

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 10322

DATED 28th April 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Legislative Council: Pres. Legislative Dept
Commrs. the questions asked at the meeting of the
— on the 4th April 1898 and the answers given
to them, recorded.

25/4/98

Coming Over from Sweden
at the meeting of the
Council held on the
4. April 1898

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BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Legislative Department.



GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

NOTICES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL 1898.

Read the following paper:—

(1) Additional Members.

The Secretary reports that the following gentlemen take their seats as additional Members of Council:—
The Hon'ble Mr. J. THOMAS.
Questions asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 4th April 1898 and the answers given to them.

" " MR. C. A. WHITE, Advocate-General.
" " V. BHASKYAM AYYANGAR AYYANGAR, C.M., Diwan Bahadur.
" " THE RAJA OF BOBHILI, K.C.I.S.
O R D E R :— No. 21 dated 5th April 1898.

Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat

concerned for information and guidance.

2. The attention of the Revenue, the Local and Municipal and the Public departments will be drawn to the answers given to the Questions noted on the margin.

I. Will the Government be pleased to state (True Extract) on which occasions since their construction the Government Library and the Museum Theatre have been lighted for a public purpose, and by reason of what failure programme the Government has deemed fit to make a grant of over ten thousand rupees for the purpose of a gas installation for lighting up these buildings?

The Hon'ble Mr. Speaker:—

1. The Library has been lighted once, the Museum Theatre on occasions for various purposes. The installation of gas will be provided with a view to open the library at night time and so increase the sphere of usefulness and to make the lecture theatre available for evening lectures.

The Hon'ble C. VEERARACHIVACHARIAN:—

II. (a) Is it a fact that proceedings for fiscal offences have increased or decreased since the year 1895-96? (b) Is it a fact that the population of the Presidency has increased or decreased since the year 1895-96? (c) Is it a fact that the population of the Presidency has increased or decreased since the year 1895-96?

To the Educational
" " Revenue
" " Judicial
" " Public
" " Local and Municipal
" " Public works

Departments with copy of questions and answers

C.P.
5.4.98



PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following paper:—

Questions asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 4th April 1898 and the answers given to them.

ORDER:—No. 21 dated 14 April 1898.
Communicated to the departments of the Secretariat for information and guidance.
The attention of the Revenue, the Local and Municipal and the Public departments will be drawn to the answers given to the questions noted on the margin.
(True Extract)
For Secretary to Govt.

GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES FOR THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY,
THE 4TH DAY OF APRIL 1898.

(1) *Additional Members.*

The Secretary reports that the following gentlemen take their seats as additional Members of Council:—

The Hon'ble Mr. J. THOMSON.
" " Mr. H. P. HODGSON.
" " Mr. C. A. WHITE, Advocate-General.
" " V. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR AVARGAL, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur.
" " THE RAJA OF BOBBILI, K.C.I.E.

(2) *Financial Statement.*

The Hon'ble Sir HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E., explains the annual Financial Statement for 1898-99.

(3) *Questions.*

With the permission of His Excellency the President—

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR asks the following questions:—

I. Will the Government be pleased to state on how many and on which occasions since their construction the Connemara Library and the Museum Theatre have been lighted for a public purpose, and by reason of what future programme the Government has deemed fit to make a grant of over ten thousand rupees for the purpose of a gas installation for lighting up these buildings?

The Hon'ble Mr. GROSE:—

I. The Library has been lighted once, the Museum theatre on 45 occasions for various purposes. The installation of gas will be provided with a view to open the library at night time and so increase its sphere of usefulness and to make the lecture theatre available for evening lectures.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR:—

II. (a) Is it a fact that prosecutions for fiscal offences have always or generally been far more numerous in this Presidency than in the Bengal and other Presidencies, whether regard be had to the population, or the proportion of such prosecutions to prosecutions for offences other than fiscal?

(b) Is it also a fact that the proportion of convictions to the total number of such prosecutions is the highest in this Presidency? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the causes that have occasioned the special state of things in this Presidency in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

II. (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Administration reports of the several provinces for the figures. These reports will be made available for his use in the office. If the proportion of convictions is higher here than elsewhere, the only reason the Government can suggest is that prosecutions here are conducted with greater care and efficiency.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

III. Is it a fact that in Calendar Case No. 489 of 1897 on the file of the Second Class Magistrate of Villupuram, in the South Arcot district, the accused were kept in custody pending trial for six months and finally acquitted? Is it a fact that the Magistrate refused to enlarge the accused on bail?

Will the Government be pleased to cause an inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case which necessitated such an unusually long remand of the accused to prison and why bail was refused if the trial had to be protracted for any cause?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

III. The Government has no information, but the District Magistrate has been called upon to report whether the facts are as stated in the Hon'ble Member's question.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

IV. Is it a fact that the District Forest-officer of Kistna has recommended that grazing fees might be raised immediately to one rupee and prospectively to two rupees per head of cattle? If so, will the Government be pleased to state owing to what special circumstances in his district does that officer justify his proposal?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

IV. Proposals for enhancing the grazing fees have been submitted to Government; and Government has under consideration the question of raising to one rupee the rate for grazing in a few special blocks that are frequented mainly by the cattle of professional graziers or breeders and can be treated exceptionally without prejudicing the privileges of ordinary cultivators, or that produce an exceptionally rich growth of grass for which the demand exceeds the supply.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

V. Is the Government in a position to say what measures since the issue of G.O., No. 569, of the 13th July 1897, have been adopted by the Forest Department to give ryots the benefit of the provisions contained in paragraphs 7 and 9 as to the necessity for effecting improvements in the "grazing capabilities" of forest land, especially where the people had formerly rights of free pasture and for making provision for goat browsing? If so, will the Government be pleased to place on the table papers showing the progress made in these respects?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

V. The Government Order quoted issued no new instructions but merely recapitulated existing orders on matters of forest policy. The improvement of the grazing capabilities of forest land and the need of provision for goat browsing receive constant attention from Collectors and Forest officers. The Government has not called for any special and detailed report of the steps taken for such improvement and provision in each district and sees no reason to do so. The Government knows of no place where the people had formerly the right of free pasture.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

VI. (a) With reference to the statement made by the Government in the meeting of the council in November last that the principle on which translatorship to Government should be filled up, was engaging its attention, has the question been since disposed of? If so, will the Government be pleased to state on what principle these places will henceforth be filled up and the circumstances under which the principle has been adopted?

(b) Is it a fact that these appointments are no longer open to the natives of this country? If so, has the Government considered the fact that the change will place the Government and the people in the hands of irresponsible and ill-educated moonshees in the place of educated Indians of ability and character?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any necessity to take up and consider this question was pointed out to it by the Government of India or whether this Government took up the subject without any suggestion from without?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

VI. (a) It has been decided by Government not to make any change in the principles regulating the appointment of Translator to Government.

(b) It is not a fact that these appointments are no longer open to the natives of the country.

(c) The Government is not prepared to give the Hon'ble Member any information on the subject.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

VII. As no applicant was found fit for admission to the competitive examination which the Government proposed to hold in September last for the selection of a candidate as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police, will the Government be pleased to adopt this time the other method of recruitment in this country, namely, the promotion of a deserving public servant?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

VII. The question whether an appointment should be filled this year by local recruitment is under consideration.

The Hon'ble C. VIJAYARAGHAVACHARIAR :—

VIII. (a) Is it a fact that the Taluk Board of Ramnad, Madura district, has recently passed a resolution to abolish the dispensary at Mudukulattur, to transfer the management of the dispensary at Aruppukottai to the American Mission there on an annual grant of Rs. 550 from the taluk board, and to dispense with the services of the midwife at the dispensary in Pámban and that none would be attached to it in future?

(b) Has the Government received petitions signed by the officials and inhabitants of Mudukulattur and the surrounding villages pointing out the inconvenience and danger to the health of the inhabitants, numbering over 3,000, that would arise if the resolution is given effect to, stating among several other reasons that the institution was permanently established ten years ago with a substantial subscription from the people of the place?

(c) In view of the reasons urged by these petitioners, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of rescinding this resolution?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

VIII. (a) Proposals to abolish the dispensary at Mudukulattur and to transfer the management of the dispensary at Aruppukottai to the American Mission with an annual grant from taluk funds, were embodied in the Local Fund budget of the Madura district for 1898-99. The Government is not aware of any proposal to dispense with the services of the midwife at Pámban.

- (b) A petition on this subject was received in November last and transferred to the Taluk Board for consideration.
- (c) The proposal to abolish the dispensary at Mudukulattur has not been sanctioned by Government; but the proposed transfer of the Arupukóttai dispensary to the Mission authorities has been approved.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

IX. (a) With reference to paragraph 18 quoted below of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 719, dated 1st November 1892, embodied in G.O., No. 697, Revenue, dated 31st July 1893, sanctioning the new rates of settlement in Tanjore, will Government be pleased to state whether any, and what, steps have been taken to carry out the recommendation of the Board in the matter of effecting an "equitable and economical distribution of water" in that district?

"Paragraph 18, Regulation of Irrigation.—A great deal has been done in the past towards the improvement of the irrigation of the delta. One of the finest and most useful works of this generation is a Vennár regulator completed in 1886, which enables the engineers to control the discharge of river water at the grand anicut, and at other points lower down similar head-works have been constructed to regulate the flow of various minor rivers which spread out over the delta. But much in the same direction remains to be done, and if the increase of assessment involved in the proposed settlement be imposed, it will certainly become the duty of Government to lay out very considerable sums upon the equitable and economical distribution of water upon which so large a revenue depends. The Acting Commissioner having, as Collector, lived for some four years in Tanjore, and being well acquainted with every part of the district, is convinced that much needless waste occurs in the process of irrigation, and that there is much inequality in the distribution of the available supply of water. Mr. Clerk draws attention to the Manniar, a branch from the Coleroon, under which cultivation is said to have deteriorated owing to diminished supply, resulting from remediable defects in the flow of the parent stream. The Board understands that a scheme for improving the lower anicut on the Coleroon is now under preparation by the Public Works Department, and suggests that the attention of the Chief Engineer be drawn to the Deputy Commissioner's remarks. In illustration of the inadequate sums laid out upon channel improvements, it may be mentioned that in the Tanjore taluk with an annual revenue of $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, only Rs. 10,000 have been spent on channels during the past ten years, i.e., Rs. 1,000 a year."

(b) Whether any, and what, amount has been spent on the improvement of irrigation in the district on the lines recommended by the Board of Revenue?

X. Will Government be pleased to state the nature of the special duty upon which Lieutenant-Colonel Smart is engaged in Tanjore at present?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

IX & X. It was in view to the more equitable distribution of water between the main branches of the Cauvery and Vennár receiving early attention, that Colonel A. W. Smart, R.E., Superintending Engineer, was appointed on special duty in November 1895 for the preparation of the completion estimates of the Cauvery Delta system. The estimates prepared by this office for the following works have already been sanctioned and are under execution:—

	RS.
(1) Improvements to the Lower Coleroon anicut ..	1,25,000
(2) " " Upper " ..	6,57,000
(3) " " Grand anicut " ..	1,29,200

In addition to the above works, regulators are required. At the heads of many of the minor channels open dams are required in place of immovable anicuts. These works which are comparatively petty, all have the same object—a more effective distribution of the supply and greater security from floods. A complete plan of all channels and drainages and of the areas depending on them is under preparation by Colonel Smart so that all improvements of this kind may be undertaken systematically.

The amounts spent on improvements to the Cauvery Delta system since 1893 are shown below:—

						Outlay on works exclusive of establishment and tools and plant charges.		
						Major improvements.	Minor improvements.	Total.
						RS.	RS.	RS.
1893-94	..	..	..	..	..	500	11,859	12,359
1894-95	..	..	..	..	..	5,309	8,198	13,507
1895-96	..	..	..	..	..	21,605	11,445	33,050
1896-97	..	..	..	..	..	34,884	19,576	54,460
1897-98	..	..	..	..	..	1,07,576	14,096	1,21,672
1897-98 (probable)	..	..	..	..	..			

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XI. With reference to G.O., No. 512, Revenue, dated 30th June 1897, directing the preparation of a "record of irrigation rights" in Tanjore, will Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to undertake legislation in view to the adjudication of disputed claims?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

XI. The Government order quoted directed the preparation of a memorandum of existing arrangements for irrigation in the Tanjore district and not the preparation of a record of irrigation rights.

The question of the necessity of legislation is under consideration.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XII. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any scheme in contemplation for the improvement of irrigation in Pattukkóttai taluk (Tanjore), and if so, what is the proposed scheme and its approximate cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XII. Yes. The investigation of the scheme is now being actively proceeded with under Colonel Smart. This is a tank project which will be fed from the Vennár by a supply channel capable of carrying 5,000 cubic feet per second. It will probably cost about 40 lakhs and bring under irrigation about 40,000 acres, besides securing the lower parts of the Cauvery delta affected by the Vennár from floods.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XIII. Will Government be pleased to furnish any available information regarding the proposed "Bhaváni Scheme" (Coimbatore), and state what district and acreage therein the scheme is likely to serve, and what may be the approximate cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XIII. The Bhaváni scheme is required for the improvement of the supply of the Tanjore lands and to induce the extension of double-crop cultivation. The site which appears to be most promising for the dam has been fully investigated and an estimate for the project will be made as soon as the inquiries regarding possible extension of irrigation are completed. The probable cost of the project has not yet been worked out.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XIV. (a) Is Government in a position to give definite information regarding the prevention of plague by inoculation, and will it be pleased to state whether the experiments made till now in Bombay and elsewhere will justify the introduction of inoculation with any degree of confidence and safety?

(b) Has Government made any arrangements for introduction of inoculation in this Presidency, should necessity for preventive measures arise?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XIV. (a) The Hon'ble Member is referred to the orders of Government G.O., No. 367 M., dated 4th March 1897. noted in the margin, which contain the results of inoculation in the city of Bombay and Damaun, and which have been placed on the Editors' Table. It has not yet been shown that inoculation with prophylactic serum can be relied on as a means to prevent the spread of plague; but the results of experiments hitherto made are distinctly encouraging.

(b) Yes. Twenty syringes and a stock of serum sufficient to inoculate 500 persons are kept ready for use; while Surgeon-Major Bannerman, who has been specially trained by Professor Haffkine in preparing the serum and in the method of inoculation, is under orders of recall to the Presidency.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XV. Will Government be pleased to state whether pensions paid by Native States to their retired officers now resident in British territory are liable to income-tax, and whether such cases are being assessed now?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XV. Such pensions are liable to income-tax under Act II of 1886 if they are received in British India. As far as the Government is aware, such cases are duly assessed.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XVI. With reference to the *Fort St. George Gazette* Supplement, Part I-A, dated 1st February 1898, Notification No. 74, regarding the removal of a municipal councillor from his office at Tiruvannamalai, will Government be pleased to order the papers on the matter to be placed on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XVI. The papers will be shown to the Hon'ble Member.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XVII. (a) Is Government aware that the revised kistbandy for land revenue in four equal instalments of January to April has resulted in general hardship to the pattadars in Tanjore and other districts, that they are forced to bring to the market at a great disadvantage in prices the grain as it is being harvested, and that during the earlier instalments they are even obliged to obtain advances of loans from grain-dealers on unfavourable terms against crops not yet harvested?

(b) Will Government be pleased to call for reports, if necessary, as to the working of the revised kistbandy, and take into consideration the desirability of reverting to the old kistbandy?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes :—

XVII. (a) The Hon'ble Member will be referred to the reply given to question No. VII asked by the Hon'ble N. Subba Rao Pantulu in the Legislative Council meeting held on the 26th February 1896. As indicated in the concluding portion of that reply, the question of revising the kistbandy was before Government in 1896, and after a very careful consideration of the various proposals put forward, His Excellency the Governor in Council arrived at the conclusion that no case was made out for any change in the existing instalments of land revenue collections except in the case of the Tanjore district in which the complicated kistbandy of eight instalments previously obtaining was assimilated to that of four equal instalments as in other districts. Government is not aware that the revised kistbandy has resulted in hardship in Tanjore or elsewhere.

(b) The Government is not prepared to re-open the question at present.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XVIII. (a) Is it a fact that the Amin Veerasami Naidu, the accused in C.C. No. 581 of 1894 (on the file of the Stationary Sub-Magistrate of Cuddalore) submitted memorials to the Government in respect of the conduct of the Sub-Magistrate M.R. Ry. S. Sundra Aiyar, who tried the case, and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state whether any and, if so, what orders were passed thereon?

(b) With reference to questions Nos. XX to XXIV asked by the Hon'ble K. Kalyanasundram Aiyar Avargal at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 8th April 1896 and the reply to question XXIV "that the matter is still under the consideration of Government", will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken as regards the Sub-Magistrate, who is now Tahsildar of Tirukkóvilúr, South Arcot, in respect of whom, the High Court of Madras remarked among other things that he "appears to have wasted a vast amount of public time and allowed the process of the Court to be abused in the trial of the case".

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XVIII. (a) Yes. The memorials were perused by Government but no action thereon was considered to be necessary.

(b) No further action was taken in the matter. The Government considered that the censure of the High Court was sufficient.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XIX. (a) Is it a fact that out of a total strength of 24 councillors, the Trichinopoly Municipality is allowed to elect only eight councillors?

(b) With reference to the circumstance that minor municipalities have been given the privilege of electing two-thirds of the councillors, and that the privilege of electing its Chairman has been restored to the Trichinopoly Municipal Council, will Government be pleased to grant to it the privilege of electing a larger proportion of councillors?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XIX. (a) The answer to the first part of this question is in the affirmative.

(b) The Government regrets that it cannot accept this suggestion.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XX. (a) Is Government aware that the people of Trichinopoly are just now suffering much on account of the failure of water-works?

(b) Is it a fact that the several defects existing in the boiler-room, engine-house, and the pumping well were brought to the notice of the Government by means of petitions, and also by the Chairman of the Municipal Council, and will Government be pleased to state what orders have been issued by it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XX. (a) The answer to the first part of this question is in the negative.

(b) No petitions have been received pointing out defects in the boiler-room, the engine-house and the pumping well. The Chairman of the Municipal Council brought to notice the existence of certain defects and the matter is now under the consideration of Government.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI :—

XXI. Is it a fact that the cost of the scheme (Trichinopoly water-works), as prepared by Mr. Oldham, was only 2½ lakhs of rupees and that it included the construction of a reservoir capable of holding a three days' supply for the town, and that the scheme as modified by Mr. Jones has already cost over 6 lakhs without the reservoir?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XXI. The scheme prepared by Mr. Oldham in 1888 was estimated to cost 2½ lakhs for the supply of water to only certain portions of the municipality; but including the South Indian Railway station and the sepoy lines, the estimate amounted to Rs. 3,59,559. The estimate as revised by the Sanitary Engineer in 1891, with reference to the rates and prices then current, amounted to Rs. 4,43,000. This scheme provided for a supply of 10 gallons per head and for the construction of a service reservoir, capable of holding two days' supply.

The scheme as modified by Mr. Jones does not provide for a reservoir, but is calculated to supply 15 gallons per head per diem instead of 10. The total expenditure on the scheme up to 31st March 1897 was Rupees 5,00,500 against an estimate of Rs. 5,18,255. There is no information as to what expenditure has been incurred subsequently.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XXII. Is it true that the head-works were constructed at a place a little lower down the present site, and that these were washed away by the floods in 1893, and will Government be pleased to state the extent of the loss in consequence thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XXII. The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the latter part, the Hon'ble Member is referred to paragraph 14 of the Assistant Sanitary Engineer's report on the revised water-supply scheme printed in G.O., No. 384 M., dated 28th March 1894, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XXIII. (a) Is it a fact that the Municipal Council of Trichinopoly has now applied to the Government to have a reservoir capable of holding a day's supply at a cost of Rs. 75,000?

(b) Is it a fact that even so late as last year Mr. Jones advised the council to extend the pipe laying to Oraiyur and Puttur which form part of the municipality, instead of building a reservoir which he considered to be a superfluity?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XXIII. (a) and (b) The answer to the two parts of this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XXIV. In view of the fact that the pumping had to be stopped owing to the failure of the water-works at Trichinopoly, so soon after their construction, will Government be pleased to order a thorough investigation into the causes of the failure, and ascertain whether there were faults in construction and, if so, who is responsible for the same?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel:—

XXIV. The matter will be considered.

The Hon'ble P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI:—

XXV. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Collector's present Huzur Sarishtadar M.R.Ry. T. Sesha Aiyar in Tinnevely is a native of that district, and whether he has lands and relatives in it?

(b) If it is a fact, will Government be pleased to issue orders in view to his transfer to some other district?

(c) If Government has no information on the matter, will it be pleased to call for a report?

The Hon'ble Mr. Forbes:—

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

(c) The Government does not think it necessary to call for a report in the matter; but a copy of the question will be communicated to the Board of Revenue as the confirmation of the appointment of Huzur Sarishtadar rests with that authority.

The Hon'ble C. JAMBULINGAM MUDALIYAR:—

XXVI. (a) Is the Government aware that under permissions granted to the Revenue Department in or about the year 1863, ryots of the villages of Molakathalla, Chithraghad, Tharimala, Panidi, Chittur, and other villages situated close to the banks of the Pennéru river in Gooty taluk of Anantapur district dug river channels from the Pennéru at their own expense and brought waste lands under cultivation?

(b) Is the Government also aware that in consideration of the large expense and trouble incurred by ryots in digging channels at their own cost and bringing waste lands under cultivation, a permanent arrangement was made by the Revenue Department to collect special reduced rates, generally Rs. 1-8-0 per acre as tirvajasti and half the said amount as fasaljasti instead of the usual wet assessment levied for lands irrigated by Government channels?

(c) Is it a fact that during the recent settlement of the Gooty taluk the Settlement officers ignored the existence of private channels and special rates and charged the said lands with wet assessment thus placing the lands under private channels on a level with lands under Government channels?

(d) Is it a fact also that on appeal to the Board of Revenue by the ryots, who were affected by the orders of the Settlement officers, the Board were pleased to confirm the special rates fixed in 1863 and cancel the settlement rates in the case of Chittur village only as per Board's Proceedings, No. 3747, dated 27th June 1893, but declined to set aside the settlement rates in the case of other villages similarly situated?

(e) Will the Government be pleased to inquire into this matter fully, and afford relief to the owners of all private channels and lands thereunder by confirming the special rates fixed at the time when the ryots agreed to dig them at their own expense and remit all enhancements over the said rates?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose:—

XXVI. (a) Several cases have come to the notice of the Board of Revenue in which permission had been granted by local officers, at various times, for the construction of irrigation channels by private persons from the Pennéru river in the Gooty taluk.

(b) In all such cases, certain special rates, less than the ordinary rates, had been sanctioned by local officers. Such special rates were, in some cases, consolidated wet rates; in some favourable water rates charged in addition to dry assessment. There was no permanent arrangement made by the Revenue Department.

(c) The existence of these channels and rates was not ignored. The assessment of the lands was revised with the sanction and approval of the Board of Revenue and the Government.

(d) In no case of appeal traceable in the office of the Board of Revenue was the original special rate confirmed. In the case of the Chittur village referred to, a special rate of Rs. 2-8-0 per acre was sanctioned in lieu of the original rates which averaged less than one rupee per acre.

(e) The cases were fully investigated at the time of settlement and the Settlement Department held that the special rates sanctioned by local officers were subject to revision at the time of settlement, as the terms of the original grants did not preclude such revision and as the rates which were very moderate had been in force sufficiently long to compensate the ryots for their outlay. The Government sees no reason to inquire further into the matter.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXVII. Is the Government aware that of the eleven boys presented in 1896 and nine boys presented in 1897 for the Matriculation Examination from the Government Madrasa-i-Azam not one was successful in passing that examination?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

XXVII. Yes.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXVIII. Has the Headmaster of the school been asked to explain the cause of this failure?

The Hon'ble Dr. Duncan :—

XXVIII. Yes.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXIX. Will the Government be pleased to state whether any scheme for the re-organization of the school has been received by it and, if so, when?

XXX. Does the scheme for the re-organization referred to in question No. XXIX include any proposal for improving the efficiency of the teachers of the lower department?

The Hon'ble Mr. Grose :—

XXIX & XXX. Certain proposals for improving the accommodation and the establishment of the Madrasa-i-Azam have lately been received from the Director of Public Instruction.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXI. While sanctioning the list of public holidays, was any suggestion received by Government to include Duazdaham-i-sheriff, or the birthday of the Prophet, as a holiday for Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXI. The answer is "No".

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXII. In view of the great sanctity attached to the birthday of their Prophet by the Muhammadans, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of including the above-mentioned day in the list?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXII. The Government will consider the matter.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXIII. Is it a fact that the Collector of Madura has recommended non-Muhammadans for the two vacancies caused by the retirement of Muhammadan members in the Municipal Council of Palni?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXIII. The Collector of Madura has recommended the appointment of a non-Muhammadan for a vacancy caused by the retirement of a Muhammadan member.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXIV. Has the Government received any memorial from the Muhammadans of this place protesting against the Collector's recommendation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXIV. The answer to this question is in the affirmative.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXV. If so, will the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed on this memorial?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXV. A report on the subject has been called for from the Collector.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXVI. Is it a fact that the appointment of four additional District Munsifs has been sanctioned by Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXVI. The matter is under consideration.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXVII. Is the Government aware that, with the exception of Saiyed Tajuddin Saheb, the Madras Provincial Service, Judicial Branch, is utterly unrepresented by Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXVII. The Government is aware that there is only one Muhammadan in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Service.

The Hon'ble GHULAM MUHAMMAD :—

XXXVIII. If the answer to question No. XXXVII be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to suggest to the High Court the desirability of appointing some competent Muhammadans as District Munsifs?

The Hon'ble Mr. Arundel :—

XXXVIII. The appointment of District Munsifs vests by law in the High Court and the Government therefore cannot interfere in the matter.

(4) Act assented to by His Excellency the Governor.

The Secretary reports that the Bill to amend Madras Act II of 1886 (The Madras Harbour Trust Act), which was passed by the Council on the 1st February last, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 3rd idem.

(5) Act assented to by His Excellency the Governor-General.

His Excellency the President announces the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General to Madras Act II of 1898—An Act to amend Madras Act II of 1886 (The Madras Harbour Trust Act).

(6) Petitions, &c.

The Secretary reports that a petition on the subject of the Hindu Gains of Learning Bill has been received from one Sonty SUBBARAYUDU of Cocanada and referred under Council Rule 43 to the Select Committee on the Bill.

(7) Malabar Testamentary Bill.

The Hon'ble V. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, C.I.E., Diwan Bahadur, presents the report of the Select Committee on the Bill.

(8) Bill further to amend the Madras Local Boards Act, 1884.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. ARUNDEL introduces the Bill and moves that it be read in Council.

(9) *Bill to amend the Madras City Police Act, 1888.*

The Hon'ble SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E., introduces the Bill and moves that it be read in Council.

(10) *Bill to repeal Madras Act I of 1880.*

The Hon'ble Mr. A. T. ARUNDEL moves that so much of Council Rule 34 as requires fifteen days' previous publication be suspended in view to the introduction of the Bill at the meeting.

H. TREMENHEERE,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

Government of Fort St. George.
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NOTICES

FOR THE

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

On Monday, the 4th day of April 1893.

Out
522/22