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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1391	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	29.9.1876 ~~196~~ .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 381. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th September 1876, No. 2,272.

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Melagaram, 26th July 1876, No. 459.

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in G.Os., No. 389, dated 18th March 1876, and No. 132, dated 25th January 1875, on the cases in which the continuance of ready-money deductions was sanctioned to be made from the beriz of the villages in favor of certain institutions, &c., in the Tinnevelly Taluq.

There are seventy-two cases of the kind in this taluq. In order to ascertain the origin and the exact facts connected with each allowance, and whether the object of the grant was being fulfilled, the 1st Class Revenue Inspector of the taluq was specially sent round to make local inquiries. This inquiry occupied him four months. He went to the several villages, took statements from the recipients of these allowances, recorded the evidence forthcoming in support of their statements, and checked the accounts bearing on the cases. This report on each case is contained in the two books herewith sent.

2. The Board will see what difficulty there is in getting accurate and reliable information as regards the origin of the allowances, though the fact of their payment for a long time is beyond doubt.

3. Information as regards the names of the institutions, the amount paid to each, the individuals who are in receipt of them, and for how long they have been receiving, can all be collected from the records in the Huzur and the taluqs; but the original circumstances under which the grants were made and maintained, and whether the purposes for which they were intended are still continued, are points on which no information is forthcoming in our records. Evidence has to be taken on these points in each case by some trustworthy officer.

4. If the task is left to the Tahsildars, it is certain that it will occupy them a long time, having many other immediate duties to attend to. I therefore request the Board will be good enough to let me know whether they require similar information regarding cases in other taluqs. If so, I beg they will be pleased to obtain sanction for the entertainment of a special officer of the grade of a 1st Class Revenue Inspector for each of the remaining taluqs to go round the villages, make inquiries and record evidence in each case, and to ascertain whether or not the objects for which the allowances were granted are maintained, and that there is no abuse in the trust either as regards the object or as to persons receiving the allowance. If the proposal meet the approval of the Board, the inquiry may be brought to a close within three months.

5. I do not myself think that the inquiry need be so elaborate. It appears to me that it would be quite sufficient to ascertain that the deductions are ancient and for a religious and charitable purpose, which facts could be ascertained from the accounts in a very short time. Deductions so ascertained to be valid might be converted at once into ready-money allowances, paid from the taluq, and the question

of whether the services were duly performed or not left to be settled in individual cases, when it appeared that action is required. The result of the present inquiry in Tinnevelly Taluq being that in no instance is resumption recommended, leads me to think that a general inquiry beyond ascertaining that the deductions are valid and ancient would only be time and money thrown away.

6. As regards the cases in Tinnevelly, on the receipt of the report from the Tahsildar I had all the old Jamabandi accounts in the records turned up to see if the alleged entries of deductions in earlier times exist in them. They are all mentioned in the accounts with the amounts deducted in their favor. In some cases, the deductions are shown in quantities of paddy, to which the commutation rates appear to have been applied. These accounts are written in Hinduvi and have to be interpreted, but I see no reason to doubt that they are genuine. Should the Board desire to have them checked, they can be forwarded to Madras.

Having thus ascertained that the payments have continued to be made for *bonâ fide* religious and charitable purposes, and that they are maintained, I recommend that the payments be continued, not as hitherto from the beriz of the several villages, but by money payments from the taluq treasury, and that they be placed under the superintendence of the Temple Committees, on the understanding that they will give intimation of the discontinuance of the performance of the charity or service, as the case may be, with a view to the grant being resumed.

7. I may state that there is another class of Inam which has been done away with by the settlement, consisting of deductions generally of tree assessment in favor of religious and charitable institutions, which in some cases appear to be ancient and otherwise well founded, though they are not entered in any of our accounts. The settlement was fully assessed in all such cases; I proposed to take no notice of them, unless an individual comes forward and complains; in that case, to give him a form of statement such as was used by the Inam Commission and direct him to fill in the columns, after which each case can be disposed of on its merits; there will probably be few applications, possibly still fewer that merit attention.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.—Registers.

Submitted for the orders of Government with reference to G.O., dated 25th January 1875, No. 132, and 18th March 1876, No. 389.

2. The question of the future system of payment is disposed of in G.O., dated 17th August 1876, No. 1,119. The beriz deductions should continue.

3. The Board agree with the Collector in thinking that it will suffice for the present if the inquiry is restricted to the ascertainment of the validity and antiquity of the allowances, leaving the question of the due performance of the services in each case for future investigation. The inquiry into the validity of the claims might be entrusted to the Inam Commissioner, the Collector being authorized to continue all such allowances as may be confirmed by the Commissioner on the submission to the latter of registers similar to those now furnished for the Tinnevelly Taluq, embodying the information obtained by local inquiry; and the guiding principle for the disposal of such claims should be that fifty years' enjoyment constitutes a valid title.

1351

4. The course suggested in the concluding paragraph of the Collector's letter relating to deductions of tree assessment, not supported by the accounts, is approved.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

Referred to the Inam Commissioner for remarks on paragraph 3.

Ootacamund,
18*th September* 1876.

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

No. 381A. From the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Inam Commissioner, to the Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 25th September 1876, No. 255.

With reference to your docket on Board's Proceedings, dated 5th September 1876, No. 2,272, herewith returned, I have the honor to state that I have no objection to undertake the settlement of the claims therein referred to.

No. 382. Order thereon, 29th September 1876, No. 1,391.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's suggestion in paragraph 3 is approved. The Inam Commissioner will undertake the investigation of the claims to the Inams referred to in Tinnevelly.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Inam Commissioner.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of [illegible] 1876 [illegible]

REVENUE.

To

The BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated September, 29th.

Rec'd.

G.O., 29th September 1876, No. 1,391

SEPTEMBER.

Nos. 381-382.

Beriz deductions in favor of certain Institutions in Tinnevelly Taluq.—Approving Board's suggestion that it will be sufficient to ascertain in the other taluqs that the deductions are ancient and valid, and ordering the Inam Commissioner to undertake the investigation of the claims referred to in Tinnevelly.

1381/3

No. 2,272.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th September 1876.

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Melagaram, 26th July 1876, No. 459 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit the report called for in G.Os., No. 389, dated 18th March 1876, and No. 132, dated 25th January 1875, on the cases in which the continuance of ready-money deductions was sanctioned to be made from the beriz of the villages in favor of certain institutions, &c., in the Tinnevelly Taluq.

There are seventy-two cases of the kind in this taluq. In order to ascertain the origin and the exact facts connected with each allowance, and whether the object of the grant was being fulfilled, the 1st Class Revenue Inspector of the taluq was specially sent round to make local inquiries. This inquiry occupied him four months. He went to the several villages, took statements from the recipients of these allowances, recorded the evidence forthcoming in support of their statements, and checked the accounts bearing on the cases. This report on each case is contained in the two books herewith sent.

2. The Board will see what difficulty there is in getting accurate and reliable information as regards the origin of the allowances, though the fact of their payment for a long time is beyond doubt.

3. Information as regards the names of the institutions, the amount paid to each, the individuals who are in receipt of them, and for how long they have been receiving, can all be collected from the records in the Huzur and the taluqs; but the original circumstances under which the grants were made and maintained, and whether the purposes for which they were intended are still continued, are points on which no information is forthcoming in our records. Evidence has to be taken on these points in each case by some trustworthy officer.

4. If the task is left to the Tahsildars, it is certain that it will occupy them a long time, having many other immediate duties to attend to. I therefore request the Board will be good enough to let me know whether they require similar information regarding cases in other taluqs. If so, I beg they will be pleased to obtain sanction for the entertainment of a special officer of the grade of a 1st Class Revenue Inspector for each of the remaining taluqs to go round the villages, make inquiries and record evidence in each case, and to ascertain whether or not the objects for which the allowances were granted are maintained, and that there is no abuse in the trust either as regards the object or as to persons receiving the allowance. If this proposal meet the approval of the Board, the inquiry may be brought to a close within three months.

5. I do not myself think that the inquiry need be so elaborate. It appears to me that it would be quite sufficient to ascertain that the deductions are ancient and for a religious and charitable purpose, which facts could be ascertained from the accounts in a very short time. Deductions so ascertained to be valid might be

converted at once into ready-money allowances, paid from the taluq, and the question of whether the services were duly performed or not left to be settled in individual cases, when it appeared that action is required. The result of the present inquiry in Tinnevelly Taluq being that in no instance is resumption recommended, leads me to think that any general inquiry beyond ascertaining that the deductions are valid and ancient would only be time and money thrown away.

6. As regards the cases in Tinnevelly, on the receipt of the report from the Tahsildar I had all the old Jamabandi accounts in the records turned up to see if the alleged entries of deductions in earlier times exist in them. They are all mentioned in the accounts with the amounts deducted in their favor. In some cases, the deductions are shown in quantities of paddy, to which the commutation rates appear to have been applied. These accounts are written in Hinduvi and have to be interpreted, but I see no reason to doubt that they are genuine. Should the Board desire to have them checked, they can be forwarded to Madras.

Having thus ascertained that the payments have continued to be made for *bonâ fide* religious and charitable purposes, and that they are maintained, I recommend that the payments be continued, not as hitherto from the beriz of the several villages, but by money payments from the taluq treasury, and that they be placed under the superintendence of the Temple Committees, on the understanding that they will give intimation of the discontinuance of the performance of the charity or service, as the case may be, with a view to the grant being resumed.

7. I may state that there is another class of Inam which has been done away with by the settlement, consisting of deductions generally of tree assessment in favor of religious and charitable institutions, which in some cases appear to be ancient and otherwise well founded, though they are not entered in any of our accounts. The settlement was fully assessed in all such cases; I proposed to take no notice of them, unless an individual comes forward and complains; in that case, to give him a form of statement such as was used by the Inam Commission and direct him to fill in the columns, after which each case can be disposed of on its merits; there will probably be few applications, possibly still fewer that merit attention.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.—Registers.

Submitted for the orders of Government with reference to G.O., dated 25th January 1875, No. 132, and 18th March 1876, No. 389.

2. The question of the future system of payment is disposed of in G.O., dated 17th August 1876, No. 1,119. The beriz deductions should continue.

3. The Board agree with the Collector in thinking that it will suffice for the present if the inquiry is restricted to the ascertainment of the validity and antiquity of the allowances, leaving the question of the due performance of the services in each case for future investigation. The inquiry into the validity of the claims might be entrusted to the Inam Commissioner, the Collector being authorized to continue all such allowances as may be confirmed by the Commissioner on the submission to the latter of registers similar to those now furnished for the Tinnevelly Taluq, embodying the information obtained by local inquiry; and the guiding principle for the disposal of such claims should be that fifty years' enjoyment constitutes a valid title.

3. The course suggested in the concluding paragraph of the Collector's letter relating to deductions of tree assessment, not supported by the accounts, is approved.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two Registers, to be returned.

" the Collector of Tinnevelly.

Copy to the Inam Commissioner.

Revenue Board Office,
Inam Department.
Madras 25th September 1876.

No. 255.

From
The Inám Commissioner,

To The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.

Sir,

With reference to your docket on Boards Proceedings dated 5th September 1876, No. 2272, herewith returned, I have the honor to state that I have no objection to undertake the settlement of the claims therein referred to.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most Obdt Servt

S. Strathcott
Inam Commissioner

Received 28 Sept 1876
Read also Letter from the Inam Commissioner 25th Sept 1876 No 255

Referred to the Inam Commissioner for remarks on para 3.

A. Cadell
18 Sept 1876

D. Stewart
Secy to Govt B.R.D.

Ans. No. 3820 dated 29th Sept 1876

1876.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH SEPT. 1876, No. 2,272.

Dept 13 Sept 1876

Encl 2
Ret 3995 of 1876

Received 18 Sept 1876

SEPTEMBER.
No. 2,272.

Beria deductions — in favor of certain institutions in Tinnevelly Taluq.—Submitting to Government Collector's report on cases of—concurring in his opinion that it will be sufficient to ascertain in the other talugs that the deductions are ancient and valid; and approving course suggested in regard to deductions of tree assessment not supported by accounts.

No 1091-39 Ryotwari 1876
undated
Dpatch

No 1091

Read also Letter from the Inam Commissioner 25th Sept 1876 No 255

The Board's proposition in para 3 is sanctioned. The Inam Commissioner will undertake such enquiries as circumstances may render necessary.

Letter Board's Proc. 5th Sept 1876 No 2272

A. Cadell
Asst Secy to Govt

To the Board of Revenue
2. The Inam Commissioner

Revenue Dept.
1876

No 3995

From The Inam Commissioner

To The Secretary to Govt.
Revenue Department

Dated 25th September 1876

Received 28th do

No 255.

Enclosures. 1 Board's Pro.
(2 Registers - by bandy)
3

SO No 1091 - 29 September 1876

States that he has no objection to undertake the Settlement of the claims referred to in para 3 of the Board's Proceedings dated 5th September 1876 No 2272.

C. 28: Sept 76 R: 29 Sept