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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	907	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	7-3-1879	497.

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Copy

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3862.

957
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From *Board of Revenue*

Dated *20 August* 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

*This is in order -
in the general
question.*

1878

FOR ORDERS.

C. 14: 10/1/78. R. 20/2/77.
C. 9-7-78. R. 26 Nov/78

No. 2,973.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th October 1874.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector	of	dated	16th	July	1874, No. 1,529.
"	Ganjam,	"	15th	April	543.
"	Vizagapatam,	"	10th	"	79.
"	Godavery,	"	20th	"	638.
"	Kistna,	"	18th	"	797.
"	Nellore,	"	1st	"	88.
"	Bellary,	"	17th	May	109.
"	Cuddapah,	"	21st	April	115.
"	Kurnool,	"	29th	May	235.
"	Chingleput,	"	27th	June	345.
"	North Arcot,	"	26th	"	321.
"	South Arcot,	"	25th	April	106.
"	Tanjore,	"	11th	May	89.
"	Treasy. Dy. Collr. of Trichinopoly,	"	1st	April	229.
"	Collector of Madura,	"	23rd	"	156.
"	Tinnevely,	"	4th	July	34.
"	Coimbatore,	"	24th	April	140.
"	Commissioner of Nilgiris,	"	24th	"	814.
"	Collector of Salem,	"	1st	May	140.
"	South Canara,	"	12th	June	"
"	Malabar,	"	"	"	"

The foregoing letters are replies to the Board's Proceedings, dated 5th February 1874, No. 221, wherein Collectors were requested at the suggestion of the Sanitary Commissioner, to report upon the method of tabulating and checking the vital statistics, and whether the amount of supervision exercised over the tabulators is sufficient to ensure that the whole of the village reports are entered in the abstract sent to the Sanitary Commissioner.

2. The replies show that the village returns which are prepared by the Curnams are tabulated in the Collector's office under the immediate supervision of the Deputy-Collector in charge of the Treasury. A register containing the names of all villages in each taluq, alphabetically arranged, is kept in the Collector's office, into which the figures given in the village returns are posted as they are received. When all the returns for the month have been received, the entries are closed and added up; and an abstract is prepared, which is forwarded to the Sanitary Commissioner. Under this arrangement, no village can escape being included in the monthly return, as any omission can be detected at a glance. When any discrepancies attract attention or an abnormal death-rate is noted, inquiries are instituted with a view to verification.

3. Any inaccuracy in the vital statistics is due solely to the imperfection of the village returns. The Curnam who prepares the register is, either unconscious of the importance of vital statistics or unable from pressure of work to devote sufficient attention to them. The Collectors of Coimbatore, Tinnevely and South Arcot, seem also to think that the Curnams have no means of obtaining correct information, as there is no law to compel individuals to report births and deaths occurring in their families, and it is suggested for consideration that an enactment should be passed making it compulsory on every house-owner to report such occurrences in his family to the village officer. The Collector of Coimbatore also suggests the appointment of a special agency to report domestic occurrences, and he considers that the village barber or washerman might be engaged for a trifle, say 6 Rupees per annum.

4. The Board are not in favor of any such enactments as that suggested above; it is unnecessary, if the village officers can be made to do their duty, and, moreover, is likely to prove mischievous in its consequences. The Board are aware that in towns reporting of births and deaths is compulsory, and the system is believed to be working satisfactorily; but the circumstances of the people living in towns are very different from those of persons living in villages. The latter are as a rule illiterate, ignorant and superstitious, and it is hardly desirable to make omissions arising from these defects a matter for punishment; nor is the appointment of a special agency, such as that suggested by the Collector of Coimbatore, likely to prove efficacious. There is nothing in the system to guarantee that the barber and washerman retained for a trifle will do their duty well, or that the Curnam will register all the births and deaths reported by them.

5. The only additional safeguard that commends itself to the Board is that suggested by the Collector of Tanjore, viz., to make it incumbent on Deputy-Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors to examine the registers and verify a certain number of the entries by local inquiry every month, or once every two months, and to punish severely any instances of neglect on the part of the village officers that may be brought to notice. Collectors will be requested to issue orders to this effect, and to see that the Board's orders as to inspection of the village registers by Revenue Inspectors, Tahsildars, and Divisional Officers during circuit are carried out (Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd February 1869, No. 735). By these means, together with the inducement of rewards sanctioned in the G. O., dated 21st July 1873, No. 762, the object in view will, it is hoped, be eventually attained, but the improvement must of necessity be gradual.

6. In Zemindaries the Curnams are not now under the control of the Collectors, and no great improvement can be expected till Collectors are empowered to inflict some punishment on them in cases of neglect. The subject is now under the consideration of the Board, and will be disposed of separately.

(A true Extract.)

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

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. T. MAYNE,
First Assistant.

To the Sanitary Commissioner.

„ all Collectors.

Exd. W. H. French.

Vital Statistics.—Orders passed on reports from Collectors upon the method of tabulating and checking—observed in their districts, and on the amount of supervision exercised over the tabulators. Subject of control of Collectors over Zemindari Curnams under consideration of the Board, and will be disposed of separately.

OCTOBER.
No. 2,973.

Received

Ms. 3862/73

Encl.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH OCTOBER 1874, No. 2,973.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1874.

No. 2,340.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 20th August 1873.

Read the following letter from Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 18th July 1873, No. C-25:—

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the information of the Board of Revenue, with reference to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,973, of 13th October 1874, copy of correspondence with the Acting Collector of Madura, regarding the absence of returns of births and deaths from the large Zemindari Estates of that district.

2. I shall be glad if the Board can suggest any arrangement for bringing these large areas and populations under a system of registration.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. J. STOKES, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to Surgeon-Major W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, dated Shembagaaur, 6th July 1873, No. 2,315.

In reply to your letter of the 23rd May last, No. C-7, I have the honor to state that the Zemindaries of Ramnad and Shivagunah consist of 3,090 villages, which are divided into six divisions, each being placed under the Deputy Tahsildars located in the estates, who collect the returns and send them to this office. The returns were formerly furnished by the Village Curnams. As it was found that they were not punctual, and there was no means of compelling them to attend to this duty properly, since they are not amenable to the authority of the Collector, the duty was under the orders of the Board of Revenue conveyed in their Proceedings, No. 772, dated 18th March 1876, transferred to the heads of villages. But matters have not improved since the change, but have become worse since the famine.

2. It is reported that several of the heads of villages are illiterate and are unable to prepare the returns without the aid of Curnams. They (the heads of villages) are often absent from their villages on Revenue duty at the offices of the Zemindars. Besides several of them have deserted their villages during famine to earn their livelihood. Hence the difficulty in getting returns.

3. This difficulty can only be overcome when the Zemindari Curnams are placed under the control of the Collector (*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 2,973, dated 13th October 1874).

SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT.

2. The Board have dealt with the question adverted to in paragraph 6 of their Proceedings, dated 13th October 1874, by submission to Government of a Bill to amend the law relating to Curnams in permanently settled estates, *vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 27th October 1875, No. 2,975, on which no orders have as yet been passed. In the absence of an enactment giving Collectors control over Zemindari Curnams the Board can suggest no means by which the registration of vital statistics can be improved. They are of opinion that no further time should be lost in applying a remedy to the unsatisfactory state of things now existing.

(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 13th October 1874, No. 2,973.

„ Sanitary Commissioner, with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 27th October 1875, No. 2,975.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Pharmaceutical
No 3862.

1878.

**Board of Directors,
MADRAS.**

7.
THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
— dc, &c., &c.

Dated August 2018.

Printed 24th.

Recd. 2 September

Proceedings, 20th August 1878, No. 2,340.

Aug 30/87 Ent.
AUGUST.

No. 2,340.

Births and Deaths.—Submitting to Government letter from Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, suggesting that arrangements may be made for submission of the returns of — from Zemindari Estates.

For order
with order

RC 25/2/77. R 4-3-79.
C 14: 14/1/77
C 9-9-78. R 26: 14/1/78.

4-90
Recorded with reference to G.O. dated
5. March 1879 v. 579.

7^e March 1879.

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No 907