

1. Number of pages *14*
2. Date of repair *4.3.37*
3. No. of Refers
M.R.O. 1-29,000-16-11-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<i>944-4</i>	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	<i>29-7-</i>	<i>1870</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th July 1870.*

No. 135-B. Read the following letter from the Officiating President of the Municipal Commission, Masulipatam, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Krosur, 17th December 1869, No. 48:—

I have the honour to request the orders of Government on the following point which has just been raised:—Have or have not the Municipal Commissioners of Masulipatam authority to levy house-tax, profession-tax, &c., on persons whose residences are situated on the small piece of land belonging to the French, and commonly known as French Pettah, situated within the Municipal limits of Masulipatam, and intersected by roads which are kept in order by the Municipality?

2. I beg to submit copy of a petition presented by the Rev. M. Ratnam claiming a refund of his house-tax, one of the pleas advanced being that his house is situated in French territory.

3. The Municipal house-tax is not levied for the occupation of the ground; it is not ground or quit-rent, but a contribution levied on the residents within a certain area for the advantages which they enjoy in the maintenance of a strong Police Force, the provision of a good supply of water, the carrying out of sanitary conservancy, and the up-keep of good roads. As the residents in French Pettah enjoy these advantages in common with all their fellow-townsmen, I do not see why they should be specially exempted from bearing their share of the burdens, unless the French Government intend to establish a Municipal Association of their own.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Masulipatam.

The humble appeal petition of the Rev. M. RATNAM,
French Pettah.

SHOWETH,

That a notice was served on your petitioner on the 24th instant, requiring him to pay a house-tax of Rupees 14-7-0 for his house, situated in French Pettah, for the year 1st May 1869, to 30th April 1870.

2. That he accordingly paid the tax on the 25th instant.

3. But that as his premises are on the French ground, and as other houses on that ground, *e.g.*, Mamidi Sarangapanis, the Post Office, &c., are exempted from such tax, and as correspondence is still going on between the French Government and their tenants here, including petitioner, with regard to a taxation which they, the French Government, intend imposing on houses situated on their lands, your petitioner requests the Commissioners to be pleased to exempt him from the said house-tax altogether, and to refund to him the sum of Rupees 14-7-0 already paid on the 25th instant.

4. That in case the Municipal Commissioners have a right to exercise their jurisdiction in French Pettah, your petitioner would respectfully submit to the Commissioners that the rate fixed on his premises is excessive. The house is only a small one, and the maximum rent obtainable for it would never, your petitioner thinks, exceed Rupees 8 per mensem, whereas it has been taxed at an estimated rental of Rupees 20 per mensem.

26th November 1869.

(Signed) M. RATNAM,
Missionary, C. M. S., French Pettah.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
29th July 1870.*

No. 135-C.

ORDER THEREON, 29th July 1870, No. 944-A.

Resolved that, pending a reference to the Secretary of State for India, the President of the Municipal Commission at Masulipatam be directed to suspend the levy of Municipal taxes within the limits of the French Pettah.

2. Resolved, also, that the following letter be addressed to the Secretary of State. A copy of this letter and of these Proceedings will be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor of the French Settlements in India:—

(Here enter, Political, 29th July 1870, No. 4.)

(True Extract.)



Under Secy. to Govt.

To the President of the Municipal Commission, Masulipatam.

Exd. J. Wright.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the
Offg. President, Municipal Commission,
Mascilipatam.
Of 17 December 1869. No 48.

Order thereon. Order passed 29.
July 1870. No 944A.

Resolved that pending
a reference to the Secretary
of State for India, the
President of the Municipal
Commission at Mascilipatam
X be directed to suspend the
levy of Municipal Taxes
within the limits of the
French Settlement.

2. Resolved also that
the following letter be addressed
to the Secretary of State. A
copy of this letter and of
these Proceedings will be
forwarded to H.E. the Governor

to the Presd. of the Municipal Commission of the French Settlements
Mascilipatam in India.
30 Dec 70.

This is understood to be the
regulation. R.C.

[Signature] J. D. S.

Should also be com-
municated to Suburban
part. I think.

[Signature] J. D. S.

Cost. of 1870 311 adms.

PUBLIC.

To

THE PRESIDENT OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSION,
Mascilipatam.

Dated July, 29th.

Recd.

Per.

G. O., 29th July 1870. No. 944A.

JULY.
Nos. 135-B-135-D.

Directing that the levy of Municipal taxes in the
French Settlement, which lies within the Mascilipatam
Municipality, be suspended, and that the French
Government be informed accordingly.

Sent to Ottavum
to be signed Dec-5/9

4

Public Department

No 944 B.

1/9

to

His Excellency Mr. Bontemps.

Governor of the French
Settlements in India.

Your Excellency Sir,

I beg to trans-

mit, for your information,
copies of a letter addressed
to this Government by the
President of the Municipal
Commission of Masulipatam
on the subject of levying
Municipal taxes within
the French Pottah which
lies within the municipal
limits of Masulipatam.

The Madras Government
have directed, pending
a reference to the Secretary
of State for India, that
the levy of these taxes
should be suspended.

2.

L. D. S.

1/9

A. A.

Dist. of 118 } 200 adms.

Public

To His Excellency Mr. Bontemps.

Masulipatam

Date 2 July 29 } 1870, No 944 B.

Nos. 135 B. 135 B.

Respecting the levy of
Municipal taxes within the French
Pottah which lies within
the municipal limits of
Masulipatam. It is
advised that the levy of
these taxes should be
suspended pending a
reference to the Secretary
of State for India.

C. 2/12/50.

From England Nov. 16 of 1870 C. H. S. J. S. J.

Cert. of 1870 Madras
Public

By Order of the Governor
of the French Settlements
in India.

Dated *29*

1870

End

G. O. 29

1870 No. 9412

Nos. 1351-1352.

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