

Political (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 697

DATED 3-11-97

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the Governor of the French Settlements in India of the opening of a new Sayer Station at Peralam on the new Peralam Karikal Ry. where all goods & luggage will be examined with a view to the levying of land & Customs thereon; and requesting to give publicity to the arrangements.

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3/11/97

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Political Dept

CURRENT No 1280

Government {1897} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd. 22-10
Regd. 22. 10. } 1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 840, 5th October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Customs Chowki at the Peralam Railway Station.

Passing orders on the Board's proposals for establishing a — on the opening of the Peralam-Karikal railway.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 5074, Revenue, dated 27th September 1897 :—

Order.—Mis. No. 5074, Revenue, dated 27th September 1897.

The following telegrams will be despatched to the Board of Revenue, Separate Revenue, and the Superintendent, Government Press :—

To the Board of Revenue.

Your Proceedings 3886, 7th instant. Board's proposals approved except in regard to petty officer and three peons. Please send notification to Superintendent, Government Press, inserting "authorised" after "officer" and adding following sentence :—

"This notification will take effect from the date of the official opening of the said railway."

Superintendent wired to publish same.

To the Superintendent, Government Press.

Please publish in Part I, next Gazette, under the signature Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, notification regarding Karikal-Peralam railway which the Board (Separate Revenue) will send.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue), Mis. No. 3886, 7th September 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue, dated 28th August 1897, Ref. on C. No. 815-Ver. :—

I have the honour to bring to the notice of the Board that the Peralam-Karikal railway line is expected to be in working order by the 1st October 1897, and it is necessary therefore that arrangements should be made for the levy of customs duty under Act VI of 1844 on goods imported by rail from the French into the British territory.

2. A sketch of the line giving the names of the British villages through which it passes, prepared in connection with the acquisition of lands therefor and a map of the French district of Karikal accompany. There are to be on the line four stations, viz., Peralam (English), Ambagarattur (French), Tirunalar (French) and Karikal (French).

3. To the north of the railway line in question runs Local Fund Road No. 54 on which there is at present a land customs chowki (marked A in the sketch, nearly

opposite chain 230) at Koilkandangudi, a hamlet of Kollapuramvattam. This chowki is situated near the frontier 4 miles to the east of the Peralam railway station in the British territory and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the west of the Ambagarattur railway station in the French territory.

4. The Assistant Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Customs Department, Nega-patam Sub-division, following the arrangements in force in the South Arcot district between Kandamangalam (British) and Pondicherry on the Villupuram-Pondicherry railway line proposes "to have the road sayer buildings at Peralam, where all the office work of sayer and preventive establishments can be done," and to have "a female searcher's room and a room for the Sayer Superintendent to collect duty" on the platform. He also proposes to convert the existing chowki at Kovilkandangudi into an out-gate. He further proposes to have an establishment for levying duty at the Karikal railway station for the convenience of passengers as in Pondicherry (vide copy * of his letter to the Deputy Commissioner, No. 7142, dated 18th December 1896). The first question to be

* Copy enclosed.

considered in this connection is whether the present chowki at Koilkandangudi can, consistently with the public interests and the importance of efficient guarding of the frontier, be converted into an out-gate. At an out-gate, there are ordinarily two peons posted—one of whom is on duty by day and the other by night. Their duty is to prevent smuggling and to see that import traffic proceeds only along the prescribed routes. If there are no dutiable articles, the peons let them pass through; but if any dutiable goods are found on search, he takes them with the carriers to the nearest Customs Superintendent who levies duty thereon. It is doubtful whether, with an out-gate, with only a couple of peons, it would be possible to prevent smuggling at the frontier, especially as there are many cross cuts leading to British territory from the French villages. Further, Peralam, to which place it is proposed to transfer the Koilkandangudi chowki, is 4 miles from the proposed out-gate and several British villages lie between the two, so that if a passenger or merchant from a French village wishes to import a dutiable article to one of those adjoining British villages, he will have to be taken all the way to Peralam for payment of duty and then will have to return to his village. The peons would probably make an income out of this and travellers would be only too glad to pay something to them rather than have to walk all the way to Peralam. Further, the peons being four miles away from their Superintendent, would have considerable opportunities of black-mailing passengers. Again, the chowki officer at Peralam could not justly be held responsible for evasions of duty with reference to section 14 of the Act, as he would be stationed four miles from the frontier. In these circumstances I consider that the existing chowki at Koilkandangudi should be retained. The Head Assistant Collector who is in immediate charge of customs is also of the same opinion.

5. Then, as regards the levy of duty on goods brought to Peralam from the railway stations in the French territory, namely, Karikal, Tirunalar and Ambagarattur, I may observe that if duty is to be levied at Peralam—the first railway station out of the French territory—on all goods leaving the above three stations, the trains will have to be detained for a considerable time at Peralam for goods search, including unloading, weighing and re-loading, and these delays would be out of the question. I propose, therefore, following the system in force on the line between Kandamangalam and Pondicherry, that an establishment be entertained at the Karikal railway station with the consent of His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India for levying duty on goods leaving Karikal for British territory and that a customs chowki be opened at the Peralam railway station for the levy of duty on goods leaving the intermediate stations, namely, Tirunalar and Ambagarattur and on those (such as personal baggage conveyed in the carriage with the traveller) that might have escaped duty at Karikal. If the Board approves of the proposal, I request that necessary sanction may be obtained and a notification issued under sections 8, 9 and 12 of Act VI of 1844.

6. If duty is to be levied at Karikal and Peralam, a room for the customs clerk at Karikal and a room for the Customs Superintendent and another for a female searcher

at Peralam will have to be provided on the platform of the respective railway stations. I have no idea as to the amount of work that will have to be got through at these stations and consequently I am not in a position to say of what size the building should be. The South Indian Railway Company which works the line and which has already sufficient experience of the working of the railway sayer stations at Kanda-mangalam and Pondicherry and of the amount of goods brought to these stations may well be asked to provide the necessary accommodation for the purpose at the Karikal and Peralam railway stations, the cost thereof being paid to the company by debit to the Customs Department. In fact, the Chief Engineer, South Indian Railway, has already in his letter, dated 30th July 1897, No. C.P.K.-50-453 (copy enclosed) requested me to let him know what accommodation it is necessary to provide for the purpose at the Peralam station. I request the favour of very early orders.

7. Next comes the question of the establishment required. The Assistant Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Customs Department, Negapatam Sub-Division, proposes the following establishments:—

	Karikal monthly salary.	Peralam monthly salary.	Preventive establish- ment monthly salary.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1 Customs Superintendent	60 0 0	60 0 0	..
1 Clerk	15 0 0	15 0 0	..
1 do.	12 0 0	12 0 0	..
3 Peons	21 0 0	1 0 0	..
1 Sweeper	..	..	..
<i>Preventive Establishment.</i>			
1 Sub-Inspector	..	..	50 0 0
1 Female Searcher	..	..	20 0 0
1 Jamadar	..	..	15 0 0
1 Duffadar	..	..	9 0 0
2 First-grade peons	..	..	16 0 0
3 Second-grade „	..	..	21 0 0
3 Third-grade „	..	..	18 0 0
1 Second-grade and two third-grade peons (Sub-Inspectors' Orderlies)	..	..	19 0 0
Total	108 0 0	88 0 0	168 0 0

The officer to be entertained at the Karikal railway station may be designated customs clerk instead of Customs Superintendent to accord with the designation of the officer employed at Pondicherry. The pay of the Superintendent at Peralam seems to have been fixed at Rs. 60 with reference to the Assistant Commissioner's proposal to make him do both the road and the railway sayer duties, but as under my proposal the chowki at Koilkandangudi should be retained, the Superintendent will have charge of the railway sayer only and his pay may be fixed at Rs. 50. The Assistant Commissioner has provided three peons for Karikal at Rs. 7 each, while he has made no such provision for Peralam apparently in the hope that the peons on the preventive establishment could be utilised for office purposes. I think the peons for the office should be distinct from those on the preventive establishment and recommend that three peons on Rs. 6 each be sanctioned for each of the two officers. The Assistant Commissioner has provided for a sweeper for Peralam and none for Karikal. I think no provision need be made for a sweeper for the present, as arrangements may be made with the South Indian Railway authorities for the premises being swept. If necessary, they can be entertained afterwards. Subject to the above alterations, the establishment proposed by the Assistant Commissioner may be sanctioned as a tentative measure. The amount of receipts from import duty at the proposed stations cannot be even approximately estimated at present.

8. The Assistant Commissioner has also submitted proposals to the Deputy Commissioner for increasing the present preventive establishment and for splitting up

Nannilam Circle so as to form another Sub-Inspector's range. These proposals I leave the Board to consider as the Deputy Commissioner may possibly have submitted his proposals in the matter.

9. I request the favour of the Board's early orders on the subject.

10. As it may take some little time for the Board to pass orders on the question of establishments or of the abolition of the chowki at Koilkandangudi (in case it wishes to consult the Deputy Commissioner, since there is a difference of opinion) or to obtain the consent of the French authorities for the establishment of an office on the Karikal platform, and as the providing of accommodation on the Peralam platform is urgent, I request the Board to let me know as soon as possible if I may arrange with the railway authorities for such accommodation being provided in the manner mentioned in paragraph 6 *supra*.

Resolution— Mis. No. 3886, dated 7th September 1897.

In the above letter, the Collector of Tanjore submits proposals for the employment of a sayer establishment in connection with the intended opening of the Peralam-Karikal railway and notices also the proposals which the Assistant Commissioner of the Negapatam Sub-division has made to the Deputy Commissioner of the Southern Division to create an additional Sub-Inspector's range in the Nannilam Circle.

2. The Board sees no reasonable connection between the opening of the railway and the revision of the Nannilam establishment. It is obvious that the present sayer station, Koilkandangudi, cannot be converted into an out-gate as suggested by the officers of the Salt and Abkari Department. All that has therefore to be done is to provide for the collection of customs duty on goods, luggage, &c., coming by rail into British territory. As Peralam will be the first station in British territory, goods, &c., arriving at it will be subject to examination and payment of import duty as at Kanda-mangalam on the Pondicherry-Villupuram railway under the rules sanctioned in G.O., No. 413, Revenue, dated 7th March 1881, with the difference referred to below regarding the levy of duty at the starting station in French territory.

3. The Board does not see any reason why a customs station should be established at Karikal at present. The place is very small compared with Pondicherry, and it is very improbable that there will be any heavy imports through it for some time at any rate. Such special arrangements are not usual in Europe, where railways cross frontiers. The work of examination is done at the frontier station and the Board sees no reason why the customs revenue should bear a charge here which is not necessary there simply to accelerate traffic by a few minutes. For the present the Board considers that the following establishment may be employed at Peralam and accordingly recommends for the sanction of Government its entertainment, tentatively, for a year:—

	RS.
1 Superintendent	60
1 Clerk	20
1 do.	15
3 Peons on Rs. 6 each	18
1 Petty officer	12
3 Peons—one on Rs. 7 and two on Rs. 6 each	19
Total	144

4. As regards the provision of accommodation for the customs establishment at Peralam, more definite proposals are necessary. With reference to the Collector's question in the concluding sentence of his letter, he is informed that the Villupuram-Pondicherry railway appears to have provided the necessary accommodation at its own cost.

5. A draft notification declaring the railway a legal route for the conveyance of goods to and from French territory by day and by night and providing for the collection of duty at Peralam is submitted to Government for approval and publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

6. The preventive establishment consisting of one petty officer and three peons is included in the customs proposition statement as the increase sanctioned in G.O., Mis. No. 2778, dated 12th July 1895, in the preventive establishment on the Yanam frontier was in paragraph 10 of G.O., No. 776, Revenue, dated 28th November 1895, ordered to be debited to Customs.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) EDMUND MILLETT,
Assistant Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with proposition statement in duplicate
(through the Accountant-General and draft notification
and enclosures, in original, to be returned).
,, Collector of Tanjore.

ORDER—No. 840, Revenue, dated 5th October 1897.

Separate Revenue No. 86.

The Board's proposals for establishing a customs chowki at the Peralam railway station on the opening of the

Peralam-Karikal railway are approved, and the entertainment of the following establishment for levy of land customs thereat is sanctioned :—

	RS.
1 Superintendent	60
1 clerk	20
1 do.	15
3 peons	6 (each)

It is not understood what the petty officer and three peons (one on Rs. 7 and two on Rs. 6) are required for, nor why a female searcher has not been provided, although one seems absolutely necessary. The proposition statement which is returned herewith should be revised with reference to these remarks and resubmitted at an early date.

2. The notification submitted by the Board will be amended by the insertion of the word "authorised" after "officer" and by the addition of the following sentence :—

This notification will take effect from the date of the official opening of the said railway.

Orders have already issued for the publication of the notification amended as above in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

3. The Board is requested to draw up and submit, for the sanction of Government, a set of rules for levy of land customs on imports from French territory by the Peralam-Karikal railway, on the model of the rules approved in G.O., No. 413, dated 7th March 1881.

4. In regard to the transport of foreign liquor imported from French territory, all officers in charge of land customs stations on the Karikal frontier have already been invested with the powers of a Collector in respect of the issue of special permits under section 11 of the Abkari Act. The Sayer Superintendent at the Peralam railway station can, therefore, exercise those powers without further authorisation. With regard to the transport of other liquors imported, the Collector may delegate the power of issuing special permits to the Superintendent.

5. His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements will be informed, in the Political Department, of the arrangements made for the examination of the goods or luggage carried by the railway.

(True Extract.)

for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue),
with proposition statement and original enclosures returned.
,, the Public Works Department, Railway Branch.
,, the Political Department, with letter.
,, the Financial Department.
,, the Accountant-General.

APPENDIX.

NOTIFICATION.

Under sections 12 and 13 of Regulation VI of 1844, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to declare the Peralam-Karikal railway to be a route by which goods may be allowed to pass into, or out of French territory by day and by night, and under sections 8 and 10 of the said regulation to constitute the railway station of Peralam a customs chowki and to notify the Railway Sayer Superintendent at Peralam to be an officer authorized to receive money on account of customs duties and to grant certificates for the payment thereof.

This notification will take effect from the date of the official opening of the said railway.

Mrd. Shaik Karim.

Mr. C. No. 1280
No. 697 & 3rd Nov. 97

Som

Mr. C. No. 1280

No. 697 & 3rd Nov. 97

Ld
Mis

To

The Governor of the French Settlements in India.

Dec'd
3/11/97

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to intimate that on the opening of the Peralam-Karikal Railway, a new sayer station will be established on the Railway platform at Peralam - the first station in British Territory outside the French Settlement of Karikal, and that all goods or luggage carried by the Railway will be examined at that station with a view to the levy of land customs thereon. Orders to give effect to this decision have already been issued by my Government. I shall feel very much obliged if Your Excellency will kindly cause wide publicity to be given to these arrangements.

Handwritten notes on the left page, including "Mr. C. No. 1280" and "No. 697 & 3rd Nov. 97".

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Id - 29/11/97

Office
Submit with Jan to H.R. CS has
already passed the draft. Ask
Rev. of the copies of the pros on
intended to be sent to the French
Gov. of int. we will want
them
Cm'd.
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3/12/97

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