

Minute of Madras Board of Revenue on Village Mauniums etc: 14.10.1816

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The whole also
in Res Com
13.10.1818
(TNSA: Vol 237
H 2467-2574)
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157P

1. The Hon'ble the court of directors in their general letter of the 12th April 1815 observe as follows:

"156. It is satisfactory to learn that an opening has been left in the settlement @ (of the Southern Division of Arcot) for any new arrangement which it may be thought proper to adopt, respecting the Cavelly and Devastanum lands, and also, that the curnums and talliards have been made dependent on Government for the payment of their allowances. We have some doubts whether as these officers are paid by (p 11584) Government, their nomination should be left to the renters, subject to the collector's sanction; Mr Ravenshaw says it is fair that it should be so, but if there are not good reasons to the contrary, we think it desirable that the power of appointing them should be reserved to the collectors.

In the opinion expressed, by the Revenue Board as to the expediency of restoring to the village officers in the Southern Division of Arcot and wherever else they may have been resumed, their mauniums, or service lands, and fees in kind we entirely concur, and we direct that measures may forthwith be taken for that purpose."

2. So long ago as the year 1800 the Governor in council, in a letter addressed to the Board of Revenue dated 21 June 1800, recorded on this (p 11585) subject the following observations:

"We have invariably expressed our conviction of the justice and expediency of paying the utmost degree of attention to the religious institutions of the country; and we approve the means taken by the collector for ascertaining the authenticity of the tenures by which those in the conquered districts have been holden. We confirm therefore the appropriation of SPs 11,012 to the support of the principal pagodas; and readily consent that the amount of surplus Devadayam shall be allotted to the maintenance of the village pagodas.

"We direct that distinct grants shall be issued for the continuance of these religious establishments and regularly registered in the records of the collectors cutcherry; but you will provide that in issuing the sunned for this purpose the collector shall acknowledge the antiquity of the institution in order that the present resolution may appear to be no more than a confirmation of prescriptive rights.

"With respect to the Enams, which may appear to have been established antecedently to the Mahomedan usurpation by the resident Gours and their Hindoo officers we shall be disposed to sacrifice the definition of the right of these tenures to the happiness and comfort of the people. We desire however that a list and description of those institutions may be submitted to our, early consideration.

"In the restoration of the funds for these religious institutions, it will be necessary to provide for the economical administration of them by a vigilant attention to their interests on the part of the collector, in order to prevent those abuses ~~maxthe~~ which have been found by experience to attend a relaxation of the superintending power in other parts of the Company's dominions.

"We have considered the observations of the collector on the restoration of the village sibbendy; and entirely concur in the expediency of that measure; but we doubt the propriety of depriving these officers of their hereditary and ancient privileges, by substituting the payment of wages in money in lieu of the distinctions and property annexed to the performance of their respective duties. By recurring to the institutions of the ancient Government we expect to conciliate the affections of the people, and at the same time to secure a better foundation for the proper discharge of those duties in the interests and attachment of the officers themselves."

IOR: P/292/2:Pro 14.10.1816; Abstract of Replies:P/292/79:pp12012-112.

@ (in margin) This refers to the proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the Decennial Settlement of the S.D. of Arcot of which the sub-joined is an extract: "As the opinion of Government expressed in the minute of council above referred to, concurred with those of the late and present collector and of the Board respecting the

Graceme
S Arcot: 16.3.1817
Ellis: 1.5.1817
D. H. Dublin
17.9.1818
12012-12112

3. With the view to the consideration of the best means of carrying the intention of the hon'ble court into execution, of improving the present curnum regulations &c, of placing the other branches of alienations which have been referred to upon a more defined and uniform footing, it is resolved to require ~~the~~ from the several collectors, information on the following points:

I. Were the lands or thereof, as assigned to curnums and other village servants, ~~ever~~ including police (kavelly) servants, ever assumed in your district, the value collected and paid to the incumbents from the Houzzoor or talook treasuries? (ABst Reply 12013-29)

II. If so in what year was the assumption made? (Reply 12030-31)

III. Under what authority did this assumption and change take place; that is (p 11589) was the measure authorized by the Board of Revenue or the Governor in council, before it was carried into execution, or subsequently approved only? (Reply 12032-34)

IV. Whether the Enam lands (or manium) of the head inhabitants were assumed at the same time or subsequently? (Reply 12034-38)

V. Whether the Enam lands of the head inhabitants prior to their assumption were enjoyed in shares or by one person only (12038-41)

Gaudens Enam: Din- VI. Whether the pecuniary payments now made to the head inhabitants @ digul in lieu of the land (in the cases where the land has been resumed) Meerasdars Enam) is received and appropriated by one person or divided into shares? Coniatchy Maunium) Inquiry on this subject must be made among the head inhabitants : in the Carnatic themselves, and the village curnums, the Board having reason to Potailee Enam) know that the charges nominally effected in the circar or public Rheddee Enam) in accounts, have not always been (p 11590) virtually attended/by /to Ceded Dists the people themselves. (Reply 12041-44)

Monigar Enam: Coimbatore. VII. It is understood of course that the head inhabitants cultivate their own Enam land, whether the circar share has been resumed or not; but the collectors will report whether the curnums of their district cultivate their own Enam land, or by means of their relatives or of hired labourers, or whether the curnum Enam lands are usually cultivated by the cultivating class of inhabitants of the village? (Reply 12045-58)

VIII. The resumption of the curnum and other Enams, and the causing the value of the Government share to be paid in money, must, in the cases in which the curnums and other village servants cultivated their own Enam land, have caused them to pay a land tax for the lands so cultivated, and to receive it back again as wages. Collectors will state whether this has been (p 11591) the actual result of the arrangement in their district? (Reply 12058-63)

IX. Do any other village servants cultivate their Enams either themselves, by their realations or by hired servants? If they do not, by whom are these Enam lands generally cultivated? Give a list of village servants in the form annexed, not for each village, but of such as are found in the district generally? (Reply 12063-69)

X. Who in general cultivates the Enam lands assigned for the support of large and small pagodas, mosques or other endowed institutions? (Reply 12070-76)

XI. Who in general cultivates the Enams granted to Bramins and to others for their support, such persons not being village officers or head inhabitants? In many districts this class of Enamdars are termed sunned Enamdars, as holding their Enams from the Government or from the (p 11592) representatives of Government, Rajahs, zemindars, polygars &c. (Reply 12076-82)

XII. Are the Enams in all cases above enumerated, and in all other cases, so well defined, that it can be distinctly asserted that it is the land that is granted, that is, do all the village Enamdars and patrons or priests of temples, and all sunned Enamdars, know the boundary marks of their respective Enam lands and the names of the fields? And are the boundary marks registered or recorded? In fact, it is the desire of the Board that each collector should distinctly state whether it is so much public revenue of a given

quantity of cultivated land, that is so much land tax, that is annually made over for the maintenance and support of head inhabitants, village officers, public institutions and individuals, or whether it is actually a defined extent of land, rent (p 11593) free, that is so assigned? (Reply 12082-95)

XIII. Is it customary for Enamdars to claim an equivalent for the value of the produce of their Enams in those cases where from accident or design, their actual Enam land (supposing it to be defined as above) has not been cultivated? (Reply 12096-12101)

XIV. Is there any register in your cutcherry of the Enams in each village? (Reply 12101-5)

XV. Does it describe the extent of each of the several Enams and shew what are held under sunnuds, or what held by prescription or ancient custom? (Reply 12105-10)

4. It is to be understood that no part of these questions apply to entire villages held in Enam. (Robert Alexander, John Hodgson, J. Cochrane, William Wayte)

Circular Letter to Collectors: 28.10.1816

To
Mr Spottiswoode

Sir,

1. I am directed by the (p 11594) President and members of the Board of Revenue to transmit to you the accompanying extract from their proceedings, dated the 14th instant.

2. The information called for is required by the Board from each collector, notwithstanding all the questions may not apply to each collectorate; or that the information may have been already transmitted from some districts.

3. The Board will be glad to receive any suggestions for the improvement of the present curnum regulations that collectors may wish to offer.

4. Your reply will be expected on or before the 1st March 1817. Considerable (delay) often occurs in obtaining answers to circular letters, which you are requested to obviate by furnishing your (p 11595) reply within the prescribed period.

Fort St George
28th October 1816

I am Sir, Your most obedient servant
, secretary.

NOTE: The page numbers of the replies, against the questions shewn above, refer to the abstract as given in P/292/79, proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 17.9.1818. The abstract is preceded by a draft of the curnum regulations on pp 12006-13 and followed by draft of letter to Government on pp 12110-12. A minute of the Board on the replies is in P/292/78: pp 11465-479: Proceedings 14.9.1818.

(marginal note to para 1, page 11583, contd.)
the policy of rendering the curnums and taliars independent of the renters, no further observation on this subject is needful. Respecting the restoration of their mauniums, in lieu of which their present money allowance is made, the Board will report separately (p 11584) to Government this being a question to be determined with reference several other districts as well as the Southern Division of Arcot."

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Minute of Madras Board of Revenue on Mauniums to Village Officers Etc
14th September 1818

At a meeting present : Robert Alexander Esq, President
Messrs: John Hodgson
James Cochrane, and
William Wayte

Minutes of the last meeting read and approved.

Read again the following letters:

From Mr Smith	31st March	in Cons	10 April	1817
"	10th		10 April	"
"	2nd		10 April	May "
"	3rd		3 July	"
"	7th		18 August	"
From Mr H. Oakes	26th April		5 May	"
From Mr Russell	29th March		10 April	"
"	3rd		3 July	"
"	24th July		4 August	"
From Mr F.A. Oakes	10th		17 April	"
"	3rd		3 July	"
From Mr Fraser	20th		31 March	"
"	3rd		3rd July	"
"	12th		17 July	"
From Mr Nisbet	4th		14 April	"
"	3rd		3 July	"
"	22nd August		1 September	"
From Mr McDonall	22nd February		3 March	"
From Mr Hargrave	4th		10 April	"
"	3rd		3 July	"
"	7th		15 January	1818
From Mr Sullivan	7th		20 February	1817
From Mr W. Thackeray	3rd		3 July	"
"	26th July		4 August	"
"	15th		15 September	"
From Mr W. Bell	18th		24 April	"
"	3rd		3 July	"
From Mr Cooke	1st	Dy Cons	4 December	"
"	12th	in Cons	18 December	"
From Mr Ellis	20th April		1 May	"
From Mr Graeme	11th		16 March	1818
From Mr Hyde	8th		14 April	1817
"	29th		29 May	"
From Mr Hepburn	29th November		5 December	1816
From Mr Thackeray	3rd		3 July	1817
"	22nd		31 July	"
From Mr Lushington	9th		16 June	"
From Mr Peter	2nd		10 July	"
From Mr Cotton	25th February		6 March	"
"	28th		10 March	"
From Mr Harris	31st March		7 April	"
"	10th		21 April	"
From Mr Vaughan	5th		14 April	"
From Mr Casamaijor	25th February		3 March	"
"	3rd		3 March	"
"	25th		31 March	"

(p 11466)

(p 11467)

1. The hon8ble the court of directors in the 156th para of their letter of the 12th of April 1815 having observed that they entirely concurred in the opinion expressed by the Revenue Board in the expediency of restoring to the cultivators and officers of each village the (p 11468) mauniums or rent free lands and fees in kind heretofore held by them, and having directed that measures should be forthwith taken to restore these ancient privileges the Board on the 28th October 1816 circulated to all collectors extracts from their proceedings of the 14th of that month. These proceedings contained an extract from instructions by the Governor in council to the Board of Revenue dated 21st June 1800 in which

IOR: P/292/78: Pro 14.9.1818. Note Board's instructions of 14.10.1816 are in P/292/2: pp 11583-95; and abstract of replies in P/292/79 pp 12012-112 : Pro 17.9. 1818

Government observed:

"We have considered the observations of the collector (of Dindigul) in the restoration of the village sibbendy and entirely concur in the expediency of that measure", but it was added:

"We doubt the propriety of depriving these officers of their hereditary privileges by substituting the payment of wages in money in lieu of the distinctions and property annexed to the performance of their respective duties. By ~~resuming~~ to the institutions of the ancient government we expect to conciliate the affections of the people, and at the same time (p 11469) to secure a better foundation for the proper discharge of these duties in the interest and attachment of the officers themselves." (@)

/recurring

2. The Board have arranged as accompaniments to their proceedings the information obtained in reply to the 15 questions circulated on the 28th October 1816. It appears from their replies that the resumption of mauniums and marahs of the cultivators and village establishments has taken place in the following districts only: Northern Division of Arcot including the small Talook of Sutwaid, Southern Division of Arcot: ~~Two Estates in the Jaghire~~ Two Estates in the Jaghire (Zilla Chingleput) into which the ryotwar plan of assessment was introduced in 1802-3, Coimbatore: Northern and Southern Divisions, Salem, the Baramahl and Balaghaut, Dindigul, (p 11470)

3. It appears desirable here to introduce Mr Ellis's observations of the misuse of the word Enam as applied to village mauniums. That gentleman observes that:

"The word used in these proceedings to describe the thing to which they relate, however supported by authority, is utterly inapplicable and erroneous. The Grama Manyams are not Enams and so to misnomer them is to convey an idea of their nature altogether false and to mislead all not professionally and intimately acquainted with the subject. The word Enam, as is well known, means a gift, and has come, in revenue language, to be applied to these minor alienations of land, not amounting to Jagirs, which, during the latter times of Mahomedan rule, were distributed with so liberal a hand by all persons in power, whether legally authorized, or not to make them. The Grama Manyams, however are neither gifts nor alienations; they have constituted (p 11471) separate property, held from time immemorial by the present owners and distinct altogether from every source of public revenue, with which Government are not, nor ever were, entitled to interfere, further than, where by the common law, that is common custom, the tenure implies an obligation to perform services, which is not the case in all, wither to the state in general, or the township in particular, to enforce by the ordinary process the obligations of the law."

4. The resumption of the village mauniums was a principle acted in first by Colonel Read in the province of Salem, and originated in a desire to exhibit in assigned statement in money the whole receipts and disbursements of a village. It was afterwards adopted by the collectors of that school as a necessary part of the ryotwar plan of assignment, and appears to have also been a rule of Tippee Sultaun's (@@), but althe Colonel Munro (p 11472) then a lieutenant was an assistant under Colonel Read, it appears that

(@@) 33. All lands under the denomination of (p 11472) Jammant (?), (respecting the Deostaun and the lands of Bramins) and all lands under the denomination of maniums

appertaining to the villages shall be brought into the measurement, and shall be included in the jumma, and the lands which are to be continued to the proprietors, shall be written off against the jumma in the accounts. Whoever is under engagement to perform service such service shall be exacted from him. (see vol 1 British India Analyzed: page 19 and Tippee Sultaun's Revenue Regulations)

@ See separate note about this letter of Government of 21.6.1800.

he did not resume the mauniums of the cultivators (petails and Rheddies ?) of the Ceded Districts nor of the village establishments altho he increased and diminished in several instances the extent of the village mauniums in those provinces. (@) It also appears that Mr Travers granted mauniums to the cultivators (podoo-cauppoos and Rheddies) of Nellore, but resumed the mauniums and marahs of the curnums. It also appears further that Mr Garrow in South Arcot and Mr Cockburn in North Arcot on introducing the Ryotwar plan of assessment resumed the mauniums and marahs of the cultivators and village establishments, and that Mr Ravenshaw and Mr Graeme continued the resumptioms. Mr Graeme on a recent report observes:

"It must be admitted that it has only been by the Company's Government that a resumption (p 11473) has been msde of the maunium land and the privileges in kind from the mere notion of expediency. The resumption of the lands and privileges in these districts took place in Fusly 1213 (AD 1803-4) under the sanction of Government on the recommendation of my predecessor Mr Cockburn."

"This I am inclined to believe to have been a measure of unnecessary hardship, particularly as the supposed equivalent in ready money which was established, is by no means equal to the produce of the maunium lands and secuntrums which they formerly enjoyed. It has too much undermined their hereditary attachment, and lesseened the interest which they had in increasing the produce of the village. It has besides rendered it too easy under a revenue administration which does not sufficiently respect rights and customs to admit strangers to the head of the villages by the (p 11474) intrigues of revenue servants. I therefore recommend that their former maunium lands and sosuntrums may prevail hereafter for these districts

5. In Dindigul the order of Government of the 21st June 1800 prevented the resumption of the village mauniums, and it is to be hoped that no resumption of them was made in Madura. The resumption in North Coimbatore was made by Colonel Macleod in introducing the Ryotwar plan of assessment, but as South Coimbatore was under Mr Hurdis to whom the orders of Government of the 21st June 1800 were in particular addressed it appears that waste lands was assigned in Fusly 1212 (AD 1802-3) in lieu of the arable land held by the mauniumdats agreeably to a produce (? precedent) established by Tippee Sultaun and the same process took place in (p11475) North Coimbatore in Fusly 1222 (AD 1812-3) with respect to the village establishment, but not to the cultivators. In Coimbatore therefore the whole arrangement requires to be reformed, and the village mauniums to be placed in their ancient footing as they lawfully existed (@@) previous/to the cession of the province. /ly In the Jaghire and in the villages around Madras forming originally a part of the Jageer no mauniums or marahs were resumed except as stated above in the two estates surveyed and assessed in the Ryotwar plan. Mr Ellis alluding to these resumptioms observes: "where such interference has in recent times taken place however pure the motive, and however expedient the measure as regards Government, it is felt by the people strongly attached as they are to the rights conferred by the possession of landed property as the severest infliction of exaggerated authority." (p 11476)

6. On the whole it may be stated in the words of the collector of Coimbatore that it does not appear "that the assumption was made upon any direct authority from Government or the Board of Revenue, or that it has received more than a tacit approval since." It remains therefore only for the Board to carry into effect the wishes of the hon'ble court of directors and the expiration of the Decennial Village Lease will afford a favorable opportunity

@ The changes made by T. Munro can perhaps be inferred from the following, from his report dated 26.7.1807: "The total enaum land in the Ceded districts, contains 2,599,745 acres, of which the estimated rent is SPs 12,35,458; about six tenths of the whole is waste. ..These enaums are in many villages, thirty or forty percent of the revenue, but in others, not more than two or three percent. In general, all above five percent may be regarded as unauthorised."

for carrying the measure of restitution into effect, it is resolved that extract from these proceedings be furnished to all collectors and that those collectors in whose districts village leases still exist be directed to take measures for the restoration of all maniums and marahs held by cultivators, curmums and other persons appertaining to the village community as well as such are held on account of religious establishments (p 11477) of the village - causing a register corresponding with the Tarapadi accounts of all such maniums to be prepared to be deposited as a record in the Huzzoor cutcherry in order to secure the holder of these maniums from future vexation. The preparation of the register should be commenced immediately and the Board expect that it will be ready previously to the expiration of the remaining term of the Decennial Lease.

7. The Ryotwar plan of assessment having been reverted to in Coimbatore the collector of that province and the collector of Chingleput with reference to the Ryotwar villages of the estates of Madrantenn and Conjeeveram will use their endeavours to restore the resumed maniums and marahs during the current Fusly. The same orders will apply to Dindigul (and to Madura if necessary) both provinces being now under the Ryotwar plan (p 11478) of assessment.

8. The collectors will restore all the endowments in land belonging to the religious establishments in each village where the land is in the same village, but separate orders will be issued hereafter relating to the endowment in land to large pagodas now resumed.

9. Whether it is considered that it is scarcely twenty years, and in no case more than 25 years (@) since the resumption took place the Board trust that little difficulty can exist in tracing and reassigning to the parties concerned the actual land heretofore held in manium tenure by the village community and establishments, and the Board are satisfied that the performance of this act of justice will render the discharge of the duty as agreeable to collectors as it will be acceptable to the people who no doubt will duly appreciate (p 11479) the benefit thus conferred on them and receive with gratitude the boon that restores them to rights they so highly value, and of which they have been so long ~~xxx1794/age~~ deprived by a too strict adherence to rules formed so long ago as 1794 for the introduction of a Ryotwar plan of assessment in provinces above the Ghauts where these rights either did not exist, or had not been (@@ b, c) respected.

10. The particular attention of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in council and of the court of directors is requested to the answers of Mr Graeme, and of Mr Ellis. The former gentleman has taken great pains to describe the measures which have been adopted in his district, and the latter to explain the nature of the property and rights inherent in village maniums.

Marginal NOTES:

@ (to para 9 second line)
Correspondence between Col Read, Superintendent of the Baramahl, and Mr Place, accountant to the Board of Revenue, in the years 1793 and 1794 on this subject in Revenue Consultations 5th Jan 1795: "The accountants remarks upon the subject of the charges for district sabbendy, appear evidently to have been founded in misconception. They were included in the settlement made with the cryots, and did bring a similar increase to the gross ~~xxx~~ jumma".

@@ (to para 9 last line)
6. Lands which have been cultivated for a length of time by the Shamboges, shall be resumed and be delivered over to the ryots to cultivate and if such Shamboges shall desire to have other lands given to them in lieu of their wages, land which is lying waste shall be given to them. If they do not ask for land, they shall receive their wages in money according to the established rate.

63. The Deostanum lands are all to be resumed throughout your dist

(Contd "marginal note" from previous page bottom)

district, and after ascertaining to what simpts they formerly appertained, you shall re-annex them, and include them in the jumabundy of those simpts. (page 5 and 37 of Volume I British India Analysed : Tippoo Sultaun's Revenue Regulations)

Mr Graeme, Collector North Arcot, to Board of Revenue on
"the Enam Lands of these districts": 11.3.1818
(Extract)

1. I have the honour to report upon the Enam Lands of these districts in the order of the questions accompanying your secretary's letter of the 28th October 1816.

15. (Reply to question 5 contd) All sharers possessed an equal title to the enjoyment of the meerassee lands and privileges and they exercised this right when they were all capable, and not unwilling to do in their turn the duty attached to the offices, In other places, to save themselves trouble, they relinquished the advantage to one person, who undertook to perform the duty, and to be responsible to the sirkar for the rent. (p 3742)

16. In the Agrapharam villages being a copperation of Bramins, the meerassee right is often enjoyed equally, by every swastiwunt or swastium holder, and in the Agrapharam, the swastium is much more numerous than the kurry or kurlungoo of the Muniewett or Sooder village.

19. (Reply to Question 7 contd) These practices apply also to curnums, with the exception that the number of those relinquished their lands to others, was greater than among the head inhabitants, in consequence of their personal inability and want of skill to undertake the labour of agriculture.

22. (Reply to Question contd) Subjoined is a memorandum (p 3746) of servants which are to be found in most villages, at least as far as No 16. The rest are not so common.

MEMORANDUM OF THE VILLAGE SERVANTS IN THE NORTHERN DIVISION OF ARCOT

Description in English

Average Extent of Land Held
by each description of Enamdars
Poonjee Nunjee Total
Cawnies Caw Caw.

1. Enam to Reddies or head inhabitants	7-4.4/16	1-13	9-1.4/16
2. Enam to Pallechut Reddies or head inhabitant of a depending village	2-5.8/16	0-10.12/16	3-0.4/16
3. Enam to Kurnum or village account keeper	7-4.4/16	4-11.4/16	11-15.6/16
4. Enam to Totty	1-9.13/16	0-9.14/16	2-3.11/16
5. Enam to Tallary	2-7.7 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	1-1.3 $\frac{3}{4}$ /16	3-8.11/16
6. Enam to Nirkutty or village water distributor	0-1.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	0-10.12 $\frac{1}{4}$ /16	0-11.13/16
7. Enam to Ulmaganum or he who collects money from the inhabitants	2-1.14/16	0-10.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	2-12.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16
8. Enam to Punchagan or almanack keeper	1-5.6 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	0-10.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	1-15.6 $\frac{3}{4}$ /16
9. Enam to Carpenter	1-5.14 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	0-13.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	2-2.14 $\frac{3}{4}$ /16
10. Enam to Iron-smith	1-5.7/16	0-9.8/16	1-14.14/16
11. Enam to Potter	1-10.11 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	0-10.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	2-4.15/16
12. Enam to Washerman	1-6.10/16	0-9.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	2-0.4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16
13. Enam to Barber	1-14	0-11.8/16	2-9.8/16
14. Enam to Madoogoomoolleeghee	0-1.10 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	0-10.5 $\frac{3}{4}$ /16	0-12
15. Enam to Notgar or village shroff	1-4.6/16	1-6.2/16	2-10.8/16
16. Enam to Chuckler	1-5.6/16	0-7.4/16	1-12.10/16
17. Enam to Sageobadee Enam or to the head inhabitants to invite others to culture	1-8.10/16	0-7.5/16	2-0.9/16
18. Enam to Koodmee or Physician for the biting of	0-12.2/16	0-7.1 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	1-3.3 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16
19. Enam to Munday or head village sheperds. (snake)	1-10.8 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	0-8.9 $\frac{1}{2}$ /16	2-3.2/16

20. Chetty or head village merchant

21. Sub/holder or assistant to 20

22. Asuddee or village festival holder

3-1 $\frac{1}{16}$ 0-12 $\frac{3}{16}$ 3-13 $\frac{9}{16}$

0-13 $\frac{10}{16}$ 0-9 $\frac{14}{16}$ 1-7 $\frac{9}{16}$

0-10 $\frac{5}{16}$ 0-2 $\frac{3}{16}$ 0-13 $\frac{5}{16}$

(p 3747)

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9 (179)
Collectors Replies to Madras Board of Revenue on Mauniums: 17.9.1818
(Extracts from Abstract pp 12012-12112)

Question: I: Were the lands or thereof, as assigned to curnums and other village servants, including police (kavelly) servants, ever assumed in your district, the value collected and paid to the incumbents from the Housseer or talook treasuries ?

Replies: (p 12013-29)

Madras: (Mr Ellis) On the point to which these questions relate, I cannot, for the reasons I have stated in the accompanying (p 12017) letter, furnish any information. Before I proceed I beg leave to state that the word used in these proceedings to describe the thing to which they relate, however, supported by authority, is utterly inapplicable and erroneous. The grama Manyams are not Enams and so to misnomer them is to convey an idea of their nature altogether false and to mislead all not professionally and intimately acquainted with the subject. The word Enam, as is well known, means a gift, and has come, in revenue language, to be applied to these minor alienations of land, not amounting to Jagirs, which, during the latter times of Mahomedan rule, were distributed with so liberal a hand by all persons in power, whether legally authorized, or not to make them. The grama manyams, however, are neither gifts nor alienations; they have constituted a separate property, held from time immemorial by the present owners, and distinct altogether, from every source of public revenue, with which (p 12018) Government are not, nor ever were, entitled to interfere, further than, where by the common law, that is common custom, the tenure implies an obligation to perform services, which is not the case in all, either to the state in general, or the township in particular to enforce by the ordinary process the obligations of the law.

Northern Division of Arcot: () With the exception of the assumed pollams of Magral, Pakal, Pooloor, Bingaree, Nurguntee, Poolcherla, Kulloer, Toomba and the Suttanaid talook, the manium, mairah, and russeoms assigned to Reddies and Curnums have been assumed in the districts north of the Palar, and in the districts south of the Palar, which were transferred to the Northern Division of Arcot in Fusly 1218, and in lieu thereof, an annual ready money cash payment calculated on the varying annual rent of each village, as particularized in the subjoined statement, has been made to them from the Huzzoor treasury through the tahsildar, till Fusly 1217. In Fusly 1218 (p 12019) these ..

Cochin to Govt 31.3.1804. Pdk NA 2.6.1804.

Tanjere: () On the transfer of this province to the British Government, the Cavelly system was found to exist supported almost entirely by service mauniums, called here Yeragaly lands. In a few cases Swoduntrums were collected in kind, but the Yeragaly lands were the principal support of the numbers of the Cavelly establishment. During Mr Harris's management, he assumed all the Yeragaly lands, and constituted a general Swoduntrum from the whole produce, all over the country, at a stated rate, for the maintenance of these institutions, in lieu of the lands formerly assigned for the purpose. In Fusly 1223 this was also assumed, and the proceeds, together with some other items of collection and the revenue of eight villages which had been discovered to be held on the tenure of service lands, were appropriated by Regulation I of 1816 to the support of a new system of police in Tanjere, which has again been abolished during (p 12026) the present month. " " At the period of the transfer none of the other village servants enjoyed service lands, excepting the Cavalgars. The curnums were then the private servants of the meerasseedara, and paid by them according to their own convenience. The rest were remunerated almost entirely in grain. During the collectorate of Mr Wallace, the curnums, at the recommendation of Tanjour Committee of 1807, were constituted circar servants, and the Government share of a certain portion of land assigned to them for

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their subsistence estimated to amount to Pags 22,000 per annum for the whole province. This system has continued ever since, but the land whose produce constitutes the curnums maintenance, is not in his own possession, it is held and cultivated by the meerasseedars of the village in common with their other lands, they receiving their inhabitants share of the produce, only (p 12027) paying the circar share to the curnums, instead of the Government." "During the investigations of the Tanjour Police Committee of 1813 it appeared that the situation of the village Taliars was very inadequately provided for, and at their recommendation waste lands were assigned to them, for their subsistence, in situations where there were any, and where there were none, the difference was proposed to be made up from the collections on account of the Cavelly funds. All the waste lands that could be appropriated to the purpose, have been already made over to the Taliar, but the account of the demands upon the Cavelly funds for the remainder, where there are no lands to give, has not yet been finally adjusted, which is perhaps not to be regretted, considering the great change now introducing into the whole system of police by the Commission, which may ultimately render a considerable departure from the original intention absolutely necessary. The village Taliars will ~~most~~ probably make some arrangements with the meerasseedars for the cultivation of their lands also, as but few of them will be able to cultivate them themselves. But the transfer is as yet too recent to enable me to say what the general rule in this respect will be." "All the other village servants continue to be paid in kind as before."

Trichenopoly: () Not resumed and no payments have been made from Huzoor or Taleok treasuries.

Madura & Dindigul: () "In the Madura, Shevagunga and rannad districts the lands or produce thereof, granted to the description of servants mentioned in the query have never been assumed; and the value collected and paid to the incumbents from the Huzoor or Taleok treasuries. In Dindigul the lands assigned to Cavalgars have been assumed (p 12029) and are now entered in the ain accounts as ain landx but the other servants of the village still held possession of their Enam lands."

Tinnevelly: () "There has been no assumption of lands or produce assigned to curnums and village servants, including police servants in this district, except the Deshacavel lands and produce formerly enjoyed by the paligars, for which they had, under the Nabob's Government, military as well as police duties to perform." "The Desha Cavel privileges were resumed in 1800 by Mr Lushington". : see page appendix 5th report.

Canara: () Not resumed by the British Government: supposed to have been resumed during Hyder's Government. The potail, shambogue, and Ogranies receive a monthly pay from the circar treasury as assisting in the collections of the revenue.

Malabar: () Do not exist.

Seringapatam: () Not resumed.

QUESTION 4: Whether the Enam lands (or manium) of the head inhabitants were assumed at the same time or subsequently?

REPLIES: (p 12034-38)

Northern Division of Arcot: The Enam lands of the head inhabitants were assumed the time of the receipt of the sanction of Government.

Southern Division of Arcot: () Resumed in Fusly 1211.

Tanjore: In Tanjore there are no description of persons answering the denomination of 'head inhabitants' or 'potails' of other districts. All the inhabitants here are upon a footing of equality, and no one man can claim any right of superiority, in virtue of his birth, office, or any other cause, over his neighbour in the village. There are consequently no Enam lands enjoyed by the head inhabitants of this district of Tanjore, or any other description of privileges, and the want of these advantages is the cause assigned by many of them for their unwillingness to accept the new office of Potail, which will occupy a great portion of their time: Hitherto dedicated to the management of their own affairs, without any remuneration whatever being made them for their loss of time and trouble. It (p 12037) appears from the letter of the principal collector of the Ceded Districts dated 26th July 1807, that the Enam lands of the curnums and potails were estimated at Pagodas 3,12,587 per annum, while in Tanjore there are no inhabitants of any description who enjoy any Enam lands &c at all, and the value of those granted to the curnums, as has been above stated is Pagodas 22,000 a year, and yet it is expected that the same duties are to be performed in Tanjore the revenue of which is not one third less than the Ceded Districts there were, for 22,000 Pagodas, as costs, above three lacs in the latter. The difference of circumstances however under which a Potail is called upon in Tanjore and the Ceded Districts to dedicate his time and attention to the service of others, is fairly felt and appreciated by the former". "There never having been (p 12038) any Enam lands to the head inhabitants of Tanjore, they have never been assumed."

Trichinopoly: Not resumed.

Madura & Dindigul: "The Enam lands enjoyed by the head inhabitants have never been resumed".

Tinnevelly: Not resumed at any time.

Canara: Resumed in Hyder's and Tippoo's reign, none subsequently.

Malabar: Not resumed.

Seringapatam: Not resumed.

QUESTION 5: Whether the Enam lands of the head inhabitants prior to their assumption were enjoyed in shares or by one person only?

Replies: (p 12038-41)

Ganjam: No answer received.

Vizagapatam: Enjoyed by the person holding the office.

Rajahmundry: No (p 12039)

Masulipatam: No answer given. See answer to question 4th.

Guntoor: No answer received.

Nellore: No answer. Vide reply to the 4th question.

Ceded Districts: Bellary Div: Always divided into shares.

Ceded Districts: Cuddapah Div: Enjoyed both in shares and single.

Salem:

Doimbatore: "The Enam lands of the head inhabitants before their assumption were enjoyed in shares according to the number of Menigars in each village."

Chingleput: They were enjoyed in shares prior to their assumption.

Madras: No specific answer but known to be enjoyed in shares.

N.D.Arcot: The Enam lands of the head inhabitants, prior to their assumption, were enjoyed in shares, as well as by one person only. It depended upon the custom, the original mode of division of the meerassue land.

S.D.Arcot: "Enjoyed in shares in some cases by the relations of the Enamdar and in others by various persons." (p 12040)

Tanjore: No, vide answer to the 4th question.

Trichenopoly: "This question as relating to the wet districts does not apply because in the above districts all the meerassidars have ~~engaged~~ coequal powers and there is no head meerassidar. It has never been customary in the wet districts either in farming the settlement, or at any other time to vest any one meerassidar with greater power or privilege than another, the rents being settled with all the meerassidars and who all sign the moochilka. In the dry districts there is no general rule observed as to the enjoyment of the share of land assigned to the head inhabitants, in some villages it is vested in one person, and in others it is enjoyed by several persons."

Madura & Dindigul: "The Enam lands in some villages are at present enjoyed by one person only, in others in shares according to the extent of the village."

Tinnevelly: Enjoyed as formerly in shares, except in villages (p 12041) where there is only one nautamcaren and then they are enjoyed by one person only.

Canara: "Altho entered in the sirkar accounts as held by one person, it is known in many instances that shares were permitted according to the rights of the family."

Malabar: No.

Seringapatam: No.

QUESTION 7: It is understood of course that the head inhabitants cultivate their own Enam lands, whether the sirkar share has been resumed or not; but the collectors will report whether the curnums of their district cultivate their own Enam land, or by means of their relatives or of hired labourers, or whether the curnum Enam lands are usually cultivated by the cultivating class of inhabitants of the village?

REPLIES: (p 12045-58)

Madras: When the mirasidars cultivate their own lands, which in Tondamandalum, to which province I wish these answers to be considered generally to be confined, is more frequently (p 12051) the case than otherwise, each Careicaren (share holder) holds and cultivates a portion (@) of the Caneyatchi Manyam equivalent to the amount of his share, and this, if I am rightly informed, is the case even, where the melwarem has been resumed; the Cuppatam, merei and sodantrams is received from the produce of this as from all other cultivated lands and carried to the general account, which with other items forms a fund (Gramma -Chaliver), from which are defrayed the Batta to sirkar peons, expences of religious

(@) Though in Pasangcarei villages the cultivable lands of all denominations are subject, at the expiration of the customary period to redistribution by lot, this scarcely ever takes place with respect to Manyam lands, which continue, therefore, to be held on a permanent tenure, while the possession of any given extent of the Varapett lands is fluctuating.

festivals not otherwise provided for, occasional alms to mendicants and generally all the joint expences of the community; in Tanjore and other countries where the Mereis &c of Tondamundalum are unknown, this fund is formed by a vari or cess on all the inhabitants of the township in proportion to the shares held, or with respect to Pyacaries, the extent (p 12052) cultivated by each. The curnums of the villages, and generally all the manyancars may provide as they please for the cultivation of their respective Manyams, that is the right is in them to do so, but the practice is governed by the mode of cultivation actually prevailing in the village. If the curnum possess ploughs and slaves or can hire laborers he may cultivate his Manyam separately, but if he have no plough, he must make his terms with those who have; with the mirasidar, if he cultivate his own land, otherwise with the Pyacari, or if circumstances so require, with both; in any case he receives the Melvarem and the actual cultivator such share, as Cudivaram, as may have been fixed by mutual agreement.

N.D.Arcot: Alluding to annual ryetwar settlement, the Enam lands were mostly retsined by the head inhabitants, whither the sircar(S share (p 12053) has been resumed or not, and they cultivate them generally with their own hands, assisted by their relations. It was less frequently that they employed hired labourers or Pudecalls (?), and others, or that they gave the Coedyavaram to the inhabitants, who were willing to cultivate their lands, reserving the ?ailwarum or Government share for themselves. A very few relinquished all claim to their Enam lands, and in that case puttahs were granted to cultivators, and the collections made separately from them by Government.

S.D.Arcot: The Nattawars Enams being included in the circar's accounts they are cultivated by these people and a rent is paid therefor. In some cases curnums cultivate their own Enam lands by themselves, by their relations and by hired people. The curnums some times cultivate the circar land, paying a rent, and in some instances they do not cultivate their Enam land, which often remains waste. (p 12054)

Tanjore: "The former replies have given in substance a reply to this question. The head inhabitants have no Enams to cultivate and those of the curnums are cultivated by the meerassidars who receive their inhabitants share, paying that of the Circar to the curnum."

Trichinopoly: Curnums themselves cultivate their lands in some villages. In others they hire labourers. In most villages the Enams are cultivated by cultivating class of Pullers or slaves.

Madura & Dindigul: "A number of villages in these districts is divided into what are called Karays or shares (there are no particular numbers fixed, they extend from 8 or to 40 or those according to the size of the village). These shares are again subdivided into Pungees or sub-divisions (of these there are likewise no particular number). Should a Nattamkar or curnum have 20 Cawnies of Nunjah land assigned to him as Enam and only one Cawney should be (p 12055) situated in his Karay, he can only cultivate that one Cawney himself. The remainder of ~~the~~ his Enam he must receive in ready money according to the assessment of the land of the village from the Karaykars in whose Karay the land belongs. Should any Karaykar refuse to cultivate the Enam land the Enamdar then can engage others to do so, on the most favorable terms he can obtain. But should the Karaykars choose to cultivate the Enamdar cannot refuse and can only receive as I said before, the regular assessment which would be paid to the circar, had not the lands been granted in Enam. This only relates to Nunjah Enam lands. Where the Enam is Punjab, the Enamdar may get whom he pleases to cultivate it and may make the most advantageous terms he can with the cultivator. In villages where these shares and sub-divisions do not exist the Nattamkars

and curnums must cultivate their own (p 12056) lands or employ others to do it for them, which greatly depends on the extent of the means they may possess to cultivate.

Tinnevelly: The curnums of certain talooks only in the enjoyment of Enam lands; in some villages they cultivate them ~~for~~ themselves or by hired labourers but by far the greatest portion of the Enam lands cultivated by the cultivating class. Curnums in other parts are allowed a monthly payment from Marah Fund established in 1808, previously to which they were paid by the inhabitants.

Extract from J. Hodgson's report ~~proposing~~ on Tinnevelly proposing this fund: (para 58...p 12057 ...) *Curnums private servants of Mirasidars*

QUESTION 9: Do any other village servants cultivate their Enams either themselves, by their relations or by hired servants? If they do not, by whom are these Enam lands generally cultivated? Give a list of village servants in the form annexed, not for each village, but of such as are found in the district generally.

REPLIES: (p 12064-69)

Ganjam:

Vizagapatam: Vide answer No 7. List of servants will be submitted.

Rajahmundry: "Cultivated by hired servants or by any ryets for a share or fixt rent. List of village servants accompanies."

Masulipatam: "In some villages the other village servants cultivate their Enams themselves. In some they are cultivated by their relations and in others by hired servants."

Gunteor:

Nellore: Cultivate in the same manner as the curnums Enams by the common cultivating inhabitants.

Ceded Districts: Bellary Division: Those who are not prevented by the rules of their cast or by other occupation cultivate themselves; the rest in partnership with cultivating inhabitants.

Ceded Districts: Cuddapah Div: They cultivate in general if not always by the ryets (p 12065) or cultivating class. They are also cultivated occasionally by hired servants and relatives and there is not a description of Enamdar in which there are not instances of his cultivating with his own hands. The collector has seen a Bramin water his field from a draw-well where he urged his bullocks with a whip, guided and laid hold of the leather bucket.

Salem: The Enam lands of the village servants with the exception of Toties and some of the inferior servants are seldom cultivated by themselves. The assumed lands are blended with others and cultivated by the inhabitants.

Coimbatore: (Questions 9th, 10th and 11th): "There are no village servants who hold Enam lands in this district except Monigars, Curnums, Toties and Noeranies(?). The Enam land of pagodas and mosques are for the most part cultivated by ryets. The proprietors of private Enams who are not village servants, from the difficulties (p 12066) thrown in the way of their cultivation by the Monigars are compelled to rent their lands upon the most easy terms in order to secure themselves tenants. A head inhabitant whether as renter or Monigar will not allow a ryet to throw up his circar land and engage for that of a private proprietor without receiving some consideration and if the ryet has the means of extending

his cultivation, the Menigar will oblige him to rent more circar land unless he can afford to pay for permission to become the tenant of a private proprietor. If an Enamdar cannot get his land cultivated, the Menigar turns his cattle upon it, and pays nothing, which is a liberty he cannot so readily take with the circar land. It is no unusual thing therefore for the private proprietors in this district who are few in number, to stipulate to give the Menigar, a certain (p 12067) share of the produce in order to secure themselves and their tenants from ~~the~~ his vexatious interference."

Few

Chingleput: ~~The~~/village servants cultivate their Enams, in general they are cultivated by the cultivating class.

Madras: The answer given to the VII question will apply to this. Generally the holders of all Manyams if they possess or can hire a plough would be desirous of cultivating their own Manyams, if not they must settle with those by whom the general cultivation is carried on. The possession of a Manyam by no means, however, lays the owner under any obligation to cultivate it, he may do so if he please or he may rent it to another, or he may allow it to lie waste. It is his absolute property and he has, legally, a right, therefore to the absolute disposal of it. The curnum, Vettiyan (2) and some others will be frequently found (2) to retain in their own hand the cultivation of their Manyams; less frequently the tatchen (2), (p 12068) panjangen &c and still less so the sthanicas and other managers of the religious establishments. The cuppatam is paid to the mirasidar and the mereis and other privileges to those entitled to receive them from all manyams however cultivated.

N.D. Arcot: The other village servants in general cultivate their Enam lands by themselves, and their relations or by hired labourers. The proportions seems to be few, of those who make over their lands to other cultivators for the koodeevarum and retain the mailwaram in their own hands.

S.D. Arcot: "Some cultivate themselves, others employ their relations or hire people and receive rent therefrom. But in some villages the inhabitants cultivate the land and allow a share to the Manniamdars."

Tanjore: "Besides the curnum and taliar above explained, none of the other village servants enjoy any Enam lands in Tanjore."
(p 12,069)

Trichinopoly: It is seldom that the village servants cultivate their Enams. In most cases they are cultivated by the ryets of the village or by those of the neighbouring village and sometime by hired labourers. List of servants accompanies.

Madura and Dindigul: "Some cultivate their own land, others employ labourers: vide reply to query 7th."

Tinnevelly: In some instances they cultivate themselves or by hired labourers. But they mostly employ established cultivators of the village and receive share in kind and money as agreed on.

Canara: No Enams held unassumed or in continuance and cultivated by any of the village servants; consequently no list accompanies.

Malabar: No.

Seringapatam: "Enam lands are rented to individuals for cultivation by their proprietors."