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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	768	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	29. 3. 1876	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1976

Cemeteries.

No. 9. Read the following extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Ecclesiastical), dated Fort William, 14th March 1876, No. 2—93 :—

Read Home Department Resolution Nos. 314 to 318, dated 6th October 1875, appointing a Committee to report upon the following matters connected with ecclesiastical administration :—

- (1.) The framing of joint estimates for expenditure on cemeteries or churches by the Executive Engineer and the Clergyman in charge.
- (2.) A revision of establishments for cemeteries according to their area.
- (3.) The size of monuments and amount of ground that may be enclosed.
- (4.) Provision for planting cemeteries and preserving them in decent order.
- (5.) Mode of supply of certain articles of church furniture.
- (6.) The substitution of three for two classes of churches with respect to the expenditure allowed for them by Government.

Read the report of the Committee, dated 29th October 1875.

RESOLUTION.

The report of the Committee has been considered by the Governor-General in Council, who desires to express to the Committee his satisfaction at the result of their labours.

The following rules have been approved relative to the subjects referred to the Committee for report :—

- (1.) Churches and cemeteries have already been divided into two classes, (1) Public Works Department, No. 486 A—G, dated 13th July 1874. in stations where there are military cantonments, (2) in other civil stations.

In both classes of stations joint estimates* of expenditure should be framed annually by the under-mentioned officers :—

- (a) In the case of all expenditure connected with establishments, *e.g.*, pay of servants, alterations in their pay or number, &c.; also all expenditure by Government connected with the provision of articles of church furniture supplied by the civil department. } by the Chief Magistrate of the District and by the Chaplain.
- (See Financial Department Resolution, No. 87, dated 9th January 1875.)

* Note.—The estimates should be for the financial year and should be prepared in advance as is prescribed for other budget estimates.

(b) In the case of all expenditure connected with repairs and additions to church fabric, to church compound or cemetery walls, to cemetery gates, walks, wells, chowkies or other church servants' houses, provision of necessary appliances for graves or for the repair of tombs or for the planting of trees and shrubs in cemeteries and keeping the same in decent order; also all expenditure by Government connected with the provision of articles of church furniture supplied by the Public Works Department.

by the Executive Engineer and by the Chaplain.

2. The following scale of establishments should be maintained at all cemeteries:—

- (I.) For a cemetery of which the area is five acres or less, one mālī-chōkidar.
- (II.) For a cemetery of which the area is more than five and less than 10 acres, one mālī-chōkidar and one assistant coolie.
- (III.) For a cemetery of which the area is more than 10 and less than 15 acres, one mālī-chōkidar and two assistant coolies.
- (IV.) For a cemetery of which the area is more than 15 acres, one mālī-chōkidar and three assistant coolies.

It is left to the Local Governments and Administrations to determine the proper wages to be given to each servant.

3. The size of kutchā and puccā graves should be limited to 8' x 4', and the amount of ground to be enclosed should be restricted to 11' x 7' by external measurement in both cases. No monument over a puccā grave must exceed 8' x 4' at the base, except with the previous sanction of the Local Government concerned. A simple cross or head-stone on an adequate masonry foundation, not exceeding 3' x 2', is the only monument that should be allowed over a kutchā grave; no kutchā grave should be enclosed by a railing.

4. No portion of the receipts from cemeteries should be retained by any Government officer to be directly expended by himself; all such receipts should be paid into the Civil Treasury. But the amount passed upon the joint estimate framed by the Executive Engineer and Chaplain to provide for planting a cemetery and preserving it in decent order should be entrusted to the Chaplain where there is one. Where there is no resident Chaplain, the amount should be placed at the disposal of the Chief Magistrate on the spot, or of the senior military officer if the cemetery is attached to a military cantonment. All planting of shrubs and trees by private persons in cemeteries should be under the control of the Chaplain if resident, otherwise under that of the Magistrate or senior military officer as the case may be. When practicable a well should be sunk in or near every cemetery.

In connection with the preservation of cemeteries in decent order attention is invited to the rule cited on the margin. This rule, however, should not be applied to monuments of historical or archaeological interest. Lists of such tombs should be obtained by Local Governments and Administrations, and as many of them as may be properly preserved at the public expense should be looked after by the local Public Works Department.

5. It is not considered necessary to make any alteration in the existing rules regarding the mode of supply of church furniture.

6. Further orders will be passed on the 6th point referred to the Committee for report.

7. The arrangements for making the necessary preparations for digging graves, preparing coffins, and the like should rest in military stations upon the senior military officer, and in civil stations upon the chief local magistrate. These officers are authorized to direct the Local Public Works Officer to supply all that is necessary. By "Local Public Works Officer" is meant the Executive Engineer of Military Works in military stations, and the Civil Executive Engineer in other stations. But in cases of necessity or emergency either officer may be called upon to do what is required.

No. 94.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance; to the Public Works Department for information; and to the members of the Committee for information with reference to paragraph 8.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. HOWELL,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 10. ORDER THEREON, 21st March 1876, No. 65.

Communicated to all Departments of the Secretariat and to the Venerable the Archdeacon of the Diocese.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Military Department.
" the Venerable the Archdeacon, Madras.
To all Collectors.

Exd. W. H. French.

14 To the Board of Commissioners

Revenue Department

2891273

Cost of 1876

ECCLESIASTICAL.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dec.

Dec.

Dec.

Dated March, 21st.

Issued

Recd.

G.O., 21st March 1876, No. 65.

MARCH
Nos. 9-10.

Cemetery.—Resolution of the Government
In the laying down certain rules in connection with
churches and cemeteries, communicated to the
Secretariat Department and the Venerable
Archbishop.

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29 March 76