

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 250

Dated 22nd April

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agreeing with the Board of Revenue in considering that it is both unnecessary and undesirable to extend the provisions of the Forest Act to the Bobili State Estate Forests & directing the Collr. of Vizagapatam to intimate this decision in suitable terms to the Rajah of Bobbili.

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. 1492

From The Board of Revenue
Land Revenue

Read
Order No. 74
Order No. 250 dtd 2nd April 1899.

The Govt agrees with the Bd.

No. 68

2. The Collector of Vizagapatam will
intimate this decision in suitable
form to the Raja of Bobbili

Dated 7- February 1899.

Received } 1/3
Registered }
Enclosures -
Spare copies -

16th Mar 1899 of Rev. L.R.

3. To the Collector of Vizagapatam

SUBJECT,

Submitting to Government report
called for by it regarding the
extension of the provisions of the
Forest Act to the Bobbili
estate forests. Vizagapatam &c.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	420	P	30.7.98
	2950	un	11.6.97
	78	P	15.2.96
	622	P	7.9.95
	489	P	7.7.94
B.P	2140	P	17.3.92
f.o	18	Ref	15.4.91

Act ~~XX~~ 7-1887 (India),

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date

1899.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed February th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 68, 7th February 1899.

FEBRUARY.

Submitting to Government report called for by it regarding the extension of the provisions of the Forest Act to the Bobbili estate forests, Vizagapatam district.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE
(LAND REVENUE).

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 335, dated 11th August 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Collector of Vizagapatam, for report, Government Order (Revenue Department) passing orders on an application from the Raja of Bobbili for the extension of the provisions of the Forest Act to the Bobbili Estate forests, Vizagapatam district.

READ—also the following letter from W. O. HORNE, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue (through the Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle), dated 30th December 1898, R.C. No. 524 :—

With reference to the resolution contained in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 335, dated 11th August 1898, I have the honour to make the following remarks on the questions raised by Government, in forwarding a letter from the Raja of Bobbili, in which he advocates the necessity of introducing the rules under the Forest Act into his estate.

The report has been delayed pending a personal inspection, which I considered necessary, before replying to the reference and which I have now made.

2. The Raja in his letter gives reasons for the introduction of the rules which, I think, may be summarized into the following: that, if the rules are applied, the management of the estate will have a firmer control over the forests and will be able to deal with thefts and irregularities more effectually, thereby improving and preserving the forests to the advantage of the estate and of the ryots.

3. The advisability of introducing the rules, therefore, appears to rest on the present or possible value of the forests and the impossibility or otherwise of protecting them under existing conditions.

4. I enclose herein a statement of the more important forest blocks, omitting those of a square mile in area or less.

The total area is very small, but the first five blocks on the list are to some extent valuable, situated in a large area of cultivation and containing some fair timber. The two last blocks are in the Karakavalasa estate in Ganjam district and although comparatively large, contain no valuable timber and a great deal of scrub jungle. Their protection in the close vicinity of much larger and better stocked Government forests does not appear a matter of much importance, especially as under the sanction of the Raja they have been leased to unrestricted felling.

The small blocks not mentioned are about 20 in number varying in size from 80 acres to a square mile. They are more of the nature of village grazing grounds than forests containing nothing but thorny scrub and being for the most part unsuited in soil and situation for the growth of real forest and I should deprecate their being saddled with restrictions.

5. The Raja in the last paragraph of his letter refers to the successful protection of certain blocks. I was particularly struck with the present condition of the hills in the neighbourhood of the town of Bobbili, reserved by custom for the Rajah's shooting and from enquiries am led to suppose that effectual conservancy has been obtained with a minimum of trouble and expense. No better results would be obtained through the introduction of the rules, although the quality of the timber

could well be improved by artificial means. The larger blocks of Rajaru and Rajupeta, a portion of which was inspected, are not so good. They have, however, only lately been bought from the Saluru estate, and have not been placed under such strict conservancy. I see, however, no reason why the same results could not be obtained as in the Addukonda and Sudikonda blocks.

It is in one of these large blocks that the question of Kondapodu has arisen. There are, however, no resident hillmen and the Raja appears to have tacitly acquiesced in the few clearings that have been very lately made by charging a small assessment. I see no reason why such cultivation should not be stopped at the Raja's pleasure, as there are no rights to be considered, and the Kondapodus cleared are of very recent origin.

Finally, I consider the introduction of the Forest Act into the small blocks, not mentioned in the list hereto attached, both unnecessary and undesirable, and as to the larger blocks, I do not think that the total area affected is sufficient to call for such a special measure, while the advantages likely to be realized are small.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Statement of Blocks in the Bobbili Estate.—

1. Block of three square miles, comprising Addukonda, Sudikonda, and jungle in the village limits of Mallampeta near Bobbili.
2. Block of four square miles, near the village of Chitrakuta, Boddavalasa.
3. Block of nine square miles, near the village of Narasampeta, Kannampeta, Rajaru, Bukkupeta, Ramavaram and Venkampeta.
4. Block of nine square miles, near villages of Seethayapeta, Rajupeta, Narasampeta, Goppalarayudupeta and Venkatarayudupeta.
5. Block of four and a half square miles, adjacent to village of Venkayyapeta.
6. The portion of the Kadagandi reserve in the Palkonda taluk alienated during settlement-area about two square miles.
7. Block of forest adjoining the Kadagandi reserve in the Karakavalasa estate near Karakavalasa village.

N.B.—The areas of the first five blocks are furnished by the estate manager and appear overestimated.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Raja of Bobbili, to the Collector of Vizagapatam district, dated 25th November 1898, No. 110.

With reference to the Government Order, No. 420, Revenue, dated 30th July 1898, I have the honour to inform you as follows :—

First.—With regard to Kondapodu cultivation, I repeat what I said in my former letters that as none of my jungles are within the Agency tracts, the hill tribes have no prescriptive right to podu cultivation, but, during the last one or two years, a few patches of jungle have been cleared and converted into podus, and a nominal rent has been assessed on them by me. In this as well as in other matters connected with the introduction of the Forest Act into my estate forests, I should be quite prepared to carry out fully the instructions given by the Government with a view to work the rules with as little hardship as possible to the villagers concerned.

Secondly.—With regard to the insertion of Rule X referred to in the Government Order above quoted, I beg to inform you that I fully appreciate the desirability of inserting such a rule, and it may accordingly be inserted.

Thirdly.—With regard to the list of the trees to be reserved, I beg to inform you that the list of reserved trees sanctioned for Vizianagram together with the four additions sanctioned by Government in the Government Order above quoted, suffices in my opinion for the present, and additions or omissions may be made as circumstances may necessitate in future.

Fourthly.—I regret to have to observe that the Government entertains doubts as to the equitable working of the rules in the hands of zamindar's servants. I can only assure the Government that I shall take every possible care and see that the rules are worked with as little hardship as possible.

Lastly.—I admit that the forests in my estate are largely scrub jungle. That itself is one of the principal reasons why I thought it proper to apply for the introduction of the Forest Act. If my estate contained extensive forests like Vizianagram and Jeypore, I would not much care how recklessly they are thinned by wood-cutters and tenants.

But such not being the case, I think it desirable in the interests of my estate as well as that of the ryots, that the wood-cutting process should go on with as much care and economy as possible; and that object cannot be secured in any other way than by the introduction of the Forest Act; after which I mean to arrange to work my forests according to the coupe system.

I have also under my contemplation the planting of various useful kinds of timber trees so far as practicable.

Even after the introduction of the Forest Act I intend to allow the ryots to enjoy a very reasonable measure of liberty in taking such wood and fuel from the jungles as may be required for domestic purposes.

Ten years ago, the jungles in my estate were almost bare and meagre, and for various reasons I thought it proper to reserve some of them so far as practicable, without the Forest Act; as a result of ten years, I see considerable development in my forests. I should now like to see what more improvement I can effect with the aid of the Forest Act.

Again for want of systematic rules and arrangements, the jungles are being indiscriminately thinned away by both wood-cutters and tenants and very valuable timber plants are thus being lost to the jungles. Consequently, whenever such valuable wood is required, my estate people have to go to the Jeypore forests to obtain it, but if the forests were developed under the control of a systematic Forest department, the ryots, in the course of a decade or two, would not be under the necessity of going to other estates for the wood they require. As for firewood, I shall leave open one or two blocks to cut fuel from, while the other blocks will be under reserve and be developing. The attainment of all these objects will be greatly facilitated by the introduction of the Forest Act.

Endorsement by E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, dated 4th January 1899, R.C. No. 541.

Forwarded. The matter has been very fully considered both by the Collector and District Forest-officer.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 68, dated 7th February 1899.

In its order No. 420, dated 30th July 1898, Government called for information on certain points in connection with the request of the Raja of Bobbili for the extension of the provisions of the Forest Act to the forests in his estate and for the introduction of a set of rules under section 26 of the Act. The letter read above contains the reply of the Collector of Vizagapatam to that reference.

2. The points referred to in the Government Order will be dealt with *seriatim*—

(i) *Paragraph 2 of the Government Order.*—As regards the existing conditions of "podu" cultivation in the estate forests, the Raja confirms his previous statement that all his forests are outside the Agency tracts and that the hill tribes have no prescriptive right to such cultivation. He adds, however, that during the last few years some patches of jungle have been cleared for "podu," but that he has charged a nominal rent or assessment on them. The Collector sees no reason why such cultivation should not be stopped at the Raja's pleasure as there are no rights to be considered and the "podus" cleared are of recent origin. The Collector's remarks are presumably based on his enquiries during his recent inspection and may be accepted. With regard to the new Rule X proposed by Government and referred to in this paragraph the Raja raises no objection but welcomes its introduction.

(ii) *Paragraph 3 of the Government Order.*—The Raja considers that the list of reserved trees sanctioned for the Vizianagram estate with the addition of the four or omissions may be made hereafter as circumstances necessitate.

(iii) *Paragraph 4 of the Government Order.*—The Raja does not specifically ask for the retention of the rule in regard to the regulation of hunting and shooting.

(iv) *Paragraph 5 of the Government Order.*—The Raja admits that the forests in his estate are largely scrub jungle and urges the fact itself as a main reason for his applying for the introduction of the Forest Act without which he considers the wood-cutting operations cannot be regulated so as to ensure the care and economy which are essential for the preservation and improvement of jungle. After the application of the Forest Act, he proposes to introduce the coupe system of working and to continue to meet all the reasonable requirements of the ryots in the shape of wood and fuel for domestic purposes. He adds that he will take every possible care to see that the rules are worked with as little hardship as possible.

3. The Collector, who has recently inspected the forests of the estate, considers on the other hand that no special measures such as those already proposed are called for. He states that the estate contains twenty small blocks of jungle varying in size from 80 acres to one square mile and seven large blocks of over one square mile each. The small blocks are reported to be more of the nature of village grazing grounds containing mere thorny shrubs and for the most part unsuited in soil and situation for the growth of real forest. The total area of the large blocks, excluding that situated near Karakavalasa village the area of which is not given, is according to the Raja's own estimate, $31\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. Of the seven blocks, five are stated to be valuable to some extent, while the remaining two lying in Karakavalasa estate in the Ganjam district are said to consist of scrub jungle, the protection of which is not deemed to be of much importance owing to their close proximity to larger and better stocked Government forests.

4. The Collector notes that the effectual conservancy of some of the hill blocks situated near the town of Bobbili has been arranged for, under existing circumstances, without much expense and trouble. He sees no reason why the same course should not be followed in regard to the other blocks also, and considers that the extension of the Forest Act thereto is both unnecessary and undesirable, as the aggregate area involved is not sufficiently large to call for any special measures while the advantages likely to be derived are small. The Collector's present opinion has been formed after his personal inspection of the forests, and the Board considers that it should be accepted, the Raja being informed that in the circumstances reported by Mr. Horne his request cannot be complied with.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. C. Parthasarathy.

B. P Forest No. 6887.2.99
(No 1492/99)

To the Under Secretary

The above B. P contains the Board's report called for in P.O 420830.7.98 regarding the necessity and expediency of introducing the provisions of the Madras Forest Act V of 1882 to the forests in the Bolehili estate, Vizagapatnam district. The paper has been lying over for some days awaiting the return of the original of P.O 420830.7.98 which is put up with the draft order cancelling the rules relating to the preservation of game in so far as they now obtain in the estates of Vizianagaram, Jeypore, Saptur and Marungapuri. That draft order is now in circulation to H. E.

16-3-99

Secy

I don't know whether it is necessary to wait for the return of the original S.O. in question.

The doubts felt by the Govt as to the expediency of sanctioning the application

Keep back for P.O.

S.O. No. 200
22.4.99

9

of the Forest Act to the
Bobbili Estate forests are
fully expressed in the
G.O. itself No 420 & 30th July
1898.

With its present
Prop. the Bd forwards
a letter from the Raja
of Bobbili meeting the
objections of Mr. Govt
& the Collector, Mr. Home's
remarks thereon.

After personal
inspection & for the reasons
fully given in his
letter Mr. Home comes
to the conclusion that
the extension of the Act
to the Bobbili Estate forests
is both unnecessary &
undesirable as regards
the small blocks & as
regards the larger ones, that
the total area is not sufficient
to call for such a special
measure while the
advantages are likely to be
small. The Bd concurs
& considers that the Raja
may be informed that in

10

When will the H. be
available? Wait a
few days (H. 12/3)

the circumstances reported
by Mr. Home his request
cannot be complied with
Submitted that
the Govt may agree with
the Bd.

Ull
16/11/88

Secy

The original of G.O.
No 420 & 30. 7-98^{to which the current is a reply}
now returned from
Circ. and is placed
below

Ull
24/12/88

H. H.
H. S.

I think it most
undesirable that
the Raja's request
shd. be granted

H. S.
8-14-99-

H. S.
20.4.99

H. H.

The Govt may agree. The
conclusion now arrived
at is virtually in accord
with that anticipated by
H. S. the previous - vide
note of 18/6/98 in G.O.
30/7/98 No 420

H. H. 12/3

Secy

Please see draft on
docket below

Ull
22/11/88

Ull

Government (1899) of Madras.
REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

1899.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 250, 22nd April 1899.

APRIL.

Bobbili Estate Forests.

Agreeing with the Board of Revenue in considering that it is both unnecessary and undesirable to extend the provisions of the Forest Act to the —, and directing the Collector of Vizagapatam to intimate this decision in suitable terms to the Rajah of Bobbili.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 68, dated 7th February 1899:—

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 335, dated 11th August 1898.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Collector of Vizagapatam, for report, Government Order (Revenue Department) passing orders on an application from the Raja of Bobbili for the extension of the provisions of the Forest Act to the Bobbili Estate forests, Vizagapatam district.

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The total area is very small, but the first five blocks on the list are to some extent valuable, situated in a large area of cultivation and containing some fair timber. The comparatively large, contain no valuable timber and although their protection in the close vicinity of much larger and better stocked Government forests does not appear a matter of much importance, especially as under the sanction of the Raja they have been leased to unrestricted felling.

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Forwarded. The matter has been very fully considered both by the Collector and District Forest-officer.

Resolution—Forest No. 68, dated 7th February 1899.

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(ii) *Paragraph 3 of the Government Order.*—The Raja considers that the list of reserved trees sanctioned for the Vizianagram estate with the addition of the four species mentioned by Government will be sufficient for the present and that additions or omissions may be made hereafter as circumstances necessitate.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) LIONEL DAVIDSON,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

ORDER—No. 250, Revenue, dated 22nd April 1899.

Forest No. 74.

The Government agrees with the Board.

2. The Collector of Vizagapatam will intimate this decision in suitable terms to the Rajah of Bobbili.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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