

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 210.

Confidential 1007.

Dated 15 January 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording B.O. submitting letter from the Dy. Commr.
S. D. reporting on the subject of the alleged general
complaint of extortion by all persons on the Cochin coast
frontier.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Min	5021	Rev	24-9-97				

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

CONFIDENTIAL.

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 11111-

Confidential No 119

From

The Secretary to the Com-

Order Min No 210 8/5 Jan 1898
Commissioner of Salt, abkri ad Sepa-
rate Revenue, Madras.

Recorded.

Mis. No. 5585.

To the Board of Rev
(S.D)

From orders

KO
14/11/98

Dated 17th December 1897.

Received 28

Registered 29

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting to Government, with re-
marks, letter from the Deputy Comis-
sioner, Southern Division, reporting
on the subject of alleged general
complaints of extortion by salt
peons on the Cochin-Palghat Frontier.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Ms	5021	Rev	24-9-97

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. No. 11,111.

To Secy.

Para 20 of the Report on native newspapers for the fortnight ending 31st May 1897, contains the following statement—that on the Cochin-Palghat Road the Abkari peons levied blackmail from passengers by ^{forcibly} putting arrack bottles into their hands and falsely charging them with carrying spirituous liquors without license. H. E. the Governor directed that an enquiry should be made about this. (G.O. 3207 d/ 25-6-97.) In reply to this, the Dy. Commr. of Salt & Abkari Revenue stated that it was impossible to report on the allegations made in the absence of information as to the name of the officer complained against or of the complainant. H. E. observed that the Dy. Commissioner might have ascertained if there was any general complaint of the sort and if there was any likelihood of the allegation being true. A further report was accordingly called for. (G.O. 5021 d/ 24-9-97). This report is submitted in the above current.

2. The Dy. Commissioner now reports as follows:-

"The Asst. Commissioner further remarks that he has conversed with several people officially engaged about the frontier and has not heard of anything in the nature of a general complaint." In his opinion, complaints of extortion by the Salt and Abkari peons arise out of friction ^{caused by} said to have arisen from the arrest of one Kompa ^{a native of Cochin territory} for smuggling. Two charges

were brought against the Abkari peons, ^{by the Cochin people,} one a charge of rape and another, a charge of having extorted money. The first case is still under magisterial enquiry; the second case was disposed of by the conviction of the Abkari Jamadar, but the conviction was quashed by the Appellate authority on the ground that there was no evidence whatever on the subject. The Abkari Dept. on the other hand, brought a counter-charge of assault against the Cochin people, who were convicted by the Sub-ordinate magistrate. On appeal, however, the conviction was reversed on certain technical grounds. The Dy. Commissioner is of opinion that there are far too many cases of smuggling for the Abkari peons to concoct ^{one} ~~in~~ and that the danger to be feared is lest they should hush them up, not that they concoct them.

3. For orders as to whether the current may be recorded.

5/1/98

M. D.

The pp. may be recorded

8/1/98

ASH 11.1.98

To Secy

Please see drafted order on the current

below.

KD

14/1/98

2.0 6487
18-12-97

(1/1/97)
(2/1/98)



Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

(Separate Revenue.)

Dated 17th December

1897.

Mis. No. 5585.

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Read the following letter from the Deputy Commissioner Southern Division, No. 6073, dated 14th December 1897:-

"With reference to Board's Proceedings Mis. No. 4294, dated 1st October 1897, communicating Government Order No. 5021, dated 24th September 1897, I have the honor to state that, during the month of April, there was no doubt considerable friction between the Cochin inhabitants and our men on the frontier. This friction is stated to have arisen from the arrest of one Kempen, and on his being convicted for smuggling the villagers brought a charge of rape alleging that two Salt peons had raped one Achi who appears to have been the paramour of the said Kempen, vide correspondence ending with Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 4927, dated 8th November 1897. This case was reported on by Mr. Sherman to the District Magistrate, Malabar, after an enquiry and so far as is yet known, the District Magistrate has not thought fit to proceed in the matter. There was at the same time a counter-charge of assault laid by our men against the same villagers; the subordinate ~~was~~

6487

18-12-97

Magistrate convicted, but Mr. Austin, the Head Assistant Magistrate, is reported to have reversed his finding on certain technical grounds. (The matter will be reported on receipt of the records in the case).

2. There was another case at the beginning of May brought against the Jemadar of the post at Shoranur, who was charged with extortion. He was convicted by the Second class magistrate Cherplas-
seri, but the case was quashed by the Senior Assistant magistrate who held that there was no evidence whatever to warrant a conviction.

5. Since then Mr. Sherman reports that he has heard of no complaints, though he would not be surprised to hear of considerable friction at Shoranur, as 4 Cochin stills have been opened a short distance from the bridge and those are being carefully watched. Complaints against frontier men must be expected if they do their duty, and it is my firm opinion that far too many cases of smuggling occur for our men to concoct any; ~~but~~ the danger to be feared is lest they hush them up, not that they concoct them.

4. The Assistant Commissioner further remarks that he has conversed with several people officially engaged about the frontier and has not heard of any thing in the nature of a general complaint; he states that the present Choughat magistrate is convinced that smuggling goes on and that the wealthy land owners escape as they never smuggle in person, and every time that the interests of such are affected by a successful seizure, the odium of the Frontier Force increases.

5. As I have before had the honor of remarking, the people of this neighbourhood are never backward in bringing real grievances to the notice of the proper authorities and it is generally false complaints that are brought anonymously to notice through the agency of the vernacular press".

Resolution.

Submitted to Government with reference to Government Order Mis. No. 5021, Revenue, dated 24th September 1897

2. The Board concurs in the Deputy Commissioner's remarks in para 5 of his letter.

(True copy and extract)

W. Woodie
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

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, BRING MRANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

B.F.—

A = Copy in full.
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