

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th January 1873.*

No. 121. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, Forests, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Calcutta, 21st December 1872, No. 1,529.

I am directed to invite attention to the correspondence, noted in the margin, on the subject of the re-organization of the Forest Department in Madras, and to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council will be good enough to re-consider the question as to the fund to which the revenues collected for Jungle Conservancy should be credited.

2. Under the revised system of forest management introduced in Madras, the Collectors of districts are charged with the administration of the forests proper, and the Forest Officers are placed under their immediate orders. The Government of India has also placed the establishment of Forest Officers on the footing desired by the Government of Madras, and defrays the increased cost thereby incurred by a charge on forest revenues. Moreover, the tracts from which the Jungle Conservancy Fees are levied are under the same supervision as the forests proper, and the Governor-General in Council would, therefore, be glad to be favoured with an expression of the views of His Excellency the Governor in Council as to why the revenues collected for the Jungle Conservancy Fund should be treated differently from other forest revenue, and why, while the Imperial Government pays for the supervision of these tracts, the Local Funds should have the benefit of the assets.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
17th January 1873.

No. 122.

No. 60.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
REVENUE, AND COMMERCE.

Forests, No. 11.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 1,529 of 21st December, ultimo.

2. In sanctioning in the Financial Department, after they had been considered in the Agricultural Department, the proposals of this Government for a re-organization of the Forest Establishment in the Madras Presidency, the Governor-General in Council was pleased to "approve of the Madras Government's suggestion that the revenue collected for Jungle Conservancy be credited to Local Funds instead of to Imperial Revenues." These orders were issued on the 29th April last, but the Governor in Council is now called upon to show cause why they should not be reversed.

3. I am respectfully to point out that the assumption on which the inquiry is based is entirely erroneous. It is not the fact that the tracts from which the Jungle Conservancy Fees are levied are under the same supervision as the forests proper. On the contrary, village jungles are conserved by the village community acting through their headmen, the interest of the latter being enlisted by allowing them a percentage on the fees collected. The rest of the money is devoted under the general control of the Collector of the district to new plantations or to the preservation and improvement of existing ones.

4. There is thus no Imperial expenditure whatever in the system under which Jungle Conservancy is supervised and maintained. Moreover, these village jungles are communal, not State, property. The ryots from time immemorial have enjoyed the privilege of cutting firewood and wood for their agricultural implements, of pasturing cattle in them, etc., free of all charge, etc. The injury which resulted from indiscriminate and unregulated enjoyment led the Government a few years ago to tax only the cutting of wood for sale, the proceeds being devoted to the preservation and extension of these jungles—generally mere scrub—in the interests of the village communities, and not as an item of revenue.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue 1872 Dept

No 4096

From

The Govt of India

Dept. of Agric. & Forests

Dated 21 Decr.

Recd. 27

No. 1529.

S. L. D. 60 - 17 Jan 1873

No. 121-122

Requesting reconsideration
of the question as to the fund
to which the revenues collected
for jungle conservancy should
be credited, under the reorgan-
ization of the Forest Dept.

R. C. to Hon. Mr. Ellis 15 Jan 1873
C. 11 Jan 1873 R 14 Jan 1873

17 Jan 1873
No. 60.

To the Secy. Govt of India

Agricultural Dept

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge

your letter No 1529 of 21st Decr ulto.

In sanctioning in the Financial
Dept, after they had been considered

in the Agricultural Dept, the proposals
of his Govt for a reorganisation of

the Forest Establishment in the
Madras Presd, the E. I. Co. was

pleased to approve of the Madras

Govt's suggestion that the revenue

collected for jungle conservancy

be credited to local funds instead

of Imperial Revenues. These

orders were issued on the 29th April

last, but the E. I. Co. is now called

upon to show cause why they should not

be reversed.

I am respectfully to point out

that the assumption on which the

inquiry is based is entirely erroneous.

It is not the fact that the jungle

conservancy fees are levied under

the same supervision as the Forests

porters

On the contrary Village jungles
are conceived by the Village
Community acting through their
Headmen, the interest of the
latter being enlisted by allowing them
a percentage on the fees collected.
The rest of the money is devoted
under the general control of the
Police of the District to new plantations
or to the preservation &
improvement of existing ones. There

is no Imperial expenditure whatever. There is
in the system under which jungle
conservancy is supervised & maintained.

I would add
"There are" the
Village panchayat
are communal,
not State, ^{property} ~~border~~.
The rights from time
immemorial have
enjoyed the privilege
of cutting fire wood
& work for their agri-
cultural implements
means is of pasturing

cattle in them &
free of all charge.
The inquiry which
resulted led the
govt. a few years ago
to tax only the
cutting of wood
for sale, and being
satisfied the Govt.
ceded it to the local
administration & extension
of these privileges - formerly
were & are - in
the interests of
the village com-
munities - and
not as an item
of Revenue.

from indiscriminate
& unregulated ex-
penditure

R.C. to Hon. J. M. Ellis 15: Jan'y R 16: Jan'y
C. 11 / Jan'y 173 R 14: Jan'y / 73