Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 381

DATED 26th January 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informing the people of Kumbhonam that periodical revisions of the settlement of the annual jamabandi are indispensable parts of the ryotwari system of land-revenue administration in the greater portion of this Presidency and that in both cases the desire of Govt is to make its adn as little harassing and disturbing as possible.

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

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Extracts from the Memorial of the people of Kumbakonam forwarded to His Excellency by M.R.Ry.R.Ragunatha Row Dewan Bahadur, with his letter dated 5th September 1893 to the Private Secretary to H.E. the Governor:-

X X X X X

We will touch before we conclude upon only one more subject which though the last is the first in importance, which serves to disturb that universal rest, the characteristic of British good Government. It is the periodical re-settlement of Land Revenue and the annual disturbances of the demands against each ryot.

The first impoverishes the people, prevents improvements of lands, and stops all increase of its production, and causes much demoralisation of the people. It has created a conviction in the minds of people that necessity for money creates a wilful forgetfulness of what the people had been made to believe the unchangeable resolution and promise of the Government.

The annual disturbance creates causes of much discontent of the people, makes them not to know what their liabilities are and places them very often under the whim and thumb of the village accountant-

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Secy The above is an extract from an address sent to H.E. after he had completed his tour.

I As regards resettlement this Govt cannot alter the policy finally adopted by the Govt of India & the Secy of State

II As regards the making up of the annual demand it is submitted that Dewan Bahadur Raguna atha Rao ought to have known that he was talking nonsense. Every patel-dar can if he so chooses get his pattah showing

within 2 or 3 days of the jamabandi of the village. As a general rule jamabandi is over by the end of April (in Tanjore).

It is notorious however that the Pallichdars are too careless about the matter to attend themselves or to send an agent for the Pallichas: they prefer to trust to the Karnam not taking too great an advantage of them, hoping perhaps to return to get illicit help from this official or to secure his connivance when an opportunity comes of cheating the community & benefiting themselves individually

The answer in general terms would sanction suppression. It seems hardly worthwhile to trouble the Collector to report.

HE
31/12/85

H.E. The Governor

I. The periodical resettlement relates, I take it, to the settlement every 30 years or after

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period. An intelligent man like Raganadha Rao must be perfectly well aware that there was never any "pucca promise" of the Govt not to resettle. It would be strange if there were, seeing that the resettlements are the foundation of the Imperial finances: the main source upon which the Govt of this country depends for the increasing revenue necessary to meet the growing requirements of administrative expansion while the progress of the years naturally demands.

What Govt has promised is that during the settlement period the Land revenue demand shall remain unaltered. Lately a few demagogues have started a crusade impugning the good faith of Govt & converting this condition of the settlt into a promise of fixity in perpetuity. How a periodical settlt can possibly imply such a condition, they do not explain: it

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within 2 or 3 days
daily a contradiction in terms
Govt, they add cannot
deny, is entitled to half the
net produce, & how a readjustment
of the money value of that share
once in thirty years, which readjust
every ryot knows is a contradiction
of his tenure - how that can produce
the terrible consequences indicated
in the Memorial the petrs do not
care to explain. Of course they
wd be better off, if Govt remitted
its demand. We shd be all better
off if we had no taxes to pay! But
then a govt cannot be run on
such a basis. Ex nihilo nihil fit

Rajamundha Rao shd have
known better than to have lent
his name to such gross exag-
geration & misrepresentation.

II As to the annual settlt or
jamabandi, this is merely
making up the ryots annual
account. If the ryot takes up
no fresh land, and gives up
none of what he holds, & takes no
extra for water beyond what
his tenure entitles him to,
there is no account to make
up. If any of these things
have taken place during the
year, the acct must be
adjusted. There is no more
hardship in this than in
the ryots settling his acct
with a bidder in respect of
transactions during the
year.

S.K. 7-1-99

A formal reply will be quite sufficient.
It ought to be said that [illegible] revision
of the Settlement and the Famine Insurance
Grant are indispensable parts of the Land
Revenue Administration. It may be
added that in case of both, but particularly
in the case of the former, the first
desire is to create [illegible] security of
title, lessening [illegible]
hereditable

P.H. 20.1.99

To Mr Lees

Please see draft & o. submitted
below for approval

Lees
28/1/99

H.M before issue
S.K. 23/1/99

ac 23.1.99

HBr 21.1.99
C 9.1.99
R

10,000—24-10-12.
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Block No. Remission No. 2

I cannot think that the allusion to the "annual disturbance &c" means:—
Possibly to the system of increment remissions?
Or ch. the full demand is being gradually introduced?
The reply will do all right.

Dy 26.1.99

Hd. 24-1-99.

Read the following extract from a Memorial of the People of Kumbhconam submitted to His Excellency the Governor by M. R. R. R. Rajunatha Rao Dewan Bahadur ~~with his letter to the Private Secy to His Excellency dated the 5th Cp?~~ (Sg ?.

(H. E Extract)

G.O. Mis No. 381 dt 26th Jan 1899.

The memorialists will be informed that periodical revisions of the settlement and the annual jamabandi are indispensable parts of the ryotwari system of land revenue administration, prevailing in the greater portion of the Presidency. In both cases, ~~but~~ particularly in the case of the former, it is the desire of the Govt ~~desire~~ to make its administration as little harassing and disturbing as possible.

HRK 23/1/99

To M. R. R. R. Rajunatha Row Dewan Bahadur
The Y? J. Revn (R. S. L. R. & A).
Board of Revenue

BoD-1-2-99

HRK 21-1-99.

HRK 23/1/99