M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-2

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1011 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 29th July 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 23d to 29th July 1859.

Read the following Memorials.

No. 54. From P. Y. CHELLAPAH, Moodely and others; to the Chief Secretary to Government; dated 13th April 1859.

We the undersigned inhabitants of the various Zillas under the Madras Presidency beg to submit the accompanying 3 copies of Memorials addressed to the Right Honorable H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the affairs of India, and request you will be pleased to dispatch the same with your favorable recommendation, since we are utterly impoverished and ruined by the unjust and oppressive price of Salt therein mentioned.

No. 55. From P. Y. CHELLAPAH, Moodely and others; to the Chief Secretary to Government; dated Madras, 30th April 1859.

We the undersigned inhabitants of the Zilla of Chingleput and others beg to submit the accompanying 3 copies of Memorials addressed to the Right Honorable H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the affairs of India, and request you will be pleased to dispatch the same with your favorable recommendation, since we are utterly impoverished and ruined by the unjust and oppressive taxes therein mentioned.

No. 56. From P. Y. CHELLAPAH, Moodely and others; to the Chief Secretary to Government; dated Madras, 30th April 1859.

We the undersigned inhabitants of the Zilla of Chingleput and others beg to submit the accompanying 3 copies of Memorials addressed to the Right Honorable H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the affairs of India, and request you will be pleased to dispatch the same with your favorable recommendation, since we are utterly impoverished and ruined by the unjust and oppressive tax called Moturpha.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1859, No. 1011.

Ordered that the Memorials received with the above letters be forwarded to their destination; and that intimation of their despatch be made to the Memorialists.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

intimation of their despatch be
made
[illegible]

Revenue Dept

No 1011

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 27th July 1859

Read the following

Memorials.

From P. Y. Chellapah Moody & others

Requesting to transmit to Home Government their Memorial regarding the oppressive price of salt in this Presidency. (Here enter 13th April 1859.)

From - Do. — Do

Request transmission to the Home authorities, of their Memorial for being relieved from certain oppressive taxes. (Here enter 30th " — ")

From . . Do. . . . . Do

Requesting to transmit to Home Government their memorial regarding the oppressive tax on Moturpha. (Here enter 30th " — ")

Ordered that the Memorials received with the above letters be forwarded to their destination, and that intimation of their despatch be

made

made to the Memorialists.

(Duplicate)

The Right Hon. H. M. Principal Secretary of State for
the Affairs of India & President in Council.

The humble address of the undersigned
inhabitants of the various Zillas under
the Madras Presidency.—

Most respectfully Sheweth,

1st That taking into consideration the report presented to the Parliament under date the 30th Jany 1856. by George Blowden Esqr., the Salt Commissioner regarding the revenue of the Salt pans of this Presidency, your Petitioners beg to bring to your Lordship's kind consideration, in a concise manner, the following few particular hardships out of the many we experience and trust your Lordship will be pleased to give them your particular attention.—

2d Originally the inhabitants were in the habit of purchasing this article (Salt) from the cultivators in exchange for boiled Tamarind seeds & such like trifling articles and thus seasoning their food. Many many years afterwards this salt was commenced to be sold at the close of the Government of the Nawaubs of the Carnatic, at Rs 10½ per garce. Subsequently since the commencement of the British Government the price was gradually raised, 1st to Rs 17½; 2d to Rs 28; 3d to Rs 35; 4th to Rs. 70; 5th to Rs 105 and 6th to Rs 180 per garce & afterwards brought down to Rs 120 where it now stands.

In this manner the salt which is sold at such high rate by the rulers of the country, is purchased by the Merchants and sold by them in the neighbour-

hood

hood at the rate of from 150 to 200 Rupees per garce and retailed by the retail merchants to the poor for paddy &c at 300 Rupees per garce and in distant countries from 350 to 500 Rs per garce without any enquiry whatever.

In consequence of this exhorbitant price, as well as in consequence of the many oppressive taxes under which the poor labor, many of the poor people are unable to purchase this necessary article and in lieu of it are obliged to distill salt or sea water, brakish water, soap sands and salt naturally produced in waste lands, by which not only the health is impaired but they are also exposed to punishments from the hands of the Magistrates. Therefore it is incumbent on your Lordship to examine and compare the price of salt during the time of the late Carnatic Nabaubs and the different prices established by the British Government as well as the report of the above said Commissioner.

3d. In proof of the statements contained in the above two paras, were the census of the male and female population of this presidency, the accounts specifying the quantity of salt sold to and consumed by this population and the report of the said Commissioner, to be examined, it will be clear to your Lordship that it is unnecessary for a lengthened explanation. Were your Lordship to refer to the various correspondences which have taken place between the Government and the inhabitants since the duties of the salt department have come under the control of the Authorities, regarding the unjust and bad feelings of the salt cultivators, of the servants connected with the salt department and of the salt merchants who are actuated by interested motives, your Lordship will find that it is unnecessary for us to make any further lengthened complaint against the said parties.

4th. It is stated that the revenue derived from salt and stamp papers is to defray the expences of the Judicial Departments in order that the people may obtain justice. It will be unnecessary for us to enlarge on the subject that many of the inhabitants, both Plaintiffs and Defendants, by entering into the various channels of the said Judicial Department have become ruined and are now begging in the Streets. The records and the present state and condition of many of the ~~poor~~ inhabitants are ample evidences. Such being the case the proposal of the Commissioner in his report to levy a tax on salt will never remove the hardships of the poor and bring comfort to them. On the contrary [illegible] the salt pans of this country to be taxed at Rs 3½ per cawny and the salt thus cultivated ordered not to be sold above 35 Rs the garce, then the whole inhabitants will be able to purchase and use this necessary article and it will also be an honor to the rulers of the country, and the inconveniencies experienced by the inhabitants as stated in the 2d para also will be removed. Besides the Government will be no losers as then the salt would be more extensively and generally purchased and used.

Therefore your Petitioners pray that your Lordship will be pleased to consider whether the cultivation of the salt should be in the hands of the inhabitants or in the hands of the rulers, and, as stated above, lay down a rule that the cultivators in the sale of the salt should enjoy so much per garce and the Government so much as may deem just and equitable in the sight of the Almighty; and also let the inhabitants [illegible] to purchase and use the salt know the difference between the former and the present price,

and

and thus not only remove the disgrace entailed on the present system but also remove the hardship under which the people now labor and for which act of benevolence and charity your poor Petitioners as in duty bound

Shall Ever Pray

Madras
13th April 1859

P. Nyaya Chellappah Mr. and
Others Several &c

C. Appasawmy

R 11/4/59

13-6-57

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government

Sir,

We the undersigned Inhabitants of the various Zillas under the Madras Presidency beg to submit the accompanying 3 Copies of a Memorial addressed to the Right Honorable the Principal Secretary of State for the affairs of India and request you will be pleased to despatch the same with your favorable recommendation, since we are utterly impoverished and ruined by the unjust and oppressive price of salt therein mentioned.

We beg to remain
Sir
Your most humble & Obedient Servants

Madras
13th April
1859.

P. Nyaya Chellappah Mr. and
Others Several &c

C. Appasawmy

highest authority then in India. His Lord-
ship

Revenue 1859 Dept
No. 7 Govt 29th July
Dispatch 1117
No. 11194
From C. G. Kelloophea Moodely & others
Dated 13th April &
Recd 10th June 1859
4 Encl

No. 1011. 27th July 1859
Regarding to
transmit to Home Govt
their Memorial regarding
the oppressive price
of Salt in this Presi-
-dency.

Copy in a Dr to Engd
D/1st Aug 1859 No. 33

No. 56.

Original.

The Right Honorable, H. M. Principal Secretary
Of State for the affairs of India.
&c. &c. &c.

The humble address of the Undersigned Moturpha Ryots of the Chingleput District and others of the Madras Presidency.

Most Respectfully Sheweth,

That your Lordship's Petitioners take the liberty to appeal to your Lordship on the subject of the obnoxious, injurious and burdensome tax called "Moturpha" or Loom tax which was introduced in the year 1843 by the Madras Government tyrannically and arbitrarily against the continued protests of the People

Altho' we have presented several petitions from the lowest to the highest authorities, not omitting H. M. G. M. Queen Victoria, and altho' the late Court of Directors in their Despatches have long ago directed its total abolishment, and altho' it has been long ago abolished in Bengal and Bombay, still we at Madras alone are suffering from the pressure of the Moturpha. That the Moturpha is a most uncalled for and arbitrary tax will be seen by the following extract from the Minute recorded by the Marquis of Dalhousie the highest authority then in India. His Lord-

ship

ship states: — "The Mohturfa taxes, as a whole, are indefensible in principle. They are a direct tax on human industry. They press upon the poorest people. They press with an unequal pressure. They are felt sensibly; felt as an obnoxious burden; and they give unbounded scope to the worst of all the vexations which we see and detest, but cannot eradicate — the petty oppression of petty native officials."

Further your Lordship must be well aware that the Loom manufacture of this country is very much put down by the steam manufacture of England. The Cotton manufacture of the country has no competition whatever with that of England. The consequence is that the Mohturpha tax is doubly felt by the poor weaver of this Country.

Therefore we humbly beg your Lordship will be pleased to refer to the various Memorials despatched to the late Court of Directors on this subject and after a calm perusal of them see justice done to us by ordering the immediate abolishment of this most unjust and oppressive tax and for which act of charity and justice your Petitioners as in duty bound

Madras
30th April
1859

Shall Ever Pray
P. Ayaya Chellappah Mr and others
several &c

Appau Sawmy Mr

Copy in a letter to England Dd 1st August 1859 No. 38

R 11/6/59

…ppah Moodely and others.

To

~~The~~ Chief Secretary

to Government

Sir

We the undersigned Inhabitants of the Zillah of Chingleput and others beg to su… the accompanying 3 copies of Memo… als addressed to the Right Honorable H… Principal Secretary of State for the affai… India and request you will be pleased to … patch the same with your favorable re… mendation, since we are utterly impov… ished and ruined by the unjust and opp… ~~sive tax~~ called Mohturpha.—

We beg to remain

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants

P. Nyoya Chellappah M. and Others

Several &c

Madras
30th April
1859

13-6-59

பெரியதம்பி

எகப்பதி

Quadruple.

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To

The Right Hon'ble H. M. Principal Secretary of State
for the Affairs of India & President in Council.

The humble address of the undersigned
inhabitants of the various Zillas attach-
ed to the Presidency of Madras

Most respectfully Sheweth,

1st That since the year 1840 to 30th April 1859 your Petitioners have presented several Memorials, Tabular statements &c to the Collector, the Board of Revenue, the local Government, the Supreme Government, the late Hon'ble Court of Directors and to the Parliament setting forth the cause and reasons why the inhabitants of this country are so much in distress and reduced in circumstances. Your Petitioners beg that your Lordship and H. M. the Queen will be pleased without delay to send for the said Memorials &c and after due and proper consideration will be pleased to alter the present oppressive and unjust land revenue system and, according to the Hindoo Dherma Sastras and, according to the report of the inhabitants of Pondichery forwarded to the French Government under date the 4th February 1840, introduce a system authorising the Collection of a tax of only one sixth from the Cultivators after deducting the expences which would only be just and equitable.

2nd That the poor inhabitants are further oppressed by the following taxes viz. 1st Bayabaut or tax on trees; 2d A tax on the fishing in rivers, tanks &c; 3d On Salt; 4th On toddy & country liquor; 5th On Stamp papers; 6th Moturpha or Loom tax and some others. Your Petitioners pray your Lordship and H. M. the Queen will be pleased at once to send for the Report on

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Copy in a Lr. to Engd.
D/ 1st August 1859 No. 33

Revenue 1859 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. 29th July
No. 1193.
From P. Y. Chellappah
Moodely & others.
Dated 30th April &
Recd. 16th June 1859 ~~[illegible]~~

No. 1011. 27th July 1859

Requesting to
transmit to Home Govt.
their Memorial regarding
the oppressive tax on
Moturpha —

No. 55.

on these oppressive taxes, of the Salt Commissioner George Plowden Esq dated 30th January 1856; of the late Honble Court of Directors dated 5th November 1856; of the Governor General dated 15th March 1857; of the Local Government dated 12th May 1857 and the several other reports forwarded on various former occasions to the Home Authorities and after mature consideration of the oppressive and unjust deeds specified in the said reports, bless and protect your petitioners by seeing them freed from their difficulties and hardships. This is an act of justice done to us by your Lordship, H. M. the Queen and the Creator of all things.

3rd That should it be the pleasure of H. M. the Queen to ascertain herself how, since the commencement of the British Government in this country up to the present moment, the various European and Native Officials, have with the selfish desire of being content so long as they were able to accumulate a private fortune to support themselves and families with comfort and respectability, have entailed a heavy debt on the late Honble Company; how they have rendered them to raise a further extensive loan and oppress the people; how they have reduced many of the inhabitants to beggary and want, and how it is their further intention to oppress the people by increasing the tax, your Petitioners state that should it please H. M. to satisfy herself on the above points she could easily do so by appointing a Commission, to enquire and report on the above points, consisting of 24 respectable and independent honorary members viz 5 Europeans, 5 Natives and 14 respectable persons from the poor inhabitants. The report of these Honorary Commissioners after an investigation whether the European and Native Officials have done any go

benefit to the people since the commencement of the British rule in this country; will convince your Lordship and H. M. that the said officials have vainly and ostentatiously entailed a very heavy debt on the late Company and that they have in various ways oppressed the people, reduced them to beggary [illegible] sent them [illegible] the various Memorials forwarded before this will also prove [illegible] the above report.

4th In conformance to the contents of the above 3 paras, with a view to benefit the people and not entail a further debt on the State, all the unnecessary expenses should be reduced so that the salaries of the officers from the lowest to the highest grade may not exceed from Rs 3 [illegible] Rs 250 per month and that of the Europeans from Rs 150 to Rs 2,500. Should this be done the Government [illegible] being involved [illegible] being obliged to call for loans, will make a large saving. There will then be no necessity for oppressing the people by different kinds of [illegible] taxes and the system of [illegible] and selling [illegible] the property of the poor consisting of ploughing oxen, seed grains, the roofs of houses, doors, door frames, jewels, utensils, lands &c &c, would be removed and it will be the means of protecting the poor from oppression and torture and [illegible] to them with impartiality.

Therefore your Petitioners [illegible] Lordship and H. M. [illegible] the above particulars [illegible] your kind considerations and by referring to the numerous and various reports forwarded from this country do justice [illegible] by favourably recommending our case to the [illegible] consideration of the local authorities and for which acts of benevolence and charity your petitioners as in duty bound

Shall Ever Pray

Madras
30th April
1859

P. Nyaya Chellappah Mr. and
others Several &c

C. Appausawmy Iyer

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government

Sir,

We the undersigned Inhabitants of the Zillah of Chingleput and others beg to submit accompanying 3 copies of Memorial addressed to the Right Honorable H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the affairs of India and request you will be pleased to dispatch the same with your favorable recommendation, since we are utterly impoverished and ruined by the unjust and oppressive taxes therein mentioned.

We beg to [illegible]

Madras
30th April
1859

We have the honor to be
Sir
Your most humble & obedient Servants
P. Nyaya Chellappah Mr. and
others Several &c

Appausawmy Iyer

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Appasamy

Copy in a Lr to Eng^d

Revenue 1859 Depart^t
Pro: of Gov^t 29^th July.

No 1104.

P. Y. Chellappah Moodely
and others —

Dated 30^th April &
Rec^d 16^th June 1859.

4 Encls.

No 1011 = 27^th July 1859

Request transmission
to the Home Authorities, of
their memorial for being
relieved from Certain —
oppressive taxes.

No 54.

C 13^th July R22^d.

Copy in as Lr. to Engd.
Dd 1st August 1859 No. 33

No. 54 at 57-

Revenue 1859 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. 29 July.

No. 1011.

Pro. of the Madras Govt.
Dd 27 July /59.

From Chellappa Modr. 25 Septembr /60
C No. 989/61-

Memorials requesting
abolition of Moturpha reduction
of the price of Salt and certain
alterations in Land Revenue,
forwarded to their destination.