M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1693 Press Mis.

387.388

Dated 21-7-1863.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 387. Read the following letter from W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Officiating Inám Commissioner, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 13th July 1865, No. 34:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit, for the orders of Government, the following question relating to the revival of a cess known as the Inám Méra, in the reverted Jaghire of Udayagiri in the District of Nellore.

2. The exact origin and character of this cess are not known, and cannot be ascertained from any public records. It was no doubt one of those extra imposts which it was the custom of the Jaghiredars and proprietors to levy from their tenantry generally on various pretences. The tax was not uniformly collected on all Ináms at one fixed rate. Some Ináms were altogether exempted from its payment, and on others, it was collected at a rate varying from one-tenth to one-fourth of the gross produce, ascertained by estimate every year. Even the rate at which it was collected varied at the discretion of the Jaghiredar; and out of the Méra collections the Jaghiredar paid the fees due to the village servants, and appropriated the remainder for his own use. Similar cesses were also collected by the Jaghiredar on certain Government lands. Their amount and description are given in the margin, from the report of Mr. Dykes.

Items.		Amount.		
1. Médi Tirugudur	Rs.	38	6	1
2. Extra cess collected on Makta gardens	,,	1,843	15	0
3. Extra cess collected, Cheruvu Kunchálu	,,	163	1	9
4. Inám Méra	,,	788	11	6

3. Since the reversion of the Jaghire, which took place in 1838-39, no Méra has been collected by Government on Ináms, except in a *few* villages annexed to the Atmakur Talook, but the Inámdars continue to pay in kind direct to the village servants the fees due to them, at the rate of 6 per cent. on the gross produce.

4. When the Inám Registers of the Jaghire villages came up for review before Mr. Taylor, he recorded his opinion that the Inám Méra not having been collected ever since the reversion of the Jaghire, should not now be revived. The settlement has been accordingly carried out, and Title Deeds prepared, but before passing them finally Mr. Taylor made a reference to the Collector, enquiring whether his records threw any further light on the subject, and whether any correspondence was forthcoming explanatory of the circumstances under which the Méra ceased to be collected on Ináms as well as on Circar lands.

5. Mr. Dykes, in his reply which is herewith submitted, states that the Collector, Mr. Stonhouse, did issue an order that the Méra on Ináms should be collected according to usage, but that it has been allowed to remain a dead letter. He considers that the non-collection of the Méra on Ináms is an oversight, and states that the cess on Government lands above described, also ceased to be collected, though the reasons for its abolition are no where stated.

6. I am unable to give the exact sum of the Méra, but in Fusly 1249 it amounted to Rupees 788.

7. Considering the varying character of the cess, and the comparatively trifling amount involved, I agree with Mr. Taylor that its revival, after its virtual abolition for a quarter of a century, is of very doubtful expediency; and that it should be considered as having ceased to exist. To revive it on the old footing, which involved an examination and estimation of the annual produce of each Inám, is out of question, and inconsistent with the permanent character of the title now conferred by enfranchisement. Its non-collection for twenty-five years has also left no materials to admit of a fair commutation being made on the average of past collections, the accounts of the collections in the Jaghiredar's days being ascertained to be in a very unsatisfactory and imperfect condition. If any commutation of the tax is desired, it must be

based mostly upon hypothetical data, which cannot lead to very satisfactory or fair results. Under these circumstances, it appears to be best not to revive the Méra.

8. Should the Government be pleased to concur in this recommendation, I would propose that in the few villages where the Méra in question still continues to be collected, it should be discontinued in future. The amount of revenue sacrificed in these villages will be very trifling.

9. That portion of the Méra, however, which is understood to consist of fees due to village servants, and which is paid to them by the Inámdars to this day, will of course be left undisturbed under any circumstances.

10. As all the Title Deeds of the Jaghire villages, which were prepared according to the first decision of Mr. Taylor, are in abeyance, I solicit the favor of the early orders of Government on this subject.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Acting Inám Commissioner, dated Nellore, 17th June 1865, No. 378.

SIR,

7th December 1863, No. 557.
11th do. ,, ,, 572.
27th March 1865, ,, 217.
20th May 1865, ,, 354.

1. With reference to letters from your Office noted in the margin, on the subject of Méra levied on the Ináms and Circar lands of the late Udayagiri Jaghire villages, and the Tank Méra collected on the Ináms of Sydapur villages, I have the honor to furnish the following information.

2. As regards the Méra in the Udayagiri villages, it appears from the Jamabandi accounts of Fusly 1249, when the resumption took place, that the following items of Méra were collected for that year in accordance to the previous usage.

	Items.		Amount.		
1.	Medi Terugudu	Rs.	38	6	1
2.	Extra cess collected on Makta Gardens ...	,,	1,843	15	0
3.	Extra cess collected, Cheruvu Kunchalu ...	,,	163	1	9
4.	Inám Méra	,,	788	11	6

3. The first of these items was a cess on Ináms only, and was collected in six villages at so much per Putti of the gross produce of all Ináms other than those of village service.

4. The second item was collected on Government Garden lands charged with Makta assessment. Almost all the villages with a few exception paid this cess at so much grain per every Rupee of the Makta assessment, or per every Putti of the estimated gross produce on such lands.

5. The third item was also collected in Government lands of the description of dry and garden lands charged with Makta sist. It was levied on nineteen villages as follows : The Makta sist was converted into grain at the current prices; and on the quantity thus obtained the Méra was calculated at so much per Putti. It was in some cases fixed at a certain proportion on the estimated produce.

6. These three items were not collected in the ensuing Fusly 1250, but no particular reasons assigned in the Jamabandi Report for that year, dated 19th November 1841; and the Board in their Proceedings thereon, dated 16th February 1843, paragraph 8, simply refer to the discontinuance as one of the causes of a decrease in the revenue as compared with the results of the previous year.

7. The fourth item was collected on Ináms exclusively at a rate varying from $\frac{1}{16}$th to $\frac{1}{4}$th of the gross produce, while in the cases of Sirva Dumbala Ináms the proportion was much smaller, being only 6½ Muntas per Putti in the village of Atmakur for example.

8. After resumption of the Jaghire, there was reason to believe that Ináms were held without any title to support the holding, and pending the result of an enquiry into these titles, an order was issued by the then Collector, Mr. Stonhouse, on the 16th September 1840 (No. 166), directing the Udayagiri Tahsildar to hold under "Taslimat"* the produce of all lands enjoyed as Ináms *minus* the cultivators' share; and to collect the Méra in accordance to the usage obtaining in the Jaghiredar's time. In 1842 a Committee was appointed to investigate the Ináms, who, from time to time, reported the result of their enquiry in the form of Statements shewing the details of Ináms and the amount of Méra leviable on each. And when the Committee closed their proceedings, orders were issued to resume all those Ináms which were reported as unsupported; but no orders appear to have been issued in regard to Ináms which were shewn as genuine.

* This term is applied in this District to deposit of grain, and strictly is what is surrendered.

9. The "Taslimat" demand was not, however, brought to account either in the Talook or the Hoozoor; and in 1863, I requested the Board's orders to relieve the parties concerned from this demand. And the Board in their Proceedings, dated 3rd July 1863, No. 4,037, having observed that their permission was not necessary, as the demand had never been brought to account, the order of 1840 has been allowed to remain a dead letter. And I will now avail myself of the Board's permission to make known to the parties concerned that they are wholly relieved from the demand.

10. Under these circumstances, the omission to collect the Méra on the Ináms, which were recognized as such must be considered an oversight, especially as they were subject to no other payment, and collections were made in some of the villages annexed to the Atmakur Talook. There is nothing on record to shew why the Méra was discontinued.

11. As regards the Tank Méra of the Sydapur villages, which were assumed in Fusly 1251, it appears that up to Fusly 1257, when they were under Amani, the Méra in question was collected only on Ináms, while in the ensuing years up to Fusly 1273 it was included in the assets made over to the renters. Last year I made a Ryotwari Settlement in these villages, and did not touch these fees; and as regards their collection, beg to state that, from the preceding, it will be observed that they are due on Ináms alone.

12. I regret the delay there has been in furnishing this information, as the letters of 1863 were lost sight of. On receipt of your letter, dated 27th March last, the matter was taken in hand, and the search which had to be made in the records and the pressure of other equally important work, must be my excuse for subsequent delay.

13. The information as regards the Polligars has already been furnished.

No. 388. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1865, No. 1,693.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government entirely approve the proposal that no attempt be made to revive the arbitrary cesses in question, which have been in abeyance ever since the resumption of the Udayagiri Jaghire in 1839-40.

2. Further information should be furnished as to the collection in the Atmakur Talook, which it is proposed to abolish. The Collector's letter, submitted by the Commissioner, does not appear anywhere to refer to this point, and the amount is nowhere stated.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Inám Commissioner.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Nellore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1693.

The Govt. Secretary

appears the Inspector states to attempt to transfer to arbitrary measures in question 25 Lascars in charge of two vessels. The examination of the Delinquent Serjeant in 1839/40. [illegible] information of the Serjeant and the collection in the Attendance Return 25 it is proposed to abolish. The Collector submitted by the Commr. does not appear any Return respect to this point. and the Serjeant in Civil Station

9 Do. Do. Do. Commissioner at Chenab dated 22nd July
11 Do. Do. Do. Do.
1 Do. Collector of Nellore

21st July 1865.

Rev. 1865 department
Pro. of Govt. for July
Vol. 1933

From

The Offg Chief Commr
Coorg

The Offg Secretary to Govt
Revenue department
Fort Saint George

Dated 13th July 1865
Received 17th do

No. 34
Enclosure 1 Reb

Solicits the Orders of
Government on a question
touching the revival of
a cess called "Chaum Mera"
in the resumed Jaghire
of Udayagiri in the
District of Nellore -
No. 1093 - 21 July

Pro. of the Board of Rev
Dy 15 Aug 1865 No. 2629.

Nos. 387 & 388.

18 July 1865.