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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 605, Revenue Press.
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 17th April 1878 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

17th April 1878, No. 605.

Read the following paper:—

No. 207. From J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated 8th April 1878, No. 1,400.

WITH reference to G.O., dated 13th March 1878, No. 396, I have the honor to submit remarks on the report of the Census Committee and the documents connected with it.

2. *I. The Time when the Census should be taken.*—It is very desirable that the census throughout India should be synchronous, and that the enumeration in the settled parts should be taken on the same day, but this must give rise to exceptional difficulties, as in the case of festivals which can only be met, in my opinion, by paying some of the enumerators and by legislation.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-a.

[illegible] festival, by which I mean a festival attracting extraordinary crowds to particular villages. The difficulty must therefore be faced when the date of the census has been fixed; a detailed plan might be made of the places where important festivals will take place at the time, and arrangements must be made beforehand for assigning special localities for encampments. A sufficient number of enumerators and supervisors must be collected on the spot so that the enumeration may be got through quickly, and I do not think this can be done without payment. There must be stringent police arrangements as to where people are allowed to sleep.

4. One effect of these festivals will be to make the final enumeration faulty as a record of the population of separate villages, and this is a most important record for administrative purposes. I think therefore the results of the preliminary enumeration, or as the Committee call it "the preliminary record of entries in the enumerators' schedules," should be embodied in the village statements, which I hope Government will order to be prepared.

5. Legislation will be required more to give the enumerators the appearance of authority than for other reasons, but I will return to this subject further on.

6. It would not, in my opinion, be impracticable to take the census on the 1st April as in England, but very little advantage would be gained. The beginning of February is a better time in all respects. The weather is better suited to out-door work and the cultivating season keeps people in their villages.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-b.

There are no tracts in this district where it will be impossible to take the census in a single day.

[illegible] Fix a day on which there would be

7. *II. Necessity for a Preliminary Census.*—A preliminary census seems to me to be essential, and it must be preceded by assigning enumerators' limits and numbering houses. The numbering of the houses should be an altogether distinct operation. If takes time, and, as the Committee point out, the time spent in the enumeration should be as short as possible. As before the last census, Curnams should be required to affix numbers to the houses and prepare a house register in the following form :—

Register of buildings in human occupation, houses, shops, temples, mosques, schools, and others.

Village _____
Taluq _____
District _____

	Village or Hamlet.	Number of Building.	Number of Families in each House.	Name of the Head of each Family.

I place "Village or Hamlet" in a column although the return appertains to one village only, because a so-called village often consists of many villages. Thus the village in this district known as Sarnepalli has fourteen hamlets, some of which are many miles from each other.

8. The number must either be painted on the wall (the wall if of mud being first smoothed and whitened with chunam) or painted on a bit of wood, and the bit of wood attached to some part of the eaves of the house or doorway so that it can be seen from outside. If the Curnam will not go into a pariah hamlet to do this, he must get some trustworthy person who will. It has been a common practice on such occasions for a Curnam to number as many pieces of wood as there are houses in such a hamlet and fling them amongst the people to be lost or interchanged as chance may determine.

9. The village sheets should be stitched together and sent to the Tahsildar not later than the 15th December, if the census is to be held in February. The Tahsildar should make a taluq abstract, noting in it any portion of his taluq (if there be any) not included in the villages, and send this to the Collector. The Collector should cause a district abstract to be prepared noting any tracts not comprised in the taluq returns, and he will then be sure that the whole of the district is included in the census operations.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-j.

Directly the Tahsildar has prepared his taluq abstract he should send each village return back to its village where it may be seen and tested by superior officers, and used by the enumerators when the work of preliminary record of entries in the enumerators' schedules commences. At the same time he should send a sufficient supply of schedules. He will know how many are wanted in each village from the house-returns.

10. This house return will be useful in settling the difficulties described in paragraph 34 of the Committee's report, and it will eventually supply the means for filling up the form given in Appendix C.

11. *III. Form of Schedule to be used.*—The form of schedule proposed by the Committee seems to me to be excellent (except as regards numbering enclosures). It is worth the extra trouble to obtain the extra accuracy which will result from allotting a separate schedule to the families in a single house, should he may be sure that all the schedules belonging to it are placed in his hands.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-c.

12. I cannot understand the advantage which the majority of the Committee expect to gain by exhibiting the number of the enclosure as well as of the house. I remember it has been often asserted most positively that there is such an advantage, and I believe the point was retained at the last census in this Presidency simply because it had been asserted. Even in this report the advantage is not explained. When the instructions for the last census were issued from the Board's office they were speedily inundated with inquiries as to how this indefinable entry was to be worked, and in the end it was abandoned in every district.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-d.

13. It seems to me impossible to class houses usefully. They were separated into terraced, thatched, and tiled at the last census, but only because the order that there should be some classification was imperative. The classification affords no indication whatever as to whether the several houses are valuable property or not, or whether they belong to well-to-do people or not.

14. There will probably be no difficulty in this Presidency in recording the condition of individuals as married, unmarried, or widowed.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-e.

15. The age always stated by the people is the age at last birthday. This being remembered there is no reason why the age *last* birthday should not be recorded.

16. The Committee's arrangements about religion and nationality seem to me the best that can be made.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-f and g.

17. In the form given in Appendix A, the name written at the head of the form should be the "name of head of family," not "house."

18. *IV. Agency to be employed.*—The unpaid enumerators and supervisors employed at the last census are the best that can be got, and no improvement in the class could be effected by offering payment. Still payment will have to be offered when quick work and work inconsistent with the ordinary duties of officials is required as in the case of some Municipalities and festivals. The Imperial Police are the most useful class for chuttrams and travellers generally, and the village police for wanderers who sleep in the open.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-h.

19. I agree with the majority of the Committee that it is better to have a single officer to supervise the census than a Commission. He will have to travel very little. If he dies it will be easy to find a substitute who will carry out the same policy. The Provincial officers will have to do the hardest work in the way of travelling and tabulating, and it is important that they should have a referee at some fixed head-quarters.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-i.

20. With regard to the manner in which boundaries and areas may be laid down, I have made some observations in paragraphs 7—10.

21. *V. Mode of compiling the Census Tables.*—I agree with the Committee that any comparison of caste with ages, &c., is undesirable; but I think there should be a table showing the number of people of the chief castes in each district. It would be useful so far as this Presidency is concerned if Chucklers were distinguished as well as Pariahs.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-k.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-l.

22. A table tabulating occupations by ages seems to me unnecessary. There [illegible] be wanted from the Board of Revenue, so that there is no need to collect them at the census, and it must be remembered that every particular that can be and is excluded carries with it the probability of an immense number of mistakes.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-m.

23. With regard to the forms, I would only suggest that where population is divided into "male, female, and total," the total should come last (*e.g.*, Form III, Cols. 2, 3, 4.)

24. The preliminary arrangements should be made as on the last occasion by the Board of Revenue.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-n.

25. The supervisors should be required to look through every entry in every schedule so as to be sure there are no obvious mistakes, and to test 10 per cent. of them by going with the schedules to the houses.

Letter from the Government of India, paragraph 2-o.

26. *VII. Necessity for Legislation.*—Lists of occupations and castes should be prepared beforehand in each district. I have already stated that I consider [illegible]ion necessary. It should provide information to enumerators and exempt enumerators and supervisors from judi[illegible] summonses during the enumeration.

Letter from the Govern[illegible] graph 2-p.

No. 208. ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1878, No. 605.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue for consideration and remark in replying to G.O., 13th March 1878, No. 396.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Sanitary Commissioner.
" J. Grose, Esq.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Govt. of [illegible] (1878)
REVENUE.

To the BOARD OF REVENUE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 17th.
Read.
G.O., 17th April 1878, No. 605.

APRIL.
Nos. 207-208.

Report of the Census Committee.—Communicating to Board of Revenue for consideration and remarks letter from Collector, Nellore, submitting remarks on —.

605
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No 1400

Fellow Collrs Office
8th April 1878

605
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From
J. Grant Esquire
Collector of Tellicherry

To
C. G. Master Esquire
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Fort St George

Sir.

With reference to G.O. dated 13 March 1878. No 396. I have the honor to submit remarks on the Report of the Census Committee and the above connected with it.

2 It is very desirable that the Census throughout India should be synchronous and that the enumeration in the settled parts should be taken on the same day, but this must I think be subject to exceptional difficulties as the case of Travancore which can only be met in my opinion by staging some of the enumerations and by legislation

3 It would probably be impossible to fix a day on which there would be no

Para 7 and then the Census to be taken from that of India para 2 a)

great Festivals by which I mean a Festivals attracting extraordinary crowds to particular villages. The difficulty must therefore be faced. When the date of the Census has been fixed, a detailed plan might be made of the places where important Festivals will take place at the time and arrangements must be made beforehand for assigning special localities for encampments. A sufficient number of enumerators and supervisors must be collected on the spot so that the enumeration may be got through quickly. I do not think this can be done without payment. There must be stringent Police arrangements as to where people are allowed to sleep. One effect of these Festivals will be to make the Final enumeration faulty as a record of the population of separate villages, and this is a most important record for administrative purposes. I think therefore the results of the preliminary enumeration, or as the Committee call it "the preliminary record of entries in the enumerators' schedules" should be embodied in the village statements which I hope Government will order to be prepared. X

5 Legislation will be required to confer the enumerators the appearance of authority than for other reasons, but I will return to this subject further on

6. It would not in my opinion be impracticable to take the Census on the 1st April as in England, but very little advantage would be gained. The beginning of February is a better time in all respects. The weather is better suited to out door work and the cultivating classes are less occupied

people in their villages.

There are no tracts in this district where it will be impossible to take the Census in a single day.

7 A preliminary Census seems to me to be essential & it must be preceded by assigning enumerators' limits and numbering houses. The numbering of the houses should be an altogether distinct operation. It takes time, and as the committee point out, the time spent in the enumeration should be as short as possible. As before the last Census, Surnames should be required

to affix numbers to the houses and prepare a house register in the following form.

Register of buildings in Cheeman's encampment houses shops temples mosques schools and others (Appendix C)

Village —
Taluq —
District —

Village or Hamlet	Number of building	Number of families in each house	Name of the head of each family

I place "Village or Hamlet" in a column although the returns appertaining to one village only be cases a so called Village of ten consists of on any villages. Thus the village in this district known as Nagapalli has 14 hamlets, some of which are many miles from each other.

8. The numbers must either be painted on the wall (the wall if of mud being first smoothed & whitened with Chunam) or painted on a bit of wood, & this bit of wood attached to some part of the eaves of the house or doorway so that it can be seen from outside. If the Cheeman village or so such a Cheeman hamlet to do this he must get some Brahmin or other person who will. It has been a common practice on such occasions for a Cheeman to number as many pieces of wood as there are houses in such a hamlet and fling them among the people & let her or interchanged as chance may determine.

9. The Village sheets should be stitched together & sent to the Tahsildar not later than the 15th December of the census in the field in February. The Tahsildar should make a tally sheet noting in it any portion of his taluq (if there be any) not included in the villages, and send this to the Collector. The Collector should cause a district sketch to be prepared noting any tracts not comprised in the taluq returns and he will then be sure that the whole of the district is included in the Census operations & thereby the Tahsildar has prepared his taluq sketch he should send each village return back to its village where it may be seen and tested by superior officers, and used

Letter from the Govt of Madras Para 2

by the enumerators when the work of preliminary record of entries in the enumerators schedules commences. At the same time he should send a sufficient supply of schedules. He will know how many are wanted in each village from the house-returns.

10 This house return will be useful in settling the difficulties described in para 34 of the Committee's Report and it will eventually supply the means for filling up the Form given in Appendix C

11 The Form of schedule proposed by the Committee seems to me to be ~~the best~~ (except as regards numbering enclosures). It is worth the extra trouble to obtain the extra accuracy which will results from allotting a separate schedule to each Family; but the schedules belonging to the Families in a single house should be stitched together, so that when a supervisor goes to a house to test its enumeration he may be sure that all the schedules belonging to it are placed in his hands.

12 I cannot understand the advantage which the Majority of the Committee

III Forms of Schedule to be used

of Bom Govt para 26

expect to gain by re-locating the Enclosures of the Enclosure as well as of the House. Remember it has been often asserted most positively that there is such an advantage, & I believe the fact was proclaimed at the last Census on this Presidency simply because it had been asserted. Even in this report the advantage is not explained. When the instructions for the last Census were issued from the Board's Office they were especially inundated with inquiries as to how this undefinable entry was to be worked, and in the end it was abandoned in every district.

13 It seems to me impossible to classify houses usefully. They were separated into Terraced, Thatched & Tiled at the last Census but only because the order that these should be some classification was imperative. The classification afforded no indication whatever as to whether these Terraced houses are valuable property or not, or whether they belong to well-to-do people or not.

14 There will probably be no difficulty in this Presidency in procuring the Correction of individuals as married,

Letter from the Govt of Bom para 2 c

unmarried or widowed

15 The age always stated by the people is the age next birthday. This being remembered there is no reason why the age last birthday should not be recorded.

16 The Committees arrangements about Religion & Nationality seem to me the best that can be made.

Letter from the Govt of India para 2 & 6

17 In the Form given in appendix A. the name should be the "name of Head of Family" not "Owner". The unpaid enumerators & supervisors employed at the last Census should be got and no improvement in the class could be effected by offering payment. This payment would have to be effected when quiet work, and work in connection with the ordinary duties of officials is required as in the case of Some Municipalities and Districts. The Imperial Police are the most useful class for Chaukeens & Travellers generally and the Village Police for Wanderers who sleep in the open.

P 18

IV Agency employed.

Letter from the Govt of India para 2 a.

19 I agree with the Majority of the Committee that it is better to have a single officer to supervise the Census

Letter from the Govt of India para 2 i

V Mode of taking the Census Tables

Letter from the Govt of India para 2 k.

Letter from the Govt of India para 2 l

Letter from the Govt of India para 2 m

to have a Commissioner. He will have to be easy to find a substitute who will be easy to find & the same policy. The Provincial officers will have to do the hardest work in the way of travelling and tabulating, and it is important that they should have a proper head quarters.

20 With regard to the manner in which Enumerators & areas may be laid down I have made some observations in paras 7–10

21 I agree with the Committee that a comparison of Castes with ages is undesirable; but I think there should be a table showing the number of people of the chief Castes in each District. It would be useful so far as their Breeding is concerned of Chucklers were distinguished as well as Castes.

22 A table tabulating occupations by ages seems to me unnecessary. There will be no difficulty in getting any particulars of land and land revenue that may be wanted from the Do and of Revenue, so that there is no need to collect them at the Census, and it would

he remembered that every particular that can be & is excluded carries with it the probability of an immense number of mistakes.

23 With regard to the Forms, I would only suggest that where Population is divided into Male, Female and Total the Total should come last (eg Form III Cols 2, 3, 4).

24 The Preliminary arrangements should be made as in the last occasion by the Board of Revenue.

25 The Supervisors should be required through every entry in every Schedule so as to be sure there are no obvious mistakes, & to test 10 per cent of them by going with the Schedules to the houses.

26 Lists of occupations & castes should be prepared before hand in each district. I have already stated that I consider legislation necessary. It should provide (in addition to the points noticed by the Committee) against the giving of false information to enumerators and exempt enumerators & supervisors from

Judicial

Judicial Summonses during the enumeration

Also the Minor Officers

Forest

Police

Collectors

Also from the Govt of Bombay para 2 (i).

Also from the Govt of Bombay para 2 (ii).

Also from the Govt of Bombay para 2 (iii).

VII Necessity for Legislation

Also from the Govt of Bombay para 2 (v).

Cardew

Revenue Settlement Depmt

Revenue No 1685

The Collector of
Nellore

To
The Secretary to Govt.
R. Department
Madras

Dated 8th April/78

Despd do

Recd 17th do

No 1400

G.O. 17 April/78 No 605
With reference to G.O.
No 396 of the 13 March/78
submits remarks
on the report of
the Census Committee

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12 605

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for consideration and remarks in reply to G.O., 13 March 1878 No 396.

7th Board of Revenue 7/18/4
1 Secretary Commissioner
1 [illegible]

17 April/78