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Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 395

DATED 26th January 99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Transferring to the Board of
Rev. petition from the ryots of the Nazari Gamin-
dani complaining of oppression by the Zamindars
and forwarding copies of the petition to the Legisla-
ture Dept- for communication to the Select-
Committee on the Tenancy Bill.

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 (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 8131

Order

From

A. C. Spier Esquire Sec.
Private Secretary to
H. H. Freeman.
No.

Dated 23rd November 1898.

Received *W. J. M.* - 28/11

Registered 28/11

Enclosure 1

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Transfers a petition dated
22nd October 1898 from the ryots
of Murid Zemindari, Kistna
Dt., bringing their grievances
to notice.

/By order

W. J. M.
Private Secretary.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
		Genl Record papers	7-1-12-98

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

C. N. 8131

20-12-98

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following petition from the ryots of Nuzvid zamindari, Kistna district, to His Excellency the Governor in Council, Madras, dated Bezvada, 22nd October 1898 :—

The most humble and loyal memorial of the agony-stricken ryots of Raja RANGAYYA APPAROW, Bahadur Garu, Zamindar of Nuzvid.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH,—

That when the permanent sanad was granted to the Nuzvid zamindari, the total demand of the estate was Rs. 1,44,000 and the peishcush was fixed at Rs. 96,000, leaving Rs. 48,000 as the profit of the zamindar. The demand by torture on the estate at present is 7 lakhs, thus leaving 6 lakhs profit to the zamindar after paying the same peishcush Rs. 96,000. This is against the provisions contained in paragraphs 1, 2, 13 and 14 of the permanent sanad.

2. That the zamindars at present want to enforce conditions in their pattas which are penal, inequitable, unjust and unlawful and which work great hardship on the poor ryots.

3. That if the ryots do not yield to the terms of Shylock and to the enhanced rates, their cattle will be impounded and they will be put to many inconveniences in several ways.

4. That the zamindar is trying to enforce a stipulation which deprives the ryots of their usage of the trees in their holdings as usual.

5. That the ryots are forced to pay for the barber, washerman, potter, carpenter, who render service to the zamindar.

6. That the ryots are also forced to pay the zamindar the emoluments of the karnams which mode of payment makes the karnams an implement of extortion in the hands of the zamindar.

7. That the ryots with hardly one meal a day are being dragged by the zamindar from one court to another to bring them under his thumb. That the courts in this district—Civil, Revenue and Magistrate—are being flooded with the suits of their land-lord against them. This fact can easily be ascertained by the able District Collector.

8. That though the wells were dug by the tenants at their expense, the exorbitant rates were charged for garden crops under wells.

9. That the ryots are charged not only land-tax and water-tax when the dry lands were converted into wet, but they are also charged with something in addition to the above two taxes, although the zamindar has not spent a pie to get the Kistna water. In fact, we are forced to pay rent at four times the permanent settlement sist, and three times the rate paid by the neighbouring Government villages.

10. That your grace's humble memorialists had the fortune of leading a peaceful life during the time of the present zamindar's father; but in fasli 80, the late Raja Narayya Apparow Bahadur, Zamindar Garu, the eldest son of the late Raja Sobhanadry Apparow Bahadur, Zamindar Garu, and brother of the present Zamindar Raja Rangayya Apparow, Bahadur Garu, used coercion and enhanced the then existing rates of rent and so the ryots being unable to pay them protested against these rates and

they were subsequently much reduced on the Government intervention. That your Excellency's memorialists' zamindar, the Raja Rangayya Apparow Bahadur, Zamindar Garu, not heeding the inconveniences and grievances of his ryots, left his abode at Nuzvid, which is the head-quarter station of the zamindari from the time of his forefathers, and now took his new abode at a small village called Senevarapetta, in the Gódvári district, leaving the entire management of the estate to be mismanaged by a tyrannical, oppressive and arbitrary manager named M. Venkateswarow, an angry youth with a stony heart, who never shrinks to do any act of violence and mischief. The manager's conduct will, to some extent, be known from what was stated in paragraph 38 of L. M. Wynch, Esq.'s report No. 892, Revenue, dated 11th November 1890. Mr. G. T. Mackenzie described him as a "notorious" person. The district munsif of Bezvada and, on appeal, the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court of Judicature at Madras have also found him to be a man of not a notable character. This person, if allowed to continue in his office, a major portion of Nuzvid zamindari and the whole of the hitherto well managed Senevarapetta zamindari will soon be reduced to ruins; the ryot-population may eventually go abegging and serious disturbances to public peace may occur. Your Excellency's humble memorialists therefore beg to urge to issue orders to the zamindar to dismiss the official from his service or else assume the management of the zamindari under regulation 2 of 1819.

11. That the zamindar is further drawing water-tax on even usual wet lands, i.e., lands cultivated wet before the Kistna irrigation.

12. That, when the ryots do not yield to the illegal gratifications of the landlords, they try to abuse the power invested in them by Act VIII of 1865 by distraining the necessary implements of husbandry, seed-grain, doors of houses, calves without mothers, mothers without calves, bulls, seats, cots, vessels used for drinking water, although the poor ryots show grain, &c., for attachment, the landlord refusing all this, chooses to distrain the ploughing cattle, underproportioning their value, so that Your Excellency's memorialists may suffer inconvenience and loss of cultivation; moreover, the attachments in some cases will be made several times a year, although the amount of demand can be realised with one distraint. In short the zamindars are hunting after the ryots in several ways and the little power of attachment with which they are invested is misused in several abusive ways of the worst kind, so that this memorial cannot express even one hundredth part of the hardships they are now undergoing.

13. As the new bill contemplates ryots of occupancy in the soil, the zamindars are now harassing the ryots with innumerable ejection suits, so that by the time the bill passes into law, there may be no ryot claiming the right of occupancy to be benefited by the Act. It is the custom of the zamindari the ryots should hold rights of permanent occupancy in the soil if once a ryot is properly let in; this proposition has been clearly laid out in Venkatrama Iyer's, *verses* Ananda Chetty, V., Madras High Court reports 120. The same principle has been adopted in various recent decisions and in 20, Madras, 299, the principle has been fully adopted, wherein it was stated that in a sense there is no difference between a ryot holding lands in a zamindari village and one holding lands in the Government village, quoting Arbuthnot's elections from the minutes of Sir T. Munrow, volume 1, page 254. Though the law is clearly in the favour of the ryots, it is practically of no use as the zamindars are capable of grinding down the ryots, setting up a special usage or custom and proving them by their well-favoured karnams. As regards the right of occupancy, Your Excellency's humble memorialists pray that the provision may be made in the future Act that the zamindari lands also may be treated as Government lands. As regards rates, Your Excellency's humble memorialists pray that the permanent settlement may be made and thereby relieve the ryots of their long-existing agonies in the hands of historically-aggressive zamindars of Nuzvid. In this connection we beg Your Excellency to review once more the interesting report of L. M. Wynch, Esq., the Acting Head Assistant Collector of Kistna, dated 24th June 1890, No. 656, also a subsequent report of F. C. Parsons, Esq., Head Assistant Collector, Kistna.

14. Moreover, the Secretary of State for India has passed a despatch to the Government of India, dated 19th February 1880, No. 303, stating that the condition of the

agricultural population has now become very miserable under present system of unrestrained rack-renting; thereupon the Government of Madras issued orders to the Secretary of the Court of Wards, No. 342, dated 23rd March 1898, to make the necessary arrangements and to improve the poverty-stricken condition of the ryots of the Nuzvid zamindari.

15. We have presented petitions to the Government. We do not know when the relief we expect from the British Government would be given to us. We are spending these miserable and hard days with a great difficulty. We need hardly say what amount of difficulties and troubles we would undergo if the Government would not interfere with the administration of this important estate.

16. That, in conclusion, Your Excellency's humble memorialists most humbly crave Your Excellency to be pleased to dismiss the agent of the Nuzvid estate and appoint a committee to enquire into the grievances of the ryots and fix a permanent assessment on zamindari lands or to be pleased to refer the matter to our worthy Collector to order for settlement like Government villages, and lastly to pass the bill into law at once after hearing our humble representations regarding the bill. We are sure and certain that, so long as the British Government is governing the country, we would not be allowed to die of hunger from sheer poverty and destitution. It would then be the duty of the Government, we presume, to provide food for so many lives, besides showing other accommodation. For this act of benevolence and justice we shall, as in duty bound, ever pray.

Transfers a petition, dated 22nd October 1898, from the ryots of Nuzvid zamindari, Kistna district, bringing their grievances to notice.

(By order.)

(Signed)

H. A. SIM,
Private Secretary.

No. 8/31

Petition
From the ryots of the Nuzvid Zamindari, Kistna

Dated 22. 10. 1898.

Read 28. 11. 98.

FOR ORDERS.

The above is a
numerously signed petition from
the ryots of the Nuzvid Zamindari
complaining against the oppression
of the present Zamindar and of his
manager. The petitioners are apparently
by ryots of the medium estate, now
under the charge of the District
Receiver; for reference is made
to the late Zamindar Rajah Narayana
Appa Rao Bahadur at page 3 of
the petition^{vide} 40 of the list of
Zamindars (put up).

2. In 1890 a report,
after full enquiry, was submitted
to Govt. by Mr. Wynne on the
condition of the tenants in the
Nuzvid Zamindari, but the
Govt. was of opinion that as the
law at present stood, nothing
could be done to afford relief
to the ryots, and directed the

vide C.O. No. 5690 & para 1 of the
Court of Wards' Report for Feb. 1906.
in C.O. No. 197
4.98.

Board of Revenue to consider the
facts brought to notice ~~about the~~
in connection with the Nuzvid Zamindari;
in submitting its report on the
draft- Tenancy Bill. ^{Just part of the} The present
petition is almost a copy of the one dis-
posed of in 1890. - vide. petition
under G. O. No. 776 of 3.2.90
9-12-98

RJ
9-12-98

Secy

FOR ORDERS.

vide G. O. No. 892
11.11.90 K

Apparently
nothing can be done under
the existing law. The petition
may perhaps be useful
to the Select Committee?
or should a report be
first obtained on it?
This last seems
unnecessary in view
of Mr. Wyndham's report
in 1890

He
12/12/98

Please have the petn
printed & show me a proof

8/12/98

Submitted

1-1-99 H. M. Nothing can be done
on the petition. We may transfer
it to the B. & Rev., & also send copies to the Sel. Comtee on the Tenancy Bill
Please see draft 4-1-99 8/12/98

Read petition from the ryots of
the Nuzvid Zamindari, d/ 22.10.9
(Enc. 8131/98)

Encl. no. 112395-3264 Jan 4 1899

The petition from the
ryots of the Nuzvid Zamindari,
Kistna Dt., read above will be
transferred to the Board of Rev.

2. Copies of the petition
will also be forwarded to the
Legislative Dept. in view to
their ~~transmission~~ ^{communication} to the
Select Committee on the Tenancy
Bill.

(from orders)

He
24/1/99
8/12/98

To the Board of Rev. & R.
a Legislative Dept.

Encl. to Petn (see draft 4-1-99)

He
21.1.99
RJ
21-1-99

St. H. H. H. H. H.
page 2 also 11/11

20/12/98
7-1-99
H. M. H. M. H. M.
8/12/98

C 61-99
27.1.99

20.10.99

20.1-2-99