

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1644	Press
		Mis.
Dated	5-7-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th July 1866.*

No. 67. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th June 1866, No. 4,319.

Read the following letter from the Agent to the Governor of Fort Saint George, Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chatterpore, 12th May 1866, No. 880:—

1. Sooria Narrain Row, one of the Sub-Magistrates in the Khond Hills, has more than once begged permission to rent the Goomsoor Maliah, and latterly to be permitted to hold this tract under a permanent Settlement, engaging to pay a yearly Peishcush of Rupees 8,000, and to bear the cost of any operations necessary to put down any future disturbance. He further engages to form market towns, and otherwise civilize and open up the country.

2. The proposal is enterprising, and I am disposed to think, that so long as the thing remained in his own hands, Sooria Narrain Row's administration of this Maliah, in the capacity of a permanent Renter or Zemindar, would be conducive to the progress and tranquillity of the country. He is a man of energy and intelligence, and has great influence among this section of the Khonds. Of course, a centre of increased trade and prosperity would, to a certain extent, leaven the surrounding Districts towards the interior. On the one hand, therefore, this proposal has important advantages to recommend it, and so long as Sooria Narrain Row continues able to conduct affairs himself, I should anticipate only good results.

3. There are, however, of necessity adverse considerations, as for instance, the succession of a son, or other near relative, who, instead of exhibiting his father's qualities, proved to be indolent, indifferent, or oppressive, and extortionate. Of course, the chances of such a successor are not greater than in the case of existing Zemindaries; but it would be necessary, if a Sunnud were issued, to word it in terms which would provide for the tenure ceasing in the event of mal-administration, either by neglect, or extortion, or disloyalty. With these remarks I lay the enclosed letter before the Board, who will, no doubt, give the proposition such consideration as it requires, and advise the Government on the subject. I certainly should incline to give the system a trial.

From P. SOORIA NARRAIN ROW, Sub-Magistrate, to the Agent to the Governor, Ganjam, dated Russelcondah, 13th April 1866.

I most humbly beg your honor will be pleased to take into your favorable consideration this my humble request, that the Goomsoor Maliahs may be given to me as a Zemindary, and I shall endeavour to improve the commerce.

1. The Goomsoor Khond Maliah consists of the five Divisions noted in the margin, and is called the "Oodiagherry Talook." I beg to annex, for your honor's information, a list shewing the names of the Mootahs, and the number of villages in each Division.

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| 1. Chokapand. | 4. Attrah Mootah. |
| 2. Tentooligudda. | 5. Bara Mootah. |
| 3. Huddoogudda. | |

2. The people of this Oodiagherry Talook are very ignorant. They generally bring their produce to the low country (Goomsoor Talook) in cavady loads, dispose of it in the markets at low prices, and buy cloths, salt, beads, tools, cattle, &c. These they purchase at high rates, and in consequence, they do not appear to profit adequately by their labor, and poverty is the result.

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3. I beg to offer some suggestions, in order that the people of the Khond Maliah Oodiagherry Talook may be relieved of the labor and loss they are subject to, and may become rich and civilized. These are the establishing of store-houses for all necessaries at the villages noted

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| 1. Durgaprasad. | 6. Koinjore. |
| 2. Kaliaga. | 7. Kosadandee. |
| 3. Penuagublah. | 8. Oodiagherry. |
| 4. Lingundah. | 9. Teangia. |
| 5. Chokrasud. | |

in the margin, and selling these to the Khonds at a small profit, and setting before them the advantages of commerce. Such a measure will tend to increased cultivation, abundant harvests, larger incomes, and be the means of enriching and civilizing them.

4. About 30,000 Rupees should at first be spent in opening bazaars, buying bullocks, bandies, and providing other necessary adjuncts to trade. As large profits cannot be expected at first, some time must elapse before all the money thus laid out can be recovered with interest.

5. The five Divisions mentioned in paragraph 1 are almost all equal in extent. The cist has been rated, as fixed by your honor, on the villages of No. 1 Division, and the twenty-one villages of No. 5 during the last three years. In the current Fusly 1275, the settlement of the villages of No. 1 Division was for about Rupees 1,037, and that of the twenty-one villages of No. 5 Division, about Rupees 208. No cist has yet been fixed on the villages of the Divisions Nos. 2, 3, and 4, and the one hundred and forty-two villages of the fifth.

6. The people of the Goomsoor Khond Maliahs have been obedient and faithful to me for the last four years that I have acted as Sub-Magistrate of the Maliah. They are very anxious to have me as the permanent Zemindar of their Maliah, and they can thereby be bettered in their condition.

7. The cist of the five Divisions would be about Rupees 5,185 only, according to the rate fixed on the first Division. If the Oodiagherry Talook, called the Khond Maliah of Goomsoor, be given to me, after deducting the Rupees 1,305 mentioned in paragraph 5, I shall pay Rupees 8,000 a year as Peishcush to Government.

8. If the Oodiagherry Talook is given to me on permanent settlement, I, for my part, shall greatly encourage the people in acts of public policy, and will adopt measures to civilize them and promote trade, as mentioned in paragraph 4. The Khonds, on their part, will be obedient and faithful to me, when they understand that their Talook has been made hereditary in my family, and that they will be bettered by this arrangement. If I act contrary to law, with regard to the people of the Khond Maliah, I shall be bound to forfeit the Talook to Government.

9. After the Oodiagherry Talook is given by Government as a Zemindary to me and to my heirs, I shall submit a detailed list on the settlement of the Talook, shewing the amount of cist or Jumamahbundy to be fixed upon each village, and the Government will then have to grant me a Sunnud-i-Milkut Istimrar, or Deed of Permanent Settlement, under Section 3, Regulation XXV. of 1802, and I will have to give a Caboolat to Government in exchange.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES, Collector.

1. The Board cannot consent to the proposal submitted for their consideration in the foregoing letter. They think it extremely inadvisable to make over the villages of the Goomsoor Maliah to the Sub-Magistrate, as the people would derive no real benefit from being handed over to a middleman. The proposed Peishcush too is higher than any returns yet obtained by Government from this highland tract; and the effect of any increased pressure of this kind may be retrogressive. It may cause dissatisfaction, and produce disturbances, if not rebellion and disorder, and as Mr. Forbes remarks no one can tell what the applicant's successors may be.

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2. Government are fortunate in having an efficient officer in the Sub-Magistrate Scoria Narrain Row, and in being able to turn his influence over the people, disinterested as it now is, to good account. On the whole, therefore, it appears to the Board to be the better policy for Government gradually to improve and ameliorate the condition of the people, and to adopt means whereby the hill men may be more immediately brought in contact with the civilized habits of the people of the low country. With this view, the Collector is requested to consider and report why a convenient and central emporium, for the sale and exchange of commodities, cannot be established on these Goomsoor hills, at some centrally situated point, as at Pavatapoor.

No. 68.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1866, No. 1,644.

Land Revenue

The Government agree with the Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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