

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3786

DATED 22nd July

[Despatch Abstract.]

According to petition from one Mr. T. Ratnam
forwarding a petition on behalf of the Pancha-
mas & other depressed classes of Madayambakkam
village, Chingleput Dist. praying for redress
of their grievances.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (189) Department.

CURRENT No. 6035

22/7/97

From J. Ratnam,
Madras.

Order Mis. No. 3486 of 22nd July 1897.

Revised
22/7/97

No.

Dated 13th July 1897.

Received 16/7/97

Registered 16/7/97

Enclosures

Spare copies

List.

Note: This is simply copy of a petition sent to the Sub-Comr of Chingleput. No action on the part of Govt seems called for at present.

AK
19/7/97

SUBJECT.

Forwarding a petition on behalf of the Panchamas & other depressed classes of Madayambaram village, Chingleput St, praying for redress of their grievances.

18/7/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

CHIEF SECRETARY
14 JUL 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

To

THE SUB-COLLECTOR OF THE CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT,
CHINGLEPUT.

The Humble Petition of the Panchamas and other depressed people of the Village of Madayambaukam, in the Taluq of Madurantakam, Chingleput District.

SIR,

We the undersigned beg most respectfully to bring to your kind notice the grievances we are suffering from, trusting heartily that this our humble petition will be attended to and be crowned with success.

2. We belong to the depressed classes of the Hindu community and have been for many generations settled in the village of Madayambaukam.

3. Most of us are Panchamas and a few are Pallies and Goundans, and our chief living is cultivation.

4. We have been tilling and enjoying in the village of Madayambaukam certain pieces of land, which have come to our possession from our ancestors. Neither did our ancestors nor did we ever execute *muchalikas* to the *mirasidars* of the village of Madayambaukam though we have been enjoying the lands on the terms of *varam*.

5. In 1896 we learned that the Government was prepared to give to the depressed people lands for cultivation, when we jointly made a *darkhast* in the usual form for certain numbers of waste land in the village of Madayambaukam. The Tahsildar of the taluq of Madurantakam in his No. $\frac{733}{25-1-96}$ informed us that we should make our application *not jointly but severally*.

6. As it is very expensive to make application individually, and as we are too poor to meet the *darkhast* expenses, we selected five of our number and each of the selected forwarded in February 1896 his application for certain waste lands in the village of Madayambaukam.

7. The applicants were summoned to be present before the Tahsildar at his *catcheri* in Madurantakam on January 6th, 1897, for the disposal of their applications.

8. In accordance with the summonses from the Tahsildar, the applicants attended the *catcheri* on the appointed day. But to their great surprise they were neither called for nor heard. However some time after, they were served with notices informing them that the lands applied for were reserved for forest and that therefore their applications were rejected.

9. Ever since we attempted to *darkhast* for lands in the village of Madayambaukam, the *mirasidars* of the village have become hostile to us and have injured us in various ways which are indescribable. However a few of the injuries they have done to us we beg to mention here:—

(i) The lands which we have been cultivating from time immemorial have been forcibly taken away from our possession and we have thus been left in starvation.

(ii) Six *ambarams* of paddy were forcibly carried away from the granary of one of us named Kutti Goundan. (This was in the month of Vaiyasi, May or June 1896.)

(iii) In the month of last Arpasi (October 1896) a mob of 20 men instigated by the *mirasidars* entered the house of Kutti Goundan, beat him and burnt the house.

(iv) Having no land for cultivation in the village of Madayambaukam, Kutti Goundan got a piece of land on the terms of *varam* in one of the neighbouring villages called Perambaukam. One day Kutti Goundan was taking manure from Madayambaukam to Perambaukam, when he was attacked, severely beaten and his cart and oxen were carried away. (This was done on Friday, 5th Tai (January 1897.) The cart and the oxen and two of his ploughing oxen are now in possession of the *mirasidars*. Kutti Goundan thereupon filed a criminal suit against the persons who attacked him and their abettors. The Magistrate sent the case to the Police for investigation and report. The Police neither called for nor heard the complainant nor examined his witnesses. Upon the Police having submitted their report to the Magistrate, the case was struck off from the file of his court.

(v) The vacant portion of our *nattam* granted by the Government for the sites of our houses has been taken by force by the *mirasidars* and is being used by them for cultivation.

(vi) The manure that we gather for our cultivation is taken away by force.

(vii) The *mirasidars* take by force the milk and other products of our cows.

(viii) The wells which we use for drawing water are obstructed.

(ix) Our cattle are taken to pound if they graze in our *karambu* lands or in the *meisalkal* and we have thereby lost about Rs. 40. On one occasion some of our cattle were not taken to pound but were kept in charge of the Munsiff, Kandaswami Naickan, and the Vettiyan, Muttan, who did not let them go with us until we deposited with them some jewels which are still with them.

(x) About 25 of our trees of different kinds were cut down and taken away.

10. The ex-Tahsildar, Mr. Rajapatham Mudaliar, visited the village on March 22nd, 1897, when we reported to him our grievances. He said that the *mirasidars* would treat us in the manner we complained of if we made *darkhast* for lands and tried to become *pattadars* and that we should submit ourselves to their will and command.

11. We have lost everything we had both on person and in property and have nothing to live on or depend upon for our maintenance.

12. We have made several attempts and taken the usual course to seek a remedy for our grievances, but we have without an exception been disappointed throughout by the subordinate native authorities.

13. We have in our possession a bundle of papers which are the only award we have had in all our attempts to *darkhast* for lands and to report our grievances to the native subordinate authorities.

14. We can hardly get justice or relief from the hands of native authorities who have much caste prejudice and are always inclined to favor the caste and well-to-do people.

15. Some of our number have already left the village and gone elsewhere to eke out their livelihood.

16. The Munsiff of the village is a paid Government servant but is also serving the *mirasidars* who give him a certain pay every month and have given him a grant of *maniam*. This irregularity of the Munsiff's is at the bottom of all the evils and injuries done to us.

17. We assure you that each and every atom of our complaints and grievances has good and well founded grounds for its proof.

18. We are too poor to take further steps in a court of justice nor are we able to submit our applications in the usual form for grant of lands for our living.

19. We are illiterate and are apt to be deceived by the caste people. We have therefore resolved to represent to higher authorities our grievances through the medium of an agent. We have accordingly under the virtue of a *muchalika* appointed Mr. Jno. T. Ratnam, Manager, Native Ragged Industrial School, Nungumbaukam, Madras, as our agent, who is from this time forward our authorized agent to appear, to speak, to write, to sign and to do everything on our behalf in connection with our business.

20. We most humbly and respectfully request that you will be good enough

(a) To recognize the said Mr. Jno. T. Ratnam as our duly constituted agent to whom all replies or papers in connection with our business are desired to be directed and addressed from this date forward and to accept his representation on our behalf.

(b) To make it convenient as early as possible to pay a visit to our village, Madayambaukam, in order to see with your own eyes our disabilities and very degraded and deplorable condition and to satisfy yourself whether the lands we have applied for are reserved for forest or not.

(c) To hold an investigation in the village in connection with the several injuries done to us by the *mirasidars*.

(d) To try yourself the criminal case referred to in para. 9 (iv).

(e) To order the *mirasidars* to give back to us without any condition

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(f) To grant to every family of us some waste land for our

(g) To make the necessary arrangements with the *mirasidars* and

21. In conclusion we pray that you will be graciously pleased to take

MADAYAMBAUKAM,
MADURANTAKAM TALUQ,
10th July 1897.

We beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient servants,

PETITION

143 Kuegumburkam,
Madras, July 13, 1897.

From

CHIEF SECRETARY
14 JUL 1897
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Mr. J. J. R. R. R.
Manager, R. R. R.

Manager, Ragged Industrial School,
143 Nungambaukann, Madras.

The Chief Secretary to Government of Madras,
Cotacmunda.

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On behalf of the Panchamas and other depressed people of the village of Madayambaukham in the ~~village~~ taluk of Madurantakam, Chingleput District, I, as their duly constituted agent, have the honor to forward you herewith a copy of their humble petition to the Subcollector of the District

Shave the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Geo. L. Katsane

Manager,
Native Rugged Industrial School,
143 Annamalai Street, Madras.