

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 9-6-92
No. 13

INDEXED.

When given for copying 9/1

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing certain
the individuals of
being that it is
unable to assist them
in the matter of their
petition for an order
or enactment which
would remove their
communication from
reach.

SECRETARY
4 JAN 92

5

His Excellency the Governor in Council
of Port St. George

The humble petition of the undersigned,
inhabitants of the Ponnany Taluk. in
South Malabar

May it please your Excellency.

We the undersigned beg leave to approach Your
Excellency with a sanguine hope that the prayers
contained in this Petition will be kindly considered by Your
Excellency and a favourable reply granted.

The undersigned are natives of the Ponnany Taluk.
They belong to the class of Godnas following the Hindu religion.
They live in various localities between Pichavay near the
Ponnany Town and the Channambra Subban in the Channambra
Taluk. They are residents among the Channambra and
other high Caste Hindus. Brahmins are their priests.
They are to worship in Hindu temples. They are to associate
with other Godnas in food and marriage.

But for nearly a Century their Condition has
been the most deplorable. The invasion of Malabar by
Tipu Sultan the then Sovereign of Mysore during the latter
part of the last Century besides bringing on various calamities

to the innocent people of Malabar also resulted in the
deprivation of the Caste of most of its inhabitants. (Hindus)
When Tippu Sultan invaded Malabar, he persecuted its in-
habitants by converting them to Mohammedanism. This
persecution was carried on to such an extent that the people
were obliged to take shelter in Travancore - the Sovereign of
which Country afforded some shelter to the poor exiles. Most
of the exiles as returned home after the rebellion was quelled,
and those that remained home without taking themselves to
exile, were afterwards made to undergo a form of purification
by the Sovereign of Malabar, the Zamorin Nair Raja
of Calicut and by the high Brahmin priests. Others who
were not so purified remain in a state of excommunication
up to the present time. Petitioners belong to the latter class.
Their status in society has now become an object of anxiety
to them and they are thus obliged to represent their
grievances before the Government. Inter marriages with
the so purified Hind Sadakas by Petitioners is strictly
prohibited. They are never allowed to bathe in a tank attached
to a Hindu temple; they are never allowed to enter a temple
and worship therein; they are not allowed to take their
food in the company of their brethren, and they are regarded
as outcasts by the high-caste Hindus such as the Nam-
-hoodini Brahmins and other principal Sadakas.
Petitioners and their family have ~~been~~ put under this
interdict for the last 100 years nearly.

The Hindu Law enjoins exculpation for

crimes even of the highest order. It also prescribes that crimes of whatever grade do not require expiation after the lapse of 100 years. It is within the memory of Petitioners that crimes even of the highest grade have been removed by performance of religious rites. Where therefore, crimes of the highest stamp can be removed by performance of religious rites, it is a great pity that Petitioners and their family should be doomed to perpetual excommunication — not for any crime which they have committed, but for alleged crimes made to be committed by them, ^{for no reason} through force at a time which is not now in Petitioners' memory.

Your Excellency in justice to the welfare of the subjects is reported to protect the rights and privileges that the subjects require.

Petitioners therefore in perfect confidence. crave your Excellency to be kind enough to take the case of these poor Petitioners by your Excellency's kind consideration and to pass an order or other enactment which would remove their excommunication from society and would confer upon them the rights and privileges that are enjoyed by other Hindu Sadhus.

We beg to remain

Your Excellency's humble petitioners.

Dated _____ }
28-11-91

1 - Mr. J. B. ...
2 - Mr. ...
3 - Mr. ...

- [illegible]

Hus.

Order 9 Jan 92

From

Certain Inhabitants of the Ponnani
Taluk
South Malabar

^{the Govt.}
Copied The Govt. is
unable to assist
the petitioners in
the matter.

J.B.

5/1/92

No.

Dated 28th Nov^r 1891

Received 4th January 1892
Regd. Secy.
Enclosures

P. B.

DESPATCHED.

15 JAN 92

IN M.S.

SUBJECT.

Re their excommunication
from Society

WITH ORDER

C. 7
R. 9/1