

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4942

DATED 14th December 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Referring to the B^d. of Rev. for report a
memorial from certain purchases in auction
sales held by Govt. of ^{waste} lands irrigated by the
Periyar water in the Maunra taluk of the
Maunra district.

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 4,000-10-98.

Revenue (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 8227

Sp 14/12/98

Read Memorial d. 25-11-98 addressed to H.E. the Govr. by the Honble V. Bashyam Aiyangar M.L. and other purchasers of Periyar waste lands in auction sales held by Govt.

Order Misc No 49428/1411 Dec 1898

The Private Secretary to H. & to Govr.

The memorial read above will be referred to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Revenue Sett. Depts) for a full ~~reconsideration~~ report, which should be submitted at an early date.

No. -

Dated. 30th Nov.
Received 1st Dec.
Registered 2nd ..
Enclosures 2 .
Spare copies. 2

SUBJECT.

Forwarding for disposal a
semi-official letter from the Honble
Mr. V. Bashyam Aiyangar enclosing
a memorial from the purchasers of
waste lands under the Periyar Project
in the Madurai D. requesting that
certain facilities ^{and concessions} may be afforded to
and that certain difficulties experienced
by them may be removed.

To the B. of Rev. L.R., with the orgl.
memorial.
" " " " " Rev. Sett., with a
copy of the memorial.

14.
12-12-98.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

Friday 30th Nov 1898.

My dear Foster,

His Excellency wishes me to forward you the enclosed for official disposal.

*Yours faithfully,
H. Foster*

BACK PAPERS

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

To,

His Excellency

SIR ARTHUR ELIBANK HAVELOCK,

G. C. M. G., G. C. I. E., GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

FORT ST. GEORGE,

MADRAS.

The humble memorial by the undersigned purchasers in auction sales held by Government, of lands irrigated by the Periyar water in the Madura Taluq of the Madura District.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH:—

1. Your excellency's memorialists have purchased assessed waste lands in Government auction, to be newly brought under wet cultivation with the aid of the Periyar water.
2. The cost and trouble of reclaiming these lands are very great. The paucity of sufficient labourers at the localities of sale, and the difficulty of procuring labour from abroad make the process of reclamation one of prolonged delay and heavy expense. It is not practicable, in the present state of circumstances, for the purchasers, to bring the whole of their newly purchased lands under nunjah cultivation in the current fusi.
3. There are, at present, no roads leading to some villages where the lands to be reclaimed lie, and where there are, they are in a bad and imperfect condition.
4. No proper house sites in suitable localities are available for the habitation of the purchasers, their agents, tenants and labourers in the villages in which the lands have been purchased, and where such sites are available, they are extremely meagre.
5. Tenants are not available at or near some of the villages for bringing the newly purchased lands under cultivation and they have to be procured from distant places. This involves considerable trouble and cost to the purchasers.
6. After reclamation the purchasers are confronted with great difficulties in procuring manure for their lands. It is well known that in bringing waste lands for the first time under nunjah cultivation different kinds of manure have to be used in great abundance, and as the manures are not available near the villages they have to be procured from long distances at considerable cost; and such cost is further enhanced by the fact that there are no proper roads or paths for carrying the manures, and portions of existing roads and paths are in very bad condition.
7. The Durkast and other rules on the subject of the grant or sale of Government lands, as they stand at present, preclude revenue officers from granting sites to the

purchasers themselves for the habitation of their labourers and tenants for cattle-stand and threshing floor, and for raising green manure. As a general rule, labourers and tenants can be induced to come from distant places only after the necessary huts and other buildings have been erected for them and their cattle. The existing rules, therefore, have to be relaxed in favour of the purchasers under the Periyar project, so as to allow of the requisite land for house-sites, cattle-stand, threshing floor etc. being granted to the purchasers themselves either tax-free or subject to a light dry assessment. In cases where it may not be feasible to allot such lands and more particularly in the case of purchasers of large extent of land, the purchasers should be allowed to utilize a suitable portion of the lands purchased by them for the above purposes, such portion being exempted from tax or assessed with a light dry rate.

Besides, there being no green manure available in the vicinity of most of the villages, the difficulty can only be met by growing Avari, Kolinji, Indigo, &c. in the villages themselves. But, as in the present state of things the requisite area of land for the purpose is not available, the purchasers may be allowed to grow such plants on portions of their lands, such portions being for a term of at least five years exempted from tax or subjected only to a light dry assessment.

8. The extent of land already set apart for pasturage in the villages is barely sufficient for the cattle and sheep required for the land hitherto under cultivation; but as the area of cultivation is now being vastly extended owing to the sale of lands under the Periyar project, it is absolutely necessary that there should be a corresponding increase in the pasturage land. The hill and forest tracts that may be serviceable for pasturage and manure leaves are at a great distance and unconnected by a direct road with several villages in which lands have been purchased.

9. Again, the irrigation system is in a bad and imperfect condition. The branch channels, off-takes, and distributaries of the Periyar water are in many places in an incomplete state. Their capacity in some places is too small for the area expected to be irrigated by them, and their bunds have to be very much strengthened. In some places, no sluices are constructed, and where they are, they are mostly of a tentative nature, not being constructed after forming a correct estimate of the area to be irrigated by each. The bunds and by-washes of the channels being new, full quantity of water is not allowed to flow through the channels lest they should breach. In some places, small channels are not yet opened for the irrigation of the land sold. The supply of water for the first crop of the current fusli is, in consequence, fraught with delay and uncertainty.

10. (a) Several waste lands purchased in auction sale have to be subdivided by curnams, and sub-division sketches prepared by them, for the use of the ryots and Government. Some lands form portions of a survey number or of the several letters of a survey number. Field stones are fixed for survey numbers alone, and no land-mark exists for all or some of the

letters of a survey number, and none at all for the portions thereof now, sold in Government auction. So the lands purchased cannot be identified and measured with certainty and without dispute, and the purchasers have to be guided by and submit to the ipse dixit of the curmums. Such survey numbers have to be properly sub-divided and sub-division sketches prepared for them, showing the exact position and extent of each of the purchased portions of a survey number.

- (b) Again, some plots now purchased are contiguous to plots previously granted to others on Durkast both being comprised in one and the same survey number. These portions have to be identified and measured, and sub-division sketch prepared to show the exact position and the extent of each.
- (c) Thirdly, some survey numbers are intersected by paths, roads, channels, tankbeds and rocks, and they are not, therefore, wholly cultivable. The uncultivable portion has to be properly identified and measured, and such uncultivable portion has to be deducted from the whole survey number, and refund of purchase money has to be given for the extent to be so deducted. This necessitates the preparation of sub-division sketches showing the positions of such excluded portions of a survey number.
- (d) Besides, the lands have to be identified by sub-division sketches for being accepted as security for loans granted by Government, and applications for loans are pending, and grant of loans delayed, and several purchasers are consequently subjected to great pecuniary difficulties.

11. Under the present circumstances, surveyors and additional overseers, Revenue Inspectors and curmums have to be appointed to have the various kinds of work done without delay in connection with several waste lands sold in auction, and the local Revenue officers have to cooperate with the D. P. W. officers for removing the several difficulties of the purchasers; and the Durkast and other rules have to be relaxed or modified, and new rules, if necessary, have to be framed.

12. While such is the case in regard to lands already put up to sale, new lands are being sold in rapid succession which tends to augment the already existing difficulties of the purchasers. The difficulties of the purchasers of even good lands are greatly enhanced by the fact of large tracts of land being sold and brought under nunjah cultivation at one and the same time in a limited area. And with respect to lands which are bad or inferior, the difficulties to be over-come by the purchasers are in some cases insurmountable, that they will be compelled to relinquish the same.

13. The attempt made in the last fusli by a few of the purchasers to raise nunjah produce on lands, then newly purchased, proved a complete failure.

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14. This year, the Periyar water was supplied late in the season, and no second crop can be raised even on lands on which it would otherwise have been practicable to do so.

15. In bringing waste lands for the first time under nunjah cultivation the surface earth has to be dug up sometimes more than one or two feet deep and the whole field has to be levelled. It is known from experience that lands thus newly brought under nunjah cultivation, unlike lands which have been under nunjah cultivation for some years, yield but a small produce in spite of the expenses incurred and care and labour bestowed upon them. It is only after a careful cultivation for a few successive years, that such lands begin to yield something like an ordinary crop and can bear the burden of the full assessment thereon.

16. Having regard to the above facts, it is usual for the proprietors of Zemindary and Inam lands to grant waste lands on what are known as progressive cowlis under which the ryots bring waste lands under nunjah cultivation paying rent according to a graduated scale which reaches the full nunjah rent at the expiration of five years or more.

17. It is unlikely that the yield of the waste lands sold will cover even the cultivation expenses in the first year or such expenses and the teerva in the second year. It is only after a considerable number of years, that any fair net income can be realised.

18. While such is the case, the above lands are classed as double crop lands, and double crop assessment (i.e.) full wet rate assessment for the first crop and half of that for the second is made compulsarily payable whether a second crop is raised or not. No doubt, a concession is made in favour of the purchasers, in that half the assessment alone is made payable for the first crop raised on the land after the purchase, whether such first crop be raised in the first year or the second year of the purchase. In classing these lands as double crop wet, an imaginary and unfounded superiority has been assigned to these comparatively inferior lands over the long standing Ayacut nunjahs of the same village which are only classed as single crop lands, and for which, double crop assessment is not charged unless a second crop is actually raised. Fields on which one crop has been grown will not be generally fit for a second crop unless they are kept dry for sometime and well supplied with manure. This observation applies with peculiar force to waste lands newly brought under nunjah cultivation.

19. For the foregoing reasons, it is very necessary and proper that these waste lands should be classed as single crop lands and assessment for the second crop levied only when the second crop is raised thereon. Old Ayacut nunjahs adjoining these waste lands are classed as single crop lands, and are liable, as already stated, to pay second crop assessment only if a second crop is in fact raised. While there is this advantage in the case of Ayacut nunjah lands, which as a general rule were acquired, without payment of price, either by occupation or by grant under Durkast rules, it is withheld from purchasers who have bought waste lands from Government on payment of the highest price bid at public auction. This is really an anomaly. It can hardly happen that a ryot would be so blind to his own interest as to refrain from raising a second crop, when he finds it feasible to raise such crop.

20. Even with reference to single crop assessment, some concession should, in justice, be made to the ryots in consideration of the difficulties above pointed out. The waste lands are assessed with the same wet rate of teerva as old nuajah lands in the same village. There must be a difference between the two rates, as for several years to come, there will be a much less outturn in the former than in the latter. The assessment now fixed on the waste lands will therefore have to be reduced.

21. Further, it is reasonable that the full assessment so revised should not be made payable from the commencement, but it should gradually rise from one-fourth to the full rate in five years.

22. The concession prayed for in this memorial, the memorialists humbly beg leave to suggest, will considerably strengthen the hands of the ryots, and tend to increased labour and capital being bestowed on the lands, and eventually bring about their prosperity, which is identical with that of Government. On the contrary, the present mode of assessment will highly weaken the condition of the ryots, and necessitate their eventual abandonment of considerable portions of their holdings.

23. The difficulties under which purchasers of lands are labouring in bringing their lands under cultivation have considerably discouraged intending purchasers at the more recent sales, and are sure to depreciate the value of the lands now being brought to sale in public auction. If such difficulties be removed as prayed for in this memorial, and facilities afforded for bringing the lands under cultivation without subjecting the purchasers to serious inconvenience and loss, the interests of Government will be much better served in future sales of lands, and intending purchasers encouraged to bid for proper prices. In fact, some of the purchasers were deterred from purchasing additional lands at the more recent sales in consequence of the unexpected troubles and difficulties which they are undergoing in bringing under cultivation the lands already purchased by them.

In conclusion, the memorialists pray that your excellency will be graciously pleased to take the above facts into your excellency's consideration, direct that these waste lands be registered as single crop lands, that the assessment fixed for them be reduced to a reasonable amount, that such reduced assessment be levied on a graduated scale reaching the full amount after five years, and that the second crop assessment be made payable at the reduced progressive rate only if the second crop is raised.

The memorialists also pray that prompt measures be directed to be taken to remove the various difficulties experienced by the purchasers as above pointed out in paras 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11 and to prohibit further sales of lands before the necessary requirements of the purchasers of lands already sold are properly satisfied.

For which act of kindness, as in duty bound, your Excellency's memorialists will ever pray.

10
Mylapore

Lakshmi Vilas

25th November
1898.

My dear Sir

You will remember that when I last saw you at the Govt. House, Quindly, I mentioned to you that among others, I purchased a considerable extent of waste land under the Periyar-Project in the Madura Taluk. and that a Memorial to His Excellency in Council was being prepared to be presented to His Excellency in view to certain facilities being afforded and concessions made to purchasers who are spending a lot of money undergoing considerable hardships and inconvenience.

for the purpose of bringing the lands under cultivation. Many of the purchasers were anxious that the Memorial should be presented by a deputation to wait upon His Excellency but I explained to them that it was not necessary and that the Memorial would not receive any the less consideration for not being presented by a deputation. Accompanying is the Memorial signed by numerous purchasers including myself and the various difficulties which we experience and certain concessions to which we consider ourselves justly and reasonably entitled are explained and suggested in the Memorial. I myself bought about 400 acres of waste land

for about Rs 34,000 and already I have had to lay out an additional sum of Rs 15,000 - And I may say that it will take at least 3 or 4 years before the lands could be brought under regular cultivation with a prospect of any fair return. The matters referred to in the Memorial will, I presume, have to be referred to the Revenue authorities including the Collector of the District, the Land Revenue Settlement Members of the Board of Revenue, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, the Special Engineer in charge of the Periyar Project and to the Revenue Survey Superintendent. I request that you will kindly set the matter in motion

as early as practicable so that
any facilities and concessions
which the Government may be
pleased to allow in favour of
purchasers may take effect
before the commencement of
the instalments for the pay-
ment of the list for the
current Hush in the usual
course. A few spare copies
of the Memorial in print
accompany the Memorial.

Yours Sincerely,
Abhashchandra Jyoti

To
H. A. Sim Esqr J. C. S.

8227

C. No. 8227 of 1898.

D.O. From the Private Secy. to H.E. the Governor.

Dated 30th November 1898.

FOR ORDERS.

With the D.O. noted above the Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor forwards for official disposal a memorial addressed to His Excellency the Governor by the Hon'ble V. Bhashyam Aiyangar and other purchasers, in auction sales held by Govt., of waste lands irrigated by the Periyar Project in the Madurai Taluk.

2. The memorialists make the following requests:-

(i) That the waste lands irrigated by the Periyar project may be classified as "single crop lands" instead of as "double crop" as is now the case, ~~that~~ ^{and} second crop.

Paras 15-21 of memorial.

FOR ORDERS.

crop charge levied only in cases where a second crop is actually raised; that the assessment rates now in force be reduced, and that such reduced rates may not be levied from the commencement but may be made payable on a graduated scale rising from one-fourth to the full rates at the end of five years;

(ii) that purchasers of the waste lands may be granted lands for the purposes of house-sites for themselves, their agents, labourers and tenants, for cattle-sheds and threshing-floors, either tax-free or subject to a light assessment, and that, where such a course may not be feasible, the purchasers may be allowed to utilize portions of the lands bought by them for the purposes specified above, such portions being exempted from taxation or assessed at light dry rate;

(iii)

Para 7 of Memorial.

The assignment of sites shd be to the actual residents whether ryots or labourers according to the scale & rules. Then shd it is submitted to the Govt. of large portions of sites to be given to them of course.

11/12

Para 7 of Memorial.

(iii) that, in view of the difficulty of getting manure purchasers may be allowed to grow plants for purposes of manure on portions of their lands, such portions being for a term of at least five years exempted from taxation or made liable to pay only a light dry assessment;

Para 8 of Memorial.

(iv) that the areas set apart for pasturage may be increased and

Last sub-para but one of para 23 of Memorial.

(v) that further sales of waste lands may be prohibited until the necessary requirements of those who have already purchased lands are properly satisfied.

* Please see pp. 5, 8-9 and 17 of the notes.

As regards request no (i), attention is solicited to the notes stitched with G.O. No.

3408 d 18.8.98 from which it will be seen that with reference to a similar request made by the inhabitants of Madura in an address presented

presented to H.E. the Governor
on the occasion of his fourth
tour, it was decided that at
such no concessions as were prayed
for need ~~be~~ be granted.

With reference to requests
nos (ii) to (iv) above, it will be
seen from G.O. No. 3359 d
13.8.98 that the collector of
Madura has been asked to
report on a request made in the
address to His Excellency re-
ferred to above. That a larger
area than now sanctioned may
be reserved for communal
purposes and also that
some lands be reserved in
each village to be awarded
of by the ryots at dry
rates of assessment for
raising fodder, vegetable
manure, &c. no reply has been received.

In paragraphs 9 and 10 of
the memorial the memorialists
complain that the irrigation
system is in a bad and
imperfect condition and that
the work connected with the
Survey

survey and sub-division
of the waste lands has
yet to be undertaken.

5. Orders are requested as
to whether the memorial may
be referred to the Board of
Revenue in the Land Revenue
and Settlement Departments
for a joint report.

Pt.
7.12.98

Secy

The exploitation
of the Periyar area is
an important matter
& then seems to be some
reason for thinking
that the ~~proposed~~
~~proposed~~
Somewhat unreasonable
disappointment of
the first lastly bidden
at not finding
fields, channels, village sites
labourers, manure &c
all ready made & to
hand, may ^{unduly} discourage
others.

Submitted that

a full & early report may
be called for by
the ~~govt~~ ~~govt~~

To Under Secy.

Please see the draft order sub-
mitted on the subject of the cur-
rent.

12/12/98

13/12/98

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 ☐ H.T.O.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.