dated 22nd March 1898, protesting against the same Bill.

The Secretary also lays on the table the copy of the statement referred to in the answer to question No. XXVI (b) asked at the last meeting of the Council.

(5) *Bill to amend the City of Madras Municipal Act I of 1884.*

The Hon'ble Mr. G. S. FORBES moves that the Bill be passed into law.

Notice has been given of the following amendment by the Hon'ble Lieutenant-Colonel Sir GEORGE MOORE, Kt., C.I.E.

"That the following be inserted as section 1:—

'In section 44 of the said Act, for the word 'four' shall be substituted the word 'five' and that the present sections 1 and 2 be numbered as 2 and 3.'

(6) *Bill to amend the Court of Wards Regulation V of 1804.*

The Hon'ble Mr. G. S. FORBES introduces the above Bill and moves that it be read in Council; and if the motion be carried he will further move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee for report.

A. EDGINGTON,
Ag. Asst. Secy. to Government.

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Government of Fort St. George.
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES

FOR THE

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

On Friday, the 7th day of April 1899
at 12 o'clock noon.

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

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
F = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.