Political (1897) Department.

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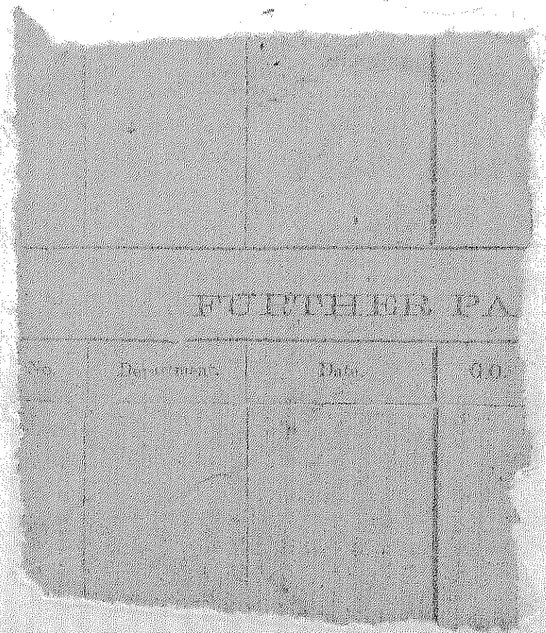

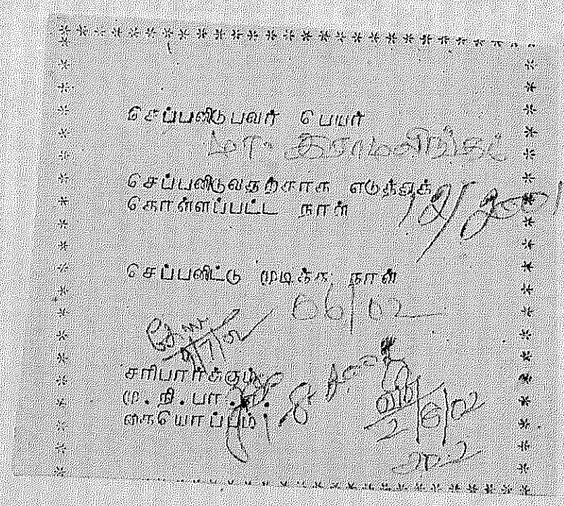

Government (1899) of Madras.

POLITICAL.

Read. } 1899. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 538, 14th August 1899.

AUGUST.

The Palace Buildings in Tanjore.

Passing orders on letter from the Government Agent, Tanjore, submitting for the decision of Government certain questions connected with —.

× × ×

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper :—

From J. TWIGG, Esq., Government Agent, Tanjore, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Vallam, 11th June 1899, Ref. on Petn. No. 171-Ag. of 1898.

I have the honour to solicit instructions in the following circumstances.

2. On the death of V. Ry. Sakharam Sahib in 1895, his estate was claimed (*vide* G.O., No. 336, Political, dated 28th May 1896), by—

(i) Chota Raja, said to have been adopted by Shambu Singh.

(ii) Sethuram Sahib, brother of Shambu Singh's widow, claiming under an alleged will of V. Ry. Sakharam Sahib.

(iii) M. Jamuna Bhoi, Shambu Singh's widow.

Litigation commenced; four more claimants appeared; and the estate was placed under a receiver. The first two claimants named above compromised agreeing to share the estate equally paying certain sums to the minor claimants; and the apartments occupied by the late V. Ry. Sakharam Sahib in the palace were ordered to be handed over by the receiver to the Government Agent.

3. M. Jamuna Bhoi had occupied certain of these apartments and still retains possession, through her agent, though she herself had left Tanjore for her native place Dhar on the death of her husband in 1891, and, with the exception of a short visit in 1893 to arrange for the adoption of Sethuram Sahib, had not visited Tanjore till the last illness of V.Ry. Sakharam Sahib, after whose death she at once returned to Dhar. She was directed to vacate these rooms which it was proposed to allot to Her Highness Chimamba Bhoi Sahiba in exchange for her own which she represented to be inconvenient. It afterwards came to notice that Her Highness Chimamba Bhoi Sahiba wanted the vacated apartments not in exchange for her own, or for herself, but in order to instal therein Chota Raja named as the first claimant in paragraph 2, who is the son of her brother V.Ry. Kasoba Sahib. The proposed allotment of rooms was accordingly stayed and further enquiries made.

4. It has been the practice to allow no one but pensioners, and among pensioners, only those who belong to the class of immediate family to live in the palace, the single exception being V.Ry. Raja Ram Sahib, the so-called adopted son of Their Highnesses the Ranis, who occupies rooms given over to him by them. Now neither Chota Raja nor M. Jamuna Bhoi are pensioners, though each was among the claimants to the property of V. Ry. Sakharam Sahib, whose heir would be entitled to the heritable portion of his pension amounting to Rs. 341-8-0. As the dispute ended in a compromise, it is not likely that the claim of heirship will be tried out in court and at present no claim has been put forward by any one to the pension. M. Jamuna Bhoi wishes to retain her rooms which she has not even yet completely vacated, and Her Highness Chimamba Bhoi Sahiba wants them for her nephew Chota Raja. The disposal of these rooms raises a general question.

5. The occupants of the palace live rent free, but contribute in proportion to their pensions to provide the municipal dues (house-tax, water-tax and scavenging dues) and the cost of a special conservancy establishment. As time goes on and pensioners die, their rooms are occupied by the survivors (or remain untenanted if no one wants them), and the total charges are redistributed rateably as before. The enclosed statement showing distribution of house-tax gives a rough idea of the present state of affairs. It is obvious that the above system cannot continue much longer, and it becomes necessary to ask what is ultimately to be done with the palace buildings, as rooms fall vacant and are not required for the direct use of pensioners of the privileged class, are they to remain vacant, Government defraying the proportionate charges therefor? or, are relations and connections of the Tanjore family who are not pensioners, or of the privileged class, to be allowed to live in the palace on condition of paying a share of the charges proportionate to the accommodation enjoyed? If the former view is adopted, neither Chota Raja nor Jamuna Bhoi should be allowed to have a footing in the palace; if the latter there is no objection to such an arrangement.

6. This is the first point on which I ask for instructions: another is with reference to the municipal taxes. It will be seen from the rough statement before referred to, how unevenly accommodation and charges are distributed. I do not propose to attempt to remedy this inequality of distribution, but would ask permission to relieve the occupants of a portion of the total amount, proportionate to the extent of accommodation remaining unoccupied. Now that the taxes have increased and the pensioners diminished, the burden is felt to be very heavy and I have had several complaints on the subject. At present, the charges borne by the occupants are—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Municipal—			
House-tax	1,080	0	0
Water-tax	864	0	0
Removal of night-soil	216	0	0
Private—			
Special conservancy establishment	861	9	0
Total ..	3,021	9	0

I submit that the Government should contribute its share to the first two items; and if permitted to arrange for this, I will have a more accurate calculation than the present rough estimate made of the Government share.

ENCLOSURE.

STATEMENT showing the amount of Municipal House-tax now calculated by the inmates of the Palace, and the amount which should be paid according to extent in occupation.

Number.	Name.	Number of rooms occupied.	Amount actually paid.	Amount of the annual assessing occupation.	Remarks.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
	Residents.				
1	Her Highness M. Lingama Bhai Sahiba	2	84 0 0	84 0 0	
2	H. Highness Bhai Saheb (widow of Her Highness the late Amarsinga Bhai Saheb)	2	84 0 0	84 0 0	
3	M. Rajamata Bhai Sahiba	1	29 0 0	29 0 0	
4	M. Rajkumarsinha Bhai Sahiba	1	10 0 0	10 0 0	
5	M. Chandrasinha Bhai Sahiba	1	25 0 0	25 0 0	
6	M. Gnanambal Bhai Sahiba	1	3 0 0	3 0 0	
7	The late M. Amarsinha Bhai Saheb's lower room	1	3 0 0	3 0 0	
8	M. Dumerall Pillai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
9	M. Venkoba Pillai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
10	M. Sundaresa Pillai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
11	M. Baliba Bhai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
12	M. Rama Bhai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
13	M. Lakshmi Amma	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
14	M. Govinda Bhai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
15	M. Dharma Bhai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
16	R. Venkatesha Aravi Sahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
17	M. Sakkara Bhai (Tukoji)	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
18	R. Nagendra Row Sahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
19	M. Maha Bhai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
20	M. Jagadamba Bhai	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
21	R. Hari Rudra Rajo	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
22	M. Vedamma Bhai (ex mother)	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
23	M. Dhai Amma	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
24	R. Sadasiva Aiyar Sahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
25	R. Tayarammasahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
26	R. Sivaramasahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
27	R. Sivaramasahib (widow)	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
28	R. Narasimhadeva Sahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
29	R. Ahmed Moidin	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
30	R. Hari Rao Vithoba	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
31	R. Rajaram Sahib	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
32	Cookroom common to Rani Mangalvilas	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
33	Devasthanam Treasury	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
34	Reservoir	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
35	Sirkar's office	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
36	Unfurnished	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
37	Garden	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
38		1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
39		1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
40		1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
	Total	40	1,028 0 0	1,028 0 0	
	Intermediate.				
41	Sarasvathi mahal	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
42	Queen's mahal and godown	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
43	Durbar mahal upstairs	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
44	Store-room dilapidated	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
45	Armed clerk's tower	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
46	Cutcherry office	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
47	Sirkar and office	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
48	Occupied by inmates	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
49	Darasuram treasury	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
50	Garden	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
	Total	10	240 0 0	240 0 0	
	Living outside.				
51	Dead, rent No. 21	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
52	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
53	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
54	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
55	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
56	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
57	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
58	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
59	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
60	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
61	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
62	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
63	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
64	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
65	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
66	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
67	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
68	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
69	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
70	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
71	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
72	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
73	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
74	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
75	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
76	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
77	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
78	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
79	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
80	Do.	1	24 0 0	24 0 0	
	Total	40	960 0 0	960 0 0	

ORDER—No. 538, Political, dated 14th August 1899.

Under the existing practice, which is based on orders passed in 1863 and to which exceptions are made only in special cases, the occupancy of apartments in the Tanjore palace is restricted to such Tanjore pensioners as belong to the *immediate family* of the late Raja. These apartments *are granted rent-free* and are subject to such arrangements as the Government Agent may deem it proper to make, each inmate being required to keep in proper repair the part of the building in his or her immediate occupation. Occupancy of apartments is, moreover, permitted solely as an act of grace and confers no title to the apartments so occupied.

2. The Governor in Council considers that this practice *should be adhered* to. When, therefore, the children of members of the immediate family attain their majority (in the case of males) or get married (in the case of females), they should *not* be allowed to continue to reside rent-free in the palace.

3. While, however, the foregoing should be adhered to as the general rule, the Government Agent will be authorized, in special cases and for what may appear to him to be good and sufficient reasons, to allow pensioners who do not belong to the immediate family of the late Raja to reside in the palace rent-free. He will also be *authorized to withdraw* the privilege from members of the immediate family, whenever *it may appear* to him to be necessary or advisable to do so.

4. The Government Agent will be further empowered to allow, at his discretion, such members of the Tanjore family as are not in possession of the privilege of free-quarters to rent, under conditions to be determined by him, suitable accommodation in the vacant portions of the palace. The rent and the conditions prescribed should not, *however, be so light or so easy* as to encourage unduly the renting of such accommodation.

5. The use of the apartments occupied by the late Sakharam Sahib should be regulated by the general rules laid down in these proceedings.

6. The Government sees no reason for relieving the occupants of the palace, who pay no rent, of the payment of municipal taxes. The Government Agent should, however, endeavour, under section 72 of Madras Act IV of 1884 as amended by Act III of 1897, to obtain a remission of the taxes on the unoccupied portions of the palace.

(True Extract.)

for *Chief Secretary.*

To the Government Agent, Tanjore.

Ext. P. Sathasivam.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 533, POLITICAL, DATED 14TH AUGUST 1899.

From the Government Agent, Tanjore, No. 171-Ag., dated 11th June 1899.

The Government Agent, Tanjore, submits for orders certain questions connected with the Palace buildings in Tanjore. He states that the occupants live there rent free, but contribute, in proportion to their pensions, towards the municipal taxes and the cost of a special conservancy establishment, which amount in all to Rs. 3,021-9-0 *per annum*. The proportion of those taxes actually borne by each of the inmates, respectively, is compared by the Government Agent, in a tabular statement, with the proportion which each would pay if the tenants were made liable only for the portions occupied by them, Government paying taxes on the untenanted portion.

2. In view of *terminating* this present uneven distribution of charges, the Government Agent considers that Government should contribute towards the house-tax and water-tax (these come to *Rs.* 1,914 on the whole estate), leaving the present occupants liable to pay these taxes only on the accommodation actually occupied by them. The Government Agent is prepared to furnish a more accurate statement of these charges if Government approves of his suggestion. Several complaints which have been made to the Government Agent have led him to lay the matter before Government.

3. This general question leads the Government Agent to request orders also on the question of *occupancy* of the Palace buildings, viz., whether occupation is to be confined to actual pensioners of the Tanjore family, or whether unpensioned members and relatives of pensioners are also to be permitted to live there rent free.

4. On this point the Government Agent makes no recommendation, but states that the *practice* has been to allow no one but pensioners, and among these only those who belong to the class of "immediate family" to live in the Palace, the sole exception being V. Ry. Raja Ram Sahib, the so-called adopted son of the Ranis, who is occupying rooms given over to him by the Ranis. Apparently sanction was not first sought by the Ranis from the Government Agent. A decision on this question is necessitated by the fact that after the death of Sakharam Sahib in 1895, the following rival claimants to his estate, viz.,—"Chota Raja" (Raganatha Rao Sahib), Saturam Sahib, and M. Jemuna Bhoi Sahiba appear to have claimed a right to live in the Palace, and although the apartments formerly occupied by Sakharam Sahib have been handed over by the Receiver to the Government Agent, they still appear be in the possession of persons who, according to the practice hitherto existing, have no right there.

5. M. Jamuna Bhoi had already occupied a portion of these apartments when the Government Agent took possession, and although she herself has lived since 1891, in her native place, Dhoi, except for two short visits to Tanjore in 1893 and 1895, she still retains partial possession in spite of orders to quit.

6. Another Guimant to these apartments is H. H. Chimnatha Bhoi Sahib, who requested that they might be given her "in exchange for her own." This arrangement the Government Agent was prepared to consent to, but on finding that the request was in reality only a pretence to instal "Chota Raja" in them, the Government Agent stayed orders and the matter is still pending.

7. The questions which require answers are, in brief, as follows:—

A.—Shall any one be permitted to occupy the Palace buildings except such pensioners as belong to the immediate family of the late Raja?

B—Does the Government recognize the right of any of the claimants to Sakharam Sahib's estate to utilise his apartments in the Palace, the said claimants having, apparently, avoided further litigation by a recent compromise involving a division of his estate, the continuable portion of the pension, however, still remaining an open question?

C—Is Government prepared to relieve the present occupants of the Palace of a portion of the municipal taxes equal to the amount payable on the unteuanted parts of the buildings?

8. *With regard to question* A, the occupancy of the Palace *building* was one of the questions raised in the settlement of 1859 when the building was declared to be State property. In a Minute, dated 9th February 1860, the Honourable the President (Mr. C. E. Trevelyan) remarked "the ladies will, of course, continue to occupy, as long as they live, the apartments hitherto occupied by them in the Palace. The buildings in the 'Little Fort', which I propose should be appropriated for public purposes, are half a mile off and are entirely empty."

G.O., No. 91, Political, dated 23rd February 1860 (page 121 of Tanjore Vol. I).

The subject was further referred to in G.O., No. 16, Political, dated 16th January 1863, in which it is stated:

"The walls and ditch round the town of Tanjore and the Palace now occupied by the family of the late Raja . . . are all State property and must be so treated . . . The *members of the late Raja's family* will be permitted to occupy the Palace under such arrangements as the Acting Agent may deem it proper to make, each inmate being required to keep in proper repair the part of the building in his or her immediate occupation."

Page 121 of Vol. I, Tanjore. See also Vol. II, pages 741 A (741-2), where these proceedings are reprinted with yellow notes.

9. In despatch No. 10, dated 12th September 1863, the Secretary of State was informed that (paragraph 7) "the small fort and its buildings, as well as the walls and ditch round the town of Tanjore, and the Palace now occupied by the family of the late Raja we have received as State property . . . We have permitted the members of the late Raja's family to occupy the Palace, each inmate being required to keep in proper repair the part of the building in his or her immediate occupation."

Page 508, Tanjore, Vol. I.

In his reply, the Secretary of State dealt only with more pressing matters, and from the absence of any definite reference to the occupancy of the Palace by the members of the family it is to be inferred that he approved of the arrangements made by Government.

Despatch No. 4, dated 16th March 1864.

10. From that date to the present the subject of the buildings does not appear to have been raised with any reference to rights of occupancy. In 1876 the need for very extensive repairs was brought before Government, and in doing so the Government Agent called attention to the failure of the inmates to carry out the undertaking to keep their respective apartments in proper repair and suggested that this failure be met by Government demanding from each inmate a fair rental for the buildings actually in occupation. This proposal was not, however, acted upon, and as the repairs and correspondence connected therewith are dealt with in another part of this note in connection with question C, (paragraph 7), there is no occasion to enter further into the subject here.

G.O., No. 277, Political, dated 3rd October 1864 (page 575, Tanjore, Vol. I).

Government Agent's letter printed in G.O., No. 265, Political, dated 8th May 1876 (page 756-A, Tanjore, Vol. II).

(Paragraphs 6 and 9 of above letter).

G.O., No. 265, Political, dated 8th May 1876 (page 756-C, Tanjore, Vol. II).

11. What is stated in the foregoing paragraphs is sufficient to show that Government intended these Palace buildings to be occupied by the members of the

immediate (pensioned) family of the late Raja Sivaji during their lives as an act of grace, and that there was no intention of admitting the claims of surviving unpensioned descendants of such members of the family to inhabit them.

12. It is submitted that the time has now arrived when the question of the future of these buildings (to which it will be seen in another part of this note that Government has spent large sums of money) said to be worth in the aggregate 15 lakhs of rupees, might be considered with a view of some portion of them, at least, being put to a profitable use. The buildings, occupied as they hitherto have been solely by the rapidly decreasing Tanjore family, do much, it is submitted, to keep alive an unhealthy state of feeling among the descendants of the pensioners and, by impressing them with false ideas of their own dignity, to delay the desirable consummation which Government had in view when the Tanjore settlement was effected, viz., the arrival of "the time when they (*the descendants*) *must* take their places amongst the people of India and rely upon their own exertions," and the gradual dispelling of "the habits of improvident dependence and vicious idleness which have been found inseparable from stipendiary royalty, when maintained indefinitely."

Mr. Edmonstone's letter No. 4044, dated 8th September 1856, on page 3 of Tanjore, Vol. I.

13. *Question* (B) (*as to whether the claimants, or any of them, to Sakharam Sahib's estate shall be permitted to utilise his apartments in the palace*) may be best considered with reference to the correspondence which took place in 1895–96 between the Government Agent, Tanjore, and Government on the death of Sakharam Sahib. This is set out in an office note, dated 14th June 1898, in the intact file on this subject. From paragraph 4 of that note it will be seen that Government decided in 1895 to do nothing in the matter of the future disposal of the late Sakharam Sahib's pension until the Civil Court had given its verdict regarding the rightful heir or heirs to the property of the deceased.

14. The Government Agent now states, incidentally, that two claimants have compromised the matter and have agreed to share the estate equally, having bought off the minor claimants. A separate official announcement must be awaited before a decision can be arrived at as to the pension, the possession of which alone can constitute a claim to apartments in the palace.

"These are (on paper) now in the hands of the Government Agent who should, it is submitted, be instructed to order M. Tanjama Bhoi to immediately vacate them pending disposal of the question of the continuance of Sakharam Sahib's pension. This course will terminate what may hereafter be drawn into an undesirable precedent and will, at the same time, help to expedite the final settlement of the question of the continuance of Sakharam Sahib's pension.

Note by His Excellency the Governor.

This case should be governed by the general rules I have proposed in my note at the end of the office-note.

(Initd.) A.F.M.
10-8-99.

15. *The answer to the third question* (C) *relating to the payment of Municipal taxes*, depends, it is submitted, on the decision on the first (A). If it is decided to adhere to the original intention, and confine the free use of apartments in the Palace to the pensioned members of the "immediate family", the question arises as to the future disposal of such portions of the building as are unoccupied.

16. "The actual area covered by the Palace itself is 11¼ acres, exclusive of 20¼ acres of Palace garden studded with out-buildings." These grounds are, doubtless, of local value. The statement enclosed with the current shows that only 52 per cent. of the buildings is actually in the occupancy of pensioners, while about 15 per cent. is wholly unoccupied and about 9 per cent. is garden; the remainder is occupied by the Receiver and the Sirkeli. This proportion appears to be at variance with the statement of garden acreage given above. It is understood, however, that there is much waste ground around the Palace but *outside* the main walls, and probably this is included in the 20¼ acres.

Letter No. 135, Political, dated 23rd March 1896, to the Government of India requesting sanction to a grant of Rs. 4,000 per annum for keeping the buildings in repair.

Page 831 of Tanjore, Vol. I.

17. Looking to the terms on which occupancy was originally granted, it does not appear that the occupants should be called upon to defray the whole of the municipal charges, but only such proportion as is represented by the accommodation actually occupied. At the same time, if Government makes no use of the unoccupied portion of the buildings, it cannot fairly be asked to defray any portion of these charges.

From the papers in G.O., No. 373, Financial, dated the 11th June 1896, it will be seen that up to 1886 a sum of Rs. 89,779 had been expended on the buildings for the special repairs referred to in the Government Agent's letter adverted to in paragraph 10 of this note, and that the following charges had been annually incurred thereafter :—

	Rs.
1888-89	797
1889-90	4,348
1890-91	3,547
1891-92	148
1894-95	472
1895-96	10

There is no data readily available to show the exact expenditure for the past three official years; but the Government Agent strongly deprecated any curtailment of the annual allotment of Rs. 4,000 for upkeep, on the ground that such a policy would really mean, in a few years, great loss of property, while the annual outlay represents but a trifling percentage on the value of the property to Government. In spending so much money on these buildings, Government has apparently had in view not only the comfortable housing of the surviving representatives of the Tanjore family and the preservation of the Palace from an archæological point of view (a point which cannot be overlooked), but also the value of the property as a whole as being capable in the future of being profitably turned to account. It is by no means clear what use Government could make of the buildings. Their partial utilization for any public purpose—if such a purpose could be found—would probably be objectionable both to the Ranis and female pensioners as well as to the public. The Government Agent might perhaps be consulted further on this point. He might see whether the remaining members of the family cannot be relieved from payment of a portion of the taxes on the building by a re-arrangement of the accommodation and by utilizing a section of the property more suitably than by permitting it to stand empty and possibly in the same condition as is described in the report of the Superintending Engineer in 1875, where he stated that the occupants kept the property in such a state that "it is a marvel how any body can live in it and that fever and cholera are not epidemic in it"—an opinion the Government Agent "thoroughly endorsed."

Letter No. 2, Public Works, dated 1st May 1896, in G.O., No. 373, Financial, dated 11th June 1896.

Letter No. 2309, dated 23rd December 1875 to the Collector of Tanjore, in G.O., No. 263, Political, dated 8th May 1876, on pages 756 C., Tanjore, Vol. II.

18. Before closing this note attention may be drawn to the use of the style "Chota Raja" by the Government Agent. The man so-called is the alleged adopted son of Shambu Singh who is referred to in the correspondence printed in G.O., No. 330, Political, dated 28th May 1896. His true name * is Bogunatha Rao Sahib, and in view of the evident desire of some members of the family to push him to the front as a male representative of the Tanjore family, it might, it is submitted, be advisable to request the Government Agent to call him by his proper name and not acknowledge the style "Chota Raja" which is, apparently, an assumption. Orders on this point are solicited.

* Government Agent's telegram in G.O., No. 839, Political, dated 6th December 1893.

Yes.
(Intd.) A.E.H.

This should be done.
(Intd.) A.E.H.
10-8-99.

(Intd.) F.W.G
25-7-99.

(Intd.) C.M.S.
2-8-99.

H.E. the Governor—

The position, as I have always understood it, is this. The Palace is State property and as such is kept in repair by the State. For this purpose there is an annual grant of Rs. 4,000. Members of the Tanjore family are allowed to live in the Palace, but the Government Agent can and does order any one out of it whose presence there he considers objectionable as tending to fighting or for any other reason. The condition as to repair by the inmates only means that they must execute such petty repairs, &c., as are needed for their own comfort. None of the Tanjore family, whether pensioners or not, can claim to live in the Palace and it is open to the Government Agent to bundle out M. Jamuna Bhoi who is a mere trespasser. Sakharam Sahib only lived in the Palace by sufference and the apartments in the Palace form no part of his estate.

As to the question (A), it seems to me it is not necessary to go further than to say that the Government Agent may allow any one to live in the Palace whose presence there he may think desirable or order out any one whom he thinks should go out. For example, it is not long since the Sirkele was ordered to live in the Palace and both Mr. Thomson and myself, if I remember aright, have ordered objectionable people out of it.

As to question (C), I think the existing arrangement might be allowed to continue. Palace inhabitants pay no rent and so there seems no reason why they should be relieved of Water and Municipal taxes. If these taxes by their weight induce the voluntary vacating of the buildings it will be so much the better. Perhaps Government could get remission of the tax on the vacant portions under section 72 of the Municipal Act.

C. S[TOKES].
4-8-99.

Note by His Excellency the Governor.

As to the occupancy of the Palace, the practise which appears to have been authorized and acted upon is, that only the members of the immediate (pensioned) family of the late Raja Sivaji, during their lives, should be allowed to occupy, rent free, rooms in the Palace. This is the principle which should guide the Political Agent. As the children of these members of the immediate (pensioned) family of the late Raja Sivaji, grow up (in the case of males), or get married (in the case of females), they should not be allowed to continue to live rent free in the Palace. While the above should be the general rule, the Political Agent should be allowed discretion, in special cases and for what may seem to him good and sufficient reasons,—to allow others not included in the above category to live in the Palace, and to withdraw the privilege, from those included in the category. It is only by an act of grace that any of this family are allowed to live in the Palace, and therefore the exercise of the discretion, which I would give the Political Agent, is quite justifiable. As to the payment of the Municipal taxes on the unoccupied part of the Palace, I agree with the Chief Secretary, that existing arrangements should continue. But, remission of the taxes on the unoccupied portions of the Palace should be sought under section 72 of the Municipal Act.

With regard to the utilizing of the unoccupied part of the Palace, I would give the Political Agent discretion to allow, as he may think fit, in each case, such members of the family as may not be in possession of the privilege of free quarters,—to hire, for rent and under conditions to be determined by the Political Agent, suitable accommodation in the vacant portion of the Palace. The rent and conditions should not be so light or so easy as to encourage unduly the hiring of such accommodation. It would never do to utilize any portion of the Palace for general public purposes, unless such portion of the Palace could be entirely and effectually separated and shut off, from the portion occupied by the Tanjore family.

A. E. H[AVELOCK].
10-8-99.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Demi-official from the Chief Secretary to Government, to the Government Agent, Tanjore, dated 14th August 1899.

It appears that the correct name of the alleged adopted son of Shambu Singh, who styles himself "Chota Raja" and who is called by that name in your Ref. on Petn. No. 171/Ag. 98, dated 11th June 1899, is "Ragunatha Rao Sahib" and that the style of "Chota Raja" is a mere assumption. I am to request that, if this view is correct, you will decline to recognize him, or to refer to him, in future, by any but his correct name.

(Initd.) F.W.C.
11-8-99.
(") C.M.S.
14-8-99.

(Initd.) C.S.
14-8-99.

Political (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 786

RECEIVED 16 JUN. 1899 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Note. The letters Index &c have
gl expressed How we further
light on the Ref No 2.338 98
but as a confidential case
24/6/99
Order

Recommended 3-7-99

From The Government Agent Tanjore

Ref on Ltr No. 171 Ag 98 dated

Dated 11 June 1899

Received

Registered

Enclosures One

Spare copies

SUBJECT

Requesting orders on certain points regarding the occupation & Palace Buildings, Tanjore

1

BACK PAPERS.

C.O	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

C.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[illegible]

Political Department.

9

The Tangier Palaces Buildings

C. No. 764 From the Govt Agent Tangier, No. 171/25, dated 11-6-1889.

" " " " 189 .

" " " " 189 .

" " " " 189 .

Encl. Paper 9-11 have been copied
in Mem. Book reference
Mem. Book Sketch reference
to Govt
1889

8

The Govt. Agent, Tangier

Sub-No.
Encloses
for order certain question connected with

the Palaces

Tangier. He states that

buildings in Tangier, he states that
the occupants live there rent free, but
contribute in proportion to their pen-
sions, to the municipal tax, and that
case of a Special Conservancy Estab-
lishment which amounts in all to £s.
£701-0-0 per annum. The proportion of
these taxes actually borne by each of
the inmates respectively, is compared,
in a tabular statement, with the pro-
portion which each would pay if the
tenants were made liable only for
the portions occupied by them, the
Govt. paying rates on the
untenanted portion.

M.S. The Estate

(Enclosure to Consul)

Encloses a Memorandum
to
the Governor
of

(Please come to Rs 1944 on the whole estate)

(Para 8 Correct)

orities considers that Govt. should contribute towards the house Tax and Water Tax, leaving the present occupants liable to pay these taxes only on the accommodation actually occupied by them. The Govt. Agent is prepared to furnish a more accurate statement of these charges if Govt. approves of his suggestion. Several complaints which have been made to the Govt. Agent have led / been [illegible] lay the matter before Govt.

6. This general question leads the Govt. Agent to request orders also on the question of occupancy of the Palace buildings; - viz. whether the occupation is to be confined to actual pensioners of the Tondiar family, or whether un-pensioned members and relatives of pensioners are also to be permitted to live there rent free.

7. On this point the Govt. Agent makes no recommendation, but states that the practice has been to allow no one but pensioners, and among the 30 only those who belong to the class of "immediate family" to live in the Palace, the sole exception being Y.H. Raja Rao Saheb the so-called adopted son of the ruler who is occupying premises given over to him by the latter. Recommendation is made by the fact that after the death of Sadhuram Saheb, in 1896, the following rival claimants to his estate - viz.,

"Chota Raja" (Rajunattha Rao Sahib)

Sadhuram Saheb

Adanma Bhai Sahiba

"Apparently Pandiyan was not first brought by the Prince from the South"

appear to have claimed a right to live in the Palace, and although the apartments formerly occupied by Sadhuram Saheb have been handed over by the receiver to the Govt. Agent they still appear to be in the possession of persons who, according to the practice hitherto existing, have no right there.

5. Adanma Bhai had already occupied a portion of these apartments when the Govt. Agent took possession, and although she herself has lived, since 1891, in her native place, Dhar, except for two short visits to Tanjore in 1895 and 1895, she still retains partial possession, in spite of orders to quit.

6. Another claimant to these apartments is H.H. Chimnaba Bhai Saheb, who requested that they might be given her "in exchange for her own". This arrangement the Govt. Agent was prepared to consent to, but on finding that the request was in reality only a pretence to install Chota Raja in them, the Govt. Agent stayed orders and the matter is still pending.

7. The questions which require answer are, in brief, as follows:-

A - Shall any one be permitted to occupy the Palace buildings except such pensioners as belong to the immediate family of the late Raja ?

B - Does the Govt. recognise the claims of any of the aforesaid to Sadhuram Saheb's estate to utilise his

apartments in the Palace, the said claimants having, apparently, avoided further litigation by a recent compromise involving a division of [redacted], the contingable portion of the pension, however, still remaining an open question ?

C - Is Govt. prepared to relieve the present occupants of the Palace of a portion of the Municipal Taxes equal to the amount payable on the untenanted parts of the buildings ?

5. With regard to question A the occupancy of the Palace building was one of the questions raised in the settlement of 1859 when the building was declared to be State property. In a minute dated 9th February 1860 the Hon. the President (Mr.G.U.Trevelyan) remarked—

"the ladies will, of course, continue to "occupy, as long as they live, the apart- "ments hitherto occupied by them in the "Palace. The buildings in the "Lit le Fort" "which I propose should be appropriated "for public purposes, are half a mile off "and are entirely empty".

The subject was further referred to in G.O.No.16, Political, dated 15th January 1863 in which it is stated -

"The walls and ditch round the town "of Tanjore and the Palace now occupied "by the family of the late Rajah x x are "all State property and must be so treated "x x x x x x The Members of the late "Rajah's family will be permitted to "occupy the Palace under such arrangements

"as

Printed at page 121 of the Tanjore Vol I (G 91 Pol / 23.7.60)

page 431 of Vol I. Tanjore - See also Vol. II page 704 A - 704 Z where it is G.O. is reproduced with yellow slips Ind

G.O.No.513, Political, dated 16th May 1860, at page 237 of Tanjore Vol:I

G.O.No.470, Pol., d/ 23th July 1860 pp. 269-271 Tanjore Vol.I.

Page 503 Tanjore Vol.I

"as the Acting Agent may deem proper "to make, each inmate being required "to keep in proper repair the part of "the building in his or her immediate "occupation".

6. A list of the buildings in possession of Sivaji when he died was submitted to Govt. by Mr.Phillips in 1860 on which Govt. directed the commissioner to report in what manner he would propose to deal with the buildings "due regard being had to the conv- "ience and convenience of the members "of the Tanjore family".

The Commissioner's reply so far as it related to the Palace proposed that the buildings should be "held as Govt. property available for "the ladies of the Tanjore family "should they wish to visit or reside at "Trivadi.

Govt.resolved that the considera- "tion of this report so far was postponed "sine die.

7. In Despatch No.10, dated 12th September 1863 the Secretary of State was informed that (para.7) "the small "Fort and the buildings, as well as "the walls and ditch round the town of "Tanjore and the Palace now occupied "by the family of the late Rajah we "have reserved as State property x x x "x x We have permitted the members of "the late Rajah's family to occupy the "Palace, each inmate being required to "keep in proper repair the part of

"the building in his or her immediate
"occupation."

In his reply the Secretary of State dealt only with more pressing matters and from the absence of any definite reference to the occupancy of the Pa[illegible] by the members of the family it is to be inferred that he approved of the arrangements made by Govt.

Despatch No.4, dated 16th March 1864. (Page 175 Vol.I Tanjore)

10. From that date to the present the subject of the buildings does not appear to have been raised with any reference to rights of occupancy. In 1876 the need for very extensive repairs was brought before Govt., and in doing so the Govt. Agent called attention to the failure of the inmates to carry out the undertaking to keep their respective apartments in proper repair and suggested that this failure be met by Govt. demanding from each inmate a fair rental for the buildings actually in occupation. This proposal was not, however, ~~[illegible]~~ acted upon and as the repairs and correspondence connected therewith are dealt with in another part of this note, in connection with Question C (stated in para.7) there is no occasion to enter further into the subject here.

See Govt. Agent's letter printed in P.D.No.202, Vol., 1880 on the 2nd April 1878. (Page 168 Vol II of Tanjore)

See Govt. Agent's letter No.263 Vol 1878-5-7b. at page 358 C Vol II Tanjore

11. What is stated in the foregoing paras. is sufficient to shew that Govt. intended these Palace buildings to be occupied by the immediate (pensioned) family of the late Rajah Sivaji during their

Their lives - as an act of grace, and that there was no intention [illegible] of [illegible] the surviving descendants of such members of the family to [illegible] inhabit them.

12. It is submitted that the time has now arrived when the question of the future of these buildings, (on which it will be seen in another part of this note that Govt. has spent large sums of money) said to be worth [illegible] as regards [illegible] 15 lacs of rupees, might [illegible] be considered with a view [illegible] some portion of them at least, being put to a profitable use. The buildings, occupied as they hitherto have been solely by the rapidly decreasing Tanjore family, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it is submitted, to keep alive an unhealthy state of feeling among the descendants of the pensioners and, by impressing them with false ideas [illegible] their own dignity, to delay the desirable consummation which Government had in view when the Tanjore settlement was effected viz. the arrival of "the time when they [the descendants] must take their places "amongst the people of India and rely "upon their own exertions", and the gradual dispelling of "the habits of "improvident dependance and vicious "idleness which have been found in- "separable from stipendiary royalty."

See Mr. Edmonstone's letter, Foreign No.2644, dated 5th September 1856 - Page 5 of Vol. I Tanjore.

13. Question B (as to whether the claimants or any of them to Sahharam Sahib's estate shall be permitted to utilise his apartments in the palace) may be best considered with reference to the correspondence which took place in 1895-96 between the Govt. Agent, Tanjore, and Govt. on the death of Sahharam Sahib. This is set out in an Office note dated 14th June 1893 (flagged A in an intact file on this subject tied with red tape in file). From para. 4 of that note it will be seen that Govt. decided in 1891 to do nothing in the matter of the future disposal of the late Sahharam Sahib's pension until the Court had given its verdict regarding the rightful heir to the deceased's property.

14. The Govt. Agent now states - incidentally - that two claimants have compromised the matter and agreed to share the estate equally, having bought off the minor claimants, a separate official announcement must be awaited before a decision as to the pension can be arrived at, the possession of which, alone, can constitute a claim to apartments in the Palace.

These are (on paper) now in the hands of the Government Agent who should, if entitled, be instructed to order them to immediately vacate them pending

91 13

pending disposal of the question of the continuance of Sahharam Sahib's pension. This course will terminate what may hereafter be drawn into a pre-cedent and will, at the same time, help to expedite the final settlement of the question of the continuance of Sahharam Sahib's pension.

15. The answer to the third question (C), relating to the payment of municipal taxes, depends, it is submitted, on the decision on the first (A). If it is decided to adhere to the original intention, and confine the free use of apartments in the Palace to the pensioned members of the "immediate family", the question arises as to the further disposal of such portions of the building as are unoccupied.

16. "The actual area covered by the "Palace itself is 11¼ acres, exclusive "of 30½ acres of Palace Lanam studded "with out-buildings." These grounds are, doubtless, of local value. The statement enclosed with the current shows that only 53% of the buildings is actually in the occupancy of pensioners, while about 5% is wholly unoccupied and about 5% is garden; the remainder is occupied by the Receiver and the Circle.

17. Looking to the terms on which occupancy was originally granted, it does not appear that the occupants should be called upon to defray the whole of the municipal charges, but only

Letter No.150, Political, dated 23rd March 1880 to the Govt. of India requesting sanction to a grant of Rs. 4,000 per annum for keeping the buildings in repair.

Page 331 of Vol.II of Tanjore Stock File.

* This proportion appears to be at variance with the statement of garden acreage given above. It is understood, however, that there is much waste ground around the Palace but outside the main walls and probably this is included in the 30½ acres.

only such proportion as is represented by the accommodation actually occupied. At the same time, if Govt. makes no use of the unoccupied portion of the buildings it cannot fairly be asked to defray any portion of these charges.

From the papers in C.P.No.573,Finl., dated 11th June 1896, it will be seen that up to 1336 a sum of Rs.39,779 had been expended on the buildings for the special repairs referred to in the Govt. Agent's letter adverted to in para. 10 of this note and that the following charges has been annually incurred thereafter:-

1892-93...	...	797
1893-94...	...	4,345
1894-95...	...	3,547
1895-96...	...	143
1896-97...	...	473
1897-98...	...	10

There is no data readily available to show the exact expenditure for the past three official years; but the Govt. Agent strongly deprecated any curtailment of the annual allotment of Rs.4,000 for upkeep on the ground that such a policy would really mean, in a few years, great loss of property, while the annual outlay represents but a trifling percentage on the value of the property to Govt. In spending so much money on these buildings, Govt. has apparently had in view not only the comfortable housing of the surviving representatives of the Tanjore family and the preservation of the Palace from an archaeological point of view, a point which cannot be overlooked, but also the value of the property as a whole

See his letter No.3 P.W.,dated 1-5-96 in C.O.573,Finl,dated 11-6-96.

as being capable in the return of being profitably turned to account. It is by no means clear what use Govt. could make of the buildings. Their partial utilisation for any public purpose - if such a purpose could be found - would probably be objectionable both to the Rani and female pensioners as well as to the public. The Govt. Agent might perhaps be consulted further on this point. He might see whether the remaining members of the family cannot be relieved from payment of a portion of the taxes on the building by a rearrangement of the accommodation and by utilising a section of the property more suitably than by permitting it to stand empty and possibly in the same condition as is described in the report of the Superintending Engineer in 1875, where he stated that the occupants kept the property in such a filthy and unhealthy state that "it "is a marvel how any body can live "in it and that fever and cholera are "not epidemic in it" an opinion the Govt Agent Collector "thoroughly endorsed".

See his letter No.3399,dated 30-10-75, to the Collector of Tanjore - in C.O. No.865,Pol., dated 8-4-76 on page 7 of C,Vol.II Tanjore.

Flagged in the Intact file (below) re Sakharam Sahib pension.

See Govt of India telegram flagged in GP 838 Pol 6-12-38 regrding notes connected thereto.

E. Before closing this note attention may be drawn to the manner in which the style "Chota Raja," by the Govt. Agent. The man so called in the telegram adopted as son of Khanderao Gaekwad to in the correspondence as printed in F.D.536,Pol., dated 22nd Oct 1896. His true name is Ganpatrao Sahib and in view of the evident desire of some members of the family to push him to the front as a sole representative of the Tanjore family, it might, it is submitted, be advisable to request the Govt. Agent to call him by his proper name and not acknowledge the style "Chota Raja" which is, apparently, an assumption. Orders on this point are solicited.

Sd/- 25/11/38 Chas. B. 27

Sd/- 7/12/38

Sd/- C.W. 9/12

NOTE.

The position as I have always understood it, is this. The Palace is state property and as such is kept in repair by the State. For this purpose there is an annual grant of 7,000 R. Members of the Tanjore family are allowed to live in the Palace but the Govt. Agent can and does order any one out of it whose presence there he considers objectionable as tending to fighting or for any other reason. The condition as to repair by the inmates only means that they must execute such petty repairs &c. as are needed for their own comfort. None of the Tanjore family, whether pensioners or not, can claim to live in the Palace and it is open to the Govt. Agent to bundle out e.g. Jagannadha who is a mere trespasser. Sarfaraz Sahib only lived in the Palace by sufferance and his apartments in the Palace form no part of his estate.

As to the question A, it seems to me it is not necessary to go further than to say that the Govt. Agent may allow any one to live in the Palace

more

where presence there he may think desirable or order out any one whom he thinks should go out. For example it is not long since the Sirdar was ordered to live in the Fatehs and both Mr. Thomson and myself, if I remember aright, have ordered objectionable people out of it.

As to question C I think the existing arrangement might be allowed to continue. Palace inhabitants pay no rent and so there seems no reason why they should be relieved of Water and Municipal taxes. If these taxes by their weight induce the voluntary vacating of the buildings it will be so much the better. Perhaps Govt. could get remission of the tax on the vacant portions under section 73 of the Municipal Act.

Political Department,

D. O. No. [illegible]

14th August 1899

My dear Twiss,

It appears that the correct name of the alleged adopted son of Chamru Singh, who styles himself "Ghoto Rajah" and who is called by that name in your ref.on Extn. No.121/ A.. 99, dated 11th June 1899, is Ranganatha Rao Saulb and that the style of "Ghoto Rajah" is a mere assumption. I am [illegible] to request that, if this view is correct, you will decline to recognise him, or to refer to him, in Futures, by any but his correct name.

[illegible]

Yours sincerely,

[illegible]

To

J. Twiss, Esq., I.C.S.,
Govt Agent
Mangalore.

[G/24] 1,000—2/

Political Department.

18

No. 704 From the Govt. Agent, Tanjore, dated 11-8- 1899.
(A of pt. proceedings.)
" " " " 189
" " " " 189
" " " " 189

ORDER No. 538 of 14-8-99.

P.O.

Upon the existing practice, which is based on orders passed in 1868 and to which exceptions are made only in special cases, the occupancy of apartments in the Tanjore Palace is restricted to such Tanjore pensioners as belong to the Bonosicka family of the late Raja. These apartments are rent-free and are subject to such annual cuts as the Govt. Again may deem it proper to make, each inmate being required to pay in proper repair the part of the building in his or her occupation. The occupancy of apartments is, moreover, granted solely as an act of grace and confers no title to the claimants to occupies.

2. The Governor in Council considers that this practice should be changed so that, hereafter, the children of members of the immediate family

of all

...ain their majority (in the case of ... H. M's note uses the expression "grow up" ... or remain), they should not be allowed ... to continue to reside rent-free in the ... Palace.

3. While, however, the foregoing ... should be adhered to as the general rule, ... the Govt. Agent will be authorized, in ... special cases and for what may appear ... to him to be good and sufficient reasons, ... to allow pensioners who do not belong ... to the immediate family of the late Raja ... to reside in the palace rent-free. Note: This is the intention, it is understood. ... will also be authorized to withdraw ... the privilege from members of the immediate family, whenever it may appear to ... him to be necessary or advisable to ... do so.

4. The Govt. Agent will be further empowered to allow, at his discretion, ... such members of the Tanjore family as ... are not in occupation of the privilege ... of free-quarters to [illegible] rent ... free, under conditions to be determined ... by him, suitable accommodation in the ... vacant portions of the Palace. The rent ... and the conditions prescribed should not, however, be [illegible] as to ... discourage unduly the renting of such ... accommodation.

5. The use of the apartments ... occupied by the late Sahibs ... Sahib should be regulated by the ... general rules laid down in these ... proceedings.

6. The Govt. does not reason ... fer

...relieving the occupants of the Palace, who may be rent, or the payment of ... municipal taxes. The Govt. Agent should ... however, endeavour, under section 73 of Act [illegible] to obtain a remission of the taxes on the immovable properties of the Palace.

To ... Govt. Agent, Tanjore.

Ref. ... to Tanjore File

Have notes printed up ... flew. Show proof please.

Send Notes to Press ... with the reduc- ... tion ... 14/9/55