

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1745	Press Mis.
Dated	14 - 7 -	18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th July 1866.*

No. 276. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th June 1866, No. 4,372A.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 10th March 1866, No. 205 :—

1. I duly received the Board's Circular Memorandum to Collectors, No. 122, dated 7th February 1866, transmitting a new form of Puttah for early adoption.

2. The settlement in Ganjam was half over when this Circular was received, and consequently it would not have been possible to introduce the new Puttah this year. I gladly availed myself of the delay to offer, for the consideration of the Board, the observations which this document suggests.

3. I cannot but regard it as of the greatest importance, because it stamps the Ryotwarry system (as it must be worked under such leases) with a peculiar character.

4. I must go back to the old controversies on the Ryotwar tenures of Madras in order to recal to the Board the chief objections urged against the system, as it used to exist under the old Mahratta Revenue Cutcheries. These were, that the complicated rules, under which the yearly land rent was fixed, subjected the Ryot to constant inquisitorial watching and interference, depriving him of independent action, and leaving him bound in the hands of Village and Talook officials. That the compulsory attendance, every year, at the Talook Cutcherry, and at the place of Jummahbundy, to receive a fresh lease, in many cases identical with that of the previous year, was not only irksome to the Ryot, but exposed him to an organized system of exaction, which rendered these assemblies the harvest time of official peculators, high and low.

5. These evils found few defenders, and it was, I believe, admitted that official interference, and the needless yearly issue of fresh leases, kept the Ryot in a state of pupillage, quite inconsistent with confidence in his status and hopeful exertion and foresight. No doubt many of the complications of the old Hindu Revenue system have been swept away; so long, however, as existing rules continue to afford opportunities for constant official watching and interference, the evil principle, which is the bane of Ryotwarry, continues active and mischievous. Yet there can be no great difficulty in fixing an assessment at such rates as would render it unnecessary to take cognizance of portions of a holding left waste, or of what is called "Fasaljasti."

6. Having said thus much, I need scarcely add that I regard this new Puttah as perpetuating the evils of the old Hindu system. I believe that, in order to place the Revenue system of the country on a healthy basis, such as shall give a vigorous impulse to production, and raise the agricultural population from the condition of Government live-stock to that of active, careful, and enterprising farmers, it is necessary to remove every opportunity of interference; to abstain from compelling the Ryot to appear yearly in order to have the words "Same as last year" stamped upon his Puttah; and to leave him entirely free and unharassed, so long as he pays his assessment.

7. Owing to fortuitous circumstances, the District of Ganjam has enjoyed for many years much such immunities as I have described. The assessment being light, remissions for waste are almost unknown, except in an absolute failure of the

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seasons like the present, which is without parallel during the last twenty-five years. Fasaljasti is unknown. Teerwajasti is extremely rare, and the Ryots have, for many years past, been encouraged to look on their Puttahs, as requiring neither inspection nor attendance on their part, except for additions, relinquishments, or transfers.

8. The Land Revenue has steadily increased. The amount of raw produce exported rose, in 1864, to Rupees 24,65,769 in value, and every branch of revenue has prospered, so that it has risen seventy-five per cent. in the course of the last ten years, while the Ryots are acknowledged on all hands to be advancing rapidly in wealth and independence. I do not attribute all this prosperity solely to the immunities I have described; but it is impossible to deny to these causes a share in such results.

9. Further, I would submit to the Board, that while business is facilitated and other good objects furthered by the visits of revenue officers to all parts of their District, it is by no means necessary to these ends that the settlement of all transactions which affect a Ryot's lease, should be reserved for the assemblage called Jummahbundy, and effected under circumstances entailing the maximum of inconvenience to all parties concerned. It is desirable that, when a Ryot transfers his lands to a neighbour, the parties should attend at once, at a Revenue Office, for the enfacement of the necessary alterations on the lease, and for the registration of the transfer. It is equally desirable that, when a Ryot relinquishes a part of his holding, or takes up additional lands, he should attend with his puttah at once for alteration, and the same remarks seem to me to apply to other transactions, which it was the custom to reserve for the "Jummahbundy."

10. Ryots, now-a-days, are in constant communication, either in person or by post, with the Collector and his Assistants, on all matters relating to their revenue obligations, or local disagreements; and this is only the natural consequence of the increased facilities of communication. I confess, therefore, that I look forward with confidence to the eventual disappearance of this time-honored custom.

MEMORANDUM shewing the demand of all sources of revenue for Fusly 1274, compared with those of Fusly 1264.

Items.	Fusly 1264.	Fusly 1274.
Land Revenue including Miscellaneous	9,40,990	10,98,522
Abkarry	62,376	1,01,200
Salt	5,27,190	13,81,384
Sea Customs	15,060	48,847
Stamps	13,889	67,977
Income Tax	...	27,449
Forest Revenue	...	3,666
Moturpha	9,947	...
Fishery	4,691	...
Total...	15,74,143	27,29,045
Deduct...	...	15,74,143
Net increase...	...	11,54,902

CHITTEPORE,
10th March 1866.

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Collector.

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14th July 1866.*

1. The Board observe that Mr. Forbes is altogether in error in supposing that there is anything in the new form of Puttah which would compel a Ryot to attend the Jummahbundy should he not desire to do so. It is immaterial whether or not the entry "same as last year" be made every year, or only when the Puttah is brought forward for alterations in the holding to be entered in it. When alterations are made, if the Curnum certifies that no alteration was made in the preceding year, or years, the Puttah is made to correspond with the chittah, and this mode of writing up the puttah is a check on the Curnum's Accounts.

2. The form is prepared to suit the Districts generally. If any portions of it are unsuitable to the Ganjam District, the unsuitable items should of course be omitted.

3. Though, as observed by Mr. Forbes, it is desirable that transfers, relinquishments, and dhurkhasts for land should be brought before the inferior Revenue Officers for confirmation, the Board think it very advisable that all such transactions should be finally confirmed each year by the Collector at his annual tour. This, however, need not necessitate the attendance of every Ryot whose holding has undergone a change, as his puttah may be forwarded for the necessary entries through another Ryot, or through the Curnum, or the Monegar of his village.

No. 277. ORDER THEREON, 14th July 1866, No. 1,745.

Land Revenue

1. The Board should circulate their explanatory remarks regarding the new form of Puttah to all Collectors.

2. With reference to paragraph 3 of the above Proceedings, the Government observe that transfers of land do not need the Collector's confirmation to render them valid in law. The Board doubtless refer merely to their formal recognition by alteration of the Village Registers.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Ganjam.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 26th June 1866.

Read letter from the
Collector of Gungaim dated 10th March
1866 No 205.

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I don't comprehend

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2 The form is prepared to suit the Districts generally. If any portions of it are unsuitable to the Ganjam District the unsuitable items should of course be omitted.

3 Though, as observed by Mr. Forbes, it is desirable that transfers, relinquishments and other papers for lands should be brought before the inferior Revenue Officers for Confirmation, the Board think it very advisable that all such transactions should be finally confirmed each year by the Collector at his annual tour. This however need not necessitate the attendance of every Ryot whose holding has undergone a change, as his puttak may be forwarded for the necessary entries through another Ryot or through the Curman or the Mungar of his Village.

(A true Extract)

(Signed) R. A. Dalrymple

Acting Secretary

(A true Copy)

W. Malan

Acting Secretary

To The Acting Secretary to Government R.D.

W. Malan

with reference to Govt Order dated 18th July 1866 R.D.

8-17-65. X

The R. A. should circulate this explanatory remarks regarding the new form of Puttak. & ask for.

With reference to para 3. If the above Govt. R. D. is to be used for lands do we need the Govt. Confirmation & should then enter in Govt. R. D. rather than refer to this formal recognition of the Village registers. & similarly

14th July/66.

14. To the Secretary, Secy. Secy. 16 July
1. The Coll. of Ganjam.