Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1031

DATED 9th December 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Accepting the Board's Recommendation for the Reduction of clerical work in connection with the Returns relating to the Destruction of Wild Animals.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies*

G.O., No. 1031, 9th December 1897.

DECEMBER.

Wild Animals.

Accepting the Board's recommendation for the reduction of clerical work in connection with the returns relating to the destruction of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 339, dated 13th October 1897 :—

Read—the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty with the Government Secretariat, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th September 1897, No. 23 :—

With reference to paragraph 7 of Government Order, No. 1243, Judicial Department, dated 27th August 1897, I have the honour to address the Board on the returns relating to deaths caused by, and destruction of, wild animals and venomous snakes and connected statements.

2. In 1875, the Government of India called * for a brief annual report (*per* calendar year) on the measures taken to exterminate wild beasts and snakes. This report is prepared by the Board which obtains its information from Collectors, and is submitted to the Local Government and by it to the Government of India and contains the following statements —

* Government Order, No. 726, Revenue, dated 13th May 1875, in Board's Proceedings, No. 1588 of 11th June 1875.

A. The return prescribed by the Government of India in paragraph 9 of the Home Department letter of 15th October 1891, in Government Order, No. 1087, † Revenue Department, of 14th November 1891. This will be found on pages 6 and 7 of Board's Proceedings, No. 81 of 16th March 1897, reviewed in Government Order, No. 306, Revenue Department, dated 7th May 1897, and embodies the following information :—

† In Board's Proceedings, No. 728 of 18th December 1891.

(*a*) Number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes.

(*b*) Number of cattle killed by wild animals and snakes.

(*c*) Number of wild animals and snakes destroyed and rewards paid for their destruction; and

(*d*) Number of licenses issued under the Indian Arms Act for the destruction of wild animals and protection of crops.

Under cattle referred to in (*b*) only horses, ponies, asses, mules, oxen, cows and buffaloes are required by the Government of India to be included. They do not want information as to sheep, goats and pigs, and the Board does not accordingly furnish statistics in regard to these last-mentioned animals.

B. A statement showing monthly particulars of human deaths from wild animals and snakes in the various districts of the Presidency, the object being to ascertain whether it is during the cultivation season and the hot months, when the ryots are largely absent from their houses or sleep outside of them, that these casualties mostly occur —*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 754, Land Revenue, dated 28th October 1889, and Government Order, Mis. No. 7766, Revenue, dated 2nd December 1889 (in Board's Proceedings, No. 872 of 10th December 1889) and Appendix B on page 8 of Board's Proceedings, No. 81 of 16th March 1897, reviewed in Government Order, No. 306, Revenue, dated 7th May 1897.

C. A statement (Appendix C on page 9 of the Board's Proceedings last quoted) showing the expenditure on the removal of undergrowth in villages where snakes are most noxious.

3. Though the general return (*a*) required by the Government of India is only for each year, it is at present supposed to be submitted monthly to Collectors—*vide* paragraph 10 of Board's Proceedings, No. 1364 of 16th May 1883. The village headman maintains registers showing all the particulars required by the Government of India except those relating to Arms Act licenses and submits an extract therefrom to the Tahsildar month by month as required by paragraph 9, page 87 of the Village Officers' Manual. As a matter of fact, however, the monthly statement appears to have fallen into abeyance in most districts, and the Tahsildar everywhere submits an *annual* statement to the Collector (in some districts direct; in others through the Divisional-officer) from which the latter tabulates the district information which he has to furnish to the Board.

4. The Huzur Sheristadars' Committee appointed by Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 3991 (Land Revenue), dated 29th August 1896, to revise the taluk forms propose, however,—

(1) to make the monthly submission of the returns by the Tahsildars' universal;

(2) to require also an annual report from the Taluk office;

(3) that both the monthly and annual statements should go to the Treasury Deputy Collector, and that the latter, after tabulation for the district, should go from him to the Collector (see entries against "wild animals" on pages 9, 14 and 15 of the Sheristadars' Committee's list of forms circulated with Board's Proceedings, No. 211, dated 25th June 1897).

5. These proposals seem to me futile. The object of the Board in calling for the monthly submission of returns to the Collector's office was to avoid delay in the preparation of the annual report. The delays, however, still continue—*vide* the remarks on this subject in paragraph 2 of Government Order, Nos. 306, * Revenue, dated 7th May 1897, and No. 195, † Revenue, dated 13th May 1896, and it is clear that the mere sending in of a monthly statement on which no action will be taken until the end of the year will do nothing to prevent them, for such statements will obviously be pigeon-holed. Punctuality can be quite well enforced on a yearly return by the censure or punishment of the Tahsildar who submits it late, and I would therefore relieve the Taluk office of the burden of the useless monthly statements. Again, there is no object in a double submission first to the Treasury Deputy Collector and then by him to the Collector. The returns should go straight to the Collector's office and can there be dealt with if necessary by the Treasury Deputy Collector.

Board's Proceedings, No. 1364 of 16th May 1883, paragraph 10.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 182 of 26th May 1897.

† Board's Proceedings, No. 384 of 30th June 1896.

6. As for the submission of the information by village officers, I think that a quarterly return to the taluk would suffice. The number of returns to be deposited in the Taluk office would thus be reduced to one-third of the present number.

7. The question then arises whether statement B above referred to (paragraph 2) need in future accompany the annual report. The returns of vital statistics are always available for reference as to the months in which deaths by wild animals and snakes are the most numerous, and the special return in question, having now been in force for several years, ought to have accumulated a fair amount of information on the points which led to its prescription. I would therefore suggest the abolition of this statement.

8. Statement C (paragraph 2 *supra*) having only been prescribed in 1895—*vide* Board's Proceedings, No. 294, Land Revenue, of 15th August 1895, has failed to find a place in the Sheristadars' list of general returns. I think it should be submitted annually by the Collector along with the A return, but that the information as to

removal of undergrowth should be submitted by the Divisional-officers as Taluk Board Presidents and not by the Tahsildar. The expenditure is carried out by taluk boards and the Taluk Board President has therefore got the information complete. The information as to deaths from snake-bite will be available from statement A and from the monthly returns of vital statistics, quarterly extracts from which can be sent by the Treasury Deputy Collector to the Taluk Board Presidents with reference to the remarks of the Government of India on this subject in paragraph 8 of Home Department letter, dated 4th December 1890, in Government Order, No. 59, Revenue, dated 28th January 1891 (Board's Proceedings, No. 163 of 13th March 1891), and paragraph 8 of the same department's letter, dated 16th September 1895, in Government Order, No. 663, Revenue, of 4th October 1895 (Board's Proceedings, No. 393 of 28th October 1895).

9. Besides the above information, the Board requires from Collectors a statement (D) in the form enclosed showing the particulars of wild animals killed and rewards paid for the *official* year, and this information has, of course, to be obtained by the Collector from the taluks. The only object of these returns appears to be for chapter III of the Land Revenue Commissioners' report required for insertion in the General Administration report for the Presidency —*vide* Government Order, No. 663,* Public, dated 30th April 1879. I submit that it would be quite sufficient to insert in the latter document the returns for the last calendar year available as is done in so many other instances (*e.g.*, Criminal and Civil Justice, Prisons, Police, Vital and Sanitary Statistics, Emigration, Factories and Arms Acts, Sulphur Licenses, Vagrancy, &c.).

* Board's Proceedings, No. 1449 of 28th May 1879.

10. There are besides some purely local returns which might well be abolished. Examples of these are—

(1) In Salem † a weekly statement from the Revenue Inspector to the Tahsildar showing the number of applications received for the removal of prickly-pear from villages.

† The Salem statement has now been abolished at my suggestion.

(2) In Chingleput and Trichinopoly a monthly statement of mortality from snake-bite. In the former district this goes from the Tahsildar to the Divisional-officer and thence to the District Magistrate; in the latter from the village officers to the Tahsildar.

(3) In Tinnevelly, a monthly return of cattle destroyed by wild animals from the karnam to the Tahsildar. The general monthly statements prescribed on page 87 of the Village Officers' Manual and the proposals above made as to submission of returns from Taluk offices will render all such special returns unnecessary and they should be abolished wherever they exist.

11. If these proposals be accepted, the only periodical returns necessary in regard to wild animals will be the following :—

(1) From village officers a quarterly statement to the Tahsildar in the form given on page 88 of the Village Officers' Manual.

(2) From Tahsildars an annual report in the above form to the Collector, with the addition of the information relating to Arms Act licenses contained in columns 38—40 of statement A on pages 6 and 7 of Board's Proceedings, No. 81 of 16th March 1897, reviewed in Government Order, No. 306, Revenue, dated 7th May 1897.

(3) From Taluk Board Presidents an annual return to the Collector giving the information in columns 2—5 of Appendix C on page 9 of the last-mentioned paper.

(4) From the Collector—

(*a*) Compilation and submission to the Board of the annual statements received from the taluks and taluk boards.

(*b*) Quarterly extracts of deaths from snake-bite in his division to each Divisional-officer as Taluk Board President.

Enclosure No. 1.

STATEMENT D.

Comparative statement of wild animals killed and the cost to Government of the rewards paid during the official year 1895–96.

Years.	Loss of life.		Loss of cattle.		Loss of crops in rupees.	Number of animals killed.							Government rewards.		Remarks.
	By quadrupeds.	By snakes.	By quadrupeds.	By snakes.		Elephants.	Tigers.	Cheetahs.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyænas.	Snakes.	Quadrupeds.	Snakes.	

Resolution—No. 339, dated 13th October 1897.

Mr. Meyer's proposals in paragraphs 5, 6, 8 and 10 of his letter read above are approved. All Collectors are requested to give effect to these proposals from the beginning of the next calendar year.

2. The suggestions in paragraphs 7 and 9 will be submitted for the orders of Government, with the Board's recommendation that the returns therein referred to may be discontinued in future.

3. The following correction will be made in paragraph 9, section 38, part V, volume I of the "Village Officers' Manual":—

For the words "the end of every month" in line 4 *read* "the end of every quarter."

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To W. S. Meyer, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty.
„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ all Collectors (Treasury Deputy Collectors, Divisional Officers and Tahsildars).

Order—No. 1031, Revenue, dated 9th December 1897.

Miscellaneous.

The Government accepts the Board's recommendation in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings read above.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.
„ the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
Copy to the Judicial Department.

Exd. A. F. Eccleston.

50 Copies.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 1031, REVENUE, Dated 9th DECEMBER 1897.

[Subject.—*Regarding reduction of clerical work in connection with returns for the destruction of wild animals.*]

From the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 339, dated 13th October 1897.

FOR ORDERS.

To Under Secretary—

In passing orders on certain proposals submitted by Mr. Meyer for the reduction of correspondence in connection with the returns relating to the destruction of wild animals, the Board of Revenue submits, for the approval of Government, his proposals to dispense with—

(1) Statement B—or the monthly statement of human deaths by wild animals and snakes which have now to be submitted from the several districts; and

(2) Statement D showing the particulars of wild animals killed and rewards paid for the official year.

2. Return B was prescribed by Government in connection with a requisition received in 1889 from the Health Officer to the Port of Calcutta for information as to the seasons when most deaths by wild animals and snakes were caused. The special reports called for from the districts at the time showed that while deaths from snake-bites generally occurred during the hot weather, the season during which deaths were caused by wild animals varied in different districts. The Board then suggested that if the Government deemed the matter of sufficient importance, Collectors might "be asked to note in their annual reports on the destruction of wild animals the number of deaths reported in each month as caused by snakes and wild animals." This suggestion was accepted in paragraph 2 of G.O., Mis. No. 7766, Revenue, dated 2nd December 1889, and information ordered to be furnished accordingly.

3. Mr. Meyer now states that the returns of vital statistics are always available for reference as to the months in which deaths by wild animals are the most numerous and that the details already collected would give a fair amount of information on the points which led to the prescription of the return. He accordingly suggests that its submission in the future may be discontinued. It does not appear from the reports and reviews of the past eight years that statement B has ever been utilized by the Board or the Government since 1889 and it is submitted that, for the reasons stated by Mr. Meyer, his suggestion may be accepted.

It would be wrong to say perhaps that any information of value has been collected, but it seems quite clear that no more information is likely to be collected by continuing to compile these statistics.
N. E. Marjoribanks.
22-11-97.

Yes.
G. S. Forbes.
26-11-97.

A. T. Arundel.
1-12-97.

Yes.
J. G[rose].
H. W. B[liss].

4. Statement D showing the particulars of wild animals killed and rewards paid for the official year (the annual report is for the calendar year) was not exactly prescribed by Government, but is utilized in the Board's Administration Report (intended for incorporation into the general, *i.e.*, the Presidency Administration Report) now being submitted to the Public Department. Mr. Meyer thinks that it would be sufficient if in the Board's report the figures for the calendar year are given as in the case of "Criminal and Civil Justice, Prisons, Police, Vital and Sanitary Statistics, Factories, Arms Act, &c.," and that the return which has to be prepared from the statistics obtained from taluks may, with advantage, be abolished. Mr. Meyer's proposal does not seem to be open to any objection and (if the Public Department agrees) may, it is submitted, be accepted.

Yes.
G. S. FORBES.
26-11-97.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
1-12-97.
Yes.
J. G[ROSE].
5-12-97.
H. B[LISS].
7-12-97.

P.N.M.
20-11-97.

Secretary—

N. E. MARJORIBANKS.
22-11-97.

Honourable Member—

Please see notes on margin.

G. S. FORBES.
26-11-97.

To Public Department u.o.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Column 5 "Loss of crops in Rs." seems absurd and might well be omitted from the *annual* report. The comparative table may be abolished as suggested.

M. E. COUCHMAN.
30-11-97.

This should be separately suggested.

A. T. ARUNDEL.
1-12-97.

Secretary—

Please see docket of current for draft Government Order.

N. E. MARJORIBANKS.
9-12-97.

Issue.

G. S. FORBES.
9-12-97.

Revenue (189)) Department.

CURRENT No. 7337

Secy fr.

Read in Leg 329

Draft Order Mem No. 1031 of 9th Dec. 1897.

The Govt accepts the Board's recommendation in para 2 of the Memo read above

9.12.97

To the Bd of Rev & L R
To the Public Dept.

Dec. 20.12.97 5/5

Lands called for from 4th and to be returned

Portion

From Board of Revenue Land Rev:

No. 339.

Dated 13. 10. 97.
Received 29-10-97
Registered 1-11-97.
Enclosures
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on Mr. Meyer's proposals for the reduction of clerical work in connection with the returns relating to the destruction of wild animals

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed October 28th.

Proceedings, No. 339, 13th October 1897.

OCTOBER.

Wild animals.—Passing orders on Mr. Meyer's proposals for the reduction of clerical work in connection with the returns relating to the destruction of —.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(LAND REVENUE).

READ—the following letter from W. S. MEYER, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty with the Government Secretariat, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 27th September 1897, No. 23 :—

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(*a*) Number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes.
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(*c*) Number of wild animals and snakes destroyed and rewards paid for their destruction; and
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Under cattle referred to in (*b*) only horses, ponies, asses, mules, oxen, cows and buffaloes are required by the Government of India to be included. They do not want information as to sheep, goats and pigs, and the Board does not accordingly furnish statistics in regard to these last-mentioned animals.

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C. A statement (Appendix C on page 9 of the Board's Proceedings last quoted) showing the expenditure on the removal of undergrowth in villages where snakes are most noxious.

3. Though the general return (*a*) required by the Government of India is only for each year, it is at present supposed to be submitted monthly to Collectors—*vide* paragraph 10 of Board's Proceedings, No. 1364 of 16th May 1883. The village headman maintains registers showing all the particulars required by the Government of India except those relating to Arms Act licenses and submits an extract therefrom to the Tahsildar month by month as required by paragraph 9, page 87 of the Village Officers' Manual. As a matter of fact, however, the monthly statement appears to have fallen into abeyance in most districts, and the Tahsildar everywhere submits an *annual* statement to the Collector (in some districts direct; in others through the Divisional-officer) from which the latter tabulates the district information which he has to furnish to the Board.

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(1) to make the monthly submission of the returns by the Tahsildars' universal;
(2) to require also an annual report from the Taluk office;
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5. These proposals seem to me futile. The object of the Board in calling for the monthly submission of returns to the Collector's office was to avoid delay in the preparation of the annual report. The delays, however, still continue—*vide* the remarks on this subject in paragraph 2 of Government Order, Nos. 306, * Revenue, dated 7th May 1897, and No. 195, † Revenue, dated 13th May 1896, and it is clear that the mere sending in of a monthly statement on which no action will be taken until the end of the year will do nothing to prevent them, for such statements will obviously be pigeon-holed. Punctuality can be quite well enforced on a yearly return by the censure or punishment of the Tahsildar who submits it late, and I would therefore relieve the Taluk office of the burden of the useless monthly statements. Again, there is no object in a double submission first to the Treasury Deputy Collector and then by him to the Collector. The returns should go straight to the Collector's office and can there be dealt with if necessary by the Treasury Deputy Collector.

Board's Proceedings, No. 1364 of 16th May 1883, paragraph 10.

* Board's Proceedings, No. 182 of 26th May 1897.

† Board's Proceedings, No. 384 of 30th June 1896.

6. As for the submission of the information by village officers, I think that a quarterly return to the taluk would suffice. The number of returns to be deposited in the Taluk office would thus be reduced to one-third of the present number.

7. The question then arises whether statement B above referred to (paragraph 2) need in future accompany the annual report. The returns of vital statistics are always available for reference as to the months in which deaths by wild animals and snakes are the most numerous, and the special return in question, having now been in force for several years, ought to have accumulated a fair amount of information on the points which led to its prescription. I would therefore suggest the abolition of this statement.

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removal of undergrowth should be submitted by the Divisional-officers as Taluk Board Presidents and not by the Tahsildar. The expenditure is carried out by taluk boards and the Taluk Board President has therefore got the information complete. The information as to deaths from snake-bite will be available from statement A and from the monthly returns of vital statistics, quarterly extracts from which can be sent by the Treasury Deputy Collector to the Taluk Board Presidents with reference to the remarks of the Government of India on this subject in paragraph 8 of Home Department letter, dated 4th December 1890, in Government Order, No. 59, Revenue, dated 28th January 1891 (Board's Proceedings, No. 163 of 13th March 1891), and paragraph 8 of the same department's letter, dated 16th September 1895, in Government Order, No. 663, Revenue, of 4th October 1895 (Board's Proceedings, No. 393 of 28th October 1895).

9. Besides the above information, the Board requires from Collectors a statement (D) in the form enclosed showing the particulars of wild animals killed and rewards paid for the *official* year, and this information has, of course, to be obtained by the Collector from the taluks. The only object of these returns appears to be for chapter III of the Land Revenue Commissioners' report required for insertion in the General Administration report for the Presidency —*vide* Government Order, No. 663 *, Public, dated 30th April 1879. I submit that it would be quite sufficient to insert in the latter document the returns for the last calendar year available as is done in so many other instances (*e.g.*, Criminal and Civil Justice, Prisons, Police, Vital and Sanitary Statistics, Emigration, Factories and Arms Acts, Sulphur Licenses, Vagrancy, &c.).

* Board's Proceedings, No. 1449 of 28th May 1879.

10. There are besides some purely local returns which might well be abolished. Examples of these are—

(1) In Salem † a weekly statement from the Revenue Inspector to the Tahsildar showing the number of applications received for the removal of prickly-pear from villages.

† The Salem statement has now been abolished at my suggestion.

(2) In Chingleput and Trichinopoly a monthly statement of mortality from snake-bite. In the former district this goes from the Tahsildar to the Divisional-officer and thence to the District Magistrate; in the latter from the village officers to the Tahsildar.

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11. If these proposals be accepted, the only periodical returns necessary in regard to wild animals will be the following :—

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(3) From Taluk Board Presidents an annual return to the Collector giving the information in columns 2—5 of Appendix C on page 9 of the last-mentioned paper.

(4) From the Collector—

(*a*) Compilation and submission to the Board of the annual statements received from the taluks and taluk boards.

(*b*) Quarterly extracts of deaths from snake-bite in his division to each Divisional-officer as Taluk Board President.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

STATEMENT D.

COMPARATIVE statement of wild animals killed and the cost to Government of the rewards paid during the official year 1895–96.

Years.	Loss of life.		Loss of cattle.		Loss of crops in rupees.	Number of animals killed.							Government rewards.		Remarks.
	By quadrupeds.	By snakes.	By quadrupeds.	By snakes.		Elephants.	Tigers.	Cheetahs.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyænas.	Snakes.	Quadrupeds.	Snakes.	

RESOLUTION—No. 339, dated 13th October 1897.

Mr. Meyer's proposals in paragraphs 5, 6, 8 and 10 of his letter read above are approved. All Collectors are requested to give effect to these proposals from the beginning of the next calendar year.

2. The suggestions in paragraphs 7 and 9 will be submitted for the orders of Government, with the Board's recommendation that the returns therein referred to may be discontinued in future.

3. The following correction will be made in paragraph 9, section 58, part V, volume I of the "Village Officers' Manual":—

For the words "the end of every month" in line 4 *read* "the end of every quarter."

(True Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To W. S. Meyer, Esq., I.C.S., on special duty.
„ the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
„ all Collectors (Treasury Deputy Collectors, Divisional Officers and Tahsildars).

Exd. Md. Pahilvan.

Revenue (189 7) Department.

CURRENT No. 9956

W 516/8-10-96

Same as current no 9329 of 97

From

Order

The Board of Revenue,
Land Revenue,
Madras.

No. 339 Press.

Dated 13th October 1897.

Received 14

Registered 20

Enclosures 2.

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Passing orders on Mr. Meyer's proposals for the reduction of clerical work in connection with the returns relating to the destruction of Wild Animals.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Ootacamund

No.23. 27th September 1897.

From

W.S.Meyer,Esquire,I.C.S.,
on Special duty with the
Government Secretariat.

To

The Secretary to the Commissioners
of Land Revenue,Madras.

Sir,

With reference to paragraph 7 of G.O.No.1243,Judicial Department,dated 27th August 1897,I have the honor to address the Board on the Returns relating to deaths caused by,and destruction of,wild animals and venomous snakes and connected statements.

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(d) number of licenses issued under the Indian arms Act for the destruction of wild animals and protection of crops.

Under cattle referred to in (b) only horses,ponies,asses,mules oxen,cows and buffaloes are required by the Government of India to be included.They do not want information as to sheep,goats and pigs, and the Board does not accordingly furnish statistics in regard to these last-mentioned animals.

B. A statement showing monthly particulars of human deaths from wild animals and snakes in the various districts of the Presidency,the object being to ascertain whether it is during the cultivation season and the hot months,when the ryots are largely absent from their houses or sleep outside of them,that these casualties mostly occur-vide Board's Proceedings No.754 Land Revenue,dated 28th October 1889 and G.O.Mis.No.7766 Revenue,dated 2nd December 1889(in Board's Proceedings No.872 of 10th December 1889),and appendix B on page 8 of Board's Proceedings No.81 of 16th March 1897 reviewed in G.O.No.306 Revenue,dated 7th May 1897.

C. A statement (appendix C on page 9 of the Board's Proceedings last quoted) showing the expenditure on the removal of undergrowth in villages where snakes are most noxious.

3. Though the general return (A) required by the Government of India is only for each year it is at present supposed to be submitted monthly to Collectors (Vide paragraph 10 of Board's Proceedings No.1364 of 16th May 1883).The village headman maintains registers showing all the particulars required by the Government of India except those relating to Arms Act licenses and submits an extract therefrom to the Tahsildar month by month as required by paragraph 9,page 87 of the village officers' manual.As a matter of fact,however,the monthly statement appears to have fallen into abeyance in most districts,and the Tahsildar everywhere submits an annual statement to the Collector (in some districts direct;in others through the Divisional officer)from which the latter tabulates the district information which he has to furnish to the Board.

4. The Huzur Sheristadars' committee appointed by Board's Proceedings No.3991 Misc.,dated 29th August 1896(Land Revenue) to revise the taluk forms propose,however,

(1) To make the monthly submission of the returns by the Tahsildars universal;

(2) To require also an annual report from the taluk office;

(3) That both the monthly and annual statements should go to the Treasury Deputy Collector,and that the latter,after tabulation for the district,should go from him to the Collector(see entries against "wild animals" on pages 9,14 and 15 of the Sheristadars' Committee's list of forms circulated with Board's Proceedings No.211,dated 25th June 1897).

5. These proposals seem to me futile.The object of the Board in calling for the monthly submission of returns to the Collector's office was to avoid delay in the preparation of the annual report.The delays however still continue vide the remarks on this subject in paragraph 2 of G.Os.Nos.306 Revenue,dated 7th May 1897 and 195 Revenue,dated 13th May 1896,and it is clear that the mere sending in of a monthly statement on which no action will be taken until the end of the year will do nothing to prevent them,for such statements will obviously be pigeon-holed.Punctuality can be quite well enforced on a yearly return by the censure or punishment of the Tahsildar who submits it late,and I would therefore relieve the taluk office of the burden of the useless monthly statements.Again,there is no object in a double submission first to the Treasury Deputy Collector and then by him to the Collector.The returns should go straight to the Collector's office and can there be dealt with if necessary by the Treasury Deputy Collector.

B.P.No.1364 of 16th May 1883. para 10

B.P.No.182 of 26th May 1897.

* B.P.No.384 of30th June 1896.

6. As for the submission of the information by village officers,I think that a quarterly return to the taluk would suffice.The number of returns to be deposited in the taluk office would thus be reduced to one-third of the present number.

7. The question then arises whether statement B above referred to (paragraph 2) need in future accompany the annual report.The returns of vital statistics are always available for reference as to the months in which deaths by wild animals and snakes are the most numerous,and the special return in question,having now been in force for several years, ought to have accumulated a fair amount of information on the points which led to its prescription.I would therefore suggest the abolition of this statement.

8. Statement C (paragraph 2 supra) having only

been prescribed in 1895-vide Board's Proceedings No.294,Land Revenue of 15th August 1895-has failed to find a place in the Sheristadars' list of general returns.I think it should be submitted annually by the Collector along with the A return,but that the information as to removal of undergrowth should be submitted by the Divisional officers as Taluk Board Presidents and not by the Tahsildar.The expenditure is carried out by Taluk Boards and the Taluk Board President has therefore got the information complete.The information as to deaths from snake-bite will be available from statement A and from the monthly returns of vital statistics,quarterly extracts from which can be sent by the Treasury Deputy Collector to the Taluk Board Presidents with reference to the remarks of the Government of India on this subject in paragraph 8 of Home Department letter,dated 4th December 1890 in G.O.No.59 Revenue,dated 28th January 1891(Board's Proceedings No.163 of 18th March 1891)and paragraph 8 of the same department's letter dated 16th September 1895 in G.O. No.663 Revenue of 4th October 1895 (Board's Proceedings No.393 of 28th October 1895)

9. Besides the above information,the Board requires from Collectors a statement (D) in the form enclosed showing the particulars of wild animals killed and rewards paid for the official year and this information has of course to be obtained by the Collector from the taluks.The only object of these returns appears to be for Chapter III of the Land Revenue Commissioners'report required for insertion in the General Administration report for the Presidency-Vide G.O.No. 663 Public,* dated 30th April 1879.I submit that it would be quite sufficient to insert in the latter document the returns for the last calendar year available as is done in so many other instances (e.g. Criminal and Civil Justice, Prisons,Police,Vital and Sanitary Statistics,Emigration,Factories and Arms Acts,Sulphur Licenses Vagrancy &c.)

* B.P.No.1449 of 28th May 1879.

10. There are besides some purely local returns which might well be abolished.Examples of these are :-

(1) In Salem+ a weekly statement from the Revenue Inspector to the Tahsildar showing the number of applications received for the removal of prickly pear from villages.

+ The Salem statement has now been abolished at my suggestion

(2) In Chingleput and Trichinopoly a monthly statement of mortality from snake-bite.In the former district this goes from the Tahsildar to the Divisional officer and thence to the District Magistrate;in the latter from the village officers to the Tahsildar.

(3) In ~~the~~ Tinnevelly,a monthly return of cattle destroyed by wild animals from the karnam to the Tahsildar.

The general monthly statements prescribed on page 87 of the village officers' manual and the proposals above made as to submission of returns from taluk offices will render all such special returns unnecessary and they should be abolished wherever they exist.

11. If these proposals be accepted,the only periodical returns necessary in regard to wild animals will be the following :-

(1) From village officers a quarterly statement to the Tahsildar in the form given on page 88 of the village officers' manual;

(2) From Tahsildars an annual report in the above form to the Collector,with the addition of the information relating to Arms Act licenses contained in columns 38-40 of statement A on pages 6 and 7 of Board's Proceedings No.81 of 16th March 1897 reviewed in G.O.No.306 Revenue,dated 7th May 1897;

(3) From Taluk Board Presidents an annual return to the Collector giving the information in columns 2-5 of appendix C on page 9 of the last mentioned paper ;

(4) From the Collector

(a) Compilation and submission to the Board of the annual statements received from the taluks and Taluk Boards.

(b) Quarterly extracts of deaths from snake-bite in his division to each Divisional Officer as Taluk Board President.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

/signed/ W.S.Meyer

Officer on special duty

/True Copy/

Secretary

Md. H.

1 Comparative Statement of wild animals killed and the Cost to Government of the rewards paid during the official Year 1895-96

Years.	Loss of life		Loss of Cattle.			No. of animals killed							Government rewards		Remarks.
	By quadrupeds.	By Snakes.	By quadrupeds.	By Snakes.	Loss of crops in Rupees.	Elephants.	Tigers.	Cheetahs.	Bears.	Wolves.	Hyænas.	Snakes	Quadrupeds.	Snakes.	

(True Copy)
(Sd) W. S. Meyer.

(True Copy)
Secretary.

2,000
26-8-97.

REVENUE BOARD OFFICE. MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue).

No.339 Press,dated 13th October 1897.

Read letter from W.S.Meyer,Esquire,I.C.S.,on Special duty with the Government Secretariat,No.23,dated 27th September 1897,to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue,Madras.

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Resolution

Mr.Meyer's proposals in paras 5,6,8 and 10 of his letter read above,are approved.All Collectors are requested to give effect to these proposals from the beginning of the next calendar year.

2. The suggestions in paras 7 and 9 will be submitted for the orders of Government,with the Board's recommendation that the returns therein referred to may be discontinued in future.

3. The following correction will be made in para: 9,Section 38,Part V Vol:I of the "Village Officers' Manual":-

For the words "the end of every month" in line 4 read "the end of every quarter".

(True Extract)

Secretary.

To

W.S.Meyer,Esquire,I.C.S.,on special duty.
The Secretary to Government,Revenue Department,with copy.
All Collectors.(Treasury Deputy Collectors-Divisional Officers-Tahsildars.)

Md.R.H.

Revenue Dept

C.No 9329 of 97

Notes connected with G.O. No 1031 Rev dd 9-12-97
[illegible] connected with correspondence with returns

From the Board of Revenue Land Rev:

Dated 13th Oct 1897

For Orders

The Hon: Mr Rose C.I.E.
The Hon: Sir Henry Bliss K.C.I.E.

To The Hon: the C.S.
Public Financial Dept for favour of comln- initials.

In passing orders on certain proposals submitted by Mr Meyer for the reduction of correspondence in connexion with the returns relating to the destruction of wild animals, the Board of Rev: submits for the approval of Govt his proposal to dispense with

(1) Statement B — or the monthly Statement of human deaths by wild animals and snakes which have now to be submitted from the several districts and

(2) Statement D showing the particulars of wild animals killed and rewards paid for the official year

2 Return B was prescribed by Govt in connexion with

with a requisition received in 1889 from the Health Officer to the Port of Calcutta enquiring whether information as to the seasons when most deaths by wild animals and snakes were caused. The special reports called for from the districts at the time showed that while deaths from snake bites generally occurred during the hot weather, the season during which deaths were caused by wild animals varied in different districts. The Board then suggested that if the Govt deemed the matter of sufficient importance, Collectors might be asked to note in their "annual reports on the destruction "of wild animals the number of "deaths reported in each month "as caused by snakes and wild "animals" and this suggestion was accepted in para 2 of G.O. misc no 7766 Revl dy 2nd Decr 1889, and information ordered to be furnished accordingly.

3 Mr Meyer now states that the returns of vital Statistics

Plan Specimen from Hly J

Herd is wrong today perhaps that any information of value has been collected but it seem quite clear that no more information is likely to be collected by continuing to compile these Statistics

22.11.91

Yes

1.12.91

Statistics are always avail for reference as to the mon in which deaths by wild a mals are the most numer and that the details alre a collected would give a fair o of information on the pos which led to the prescripti of the returns. He accordin suggests that its submissio in the future may be discon tinued. It does not appea from the reports and retur of the past eight years that Sta ment B has ever been publi by the Board or the Govt sin 1889 and it is submitted for the reasons stated by Mr Meyer his suggestion may accepted. ~~The point does not appe to be quite correct as to 1889~~ 9.8.92

Statement D

showing the particulars of wild animals killed and re ward paid for the Official ye (— the annual report is fo the Calendar year) was not exactly prescribed by Govt bu is utilized in the Board's

adm[n]

adm^n Report (intended for incorporation into the General & c. the Pres^y adm^n Report) now being submitted to the Public Dept. mr Meyer thinks that it would be sufficient if in the Board's report the figures for the Calendar year are given as in the case of "Criminal and "Civil justice, Prisons, Police, Vital and Sanitary Statistics, Factories, Arms Act &c" and that the returns which has to be prepared from the Statistics obtained from talugs may with advantage be abolished. mr Meyer's proposal does not seem to be open to any great objection and (if the Public Dept agrees) may if is submitted be accepted

20.XI.97 — 21.11.97

Please see Notes on margin

Col. 5 'Loss of crops in Rs.' seems absurd & might well be omitted from the annual report. The comparative table may be abolished as suggested.

M&C 30/XI/97

This should be separately suggested.

M.A. 1.12.97

Yes 5/12/97

1.12.97

2/12/97

y sent to Press.

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G.O., No. DATED

1897.

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ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

HAND UP BEING READY FOR DESPATCH ORIGINAL

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B = Not to be printed.
F = Print abstract only.
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