

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1177

DATED 21st March 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording the reply given to question put at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 17th March 1899 regarding the transfer of the power to issue distraint notices under the Revenue Recovery Act hitherto exercised by the Tahsil Dars to village headmen.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
for	3312	Rev.	18.9.99				

Reply due to Mr. D. P. 1. 3. 99

Questions proposed to be asked by the Hon. S. Ratnasabharthi Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council to be held on 9. 3. 99.

XVIII. (a) With reference to G.O., No. 680, Revenue, dated the 14th November 1898, and the Revenue Board's Proceedings No. 351, dated the 20th December 1898 (Land Revenue), will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it has been found necessary to transfer the power to issue distraint notices No. I under Madras Act II of 1864, hitherto exercised by the Tahsildars, to village headmen?

(b) If Government has decided to try the experiment of the change, will it be pleased to call for reports from the District officers at the close of the current fasl as to the way in which the new procedure has been working?

G. O. No. 680 and 14.11.98.

B. P. No. 351 dated 20.12.98 quoted by the Hon. Member do not appear to have been placed on the Editor's table.

Has been not been a notice in the Tanjore District Gazette on the subject.

None has been issued in the Tanjore District. 20.2.99

(a) The proposal to empower village headman to issue distraint notices on their own authority was made by Mr. Meyer in para 30 of his letter of 26.10.97, printed in the 14th Nov. 1898, recommending its adoption. The aid was approved by some of the collectors whom I have consulted. It is the power will be abused to the of the village munsifs personally. But I fail to see how this would be case more than under the present. At present these notices, which are first place requisitions for payment of arrears, and only operate as an aid to distraint when the requisition is not

are made out by the village officers and
sent up to the Taluk for signature. In
the Kist season they come in in shoals and the
Taluk is obliged to sign them with very little
scrutiny. If, therefore, the munisif is determined
to get a dishonest notice around undeservedly,
he is pretty certain to be able to effect his evil
purpose under the present system. Any person
forced would put the responsibility on his
own shoulders, while it would relieve
the Taluk office of an immense amount
of scribbled work which the existing
system involves. x x x x x. There
would be also a precious saving of
time in the heavy Kist months. At present
nothing is more common than for a
village munisif, on being called to
stand for heavy arrears, to make the
excuse (true or false) that he could
not get back his ~~money~~ N^o 1

in proper time from the Taluk.

"It must be remembered,
that any person approved
proper procedure on the part
of village munisifs will still
full facilities for complaints
higher authorities and it is to
punishment which follows
such complaints, when
they

They are shown to have been
well founded, that we must
look to the best guarantee of
abuse of power by village officers.

If, however, the Board
hesitates to ^{at} once prescribe the
general adoption of my proposal,
I would suggest that it be
tried first in selected districts,
the collectors of which are not
unfavourable to the experiment
and judged by its results there.

The Board of Rev. supported
Mr. Meyer, and added that it
must be clearly understood
that no notices are to be
issued before the Kists fall due,
and Tahsilars and Rev.
Inspectors should be required
to carefully check the work
of village headmen in regard
to the enforcement of this.
The Govt. approved the proposal
as modified by the Board
and directed that it be
tried as a tentative measure
in a few districts to be
selected by that authority.

vide also note on p. 22 of P. P. 10. 6/10
para 6 of P. P. 10. 6/10.

Question XVIII (6). The Board of Rev. has accordingly conferred this power on all village headmen in the districts of Bellary, Kistna, Tanjore and N. Arcot and instructed the Collectors of these districts to report on 1st June ~~to meet~~ ^{as to the advisability of investing} village headmen with such power.

The following replies to the questions are suggested for approval:-

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11/ Para 30 of Mr. Meyer's letter of 26.10.97
12/ Para 31 concluding sub-para of RS 385 thereon.
13/ Para 6 (ii) of P.O. 680

In accordance with the prevailing practice the district notices, which in the first instance are mere requisitions for papers, are made out by the Taluk officers & sent to the Taluk office for signature & issue. The primary responsibility for their execution rests upon the Taluk officers; & the procedure which is being tried will only enforce their responsibility, but save much time & delay in the issue of papers as well as unnecessary

Para 2 of RS 351
20.12.98
in P.O. 387
26.1.99
work

22.2.99

have the experiment works - MS 49
20.2.99

referred:-

XVIII (6).

The change referred to by the Honble Member was decided upon by the Board ^{as an experiment} ~~of investing the Taluk officers of a large number of the necessary work~~ and at the same time of enforcing the undoubted responsibility of village headmen in the matter of the issue of district notices.

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XVIII (6). The authority has been conferred as a tentative measure on all village headmen in the districts of Bellary, Kistna, Tanjore and N. Arcot and the Collectors of those districts have been ^{already instructed} ~~instructed~~ by the Board of Rev. to report on 1st June as to the advisability of conferring by ~~investing~~ village headmen with the power.

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THE HON'BLE M.R. RY. P. RATNASABHAPATI PILLAI AVARGAL :—

XVI XVIII. (a) With reference to G.O., No. 630, Revenue, dated the 14th November 1898, and the Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 351, dated the 20th December 1898 (Land Revenue), will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which it has been found necessary to transfer the power to issue distraint notices No. I under Madras Act II of 1864, hitherto exercised by the Tahsildars, to village headmen?

(b) If Government has decided to try the experiment of the change, will it be pleased to call for reports from the District officers at the close of the current fasli as to the way in which the new procedure has been working?

The Hon'ble Mr.

XVI XVIII. (a) The change referred to by the Hon'ble Member was decided upon by the Government as an experimental measure. In accordance with the prevailing practice the distraint notices, which in the first instance are mere requisitions for payment, are made out by the village officers and sent to the Tahsildar for signature and issue. The primary responsibility for their correctness rests upon the village officers; and the modified procedure which is being tried will not only enforce this responsibility, but save much delay in the issue of process as well as unnecessary scriptory work.

(b) The authority has been conferred tentatively on all village headmen in the districts of Bellary, Kistna, Tanjore and North Arcot, and the Collectors of these districts have been already instructed by the Board of Revenue to report on the 1st June next how the experiment works.

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