

Revenue (1899) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 580

DATED 8th Feb 1899

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agencies with the Bd of Revenue in considering that a preliminary examination may be undertaken of the claim held on the Tanjore and Madurai Coasts and requesting the Bd of Revenue to prepare and submit to the Govt an ^{approximate} estimate of the approximate cost of the proposed examination with information as to whether the Bd can arrange to meet the expenditure from funds at its disposal.

4516/99
 4721/99
 4773/99
 5334/99

REVENUE
Local & Munl. (189⁸) Department.

CURRENT No. 7825

*Mr. & Mr. J. P. James
 100 on file*

From
 The Board of Revenue,
 Land Revenue,
 Madras.

Submitted
 10/11/98
Order

Purwanda
 The papers are not complete.
 Please get it showing what
 system of fishing is
 adopted in the river, the upat, on
 what fisheries in the past 5 years.
 Please also put up the
 Chank Fisheries Budget
 Estimate as per the present
 it were put up from the
 old record given on 30/11/98
 & you took 6 days to put
 them up. Please
 put up the paper now
 asked for by S. A. (10th)
 by a latest
 8/11/98

No. 1286
 Ref.

Dated 15th November 1898
 Received 16/11
 Registered 17/11
 Enclosures 3
 Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Submitting for the orders of
 Govt. papers relating to the proposals
 made by Mr. J. P. James, Port Officer,
 Negapatam, regarding the management
 of the chank fisheries on the Tanjore
 and Madura coasts.

Submitted
 10/11/98

G.O.	No.	Department	Date.
Encl - Record papers			
	1128 P	Il	7.30/11/98
	1937	Il	29.11.98
	1526	P	26.10.98
	1339	P	21.9.98
	623	P	8.10.97
	1788	P	18.11.96
	1809	P	2.12.95
			14.11.95

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	291		27.4.94
	6336	kind	21.10.87
	5767	kind	27.9.87
	1513	meio	4.12.83
	2030	P	17.12.78
	3348	P	4.12.77
	1680	P	15.11.76
	1745	P	16.8.82
	1096	P	23.5.81
	1091	P	3.7.60
	420	P	20.3.60
	1859	P	20.1.59
	413		12.4.33
	1049-50	conf 8	4.12.93

Read the following :-

X

The papers read above relate to the proposals made by Mr. J. P. James, Port Officer, Negapatam, regarding the management of the chank fisheries on the Tanjore and Madura coasts. ~~He~~ points out that the fisheries off the Tanjore coast which yielded a sum of Rs. 10,198 in Fasli 1316 bring in under the present licensing system an annual revenue of only Rs. 115 and argues that if the fishery were worked as a Government Monopoly as in Tinnevely a much larger revenue might reasonably be expected. We considers that the reason why the Tanjore chank fishery has deteriorated under the present system is that, for want of sufficient capital, the lessee has failed to employ divers, to arrange for the ~~proper~~ proper storage of the chanks obtained from fishermen, or to advertise their sale. We adds that there is absolutely no supervision at present and infers from this that there must be great waste as the shells of all sizes are brought in and those too small for sale are no doubt left to rot instead of being returned into the sea. Mr. James accordingly suggests that some officer may be deputed to prospect the coast of the Tanjore District in order to ascertain whether the fishery cannot be worked by Government as in Tinnevely. We offers to undertake the work himself if the steamer "Margarita" be lent to him for a week or so and sanction be accorded to engage a few divers on daily pay.

2. The Collector of Tanjore to whom a reference was made on the subject states that there is no probability of the fishery developing and becoming more profitable under the present system of licensing. We states that the present lessee professes inability to secure divers as the fishing classes are ^{afraid} ~~scared~~ of water-snakes. His take of chanks is consequently confined ~~to~~ to what he can buy from the fishermen in whose nets numbers of shells are brought up. In this way he secures some 4,000 chanks per annum which sell in the Bengal market at Rs. 25 or 30 per thousand. Mr. Twigg considers that the banks have been practically left alone and that the fact that 4,000 shells are dredged up casually by fishermen every year indicates the existence of shells in ~~very~~ large numbers. We is therefore of opinion that it would probably be worthwhile to have an examination of the coast made as Captain James suggests.

3. In its Proceedings No. 3207, dated 25th October 1883 ~~the~~ disposed of in Government Order No. 1513 Rev., dated 4th December

1885, the Board expressed the same views as regards the working of the Tanjore chank fishery as a Government Monopoly, but no action was taken pending the introduction of the Fisheries Bill which was then under consideration. No Fisheries Bill has yet been passed, but the legal and historical grounds on which the claims of Government to the pearl chank fisheries on the Madras coast are based have since been investigated, the conclusion arrived at being that in ancient times the native Governments exercised exclusive rights over the fisheries on the banks lying off the coast without any limit as to their distance from the shore and that such rights have been exercised without challenge by the British Government. (Vide para 4 of Board's Proceedings Conf. No. 462, dated 12th August 1893 disposed of in Government Order, No. 1049 Rev., dated 4th December 1893).

In view of the facts that the chank fishery at Tuticorin has been successfully worked as a Government monopoly without special enactment and that the Tanjore fishery formerly yielded a considerable revenue, the Board recommends Mr. James' proposal to depute an officer to examine the chank beds on the Tanjore coast for the favourable consideration of Government. From his previous experience and the interest he takes in the subject Mr. James himself is, in the Board's opinion, the officer best qualified to undertake this work.

4. In Madura, the chank fishery is in the hands of the Rannad Zamindar. From paras 38 & 39 of the letter from the Collector of Madura printed at page 15 of Board's Proceedings No. 462 Conf., dated 12th August 1893, it will be seen that rent on account of the chank fishery formed one of the items of revenue on which the peishoush of the Rannad Zamindar was fixed but that in 1833 the right of the Zamindar to the fishery was questioned by Government. The Zamindar was then informed that he could not legally claim the fishery as a right in virtue of his sanad but that he had been permitted to enjoy the revenue therefrom as a matter of favour. Mr. James now proposes to take over the fishery of the Madura coast from the Rannad Zamindar on rent and to work it under the supervision of the officers of Government. He thinks that under proper supervision the fishery may become as profitable as at Tuticorin. On the other hand, the Collector of Madura considers that it is

b
possible that by over-fishery the chanks have decreased in late years. It is reported that the right of collecting chanks on the Ramanad coast has been leased out by the Raja for five years ending with the current year at Rs. 1700 per annum against Rs. 3200 paid during the currency of the previous lease; this fact goes to support the view that the fisheries have been overworked and justifies the Collector's opinion that it would not be desirable to take them over for more than Rs. 2500 a year, more especially as, to quote Mr. Partridge's words, "it is a well-known fact that a private contractor can always make a business of this sort pay, by personal attention, better than the Government." The Board therefore share the Collector's doubts as to whether it would be possible profitably to keep up a large establishment to work the fishery on the lines followed at Tuticorin as suggested by Mr. James and is inclined to agree with Mr. Partridge in thinking that the best plan would be to pay boatmen or sub-contractors according to the number of shells they collect and then sell the chanks locally or send them to the Calcutta market.

5. This is a question, however, which need not be decided for the present, as it is obviously desirable as a preliminary measure to arrange for the examination of the chank beds on the Madure & Tanjore coasts. If Government cannot now spare the necessary funds on a venture which may or may not prove a success, the experiment may be deferred till next year. But the Board would strongly urge that the matter should not be indefinitely postponed.

Donald Davidson

Ag. Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Govt. R.D., with letters in original to be returned.

The Collectors of Tanjore and Madure.

Mr. J. P. James, Port Officer, Negapatam.

M.R.V.

[Signature]

C. No. 7825 of 1898

From the Bd of Rev Land Rev

No 1286 Ref Dated 15. Nov 1898.

FOR ORDERS.

Learn,

The Chank fishery of Timorelly is worked by the Govt ~~under~~ directly. The Supt of Pearl Fisheries has a campy esbt. allotted to him for this fishery, collects divins, ~~receives~~ hires canoes. The divins are paid Rs 20 per 1000 shells. The shells are then sold to the highest tenderer among the local merchants.

In this way ~~a~~ a net annual income of something a little over 10000 Rs has been made from the fishery for the past

twenty years & more.

(Vide Report on the
fishery for 1897-98 in
G.O. 544 Rev & 21st Sep 1898)

FOR ORDERS.

A

The fishery on the
adjoining Madras
Coast has been
worked by the Rajah
of Ramnad. The
G.O. ^{so far back as 1833} ~~has~~ / Contested
the Rajah's right to
it & informed him
that he had been
permitted to work it
as a matter of favour
only.

Para 38 & 39 of Mr. Turner's
letter on 13 of G.O. 1049
4 Dec 98
in complete

In Tanjore, it appears
that the fishery is
closed out, but that
it now fetches only
a very small sum.

Para 2 of the R.P.

Mr. James the Port
Officer of Negapatam
now proposes that an
Officer should be deputed
to examine the
Chankbeds on the
coast of Tanjore. Mr.
James has it appears
studied the subject &
takes a great interest in it.

He is of opinion that
the fishery if properly
worked by the Govt
would bring in a
handsome return.

The Board consider
that the proposal merits
consideration & recommends
as a preliminary measure
that Mr. James himself
should be deputed to
examine the Chankbeds
on the Tanjore & Madras
coasts.

Mr. James in referring
to the state of the Tanjore
bed state that if he
could do the work if
lent the "margarita" for
a week or so & allowed
to engage divers on daily
pay.

He might be asked
to (if his deputation
commends itself) to
submit an estimate of
the period it would
take him to examine
the beds ~~in both~~
the coasts of both
& the cost of the

& also to report the best
time for the proposed ^{marine} ~~marine~~
the collector of Tinnivelly
could then be asked if
the "margarita" could be
spared at that time &
the marine dept
consulted as to whether
~~Mr~~ ^{himself} James could be
spared.

The time wd
probably not exceed
a month & so the
Expense is not likely
to be great. The work
would be a legitimate
purpose in which
to employ the "margarita"
so the only extra
Expense would be
Mr James' pay & the
cost of the divers etc.
Probably Rs 600 wd
cover the total cost.

Wm
13/1/98

Mr James is rather
ambitious person, but
as it seems worthwhile
careful exam: made

Mr James pay	300
Special allow	160
Deputation allow	60
	<u>520</u>
Divers etc	80
	<u>600</u>

With reference to the observation
that small shells shd be
returned to the sea, & that
supervision is wanted &
suggested that Mr. James
Contemplates regulations etc.
who be & examine & arrange
to the fishermen -

If there are any large
well defined beds of shells off
Tanjore their existence is, I
think, unknown - So far as
I have heard the shells are
scattered all along the
coast -

I think it can do no
harm to approve the
proposed experiment &
see that Mr. James can
make of it -

I agree therefore to the
Secy's suggestion in
last para - Wm

31-1-99 -

of the chalk beds on the Madras
& Tanjore coast. I don't know
however that he is a com-
petent person for the job. The
Tuticorin Port Officer (Capt Baker)
has had long experience & if
he does not go himself, which
wld be the best plan, I send
some of his native experts
with Capt. James.

If it is agreed generally
to have an exam: undertaken
we shd before going further
have an approx. estimate
of the cost of the exper.
We may then ask the Fin. Secy.
Whether money can be
spared, if the Board can't
find the funds.

Wm
28/1/99

Please see draft order submitted

Wm
4.2.99

Secy
7/2/99

Read Board's Office (X.R.) No. 1286
15.11.98
(Cus 7825 of 98)

G.O. no. 12580 of 8th Feb 1899

The Government agree with the Board of Revenue in its opinion that a preliminary examination ^{may} ~~should~~ be undertaken of the chalk beds on the Tanjore and Madurai Coasts. But before ^{is taken} ~~taking~~ any action in the matter, the Government considers it desirable to have ^{before it} ~~an~~ approximate estimate of ~~the cost~~ ^{the} cost of the ^{proposed} ~~super-~~ ^{franchise} ~~ment~~; the Board of Revenue will accordingly be requested to draw up ^{Such an} ~~the~~ estimate in consultation with Mr James and to submit it to Government with information as to whether ~~or not~~ the Board can ^{arrange to meet the expenditure from} ~~from~~ its ^{disposal} ~~disposal~~ funds.
(fr. o.)

712/88
S. S. S.

To the B.S. X.R. with encls. Dtd. 11-2-99

Note Information need not apparently now be called for, as to the period of

are necessary for the examination and
to the last season for it.

on
+ 2.79

FOR ORDERS.