

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 5100

DATED 29 Sept^r

[Despatch Abstract.]

Coming to the Board of Revenue from the Govt of India regarding improvement of the position of Revenue in this Presy with the request that the proposition statement may be submitted at an early date.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	474-5		18-6-97				

FURTHER PAPERS.

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1897.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

LAND-REVENUE.

File No. 246 of 1897.

Serial No. 2.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. $\frac{2079}{246-2}$.

Dated Simla, the 8th September 1897.

SUBJECT.

Improvement of the position of Karnams in the Madras Presidency.

No. $\frac{2079}{246-2}$.

FROM

DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
Land Revenue.

Simla, the 8th September 1897.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 475, dated the 18th June 1897, in which you put forward proposals for improving the position of Karnams in the Madras Presidency by fixing their scale of pay at :—

<i>Beria.</i>					<i>Rate of pay.</i>
Rs.	Rs.				Rs.
2000, but under	4,000	...	...	...	8
4,000 "	8,000	...	...	...	10
8,000 "	12,000	...	...	...	12
12,000 and above	...	...	...	...	15

2. In view of the importance of the work which the Karnams are now required to perform, the Government of India agree with the Governor in Council that it is necessary to increase the pay of these officers.

3. It is observed that the revised scheme will ultimately involve an additional expenditure of more than two and a half lakhs of rupees per annum for twenty districts; but that at present it is proposed to introduce it from 1st July 1897 into thirteen districts only at an extra cost of Rs. 12,430 a month, or Rs. 1,49,160 per annum.

4. The additional cost will be met in equal proportion from the General Revenues and from the Village Service Fund under sections 8 and 9 of Madras Act, IV of 1893; but it appears from your letter that for a few years the additional cost can be met from accumulated balances without raising the rate of cess or the amount of contribution payable by Government.

5. As regards the question raised in paragraph 6 of your letter, whether in the matter of establishments paid from the Village Service Fund the powers of sanction of Local Governments are limited to the extent indicated in Chapter 17 of the Civil Account Code, Volume I, I am to remind the Government of Madras

of the general principle that the exercise by Local Governments of powers conferred on them by Indian legislation is subject to the statutory control of the Secretary of State and of the Government of India. One of the orders prescribing the measure of this statutory control is the Financial Resolution No. 916-Ex., dated 4th March 1893, a reference to which will shew that in the present case the sanction of the Secretary of State is required since the proposals relate to a revision of establishment that involves additional expenditure of more than Rs. 25,000 a year. The Government of India are prepared to recommend the general proposal to His Lordship as soon as the proposition statement required by Article 57, note 2, of the Civil Account Code, Volume I, is received. They do not think, however, that the proposal presents great urgency; and under the special circumstances of the present year, they are not prepared to recommend its introduction with earlier effect than the 1st January 1898.

6. I am however to observe for consideration of His Excellency in Council that the present practice and apparently the future intention in Madras are that the pay of the Karnams should be local and not personal, that is to say, attached to the circle, and not to the individual. I am to say that experience in other provinces has shewn that any system which attaches a particular pay to a particular circle is open to very serious objection which has led to its very general abandonment. It follows from such a system that even when hereditary claims do not stand in the way, the pay of a deserving man cannot be raised or that of an inefficient man be reduced without moving him from a circle with which he is intimately acquainted to another of which he knows nothing, and that when a vacancy occurs in a highly paid circle, it is almost inevitably necessary to move men from one circle to another to the great disadvantage of all the circles concerned. Or again if, as is probably the usual case in the Madras Presidency, the heir succeeds, it means that an inexperienced youth is drawing higher pay than an old and proved servant, and that there is no means of rewarding good service. The plan that has, in other provinces, been substituted for pay attached to circles, is to fix the number in and the pay of each grade in each district or sub-division of a district, and to promote or reduce individual Karnams from grade to grade according to merit and as vacancies occur.

7. The Government of India fully recognise that there may very possibly be practical difficulties in the way of anything like a sudden revolution in the existing system. But I am to request that the matter may receive careful consideration, and to say that it would be a matter of satisfaction to them to be assured that His Excellency in Council concurs in the advisability of the change and is prepared to introduce it gradually as may be conveniently possible. In that case they would request Her Majesty's Secretary of State to so frame his sanction as to cover either form of graduation of pay.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Langford

Secretary to the Government of India.

Read C.N. 8151 of 1897

G.P. No 5100 d/29 Sept 97

Communicated
to the Board of Revenue
with the request that
the Proposition statement
called for in para 5 of
the letter may be sub-
mitted at an early
date. It is also re-
quested to report on
the suggestion in
para 6.

JG
28/9/97

4/9/97

To the Bd of Rev
(L.R.)

2-10-97

Note.

It is not clear how
in this Presidency the
suggestion in para 6
of the G.P. letter can
be adapted. The
pay varies with the
amount of work ^{to be} done
and there are questions
of hereditary right

28/9/97

also ~~except~~ to consider,
except in a few of
the districts. But the
Board's views may
be awaited.

(A.
25 Sep 97)

The proposal chiefly put is to
have the Komans leaving their
permanent & hereditary claims
untouched. The proposal is I
think quite feasible. Whether
it is desirable is another question
which can be best examined
on receipt of the B.O. report.

27.9.97

When given for copying _____
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When examined _____
When signed _____

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READ AGAIN G.O., No
189

DATED

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