

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|          |                  |                      |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|
| G.O. No. | 1037             | Press<br><u>Mis.</u> |
| Dated    | 5th August 1859. |                      |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
from 30th July to 5th August 1859.*

No. 17 Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D. dated 16th July 1859, No. 2802.

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit the following case for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. From a report received from the Collector of Guntoor on a Petition from certain Weavers protesting against his orders requiring them to continue payment to the village Curnums of certain customary Fees, it appeared that the Fee in question at the exorbitant rate of annas eight per loom constituted the main portion of the emoluments of the Curnums, and that payment of it had been withheld since Fusly 1265.

3. Enquiry elicited such objectionable features in the case that the Board resolved to recommend the abolition of the Fee in question and the substitution of a payment by the State, as has been done in other similar cases, and I am now directed to solicit the sanction of Government for this measure.

4. The village in question, Cheralah, was transferred to Guntoor from Nellore in 1847.

|                                             |               |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|
| * Item.                                     |               |
| Tax on Looms, Rupees 2,486.                 |               |
| 2034 from Guntoor 2nd in Con. 6th May 1859. |               |
| Land.                                       | Annual value. |
| Nunjah.....                                 | 48 0 0        |
| Deduct quit-rent.....                       | 17 13 0       |
| Net amount.....                             | 30 3 0        |
| Poonjah.....                                | 31 4 0        |
| Merahs on Nunjah lands .....                | 18 0 0        |
| Total.....                                  | 79 7 0        |
| Estimated amount of fees on                 |               |
| LOOMS.....                                  | 465 0 0       |
|                                             | 544 7 0       |

Its whole revenue in Fusly 1267 amounted to Rupees 6,030, of which the portion derived from the Moturpha tax was Rupees 3,869,\* and four Curnums were actually employed on the duties connected with their Office. The emoluments nominally assigned to the office were estimated at Rupees 544-7-0, as shewn in the margin, Rupees 465 being the produce of the Fee on Looms, and the remainder being derived from land, and fees from occupiers of land. Of this last portion, however, the profits from the dry land and the fees were stated by the Collector to be a very precarious income, and certainly not permanent in amount.

5. It, moreover appeared that of the emoluments nearly one half of the whole, and nearly two-thirds of those not derived from the fees on Looms, were absorbed by " Mirasidars not in office" as they are styled, and that there thus remained for remuneration to the four working Curnums, a nominal sum of only Rupees 289-12-9,\* of which, however, Rupees 262-1-8 were the estimated produce of the fees on Looms, which, as above stated, have been withheld for the last two Fuslies, so that the Curnums have really had no more than Rupees 27-11-1, to divide among themselves as their year's pay.

6. The Board directed the Collector to restore at once to the working Curnums the portions of the Maniem lands and fees from land occupiers improperly alienated from the office, thus raising their individual emoluments to Rupees 19-13-9, independently of the Moturpha fees, regarding which, and the custom in other parts of the district, they called for further information, which has since been received.

7. The total Moturpha Revenue of the district was Rupees 37,578 in Fusly 1267, of which the tax on Looms contributed Rupees 14,176. The remuneration made to Curnums for duties in connection with this last item of Revenue was Rupees 1,812-9-1, of which Rupees 604-9-2 were the result of a partial deduction from that Revenue at 10 per cent., and the balance, Rupees 1,207-15-11, was raised by Fees levied on the payers, whose industry is thus burthened with the payment of two-thirds of this portion of the Curnums' salaries in addition to their large proportion of the whole Moturpha tax.

8. Of this sum of Rupees 1,207, by far the largest share, Rupees 726, is borne by the single talook of Baupetlah in which the village Cheralah that has given rise to this correspondence is situated, and of that share more than one half is paid by the Weavers of that single village, who in fact provide more than one quarter of the whole salary received by the Curnums on this account inclusive of the per centage allowed by Government. In fact the Government pay Rupees 694 for the collection of their Moturpha tax on Weavers in the Guntoor District, and the Weavers of Cheralah pay or rather used to pay Rupees 465 for the privilege of contributing to that tax, for they cannot be said to derive any such incidental advantages from the labours of the Curnums as the Ryots do.

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9. The Board desire me to recommend that the Curnums' fee on Looms in Cheralah be abolished, and that, as proposed by the Collector, there be substituted for it an allowance of 5 per cent. on the Moturpha Revenue of the village which will produce a sum of Rupees 193-8 yearly.

NOTE.—A deduction of 10 per cent. is made for this purpose in some parts of the districts when the Curnums have no emoluments in land.

\* Emoluments on Land Revenue . . . . Rupees 94-8  
Amount at 5 per cent on Moturpha do. „ 193-8

Total 288-0

Divisible among 4 Curnums or per individual. 72-0

The difference between this amount and that given in a former para. results from more careful estimate of the value of the Nunjah Inam lands and from the conversion of a small portion of the dry land into wet.

nominal salary, while it will be of a far more certain character than that has ever been.

11. In conclusion the Board direct me to remark that as in no other talook in the district of Guntoor does this Fee, levied from Weavers, aggregate annually so much as Rupees 90, they would, much as they think its principle objectionable, leave the system untouched elsewhere for the present in prospect of the general revision of the salaries of village officers throughout the district.

No. 18. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1859, No. 1037.

The mode of providing pay for the Curnums, heretofore prevailing at Cheralah is an abuse and extortion; and the Government fully agree with the Board that it should entirely cease. The Curnum's fee on Looms will be discontinued; and for the future no part of the limited emoluments of the office will be allowed to go to Mirásidárs not in office.

2. The Governor in Council will allow a money payment sufficient to make up the working Curnum's pay to a suitable rate; but he hesitates to allow the necessity of four Curnums to the village. The Board will be requested to reconsider this part of their proposal, and submit a revised scheme.

3. The practice of exacting fees from Weavers for the payment of the Curnums being undoubtedly an abuse, the Governor in Council directs, with reference to para. 11 of the Board's letter, that it should be abolished wherever it is found either in Guntoor or in any other District. Should it become necessary in consequence, to supplement the emoluments of the Curnums, the Governor in Council will be prepared to accede to such an arrangement, where it shall be shewn that the whole available emoluments are insufficient to remunerate the necessary working Curnums.

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

*Rev. Dept.*

*N<sup>o</sup> 1037*

*Proceedings of the Madras Government*

*Under date the 1<sup>st</sup> August 1859*

*Read the following  
letter from the Sub Secre*

*tary to the Board of Revenue*

*Submitting for orders the  
measures adopted by the Board  
in regard to the complaint of cer-  
tain Weavers in the village of  
Cheralah in Guntoor protesting  
against the payment of certain  
customary fees to the village Cur-  
nuns; and recommending that the  
Curnum's fee on Looms in Chera-  
lah be abolished & that there be  
substituted for it an allowance  
of 5 per cent on the Moturpha  
Revenue of the village.*

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H*

*N<sup>o</sup> 2802*

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*[Signature]*

6 Copies to the B<sup>d</sup> of Rev<sup>d</sup> Dis<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
with 5 Encl<sup>s</sup>

30/7/59

3

Revenue 1859 Sept 16  
Being paid 5<sup>th</sup> August

13/1037.

To: of the Madras Govt.  
27<sup>th</sup> August 59.

Letter from Mr. P. S.  
of date 3<sup>rd</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> 1859  
C.R. 1794. Dec 1858

Reaction of fees from  
treasure for Customs,  
abolished.

{ From Rs 1000 to Rs 2000.  
Customs claiming this year }

From Mr. C. P. P. to Mr. P. P.  
C.R. 319. 1859

1859 418-