(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 4

(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 1/90

(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P W D துறை

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அரசாணை எண். — 139

மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண்.

அச்சகம்
பலவகை

நாள் : 17 - 1 - 1891

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மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. SMITH, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Camp Kodaikánal, 27th February 1890, No. 1335 M.D.

With reference to para. 2 of G.O., No. 2523-W., dated 11th September 1889, I have the honor to submit herewith an estimate of Rs. 350 for preserving the temple at Kovilpati, together with a report and sketch plan.

ENCLOSURE.

REPORT to accompany the estimate for repairs to the Temple at Kovilpati Village, Tirumangalam Taluk.

1. The temple is situated at the south-west portion of Kovilpati village, which is about half-a-mile west of Vikramangalam.

2. This is a Siva temple of old architecture built in the days of Pandya Raja of Madura.

3. There is a verandah (terraced) in front of the temple gateway measuring 26½′ by 9′ with a good terrace of covering stones and the top covering of which is in bad order, being overgrown with bushes and leaking in some places.

4. The temple measures 73′ by 41½′ inside, with one girba grakam in the centre, as shown in the sketch, for the dedication of Siva god, in which place there now exists a Belly god or Ganapathy. The girba grakam is sub-divided into two compartments—the first to preserve the things required for the worship of the god, and the second for the god itself.

5. The above 2nd compartment for the girba grakam, as it is called, has a wooden terrace bearing the tower, the planking being done on the support of beams and joists resting on the walls, but the wood-work has been worn out and many beams have fallen and decayed. As the tower for this room is based upon the walls, which have been worked out into an octagonal figure by cornice works, these rotten beams, &c., can be removed without any danger, and the holes in which they rest can be blocked up. The tower is carried in a circular form on this octagon by projection of bricks, and is carried to the top as a cone with different figures of Hindu architecture built over it. The above circular dome has an opening at the south side, the brick-work having been destroyed for a length of 6 ft., and the tower is unsafe. Hence provision has been made for rebuilding the demolished portion of the dome and for closing the holes in which the beams rest on the inside.

6. There are some wide openings in the joints of stones in the walls which are likely to cause those stones to fall and thus endanger the building, and hence a lump sum has been provided for closing these openings and pointing them.

7. The building is in good order throughout in the inside and the pillars and cornice works and corbels have been executed with utmost skill in architecture, but the top over the terrace is strewed with bushes and trees, the roots of which have grown into the concrete over the terrace, which is much destroyed, and hence the building leaks in most places. Provision has therefore been made for removing all the bushes and on the terrace and for laying concrete of 3″ thick and plastering.

8. There is a good ventilation in the whole building, light being sufficiently let in through the open spaces left around the three sides of the inner building just above the moat.

9. The main walls of the building, including the portion over the terrace, are about 20 ft. in height in the front and north side, but 8 ft. have fallen down from the other sides, the fallen stones lying down around the building, which still exists, is strong enough and in good order.

10. Big Alai, Itchi and Arosa trees have grown in the main walls, which have carried their roots to the very basement and thus weakened the walls. Provision has therefore been made for cutting them out and also to hot-iron the roots within the walls, so that they may not again thrive, but be altogether destroyed.

11. There are inscriptions on the stone in the walls on all sides in Tamil and Sanscrit letters which are not easily readable.

12. There is a moat on the south, west and north sides of girba grakam and its front apartment measuring 4½ ft. wide and 2½ ft. deep with a beautiful cornice work, some of the cornice stones being 22 ft. long and 2½ ft. deep, very nicely and neatly dressed and fitted.

13. The covering stones for the terrace are all well wrought up, and measure 8 feet by 4½ feet.

14. The flooring is very roughly made of stones laid loose and is very irregular, and it is reported that they have been removed once and examined.

15. There is a well measuring about 12 feet square in the south side of the temple cut in rock with very good water which provides for drinking purposes of the whole village. This well greatly requires clearing and looking after, which the Local Fund Department may be requested to take care of, as it is the only drinking-water for the village.

16. The estimate for the necessary upkeep of the temple without allowing it for further ruins above is herewith submitted with a sketch of the building.

(Signed) F. W. S. SMYTH,
Assistant Engineer.

Reference on No. 1270, dated 8th March 1890.

Referred to the Public Department for the opinion of the Archæological Department.

(Signed) R. R. E. DRAKE-BROCKMAN, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
Ag. Joint Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

Reference on No. 734, dated 12th March 1890.

Referred to the First Assistant, Archæological Survey Department, for report with advertence to G.O., No. 783, dated 1st October 1889.

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Ag. Chief Secretary.

From A. REA, Esq., M.R.A.S., First Assistant, Archæological Survey, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Bangalore, 2nd April 1890, No. 238.

Adverting to G.O., No. 783, of the 1st October 1889, and your reference of the 12th March 1890, forwarding report and estimate from the Public Works Department for repairs to the temple at Kovilpati, in the Madura district, I have the honor to report as follows:—

2. Paragraph 5 of the accompanying report provides for the removal of ceiling beams in the tower, and the stopping up of the holes in which they rested. As these beams are a usual feature in such structures, their removal will alter the design; and, as they support nothing, their removal, or retention in their present state, will in no way affect the stability of the tower. They should be left untouched. The repair to the ruined portion of the tower is desirable.

3. The repairs mentioned in paragraph 6 should be carried out.

4. In reference to paragraph 7, the provision for removing the bushes and trees is of first importance, and should be attended to thoroughly, as it is through such vegetation finding a root, that almost all these buildings fall into decay. The laying

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of a bed of concrete is, however, quite unnecessary; and its omission will reduce the amount of the estimate very considerably.*

* Rs. 176.
„ 65.
„ 20.
Total „ 261.

If the building were to be restored for worship, the concrete would no doubt be necessary; but as it is simply to be repaired so that ruin may be checked, it will be quite sufficient to close up the cracks and open joints with mortar.

5. The removal of tree roots noted in paragraph 10 is necessary; but it might be done without much expense in scaffolding.

6. The clearing of the well referred to in paragraph 15 is, as remarked, one which is not chargeable to the conservation grant, and should be attended to by the persons concerned.

7. The other paragraphs require no remark; but one matter seems to have been overlooked. Around the exterior of the walls of the shrine is a deep channel in the floor, described in the report and plan as a moat. Rain falling through the openings in the roof overhead collects and floods the floor. In the original design no doubt a drain would be provided to carry the water away. A search might be made for this drain, which will probably be at right angles to the south side of the centre of the shrine. If it exists, it should be cleared out, and so restore the drainage.

8. With the modifications above mentioned, the estimate seems to provide for everything necessary.

G.O., dated 6th November 1890, No. 745, Public.

ABSTRACT.—According sanction to item No. 25, temple at Vikramangalam, being struck out of the list of monuments in the Madura district selected for conservation.

ORDER—dated 9th January 1891, No. 18, Public.

The proposals contained in the letters read above relate to a Siva temple at Kovilpati, the inscriptions on which are said to relate to occurrences which took place early in the 13th century. The temple, which is classed under II and (*a*), and is therefore not one of the buildings "which from their present condition and historical or archæological value should be maintained in permanent good repair," is said to be half ruined, and the *inam* confiscated because worship has not been kept up. In or before 1884 the Collector proposed to re-assign part of the lands on condition of the temple being kept in repair. Mr. Sewell, on the other hand, was for placing it in charge of the Public Works Department and spending Rs. 100 a year on it. The present estimate, as drawn up by the Public Works Department, provides for a good deal of "restoration"—always of doubtful expediency, and particularly so in an instance of this kind. Mr. Rea does not advocate the proposals, so far as they relate to restoration, and suggests reductions in the estimate.

2. The case must be governed by the general orders which have issued on the subject of the conservation of monuments in the Madras Presidency. If the temple finds a place in the revised standard list to be prepared by Mr. Rea, his recommendations, as stated in sections 2—5 and 7 of his letter, dated 2nd April last, No. 238, will be accepted and the estimate modified accordingly; otherwise the Government will not assume any responsibility, and it will be desirable for the Surveyor to place on record sketches and particulars regarding the building and to endeavour to have copies of the inscriptions made.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Archæological Surveyor.
„ Public Works Department.
Copy to Government Epigraphist.
„ Collector of Madura.

Exd. A. Raitt.

OWC. No 463.

Govt. of {1891} Madras.

PUBLIC.

No 339 W dy 17 Jany 1891

Communicated to the Hon'ble Govt VI Circle in continuation of G.O. No 3096 W dy 19 Nov 1890

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Issued

Recd. 15-1-91 Encl.

G.O., 9th January 1891, No. 18.

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JANUARY.

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Archæology.

Passing orders regarding the case of the temple at Kovilpati in Madura district.

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