[Foll. / 8]
500—15-4-98.

Political (1899) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 7

DATED 3-1-99
99

INDEXED.

64 153
[illegible]

[Despatch Abstract.]

Directing the Collector of Malabar to call upon the Amin of Minicoy Island for an explanation with reference to the charges preferred against him by certain inhabitants of the island now living in Bombay

T
3-1-99

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
347 81	99 94						
1068	2.2.99						
1285	99						
1551	99						

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(1)

POLITICAL ~~Revenue~~ (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1467

CHIEF SECRETARY
22 NOV. 1898
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

P
25/11

From The Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, Madras.

Order

No. 3304 Misc.

Dated 21st. November 1898

Received 22 " "

Registered 22 " "

Enclosures 10

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submg. to Govt. a report received from the Collr. of Malabar relative to the petition from certain inhabitants of the Minicoy Island now living in Bombay, reg. the rates at which rice is supplied to the island.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
136 :	22-2-98 Sc	316 :	12-5-97 Mis
147 :	8-3-97 "	311 :	11-5-97 "
105 :	15-2-97 "	250 :	13-4-97 "
380 :	13-6-96 Mis	105 :	15-2-97 [illegible]
373 :	11-6-96 Sc	841A :	7-12-96 Mis
185 :	5-3-95 Sc	281 :	29-4-95 "
99 :	13-2-94 "	607 :	30-8-94 "
150 :	29-2-92 "	403 :	13-6-[illegible]
726 :	11-10-98 Mis	317 :	20-5-[illegible]
506 :	31-2-97 "	R95 :	12-5-93
		273 :	3-5-93 "

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

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(2)

To,
The Senior Collector and
1st Class Magistrate of Calicut.
Madras Presidency.
Bombay 8th Novr. 97.

Honored Sir,

We the undersigned your most unfortunate inhabitants "Manaki" Talooka Lukkade, Dist. Calicut, with due deference and humble Submission beg on our bended Knees to bring the following our most earnest prayers, for your honor's wonton kind consideration humane Sympathy and especial grace.

Begging to be pardoned for the liberty taken by thus addressing and intruding upon your honor's valuable time.

In 1896 and in the month of October we were the victims of severe poverty i.e. by the Plague, flood and famine and money and also by the "Joolm" or force of the "Karbaries" or the village Officials in particular. We were told to Ship a large quantity of Bengal rice and also was informed that the India Govt. has Sanctioned to sell the Same at 8 Seers for

3

3/653/95

Seer for rupee (Bengal Measure) by the same Govt. Officials and afterwards to our utter sorrow and dis-appointment it was sold from 4 to 2 Seers of rice was forced and sold to us without any humane Sympathy and also we were obliged to sell one Tolla of Silver for 2 (annas or) for 2 Seers of rice and afterwards severity forced up on us besides the Officials concerned in our misfortunes we were obliged to dispose a Tolla of gold for a Seer of rice. God has in this mercy yet has granted us to live in the face of the world. We have represented our pitiable case and the injustice done to us at the time of need and severity by the officials of "Manaki" village. We are at present passing our days most bitterally and in fact our present circumstances are very deplorable and indescribable and therefore we beg on our bended knees to be pitied and be graced with some pecuniary aid or help from the merciful Govt. of H. most gracious Majesty.

the Queen Empress of India in order to snatch us from the Jaws of Severe and extreme poverty and otherwise we will have to leave our birth place and Country to mourn over our fate in the name of her most Gracious Majesty.

Sd/ on the X mark of
Mahomed Hassan and Others.

(True Copy)
Bombay. 25th March 98.

(5)

P./9 500—27-7-97.

2.

Government of Madras.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Endorsement No. 277 R., of 1898.

The Government will not receive a petition on any matter, unless it shall appear that the Petitioner has first applied to the local authority, and also to the Board or other controlling authority, where such exists. The petitions addressed to such local and controlling authorities, or copies of them, and the answers or orders of those authorities respectively, if any shall have been passed, must be annexed to the petition addressed to Government.

(By Order.)

Ag. *Under Secretary to Government.*

Fort St. George,
31st January 1898.

To

Mahomed Hassan Daveed Moosa
& others
Minikey ., Lakardi Taluk
Calicut Malabar dist.

2/p492/98

i/p653/98

Ad/31 Jan 98

Oct 1898
REVENUE DEPT.
Encl. No. 5
Cor. No. 6476

8
Poll
10
(46)

8th 1898
REVENUE DEPT.
Encl. No. 6
No. 1276

Poll 8

9

1467

(6)

No. 38/22-2-98

Proceedings of the Collector of Malabar

Dated 22nd February 1898.

Read petition dated 16th January 98 and 8th November '97 from the inhabitants of Minicoy Island, who are now living in Bombay, stating that on account of the Cyclone and fire that took place in the island, they have been reduced to poverty and misery, besides being oppressed by the Amin and the merchants of the Island and requesting that they may be redressed by giving them some pecuniary help.

If there is scarcity in Minicoy the petitioners had better take back with them a supply of food from Bombay

1/149. 2/98

F. Samuel
For Collector.

2.

M/25-2-98

2/165. 3/98

The Petitioners, Mahomed Hassan & others
C/o Munshi. M. C. Nag. No. 15-19.
Musjid Cross. lane
Bombay

1898
~~REVENUE~~ DEPT.
Encl. No. 7
Cur. No. 1276

1898
Poll
8
1467

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(7)

2,000
20-1-98.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE MADRAS

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

No. 709 Routine, dated 17.3.1898.

Read petition from Mahomed Hussain and others, C/o Munshi: M. C. Nag, No. 15, 19 Musjid Cross Lane, Bombay dated

Resolution:-

From the petition the Board is unable to understand what the petitioners' grievance is or what they want. The enclosures are returned.

(True extract,)

L D Swamikannu

18 MAR 1898

Asst Secretary,

To the Petitioners with 2 Enclos returned.

1898.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

To

The Petitioners

Procs. dated 17. 3. 1898

No. 709 Routine

Subject.

9th 1898
~~REVENUE~~ DEPT.
Encl. No. 8
Con. No. 5576

1898
Poll
Order No. 7
1467

File No. 5 / 1898

(8)

3,000
20-1-98.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue)

No. 890. Routine dated 6th Apl 1898.

Read again Board's Procs: No. 709 d/17-3-98.

Read also petition from Mahmud Husain and others, Bombay, dated 25th March 1898.

Resolution

Petitioners are informed that their petition is still quite unintelligible. If they desire any notice to be taken of their petition they should observe the following instructions:

(1) State each petitioner's name and age
(2). When did he leave Minicoy?
3. Where did he land in India?
4. How and when did he come to Bombay?
5. With what object?
6. How is he getting a living?
7. State clearly what he wants Govt. to do.

(True Extract)

R. Alan
Secretary

To
The Petitioner
with 3 Enclos.

R.5 AH

Pol 1898
~~REVENUE~~ DEPT.
Encl. No. 4

1898
Poll
Enclos. No. 6
1467

Diary No. 2114

(9)

File No. 5 of 1898
Serial No. 10

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE DEPT.
21 JUN. 98

To, The Private Secretary
to His Excellency the Viceroy
and Governor General of India,
Calcutta.

Bombay 12th June/98.

Honored Sir,

We the undersigned your menials with due deference and humble Submission beg on our bended Knees to forward the enclosed Correspondence (4) for your honor's wonton kind and favorable consideration and Parental Sympathy, and also we most humbly and earnestly pray your philanthrophic Sir, the gracious enough to pity us and be pleased to plead for us with Her most gracious Majesty the Queen Empress, and for which act of your wonton kindness we shall ever pray.

We beg to remain,
Honored Sir,

Your most obedt. humble
Servants.

i.e. Mahomed Hoossan Esmail and
altero -

C/o. Munshi M. E. Kaf. No. 15.19
Musjid Cross lane. near Bendy Bazar.
Bombay.

Rev. & Agrl. Dept.
Govm. of Ind.
20-6-98.
No. 1238

(10)

Letter from the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, to the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department, No.1371/5-11 dated 29th June 1898.

I am directed to forward a petitien with enclosures from Mahomed Hossan Esmail and others, inhabitants of the island of Minicoy who are at present residing at No.15/19 Musjid Cross Lane, near Bhendi Bazar, Bombay, and to request that with the permission of the Governor in Council ~~the~~ steps may be taken to ascertain what the alleged grievance of the memorialists really is and whether anything can be done for them.

Letter from the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department, to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No.513 Fam. dated 19th August 1898.

In returning the enclosures to Mr. Under Secretary Maconochie's letter No.1371/5-11, dated 29th June 1898, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a memorandum No.5700/6, dated 6th August 1898, from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, and its accompaniment in original, furnishing the information required by that Government in connection with a petition from certain inhabitants of the island of Minicoy.

Memorandum from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, No.5700/6 dated 6th August 1898.

The undersigned has the honour to report that he had the petitioners before him and directed them to state in writing their grievances and prayers. They have accordingly embodied them in a petition which is herewith forwarded. The first four of the petitioners have been residing in Bombay for some time past and are employed in the Port Trust Department and the rest are seamen frequenting Bombay.

True copy.

Wm. Schofield
for Registrar,
Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

Poll 1898
~~REVENUE~~ DEPT.
Encl. No. 1
Cur. 1276

1898
Poll Dept.
Enclos. No 4
To
C. No. 1467

Bombay 29^{8} July 1898.

To,

The Commissioner of Police
Bombay.

Sir,

As suggested by your worthy self at the recent interview of some of the representatives of Minicoy, Taluka Lakkadi Islands & Calicut, we beg to submit the following particulars as communicated to us by our relatives residing there for the favourable consideration of Government.

The island of Minicoy was first visited about the end of the local rainy season (middle of the Bombay rainy season) of 1896 with cholera plague which caused great troubles. The people had been suffering under this scourge for about 4½ months when a cyclone occured lasting 2 days and two nights devastating a large number of dwellings and of the cocoanut trees which are the mainstay of the Inhabitants

and

and the sea waters lodged in the town to a dangerous height all the time the cyclone lasted adding materially to the hardships of the people.

Next came a disastrous fire which occurred about 3½ months after the cyclone, devouring 228 of the houses and making the misery ten times worse than it was. Most of the people having been rendered absolutely destitute were thrown on the mercy of those who were wholly or partly saved but as famine was also prevalent about the time those who were kind hearted and meant to help could hardly help the large number of destitutes beyond a limited number of days. On account of the famine they applied to the local sowcars for assistance but they were too grasping or too wily to consent and referred them to the Collector of Calicut.

There were no means for the people to attend on the Collector and eventually the local "Khanakaphule" or village officer went and came back some time later with a "kotia" of 2000 bags of coarse black Malabar rice and a trader from Calicut. These bags ought to have been stored on arrival

at

at the Government depot but the Khanakaphule stored them at his own place and the Calicut trader who had come with him put up with him. He then invited the people and ostensibly read out to them a sham paper from the Collector announcing that the food had been sent by the Government for their relief and had been ordered to sell at 8 seers per Rupee, so those who had money bought at 8 seers per Rupee. This rate lasted only 3 or 4 days and the Khanakaphule started giving 6 seers per Rupee, which rate lasted 5 or 6 days. He forced people who had no money to bring coir yarn bundles longer by one third than usual and gave only 1 seer in exchange for such 12 longer bundles. For a good box or copper or brass pot or hanging lights worth about 13 or 14 Rupees he began giving 6 seers. Then he gave only half a seer for new pieces of cloth used for covering corpses costing 4 Rupees ½ a seer also for each tola of silver ornaments and by-and-bye one seer only for a tola of gold. This dire state of affairs due to the wiles of the village officer had lasted about 2 months when the fire occurred and

ma

made the islanders extremely destitute. Their applications to the sowcars were of no avail and when 9 representatives of the 9 streets started to go to the Collector the Khanakaphule came with them and put himself in communication with the Cutcherry at Calicut, the result of which was that the Collector declined to send Government help stating that it was the business of the traders to arrange and take supplies of food for the people. This was about November 1897 and the Collector also stated that he would come to Minicoy about January 1898 and see for himself but he never came.

Your petitioners humbly and emphatically state that the hardships inflicted on Minicoy by nature as above described were rendered hundred times greater by the greedy and fraudulent conduct of the local officer the "Khanakaphule", that he extorted all the sundry articles, cloths, gold and silver that the Inhabitants possessed in exchange for the infinitessimally small quantities of rice given under color of his authority and that the subsequent inaction of the Collector and others

were due to his fraudulent misrepresentations and interferences. That the people are now absolutely destitute and in urgent need of immediate help in the form of food and even clothing and the petitioners on behalf of those Inhabitants humbly solicit that the Governments of all or any of the provinces may be graciously moved to extend to them the benignant help which it is the credit and reward of Her Majesty's rule in India to be famous about; and for this as in duty bound the Inhabitants shall ever pray.

1 [illegible]

L.S. Husain Ismail. age 45 years
Native of Minicoy now a
Sarang in the employ of the
Bombay Port Trust

2 [illegible]

L.S. Husain Hasan, age 30 years
Ditto Ditto Ditto

[illegible]

3 L.S. Mahomed Ali, age 35 years
Native of ditto employed as
a sea-canny at ditto

[illegible]

4 L.S. Mussa Ibhrahim
Native of ditto employed
as a Laskar at ditto
aged 25 years

(11)

5 (17) [illegible]

l.s. Mahomed Ali, aged 35 years
Native of Minicoy
now employed as a
Tindal on board the
P&O S.S. "Mirzapur".

6 Mark [illegible] of
l.s. Musa Mahomed, aged 22 years
Native of ditto a discharged
seaman staying in
Bombay

7 Mark [illegible] of
l.s. Husain Musa, aged 20 years
Native of Minicoy
a discharged seaman
now staying in Bombay

(11)

1898
REVENUE DEPT.
Encl. No. 2
Cur. No. 1276 Poll

189
Poll Jus Dept
Enclos. No 3
To
1467

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(18)

CURRENT NO. 1276

No. 1836/5-19

5 SEP 98

FROM

E. MACONOCHIE, Esq., I.C.S.,
Under-Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Revenue Department.

Simla , *the* 29th August 1898.

Department of Revenue and Agriculture.
(Famine)

SIR,

I am directed to forward, for such action as may be considered necessary, a petition from certain inhabitants of the island of Minicoy now living in Bombay, in which they represent their distressed condition, and pray for assistance. A copy of the correspondence which has taken place with the Government of Bombay on the subject, is also forwarded.

Letter to the Government of Bombay, No.1371 dated 29th June 1898.
Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 513 Fam. dated 19th August 1898 and enclosures.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
E Maconochie
Under-Secretary.

1898
Poll ~~Jud~~ Dept
Enclos. No 2
To
1467

(19)

Malabar Collector's office
Calicut, 9th November 1898

From,
F. C. Parsons Esqr.
Acting Collector of Malabar

B. on C No. 1381/13·9·98.

To,
The Secretary to the Commissioners
of Land Revenue
Madras

Sir,

Advertising to the Board's reference dated 19th Ultimo, No 1176,* I have the honour to report as follows:—

* Enclosures ewith returned.

2. The 7 Minicoy Islanders now residing in Bombay complain of:—

(a) Cholera that visited the Island,

(b) Cyclone which uprooted some cocoanut trees.

(c) Fire that destroyed about 228 houses, and

(d) High rates at which rice was sold in the Island by the Contractor at the instance of the Island Gumastha.

and

and pray that immediate help may be given to the inhabitants of Minicoy who are said to be in urgent need of food and clothing.

(a) Cholera broke out in the Island in October 1896 and carried away 53 souls. The population of the Island is 3730 according to the inspection report of Mr Hewetson in 1896. On page 6 of 80 373 Pdl d/ 11-6-96 F

(b) The Cyclone occurred on the 16th and 17th November 1896, and uprooted several Cocoanut trees.

(c) On the 14th January 1897, or 2 months after the Cyclone about 300 houses were destroyed by an accidental fire.

(d) On the 1st May 1897, 1000 bags of rice were sent to the Island for Sale to the Islanders. The rice was entrusted to a Moplah Vide Collectors Letter flagged E in 80 316 Pdl d/ 22-5-97

named

---

named Poker Haji for Sale. The price was fixed at the market rate on the mainland plus freight, landing charges &c and Contractor's Commission.

The price of each bag of 100 Calicut Seers, or 165 lbs was as follows:-

	Rs. as. p
Market price on the mainland.	8-0-6
Freight to Minicoy per bag	0-6-0
Landing charges	0-2-0
Expenses incurred for weighing the rice, and boat hire	0-1-5
Commission to the Contractor per bag	0-12-0
Total price per bag	9-5-11

As the Islanders had suffered from the Cyclone and fire, the following order was issued by Mr Dance regarding the Sale of rice on the Island.

" Those who have anything

which

which they can exchange for rice must be made to buy it. But those who have no means of paying at all and are absolutely starving should be supplied with rice gratis. The Gumastah of the Island will, however, keep a list of such persons showing the amount supplied to each so that the money may be recovered from them later on. Where possible they should be made to furnish security."

3. Generally the consignment of rice to the Island is entrusted to the Amin who used to sell the rice and remit the sale proceeds. But in 1895-96, though 1500 bags were entrusted to him for sale the value of only 800 bags was remitted. This Amin has been dismissed. He has

vide GO 281 Rev of 29-4-95
J

Still to pay Rs 1546-10-2 on account of rice intrusted to him for sale. Mr Dance has ordered that his accounts must be examined by the officer next visiting the Islands as the Amin claims remission on account of the destruction by fire of certain articles bartered for rice.

Considering the difficulty which occurred in recovering the amount from the Amin, the sale of rice was entrusted to a Contractor, from whom security has been taken.

4. The present complaint that the Contractor at the instance of the Gumastah of the Island sold the rice at a much higher rate was ordered by Mr Dance to be enquired into by the officer next visiting the Islands as a similar complaint was received

by the Collector in November 1897. The officer who is about to visit the Islands (vide B. P. No. 1209, dated 28th October 1898) will enquire into this matter.

5. The number of bags of rice sent to the Island for sale since 1888-89 is given below:—

1888—89. Rice valued at Rs 572/.
1891—92. 800 bags
1892—93. 2028 bags
1893—94. 527 bags
1895—96. 1500 bags
1896—97. 1700 bags
1897—98. 500 bags.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

J. R. Saundra
For Acting Collector.

PS
10-11-98

1898
Poll ~~Judl~~ Dept.
Enclos No 1
To
C. O. 1467

(25) CURRENT NO. 1467

2,000
6-10-98.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

No.3304 Misc.Dated 21st.November 1898.

Read Government Order,Political Department,No.726, dated 11th.October 1898;and the following reference thereon No.--- 1176,dated 19th October 1898:-

Forwarded to the Collector of Malabar for early -- report.

Read also letter from F.C.Parsons Esq.,Ag.Collec-- tor of Malabar to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Reve-- nue,Madras,Ref.on C.No.1381-B & C/98,dated 9th November 1898.

Resolution

With reference to G.O.No.726 Political,dated 11th. November 1898,the Board submits to Government a report received -- from the Collector of Malabar relative to the petition from cer-- tain inhabitants of the Minicoy Island now living in Bombay.

2. The petitioners complain of the high rates at --- which the rice supplied by Government was sold in the island and - they represent that the islanders are destitute and in need of im- mediate help.These allegations require to be examined locally and this work the Collector proposes to entrust to the officer who will --- shortly be deputed to inspect the island.

(True Extract)

Lionel Davidson

Ag.Secretary.

To the Chief Secretary to Govt.,Pol.Dept.,with petn & Encl.retd.
& with the Collr's.letter in origl.to be returned.

Q.B.

$\frac{0}{18}$ 4,000—18-10-98.

(26)

Political ~~Revenue~~ (1898) Department.

Dp 29/11/98

CURRENT No. ~~8072~~ 1500

Pol Ref

A Current on this subject is pending with me. DS 1/12

From

The Inhabitants of Minicoy-
Calicut, Malabar Dt.

~~Order~~

Endt. No. 4649

Transferred to the Political Department -

(By Order)

Fort St. George }
28th Nov. 1898 }
Ag: Undersecretary to Govt.

WS
25-11-98

RS
25-11-98

CHIEF SECRETARIAT
1 DEC. 1898
MADRAS.

No. —

Dated 21st Nov: 1898

Received 24th " "
in Pol: 1st 12 - 98

Registered 25th
in Pol: 1 12 - 98

Enclosures —

Spare copies:

SUBJECT.

Stating that no notice was taken by Government on their petition praying for relief and requesting that the necessary action may now be taken to aid the distressed people.

24
25-11-98

8

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

The Inhabitants of Minicoy
Laluk Malabar

Read

Transferred to the Political Department.

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(27)

PETITION
0689
REVENUE DEPT.

Bombay 21st November 1898.

To,
The Secretary
to the Government of Madras
Revenue Department.

Sir,

We beg to bring to your notice that some months ago, the Government of Madras were petitioned by and on behalf of the Inhabitants of Minicoy, Taluka Lakkade. Calicut for relief on account of severe distress caused by the terrible effects of Cholera, Cyclone and Fire in addition to scarcity during the famine days. Enquiries were, by direction of the Vice-regal Government, made by the Commissioner of Police, Bombay as to the details of the complaint or application and such details were furnished by us and others representing the distressed people in Bombay, and the same duly transmitted as we believe to the Vice-regal Government. It is probable that the matter had been sent by this time by or from the Government of His Excellency the Viceroy to the Government of Madras for due consideration and disposal. Nothing appears up to this time to have been done by or on behalf of any Government to look into the distresses complained of, which still press very heavily on the people of Minicoy. We, therefore, crave leave to to trouble your Government with this petition by way of reminder and beg that all proper directions may be given and action taken in respect of the still severe sufferings of the Minicoy people; for which as in duty bound we and all interested in the distressed Islanders shall ever pray.

We beg to remain
Sir,
Your most obdt: & humble Servants.

ހުސައިން އިސްމާޢީލް
i.e Hussein Ismail
C/o Bombay Port Trust Offices

މޫސާ މުހައްމަދު
i.e Moosa Mahomed.

i.e Mahomed Moosa.

މޫސާ ޢަލީ
i.e Moosa Ally

ހުސައިން މުހައްމަދު
i.e Hussein Mahomed

ހުސައިން ޢަލީ
i.e Hussein Ally

ޢަލީ ހަސަން
i.e Ally Hussan.

(29)

Political Department.

G.Nos. 1467 & 1500

C.S.

For Orders.

X – The Board of Revenue (Land Rev) returns to Govt. the petition of certain inhabitants of Minicoy Islands of the Laccadives with its enclosures which were referred to that authority

K – by G.O.No.726, dated 11th October 1898 for report. The Board submits a letter

Ref on C No 1381 / B of G '98 d/ 9/11/98 flagged – L –

from the Collector of Malabar in which the matters complained of in the petition are dealt with so far as they can be without a local inspection. ~~and~~ As regards the frauds alleged to have been perpetrated on the Islanders by the Amin and others the Collector states that the + officer about to visit the Islands will enquire into them on the spot.

+ who is meant. If it is Mr. [illegible] he is not going this year. [illegible] 16/12/98.

para 4 of his letter at L.

2. The Minicoy Island was last visited by the Collector of Malabar in ~~1896~~ December 1895 - February 1896 (vide his report thereon in G.O.No:373, Political, dated 11th June 1896). The Collector's report does not appear to indicate that any distress existed at that time.

(Page 6 of the G.O –) @ F – –

But from later communications (vide letter flagged XX in G.O. 136 Pol. d/ 22. 2. 98 & letter " E in G.O. 316 Pol d/ 12. 5 98 it is clear that distress was subsequently prevalent in Minicoy.

3. As will be seen from the Collector's report the complaints of the Islanders are as follows:-

Para 2 of his letter L

(a) Cholera Plague - regarding which the Collector states that the disease prevailed in October 1896 carrying away 55 persons out of a population of 5750 or rather more than ·01%

(b) Cyclone. This occurred on 16th and 17th November 1896 and "uprooted several cocoanut trees" is the Collector's report as against the petitioners' statement that it "devastated a large number of dwellings as well as of cocoanut trees which are the mainstay of the Island".

(c) Fire. On January 14th 1897 an accidental fire destroyed about 300 houses - as stated by the petitioners.

(d) Fraudulent rates at which rice was sold by the Island gumastah when shipped thence by Govt. for relief of the Islanders . The Collector reports that on the 1st May 1897, 1,000 bags of rice were sent ~~a~~ for sale by a contractor who agreed to sell at a prescribed rate. When the rice was shipped the following order was issued by the Collr, "Those who have any-"thing which they can exchange for rice "must be made to buy it but those ~~aw~~ who "have no means of paying at all and are "absolutely starving should be supplied "with rice gratis,&c." The petitioners state that the rice was sold at exorbitant rates and that all their goods, jewels,&c. were extorted from them to keep them alive. With regard to this, the Collector states that the Amin of Minicoy has exhibited defalcations in his accounts since 1895-96 in respect of rice

para 2 (b) of letter @ L

Approved in G.O No 316 Pol dated 12-5-97 flagged - E

These terms were approved by the above G.O. (Vide Collr's letter filed therewith @ E

Para 3 of his letter already referred to, @ L

Para 4 of Collr's letter @ L

XX

E

Vide statement made by the petrs before Commr of Police in Bombay on 29-7-98 @ M

M

XV

Vide GO No 150 Pol / 29.2.92 — specially blue pencilled paras — in which is recorded an inspection of the Islands by Ag Collr Mr Dumergue. —

rice shipped for Minicoy and has accordingly been dismissed. The contractor who last year disbursed the rice did so under security for the proper performance of his contract and the Collector states that the matter will be gone into by the officer who proceeds shortly to inspect the islands.

4. Attention is solicited to para. 4 of the Collector of Malabar's letter in G.O.No. 156,Pol.,dated 22nd February 1898 and to his letter No. 47. of 15th April 1897 in G.O. 316 Pol. of 12.5.97 Mr. Dance was of opinion that the Minicoy islanders were themselves in a measure responsible for their troubles. He considered them "a most impossible people". There is no prospect of the islands being inspected at present & it is submitted that the Collector of Malabar may be requested to call upon the "Khanakaphule" (local officer), to whose "greedy and fraudulent conduct" the petitioners ascribe their latest misfortunes, and losses, for an explanation on the charges preferred against his conduct of the distribution of grain entrusted to his control last year. This enquiry appears advisable, it is submitted, fr

the fact that extortion and oppressi are not by any means unco amongst the local subordinates in the Laccadive Isla

CMS .11.98

(32)

There is nothing that Govt. can do except direct a local investigation. But no officer is going this year as no ship can be got. It seems to me probable that the matter may stand over to next year. In complaint of the nature of the present one are always rife.

H 12/12/98.

O.C.

Draft order subm^d for approval —

je

keel

Coll

coy h

accoun

[G / 118]
2,000—16-11-97.

(34)

Political Department.

(33)

INDIAN TELEGRAPHS.

Code Class.

Monthly Number.

To (Office)	Telephone	From (Office)	message

Words.	Day.	Hour.	Minute.	Official Instructions.
	17	12	38	

To (Person)	From (Person)
Chief Asst. Chief Secy.	Asst. Secy. Bd. Land Rev.

Your telephone regarding the gumastah of Minicoy. The usual designation of this official is Amin.

R
17-12-98

64 Word Form.

F. C. 2.

Recd. from LN.
At Hrs. Mts. by

Sent to LN.
At Hrs. Mts. by

Telegraph Master.

C G P—No. 202 T—8 12 97—2000000

Note had left office.

Rc 6.30 p.m.

is nothing that Govt. can do

[G/118]
2,000–16-11-97.

Political Department.

C. No. 14672+15010

TELEPHONE MESSAGE.

From

Chief Asst.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT,

To

Asst. Secy. Board of Rev. (Land Rev.)

Dated 16/12/ 1898.

In para 4 of Collr's letter read in Board's pro. 3304 of 21st November 1898 ~~1898~~ he speaks of the Gumastah of Minicoy Island – Please let me know what the correct designation of this official is

cmk
16/12/98

Desp. C.A. 11/33 17.XII.98

Q Return to CA after orders

Note Q had left office.

Re 6.30 p.m.

(38)

[G/24]
300—19-10-98.

Political DEPARTMENT.

Subject – The Minicoy Islanders' petition.

Papers to be read in Proceedings :–

Again G.O., No 250, Polt., dated 13-4-97 —— (Q)
Again G.O., No. 316, Polt., dated 12-5 —— 1897 (Q)
Again G.O., No. 136 " , dated 22-2 —— 1898 (Q)
Current No. 1276 of 1898, dated 29-8-98, from the C. of S. – A of letter & of report of Police Comr.
Again G.O. No 726, Polt., d/ 11-10-1898 —— Q
Current " 1467 " 1898, " 21-11-98, " " Bd. of Rev. – Q of Resoln. & of collector's report
" " 1500 " 1898, " 21-11-98, " Petitioners – A.

S/

ORDER No 783 – 1 – 99
Mis.

Pending the next inspection of the Islands, the Collector of Malabar will call upon the ~~[illegible]~~ Gumastah Amin of Minicoy Island for an explanation with reference to the charges preferred against him by the petitioners.

2. The petitioners will be referred to the Collector of Malabar who has received orders on the subject of their petition.

+ I never heard of such a person: There is the Amin but who is the Gumastah.
[illegible] 16/12/98

Cur. No. 1500.

2

H.W.E. 14/12/98

C.W.S. 16.12.98

[illegible] 20/12/98.

To Petitioners (thro' the Comr. of Police-Bombay)
(2 and para. 1 only of O)
To the Collector of Malabar. (as above)
" , Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) "

Note for the CS

Please see telephonic message from Acting Secy. Board flagged IV and correction in draft above.

C.W.S. 19.12.98

Note for the CS

Please see para 4 of the Collector's letter flagged – The petitioners talk of the "Khanakaphuls" – vide blue flag.

C.W.S. 16.12.98

Despd. 7-1-99.

I/s I hear that [illegible] Amin not a Gumastah. Find out his proper designation. [illegible]

(81/9)

(86)

[Poll./7]
1,000—20-4-98.

Political (1899) Department.

CURRENT No. 132

LODGED.
DATE 26-1-1899

From The Commissioner of Police
Bombay

Order

Lodged
Curl
24.1.99 26.1.

Office
Stitch with original
of G.O. 7 of 3.1.99
Curl

To Pol Dept

No. 508/6

Dated 19th January 1899

Received 23rd " "

Registered 23rd " "

Enclosures 1

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Intimating that the Proce
dings of the Madras Government
No. 7 dated 3rd January 1899 has
been delivered to Hoseein Ismail
and enclosing a receipt for the
same.

—

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Received from the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, a copy of the Proceeding of the Madras Government.

[illegible]

i.e. Hoosain Ismail
Bombay Port Trust

Before me
13/1/99. R Sanderson
Inspr. A. Dn.

I have the honor to inform you that the copy of the Proceedings of the Madras Government No. 7 dated the 3rd Instant forwarded by you has been delivered to Hoosein Ismail & I enclose his receipt for the same.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedt. Servant

Dy. Commissioner of Police

(S.572-19,000-10-98.)

Vhen given for copying 3/1
Vhen copied 4/1
Vhen examined 5/1
Vhen signed 6/1
1899.

EAD AGAIN G.O., No. , DATED
189 ,

CURRENT No.

NCLOSURES TO C. No

RDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A

TTER OF GOVERNMENT.

TATEMENT WITH DITTO.

APERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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