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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	3608	Press. / Mis.
Dated	25-6-1877	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1877, No. 795.

Correspondence.

Read the following paper:—

No. 47. *Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Home Department (Judicial), dated Simla, 18th May 1877, No. 768.*

Read again the under-mentioned papers:—

Extract, paragraph 3, from a letter to the Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay, No. 189, dated the 19th February 1848.

Paragraph 3.—I am directed to draw attention to the very unnecessary mass of papers which has been forwarded with the present reference. The subject-matter of the reference is itself of the most simple character, capable of being stated in half-a-dozen lines, and the arguments in support of the different construction of the law which have been contended for appear to the Governor-General in Council to be all contained in at most four or five of the papers out of the twenty or thirty which have been transmitted. His Lordship in Council would strongly urge the expediency, in all references to the Supreme Government, of submitting no papers which are not essential to a clear and precise understanding of the question referred, and in following such a practice His Lordship in Council does not consider that, if care be taken, there need be any apprehension of falling into the opposite extreme of supplying to the Supreme Government deficient and meagre information.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, dated 16th September 1848, No. 709.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 4239, dated the 21st ultimo, and its enclosure, conveying information of the death of Mr. Tierney, the Civil and Sessions Judge of Allyghur, and I am instructed to request the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor to the mode adopted in making such formal communications to the Supreme Government; there appears to the Governor-General in Council to be a very unnecessary repetition of the information which it is desired to convey in nearly all cases of minor importance which have come under his observation.

2. In the present case the simple fact which is communicated is repeated three times over on as many sheets of paper. If such a practice as this prevails, as His Lordship in Council has reason to believe that to a great extent it does, through all the various departments of the public service, it seems quite impossible to estimate the amount of time, labor and material which must be thrown away, and the consequent great increase in the public expenditure. It is not possible even to hazard a guess at the actual result of such a practice, but it appears to His Lordship in Council that if it prevails as a system in a greater or a less degree throughout every grade and department of an immense Government like that of India, that the establishments at all events must be generally larger than is necessary. Another evil, and one of no small magnitude in a country like India, where the mails for the most part are carried upon men's shoulders, is the overloading of the dawks which must be a necessary result of such a system as that under notice. This evil has been already strongly represented by the Postmaster-General of Bengal, who has urged upon the Government the necessity for some steps in order to ensure a greater economy of material on the part of public officers in conducting their official correspondence through the channel of the public dawks.

2. The Governor-General in Council is well aware of the inexpediency and indeed impracticability of laying down any precise rules on such points as these, but he considers that the evils of the system are so far obvious as to call for the attention of the several Governments to the subject. As far as regards the communications between the Supreme Government and the subordinate Presidencies, His Lordship in Council conceives that it may be generally understood that in cases of minor importance, and certainly in all cases where the mere report of an occurrence is made, the necessary information should be conveyed by a single letter from the Secretary to the Government. His Lordship in Council further regards it as quite within the discretion

of the Local Government to apply the same rule to cases of reference where the point at issue may be simple and admits of being briefly and clearly stated. In cases which involve an important principle or which may be intricate in their details, and which may have produced elaborate discussions which cannot be rightly conveyed by any abbreviation, it is of course proper that the mass of the papers should be forwarded to the Supreme Government.

3. With this general intimation of what appears to His Lordship in Council to be requisite, he would leave it to the Local Governments to apply a similar principle, as far as they may deem it expedient to do so, to the correspondence carried on between themselves and the various departments subordinate to them.

A copy of this letter will be furnished to the Governments of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, respectively.

RESOLUTION.

In the above-mentioned letters the Government of India expressed disapproval of the practice of transmitting with covering letters a mass of enclosures containing any unnecessary repetition of the information intended to be conveyed. As this practice has of late again become frequent, the Government of India desire to circulate the orders above cited.

No. 7—769.

ORDER.—Ordered that this Resolution, with the papers cited, be forwarded to Local Governments and Administrations, for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1877, No. 795.

Communicated to the several Departments of the Secretariat, and to Heads of Departments under the Chief Secretary.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" the Military Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" Heads of Departments.

Exd. J. Wright. 30/6

Revenue Department

No. 3027

Govt. of Madras. 1877

PUBLIC.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated June, 12th.

Issued 23/6

Read 23 June Encl.

G.O., 12th June 1877, No. 795.

Misc 25-6-77 n. 3648

JUNE.

Nos. 47-48.

Correspondence.—Communicating Resolution of Government of India, circulating previous orders expressing disapproval of the practice of transmitting with covering letters a mass of enclosures containing any unnecessary repetition of the information to be conveyed.

With Order

Commg. the Res. of Govt. of India and circulg. former orders on the subject of Revenue Reports—

Revenue Dept.

No. 795

Read the Res. of Govt. of India, dated 25th May 1877, No. 1308, communicating the Resolution of the Governor General in Council, dated 25th May 1877, on the subject of Revenue Reports.

2. The Board of Revenue will observe that the Resolution of the Governor General in Council is in accordance with the orders issued by this Government in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1876, and in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1877.

3. The Board of Revenue will also observe that the Resolution of the Governor General in Council is in accordance with the orders issued by this Government in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1876, and in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1877.

4. The Board of Revenue will also observe that the Resolution of the Governor General in Council is in accordance with the orders issued by this Government in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1876, and in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1877.

5. The Board of Revenue will also observe that the Resolution of the Governor General in Council is in accordance with the orders issued by this Government in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1876, and in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1877.

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9. The Board of Revenue will also observe that the Resolution of the Governor General in Council is in accordance with the orders issued by this Government in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1876, and in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1877.

10. The Board of Revenue will also observe that the Resolution of the Governor General in Council is in accordance with the orders issued by this Government in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1876, and in G.O., No. 1308, dated 25th May 1877.