From J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th November 1862, No. 491.

1. With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular dated the 12th July 1862, No. 4,487, calling for a report on the questions contained in paragraph 7 of the Order of Government thereto annexed, whether the proposed plan of protecting salt by erecting large sheds over the platforms would be more economical and effective than that now adopted of covering each heap separately, and what would be the cost of providing accommodation for purchasers at the salt stations, I have the honor to state that after consulting with the Deputy Collector Mr. Underwood, and the Acting District Engineer Captain Paxton, and giving the matter due consideration, I am of opinion that the present mode of protecting the salt in this District by covering each heap with palmirah leaves and mud is the best and cheapest. The proposed sheds would never answer in this District. Not only will the cost of constructing them be considerable, but it would be almost impossible to keep out the sand during the strong land winds which prevail in the manufacturing season, and which would also necessitate continual repair to the sheds.

2. Mr. Underwood recommends that in addition to covering the heaps as is now done, there should be a wall raised from the ground all round the platforms up to their level, and that the flooring should be of brick in chunam with drains surrounding each heap and the platform; but Captain Paxton points out that this will cost an enormous amount.

3. As regards the accommodation for merchants coming to buy salt, I beg to state that there is a building attached to the platform at Tuticorin suited to the purpose, and at the other platforms sheds may be erected at the small cost of Rupees 50 each, at which rate the amount for the required number of sheds will be Rupees 300, a little more or less.

Exd. J. Wright.