

Revenue (1897) Department.

ROUTINE SERIES.

G.O., No. 1732

DATED 17 Sept

[Despatch Abstract.]

*Petition from the Karmans of Nazvid Taluk,
Kistna Dt. disposed of under Para 2 of C.
Petition Rules.*

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

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18 4,000-12-7-97.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 7900

Order R no 1732 d/17 Sept 97
Para 2 of C Petition Rules

From

The Harmand
of Muzvid Taluk,
Kistna St.

No.

Dated 2nd Sept. 1897.
Received
Registered
Enclosures
Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Praying to be relieved
of part of their duties.

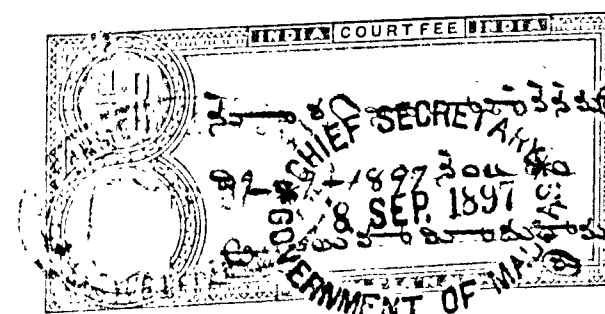
To the petitioners dtd. 23-9-97

14 Sep 97

14/9/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date



PETITION

8784

REVENUE DEPT

FURTHER PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To

*This Excellency, the
Governor-in-Council
of Fort Saint George
Madras.*

May it please your Excellency,

We, the undersigned Karnams of the *Nagudi* Taluk, Kistna District, most respectfully beg to approach your Excellency with this humble memorial fully believing that our petition will receive the kindest consideration at your Excellency's hands and that the disabilities under which we have for long, been labouring completely redressed.

1. The office of a Karnam is an all important one in view of the fact that the Karnam has to discharge duties as responsible and various as these allotted to any other officer under Government while he has to perform onerous duties, he has not been for some reason or other looked at with the consideration which his responsible position entitles him to.

2. We think it our duty to represent our grievances in a constitutional manner, at the same time suggesting a system which in our opinion may remove to some extent the burden of the Karnam by apportioning his duties among the other officers of the village who are paid by Government and have practically little or nothing to do. An organisation of this nature would place the Karnam in a less burdened state, would create work for the other officers of the village already drawing salaries from Government and would ensure work being more efficiently and quickly done. Therefore your Excellency's memorialists beg to be excused, if in representing their grievances or in submitting what they think to be a better arrangement they unconsciously trespass upon your Excellency's valuable time.

The disabilities of Karnams.

Nature and extent of work to be done by Karnam. } Apart from preparing the twenty three kinds of accounts specified in the village manual and the keeping of Permanent Settlement Registers, the Karnam has to write, keep and submit among other things the following accounts:—

i B forms relating to the cultivation of unassessed Government waste land to be submitted by the end of every month. ii A forms relating to application for assessed Government waste land to be submitted within the above specified time iii B forms relating to the cultivation of Poramboke lands to be submitted monthly. iv C register relating to applications for waste land v Famine account. vi Vaccination registers A. B. & C. vii Accounts of mines viii Register of manufactures. ix Register of applications for and relinquishment of water. x Abkary accounts showing T. T. fees. xi and its Napharvari vasool Goshwari accounts xii Register of applications for village sites xiii Compensation register. xiv Register of received letters. xv Register of despatched letters xvi Register of sluices of rivus canals. xvii Attendance register of village officers xviii Register of disbursements of pay of the said officers. xix Process register. xx Register of foreigners.

In addition to these the Karanam has to keep several other accounts relating to several departments, and such accounts have been daily increasing in number and complexity with the advance of times, and with the introduction of new methods of Government. Though the Karanams spend days and nights in the preparation of these accounts yet in most cases they have been unable to cope with the work with the result that they are subjected to suspension and sometimes even to dismissal for not being prepared the accounts in time. Such a state of things is accelerated, because the Karnam has not only to answer circulars issued by various

departments and to supply the information asked by Government officers but also to leave his village and to go wherever directed by the said officers.

Karnams punished for failure to collect arrears of revenue. } Though it is already a settled rule that the Karanam has nothing to do with the collection of revenue yet as ill-luck would have it. Karnams are being punished for failure to collect arrears of Revenue.

The above rule is altogether abandoned in practice and therefore your excellency's memorialists beg your excellency to put that rule into practice and to hold only the Monegar and the Munsiff responsible for the collection of Revenue and not to punish Karnams for it.

Village servants. As matters at present stand minor village officials are under the direct control of the Munsiff. If the Karnam has to avail himself of the services of such minor officers, the Karnam is at the mercy of the Munsiff. The Karnam has without any intervention of the Munsiff to submit weekly, fortnightly, monthly reports to the Tahasildars and Revenue Inspectors, besides the information which he now and then has to give to several other officers.

- (1) To find out by measurement ordinary irrigation and unauthorised irrigation and unauthorised occupation of Poramboke or waste lands and prepare accounts to show the same.
- (2) To find out deaths and births and the deaths of cattle in the village.
- (3) To prepare accounts of the number of cattle in the possession of the village ryot.
- (4) To find out nonvaccinated children in the village and prepare a list for the same.
- (5) To remark the exact position of survey stones.
- (6) To find out survey stones lost and to place new ones in their stead.

- (7) To make subdivisions of the village lands.
- (8) To varify Abkary T. T. forms.
- (9) To supply information to the Government officials.
- (10) To be informing the ryots of the extent of their fields and of the arrears due by them whenever required by them.
- (11) To prepare Kiakol and relinquishment application forms for the benefit of ryot.
- (12) To supply information to the revenue and D. P. W. officials regarding water applications.

These duties are to be performed by the Karnam alone. It is plain that to perform them satisfactorily and to take the village records with the Karnams whenever they leave their village, the service of these minor officers becomes necessary. As these minor officers have for long been kept under the direct control of the Village Munsiff the former have been led to think that they are the servants of the Munsiff alone, and that they are under no obligation to obey the Karnams. On many urgent occasions Karnams fail to secure their services and are unable to send in their accounts and reports in time to their superiors, and incur their displeasure.

Karnams leave villages at the risk of Government accounts falling into arrears. It is a well known fact that Karnams have now and then to leave their villages, either for the purposes of zamabandi, or of giving information to Government officers. During this time Karnams have to reside abroad for several days at the risk of the accounts being left unfinished, which are to be daily written by them as for e. g. death and Birth registers. The Karnam has to return home and make good the arrears. Therefore the petitioners humbly submit that matters would more properly be adjusted by directing the Munsiff or Monegar to keep these and similar accounts on their own responsibility during the absence of the Karnam from his village.

Stationery supplied to Karnams inadequate | The stationery allowed to Karnams, is inadequate as the supply is regulated by rules *in vogue* at the time when the accounts to be kept by Karnams were defined in the old Village Manual. According to the Manual now in force there is not only a multiplicity of accounts, but also the addition of several accounts, besides many returns which the Karnam has to send to his superiors. That to regulate the supply of stationery by rules, which were framed at a time when the duties of Karnams were meagre, is, Your Excellency's Memorialists submit, a little out of place and it thins to a considerable extent the already scanty salary of the Karnam.

Karnam leaving his village and turning at his own expense. | All persons who may have had some experience of the way in which Zamabandi is carried on here, cannot fail to perceive that Karnams are generally directed to leave their villages and to follow the Zamabandi officers in their tour. It is hardly necessary to mention, Your Excellency's Memorialists submit, that by following the said officers, and by living in hotels paying 6 as. per day they will hardly have anything left out of their pay to support their families at home. Petitioners humbly beg to submit that they would be considerably bettered if your Excellency's Government be pleased to sanction to their travelling allowance at the rate of four annas per day during the times of Zamabandy.

Karnams compelled to attend survey Examination every year. | It is a singular fact that though the Karnams are once declared eligible in the Survey Examination yet they are compelled to appear for the same Examination over and again. There are many other Examinations superior to, and more important and systematic than the Survey Examination as for example the University Examinations. In these Examinations when once a candidate is declared to have passed he is not only compelled to go up for the same, but on the other hand is debarred from appearing for it. Why the Karnams should be in a worse position than candidates for any of the other more im-

6
 portant Examinations, your Excellency's Memorialists cannot conceive but would only point out to your Excellency, the inconvenience and hardship they are subjected to by these yearly renewing Examinations. Even conceding that this examination is a practical one, Petitioners fail to understand, why this should be regulated by principles, other than those which guide any other practical Examination of the University.

Scanty pay of Karnams. Originally the pay of Karnams was determined so long ago as the year 1879 with reference to the then meagre duties of Karnams and the income which the Government then used to get. The pay fixed for a Karnam of the lowest class is Rs. 5. Should he be compelled to stay at the Taluk as would happen several times even his two month's pay would be insufficient to secure him proper food and lodging. During the last 17 years, the duties of Karnams have been multiplied in a manifold manner on account of the increased irrigation introduced in recent times, but their pay has not been in the slightest degree increased. In addition to the multiplication of duties Karnams are enjoined to look after special business, as the collection of Abkarry Revenue. The Village Munsiff is allowed commission for discharging special functions as for *e. g.* looking after *pound work*. But no such concession is allowed to the Karnam. Further the cess levied on a village exceeds by a great amount the cost incurred by Government in supporting the village establishment. Such a state of things at one time necessitated the reduction of the cess by a third and at another its complete abolition. In the Godavary District Karnams possess *service Inams* which are not to be found in this District. Under these circumstances, your Excellency's Memorialists beg to submit, that their pay is hardly adequate to enable them to maintain them and their families and can be increased without detriment to the interests of Government.

Village Munsiffs and Monogars. While such is the state of Karanams there are two other officers attached to almost all villages, viz the Munsiff and the Monegar. The duty of the former is to collect revenue from the ryots and that of the latter to keep the collected revenue with him and to forward it to Government Treasury. The business of collecting revenue does not extend to more than three to four months in the year. The remaining eight months of the year these officers have nothing to do. Though it is also enjoined on the Munsiff to look after civil and Magisterial work, it is very rarely that village Munsiffs discharge these duties, because we find that not more than ten or fifteen Munsiffs in the whole of this District discharge these functions. Apart from the collection of revenue which he has to perform jointly with the Munsiff, the Monegar has no other duty to perform. The accounts No. 13. 14. 15. 16. which relate thereto are to be written by the Karnam himself. The Monegar has simply to take the list of persons in arrears in paying revenue and to go and demand the same from the ryots.

Village Munsiffs and Managers to be directed to write accounts relating to the collection of revenue. As the duties of Karanams are being daily multiplied with the advance of times, Karanams are compelled to take much trouble on account of the preparation of the accounts. Therefore your Excellency's Memorialists beg to submit that great relief would be given to the Karanam if the accounts No. 13. 14. 15. 16. relating as they do to the collection of revenue are directed to be kept by the Munsiff and the Monegar on their own responsibility; that this course would ensure the speedy disposal of work without detriment to the interests of Government and by creating work to the idly kept up Monegar's.

In conclusion your Excellency's Memorialists humbly pray your Excellency to give their petition the due weight which it deserves and to give them some relief by:—

1. Apportioning their daily increasing work between the Munsiff and the Monegar.

2. Directing the Monegars to help the Karanam when the former have no work to do.

3. By holding the Munsiff and the Monegar alone responsible for the due collection of revenue.

4. By directing that some of the village servants be placed under the control of the Karanams and to obey the orders of the Karanam.

5. By directing the Munsiff and the Monegar to write certain accounts during the absence of Karanam from his village.

6. By directing the increase of stationery supplied to the Karanam.

7. By directing that travelling allowance be granted to the karanams when they leave their villages for the Taluq or to any other place under the orders of the Government.

8. By directing that Karanams who are once declared to have passed in the Survey Examination be not compelled to go up for the same again.

9. That the pays of karanams be increased in proportion to the increase of the duties of the karanam and to direct that the pay of karanams should range from Rs 15 to Rs. 30 per month and to do any other thing which your Excellency may be pleased to think, would alleviate the sufferings of your Excellency's humble Memorialists. For this Act of Kindness and charity, they shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

We beg to remain.

May it please your Excellency.

Your Excellency's most obedient Servants.

Date }
2-7-77 } Brahmarty
Suryanarayana
Curran of
Zajjhanam.

Handwritten text in Telugu script, likely a translation or commentary on the English text on the left. The text is written in a cursive style and covers the right side of the page.

When given for copying _____
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When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____ DATED _____
189 ,

CURRENT No. _____

ENCLOSURES TO C. No. _____

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A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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