

Public Works (1899) Department.

RAILWAY BRANCH.

G.O., No. 873 Ry.

DATED 25th July 1899

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sanitation of Railway Buildings

Coming to the Agent, Sdhy. for info, P.W. in the Ld. Dept. stating that the Govt. of India will be addressed regarding the — in the Saidapur Union, Chingput Dist.

Recd 3-9-90
M. L. L.

Enclosures

} 1899.

Spare copies

G.O., No. 1259 L., 21st June 1899.

JUNE.

Taxation.

Stating that the Government of India will be addressed regarding the — of railway buildings in the Saidapet union, Chingleput district.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

From M.R.Ry. P. KRISHNA RAO Avargal, President, Taluk Board, Saidapet, Chingleput district, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the President, District Board, Chingleput), dated 6th July 1897, Ref. No. 495—T.B.

I have the honour to submit herewith the Taluk Board resolution No. 4 of Proceedings No. 1, dated 5th April 1897-98, resolving to levy house-tax on the railway buildings belonging to the South Indian Railway within the limits of the Saidapet union and to request that you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of the Government of India for levying the tax as required in G.O., No. 1869 L., dated 9th October 1895.

2. The Agent of the Company was furnished with a list of the buildings proposed to be taxed and his letter No. H. 840—5-888, dated 27th February 1897, objecting to the tax is herewith submitted. His chief objections seem to be—

(1) that the existing roads are all old roads and the union has to maintain them irrespective of railway considerations.

(2) that, though the effect of the station near them may result in more traffic on them the cost of maintaining other roads from which the traffic is diverted by the railway is reduced; and

(3) that the union has to attend to sanitation and lighting under any circumstances and that the presence of the railway station does not involve any extra expenditure for the benefit of the railway.

3. It was not contended that any new roads were opened on account of the railway and that any extra expenditure was incurred for the maintenance of such roads and I have, therefore, nothing to say with regard to the first objection.

4. As regards the second objection, the Agent himself admits that the traffic on the roads in the vicinity of the station, which means, the roads in the union must have increased on account of the railway. The saving that he refers to as having resulted from diversion of road traffic into railway traffic does not benefit the union as the roads whose traffic may have been so diverted lie beyond the limits of the union.

5. As regards the third objection, I need hardly point out that greater attention has to be paid to sanitation, &c., on account of large floating population due to the existence of the railway station.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Agent, South Indian Railway, to the President, Taluk Board, Saidapet, dated Trichinopoly, 27th February 1897, No. H. 840—5-888.

In reply to your letter No. 1892—T.B., dated 12th November 1896, regarding the imposition of house-tax on railway buildings situated within the Saidapet union, I have the honour to offer the following remarks on the contentions raised by the member in charge of the Saidapet union in his letter No. 414, dated 10th November 1896 :—

(a) *Road to Mambalam.*—This is an old road connecting Saidapet with adjacent villages and must be maintained whether the station exists or not.

(b) *Johanise Road.*—The same remarks apply to this road, and the union has to maintain it irrespective of railway considerations.

(c) *Jeenis Road, Karni.*—Subbaraya Mudali and Perumalkoil streets are admittedly maintained for the convenience of the general public. The effect of the station near them may result in more traffic on them, but this would reduce the cost of maintaining other roads from which traffic is diverted by the railway. This fact seems to have been overlooked as it is obvious that a railway by decreasing the total amount of cart traffic in a district must on the whole reduce the cost of road maintenance within that district.

2. As regards the general contentions in respect to sanitation and lighting, these are duties which a union must discharge under any circumstances and for which they are paid by the persons for whose interest the work is done. I do not admit that the presence of the railway station involves extra expenditure incurred for the benefit of the railway.

3. In conclusion I beg to protest most strongly against the imposition of the proposed tax.

PROCEEDINGS of the meeting of the Taluk Board, Saidapet, held at the Deputy Collector's Office at Guindy on Monday, the 5th April 1897, at 3 p.m.

4. Read letter No. H. 840—5-888, from the Agent of the South Indian Railway Company, and other connected papers regarding the imposition of house-tax on railway buildings situated within the Saidapet union.

Resolution.—The Board resolves to impose the tax.

Cur. Reg. No. 497 L.

Forwarded.

(Signed) D. D. MURDOCH,
President, District Board.

20th July 1897.

Govt. Ref. No. 867.

The President is requested to explain fully the reasons for imposing the tax and to state the services which the Union Panchayat renders or will render to the Railway Company. He will also report whether the services rendered by the Panchayat to the railway are the same as to other occupiers or whether the latter enjoy the benefit of any direct services such as the provision of sanitary conveniences or a pure water-supply for which the railway has to make its own arrangements.

(Signed) A. EDGINGTON,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

28th July 1898.

From M.R.Ry. P. KRISHNA RAO Avargal, President, Taluk Board, Saidapet, Chingleput district, to the Secretary to Government, Local and Municipal Department (through the President, District Board, Chingleput), dated 3rd December 1898, Ref. on No. 552-G1.

With reference to your Memorandum No. 867, dated 28th July 1898, regarding the imposition of house-tax on the South Indian Railway buildings in the Saidapet union, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. The sanitary and other conveniences which the people of the union enjoy consist of (1) conservancy, (2) roads, (3) lighting and (4) water-supply. It is true that, as contended by the Railway authorities, the premises of the railway station

are not cleaned and lighted inside; but the surroundings of the railway buildings enjoy those benefits in common with other buildings in the union. It is a patent fact that, in consequence of the existence of the railway station, greater attention is paid to repairs of roads, conservancy and lighting for the convenience of passengers. It may be argued, on the other hand, that the Railway Company provides its servants with water-supply and sanitary conveniences and are not therefore, liable to the tax; but I have to mention that the lower servants of the Company living in native quarters are benefited by the sanitary and other arrangements of the union to the same extent as other occupiers.

Wells have been sunk at the cost of the union for the supply of pure water and the servants that live outside the railway compound enjoy the benefits in common with other people. For these reasons, it is submitted, the railway buildings in question are not entitled to exemption from house-tax.

Cur. Reg. No. 650 L.

Forwarded.

CHINGLEPUT,
9th December 1898.

(Signed) D. W. G. COWIE,
President.

Govt. Memo. No. 240.

Referred to the Public Works Department for the remarks of the Consulting Engineer for Railways on the letter of the Agent of the South Indian Railway Company, No. H. 840—5-888, dated 27th February 1897.

2nd March 1899.

(Signed) A. EDGINGTON,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

No. 127 R. M.

I have nothing to add to the remarks I made in a note, dated 8th March 1899, on the case of the proposed municipal taxation of the Madras Railway in Sembiam union. *Mutatis mutandis* the same remarks apply here.

I recommend that the railway be not exempted from taxation in the Saidapet union.

28th March 1899.

(Signed) F. J. E. SPRING,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

ORDER—No. 1259 L., dated 21st June 1899.

The Government of India will be addressed.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
for Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the President, District Board, Chingleput.
„ Public Works (Railway) Department.

Exd. P. Seetharam.

3 Currents
for disposal

30a
26/2/99

information

2 A mit copy of Govt. Memo. No. 1259 L. dated 21.6.99
ER
24.7.99