Revenue (1897) Department.

ROUTINE SERIES.

G.O., No. 2362

DATED 18th Dec

[Despatch Abstract.]

Petition from B. S. Nataraja Sastri B.A.B.L and other Landholders of the villages of Kilikkudi in the Trichinopoly Taluq praying that their villages may be protected from floods disposed of under para II 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.

O
18 4,000—9-7-97.

Revenue (189 /) Department.

CURRENT No. 10808.

SP 18.12

Order R no. 2362 of 18-12-97

Transferred to the PWD (Irrigation Br.)

Para II C P Rules Board

Lis. 18/12/97

To The Collr.

The PWD (I).

(with Petn & enclosures)

Note: This petition is apparently intended for the PWD (Irrign. Br).

The Collr. dtd. 21-12-97 Recd 17.12.97.

From

B. J. Mahārāja Lachiy Bāiā & other Landholders of the Village of Kilikkudee Trichinopoly Taluk & Dist.

No.

Dated 12 Dec.

Received 15

Registered 16

Enclosures 3.

Spare copies. 3.

SUBJECT.

Praying that their village should be protected from floods by a strong embankment which of the lands in the village liable to submersion should be taken over by Govt & compensation be awarded and that a dam should be constructed across the irrigating channel (Nattu Vakkal).

V.R.S. 15.12.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To

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The humble petition of The Pattadars of the Village of Kilikkudu, in the Trichinopoly Taluq, in the Trichinopoly District

Respectfully sheweth as follows :—

1. The undersigned are Pattadars of the Village of Kilikkudu, in the Trichinopoly Taluq.

2. The Village is situated between the Cauvery and the Coleroon, in the Eastern end of what is known as the Srirangam Island. Government derives from the Village, under the new Settlement, a Land Revenue of over Rs. 3,000 per annum.

3. The Village is irrigated by the Nattu Vakkal. This channel passes through the Village, and falls into the Coleroon at the Eastern end of the Village. Probably owing to the rapid flow and the precipitous fall at the end, the channel has been digging out for itself a deeper and deeper bed, and also corroding and cutting down the wet lands on both sides. Already we find that for a large portion of the length of the Village (East to West), the water in the channel is ten or twelve feet below the level of the adjacent fields.

4. Under such circumstances, irrigation becomes an impossibility. The lands of the landholders on both sides are being rapidly destroyed and added to the channel. If no remedial measure is adopted, not only is this Village likely to fall out of cultivation, but the same evil will develop and affect in the same manner the adjacent Villages to the West irrigated by this channel.

5. The petitioners respectfully request that a dam or other construction may be raised across the Eastern end of the channel (Nattu Vakkal), near where it falls into the Coleroon. This will partially silt up, and thereby reduce the channel to its proper size and depth.

6. The petitioners also desire to draw your Honor's attention to the following matter, which is equally vital to the Village.

7. To the South of the Village lie the Cauvery river and the Grand Anicut. All the water coming over the old bund of the Anicut is let off into a stream which here runs from the Anicut to the Coleroon. This stream is also part of the Southern boundary of the Village.

8. The stream above-mentioned runs a few hundred yards from the Anicut directly north, presses with full force upon the Village, and then turns off to the East, where, after a short distance, it falls into the Coleroon. The current of water from this stream every year submerges the greater part of the Village.

9. The risk to which the Village was always subject from the water in this stream has enormously increased of late years by the construction of the Cauvery and Vennar Regulator, adjacent to the Grand Anicut. As the result of the action of the Regulator is to send only a limited quantity of water into the Cauvery and Vennar, in every season of high freshes, an immense volume of water flows into the stream from the Anicut. The water presses with terrible force upon this Village, inundating it, destroying the crops, and depositing large quantities of sand and earth upon the fields. The Cauvery also inundates the lands lying to the North of it and West of the Anicut.

108

10. We may mention as an instance that by the freshes of the present year (1896), nearly one-half of the wet lands of the Village have been covered with a deposit of sand from two to four feet thick. These lands are now lying fallow, and the sand can only be dug out at heavy expense. Nor is this case likely to be infrequent in future, seeing that the Cauvery is year by year getting silted, and there has also sprung up a tendency to send every year an increasing quantity of water into the Coleroon.

11. The landholders of this Village are thus being put to heavy loss, and already we find that the market value of lands is going down, while a feeling of despair has taken possession of the minds of the agricultural population.

12. The remedy which the petitioners respectfully venture to suggest for this state of things is that a sort of embankment or earthwork, protected by appropriate supports, may be erected along the Southern side of the Village, commencing from the old Anicut eastward down to the Eastern end of the Village;—and also a similar work for some distance along the Southern side of the Village, to the West of the Anicut.

13. Unless some such remedy is speedily adopted, and unless greater caution is shewn in letting off water from the Cauvery into the Coleroon, we humbly submit that the greater portion of wet lands in the Village will cease to be cultivated.

14. We have drawn your Honor's attention to the above facts in the hope that Government, which draws a considerable revenue from the Village under the new settlement, may also be pleased to shew us such mercy and indulgence as to grant our requests (mentioned above in paras 5 and 12). The works we have asked for are matters of sheer necessity.

The petitioners, therefore, respectfully beg that their requests may be granted and their suggestions given effect to.

For which act of kindness, the petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

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For which act of kindness, the petitioners will, as in duty bound, ever pray.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY
14 DEC 1897
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Enclosure A

Copy of a petition addressed by the landholders of Kilikkudu village, (in the Trichinopoly Taluq) to the Collector of Trichinopoly and the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly division, on the 5th December 1896.

Enclosure B.

Endorsement by the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly division, on the petition of the landholders of Kilikkudu, [Enclosure A.] dated 5th December 1896.

P. W. D.
Trichinopoly Division
No. 817. M.
15-12-96.

Memorandum.

Refer: their petition dated &c. &c.

The Executive Engineer is unable to take action in any matter mentioned by the Pattadars of Kilikkudu other than as regards the improvements to the Nattic Vaikal. He fully recognises the advantages which would accrue by such improvements, and it is his intention to take action in the matter when time permits.

(Signed) T. Subramania Ayya.
15-12-96

for Executive Engineer

To
B. S. Nataraja Sastry B.A.
and other ryots of
Kolikkudu village,
Trichy Taluq.

(True copy).

Enclosure B.

Copy of Endorsement by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Trichinopoly Division on Enclosure A (the previous petition of the Landholders of Kilikkudu).

Enclosure C.

Endorsement by the collector of Trichinopoly on the petition [Enclosure A] forwarded by the landholders of Kilikkudu village.

L. Dis. 30 of 97
Rev.

Endorsement

With reference to their petition dated 5-12-96 to the undersigned regarding the necessity to execute some protective works for the safety of their village, Sri. R. Ry. S. Nataraja Sastri and other ryots of Kilikkudu, Trichinopoly Taluq, are referred to the Endorsement sent to them by the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly Division, in his Dis. 817. M. 15-12-96.

Trichinopoly Collector's office 7-1-97

(Signed) T. Sundara Row
for Ag. Collector

(True copy).

1897
Engineer's No.
Queen's No.

Enclosure C.

Copy of Endorsement by the Collector of Trichinopoly on Enclosure A (the petition of the landholders of Kilikkudu).

PETITION

0992

To REVENUE DEPT

INDIA COURT FEE LABEL

His Excellency The Governor-in-council of Fort. St. George

CHIEF SECRETARY GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS 14 DEC 1897

The Humble Petition of the LANDHOLDERS OF THE VILLAGE OF KILIKKUDU, IN THE TRICHINOPOLY TALUQ, IN THE TRICHINOPOLY DISTRICT.

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH AS FOLLOWS:—

The undersigned are landholders of the Village of Kilikkudu, in the Trichinopoly Taluq.

2. The village is situated between the Cauvery and the Coleroon, in the eastern end of what is known as Srirangam Island. Government derives from the village, under the new Settlement, a land revenue of over Rs. 3,000 per annum.

3. The village runs east to west in length, tapering to a point at its eastern extremity. The Grand Anicut lies to the south of the eastern portion of the village. All the water coming over the old bund of the Anicut is let off into a stream which here runs from the Anicut to the Coleroon. This stream runs about three hundred yards from the Anicut directly north, pressing with full force on the eastern portion of the village, and then turns off to the east, where, after following for about three furlongs the southern boundary of the village, it falls into the Coleroon.

4. Prior to the construction of the Cauvery Vennar Regulator in 1887, a comparatively small quantity of water used to flow through the above outlet from the Cauvery into the Coleroon. As the volume of water so flowing was not excessive, the village (of Kilikkudu) did not suffer any particular injury.

5. The construction of the Cauvery Vennar Regulator, about the year 1887, has however entirely changed the previously existing state of things. The regulator consists of a bridge built over the river, with screw-shutters covering the entire breadth of the river. If the shutters are closed, very little water can pass into the Cauvery or Vennar to the east of the regulator.

6. One of the chief objects of the regulator is to protect the Tanjore District in case of large floods in the Cauvery, by closing the shutters and thus making the great mass of flood-water pass by the outlet over the Grand Anicut into the Coleroon. This is precisely what was done in the heavy flood of July 1896, and in other big floods which have appeared since the construction of the regulator.

7. The action of the regulator in heavy floods has been highly disastrous to the lands in the village of Kilikkudu. The great mass of flood water (prevented by the regulator shutters from flowing into the Cauvery or Vennar) passes out by the outlet over the Anicut, presses upon the village with terrible force and submerges the greater portion of the village. For days together, the village is under several feet of water, growing crops are rendered useless, and, when the floods at last subside, the lands are covered with a deposit of sand vary-

ing from two to five feet in thickness. In fact the fields are no longer recognisable. Several fields bordering on the outlet from the Anicut are destroyed and added to the river-bed. These results were most noticeable in the floods of July 1896, but the same results again appeared in the flood of July, August 1897.

8. To remove the silt from the fields and make the latter cultivable is a task of the greatest difficulty and entails enormous cost. If the flooding and silting occur year after year or with any frequency (as they do now), not even the most persevering and wealthy landholder can be expected to dig up his fields at considerable cost, with the disheartening prospect of his work being undone by the floods of the following year.

9. The result is that lands are being practically rendered uncultivable. What previously were fertile and smiling fields have now changed to sandy wastes. It is not to be wondered at that under the circumstances landholders are possessed with something like a feeling of despair. If no remedy is adopted, a large portion of the village is likely to fall out of cultivation.

10. That these results are due to the action of the Cauvery Vennar regulator there can be no manner of doubt. It may be true that it is of the utmost importance to the safety of the Tanjore District that the regulator shutters should be closed during floods, and water forced into the Coleroon. But the benefit to the Tanjore District cannot justify the destruction of our property and the conversion of our fields into a sandy desert. It is small consolation to the landholders of Kilikkudu, who see their lands destroyed and rendered uncultivable to know that, though they may suffer, the Tanjore District has benefited.

11. It is obvious that, if the Cauvery Vennar regulator is to be kept up as at present, the village of Kilikkudu will always remain subject to the risks and losses described above. To keep up the Regulator therefore——without erecting works for the adequate protection of the village from floods——is (in effect) to destroy the lands in that portion of the village which suffers directly from the flood-water passing over the Anicut.

12. While on the one hand it will be admitted that this is a serious injury to the lands of petitioners, it is on the other hand not probable that Government will consent to remove the Cauvery Vennar regulator. The solution of the difficulty which the petitioners, in all deference, venture to suggest is that (*a*) either the village should be adequately protected from floods by a strong embankment or otherwise, or (*b*) such of the lands in the village as are liable to submersion during floods should be taken over by Government, and the landholders awarded compensation (assessed on the market value) in respect of those lands. The extent of such lands is about fifty acres.

13. The petitioners request Government to give their most careful consideration to the proposal above made. The petitioners are confident that Government will see that no amount of benefit accruing to one section of the public can be a justification for the destruction of the property of another section. The petitioners are willing to consent to any proper and equitable arrangement which Government may suggest in this matter.

14. If however Government does not agree to some measure for protecting the village from floods or some equitable arrangement of compensation to the landholders, petitioners will be reluctantly compelled to institute a suit in a Civil Court to try the question whether Government has a right to keep up the regulator in such a manner as to render useless and destroy the lands in Kilikkudu.

The petitioners hope that Government will redress their grievances by a favourable order on this petition, and thus save the petitioners from the unpleasant necessity of resorting to litigation.

15. The petitioners also wish to draw the attention of Government to another matter which is essential for the proper cultivation of lands in the village, and which is dwelt on in paras 2 to 5 of a petition [Herein enclosed—Enclosure A] which the landholders of the village forwarded to the Collector of Trichinopoly and the Executive Engineer of Trichinopoly Division about the end of 1896. The suggestion made in that portion of the petition—viz that a dam should be constructed across the irrigating channel (Nattu Vakkal)—has been approved of by the Executive Engineer of Trichinopoly Division, who says in his Endorsement [Enclosure B.] that "he fully recognises" the advantages which would accrue by such improvements and it is his intention "to take action in the matter when time permits." But this very necessary Irrigation work has not yet been commenced. It is not likely to cost much, and without it cultivation in the village is becoming impossible. The petitioners request that Government may issue orders for the immediate construction of this work.

16. The petitioners, in conclusion, respectfully beg that Government may be pleased to grant their requests mentioned above in paras 12 and 15.

For which act of kindness, the petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

12th December 1897.

B. S. Nataraja Sastry B.A. B.L.

Abbaystandu

This petition has also been forwarded to
The Board of Revenue, Madras.
The chief Engineer for Irrigation, Madras.
The collector of Trichinopoly District
& The Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Trichinopoly Division.

N.B. It is requested that the reply may be addressed to:—
B. S. Nataraja Sastry B.A. B.L.
Landholder, Kilikkudu
Trichinopoly Taluq.

Petition
to His Excellency
the Governor-in-council
of Fort St. George

by the landholders
of the village of
Kilikkudu
in the Trichinopoly Taluq,
Trichinopoly District

With three Enclosures
A, B, & C.

When given for copying ____
When copied ____
When examined ____
When signed ____
} 189

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

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
LETTER OF GOVERNMENT							
STATEMENT WITH DITTO							
PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.							

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
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