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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	<i>1701, Revenue</i>	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	<i>21st October 1898</i>	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

21st October 1878, No. 1,701.

Read the following paper:—

No. 230. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th August 1878, No. 2,428.

Read the following letter from F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, Ramnad, to H. J. STOKES, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, dated Madura, 13th July 1878, No. 352:—

I HAVE the honor to report with records (as per list) upon the subject of Board's Proceedings, No. 5,017, dated 17th November 1877, latter portion, viz., the conduct of Narasimha Achari of the Revenue Survey.

2. The grounds for the inquiry were (1) suspicions based upon rumour, (2) a petition admittedly pseudonymous, (3) hints by subordinates, (4) the alleged possession by the Sub-Assistant's wife of a large amount of cash, &c., (5) certain note transactions. I have considered all these points and have endeavoured to obtain something definite from their exceeding vagueness, but without success, while a variety of counter facts and arguments have presented themselves.

3. *First point.*—I doubt very much if rumours were really so current as believed. Mr. Gompertz may have heard this stated by one or two persons, and others also have heard the same, but I do not call this general rumour. Mr. Gompertz only mentions one name, viz., Mr. Fischer. I wrote to that gentleman and asked for information as to complaints and persons; in reply, he informed me (1) that being no longer in charge of the estate he is not in a position to give the required information as to complaints; (2) that not being in Shivaganga he is unable to give me any names. I then wrote to the Zemindari Agent for all papers connected with the various boundary disputes, including all complaints and petitions put in by the ryots. In reply, nine arzis from the Eluvancottai Tahsildar, dated from 13th December 1876 to 6th April 1877, were sent to me, all relating to disputed boundaries. Of these only one (Sengi village) contains any allegation of corruption, and that in the vaguest way; the Tahsildar, moreover, who wrote this (Ramasami Iyengar) was a determined opponent of the survey. On receipt of this I sent a peon to call the Munsif, Curnam, and Ambalagar of Sengi, the peon not being informed of the reason of the summons. The Curnam and Ambalagar alone appeared and utterly denied all knowledge of any bribe whatever, or of any complaint of corruption made by them, although I guaranteed their safety. The Zemindari Agent shortly after wrote saying that the Sengi villagers were prepared to support before the Tirupatur Deputy Tahsildar the statement made in the arzi. I directed the Deputy Tahsildar to go to the village at once and take depositions and any documents that might be produced; the result merely confirmed the statements taken by myself, and the Deputy Tahsildar has personally informed me, not only that everything was denied even in casual friendly conversation, but that the ryots also said that the Zemindari Tahsildar had not even conversed with them on the subject. This corroborates the statements of the ryots before me that the Tahsildar only once came to the village even at the time of the demarcation dispute. Hence the Zemindari records gave no help, and surely if the rumours were true, or even current, there would be at least some petitions by the aggrieved ryots to the Zemindar or his Tahsildar. I also examined two big Chetties whose villages had been demarcated, viz., Kaliappa Chetty and Muttaya Chetty of Pathur; they, although requested to speak without fear, utterly denied all knowledge (even by hearsay) of such transactions. I have also inquired of the Shivaganga Deputy Tahsildar who went to Tirupatur on business about that time; he says he heard rumours, but cannot tell who told him, or the exact nature of the rumours. The then Tirupatur Deputy Tahsildar Sivaramier does indeed give more

definite information, and mentions the name of the Zemindari Vakil at Tirupatur. As this Vakil is absent I have not examined him, but his information could only be hearsay. With a view to test the rumours still more fully, I have taken the villages named in the pseudonymous petition and sent for the chief ryots to Tirupatur where I examined them yesterday. They, although begged to tell the truth without fear as they would be held blameless, utterly denied all knowledge of any corruption, and this denial I believe genuine as they were evidently taken entirely by surprise. Not only so but two at least of those villages had never had any dispute which would lead to the necessity for corruption, while most of the witnesses had entirely forgotten the names of the survey officials, especially that of Narasimha Achari, which they certainly would not have forgotten had they collected money for him. Moreover, several of these villages are held on lease by the above-named Puthur Muttaya Chetty, and the ryots thus confirm the denial of the Chetty. It is thus clear that the so-called rumours are as untrustworthy as rumours in general.

4. *Second point.*—As the inquiry into this petition seemed defective, I ordered a fresh and careful inquiry. The inquiry and the contents of the petition which is vague and absurd show that it is really pseudonymous; as above stated, I have also examined the chief men from five of the villages; these men denied all knowledge even by hearsay of any corruption as alleged.

5. *Third point.*—These hints are contained in the evidence (H) taken departmentally. I need hardly point out that they are utterly worthless (1) because the only two witnesses grossly contradict one another as to the circumstances of their alleged information, (2) because Subbramania Pillay's evidence is on the face of it false, (3) because both of these witnesses (Timmaraaju and Subbramania Pillay) are admittedly at enmity with the Sub-Assistant, (4) because it is at best mere hearsay.

6. *Fourth point.*—The Sub-Assistant was in the taluk from October 1876 to August 1877. He was not a poor man when he got there but had long enjoyed good things. He was moreover in a rich taluk like Chuvannalai where the Sub-Assistant spent very little in supplies such as rice, straw, nrowoon and so on, especially as he seems to have lived a good deal at Karagooty where there are many rich Chetties. His pay was Rupees 200 per month; in ten months he would receive Rupees 2,000. It would not be surprising then if his wife had a good deal of cash on hand. I can base no argument against the Sub-Assistant on this ground. Those who know how surprising a quantity of cash and jewels is possessed by even very subordinate officials and apparently petty ryots will wonder at the possession of notable and visible wealth by a person in the comparatively high position of the Sub-Assistant.

7. *Fifth point.*—The only note transactions effected by the Sub-Assistant were to the amount of Rupees 2,710 drawn by the Sub-Assistant as part of his own and establishment pay, and Rupees 670 on his own account. I am unable to see anything suspicious in these petty transactions; the Sub-Assistant gives a very reasonable explanation as to both sets, and up to date I have been unable to find the Stone Contractor to confirm or contradict the Sub-Assistant's statement. I may however adduce two arguments which seem to show that the transactions were *bona fide*, viz., (1) that if the Sub-Assistant were really transferring large sums to Madras by hoondy he would not have been so foolish as to get notes for a small portion of his gains and thus call attention to his doings, (2) that if the notes were really intended to transmit wrongfully gotten coin, he would not have sent his own peons to get the notes, but would have taken his bribes in notes, or get them in some other person's names.

8. As arguments for the Sub-Assistant I may add (1) that in February and again in May 1877 I was on circuit in the taluk and heard no rumours of this sort, nor was any complaint made to me either personally or by tappal, although on the second occasion I purposely went on account of the boundary disputes; (2) that no complaint even by tappal has up to date been sent to me, although it is known that inquiry is going on; (3) that no complaint of the sort was ever made to Mr. Gompertz who was about a month in the taluk investigating these very disputes, and continually in communication with Mr. Fischer, his Tashildars, and the various Chetties and ryots; (4) that when Mr. Gompertz went

up to the taluk (in April I believe) to investigate the disputes, the Sub-Assistant begged very hard for and obtained a few days leave and left Mr. Gompertz to pursue his inquiries in the Sub-Assistant's absence; now, if the Sub-Assistant had really up to that time been receiving any bribes right and left and thus causing disputes, would he have allowed Mr. Gompertz to go alone into the taluk with the avowed object of inquiring into the disputes, and would his enemies have allowed the opportunity of Mr. Gompertz' presence and the Sub-Assistant's absence to pass; (5) if I may venture to draw upon my experience of the Zemindari Division, I assert that the favourite charge to invalidate a complaint or a decision is that of bribery; the most reckless charges are made freely if even a temporary advantage can be gained. And though it may be said that the Chetties would be unwilling to come forward lest they should injure other Chetties however hostile, yet, on the other hand, it is clear that these charges if they had any foundation could easily have been made by the Chetties through the ryots in such a way as not even to mention the Chetties.

9. I have then come to the conclusion that there is no case against the Sub-Assistant, and if I may venture to say so, there was no case for an inquiry under Regulation IX of 1822, which I understand to be a Judicial Regulation for inquiry into actual complaints or well grounded suspicions. In the present case there was really nothing to start from, except a sort of suspicion that some one somewhere or other had at some time or other bribed the Sub-Assistant to an unknown amount. I think the Survey Department should have ascertained something definite before transferring the matter for inquiry to this department.

10. I must apologize for the delay in this case which is accounted for (1) by the fact that I found it difficult to start, (2) that in March and April I was too unwell, and in May and June too busy with the additional work of the Special Assistant's office to make a full inquiry.

No. 293.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue with reference to Board's Proceedings, dated 17th November 1877, No. 5,017, and 5th January 1878, Miscellaneous No. 57. Under the circumstances stated, there appears to be no ground for an inquiry under Regulation IX of 1822.

ANDIPATTI,
10th August 1878.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 18th December 1877, Petition Department.

2. The Board concur with the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Read also G.O., 18th December 1877, No. 1,602, (Petition Department).

No. 231.

ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1878, No. 1,701.

Miscellaneous.

THE inquiry held by the Acting Head Assistant Collector shows that there is no case against the Acting Sub-Assistant Narasimha Chari.

2. The petitions from the late Rani will be forwarded to the present Zemindar with the intimation that Government are not prepared to extend the time for appeal as therein desired.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Continuation of Revenue Survey.
the Petition Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 2,428.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th August 1878.

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No. 293.

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ANDIPATTI,
9th August 1878.

(Signed) H. J. STOKES,
Acting Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 18th December 1877, etition Department.

2. The Board concur with the Collector.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Madura.
" " Superintendent, Revenue Survey.

W. J. Lewis.

1701
5

23rd. 1878/79: 1502 m.
10-1-78: 1502
19-6-77: 1502
23-11-76: 1780
21-9-76: 1512
Oct. 2807 63.

Revenue Department
No 4134
1878.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated August 30th.
Printed September 12th.
Reel 18
Proceedings, 36th August 1878, No. 2,428.
No 2366/918
AUGUST.
No. 2,428.
D. 1701

Narasimha Achari of the Revenue Survey,
Submitting to Government letter from Collec-
tor of Madura reporting on the conduct of —
in connection with demarcation in Shivanaga
Zemindari, and stating that there appears to be
no ground for an inquiry under Regulation
IX of 1892.

D. 1701-31 Oct. 1878

21 Oct. 1878
24-10-78
27-10-78
28-10-78
29-10-78