Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

5th May 1857

Book No 41-42.

Order no 414 dated 4th May 1857

(16 Pages)

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-I

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர் ச. 2 அலுவலகம்

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக
எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் 7/06

செப்பனிட்டு முடித்த நாள் 10/12/2006

சரிபார்க்கும்
முதல் மு.நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

சரிபார்க்கும்
2ம். நி.பா.எ.
கையொப்பம்

ஆய்வுசெய்த
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 5th May 1857.

No. 41. Read the following *Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 31st March* 1857, *No.* 986.

In Consultation 31*st April* 1857.

Read letter from the Collector of Bellary, dated 6th December 1856.

(Here enter No. 12.)

In the above letter, the Collector in accordance with the instructions conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation 19th November last, No. 1238, reports on a Petition presented to the Right Honorable the Governor by certain inhabitants of Bellary.

2. The Petitioners refer to matters connected with the Revenue Department.

3. The first of these is a reduction of the assessment, and the second the abolition of the Moturpah.

From Bellary 5th March in Cons. 15*th Novr.* 1855.
From do. 24th August in Cons. 15*th Novr.* 1855.
From do. 12th July in Cons. 21*st August* 1855.
Pro. to Government 15*th November* 1855.

4. The discontinuance of the latter tax is still under the consideration of the Supreme Government, and the question of revising the assessment formed the subject of the correspondence entered in the margin.

5. The next subject of complaint is the monopoly of public situations by the Brahminical class, and in particular the frequent appointment of Brahmins to village offices as Amany Mootsuddies. On this latter point, the Collector states that it is only when the Meerassy Reddy is removed for misconduct or incapacity and when there are no qualified Meerassidars that Amany Mootsuddies are nominated to perform the duties of Potel or Curnum. In last Fusly such officers were appointed in only 219 out of the 2,650 villages which the District comprises, considering the state of native education in this and other Districts, the Board do not regard the number of Amany Mootsuddies as by any means excessive; but they remark that while the 2,431 regular Potels were "with scarcely an exception" of the Shoodra caste, no less than 193 out of the 219 Amany Mootsuddies were Brahmins.

6. The Board remark also that in several cases the same person performs the duties of Curnum and Potel. This practice is opposed to the spirit of the Regulation and is objectionable on other grounds. It will therefore be discontinued as fully and speedily as circumstances will permit, and the Collector will endeavour as far as practicable to provide suitable substitutes for incompetent Reddies from other villages. The Mootsuddies are paid mainly from the fees appertaining to the office of Reddy, a portion of the enam proceeds is also made available for this purpose, and in some cases a contribution is made from Government Funds by deduction from the Kistbundy Beriz.

7. The Board are aware that the Appanum system of Bellary offers dificulties in the attempt to place the village offices on a footing of real efficency. In consideration of their being responsible according to the ancient usage of the country for keeping the cultivation of their villages up to their standard, the Reddies and Potels of Bellary enjoy more extensive enams than they would do, if they had merely the ordinary duties of the office to perform. Hence, when ryots gave up their lands, the Reddies were required to make arrangements for their cultivation, and this was the origin of the Appanum system.

Pro. to Bellary 28th January 1856.
Copy not sent to Government.

8. While admitting the system to be undesirable, the Board on a former occasion expressed their inability to support the Collector's proposal for its unconditional abrogation, as such a step was in fact leaving the village officers in possession of unduly large emoluments and releasing them from the liabilities which led to their allowances being fixed on so liberal a scale. The Board however declared their readiness to deal with individual cases where the Appanum lands were so disproportioned to the enam as to constitute an unfair burden. Mr. Pelly's attention is requested to the Board's Proceedings on this subject, in view to the information called for being submitted. At the same time, the Board, as at present constituted, would

Dated 28th January 1856.

add that in laying the question before Government they propose to give prominence to Mr. Pelly's arguments advocating the removal of all restrictions. The Board hope that the report on the village offices of a single talook called for in their proceedings of the 12th August 1856* will be laid before them at an early date. With the information which will thus be before them, the Board will be in a position to deal with this question in a manner which its importance both to Government and the people renders necessary.

* *Copy not sent to Government.*

9. As regards the general complaint of the family connection existing among Government servents, the Board need say little here, as the subject in this and other districts has been previously under the consideration of Government. The new rule by which public offices will be filled up only after suitable examinations and the general spread of education will exercise a most beneficial effect in removing this cause of complaint. The Collector however shews that he has already done much to remedy the admitted evil in endeavouring to attain his object has disregarded the claims of several deserving officers in his district. The office of Head Sheristadar is now held, as Government are aware, by Royappah, the Board's Naib, and that of Dequty Sheristadar is filled by a person who was previously a Tahsildar in the Chingleput District. Out of three Tahsildaries which have lately become vacant only one has been conferred on a Brahmin. This person is moreover said to have distinguished himself in the Judicial Department, and is the son of the late Head Sheristadar Neelcunta Row whose services and claims have been lately recognized by Government in flattering terms. The Board trust that the Government will approve of the mode in which, to lessen the evil complained of, the Collector has exercised the patronage at his disposal.

10. As regards the inefficiency of some of the Tahsildars, Mr. Pelly admits that there is some reason for complaints, and he gives the names of six whose retirement he urged on this ground. The Tahsildars are unwilling to resign and be placed on the pension list, and judging from what the Collector says of them, the Board doubt whether a Medical Committee would declare them incapable of further service. They observe however that 5 of the 6 have served for more than 35 years, and their cases may probably come within the scope of the notification published in the Gazette of the 21st July 1854† which is not affected by the orders subsequently conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 12th May 1856.‡

†*Page* 818.

‡*Public Department No.* 103.

11. Should this not be the case, it will be for the Collector to consider whether their longer retention in their present high offices can be permitted with justice to the interests of the people and the Government.

12. The order of the 21st July 1854 is intended only for cases of a very special nature, but there are many deserving officers whom a Collector while recognizing their merits would still be reluctant to recommend for a pension under its provisions. In such cases, reduction to offices of smaller emolument involves great hardship towards a public servant against whom no other incapicity is alleged than that which is itself the result of his lengthened employment in the service of Government. The Board trust that in the event of its being necessary to reduce any of the Tahsildars mentioned by the Collector to situations of lower emolument and responsibility, the Government will be disposed to treat them with consideration and will permit their pensions when hereafter claimed to be reckoned on the average salary they have drawn during the 5 years preceding their reduction, provided of course that the Collector can testify that their conduct has been uniformly meritorious.

13. The Board regret that a press of other business has caused delay in the disposal of this case.

14. The other parts of Extract Minutes Consultation dated 19th November last do not call for any remarks from the Board.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Acting Secretary.*

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 5th May 1857.

No. 42. ORDER THEREON, *No.* 414; *dated 4th May* 1857.

With the above proceedings, the Board forward a letter from the Collector of Bellary reporting upon a petition presented to the Right Honorable the Governor by certain inhabitants of Bellary during his late tour in that District.

2. The matters referred to in the petition which it was within the Board's province to notice are the high land assessment, the Moturpha tax, the employment of Aumanie Mootsuddies in place of the hereditary village Potails, the family connection existing among the public servants of Bellary, and the great age of some of the Tahsildars.

3. The Government have had the assessment in Bellary lately under their consideration, have already sanctioned reductions on the most highly taxed lands, and have resolved on further measures of relief, the petition now in question does not therefore demand any specific orders under this head.

4. The abolition of the Moturpha tax can be carried out only with due consideration to the financial exigences of the country; it is well known that the Government have long since advocated the measure, and now that the consent of the Honorable Court has been obtained, there can be no doubt that the boon will be conceded as soon as the Government of India are in a position to dispense with so considerable an item of revenue.

5. The Government are unwilling to interfere with the Collector in the matter of employing Aumanie Mootsuddies to perform the Reddys' duty, they are confident that Mr. Pelly will make the change only when it is really necessary, and they are aware that in the Ceded Districts the village officers have been so often suspected of conniving at gang robberies, and that party feeling at times runs so high in the villages, that the nomination of an entire stranger, unconnected with the village, or with either rival faction, is the only means that can be employed to maintain the public peace, or to preserve harmony in the village. The selection of Bramins for the office, is very frequently a matter of necessity in a District where education is at so low an ebb, that hardly any of the village Reddies can read or write.

6. The plan which the Board appear to advocate in para. 6 of their proceedings, of nominating a Reddy from one village to serve the office in another, would, the Government fear, not be very practicable, because, as all of the class are cultivators none would be willing to leave their farms, to undertake a not very remunerative office at a distance.

7. The extensive family connection subsisting among the public servants in Bellary has already attracted the attention of Government, and they are glad to see the endeavours which the Collector has lately made to break it up.

8. As regards the age of the Tahsildars referred to in the petition, the Government consider that the measures to be adopted must depend solely upon the efficiency of the men now reported on by the Collector. The Government cannot allow an office, so important to the people and to the state, as that of a Tahsildar, to be filled by a man who from extreme age, or other infirmity, is incapacitated from performing his duties, and while they would wish nothing harsh or unjust to be done to old and faithful servants, they have no hesitation in declaring that it is the Collector's duty to insist on the resignation of any servant of his establishment, who can no longer do his work.

9. The Government observe in every one of the cases mentioned by Mr. Pelly, the Tahsildars have served long enough to be entitled to a pension if their incapacity for further active service be supported by a medical certificate, and that there will therefore be no hardship in insisting on resignation, if the good of the service requires it.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Dft. 4/14.

Revenue 1857 Departt

28/73

Dy to Comr 5th May

No 329

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 31st March 1857

4/4

Submitting with an expression of the Board's views thereon a letter from the Collr of Bellary reporting on the various matters embraced in the Petition presented to the Right Honorable the Governor by certain inhabitants of Bellary

No 1.1.912.

With an order
Dy 5th May 1857
No 1.14.

Spe

Revenue Department

N.W.P. Resettlement

No. 986 5/214

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st March, 1857. No 986

Read letter from the Collector of Bellary dated 6th December 1856.

Inclosures 31st April 1857.

(Here enter No. 12)

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2 The Petitioners refer to matters connected with the Revenue Department.

3 The first of these is a reduction of the assessment and the second the abolition of the Moturpha.

4 The discontinuance of the latter tax is still under the consideration of the Supreme Government and the question of revising the assessment formed the subject of the correspondence entered in the margin.

From Bellary 5th March in Cons 15th November 1855.
From Do 24th August in Cons 15th Nov.
From Do 12th July in Cons 27th August
Do to Govt 15th November

The

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The next subject of complaint is the monopoly of public situations by the Brahminical class and in particular the frequent appointment of Brahmins to Village offices as Amany Mootsuddies. On this latter point the Collector states that it is only when the Meerassy Reddy is removed for misconduct or incapacity and when there are no qualified Meerassidars that Amany Mootsuddies are nominated to perform the duties of Potel or Curnum. In last Fasly such officers were appointed in only 219 out of the 2650 Villages which the District comprises. Considering the state of Native education in this and other Districts the Board do not regard the number of Amany Mootsuddies as by any means excessive; but they remark that while the 2431 regular Potels were "with scarcely an exception" of the Shoodra Caste, no less than 193 out of the 219 Amany Mootsuddies were Brahmins.

The Board remark also that in

6

several cases the same person performs the duties of Curnum and Potel. This practice is opposed to the spirit of the Regulations

and

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and is objectionable on other grounds. It will therefore be discontinued as fully and speedily as circumstances will permit. and the Collector will endeavour as far as practicable to provide suitable substitutes for incompetent Reddies from other Villages. The Mootsuddies are paid mainly from the fees appertaining to the office of Reddy. a portion of the Curnum proceeds is also made available for this purpose, and in some cases a contribution is made from Government Funds by deduction from the Kistbundy Berij.

The Board are aware that the Mirasum System of Bellary offers difficulties in the attempt to place the Village offices on a footing of real efficiency. In consideration of their being responsible according to the ancient usage of the country for keeping the cultivation of their Villages up to their standard the Reddies and Potels of Bellary enjoy more extensive Emams than they would do if they had merely the ordinary duties of the office to perform. Hence when ryots gave up their lands, the Reddies were required to make arrangements for their

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cultivation, and this was the origin of the Asparum System.

While admitting the system to be undesirable the Board on a former occasion expressed their inability to support the Collectors proposal for its unconditional abrogation, as such a step was in fact leaving the Village Officers in possession of unduly large emoluments and releasing them from the liabilities which led to their allowances being fixed on so liberal a scale. The Board however declared their readiness to deal with individual cases where the Asparum lands were so disproportionate to the Emoluments as to constitute an unfair burden. Mr. Petty's attention is requested to the Board's Proceedings on this subject in view to the information called for being submitted. At the same time the Board, as at present constituted would add that in laying the question before government they propose to give prominence to Mr Petty's arguments advocating the removal of all restrictions. The Board hope that the report on the Village Offices for a single Taluk called for in their proceedings of

Rec'd to Bellary 28th January 1856.

Dated 28th January 1856.

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of the 12th August 1858 7/414 be laid before them at an early date. With this information which will thus be before them, the Board will be in a position to deal with this question in a manner which its importance to Government and the people renders necessary.

As regards the general complaint of the family connection existing among Government Servants, the Board need say little here as the subject in this and other districts has been previously under the consideration of Government. The new rule by which public offices will be filled after suitable examinations and the general spread of education will exercise a most beneficial effect in removing this cause of complaint. The Collector however shews that he has already done much to remedy the admitted evil in endeavouring to attain his object has disregarded the claims of several deserving Officers in his district. The office of Head Sheristadar is now held, as Government are aware, by Boyapah, the Board's Nazir, and that of Deputy Sheristadar is filled by a person who was previously a

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a Tahsildar on the Chingleput District.
Out of three Tahsildaries which have lately
become vacant only one has been conferred
on a Brahmin. This person is moreover
said to have distinguished himself in the
Judicial Department and is the son of
the late Head Sheristadar Neelcunta Row
whose services and claims have been lately
recognized by Government in flattering terms.
The Board trust that the Government will
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the evil complained of, the Collector has
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from what the Collector says of them —
the Board doubt whether a Medical com-
mittee would declare them incapable of
further service. They observe however that
5 of the 6 have served for more than 35 years
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and their cases may probably come within
the scope of the Notification published in
Page 818. the Gazette of the 21st July 1854 which is not
affected by the orders subsequently conveyed
Public Department No 103. in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 12th
May 1856.

11. Should this not be the case
it will be for the Collector to consider whe-
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high offices can be permitted with justice to
the interests of the people and the Govern-
ment.

The order of the 21st July 1854
intended only for cases of a very special na-
ture but there are many deserving Officers
whom a Collector while recognizing their
merits would still be reluctant to recom-
mend for a pension under its provisions.
In such cases reduction to offices of smaller
emolument involves great hardship to-
wards a public servant against whom
no other incapacity is alleged than that
which is itself the result of his lengthened
employment in the service of Government.
The Board trust that in the event of its

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being necessary to reduce any of the Salaries mentioned by the Collector to situations of lower emolument and responsibility Government will be disposed to treat them with consideration and will permit their pensions when hereafter claimed to be reckoned on the average Salary they have drawn during the 5 years preceding their reduction, provided of course that the Collector can testify that their conduct has been uniformly meritorious.

13. The Board regret that a press of other business has caused delay in the disposal of this case.

14. The other parts of Extract Minutes Consultation dated 19th November last do not call for any remarks from the Board.

(A true Extract)

(Sd) J. A. Lin
Ag Secretary.

To,
H. Forbes Esq.
Ag Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Rev. 1857 Pub. Dpt Cons 8th May No. 329

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Rev.

Dated 21st March 1857
Recd 1st April

No. 986

1 Enclo. Returned

S.C. No. 414. 4th May

Submitting with an expression of the Board's views thereon, a letter from the Collector of Bellary reporting on the various matters embraced in the Petition presented to the Right Honble the Governor by certain inhabitants of Bellary.

District

The

Revenue Dept.

No. 414

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 4th May 1857

Read the following

Extract from the Proceedings

of the Board of Revenue.

Pere enter 31st March 1857

No. 986

With the above

proceedings the Board for-

-ward a letter from the

Collector of Bellary re-

-porting upon a petition

presented to the Rt. H. the

Governor by certain in-ha-

-bitants of Bellary during

his late tour in that

District.

The

2. The matters referred to in the petition which it was within the Board's province to notice are the right based upon assessment, the Motorpha tax, the employment of Aurinaric Moolsundaries instead of the hereditary village Potails, the family connection existing among the public servants of Bellary, and the great age of some of the Tahsildars.

3. The Government have had the assessment in Bellary lately under their consideration, have already sanctioned Reductions on the most highly taxed lands, and have resolved on further measures of relief, the petition now in question does not therefore demand any specific orders under this Head.

4. The abolition of the Motorpha tax can be carried out only with due consideration to the financial exigences of the Country. It is well known that the Govt have long since advocated the measure, and now that the consent of the Honorable Court has been obtained, there can be no doubt that the boon will be

be conceded as soon as the Government of India are in a position to dispense with so considerable an item of revenue.

5. The Government are unwilling to interfere with the Collector in the matter of employing Amanis Mookuddums to perform the Peadahs duty. They are confident that Mr. Pelly will make the change only when it is really necessary, and they are aware that in the Ceded Districts village officers the Peadahs have been so often suspected of conniving at going

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in the Dist. almost, a
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Robberies, and that party feeling at times runs so high in the Villages that the nomination of an entire stranger, unconnected with the Village, or with either rival faction, is the only means that can be employed to maintain the public peace, or to preserve harmony in the Village. The selection of Brahmins for the Office, is very frequently a matter of necessity in a District where education is at so low an ebb, that hardly any of the Village Peadahs can

can read or write.

6 The plan which the Board appear to advocate in para 6 of their proceedings, of nominating a Reddy from one Village to serve the Office in another, would, the Government fear, not be very practicable, because, as all of the Class are cultivators none would be willing to leave their farms, to undertake a not very remunerative office at a distance.

7. The extensive family connection subsisting among the

the public Servants in Bellary has already attracted the attention of Government, and they are glad to see the endeavours which the Collector has lately made to break it up.

8 As regards the age of the Subsidiary petition, the Government consider that the measures to be adopted must depend solely upon the efficiency of the men now reported on by the Collector. The Government cannot allow an office, so important

important to the people
and to the State, as that
of a Tahsildar, to be
filled by a man who
from extreme age, or
other infirmity, is
incapacitated from
performing his duties,
and while they would
prick nothing harsh
or unjust to be done
to old and faithful
servants, they have
no hesitation in
declaring that it
is the Collector's duty
to insist on the re-
signation of any
Servant of his Esta-
blishment, who
can no longer do his
work.

work. 1st/1842

The Government
observe in every one
of the cases mentioned
by Mr Dilly, the
Tahsildars have
served long enough
to be entitled to a
pension and that
there will therefore
be no hardship
in insisting on
resignation, if the
good of the service
requires it.

J Dr

if Recipient be back for
further active service
he is supposed to produce
a certificate

The orders about Medl
certificates are further on.

3 Copies to the Bd of Rev
with an Rept Encls Circ 5th

1842

Bellary Petition

Revenue 1857 Dept.
Sir I do Cons: 5th May.

No 414.

Extract Minutes of Cons:
Dy 4th May 57.

Passing orders on a letter
from the Collector of Bellary
reporting upon a petition
presented to the Right Honorable
the Governor by certain inhab
tants of Bellary during his La
tour in that District

No 1042

April 1821

Work